

A portrait of Sir David Attenborough, an older man with white hair, wearing a white shirt and a brown jacket, looking directly at the camera.

THE  
HISTORY  
OF KEW  
GARDENS

MARY QUEEN  
OF SCOTS

Delve into the  
history of the royal

CHRISTMAS FUN  
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December 2018

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# Editor's notes...



Nik Allen, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION** BillericayShenfield.

Last month my wife Kathleen and I were blessed with the safe arrival of our first child.

On November 5, Max Ritchie Allen weighed in at 7lb 10oz and arrived 10 days early. In lots of ways it was the worst and best day of my life.

Kathleen went into labour unexpectedly and I have never felt so helpless and useless.

My anxiety levels were through the roof as there were some complications during the birth.

There's not much you can do as an expectant father in that situation apart from offer support and encouragement.

But then the relief I felt was indescribable as Max was delivered safely and healthily. I have never been so filled with pride and love.

We are so excited about the future. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful wife for giving me the most precious gift.

Also a big thank you to all the readers who have been in contact with me in the build-up to Max's arrival.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation to all our advertisers, contributors and readers who have made this year such a successful and unforgettable one.

So, until next month which will be next year, look after yourselves and keep buying locally.

Merry Christmas to you all.

*Nik*

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As *Mary, Queen of Scots* prepares to ride into cinemas on December 7, we look into the real history of the enigmatic Scottish royal (played on screen by Saoirse Ronan) and her powerful cousin Queen Elizabeth I (Margot Robbie).

We consider ourselves to be living in progressive times with women taking on more and more leadership roles in the UK, but there was a period during the 16th century when both England and Scotland were ruled by queens. Both strong-willed and admirably independent, Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I were anomalies in a system still very much run by the patriarchy. And yet it wasn't all 'girl power' and sisterhood for the two monarchs, with Mary's unquenchable quest for supremacy ultimately leading to her death.

But then what else would you expect from a woman who was raised to rule? Born in 1542, Mary Stuart was the only surviving (legitimate) child of King James V, and was merely a six-day-old infant when she succeeded her father to become Queen of Scotland. Naturally, the role was taken over by regents until she came of age, and she actually spent much of her childhood in France, eventually marrying the Dauphin of France – who briefly became King Francis II – before his death in 1560.

By the time Mary returned to Scotland in 1561, her cousin Elizabeth I was ruling England. But all was not content in the kingdom, for many Catholics believed that Mary was the true heir to the English throne, as it was only because Henry VIII's last will and testament had excluded the Stuarts from claiming the crown that it fell instead onto the heads of his daughters (Mary I of England followed by Elizabeth I).

Not surprisingly, Mary was seen as an immediate threat to the English monarch, and her lack of finesse regarding the intricacies of religion and British politics only fanned the flames. Her first misstep was marrying a fellow Catholic – also her first cousin – Lord Darnley, with whom she had a son, James. When their union soured, his murder was blamed on nobleman Lord Bothwell, whom Mary would take as her third husband, a decision that would lead to her being forced to abdicate to her one-year-old son.

Imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle, Mary would eventually make a bold escape attempt, raising an army of 6,000 men, before accepting defeat and heading for England where she would ask Queen Elizabeth I for help in regaining her throne. But self-preservation won the day, with Elizabeth I ordering that Mary remain locked up until her eventual execution in 1587.

As time has gone on, it is Elizabeth I who is often revered as being an admirable and courageous queen, and yet, Mary's intelligence, passion and steely determination cannot be overlooked.

Like *Braveheart* before it, the film *Mary, Queen of Scots* could very well see the courageous Celt become a modern icon... or, it could simply confirm what history has come to show – that when it comes to matters of the crown, blood is no thicker than water.

Mary

QUEEN  
OF SCOTS





HISTORY

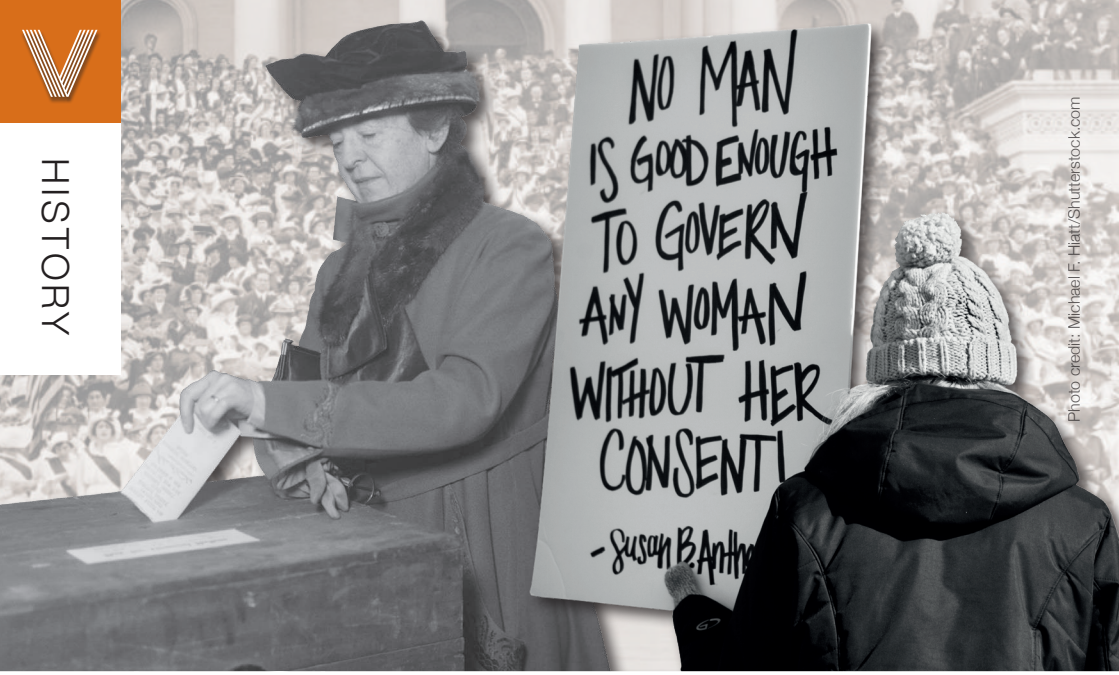


Photo credit: Michael F. Hlat/Shutterstock.com

# A CENTURY *of common sense*

It's 100 years since women were given the vote in parliamentary elections, with the nation embracing this incredible landmark in what is being dubbed The Year of the Woman.

The #MeToo movement may have kicked off an incredible drive for equality in the Western World, but perhaps it should have referenced more strongly the incredible battles faced at the start of the 20th century, both here and abroad, by a women's rights movement that was every bit as battle-hardened as today's campaign.

Talk about women being given the vote and most people will reference Emily Davison, the British suffragette who stumbled in front of King George V's horse at the Epsom Derby in 1913. Her subsequent death made her a central icon for the fight for equality, though in truth Emily made just one small part of a significant movement across the country. She was involved in a UK-wide hunger strike with other women arrested while demonstrating in the

months and years leading up to that fateful race, with the Emmeline Pankhurst Women's Social and Political Union proving a driving force for change, and one that, eventually, had to be listened to.

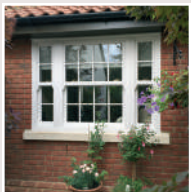
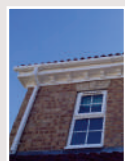
Sure enough, within five years women were granted the right to vote, and now a century on, a series of political, cultural, social and artistic events will reference and recognise the incredible sacrifices made by so many.

You only have to look at the empowerment of women in UK politics – a female Prime Minister, a female leader of Scotland's biggest party, not to mention the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, ranked the most powerful woman in world politics – to see just how far we've come. In short, do your own ironing.



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## CHRISTMAS STOCKING:

You will need:

- ★ ½ yard of two different fabrics such as felt or cotton for the outside and fur or fleece for the inside
- ★ Stocking pattern template (available online)
- ★ Optional extras for decorating including coloured felt and wool

How to make:

- ★ Fold your outer fabric in half and using the template, cut around so you have two mirror images of your stocking shape
- ★ Repeat with inside fabric
- ★ Sew around the bottom and sides of your outer fabric
- ★ Repeat with your inner fabric (inside out)
- ★ Now turn your inner fabric right side out and your outer fabric inside out
- ★ Place the inner within the outer and sew around the top, leaving a 2-3 inch opening
- ★ Turn it all out and fill

You can personalise your stocking with felt letters, a homemade Santa or a snowman with a bobbly knitted hat.

## CHRISTMAS EVE BOX:

You will need:

- ★ A wooden crate
- ★ Wooden letters in your child's name
- ★ "Christmas Eve Box" template (available online)
- ★ Acrylic paint in your chosen Christmas colours
- ★ Festive wrapping paper
- ★ Optional further decorations

How to make:

- ★ Paint your wooden letters in red, green or gold
- ★ Leave to dry and then stick onto the crate
- ★ Using a soft pencil outline the "Christmas Eve Box" template onto the side of the box
- ★ Paint in the stencil in your chosen Christmassy colours
- ★ Add any glitter, sequins or stars
- ★ Line your crate with festive wrapping paper
- ★ You are ready to fill

## IDEAS FOR FILLING:

Festive pyjamas, a Christmas film, hot chocolate and marshmallows, satsumas, chocolate coins and homemade food for Santa's reindeer.





# DIY Christmas Cracker

Christmas dinner without Christmas crackers is like Santa without his reindeer, greatly anticipated, thoroughly enjoyable but with something definitely missing.

However, the cost of Christmas quickly adds up and cheap crackers are often disappointing and filled with plastic junk that nobody wants.

So why not make your own instead? It's easier than it looks, budget-friendly and you can add whatever gifts you fancy inside.

## YOU WILL NEED:

- \* 6 toilet roll tubes
- \* Decorative paper – Christmassy or try a theme such as Disney princesses or superheroes
- \* Cracker snaps (available on Amazon or at Hobbycraft)
- \* Coloured thin card (20cm long) to complement the design of your A4 paper
- \* Coloured string or ribbon
- \* Optional sequins, glitter and tinsel
- \* Your chosen tokens

## HOW TO MAKE:

- \* Place the tube on the long edge of the paper, in the centre and stick down with tape
- \* Thread one cracker snap through the tube

and stick down – this is what makes the bang

- \* Roll the tube across the paper and stick in place
- \* Cut two 20x5cm strips of the thin card, curl into a circle and stick with tape
- \* Place one inside each cracker end leaving 2cm sticking out and secure with tape
- \* Twist one end and tie with ribbon
- \* Add your personalised gifts
- \* Twist other end and seal
- \* Add any additional decoration

## IDEAS FOR GIFTS/NOVELTIES

- \* Paper hats (homemade of course)
- \* Chocolate sprouts (available at Asda)
- \* Handwritten jokes
- \* Personalised keyrings
- \* Miniature liqueurs for adults
- \* Personalised tree decorations for the kids

Alternatively, if you are short on time but still want to offer a personalised and homemade selection of crackers this Christmas, several retailers offer 'Fill Your Own' crackers where all you need to do is pick and add your individual gifts.

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HOME & DIY

## *All is* **BERRY & BRIGHT**

From jammy red to deep mauves, berry colours are a brilliant way to brighten up your home. If your home decor is getting you down with its ponderous palate of beiges and greys, then consider adding a little flavour with some delicious berry colours.

"But how do I decorate my home in these sumptuous ruby tones without making one's house look like the scene of bloody crime?", you cry.

Well, simply by combining the right shades with sensible application in each room, you can achieve mulberry bliss over murder mystery madness.

**CHERRY RED:** Bold and bright, cherry is ideal for helping your kitchen come to life. Contrast wooden cabinets with the shiniest most daring red tiles you can find, and then accessorise with kitchen gadgets (toaster, kettle etc.) in the same shade to create an energising and inspiring space.

**CRIMSON:** There is something particularly elegant about crimson, making it an ideal tone for hallways and entrance areas. Both invigorating and luxurious, a crimson carpet or wallpaper makes your home feel cosy and welcoming without being gloomy, particularly when set-off with royal blue accents.

**BURGUNDY:** Creating a cosy living room is a fine art. Too many rich colours and it can feel stuffy and old fashioned, but too much white and it becomes cold. Find the balance then by choosing a statement wall or two to cover in a particularly decadent burgundy wallpaper (felted or fabric) while leaving the rest of the room to breathe in rather more neutral hues.

**PURPLES:** Like lips stained with blackberries, purple is a particularly sumptuous shade, making it perfect for the boudoir. Go all out with thick-pile mauve carpets, lilac linens and walls splashed with mulberry. You'll never want to leave.

**SCARLET:** Playful and exuberant, scarlet really is a glorious colour. However, use too much around your home and it can start to feel a little gaudy. So keep this orange-tinged red specifically for accents: a rug here, a lampshade there, and anywhere else you feel needs a little lifting.





# Rug

## IT UP



Photo credit: nextroom, overstock.com, missamara.cim.au

As 'the Dude' once observed, "a rug can really tie a room together". And yet, you don't need to be a fan of hit 1990s bowling comedy *The Big Lebowski* to understand the transformative power of a bit of old carpet.

A mismatched collection of furniture can suddenly feel immaculately curated, a cold and cavernous lounge becomes a snug bolt hole, and that horrendous red wine stain on your white carpet fades to nothing but a distant memory... and it's all thanks to the power of the humble rug.

So now that you've decided you need a bit of floor decoration in your life, here are the styles, shapes and designs to bear in mind:

### Texturised

Considering the fact our feet contain hundreds of nerve endings, it makes sense to choose a rug that not only looks good, but feels good too. From plush velvety fabric to bobbles of natural wool, the texturised trend is really about utilising all of your senses.

### Graphic design

Geometric patterns have long been a popular carpet trend, but the modern styles are even more lust-worthy, as simple designs meet a fresh colour palette to create a minimalist but classic look. Think chevrons in mint green or breezy yellow, or diamond shaped in eggshell blue and a blush pink. These designs are bang up-to-date with just a little art deco chic.

### Less hassle, more tassel

Tassels are a big design trend in both fashion and the home right now, and what's not to love about them? Simultaneously fun and stylish, tassels are great for adding a little pizzazz in an uninspiring room.

### Bohemian chic

Rugs bring a certain careless decadence to a room, which is why the bohemian trend makes perfect sense. Think casual, flowing fabrics in a faded mass of colours, or in music terms, Stevie Nicks strewn seductively across your floor.

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# LOCAL NEWS

*from your neighbourhood*



LOCAL NEWS BILLERICAY



## Drug dealers jailed for storing cocaine in industrial unit

Two drug dealers, including one from Billericay, have been jailed for 17 years after 20kg of cocaine with a potential street value of over £1.5million was found in an Essex industrial unit.

Daniel Reuter, from Billericay, and Kyle Cookson, from South Woodham Ferrers, were stopped in a van by officers from the joint NCA and Metropolitan Police Service's Organised Crime Partnership (OCP) outside an industrial unit on Ash Tree Farm Industrial Estate, Roxwell, in July 2018.

An initial search of the cargo area at the industrial estate revealed a carrier bag containing envelopes with five one-kilo blocks inside, packed in with boxes of frozen food. Inside the unit, another 10 kilos were found in a safe. A further five kilos were recovered from the van.

Officers discovered another van at the unit had been fitted with a purpose-built, steel void, accessed by a

removable wooden floor, which was used to conceal drugs.

A small amount of cash and two luxury watches were recovered from Reuter's home address during a separate search.

Reuter and Cookson both pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and were sentenced to nine years and eight years respectively at Woolwich Crown Court last month.

Spencer Barnett, from the Organised Crime Partnership, said: "Reuter and Cookson used the industrial unit to coordinate their illicit activities, shown by the heat-sealing machines, brown tape and other items of packaging found at the site.

"The sentencing is a result of the OCP's efforts to protect communities from the violence, gang culture and criminal activity fuelled by the illegal supply of Class A drugs."





# Mayflower Morris Men go to Ypres



Photo credit: Janet Barnett

Morris Men of Billericay got together with friends and family and travelled to Ypres in Belgium last month.

The purpose of the visit was to lay a wreath commemorating the Morris Men who fell in the Great War.

The Morris Men of Billericay attended the Menin Gate ceremony at which several wreaths were laid.

The Last Post and Reveille were sounded, as has been since 1923, except when Ypres was occupied during the Second World War.

Visits were also made to the Sanctuary Wood and the *In Flanders Fields* museums by members of the group.

The visit was proposed by the late Tony Motley, a great Morris dancer, ex-King's Trooper and British Legion standard bearer. The visit was also in honour of Tony.

## News from the local policing team

This month has seen Basildon police attend a variety of incidents and events.

Acting Inspector Rob Maile said: "We have continued to tackle anti-social behaviour and drug activity in and around Lake Meadows. This is in direct response to concerns raised by you. A number of persons have been dealt with for drug offences as a result. This month saw a youth caught with drugs and was subsequently dealt with.

"The community policing team has continued to work alongside Basildon district council and other partners around taxi licensing and crime prevention advice provided to members of the public around the dangers of 'unlicensed' taxi operators. This will continue as we move towards the holiday season.

"We have also responded to parking complaints

around Billericay Town Football Club during game times. A number of tickets were issued for obstructing the highway. We are working with Basildon Council and the football club for a long-term solution.

"We have attended a range of events, including Billericay fireworks display and several Coffee with a Copper events where we received valuable information from yourselves."

## Mayor's charity dinner raises thousands

The Mayor of Basildon's Civic and Charity Dinner, which was hosted at the Magic Mushroom restaurant in Billericay, raised thousands of pounds for good causes.

The event featured a raffle and auction with prizes including a signed Billericay FC shirt, an iPad and a bottle of House of Commons whiskey signed by the Prime Minister.

Around £7,000 was raised in total.

The Mayor of Basildon's Charity Appeal was launched to bring the community together in aid of charitable organisations. This year it is supporting St Luke's Hospice and Cancer Research UK as chosen by councillor David Dadds.

The Mayor said: "I would like to thank everyone who joined me at the Mayor's Civic and Charity Dinner as well as those who kindly donated time, effort, money or prizes. I truly am grateful for all the wonderful support.

"I'm honoured to be serving this borough as mayor and am committed to working alongside the community to raise money and awareness for good causes which are close to many of our hearts. St Luke's Hospice and Cancer Research UK are both incredible charities, and we never know when we may need to rely on them for support."

Residents interested in raising money are invited to contact the Mayor's secretary on 01268 206736 or email [louise.bresch@basildon.gov.uk](mailto:louise.bresch@basildon.gov.uk)



Photo credit: Basildon Council

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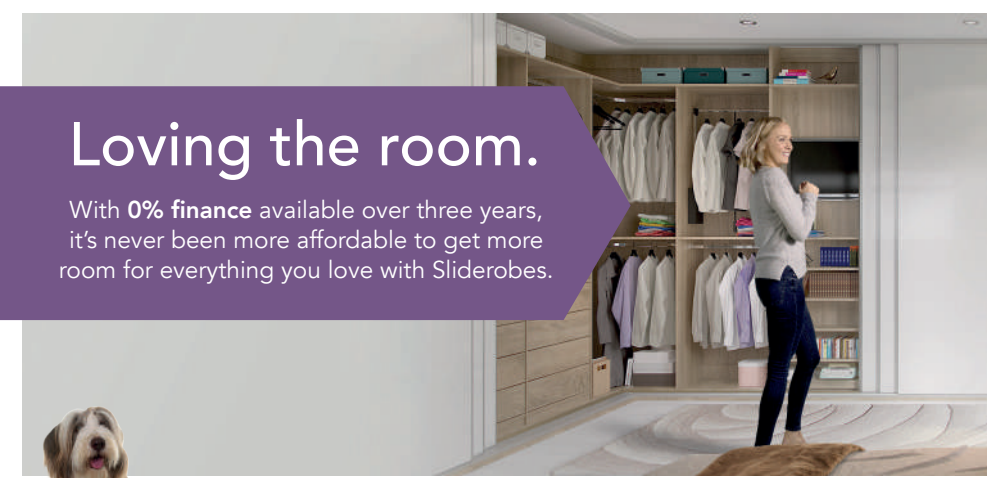
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# BILLERICAY TOWN FC

LOCAL NEWS BILLERICAY



## October's manager of the month named

Billericay Town Ladies manager Kim Coster has been named as the FA Women's National League South manager of the month for October.

As **VISION** BillericayShenfield went to press, the Blues were sitting second in the league just behind Crawley Town.

Kim narrowly missed out on September's award to the Crawley Wasps manager. She admitted she was surprised but delighted to be nominated.

She commented: "It is an honour just to be nominated but to actually win it is fantastic for all involved with the club. The Ladies are doing well after being promoted at the end of last season."

The Ladies ended the month with a 3-2 home victory over Enfield Town which took them back to the top of the league table.

There were even more reasons for Kim and her team to celebrate

last month after they made club history by beating Norwich City Ladies in the 1st round proper of the Women's FA Cup.

Georgia Box struck an extra time winner to hand The Blues a home tie against Luton Town.

Kim said: "It turned out to be a thriller of a game, four red cards and both teams playing extra time with nine players."

The Blues will take on Luton Town at the AGP Arena on December 2 with a 1pm KO.

Meanwhile, Billericay's men's team were defeated by Chesterfield at the AGP Arena in an FA Cup 1st Round Replay after Dean Brennan's men held the 1997 semi-finalists to a 1-1 draw at the Proact Stadium. Although Joseph Kizzi cancelled out Tom Denton's opener, the Spireites striker grabbed two further goals to put the result beyond doubt.

Chesterfield will now play League Two Grimsby Town at home on December 1.



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V23





Street Pastors have had an exciting month and have just celebrated our fifth birthday in Billericay. We have been patrolling now every Friday and Saturday night from 9pm until 1.30am in our dark blue uniform in the High Street since November 2013.

We currently have 42 trained Street Pastors who are trained in various relevant topics and all have DBS certification. It is very important for us to celebrate these significant birthdays as we constantly acknowledge the ongoing support we get from our local churches, police and town council. We hosted a public celebration at St Marys Church on Sunday, November 18 which is a place we operate as a safe hub. Anyone who is or becomes vulnerable for any reason whilst out and about is more than welcome to come and find us here and then we can help in whatever way we see fit.

We are very well aware of the support we get through social media like the Billericay Discussion

page but would like people to consider donating to us via our Easy Fundraising page. If you shop online for goods, services, holidays or insurance then you can nominate us as your local charity by going to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/billericaysp](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/billericaysp)

Every time you make a purchase using this method the retailer will donate to our charity which won't cost you any more on your purchase. We are very appreciative of all the support we get and will use any money raised wisely for the benefit of the charity.

We were also blessed this month by taking delivery of a mini bus, donated by Billericay Baptist Church which we have now had sign written by Black Square Litho of Radford Way, Billericay, and we enjoyed using it for the first time at the Billericay Fireworks where it was used as the lost children's centre and point of contact for lost persons.

If you require any further information, then why not follow us on Facebook or Twitter or email [billericay@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:billericay@streetpastors.org.uk)

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# LOCAL NEWS

*from your neighbourhood*

LOCAL NEWS SHENFIELD



Photo credit: Google Maps

## Library under threat following council changes

Shenfield Library is under threat following the council's decision to change the way libraries are run throughout the county.

Essex County Council is considering a library service which is available online 24/7 to fit in with people's lives.

Residents will be asked to have their say in the major consultation on the plans.

According to the council, traditional library use in Essex has collapsed in the last 10 years.

There are over 100,000 fewer people using Essex libraries now than there were in 2008.

At the same time, use of the e-library service, including e-book loans and online reservations, has more than doubled since 2013.

Essex has the second-highest number of libraries in the UK and is in the top-five counties nationally for spending on libraries, but with increasing costs and declining usage, the service is no longer viable in its current form.

The consultation sets out a vision of modern library services, fit for now and in the future. The future draft proposals aim to build online library services, with fewer, but better libraries and community-run ones.

Councillor Susan Barker, cabinet member for

customer services, said: "We believe library services play a unique role in society for reading, learning, digital access and culture.

"Technology has transformed how people read books and access information and entertainment, which is why we must look critically at our current library locations and respond to these changes.

"We want to introduce better library spaces where we do have them – smart, modern and comfortable – and where, for instance, you might be able to swipe in using a smart card, pick up parcels or bring your toddlers for rhyme time.

"We also have to make sure that we continue to offer value for money. That may mean some libraries are not viable. But if that is the case, we want to talk to communities about how they can become involved and run a library service with our support. The consultation is the opportunity to feedback on our plans and make sure that views are heard and considered."

The consultation into the future of Essex libraries launches on November 29 and lasts 12 weeks through to February 20.

Findings will be published and any changes proposed considered in June 2019.



# BURGHART for BRENTWOOD



Alex Burghart MP for Brentwood and Ongar



One of the most poignant pieces of audio brought to light in the recent commemorations marking 100 years since the end of the Great War, was the recording of the sounds of guns and explosions up until 11am on November 11, 1918.

At 11 o'clock precisely, the gunfire and shells stopped, their final sounds fading like a thunderstorm passing over, until there was silence, punctuated by the occasional, surprising, sound of birdsong. For those on the front line it was the first time in days, weeks and even months when the noise of battle was not surrounding them with deafening inevitability.

The centenary of the end of the war has enabled many of us to look at our family trees and remember those uncles and cousins who took part in, but in many cases did not return from, the Great War. There were also those who were left behind - those who were widowed and those who never married because the men they would have married had been killed.

We must always be grateful for living in a more peaceful age - to have been spared the horrors of total war that destroyed two generations. At this time of the year, we should take time to find some peace to reflect not on what we lack but on how lucky we are to have what we have. Finding the calm to do this can be difficult in the clamour of Christmas - but we should seek it so as to spend a little uninterrupted time with those whom we love.

I hope that this Christmas you are able to find time to be with your friends and family, to halt the deafening sounds and to cherish the birdsong.

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## War hero honoured with stone dedication



Students from Shenfield High School were among those who attended a ceremony to unveil a paving stone in honour of Sergeant William Merrifield.

The Brentwood war hero's memory has been honoured at Brentwood's War Memorial.

Commemorative paving stones have been laid across the UK for Victoria Cross recipients to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Sergeant William Merrifield was part of the 4th Battalion, 1st Central Ontario Regiment, in Canada and was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1918.

He was born in Brentwood on October 9, 1890. He emigrated to Canada and worked as a fireman with the Canadian Pacific Railway for 18 months. Soon after the war broke out, he enlisted in 4th Battalion, 1st Central Ontario Regiment, in Canada.

Sergeant Merrifield was awarded the Victoria Cross for acts of bravery and devotion to duty in 1918. He died on August 8, 1943 in Toronto, Canada.

## Station to be improved as part of Local Plan

Improvements to Shenfield railway station are part of the key elements of the Brentwood pre-submission Local Plan which has been approved by the council.

The new plan will set out the council's long-term

vision for how and where the borough will develop over the next 15 years.

The plan will now be published for public consultation from mid-November to mid-January 2019.

Councillor Louise McKinlay said: "The plan focuses on identifying land for both residential and commercial use over the coming years. It also will mean that we can look to have the kind of development we need while protecting the things that matter to people, such as our open green spaces, and ensuring we have what is needed for our children and grandchildren.

"Under this plan 87 per cent of the land in the borough will remain as green belt; it will help to provide the affordable homes and the next round of work on the plan focuses on the essential infrastructure that is required for Brentwood to grow in a sustainable way."

## Highest honours of the borough awarded

Two people have been honoured with Brentwood's highest accolade.

Brentwood Borough Council bestowed the title of Honorary Alderman to David Tee and Alan Davies.

Councillors nominated locals they felt were most deserving and had gone above and beyond whilst serving the borough and had continued to do so long after they left.

Davies served as a ward councillor for Hutton East until 2006. During that time, he served on committees giving 15 years' service to the council.

Tee served as ward councillor for Warley until 2016, giving the council 12 years' service. He was also Mayor of Brentwood in 2010.

Current Mayor of Brentwood, councillor Sheila Murphy, said: "It was a great honour to present these accolades, the honorary Aldermen, to two very special individuals.

"These two men are highly respected and have served their communities for many years."







Even though he's been a constant of the natural world for well over six decades, Sir David Attenborough admits to being more enchanted now by the flora and fauna of our incredible planet than at any time in the past.

Since his TV debut way back in 1954, Attenborough has been a name synonymous with the natural world. He has spent his 92 years on planet Earth, and in that time explored almost every corner of it, documenting nature's rich array, from the polar icecaps to the tropics, in doing so endearing himself to audiences the world over.

In remarkably good shape given his age, Attenborough scoffs at the suggestion that he is superhuman. "Nonsense," he exclaims. "I'm moving much slower than I used to; I'm definitely feeling my age. But I'm still upright so one can't complain too much about that."

If he is feeling his age, he certainly isn't showing it. The evidence? Well, over the past year, Attenborough has been busier than ever, producing and preparing a plethora of documentaries for what many consider to be his spiritual home, the BBC, having spent time hosting series for other networks. His newest project, *Dynasties*, sees a return to the Beeb, in following five endangered species fighting for their future survival.

---

*"You see in the Sunday papers, all these advertisements, 'Go to the Galapagos', 'Go to Timbuktu' or wherever, and I get to do that. And people pay me to go there, so why would I even want to give it up?"*

---

The show is an example of Attenborough's ability and willingness to evolve at the same rate as his audience's watching habits. In a sense he has had to embrace our changing tastes for wildlife and the way we consume it.

"I'm glad to say the new series is different to a lot of what I've done before because we are focusing on specific animals – chimpanzee, lion, emperor penguin, tiger and the painted wolf – as a family group, rather than taking a broad sweep of an environment," he says.

"In a sense, the natural world is about every individual animal and species, and the fight for survival and longevity, so to come back to a series that really is about the smallest of groups feels right."

Over time – through *Wildlife on One* to *Frozen Planet*, *Life in the Freezer* to *Planet Earth* – Attenborough's ability to paint the most vivid of pictures through his incredible narrative has certainly been aided by technology.

"The cameras have got smaller, the lenses sharper, and our ability now to view without intruding has never been better. This all adds up the greatest understanding of the natural environment we have ever had," he says.

Attenborough can also lay claim to advancing our understanding of the literature world too – the term 'single-use' was recently named 'Word of the Year' by the Collins Dictionary, notably for its reference to plastics in the *Planet Earth II* series when referencing society's throwaway culture and the damage it does to the natural world.

We should also be grateful that the seemingly ageless Attenborough shows no signs of letting up, with retirement something of a dirty word for him. "You see in the Sunday papers, all these advertisements, 'Go to the Galapagos', 'Go to Timbuktu' or wherever, and I get to do that. And people pay me to go there, so why would I ever want to give it up?" he laughs. "And I've been so, so lucky. My knees are shot, and I'm creaky and groaning in certain places, but otherwise I've been very lucky."



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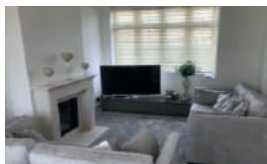
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# KETO *like a Kardashian*

Every day a new diet seems to appear that promises to help you shift those unwanted extra pounds for good, each with their own unique selling point. But how do you know which diet is right for you? The ketogenic diet is a low-carb, high-fat diet that Halle Berry and Kourtney Kardashian swear by, but how exactly does it work?

## THE SCIENCE

The keto diet works by drastically reducing your carbohydrate which sends your body into a metabolic state called ketosis.

Ketosis makes your body extremely efficient at burning fat for energy which is why the diet recommends high levels of fat consumption. This state also helps your body turn fats into ketones within the liver which in turn supplies energy to the brain. This diet lowers your blood sugar and insulin levels by shifting your body's metabolism away from unhealthy carbohydrates that are high in sugar to healthy fats.

## DOES IT WORK?

Studies have shown that people on the keto diet lose over two times more weight than those on a standard calorie-restricted diet. They also lower their blood sugar and insulin levels.

## ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

The 'keto flu' is common in the first few days with symptoms including low energy levels, trouble sleeping, nausea and increased hunger.

This should pass.

## FOODS YOU NEED TO AVOID OR REDUCE:

- ❌ Sugary foods such as cake, ice cream, biscuits and fruit juice
- ❌ All fruit except small amounts of berries
- ❌ Grains and starches
- ❌ Beans and legumes such as kidney beans, lentils and chickpeas
- ❌ Root vegetables
- ❌ Any low fat or diet products; these are highly processed and carb-heavy
- ❌ Alcohol
- ❌ Limit unhealthy fats
- ❌ Sauces and condiments due to high sugar content

## FOODS YOU SHOULD EAT:

- ✅ Meat
- ✅ Fish including oily fish such as salmon and mackerel
- ✅ Eggs
- ✅ Butter
- ✅ Unsalted nuts
- ✅ Avocados
- ✅ Healthy oils like coconut oil
- ✅ An abundance of low-carb, non-starchy vegetables



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# Bronze Age

Does your skin need a little warming up over these cold and gloomy months? Well, here's how to apply bronzer like a pro... (you're welcome).

**Choosing your bronzer:** To avoid looking like you've been tangoed, first apply a foundation which is one tone darker than your complexion, then choose bronzer just one shade above that – never more. This way you get a natural-looking glow where the tones meet in the middle, rather than a noticeably darker sculpted area.

**Tools of the trade:** Blusher brushes work well when applying bronzer, but if you're serious about becoming a golden goddess, invest in a bronzer brush. Thanks to their abundance of bristles, which are tightly packed together, you get more colour per stroke.

**Three is the magic number:** The equation for a perfectly-sculpted, glowing façade is three plus three equals gorgeous. Starting from your temple, swoop round to your cheekbone and then back down your jawline (a three shape) on both sides of your face.

**Add shimmer:** Assuming you're using a matte product, it's nice to add a few touches of shimmer in key places for maximum va-va-voom. Either crème or powder, apply sparingly under cheekbones, along the bridge of your nose and just above your cupid's bow.

**Blend, blend and blend some more:** Using a blusher brush or sponge, go over the edges of your bronzer and highlighter until they are seamlessly merged with your foundation. Remember to also blend the colour into your neck and apply a touch at the nape if your hair is very short or in a ponytail. What you should end up with is a sun-kissed glow which looks natural and highlights all your best features. Expect compliments.

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As Chanel launches *BOY-FRIEND* we ask if men wearing make-up is really becoming the norm

**W**e're in an era where we've put ourselves constantly on show. Social media means very few moments are private, and for women, even chatting to friends at home can mean checking hair is neat or lip gloss applied.

While the bar has been raised in terms of looking good all of the time, the barriers for men been lowered when it comes to being open about grooming and beauty routines. Influenced by the pink pound and normalised by brands such as Nivea and L'Oréal, who have mercilessly attacked the men's market well beyond just moisturising, Chanel has taken the next brave step in tackling the idea of men applying make-up.

Okay, so previously you might have found blokes with a cheeky stick of concealer – often borrowed from a sister, girlfriend or mum – in order to hide facial blemishes or spots. But now, with on-screen role models publicly adding edge and definition to

their faces, is it really a surprise that we're extending that idea into our everyday lives?

Last year ASOS started stocking MMUK Man foundations, brushes, eyebrow fillers and 'manscara', and this summer L'Oréal UK boss Vismay Sharma said he expected male beauty counters to be commonplace within five years upon the launch of male make-up brand *BOY-FRIEND*.

"Today you have a very small proportion of men who want to use make-up products, but that proportion is growing and it will continue to grow. We are listening very carefully to consumers and what they want," he said.

And don't think this is all to do with the selfie generation – it was only 100 years ago that men stopped wearing make-up. Before the Victorian era, blokes were often seen in eyeliner, as well as applying face powders and nail varnish... "Pass the bronzer my good fellow."

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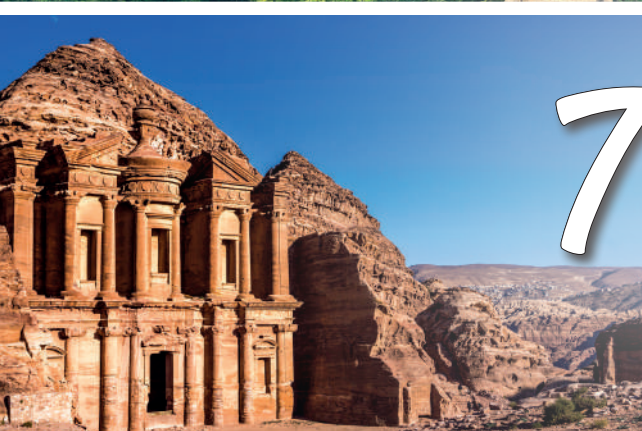
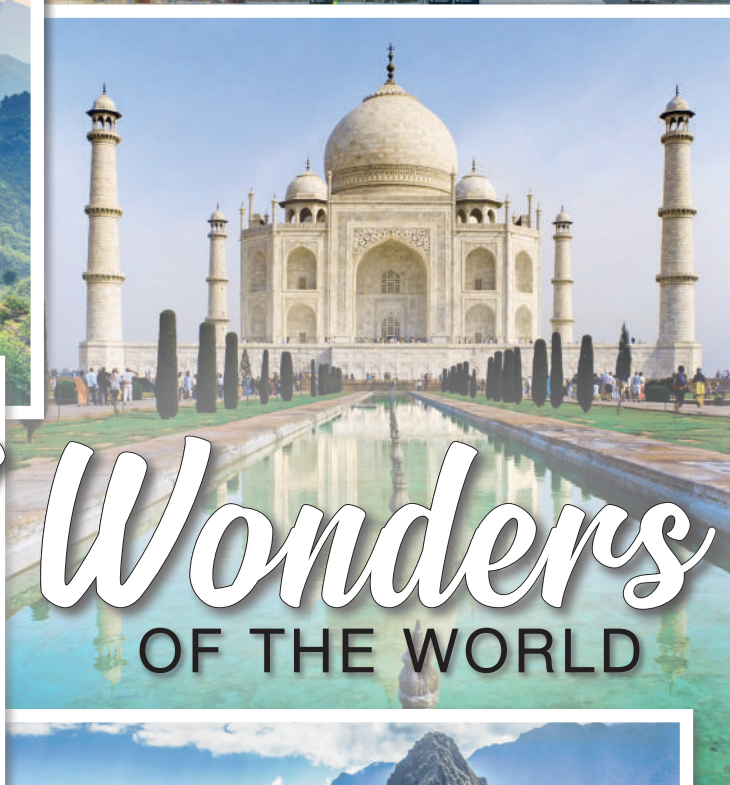


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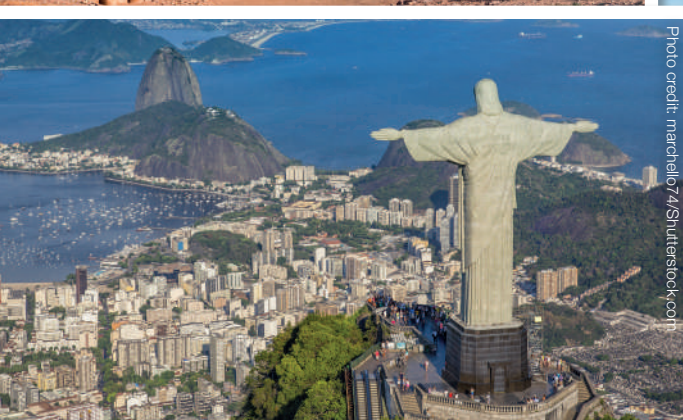
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# 7 Wonders OF THE WORLD



The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World have all but succumbed to old age or natural disaster – with the Great Pyramid at Giza the only lasting reminder of a list that includes the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Lighthouse of Alexandria, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus and the Colossus of Rhodes.

Though these breathtaking testaments to ancient design are now just mainly dust and memories, there's a new breed of mighty man-made monument around, and all well within the grasp of any traveller willing to seek them out.

**CHICHÉN ITZA:** The ancient city of Chichén Itza is located on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. This well-known Mayan city served as a religious, political and economic centre for several hundred years. The Pyramid of Kukulcan is probably the most recognised ruin of Chichén Itza, standing at 80ft high and incorporating a total of 365 huge stone steps.

**CHRIST THE REDEEMER:** This statue of Jesus is one of Rio de Janeiro's most widely recognised monuments. It stands 98.5ft tall atop the summit of Mount Corcovado, which itself rises more than 2,300ft. With an outstretched arm-span of 92ft, and a weight of approximately 700 tonnes, the concrete and soapstone leviathan is the destination of many a pilgrim.

**THE COLOSSEUM:** Gladiator contests, group combat, battle re-enactments and other productions were staged at the Colosseum to an audience of almost 50,000. Today, even after some renovations in the 1990s, the wear and tear from poor weather, natural disaster and vandalism show, but they can't take away from this iconic Italian sight. And while you're there, why not soak up Rome's unique culture at the same time?

**THE TAJ MAHAL:** This 42-acre marble mausoleum complex located in Agra is a stunning Indian landmark. Construction started in 1631, spanning more than two decades, requiring more than 20,000 labourers and costing several million rupees.

**GREAT WALL OF CHINA:** The Great Wall of China is without doubt a modern marvel and rightfully belongs amid the other seven Wonders. Contrary to popular belief, the wall isn't one continuous structure – it's actually made up of several separate structures that cover approximately 4,500 miles. Pack your walking boots.

**PETRA:** Located in south-west Jordan are the ruins of the ancient city of Petra. Massive temples, tombs and monuments have been cut into the surrounding sandstone cliffs and were immortalised in 1989's *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Perhaps the most impressive Petra structure is the Sik al-Khazneh, an elaborately carved and embellished tomb.

**MACHU PICCHU:** Built in the 15th century, this ancient Incan city is nestled between two peaks – Machu Picchu (Old Peak) and Huayna Picchu (New Peak) at an amazing elevation of 7,710ft. It is often called the lost city of the Incas, because it was hidden amid the lush forest and clouds of Peru for more than three centuries. Now rediscovered, it is a sight to be admired, and one that retains every ounce of mystical promise.



# PUZZLES & TRIVIA

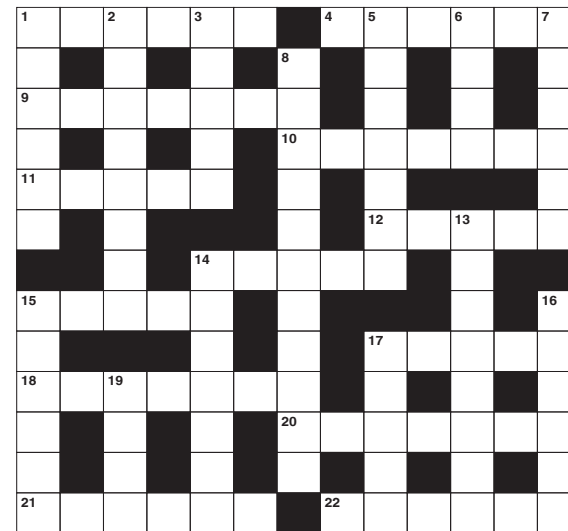
## ACROSS

1. Measure of how strongly an object reflects light (6)
4. Narrow sea inlets (6)
9. Patio area (7)
10. Container releasing a fine spray (7)
11. Private room on a ship (5)
12. Stood up (5)
14. In the area (5)
15. Small antelope (5)
17. Assumed proposition (5)
18. Move; agitate (7)
20. Exertions (7)
21. Wanders off; drifts (6)
22. Dog-like mammals (6)

## DOWN

1. Lofts (6)
2. Disease (8)
3. Draw off liquid from (5)
5. Periodical (7)
6. Raised edges (4)
7. Elegant and slender (6)
8. Seaside scavenger (11)
13. Conjoining contradictory terms (8)
14. Form of public worship (7)

15. Large quantity (6)
16. Overtakes (6)
17. Towering (5)
19. Raps (anag) (4)



## DID YOU KNOW

- In total, there are 1,665 steps from the esplanade up to the top of the Eiffel Tower, but the stairway from the 2nd floor to the top is not open to the public.
- Buckingham Palace has over 775 rooms, 19 of these are state rooms along with 52 official royal bedrooms and guest rooms.
- In 1886, the Statue of Liberty was given to the United States by France to celebrate the friendship they endured during the American Revolution.
- President George Washington selected the site for the White House in 1791. Every president since John Adams had occupied the building.
- The construction of the Leaning Tower of Pisa began in 1173 and was completed in 1399.

## SUDOKU

		5		3		4		
						3	8	
1			7				9	
4				2		5	6	
			6	1	4			
	7	8		5				2
	6				1			9
	9	2						
		1		6		7		

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There are several examples where society finds itself fighting back against the corporate monsters, but perhaps one of the strangest revivals in recent years has been the re-emergence of vinyl records.

At a time when the digital music revolution made listening to our favourite tunes cheaper, instantaneous and effortlessly mobile, we threw value and convenience out the window to reacquaint ourselves with bulky, immobile, dusty, scratch-happy records... but why?

Researchers and scientists believe our connection with music actually hooks into our desire to have physical objects around us, and digital music only ever satisfies one of those emotions. Vinyl records – and the sleeves they come in – offer something to hold, to read, to savour; while collecting records and building our own ‘project’ through music is said to satisfy our human desire to anchor and look after. From a low-point in 2008 to last year giving the

industry its biggest annual vinyl sales since the early 1990s, vinyl records now account for over three per cent of all music sales (including streaming and downloads); or, put another way, over four million albums sold in the UK in 2017.

And it's not just new music sales that are flourishing, with the second-hand market also proving our desire for physical music continues on its upward shift (thanks in no small part to sites such as eBay and Discogs). Perhaps it's time to have a look in the attic at some of your forgotten classics, particularly if your collection includes any of the artists below:

**The 10 most collectable vinyl artists:**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Elvis Presley | 6. Miles Davis   |
| 2. Bob Dylan     | 7. Led Zeppelin  |
| 3. The Beatles   | 8. Beach Boys    |
| 4. Nirvana       | 9. Metallica     |
| 5. Jimi Hendrix  | 10. Depeche Mode |



## PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY PORTFOLIO

As a landlord you're in a unique position in that your property isn't a home, it's a business. From a large stately home to a city-centre flat, regardless of your property size you'll want to protect your investment. That's where landlord insurance through Coversure comes in, helping to protect you from a range of risks that modern-day landlords face.

Considering your property could be affected by unruly tenants, natural disasters and thieves, it's crucial to ensure you get the correct level of protection. Below we'll highlight the key components you should consider including in your cover.

### Buildings Cover

This does what it says on the tin and helps to protect you against the costs to repair or rebuild the property if it is damaged or destroyed by fires, flood or accidental damage. This forms the cornerstone of most property insurance based policies.

### Contents Cover

Do you furnish your property for your tenants? If you

leave contents in your rented property, contents cover is crucial to keep you protected. From sofas to white goods, with contents cover you can gain financial assistance with repairing or replacing your contents.

### Rent Guarantee

As a landlord, if you're not getting rent, you're losing out on your investment. So if anything forces your property to be vacant, such as renovation or repair, rent guarantee can continue to provide an income to you.

### Liability Cover

If a tenant or a visitor ends up gaining an injury, becomes ill or damages their possessions due to a fault of your property then you could be held accountable in a court of law. Landlord's liability cover helps to protect you against the compensation from these claims.

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## REACHED YOUR HALF-CENTURY? HOW TO PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

Once you reach 50, it's time to get serious about planning your retirement. True, it could still seem ages away, and you may not be thinking of giving up work anytime soon. However, putting a retirement plan together will help you understand what your finances will look like when you decide to take life easy.

Retirement planning isn't just about getting your money organised, although that's vitally important. Depending on your circumstances, you may want to think about completely changing your lifestyle, moving home, travelling the world, or simply putting your feet up. And like all big projects in life, the more time you can invest in thinking it through, the better.

**Start by taking stock** – Getting financial advice will help you get a true perspective on how your pension planning is shaping up. We will help you work out the value of your current plans, including your state pension entitlement. If you've lost track of pensions held with past employers, now is

a good time to get them traced. If you've several pension plans, we will be able to help you work out if it would make sense to consolidate them.

And don't just think about pensions; having money in ISAs will help in planning your retirement income tax-efficiently.

**Do your sums** – Don't leave it until the last minute to work out how much money you'll need to live on in retirement. Some costs will go down, like travel to work, but others like utility bills are likely to increase as you spend more time at home. Factor in the cost of the travel, holidays and hobbies you're likely to want to pursue when you have more time.

As part of the service at HCR, we take the time to understand our clients unique planning needs and circumstances, so that we can provide you with the most suitable solutions in the most cost-effective way. For a free review of your current pension plans and financial situation, please contact Andy Costin, Independent Financial Adviser on 01277 654153.



## Who do you think becomes the guardian for your children?

It's never too early to make provisions for your children

YES it is difficult but it is essential to face the possibility that young children could be left without parents to care for them. Who would you want to look after your children if you were to die? If you do not decide, the local authorities and courts will decide for you. Their idea of the 'best' care for your children may be very different from yours. Be aware too that an unmarried father does not automatically become guardian to his children.



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KIDS

Keep the children entertained over the Christmas holidays with this simple and easy recipe. This Christmas cookie tree is great for when friends come over, or

can be wrapped up and given as a present.

You will need to have star cookie cutters of multiple sizes. These are widely available from high street stores and online.

#### MAKING THE COOKIES...

#### INGREDIENTS

- ★ 225g butter, softened
- ★ 110g caster sugar
- ★ 1tsp vanilla extract
- ★ 275g plain flour
- ★ Piping icing

#### METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180C /350F/Gas mark 4. Line a baking tray with baking paper.
2. Cream together the butter, vanilla extract and sugar until light and fluffy.
3. Sift in the flour. Mix together to form a dough.
4. Lightly sprinkle the work surface with flour and roll out the dough, making sure it is of equal depth.
5. Using the cutters, cut out the biscuits and place on the baking paper.
6. Cook for 10-12 minutes until golden brown.
7. Place on a cooling rack and leave them until completely cool.
8. Assemble the tree by stacking the cookies with the largest at the bottom, using the piping icing to secure them together.
9. Get creative and decorate your Christmas cookie tree.



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# MONKEY BREAD WITH...

*a twist*

Christmas is the ideal time to get all the family involved in some seasonal baking and this monkey bread is so simple to make but yet so decadent to eat. Add our Christmas-inspired edible decorations and you have created a real showstopper.

## YOU WILL NEED FOR THE DOUGH:

- 200ml whole milk
- 85g unsalted butter
- 2 medium eggs
- 500g self-raising flour
- 2 ½ tsp dried yeast (fast action)
- 40g caster sugar

## YOU WILL NEED FOR THE COATING:

- 125g unsalted melted butter
- 200g caster sugar
- 3 tbsp cocoa powder, 1 tsp cinnamon, ¼ tsp nutmeg and ¼ tsp allspice

## TO DECORATE:

- Icing sugar and edible holly

## HOW TO MAKE:

- Melt the butter with the milk and leave to cool slightly
- Mix in the beaten eggs
- Add the sugar, yeast and flour and combine
- Tip out and knead for 10 minutes until your dough is shiny and stretchy
- Place your dough in a bowl, cover and leave to rest until it has doubled in size
- Turn out dough and separate into lots of individual dough balls
- Dip each ball into melted butter, then sugar, then into the cocoa and spice mixture
- Place all dough balls in a bunnet, cover and leave for an hour until doubled in size
- Bake in the middle of the oven for 35 minutes at 160 degrees
- Remove from tin and leave to cool

## HOW TO DECORATE:

- Sieve icing sugar over the top of the bread to create a Christmassy effect
- Decorate with edible holly



# DIY WINTER Infused Booze

What could be better than sipping a warming, richly spiced liqueur in front of a roaring fire on a cold winter's night? Treat yourself or a loved one this Christmas with these simple homemade winter-inspired drinks.

## CANDY CANE-FLAVOURED VODKA

### You will need:

8 candy canes | 2 cups of vodka

### To make:

Break up the candy canes into small pieces | Pour the vodka into a sterilised glass jar and add the crushed candy | Shake well and leave to sit for 1-2 days | Once the candy has completely dissolved the vodka is ready to enjoy

## WINTER WONDERLAND LIQUEUR

### You will need:

¼ cup of brown sugar | 2 cups of brandy | 1 tsp whole cloves | 1 tbs black tea | 1 cinnamon stick | Zest of 1 orange

### To make:

Put all of the above into a sterilised jar | Leave to infuse for 3 weeks | Sieve the liqueur if desired | Serve with warm spiced cider

## INDULGENT IRISH CREAM

### You will need:

250ml single cream | 14oz condensed milk | 350ml Irish whiskey | 1 tsp coffee essence or liqueur | 1 tsp vanilla essence | 1 tsp almond essence

### To make:

Blend all the ingredients together | Pour into sterilised jars and place in the fridge to chill | Shake well before serving

## SWEET AND SPICY EGGNOG

### You will need:

3 cups of whole milk | 1 cup of double cream | 3 cinnamon sticks | 1 vanilla pod | 1 tsp nutmeg | 5 eggs | 130g granulated sugar | ¾ cup dark rum or bourbon

### To make:

Bring the milk, cream, cinnamon, vanilla and nutmeg to the boil | Remove from heat and allow to steep | Separately beat the egg yolks and sugar until combined | Slowly mix in the milk mixture | Add the rum | Leave to chill in fridge overnight | Before serving beat the egg whites to soft peaks and gently fold into the eggnog





# ROONEY BOWS

## OUT IN USA VICTORY



**T**hunderous applause greeted England legend Wayne Rooney as he stepped onto the pitch in an England shirt for the 120th and last time.

England's all-time top scorer came out of his two-year retirement for a final display in a friendly against USA on Thursday, November 15, at Wembley Stadium.

Rooney's shock inclusion in the England squad was announced at the beginning of November, in order to raise funds for his charity, the Wayne Rooney Foundation, and to give him closure on his international career.

England won the encounter 3-0, with impressive goals from Jesse Lingard and Trent Alexander-Arnold in the first half, before debutant Callum Wilson added a third in the 77th minute.

A crowd of 68,155 had to wait patiently until the 57th minute to watch Rooney come on, slipping the captain's armband on as he did.

Rooney rolled back the years with some impressive passes in the final third, and even had a couple of half-chances to grab a goal towards the end of the match.

While the 33-year-old's fairy-tale final goal alluded him, he told Sky Sports News that he would savour the moment.

He said: "Tonight, being back at Wembley, in front of the home fans, the fans were great and gave me a great reception. It's just a moment you'll savour."

"Tonight was great, a great way to finish off my international career. I thought the lads played brilliant, it was a great game, unfortunately I couldn't get a goal, but it was something I'll remember for a long time."



Photo credit: koharoon/Shutterstock.com

# A PREMIER MAN

THE LEICESTER CITY TRAGEDY AND HOW THE CLUB IS SHAPING THE FUTURE

**M**ention the name Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha anywhere outside of East Midlands before that fateful night of October 27 and even the most knowledgeable of football fans might have struggled to correctly identify the Leicester City owner.

Yet, as is so often the case, only in death does the respect and recognition people deserve truly come to the fore, and that was certainly the case with the Thai billionaire.

After all, his efforts in transforming Leicester City Football Club from relegation favourites to Premier League title winners – in less than a year, and without splashing hundreds of millions of pounds – brought together the purists of football and, of course, those who like to think that, even in the modern age of the sport, fairy-tales do still occur.

It wasn't all plain sailing for the 60-year-old, who bought the club in 2010. When he disposed of the services of popular manager Claudio Ranieri in February 2017, some felt the owner had thrown away an incredible union, yet his donations to the local

community and 'one of the people' mentality meant he quickly won supporters round again. Leicester rallied, first under manager Craig Shakespeare, then Claude Puel. Although they will most likely never repeat that incredible league title triumph, they're at least now clearly established as a top-half Premier League side, having spent much of the last 25 years yo-yoing between divisions, even finding themselves in the third tier in 2008/09.

While the outpouring of emotion across the football world has been incredibly touching, the Foxes must now move on, with Srivaddhanaprabha's son Aiyawatt taking over the reins at the club. Himself a businessman, the 33-year-old is a Buddhist, a former monk and a polo player, who looks set to create his own legacy at the King Power Stadium, but always with his brilliant father in mind.







MOTORING

# ANOTHER FINE MESS

A motoring fine is intended to represent the offence. And yet, have a look at this list below of some of the more unusual two and four-wheeled misdemeanours.

## MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE

Hogging the middle lane on a motorway is one of the most common driving bugbears, and this inconsiderate act can cost a driver £100 and three points.

## APPLE PAY? KEEP ON DRIVING

It's illegal to use your phone to pay for food at a drive-through under new laws passed in 2018. Keep searching for that loose change in the glove compartment.

## SNOW HOPE

While there is no law stating it is illegal to drive with snow on your roof, if it falls off your car when driving or into the path of another car you can be penalised for several offences including driving without due consideration or using a motor vehicle in a dangerous condition.

## SLEEP IT OFF?

If you've had a few and want to sleep it off in your car, think again. Even with the key tucked safely in your pocket, napping in a motor when over the legal limit can still see you get a whopping 10 points on your licence.

## SAT NAV, NOT LAP NAV

A mobile phone must be fixed in place if being used as a sat nav. Fail to do so and you're risking a £100 fine and up to nine penalty points on your licence.

## A PUDDLE MUDDLE

It may be fun to see the spray come up from a puddle, but if you (accidentally or, ahem, otherwise) end up soaking a pedestrian, you could find yourself on a 'due care or consideration' charge, and that's a fine and points.

## ICE ICE BABY

Failure to properly clear your windows before you drive off could result in a £60 fine and three points on your licence. Simply removing a square from the driver's side is not enough. You must de-ice the entire windscreen.



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# WHAT'S ON

*in your area*

**Billericay Christmas Market**  
High Street, CM12 9AX  
December 2, 11am – 5pm



There are several events, live stage performances, children's funfair, donkey rides, a wide variety of food and drink, and plenty of opportunities to help support local charities.

Another highlight is Santa's Grotto, with a free gift for every child. And of course, the vast majority of shops, pubs and restaurants will also be open.

**Charity Lunch**  
**Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street, Billericay, CM12 9LR**  
**November 10, 11.30am – 2.30pm**

A snack lunch and drink for only £4.50. We are raising funds this month for School Pastors. School Pastors care for and support school communities at lunch/break times and before and after school by listening to young people and being a re-assuring presence. There is no need to book. Call 01277 622297 for more information.

**Essex Guild Craft Event**  
**Saint Mary's Church, High Street, Billericay, CM12 9BQ**  
**December 8, 10am – 4pm**

A fair featuring unique items designed and made by local Essex craftspeople.  
Free entry. Call 07528 158599 for more details.

**Shenfield Christmas Fayre**  
**In and around Hutton Road**  
**December 9, noon – 5pm**

Shenfield Christmas Fayre is a real community affair with lots of local business involvement and community groups.

A large attraction during the event is the truck stage hosting several acts throughout the day including local schools and bands.

The main high street (Hutton Road) will be closed for the event and will host over 60 festive stalls, family attractions, Santa's Grotto, walk about acts and rides.

**Hutton & Shenfield Choral Society's Music for Christmas**  
**The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, CM15 9NN**  
**December 22, 7pm**



Celebrate the lead-up to Christmas with the best live music to get you and your family in the festive mood.

Join us for a festive feast for all the family, with choirs, ballet, a full orchestra, audience sing-along and a visit from Father Christmas too.

Tickets from £6. Visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/huttonshenfieldchoralsociety](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/huttonshenfieldchoralsociety)

**New Year's Eve Celebration**  
**Greenwoods Hotel & Spa, Stock Road, Stock, CM4 9BE**  
**December 31, 7pm – 2am**

Enjoy a memorable evening including a glass of Kir Royale on arrival, a delicious five-course meal, a live band, DJ and photo booth.

The cost is £120 per person excluding accommodation. Additional £199 total cost for accommodation and breakfast (based on two people sharing).

For more information on this deal call us on 01277 829990 or email [info@greenwoodshotel.co.uk](mailto:info@greenwoodshotel.co.uk)

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*Susie Horner*

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