

# New Scientist

WEEKLY 8 February 2025

ARE BLACK PLASTIC COOKING UTENSILS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH?

HOW DEEPSEEK CHANGES THE FUTURE OF AI

CREATINE MAY HELP TREAT DEPRESSION

## THE DARK SIDE OF YOUR MICROBIOME

How our gut bacteria can accelerate ageing – and what you can do to get them back onside

PLUS DOLPHINS COMMUNICATE WITH URINE / GRAND CANYONS ON THE MOON / 37-DIMENSIONAL PARTICLES / MISSION TO THE STRANGEST OBJECT IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM

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## Asteroid incoming?

Earth's defence procedures triggered for the first time **p9**

## Pump it up

Salamanders fill their toes with blood before each step **p10**

## Warmer seas

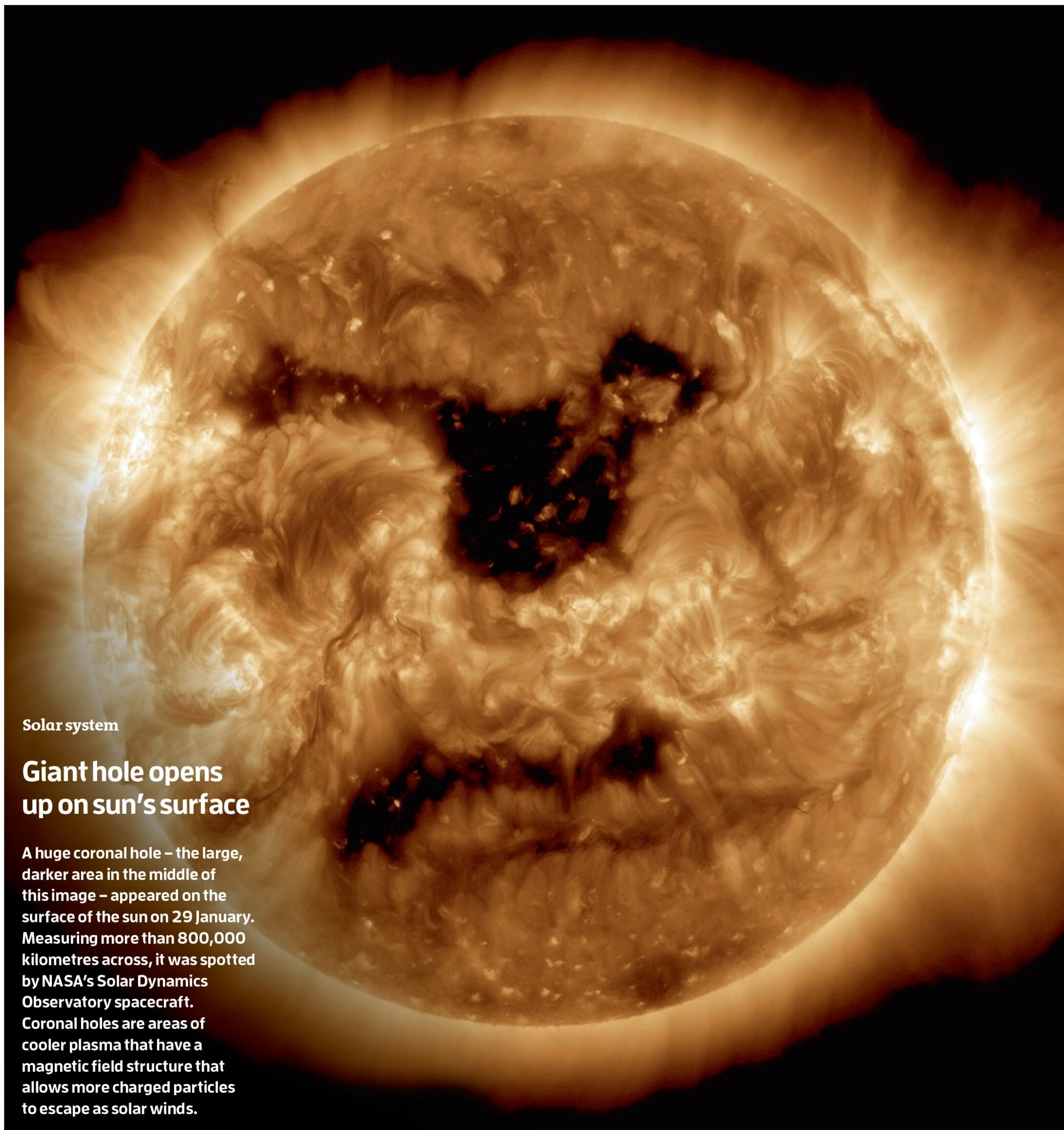
Surge in ocean heat hints climate change is accelerating **p14**

## Mice with two dads

What does this breakthrough mean for humans? **p16**

## Listen in

'Obsolete' ear muscle may be helping us hear **p19**



Solar system

## Giant hole opens up on sun's surface

A huge coronal hole – the large, darker area in the middle of this image – appeared on the surface of the sun on 29 January. Measuring more than 800,000 kilometres across, it was spotted by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory spacecraft. Coronal holes are areas of cooler plasma that have a magnetic field structure that allows more charged particles to escape as solar winds.

SDO/NASA/SWNS