# Nationwide Reports 0.4% Increase in UK House Prices for May



**Nationwide Reports Slight Increase in UK House Prices**

UK house prices experienced a 0.4% increase in May, with an annual growth rate rising to 1.3%, as per the Nationwide May House Price Index. Average house prices reached £264,249, up from £261,962 in April. Alice Haine from Bestinvest by Evelyn Partners noted that easing mortgage rates and interest rate cut prospects have revitalized market confidence after 2023's challenges, despite unresolved affordability issues due to inflation.

**Woman Claims Possessed Clown Doll Prefers Eminem Over Beyoncé**

Brocarde, a 40-year-old psychic medium, adopted a "possessed clown doll" during a stay at The Clown Motel in Nevada. She used her paranormal abilities to confirm the doll's music preference for Eminem over Beyoncé. Brocarde brought the doll back to the UK, where it reportedly caused jealousy in her ex-husband's ghost.

**Family Pays Tribute to Teenager Killed in Car Crash**

Sophie Bates, 17, from Stafford, passed away following a car crash on Cannock Road, Penkridge on May 25. The crash also resulted in the deaths of Dafydd Hûw Craven-Jones and Morgan Jones from Wrexham. Her family described Sophie as a "kind-hearted and thoughtful" individual with future aspirations in business and acknowledged the substantial loss her passing represents.

**UK Predicted to Experience Summer Heatwaves**

BBC Weather and Met Office forecasts indicate a "warmer than average" summer for the UK, with an increased likelihood of heatwaves in August. Meteorologist Derek Brockway highlighted the potential for rising temperatures, while Helen Caughey from the Met Office emphasized a drier, more settled start to June.

**Disease-Carrying Giant Ticks Found in European Destinations**

Giant ticks carrying diseases like Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever have been identified in popular holiday spots including Spain and Italy. Originating from Africa and Asia, these ticks have spread across several European countries, posing health risks especially highlighted by Switzerland's reported cases of tick-borne encephalitis this year.

**Large Fire in London’s Shepherd’s Bush**

A significant fire broke out in London’s Shepherd’s Bush on May 30. The blaze engulfed a housing block, leading to evacuations and substantial damage. Firefighters from the London Fire Brigade managed to control the fire after several hours of battling the flames.

**Third Phase of Wallsend Housing Development Nears Approval**

North Tyneside Council will soon decide on the final phase of the Persimmon Homes development in Wallsend. Approval for 199 more homes on Station Road North is pending, with prior consent granted for a total of 593 homes since 2018. Public concerns include privacy, environmental effects, and infrastructure support, yet council officers have recommended the project for approval.