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Editor's notes...

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

Isn't it strange how a bit of sun can lift the spirits?

We seem to be entering the throes of summer now and for the first time in more than two years we are able to go out, restriction-free, and enjoy ourselves.

Of course, we do this against a backdrop of political unrest, economic uncertainty and conflict in various parts of the world. The year 2022 has brought about countless challenges and tests so far - just when we thought we'd arrested the biggest spectre of them all: COUID-19.

nus prought about countiess challenges and tests so far - just when we thought we'd arrested the biggest spectre of them all: COUID-19.

The truth is that the current ills around us will be there throughout the next few months

and beyond, but my encouragement to you is to embrace the things that are within our control.

Not since the winter of 2019 have we been able to fully throw ourselves into visiting new places, socialising with friends and going about our personal projects in a manner that now seems exhilarating and limitless.

With longer days and - hopefully - warmer weather, now is the time to spend some time in your local pub garden, plan a day out with friends, and perhaps organise a barbecue or two.

So let's try to fully embrace the good elements in our lives and make the most of every opportunity that comes our way.

Mik Allen

This is your town's hyperlocal magazine, delivering to homes and businesses every month.

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Vision Magazine Essex

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At the time of print all content in VISION was relevant and up to date according to COVID-19 government guidelines

All pages are recyclable











When you go out, can you honestly say that you watch your drink at all times? Spiking is currently at high levels in the UK and can happen to anyone.

Find out how to recognise the signs of spiking and what to do if you think your drink has been spiked below.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMONLY USED ILLEGAL DRUGS TO SPIKE DRINKS?

The most common illegal drugs used to spike drinks are GHB, ketamine and benzodiazepines such as valium and rohypnol.

HOW TO RECOGNISE IF A DRINK HAS BEEN SPIKED

- 1. It has a foggy appearance
- 2. It has excessive bubbles
- 3. The ice sinks to the bottom
- 4. A change in colour

It is important to know that some of the most regularly used drugs to spike drinks do not produce a smell or taste, meaning it can be difficult to know if your drink has been spiked until it is too late.

THE MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS OF SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD THEIR DRINK SPIKED ARE...

Dizziness | Difficulty walking | Confusion the next day | Nausea or vomiting | Hallucinations | Tiredness | Blurred vision | Paranoia | Amnesia

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN SPIKED

If you think your drink has been spiked, stop drinking it. Tell someone you trust as soon as possible as spiking substances can take effect very quickly. Be wary of asking strangers for help and instead, if you are alone, seek out security or venue staff. If you need urgent help, call 999 and tell them you think you may have been drugged.

HOW TO PREVENT YOUR DRINK BEING SPIKED

- > Do not leave your drink unattended
- > Invest in anti-spiking lids from StopTopps, available from stoptopps.com
- > Do not accept drinks from strangers
- > Be vigilant of changes to your drink
- > Don't drink anyone else's drink.

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5 ALTERNATIVE USES FOR TURE TABLETS enture tablets can be used to clean so much more than just your dentures. Discover five surprising uses for denture tablets below and you may be tempted to buy some - even if you have all your teeth.

1. TO CLEAN YOUR KETTLE: Mineral deposits can quickly build up in your kettle, which can cause your hot beverages to taste less than their best. To combat this, fill your kettle with water, drop in a denture tablet and allow to soak for a few hours. Follow with a good scrub and a thorough rinse.

2. TO REMOVE HARD WATER STAINS: If you are struggling to remove the hard water stains from your toilet bowl, then denture tablets offer the perfect solution. Simply drop in a few tablets, wait for the fizzing to stop and then scrub the bowl using your toilet brush.

3. TO ELIMINATE BURNT FOOD FROM PANS: For times when soaking just isn't enough, add a denture tablet to your sink or a bowl of warm water, drop in your pan and

leave to soak for 15-20 minutes. Give the pan a gentle scrub and the burnt food should slide right off. Do not use denture tablets on cast-iron pans.

4. TO RESTORE SHINE TO GLASSWARE: If you find that your glasses often look cloudy after washing, then a denture tablet is all you need to restore them to their original glory. Fill the glass with water, drop in a denture tablet, wait for the fizzing to stop, and rinse.

5. TO BANISH TOMATO STAINS: If you batch cook or take leftovers for lunch, you will know how hard it is to remove tomato stains from plastic containers.

> by filling the container with water, dropping in a denture tablet and leaving to soak overnight. Come morning, all you need to do is rinse.



CHINTZ is making a comeback

If you're a millennial or younger, you'd be forgiven for not knowing the word chintz. Often regarded as a dated decor trend, you'll be more likely to see it in your grandmother's house than on Instagram or Pinterest. But could chintz be making a comeback?

WHAT IS CHINTZ:

Chintz has a very long and fascinating history. It's a cotton textile dating to 4,000 years ago, originating in the Indus Valley between India and Pakistan. Made using a specialist dye method, chintz fabrics typically feature colourful floral designs. As the fabrics were traded around the world, they soon found their way into home textiles, made popular in more recent times by designers such as William Morris.

WHERE DID IT GO?

In more recent times, chintz was seen as a dated fabric, and it has been declining in popularity since the 1980s. IKEA caused a stir in the 1990s by encouraging people to "chuck out your chintz" in favour of its own interior products, based around simple details and block colours.

For a long time, neutrals have reigned supreme, but now chintz is starting to reappear. This time around, colours are bolder and brighter and patterns are even more lavish.

BRINGING CHINTZ INTO YOUR HOME

There are a lot of great ways to bring chintz into your home,

- > Chintz sofas and upholstery add a contrasting detail to neutrals and solid colours
- > Curtains in floral patterns add a little romance to your
- > Patterned chintz-inspired wallpaper can add some colour and character to a room, bringing fantasy and fun to a child's bedroom or creating a feature in a cloakroom or
- >Invest in cushions, table linens and other accessories to add a subtle hint of chintz to any interior style.

Incorporating some chintz into your home brings a modern take on a classic style. Keep an eye out for chintz-inspired décor making its way to a homeware section near you.

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GUIDE TO CLEANING

PAINTED WALLS

here is nothing worse than noticing a dirty mark or stain on a freshly painted wall.

Keep your painted walls looking fresh and fabulous for longer with our handy guide.

HOW TO CLEAN PAINTED WALLS

- 1 Dust off any excess dirt using a lint-free cloth or a soft broom for hard-to-reach areas.
- 2. Fill a bucket with warm water and a gentle detergent.
- 3. Apply to the walls using a sponge mop or soft sponge.
- 4. Do not oversoak your sponge or mop as this can result in water stains.
- 5. Leave the solution for 10-15 minutes.
- 6. Rinse with clean water and a sponge or mop.
- 7. Dry by placing a microfibre cloth onto a flat-headed mop and gently rubbing over the wall.

HOW TO CLEAN PAINTED KITCHEN WALLS

Painted walls in the kitchen are prone to grease. To combat this, apply a gentle degreaser to any affected areas before following the same steps as above.

HOW TO SPOT CLEAN PAINTED WALLS

To get rid of small stains or marks on your painted walls, apply a mixture of water and baking soda or bicarbonate of soda to the affected area using a soft cloth or towel. Half a cup of baking soda or bicarb in a bucket of warm water will do the trick.

HOW TO REMOVE OIL STAINS FROM PAINTED WALLS

- 1. Mix one cup of white wine vinegar into a bucket of warm
- 2. Soak a soft sponge and apply to the stain.
- 3. Rub gently until the stain has disappeared.
- 4. You do not need to rinse the area.

WHAT NOT TO USE

You should not clean your painted walls with any cleaning products that contain alcohol or harsh chemicals, as these ingredients can break down your paint surfaces and leave your walls looking a mess.



DIY



head over heels with gold leaf furniture.

WHAT YOU NEED:

Imitation gold leaf | Sandpaper | Furniture primer Water-based gilding size | A soft brush | A clear gloss spray sealer or permanent solvent-based varnish

HOW TO APPLY GOLD LEAF TO FURNITURE:

Step 1: Prepare your furniture

For wooden furniture, sand down or fill in any bumps or holes so that you have a smooth surface to work with. Then apply your chosen primer to ensure it is not porous. If you are upcycling metal furniture, give the item a dust or clean it with soap and water.

Step 2: Apply water-based size to the area

Decide where you want to apply the gold leaf and section off this area with masking tape. Then apply a thin and even layer of water-based gilding size. This is the adhesive that will bond the gold leaf to your furniture. Leave this adhesive until it is nearly but not completely dry.

Step 8: Start adding your gold leaf

Your gold leaf should be backed by tissue so lay it tissueside up and then gently rub the gold onto your furniture. Keep going until the area is completely covered. To avoid any gaps, you can overlap the squares of gold leaf slightly. Leave until fully dry. This can take up to six hours.

Step 4: Remove any excess gold leaf

Once the area is dry, take your soft brush and gently remove any excess gold leaf. You then need to leave your item for a further 24 hours so that the gold leaf can cure.

Step 5: Cover with a sealant

The final step is to cover the area with a sealant so that it is protected from chips and scratches. Leave this to dry for 24 hours, and then your gold leaf furniture project is complete.





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atthew Williamson, by his own admission, doesn't perhaps have a name that screams 'style, exuberance and panache', and considering this is someone who grew up in the murky confines of 1970s Manchester, there was no indication of the creative elevation that was to come.

And yet, in art just as in physics, equal and opposite reactions can provoke explosions of inspiration from very simple ripples of provenance. That is certainly the case with Williamson, who for more than two decades now has specialised in the wonder of colour.

He is an interior designer of great originality and acclaim, as his recent work with John Lewis determines. He is someone whose passion for colour, aesthetics and design was catalysed by his mother, but who has taken those principles to another level of optimism.

fif you're going to use colour, you have to be an optimist," he says. "You have to look at the beauty

of contrast and the potency of the shades and tones you put together.

"There is no point being afraid of trying things, and you should never enter a project imagining something isn't going to work. Only by trying will you know, and only through knowledge can you grow.

"Of course, it's about mixing up tones, but also enabling a background to act as a template for the colour detail you want to layer on top."

Replicating Williamson's colour-driven style of interior design is no easy task. It has, after all, taken the designer the best part of half a century to refine an interior design ethos that even he admits is still a work in progress. But the Central Saint Martins graduate insists the way to use colour is to follow your smile.

"If it makes you happy, it's working. If it paints pictures and provokes memories and inspires in you ideas to move forward, then you probably have what is right."

vacuuming ALLOWED

A GUIDE TO HELP YOU DECIDE WHEN YOU SHOULDN'T USE YOUR VACUUM WHEN CLEANING

ome people love vacuuming; others can't stand it. Either way, there is no denying how quickly it can clean up your home.

However, did you know that there are some items that you should never hoover up?

PIECES OF GLASS

If you have smashed a glass, then you may reach for your vacuum cleaner to quickly clear the area. However, large pieces of glass can puncture the bag, get stuck in the hose and damage the interior. Instead, use a dustpan and brush for the large pieces and a damp cloth to pick up small shards. Be sure to wear gloves to protect your hands.

FINE DUST

Have you recently renovated your home? If yes, then your furniture is probably covered in dust particles. Sadly, you should not hoover these up as sanding residue and other tiny particles will clog the filters and cause your hoover to spit dust back into the air.

WET FOOD

Wet food, or anything wet or moist, should not be cleaned up with a vacuum cleaner. This includes soggy cereal, dog food and even small spills. Instead, use some kitchen towels or a tea towel.

SMALL METAL ITEMS

Small metal items such as paper clips and coins can easily become stuck in the rotating part of your vacuum cleaner and stop it from working properly. They can also sometimes break off plastic pieces from the interior of your appliance.

MAKE-UF

Dropped an eyeshadow palette on the carpet? Or some foundation? Although you may be tempted to use your hoover, this is not a good idea. Firstly, the vacuum brush could smear the make-up further into the carpet, and secondly, if you do manage to successfully clean it up, it is highly likely to melt once inside the appliance.



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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood









Gavin&Stacey fan inspires epic fundraiser

The family and friends of a woman who died of cancer have raised £147,000 for charity by walking from Billericay to Barry in south Wales.

The epic challenge was completed in memory of Pia Eaves (pictured bottom left), 54, who was originally from Barry and loved the BBC comedy Gavin & Stacey. Her parents used to run the Barry Island kiosk which features in the show.

The walk, which raised money for Pancreatic Cancer UK, took 12 days to complete, with the team arriving in Barry on May 1.

They walked between three and nine hours each day and the mammoth trek received support from members of the Gavin & Stacey cast via recorded messages, including Ruth Jones, who plays Nessa, and Mathew Horne, who plays Gavin.

In her message, Ruth Jones said: "It's an incredible thing that these people are doing and, let's be honest, in this day and age, we need incredible people to do incredible things. It's all about being kind."

Pia's husband, Simon, and their two daughters, Rhiannon and Emilia, paid tribute to her following the

Rhiannon (pictured top left, fourth from left) said: "I think Mum would be so, so proud of us for doing this. She'd probably say that we were crazy, but she'd be overwhelmed with how much love there is for her."

Emilia (pictured top right, second from left) added: "She'd probably say right, now let's do another 100 miles. That was always her way."

Simon (pictured bottom left), who met Pia in Barry when they were just 16 years old, said: "This walk has helped to us get through and to remember her.

"This isn't just a one-off; we hope to get to Parliament and get the debate going into more money for pancreatic cancer."



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Food festival returns after successful debut

The Billericay Food & Drink Festival is set to return I this year, after a highly popular debut last year.

The event will take place from 11am to 5pm on Sunday, July 17, at the Billericay Town FC stadium on Blunts Wall Road.

The festival is the brainchild of Abby and Jodi Knight of Great Idea Events, who saw an opportunity to showcase the impressive talent from the local area all under one roof.

A total of 1,700 people came to sample the culinary delights on offer last year, and now residents once again have the chance to try locally produced food and drink, as well as to meet some of the names behind the best eateries and brands in the local area.

There will be more than 50 stands at the festival, with lots of great food and drink available. As well as giveaways from national suppliers, there will be a DJ, magician and charity football match to provide entertainment.

Tickets are £5 on the door and £4.50 via Eventbrite. with a special foodie present for the first 100 through the door. Under 12s go free. To book online, please visit bit.ly/3IBxJiL

VISIONBillericayShenfield has 10 pairs of tickets to the festival to give away for free. All you have to do is email your name and phone number to billericay@ visionmag.co.uk with the subject line 'Billericay Food & Drink Festival' by Sunday, June 26.

Town remains a Conservative stronghold

Two Conservative councillors were re-elected in Billericay following the local elections last month, which saw the Tories cement their majority on Basildon Borough Council.

Conservative councillor Andrew Schrader (pictured right) won the Billericay East seat with a total of 2,062 votes. He received the most votes of any councillor on the night and the second highest majority overall.

He said: "Billericay is the town I love, where I grew up, and the residents' continued faith did me the great honour of electing me. I have never, and will never, take the voters of Billericay East for granted."

Conservative councillor Anthony Hedley won the Billericay West seat with 2,005 votes. Cllr Hedley said: "I was pleased to see the constituents come out to support me for re-election and to continue in this role."

Cllrs Schrader and Hedlev both said they believed the recent Partygate scandal at Downing Street did not greatly impact the elections.

Cllr Schrader said: "The voters are sufficiently sophisticated and know that there are bigger fish to fry."

Cllr Hedley added: "Residents were more engaged with what's going on locally."



LOCAL

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SMS



Drug bust leads to the arrest of two people

Police found more than 100 bags of cannabis during a raid in Billericay.

The drug bust took place on May 4 and two people were subsequently arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to sell drugs.

Officers from the Billericay and Wickford Community Policing Team were on patrol in the town when they arrested a man at his home on Lancer Way for possession with intent to supply class B drugs.

A search was conducted at his home, where the

cannabis and a large sum of cash were found.

A woman was also arrested during the raid.

A spokesman for Essex Police's Basildon District said: "A search was completed at his home where a female was also arrested and a large amount of cash and approximately 100 deal bags of cannabis found.

"Officers came across a juvenile male who was found to have drugs and a lock knife on him."

The two suspects have since been released under investigation.

Sensory toy shop becomes community hub

A former nurse is helping to create a community hub in Billericay to support parents of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Jane Watt, owner of To the Moon and Back at Barleylands Craft Village in Billericay, opened her shop in 2017. She wanted to create a safe place for children with ASD and their parents to shop for suitable toys without judgement.

She explained: "There was nowhere for children with sensory needs to find and experience toys."

Her shop has allowed children to try out toys to find ones that suit their needs, and she has made accommodations to ensure a comfortable shopping experience.

The shop also has a charity box for Brentwood charity SNAP, which helps families with children who have additional needs or disabilities, and leaflets for ASD services and activities are put on display.

Jane added: "The aim is to envelop people in support, to make them feel less lonely. The world is open and out there for parents and children with ASD."





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Dan's the man after relegation confirmed for club

Billericay Town FC are looking ahead to next season after their miserable National League South campaign ended in relegation.

The campaign ended with a 2-1 defeat to Ebbsfleet United at New Lodge, which, together with Welling's 3-2 win against Maidstone United, means Town finished bottom of the table.

However, the club are already looking forward to playing in the Isthmian Premier League next season as they recently appointed interim boss. Dan Brown (pictured above), on a permanent basis.

Dan said: "In the short spells I've taken over the team in the past, we've seen a really positive reaction with an improvement in results.

"With a pre-season, it will be interesting to see what

"The response from the players in the last few weeks of the season had a big part in my decision to take the job permanently. I'm looking forward to it."

In a statement, a spokesperson for the club said: "We were pleasantly surprised that Dan Brown threw his hat into the ring.

"Like us, he wants to rebuild this team and its relationship with fans and the rest of the club.

"He has fantastic knowledge of the talent coming through, the respect of players who want to stay and the contacts within the game to find gems and loans to add to the group.

"We will give him the budget and backing to have a real crack at next season as well."

Councillor hits out as jubilee tree is vandalised

Acouncillor has hit out at vandals who damaged a tree planted at Billericay's South Green to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Councillor Andrew Schrader, the outgoing chairman of the Housing and Estate Renewal Committee, was furious at the damage to one of five trees planted by Basildon Council.

He told **VISION**BillericayShenfield: "When I was informed of the vandalism, my blood was boiling.

"The tree circle was recently planted at South Green to honour Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and for future generations to admire and enjoy.

"Sadly, however, there will always be some feckless Neanderthals who want to get their jollies by destroying things - in this case, snapping one of these young trees in half.

"The damage will be repaired but you do have to wonder at the mindset of some people."



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Dad takes on charity challenge in memory of son

Adad from Billericay has raised nearly £280,000 for Cancer Research UK by taking on a range of extreme cycling challenges, following the sad passing of his son at age 23.

In his latest fundraiser, James Van Cleef (pictured second from left), 54, alongside his brother-in-law Mark Bayliss (pictured left), 62, cycled around 21 English cathedrals and travelled 973 miles by bike in two weeks, starting on May 15.

James' son, Adam Van Cleef, had previously overcome B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma, having been diagnosed when he was 14. In November 2016, Adam was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma and, in June 2018, he sadly passed away.

After Adam's tragic passing, James decided to raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research UK by organising an annual biking event.

James said: "The importance of Cancer Research

UK is that it will bring other families better treatments, better solutions, better hope. It's not a pipe dream. Research makes a huge difference and it will continue to do so. I would love to live in a world where fathers don't unnaturally outlive their sons. That's the drive."

The first week of the challenge saw James and Mark travel from Bradford, in Yorkshire, to Chelmsford, before a second week going west to Cornwall.

James and Mark are now giving their legs a well-deserved rest before their final challenge – a monumental 3,400-mile cycle from the east to the west coast of the USA starting on Sunday, August 21.

The pair's fundraising efforts were recognised with a national accolade at last year's Flame of Hope Awards, Cancer Research UK's annual prize-giving.

For more information or to donate, please visit www.ridingforadam.com

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Police are investigating after two elderly women in Billericay were victims of thefts within 20 minutes of each other.

Both incidents happened in Billericay High Street on Friday, April 29.

The first incident occurred in the British Heart Foundation shop, quickly followed by another in Poundland.

One woman had her bag reportedly stolen, while the second had items taken out of her bag, including her purse, bus pass, keys and bank cards.

A spokesperson for Essex Police said: "We want to reiterate that we are taking the reports very seriously. First, we are completing our enquiries. Second, our Billericay town team will be conducting high visibility and plain clothes patrols." Information can be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

SUMMER FUN SORTED AT THE BEAUVOIR ARMS

ESSEX'S PREMIER VENUE FOR FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT THIS SUMMER!

Looking for the perfect treat for a special birthday or Father's Day? The Beauvoir Arms British & Italian Kitchen in Downham, the family-friendly restaurant that's served the local area for over 10 years has two great ideas that'll keep everyone happy!

Dust off your blue suede shoes and enjoy a fabulous night's entertainment in the company of leading Elvis tribute act Miguel Olivares, the dinner show includes a delicious three-course meal for just hen party, anniversary, wedding, christening, £40 per head.

On Father's Day choose from the special set menu, £24.95 for two courses or £29.95 for three courses, with a complimentary beer for dad. After your meal, there's plenty of space to relax on the

stunning new terrace area or in the garden.

Originally a traditional pub, the creative owners at the Beauvoir Arms have developed the space to drink and dine with a spacious bar. Ashraf Ali and his talented team of

chefs and friendly staff offer their own special take go-to for delicious cocktails and live music.

The Front Room function room holds up to 50 people and is the perfect place to hold your birthday.

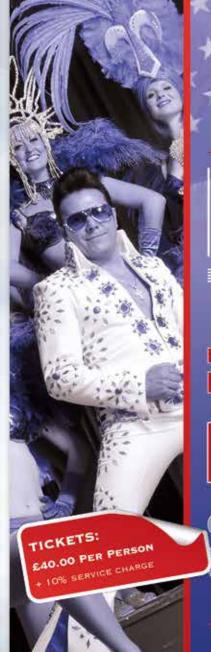


celebration of life and corporate events. There are various buffet and drink packages and there is no hire fee if food is ordered.

Celebrations are a speciality at The Beauvoir Arms but there's always a warm welcome whatever day or time you choose to visit.

The Weekday Set Menu is great value with two courses at just £18.95 and three courses at £22.95 with freshly home-made starters including Calamari Fritti and Antipasta Italiana, Frutti di Mare and Saltimbocca Romano as tasty mains and a selection to make it a great place of desserts such as Strawberry Panna Cotta and our not to be missed Tiramisu.

If dining and dancing is your idea of fun, you can enjoy The Ultimate Party Weekend from 24th through to 25th June with Club Classics and Soul on Mediterranean favourites. It's fast becoming a Night hosted by resident Dj and radio presenter Mark Tracey.



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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood







Library temporarily relocates for building works

↑ new chapter has begun for Shenfield Library as Ait was moved to a temporary location to enable building work on the new library to continue.

The old library closed on May 7 to enable site preparation and demolition ahead of the construction of the new building.

In the meantime, a temporary mobile library opened its doors on May 23, ensuring a library service is maintained throughout the duration of the works.

It will be positioned at Bishops Hill Adult Community Learning Centre, less than one kilometre from Shenfield Library.

Car parking is available at Bishops Hill and a regular bus service is also available between the two libraries.

Plans for the new modern library were first approved in July 2021 when Essex County Council (ECC) secured planning consent to build a new library, funded by the development of nine high-quality apartments above the library space.

The plans include a meeting room with more floorspace than the current facility, a new public garden which incorporates an outdoor learning and activity space, and an indoor commercial space.

Environmental and sustainability measures, such as air source heat pumps, solar panels and electric vehicle charging points for each of the apartments, will be included in the development.

Following demolition, the main phase of construction will begin this autumn, and it is anticipated that the new library will open in autumn 2023.

A spokesperson for ECC said: "The temporary library will have the same opening hours as the current

"Customers can also borrow, return and renew books and access services from other library locations including Brentwood, Ingatestone and Billericay."

To find out more about the plans for the new library, visit www.shenfieldlibrarv.co.uk



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Record number of venues sign up for art trail

Arecord number of venues, including some in Shenfield, have signed up to join in with this year's Brentwood Art Trail.

A total of 43 artists will have their work on display, and 45 locations will be transformed into pop-up art galleries as part of the event, which is sponsored by Brentwood Business Partnership and will run from June 4 to 26.

The artwork will be hosted in cafés, offices and shops throughout the town.

One of the shops involved in the event for the first time is Brentwood Beigels.

Owner Jackie Wells said: "We're thrilled to be taking part in the Brentwood Art Trail. An event like this, which brings the community together and supports local businesses, is exactly the type of initiative we like to get involved in."

Local artist Lucia Hardy (pictured right) said:

"This is my second time exhibiting at the Brentwood Art Trail, and it's an event I love being involved in. Having the opportunity to display my art, talk about it with local people and host a creative event within my community is really exciting."

Guided tours, hosted by artist Julia Austin-Brenes. will take place in Shenfield on Thursday. June 23.

Residents can keep up with events on Twitter and Instagram by following @bwdarttrail. All events can be booked via www.brentwoodarttrail.co.uk

Pupils enjoy an out-of-this-world school visit

pupils at a school in Shenfield got their hands on rocks from space as part of a week-long focus on astronomy and science.

Children at Shenfield St Mary's C of E Primary School were given the unique opportunity to touch the rocks and handle some genuine meteorites.

The rare samples were provided free of charge by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), which provides educational packs in a bid to inspire young people to get involved in science.

The pack provided by STFC includes a 1.2-billion-year-old piece of rock from Mars and a 4.3-billion-year-old nickel meteorite.

Professor Mark Thomson, STFC's executive chair, said: "We are thrilled to be able to offer this unique opportunity to young people.

"It is not often they will be able to see close up, and actually touch, such important fragments of science history. Samples like these are vital in teaching us more about our solar system, allowing us to confront theory with fact.

"We hope this experience will encourage the students to take up a career in science."



Z E

ENF



Conservatives keep control of borough council

Shenfield residents took to the polls on May 5 to vote in the local elections.

Lib Dem councillor Nicky Cuthbert won the Shenfield ward for Brentwood Borough Council (BBC), which remains under Conservative control.

In total, 13 wards were up for election across the borough, with the Lib Dems taking Shenfield and Ingatestone from the Conservatives.

The Lib Dems won six seats, the Conservatives won six, and Labour took one.

A spokesperson for the Lib Dems said: "It was our target to ensure that all sitting councillors won their seats, and all did so. We also wanted to make gains, and we did just that.

"Well done to Nicky Cuthbert in Shenfield and Darryl Sankey in Ingatestone. Their hard work has ensured that we are closer to our objective of winning overall control of Brentwood."

Conservative Leader of BBC, Chris Hossack, feels the election results were affected by the Partygate scandal, regarding gatherings held at 10 Downing Street during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

He said: "A number of people were happy to support us and other people had felt let down by Partygate.

Labour councillor Gareth Barrett, who was re-elected for Brentwood South and elected Deputy Mayor for the council, thanked voters who supported him.

Taking to Twitter, he wrote: "Delighted to have been re-elected as the Labour councillor for Brentwood South. Thank you to everyone who supported me who I will do my best to honour your vote."







Queen attends the opening of new Tube line.

er Majesty The Queen made a surprise visit last month to the opening of the new Elizabeth line, which will connect Shenfield with the London Underground for the very first time.

Joined by youngest son Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, at Paddington Station on May 18, the Queen and the Earl met with attendees and spoke with staff at the new railway, which opened to the public on May 24.

The Earl also enjoyed a quick trip on the line, which stretches more than 60 miles and required eight tunnel boring machines to excavate more than three million tonnes of earth for construction.

The new line will run all the way from Reading to Shenfield in its fully completed state, but for now it is split in two, with the Paddington route going to both Reading and Heathrow Airport, and the second half going from Liverpool Street to Shenfield.

The Crossrail project has proven a controversial development, especially in recent years, owing to delays and the project going severely over budget.





Your guide to the best SMALL TOWNS IN ENGLAND

Windsor Castle

towns in England that are worth your time. Here's your guide to the best small towns in England.

Windsor, Berkshire

It may be home to The Queen, but Windsor is still considered a small town. You can explore the beautiful streets in the main part of the town, or travel a little further to enjoy Legoland.

hen it comes to exploring England, you probably think of taking in the big cities like London, Manchester and Liverpool. But the truth is, there are a lot of great

Windsor Castle should be at the top of your must-visit list, as well as St George's



Castle Combo



St Nectan's Glen



Bakewell is a charming town that is famous for the Bakewell tart, but it's the scenery that will really resonate with you. It has some beautiful locations, as well as plenty of pubs to dine in and have a guiet and relaxing drink.

Castle Combe, Wiltshire

The Cotswolds is full of many gems, but not all have the honour of being dubbed 'the prettiest town in England'. Castle Combe offers plenty to do, including some beautiful walks where you can spot familiar settings from movies such as War Horse, Downton Abbey and Stardust. Many of the homes put out fresh produce in honesty boxes, which are worth visiting to collect goods for a picnic in the countryside.

Tintagel, Cornwall

Tintagel is found on Cornwall's Atlantic coast, an incredible town with a lot to offer. A hike to St Nectan's Glen - which has been voted an area of outstanding natural beauty - will take you to the stunning 60-foot waterfall

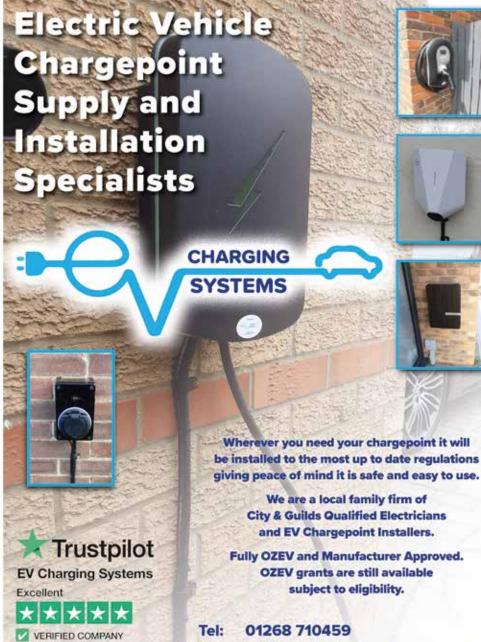
Explore different tea rooms, pasty shops, cafés and more to soak up everything Tintagel has to offer.

Bakewell, Derbushire

While you're in Bakewell, be sure to visit Chatsworth House, the filming location for many period dramas, including Pride and Prejudice and The Duchess.







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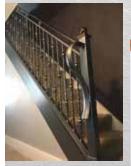
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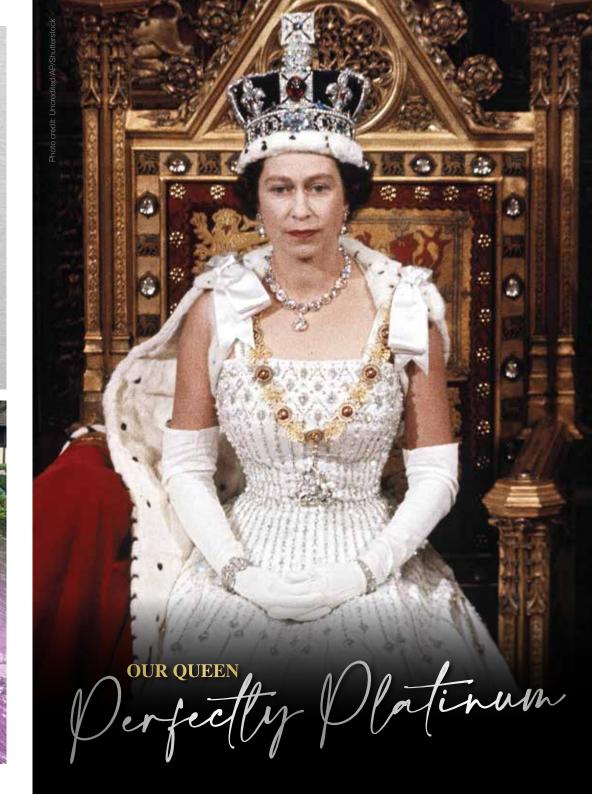
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CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

ew would dispute the notion that Queen Elizabeth II is our most impressive monarch ever.

She has presided not just over seven decades of exemplary rule, but also across a social and cultural timeframe in which so much has changed and evolved. This summer's Platinum Jubilee is not only a celebration of Her Majesty's time at the top table of British society, but also recognition of a job that's been done impeccably.

Even in the last year, in the wake of the passing of her husband Prince Philip, the scandal involving son Prince Andrew, and the turning of public opinion against her grandson Prince Harry, Queen Elizabeth, now aged 96, has presided over her nation with faultless grace and dignity.

And while the Queen still values her privacy, she respects too the need to be visible and approachable, and perhaps this relatability is what makes her so endearing, so popular and so special.

It was way back in February 1952 that the death of Elizabeth's father, King George VI, triggered her accession to the throne. The Platinum Jubilee marks the 70 years she has served the United Kingdom, and 70 years from when, upon her coronation, she declared herself fully at the service of the nation she served.

She said, in that characteristic crisp and measured voice: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

66 I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong 99

Taking strength from those around her, the Queen has never professed to have all the answers. She has admitted that trial and error has often been the way forward, and that sense of humility permeates right up to the present day. "I know of no single formula for success," she said, "but over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together."

Certainly she has excelled in that, with the Platinum Jubilee, beginning on Thursday, June 2, stretching across a weekend of celebrations. Queen Elizabeth II, family, friends and the nation will look back over seven decades of exemplary rule, and forward to the future.

From Trooping the Colour, which marks the Queen's birthday celebrations with more than 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians, to the traditional RAF flypast, the 1,500 Platinum Jubilee beacons that have been distributed across the UK in a tradition that dates right the way back to 1897, to a thanksgiving service on Friday, June 3, at St Paul's Cathedral, to The Derby at Epsom Downs, the events over Elizabeth's special weekend are as memorable as the thousands of others held during her years on the throne.

And yet the Platinum Jubilee is about much more than just Queen Elizabeth II. It is an opportunity for people across the UK to share in what it means to have a strong, proud, resilient monarch, particularly in an era where so much around us feels restricted or under threat.

With communities encouraged to head into their streets to mark celebrations of the seven-decade reign in their own special way, the Platinum Jubilee is a universal event that celebrates not just the Queen, not just royalty, but also the people of this country.





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40 years since the FALKLANDS WAR

A LOOK BACK ON THE FALKLANDS WAR, WHICH ENDED IN JUNE 1982

he commencement of the Falklands War, when Argentina landed on the small island situated 500 miles from its lower-east coast. represented more than simply a country looking to reclaim what it thought it rightfully owned.

On the face of it, that was Argentina's ploy. The Falklands, a modest 4,700 square miles, comprising little more than rocky terrain, cliffs, birdlife and cattle, had been appropriated by the British back in 1765.

Within five years, a Spanish commander from Buenos Aires landed with five ships and 1,400 troops to claim possession of the land. And that remained the case until 1883, when the British returned.

The constant power struggle has raged on, though when Argentina relit the blue and white striped touchpaper in 1982 with severe territorial aggression, it surprised many.

A deeper explanation, away from the geographical claims and disputes, lay in the political situation in Argentina, and the economic struggles that besieged South America in the

The three-man military junta that had assumed power in Argentina in 1976 had evolved over the years, and as it looked to build support and legitimacy by claiming a territory that still held considerable emotional ties to the Argentine people, seizing the Falklands was a clever political

On April 2, Argentina invaded, kicking off just over two months of conflict, where the British, led by Margaret Thatcher, responded with air, sea and land attacks. A series of bloody battles raged, with the Battle of Goose Green perhaps the most famous.

Finally, on June 14, Argentina surrendered after British troops yomped across punishing terrain, arriving at East Falkland to find their enemy waving white flags.

While conflict ceased, the ongoing antagonisation between Argentina and the UK (and England in particular) has continued, mostly in sporting rivalries.



Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch | Taumatawhakatangihangakoau

I hat would be the longest word you can

think of right now? Perhaps it could be Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch - the village on the Isle of Anglesey? At 58 letters, it's actually the second-longest place name in the world after New Zealand's Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu at a whopping 85 letters, which translates to 'St Mary's Church in the Hollow of the White Hazel

Eighty-five letters is a lot for one word, so what are the other longest words that exist?

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis (45 letters)

Near to the Rapid Whirlpool of Llantysilio of the Red Cave'.

This is a type of lung disease caused by inhaling quartz dust or silica.

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia (36 letters)

Of course, the word for a fear of long words would be long.

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (34 letters)

While it may have been a word invented for the film Mary Poppins, it does appear in the dictionary. As the title character says, it's a word to say when you have nothing else to say.

Pseudopseudohypoparathyroidism (30 letters)

A mild form of pseudohypoparathyroidism, a genetic disorder in which the body fails to respond to the parathyroid hormone.

Floccinaucinihilipilification (29 letters)

This means the estimation of something having no value or being worthless.

Antidisestablishmentarianism (28 letters

This word was once used to describe opposition to the disestablishment of the Church of England, but now refers to the opposition to withdrawing government support for a religion or church.

Honorificabilitudinitatibus (27 letters)

Seen in Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost, this means 'the state of being able to achieve honours'.

Thyroparathyroidectomy (22 letters)

The name for the process of removing the thyroid and parathyroid glands.

Incomprehensibilities (21 letters)

A word that you might actually be able to use, this means something that is difficult to understand

With so many of the longest words irrelevant to daily conversation, we think we'll stick with the shorter words.



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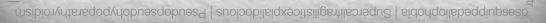
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PUZZLES & TRIVIA

ACROSS

- 1. Eurasian crow (4)
- 3. Excessively emotional (6,2)
- 9. Time off (7)
- 10. Sudden movement (5)
- 11. Steer (anag) (5)
- 12. Wicked look that causes harm (4,3)
- 13. Possessing (6)
- 15. Wind instrument (6)
- 17. More sugary (7)
- 18. Freight (5)
- 20. Deduce or conclude (5)
- 21. Currents of air (7)
- 22. Disregarding oneself (8)
- 23. Depend on (4)

DOWN

- 1. Connections or associations (13)
- 2. Willow twig (5)
- 4. Complied with a command (6)
- 5. Children's toy (12)
- 6. Medieval cell (7)
- 7. Affectedly (13) 8. Occult (12)
- 14. Necessary (7)

20

16. Eats grass (6)

19. Verse (5)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶There are more than 500 species of shark, with around 143 of them listed from vulnerable to critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- ► Great white sharks are partially warm-blooded, meaning they can move faster when hunting prey.
- Less than 10 per cent of whale sharks are thought to survive to adulthood, but those who do can live up to 150 years old.
- The Antarctic blue whale is the largest animal on the planet.
- ► Humpback whales in the Southern Hemisphere don't eat for much of the year. They live off fat reserves for around five-and-a-half to seven-and-a-half months each year as they migrate.

SUDOKU

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

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ON THE MONEY

Financial advice from our financial adviser Karyn Vogel Contact 01277 654153



VALUING FINANCIAL ADVICE

In recent times, the importance of expert financial advice has become greater than ever, as people seek reassurance that their pensions, investments and protection plans are being professionally looked after during uncertain times.

Good financial outcomes are obviously important, but these can only be measured over the long term and are just one way of assessing the value that advice can provide. The real value in taking advice is about the whole journey of financial planning so that you are provided with a consistent, valued and trusted experience, with regular reviews and adapting to changes when needed. Financial and emotional outcomes play their part in unison.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH AN ADVISER?

- Understanding your circumstances by listening and helping you to identify and work toward your goals
 no two clients will have the same requirements.
- Making complex matters easy to understand a seemingly straightforward financial goal could involve numerous decisions as well as consideration of a range of different products and providers.

- Ongoing support and guidance regular review and contact can set your mind at rest and prevent you from making knee-jerk decisions at the wrong time.
- Saving you time doing your own research can be very time-consuming and would you know where to start?
- Giving you peace of mind by knowing that your finances are in expert hands and that any change in your circumstances can be discussed with someone who knows you personally.
- Getting financial outcomes that matter to you by working with you over the long term.

ADVICE IS KEY

In uncertain times, you can rest assured that we are here to support you with all your financial planning needs. 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 financial situation, please contact Karyn Vogel on 01277 654153.





enting out a property and being a landlord is not an easy job. If you have a property to let, hiring a property management company could be one way of making the job a little easier.

Should you hire a property management company to take care of your rental? Take a look at the pros and cons to help you make the right choice for you.

Pros of hiring a property management

- > Ease the responsibility of property management. From collecting rent to maintenance, they'll take care of everything on your behalf.
- > Property management companies will source and vet tenants, taking the responsibility off you.
- > Management companies with their own vendors and contractors could save you money on maintenance costs compared to sorting the work yourself.

Cons of hiring a property management

> You'll pay a fee to use a property management company, which will affect how much money you take home from rental fees.

> As property management companies manage multiple properties, tenants might not get the same attention a hands-on landlord would provide.

> Using a property management company could make you less aware of what's going on with vour property.

Ultimately, hiring a property management company saves time, helping you benefit from a rental income without the hassle of dealing with tenants or maintenance. It's not a choice for everyone, but it could be the ideal solution if you don't have much time on your hands. Make some enquiries and find a company you can trust.







Family disputes and conflicts can be a difficult and emotionally charged time. You will receive expert, cost-effective guidance which delivers the best possible solution to the issues in your case, if you work with us.

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- Parental Responsibility Agreements
- Pensions On Divorce
- Divorce
- > Family Mediation
- Prenuptial Agreements

If your case is suitable we can offer a 40-minute free consultation with one of the team.



Sally Ward **Head of Family Team** sallyward@mplaw.co.uk



Roisin McCorry Consultant roisinmccorry@mplaw.co.uk



Jessica Thrower Associate Solicitor & Mediator jessicathrower@mplaw.co.uk

Romford Office: 8-10 Eastern Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3PJ | T: 01708 784000 Shenfield Office: 194 Hutton Road, Shenfield, Essex CM15 8NR | T: 01277 245015 **Email:** office@mplaw.co.uk



...but one day it may be too late.

It's time to make an LPA. There is a common misconception that Lasting Powers of Attorney only need to be put in place when an individual gets older. In fact, it is always wise to put LPAs in place earlier in life. By doing so, you will gain peace of mind that your affairs - both financial and health can be looked after if you are ever unable to do so. You will also be ensuring that your loved ones are not left in an impossible position, unable to deal with your affairs, if the worst should happen.

Contact us today to protect yourself and your loved ones. Legal advice with a conscience.



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CE CARD VISA CATASTROPHE?

ffering incentives to

put purchases on one

DO CASHBACK CREDIT CARDS REALLY WORK? AND WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK OUT FOR WHEN USING THEM?

obvious way of engaging consumers, but the psychology behind cashback cards means you can very quickly be sucked into a trap where the pursuit of a discount becomes a cost, not a reward.

THE PREMISE

For every pound you spend, you are paid a percentage back by the card provider. Typical rates are one per cent, but bigger rewards and other initiatives are available if you shop around.

WHEN CASHBACK CREDIT CARDS WORK

Cashback credit cards should only be used for things you are going to buy anyway, and never as a method for justifying a purchase because it in effect offers a small discount.

Consider your ability to clear the credit card balance, too - if what you're putting on a card is going to be paid off, then there's no reason not to sign up to a cashback deal... providing you only buy

things you'd be equally happy to purchase

The harsh reality is lenders will quickly tap into the psychology of people not only getting money back on a purchase, but also not having to pay for 30 days or more, and that leads to treating ourselves when there's little justification, and making expensive purchases that we may come to regret. To ensure you are clearing the balance, consider setting up a direct debit.

WHEN CASHBACK CREDIT CARDS DON'T WORK

If you're not clearing your balance each month, or you pay an annual fee for your card, the amount you will pay will very likely wipe out the cashback earned on your card, making it a false economy. Explore the various rates and do the maths.

A cashback credit card needs to be handled by someone who is regimented, knows their numbers and can exercise self-control. Many of us just aren't configured that way... and if that's you, steer clear.





AS THE WEATHER HEATS UP, MAKE SURE YOU DO YOUR **BIT FOR LOCAL WILDLIFE**

The temperature is hotting up, and while most of us welcome these sunnier days, the same isn't always true for our community critters. The good news is that there are a lot of things you can do for wildlife in the hot weather to help keep them safe from the sun.

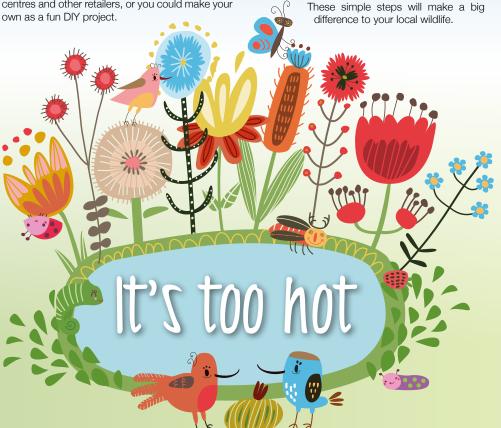
Provide fresh water: Spells without rain can mean that a lot of natural water sources have dried up for your garden visitors. Putting out some fresh water will help thirsty animals and insects. Keep it shallow and put some rocks in there to help insects get out if they fall in.

Put in a bird bath: A bird bath is a great way for birds to keep clean and cool. You can buy them at garden centres and other retailers, or you could make your

Fill up your feeder: Birds can find it tough to find food when the ground is dry and worms are scarce. Keep your bird feeder topped up and put out some fruit. such as apples and soaked raisins, for animals on the ground.

Create shaded spots: Animals may struggle to find shade on a hot day, but you can help by putting logs, large rocks or wooden planks around your garden to help create shade.

KCCD WOUL DON'T TOPPED UD: Remember to keep an eye on your pond and top it up if needed. This will help any fish that you have, as well as other visitors who use your pond as a water source.





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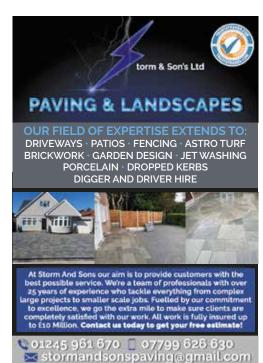
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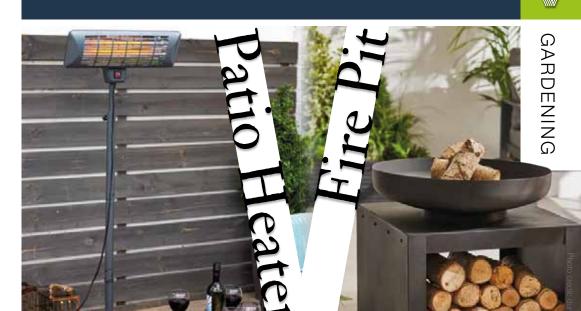
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ven during the warmest months of the year in the UK, the evenings can get a little chilly. Fortunately, you can still enjoy your outdoor space after sunset with an outdoor heating source.

WHAT IS A PATIO HEATER?

In its simplest form, a patio heater is a device that allows you to heat the patio area of your home. Some patio heaters run on electricity, whereas others burn wood, gas or butane. Patio heaters are designed for outdoor use, and you can find many different types to suit your space.

WHAT IS A FIRE PIT?

Fire pits, just like patio heaters, are designed to keep you warm in your outdoor space. Some fire pits use wood, coal or propane as their heat source, whereas others have an electronic ignition to light the fire. There are many different shapes, sizes and styles of fire pits available.

PROS OF PATIO HEATERS

Versatile - can be used for home or commercial use | Good temperature control | Safe for children and pets | No embers or sparks | Low maintenance | Easy to move | Some approved for tent/garage use

CONS OF PATIO HEATERS

Limited design choices | Require fuel or a power source | Cords can create a trip hazard | Propane is expensive | Not a significant light source

PROS OF FIRE PITS

Lots of design options | Provide both warmth and light | Have roasting capabilities | Easy to move | Less messy than a campfire

CONS OF FIRE PITS

Danger of sparks or embers | Limited heat range and temperature control | Open flames | Cannot be used indoors

WHICH IS BETTER?

Both patio heaters and fire pits offer a great way to heat your garden. The former is a good option for those who can't have an open fire for safety reasons or if you don't like cleaning. The latter can be more economical and can also double up as a barbecue.

Create your own outdoor

here's no better way to spend a warm summer evening than watching a film under the stars. Outdoor cinemas have become very popular in recent years, and with just a few simple steps, you could build one in your own

Get ready to make those summer nights even better with your own outdoor cinema.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SPOT

First, you'll need to find the perfect spot for your cinema. You'll want somewhere that's dry, preferably flat, and where you can easily set up your screen.

BUY A PROJECTOR, SCREEN AND OTHER ESSENTIALS

Find a projector that fits your budget. Anything over 3,000 lumens is ideal for being able to see a film in bright conditions. There are a lot of budget projectors that produce a high-quality image that's ideal for home theatre use. You may also need to invest in a screen (or a white bedsheet) and some speakers or headphones.

GET YOUR KIT SET UP

Get everything connected and ready. You'll need to choose how you're connecting your projector, whether that be wireless, Bluetooth or via a game console/DVD player.

CREATE A COMFY SETUP

Make your setup nice and cosy with plenty of cushions and blankets. Use your garden furniture, deckchairs or even outdoor beanbags. Cushions from your garden furniture also make excellent seating if you fancy perching on the ground. You might want hot water bottles to hand to keep you warm if things get a little chilly.

GET YOUR SNACKS READY

Finally, get your snacks ready. Popcorn and sweets are a classic, or you could opt for nachos, burgers, hot dogs or pizza for something a little more filling.

An outdoor cinema is the perfect addition to any garden, providing night after night of entertainment in the comfort of your own home.





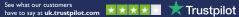
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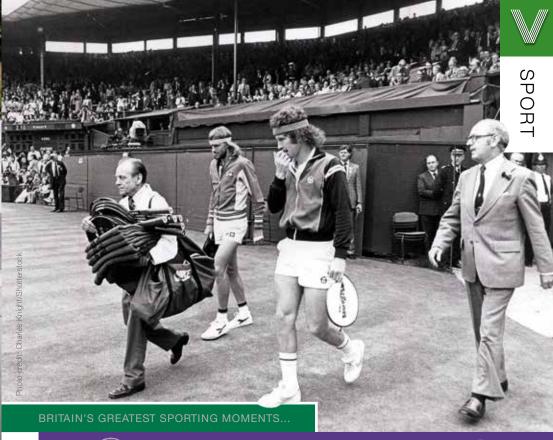
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B®RGAND MCENR®E

ach month we look at one of the most significant events in British sporting history. This month, it's the epic encounter between Björn Borg and John McEnroe at Wimbledon on July 5, 1980.

The Championships at Wimbledon have provided countless dramatic sporting memories over the years, and none more special than when British heroes of the ilk of Ann Jones and Andy Murray have lifted the coveted trophy.

Yet perhaps the most remarkable encounter – certainly for sheer blood, guts, aggression and an unrelenting desire for victory – came in 1980 when a Swede faced an American.

Björn Borg had long been painted as the iceman, a Scandinavian purveyor of perfect tennis who was clinical and elegant in his despatching of opponents. John McEnroe, meanwhile, was the sweaty, unkempt brat of the game, with a confrontational,

aggressive game and a temperament to match.

That they collided so spectacularly on that sunny Saturday afternoon on July 5 will go down in SW19 folklore. McEnroe gained the upper hand by winning the opening exchange 6-1, before Borg fought back with 7-5 and 6-3 sets, giving him a 2-1 lead.

Looking to close out the match in the fourth set, Borg had five Championship points in an epic that went well past any reasonably expected distance. Finally, in the 34th game of the set, McEnroe broke the reigning champion – who was looking to win a fifth successive title – and took it 18-16.

Even in the deciding set, the duelling athletes made it to 6-6, though this time Borg broke McEnroe's steely serve, and his resolve, to take the set 8-6, and with it the Wimbledon title.

The epic was recently relived in a 2017 biopic, Borg vs McEnroe, starring Shia LaBeouf and Sverrir Gudnason.

HAND OF WA

DIEGO MARADONA'S ICONIC HAND OF GOD SHIRT SELLS AT AUCTION

Then England midfielder Steve Hodge swapped shirts with Argentina double-goalscorer Diego Maradona at the end of the World Cup guarter-final at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico in 1986, he was derided by fans, sections of the press and even his own teammates.

The Argentine wizard had just knocked the Three Lions out of the World Cup with a Jekyll and Hyde display of sporting brilliance and brazen opportunism - one of the best goals ever scored at a World Cup, coming minutes after the Hand of God goal that we've all seen replayed hundreds of times.

In swapping shirts, to some, Hodge crossed the line.

Wind forward three-and-a-half decades, and Hodge has the last laugh, after that prized number 10 shirt recently sold at auction for more than £7.1million.

Perhaps one of the most iconic items of sporting memorabilia - the value of which soared after Maradona's death in November 2020 - the shirt made almost twice its guide price, and was sold to someone from Abu Dhabi with links to Manchester City.

The Sotheby's auction process had all the usual twists and turns befitting of Maradona's life. In the lead-up

to its sale, the infamous star's family insisted that the shirt was a fake, supposing that the striker swapped shirts at half-time during the game on June 22, 1986, and that Hodge

was in fact in possession of the shirt worn in the first half.

In addition, a late plea materialised from an Argentinian delegation for the E. J. Hilligh shirt to be returned to South America. The group failed with its own bid as the auction price rocketed, though the request remains to display the shirt in Buenos Aires in October, for what would have been Maradona's 62nd birthday.

The sale price mirrors the previous record for any sports memorabilia - the original autographed manuscript of the Olympic Manifesto from 1892, sold by Sotheby's in December 2019.

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HOW TO SET UP A

FRESHWATER FISH TANK



Thinking about adding an aquarium to your home? Bringing beautiful colours and life to your surroundings, as well as a whole host of health benefits, discover how to set up a freshwater fish tank for maximum wow factor.

1. CHOOSE AN AQUARIUM

Think about the amount of space you have, the type of fish you want to get and your budget. Large aquariums are more stable and require less work to maintain, whereas smaller ones need more attention. Wide aquariums are ideal for active fish such as danios, and narrow ones are better suited to less active fish such as angelfish and gouramis.

2. PICK THE RIGHT SPOT

When it comes to where to place your new aguarium, you need a spot where you spend a lot of time so that you can get as much enjoyment from it as possible. Avoid windows that receive direct sunlight and areas near exterior doors which can be too cold.

3. ADD DECORATIONS

Obviously, gravel and water are essential for your freshwater tank, but there are lots of other decorative features that you can add. Some of the most popular additions include live and artificial plants, rockwork, sunken ships, castles and figures. Taller plants and décor items should be placed at the back to hide filter tubes and cords, with smaller items at the front. You can also add background material to hide hoses and add visual depth to your display.

4. USE A TEST KIT

Test kits are recommended for new aguariums as nitrite and ammonia levels can rise and become hazardous. You can buy these online or at most aquatic centres.

BEST FISH FOR BEGINNERS:

Danio | Guppy | Platy | Tetra

Avoid mollies as these fish are prone to disease and hard to keep alive for beginners.



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LINES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Local News Splash!

Local lady, Maria Gray has recently taken the exciting step to launch swim school Puddle Ducks Chelmsford and North East London, providing swimming lessons for babies, toddlers, and pre-school children up to the age of four.

Mum of three, Maria has lived in the local area for most of her life and prior to Puddle Ducks had a successful career as a school teacher.

Maria's love for swimming blossomed at a young age and she represented her borough by age 11!

Maria commented: "I absolutely love swimming and my early experiences led me to want to set up a swim school that was child-led and provided a safe and reassuring environment to learn to swim. When I found Puddle Ducks I fell in love with the ethos, the environment, and the team, I just knew it was a business I wanted to be part of. I was delighted when I got the chance to open my own Puddle Ducks franchise.

"Demand is really high for lessons because children need to catch up for lost time. I'm so excited to get started with lessons in my local area, supporting families and their children in sharing my passion for swimming and learning a skill for life!"

Why Puddle Ducks?

We know all children are different.
That's why we tailor our activities to suit your little one's ability and confidence. Babies as young as six months learn water safety and personal survival skills and our school children also learn life-saving skills.

Many can already swim 10m before they even go into reception!

Our lessons are fun and caring, filled with songs and rhymes and our teachers are highly professional & really passionate.

Little ones that love swimming... that's the Puddle Ducks' difference.



As well as running lessons for babies and children up to 4 years old at The Caterham School in Ilford and The Boswells School in Chelmsford, Maria has recently launched lessons at The Spirit Health Club at The Holiday Inn in Brentwood.



To find out more about Puddle Ducks Chelmsford and North East London swimming lessons get in touch by:

Calling: 01245 981000, emailing: brentwood@puddleducks.com or visit their website at www.puddleducks.com/brentwood



KNOW YOUR BITES

ost of the time, insect bites are more irksome than perilous, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try to identify what has bitten you. It's always better to be safe

Bedbugs Danger rating: 2/5

Bedbugs leave a small bite mark on the skin that can be red and very itchy. They are often found on areas of the body not covered by clothing, such as hands, neck and feet. In rare cases, someone may experience a serious allergic reaction to a bedbug bite.

Bees/Wasps Danger rating: 3/5

Bee stings result in a red skin bump that has a white circle around it. You are also likely to experience swelling, itching and some pain. With a wasp sting, a raised welt will appear around the site and you may feel itching, burning and a sharp pain. A severe allergic reaction to a bee or wasp sting can be life-threatening.

Fleas Danger rating: 1/5

Flea bites are instantly recognisable by an itchy welt on the skin which is surrounded by a red halo. These are often found in clusters on the ankles and legs.

Mosquitos Danger rating: 2/5

Mosquitos leave a raised, itchy, pink skin bump. You may find you have multiple bites in the same area. In rare cases, someone may experience a serious allergic reaction.

Spiders Danger rating: 4/5

Most spider bites cause minor symptoms, such as red skin, swelling and pain at the site. However, some spiders found in the UK are venomous and their bites can cause nausea, vomiting, dizziness and/or sweating. Spider bites can also become infected or cause a severe reaction in some cases that requires immediate medical care.

Ticks Danger rating: 3/5

If you are bitten by a tick, you may notice a red bite, a rash, itching and burning. Around two per cent of tick bites cause Lyme disease, which can result in fever, fatigue and rashes.





Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital

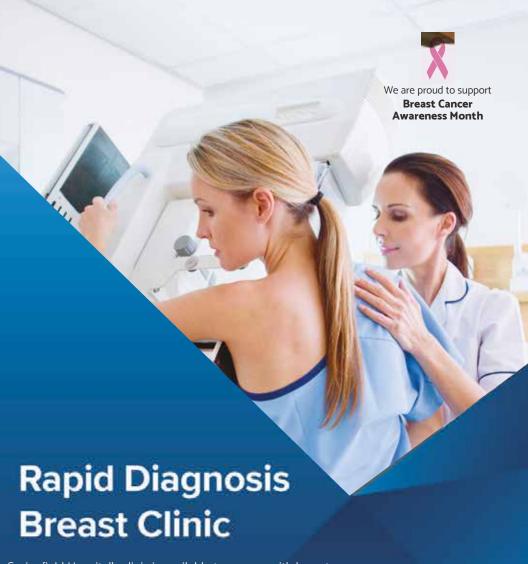
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A summer cocktail that definitely packs a punch, a Long Island Iced Tea contains a whopping 424 calories. With an impressive ingredient list that includes vodka, gin, rum, tequila, triple sec and Coca-Cola, it's no wonder this boozy beverage will see you packing on the pounds. LOW-CALORIE SWAP: Cosmopolitan = 100 calories

PIÑA COLADA

Creamy and delicious, who doesn't love a Piña Colada or three when relaxing by the pool? Sadly, this summery cocktail contains a hefty 300 calories.

LOW-CALORIE SWAP: Fuzzy Navel = 120 calories

ALCOPOP

Although convenient, most alcopops contain a lot of added sugar, which makes them bad for your waistline. Plus, as they tend to taste sweet rather than strong, you may find yourself knocking back more than you intended, which is bad news seeing as these contain 250 calories per bottle on average.

LOW-CALORIE SWAP: Rum and Diet Coke = 115 calories

SWEET WHITE WINE

Any wine or fizz with the word sweet attached to it is going to contain more sugar, which means more calories. In fact, a medium glass of sweet white wine has around 160 calories.

LOW-CALORIE SWAP: Champagne = 89 calories

CIDER AND BEER

Two of the most popular drinks in the summertime, some ciders contain as much as 210 calories per bottle and beer up to 208 calories per pint. This is the equivalent of a glazed donut or a slice of pizza.

LOW-CALORIE SWAP: Light beer = 144 calories

5 DISTURBING FACTS ABOUT

rowning

o raise awareness of Drowning Prevention Week, which takes place drowning that you should be aware of.

1. YOU CAN DROWN IN AS LITTLE AS 30ML OF LIQUID

bodies of water such as swimming pools and the sea, you can

2. PEOPLE WHO ARE DROWNING WON'T SHOUT AND WAVE THEIR ARMS

not physically possible. The body goes into survival mode and prioritises breathing

3. MOST DROWNING DEATHS OCCUR WHEN SOMEONE IS INTOXICATED

As many as 70 per cent of deaths caused by drowning in adults and adolescents involve the use of alcohol.

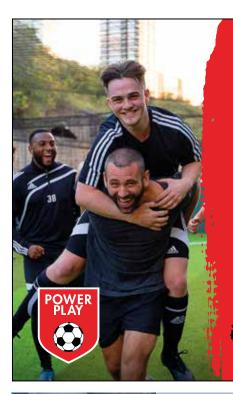
4. YOU DROWN DIFFERENTLY IN FRESHWATER AND SEAWATER

While you may think that drowning in the sea would be more common, as many as 90 per cent of drowning cases occur in freshwater. Owing to the composition of freshwater, which is more similar to our own blood

5. DELAYED DROWNING CAN OCCUR AFTER YOU GET OUT OF THE WATER

There are two types of delayed drowning: dry drowning and secondary drowning. Dry drowning occurs when you inhale water through the nose or mouth, causing a spasm in the airway and preventing air from entering the lungs. Secondary drowning results from a swelling of the air sacs in the lungs.





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Awards Winner 2022





This event has always been the key date in the beauty industry calendar and something to look forward to. These awards recognise and reward excellence within the industry, both nationally and internationally. It was held at The Fairmont Windsor Park Hotel on May 8, 2022.

Such an amazing evening – especially as it was run by a globally advanced aesthetician, Caroline Hirons, who is called The Skincare Queen by her millions of followers from around the world. Her book, *Skincare*, is the UK's bestselling beauty book of all time and won the British Book Awards Non-Fiction Lifestyle Book of the Year 2021.

Getting a hug from Caroline when I was presented with my award, Therapist of the Year, made it even more special and memorable. It is such an honour and privilege



Gold Winner Beauty Therapist of the Year 2021



to win this prestigious award. My business is everything to me; I put my heart and my soul into it. And being recognised by the best in the beauty industry means so much to me. Such an amazing feeling not only to be the winner but the whole experience.

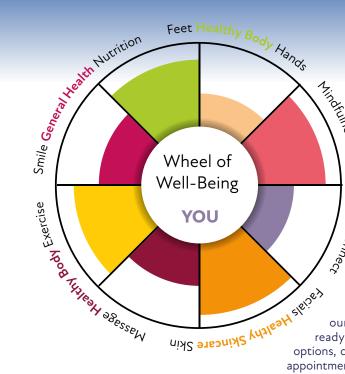
From entering the awards, getting into the semi-final, submitting all supporting material, the trade test with judges, the interview, reaching the final and fantastic award ceremony – and that moment when they announce ...and the

winner is... Such an unforgettable experience and something that I will always treasure.

If you ask me, would I do it again? Yes, absolutely. It's good to challenge yourself, even if it's out of your comfort zone as it was for me

As a thank you for support and loyalty to my lovely clients, I tailored a new treatment I will be offering in June as a special offer. Signature Hydrojelly ™ Facial, which comes with add on Lymphatic Drainage Massage Body Ballancer 1hr - £75 (worth £150).

Hydrojelly MasksTM are crammed with fresh ingredients and held in a hydrating carrageenan base. A Hydrojelly MaskTM is a 'jelly-like' mask that provides the skin with several benefits such as hydration, smoothing, moisturising, exfoliating, toning and inflammation reduction. The masks have



an instant cooling and soothing effect that is not only refreshing but helps firm, soothe and revitalise the skin for a natural subtle glow.

What is in a HydroJelly Mask TM ?

Each Hydrojelly Mask™ is infused with electrolytes derived from algae that benefit your skin. The mask works to achieve a natural moisture balance, resulting in healthy, hydrated, and supple-looking skin.

Drinking more water or applying moisturising cosmetic products does not always help with skin dryness. One of the most common culprits of dry skin is an electrolyte imbalance. The skin cannot absorb and retain water without the proper balance of electrolytes.

The key benefit in these Hydrojelly Masks™ is the infusion of electrolytes: Potassium,

Magnesium, Sodium, Chloride, Phosphorous, Bicarbonate and Sodium Pyrophosphate. These electrolytes help the skin achieve a natural moisture balance that is essential to keep the skin healthy, beautiful and in great working order.

our Hydrojelly Facial[™] or you're ready to explore your facial services options, contact me today to schedule an appointment.

I'm collecting donations for the Ukrainian Relief Charity. Please contact me if you would like to help out.



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in the making

THE BEST WAY TO START OFF - AND STICK TO - A REWARDS CHART WITH YOUR KIDS

ost parents have tried to use rewards charts - you know, that large piece of card or app-based drive towards making your children nicer to be around... and your home a tidier place. The reason many charts fail is because, while the concept is great, the complications, complexities and conversations surrounding what tasks have or haven't been done, and to what standard, make managing charts more of a chore than the jobs listed on them.

While rewards charts are available in plentiful supply from shops and online, it's sometimes more fun to make one up yourself - you can then tailor it to your own family, working in hobbies, treats and experiences unique to you.

Six ways to ensure you can make a rewards chart stick!

KEEP TASKS SIMPLE

Ensuring jobs are straightforward and achievable will mean kids maintain focus when they

UPDATE AFTER EVERY TASK



KEEP REWARDS REGULAR AND TANGIBLE



RESTART EVERY WEEK

Make every week a clean slate, where both completed and unfulfilled tasks are wiped away, meaning a new set of challenges - and rewards - awaits.



ENCOURAGE TEAMWORK



MOVE ON EVENTUALLY

While the rewards chart is a great way to motivate kids, it may lose its appeal over time, so progress the ideas behind it to tasks that offer greater responsibility and bigger rewards for your youngsters.





f you are looking for a more natural way to banish body odour, then we can help you. Check out these five deodorant alternatives that are completely chemical-free and promise to keep you feeling and smelling fresh for longer.

Witch hazel

Not just great at soothing sunburn and stopping spots, witch hazel is also a natural astringent and an anti-inflammatory, meaning it can soak up excess moisture and kill unwanted bacteria. Plus, it gets rid of odour fast.

Simply place a dab of witch hazel onto a cotton cloth and rub it on your underarm area. Reapply as and when needed.

Baking soda

Baking soda makes a great natural personal hygiene product and can be highly effective in banishing underarm smells. Mix ½ tsp with a little water and rub under your arms. Or to combat perspiration, mix one part baking soda with six parts cornflour and dust the affected area. Avoid if you have sensitive skin.

Lemon juice

Lemon juice contains citric acid, which has the ability to naturally get rid of odour-causing bacteria. All you need to do is squeeze 1 tsp of lemon juice onto a cotton ball and apply to your underarms. Do not do this directly after shaving.

Apple cider vinegar

This clever ingredient is antibacterial and is able to both absorb and neutralise unpleasant odours. Simply mix 1 tbsp with 1 tbsp of water and apply under your arms using a clean cloth.

Coconut oil

Coconut oil is antiviral and antibacterial, so is the perfect ingredient for eliminating odours caused by bacteria. Take ¼ tsp of coconut oil and rub it directly under your arms using a cotton cloth. Allow to dry completely before dressing as it can stain clothes.



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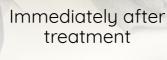
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