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CHARLES III

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Editor's notes...

JUNE 2023



Nik Allen, Editor

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

In this month's edition, we reflect on the King's coronation. It was a momentous occasion that brought together people from all walks of life to celebrate the rich history and tradition of our great nation.

The coronation was a reminder of the importance of this institution and the values it represents - duty, service and devotion to country.

It was a moment of pride for all of us to witness the pageantry and splendour of the coronation, from the grand processions to the historic venues that hosted the ceremony. The event showcased the best of British

culture and tradition, and reminded us of the deep roots that connect us to our past.

Most importantly, I hope you had a chance to use the coronation as a reason to catch up with family and friends and to celebrate together. There were a number of street parties, afternoon teas and community events taking place across the local area, allowing neighbours to get together and commemorate an occasion most had never before witnessed.

As we enter the summer months, it really was a great way to reconnect, reflect and look forward to the rest of the year. I hope you enjoy this month's edition.

Nik Allen

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CONTRIBUTORS | Tabatha Fabray, Fiona Goble, Megan Milstead

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King Charles' Vision



They claim that patience is rewarded with the finest treasures, and His Majesty King Charles III's lengthy 70-year wait as the heir apparent undoubtedly demonstrates his worthiness for the throne.

Now, after being confirmed in the eyes of God during his coronation in May, His Majesty will finally implement his grand vision, aiming to propel the Windsors into the modern era.

So, what will this mean for the King, those closest to him, and us, his loyal subjects?

A key principle of King Charles III's plan is to streamline the royal family. In recent years, this process has unfolded somewhat naturally, with Prince Harry voluntarily stepping back from his official duties and Prince Andrew being removed from his responsibilities.

However, under the provisions of the Regency Act 1937, in the event of the monarch's incapacity, their spouse and the four eligible adults next in line to the throne can act as substitutes. This means that the Duke of Sussex, Duke of York and Princess Beatrice are authorised to fulfil these roles – yet there is a problem, in that they are not working royals.

King Charles III has already amended this law in Parliament to allow his siblings Prince Edward and the Princess Royal Anne to act as additional councillors, but perhaps he will go further and make it so that such duties and privileges are only fulfilled by working royals.

Having experienced numerous turbulent periods in the monarchy's history, King Charles III possesses a keen awareness of the Republican sentiment prevailing among certain sections of the British population. While the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II enjoyed immense

popularity, there are those who firmly believe that the time has come to dissolve the monarchy and forge ahead into a fully modern and democratic Britain. However, when we consider the substantial contributions of the monarchy to our economy and the profound cultural value of our traditions and illustrious history, it becomes evident that the potential losses outweigh the gains.

According to Forbes, the House of Windsor is estimated to hold a value of £19billion. Moreover, although the annual cost of royal upkeep for UK taxpayers amounts to approximately £500million, Brand Finance estimates that the monarchy's brand contributes £2.5billion to the British economy over the same period.

In essence, His Majesty understands his significance, but he also recognises the importance of connecting more deeply with the everyday people in his kingdom. Addressing challenges such as the recent cost-of-living crisis, and its prevalence in people's minds over the King's own passions, such as the environment, are essential for him to ensure a peaceful reign.

An additional challenge that His Majesty may encounter is the requirement to refrain from taking a stance on partisan matters, including the pressing issue of climate change. He has long been an advocate for a greener planet, having converted his cherished Aston Martin DB6 so that it can run on cheese waste and surplus wine, adopted biomass boilers for heating Birkhall estate, and installed solar panels at Clarence House. Laura Tobin recently stated on *Good Morning Britain* that changes have also been implemented at Buckingham Palace, where the lights have been turned off at night as an energy-saving measure.

As a man who has skirted both sides of the popularity divide over the decades, the opportunity to cement himself as an exemplar for a modern royal family is surely one he won't pass up.



A FINAL FAREWELL TO

SOCCER AM

SOCCER AM'S SATURDAY FUN IS OVER, BUT THE LEGACY REMAINS

While the popularity of football is seemingly unending, not all survive the sport's continued evolution, with *Soccer AM* becoming the latest entity to be consigned to glorious retirement.

For a long while, the Saturday morning Sky show was a ground-breaking, perfectly unrefined piece of footballing irreverence. It set up the weekend's action with a laddish, lager-tinged layabout appeal that original presenters Tim Lovejoy and Helen Chamberlain lapped up.

A show that bolstered the careers of the likes of Andy Goldstein, Max Rushden, John Fendley, Tubes, Rocket and countless 'Soccerettes', its comedic approach saw many of its features permeate modern culture. From 'tekkers' to the Crossbar Challenge, Taxi! to the Save Chip campaign, not to mention the 'easy' chant and associated arm action, and getting the word 'bouncebackability' entered into the Oxford English Dictionary, *Soccer AM* finished up just a year shy of the 30-year mark, with the final show broadcast on May 27, 2023.

The death knell had sounded loudly in the past, though glorious reinvention saved *Soccer AM* from its demise. Yet with ratings continuing to fall, the final whistle has now been blown.

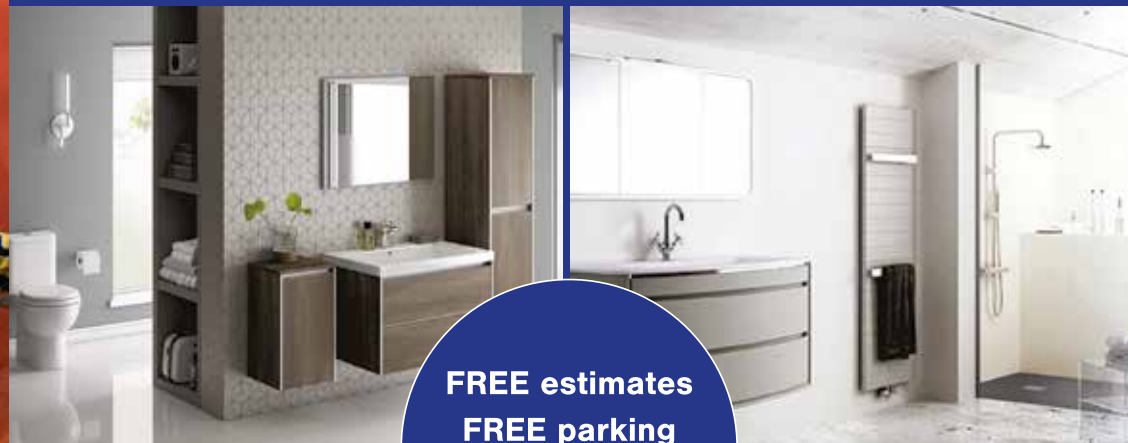
Despite a stellar cast of guests over the years, including Noel Gallagher, Tyson Fury, James Dean Bradfield, Richard E. Grant and Gordon Ramsay OBE, critics have, in the past, pointed to the show's politically incorrect content. Former producer Rocket recently said: "I don't know if that show can exist now because if there's a reason to complain about something, generally someone will."

While the show was always destined to ride the thin line between entertainment and controversy, its cessation became as much to do with the fact that even the biggest and best become tired and staid.

Regardless, *Soccer AM* ran a course longer than a generation of footballers, and for that reason, it will be remembered as one of the sport's greatest cultural success stories.

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ECHLIN



LOVING THE ECHLIN LOOK AND LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION?

Recreate this incredible design style in your home using the following tips:

- ⊕ Keep spaces **LIGHT** to make them feel open and airy. Choose lighter neutral shades for walls and floors, like creams and greys, and add darker contrasts through furniture and accessories.
- ⊕ Look for **UNIQUE** items that will stand out as a focal point for the space. A statement headboard or large piece of art can draw the eye, without taking away from the rest of the room.
- ⊕ Add a refreshing touch with pops of **COLOUR** using cushions, curtains and occasional chairs.
- ⊕ Keep your interior **UNCLUTTERED** and make the most of available storage for a clean space that will promote serenity.

Echlin is a contemporary interior design house that bases its work on the principles of “wellbeing and craftsmanship”, creating looks that are light and spacious – an oasis of calm that is wonderful to observe.

The designs are understated and beautiful, and are excellent examples of how to blend creative design with modern living to create timeless interiors.

ABOUT ECHLIN

Echlin was founded by Mark O'Callaghan (top left) and Sam McNally (top right) in 2011. Both bring a wealth of design experience to the table, and the result is a design house that creates elegant looks with a clear 20th-century elegance. Using different textures such as wood, stone and metal, Echlin designs are made to stand the test of time.

Their designs are stylish but practical and use neutral canvasses brought to life with different materials, including leather and soft velvets, as well as the occasional pop of colour.



Photo credit: echlinlondon.com

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HOME & DIY

How organised are you based on your ENNEAGRAM TYPE?

The Enneagram is a system of personality typing that describes patterns in how people interpret the world and manage their emotions. Based on your Enneagram type, you can get a sense of how organised you are in your home and your life.

Type 1: THE REFORMER: You are very organised and believe that there is a place for everything. You need your home to be orderly and you favour a minimalist look.

Type 2: THE HELPER: You are incredibly organised when it comes to other people, but not always for yourself. You want your home to look nice, but you tend to hold on to too many sentimental items.

Type 3: THE ACHIEVER: You have people to impress, yourself included, so your life and your home need to be very organised. You have high standards and the drive to make sure things go exactly to plan.

Type 4: THE INDIVIDUALIST: You don't like to do things by the book, but you aren't opposed to keeping elements of your life organised. You always opt for the most creative solution.

Type 5: THE INVESTIGATOR: Your main priority is information. You don't stress yourself out with the small details of house cleaning, but your bookshelf must be specifically arranged.

Type 6: THE LOYALIST: You need to feel safe and secure in your home, so organisation comes naturally to you. You prefer to keep items out of sight as this makes you feel more at ease.

Type 7: THE ENTHUSIAST: You are not the most organised type, and you tend to take one day at a time. You do have good intentions, but somehow life always gets in the way.

Type 8: THE CHALLENGER: You create a structured plan and stick to it. You thrive off being productive and love nothing more than a handy planner or calendar.

Type 9: THE PEACEMAKER: You may not have the strongest focus on organisation, but that doesn't mean you aren't capable. Though you would like to be more organised, you are content as long as your home is clutter-free.

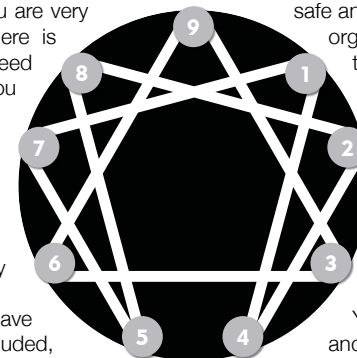


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CORNERS OF THE KITCHEN

Although the kitchen may be the heart of the home, that doesn't mean it doesn't harbour a whole host of hidden germs and bacteria. Discover the dirtiest areas of your kitchen below.

KNOB AND HANDLES

Every appliance in your kitchen has some sort of handle or control panel that is often touched with dirty hands or after handling raw food, which can leave bacteria such as salmonella, listeria and E. coli behind. Clean daily using a disinfectant wipe or disinfectant cleaner and a clean cloth.

THE KITCHEN SINK

Even though water frequently runs down your kitchen sink, there are still lots of microbes lurking on the surface and around the drain. Disinfect your sink daily using a sink cleaner, and don't forget the taps and the counter areas surrounding it.

THE FRIDGE

Despite the cold temperature, harmful bacteria can still grow in your fridge. If you store unwashed fruit and vegetables in this appliance, these can be covered in bacteria and pesticides. Raw meat can also leak out of its packaging and fluid can accumulate. Remove fridge drawers and shelves at least once a month and wash all the surfaces with hot water and a mild dish soap.

CUTTING BOARDS

Cutting boards, especially wooden ones, can harbour bacteria in the tiny nooks and crannies that appear after each use. To avoid cross-contamination, you should have one board for fruit and veg and a different one for meat. Wash each board after use with hot, soapy water and dry with a clean tea towel.

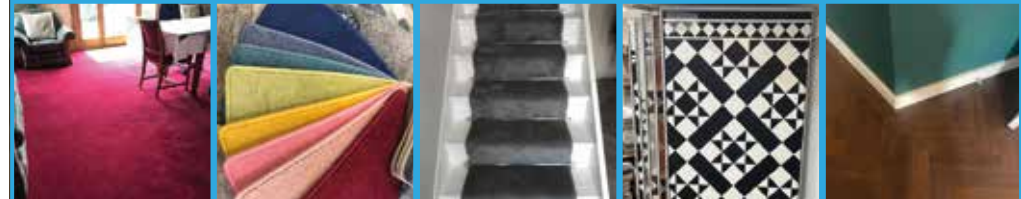
COUNTERTOPS

Every time you place something on your kitchen countertops, such as your purse or shopping bag, you are potentially leaving dirt and bacteria where you will later prepare food. Clean with a disinfectant wipe or disinfectant spray and a clean cloth at least once a day.



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Photo credit: Pinterest @samsette

CREATE A

VERTICAL

GARDEN
INDOORS

Indoor plants will improve the air quality in your home, and could also help reduce stress and increase concentration. Also, if you grow herbs, you can harvest them all year round to perk up your culinary creations. One of the biggest home trends of 2023 is the vertical indoor garden – simply a group of plants arranged on a single wall to save precious floor space. Read on to find out how to get started.

YOU WILL NEED:

- > A selection of shelves, containers and hanging baskets. Although you can buy specially designed containers for your plants, recycled items usually look more interesting and are also kinder to the environment. Wooden boxes, wire baskets, tins and even cut-down plastic drinks bottles all work well. Just remember to add drainage holes to containers if necessary.
- > A selection of plants and herbs. Rubber plants, dragon trees and the good old spider plant are excellent choices – they help remove formaldehyde, one of the main toxins in indoor air. Tarragon, thyme, rosemary, basil and mint all grow well indoors. If you're feeling adventurous, try growing cherry or plum tomatoes. But remember, they'll need somewhere warm and sunny.
- > Suitable compost.
- > DIY tools and materials to fix your containers firmly in place, and a sturdy stepladder.

HOW TO MAKE:

STEP 1: Work out how you're going to arrange your plants and containers. You could make a sketch, or lay out the items on the floor. You don't need to be exact and can change things as you go, but a plan is always handy.

STEP 2: Fix all the containers and shelves in place, ensuring they're secure.

STEP 3: Fill all your containers with compost, then add the plants.

STEP 4: Water your plants and work out a routine to take care of them.

STEP 5: Sit back and watch your garden grow.



HOME & DIY



FROM YOUR AREA

LOCAL NEWS

Police appeal following spate of thefts



Photo credit: Essex Police

Essex Police are appealing for information following a number of thefts from a service station in Billericay. On March 20, April 7 and April 8, food worth a three-figure sum was stolen from the BP service station in Radford Way.

Police are looking to speak to the man pictured above in connection with their investigation.

A spokesperson for Essex Police said: "If you have any information, CCTV, dashcam or other footage in relation to this incident, then please get in contact with us quoting the crime reference number 42/69792/23.

"You can let us know by submitting a report on our website at www.essex.police.uk or by using our online live chat service, available Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) between 10am and 9pm.

"Visit www.essex.police.uk/digital101 to find out more about our website reporting services. Alternatively, you can call us on 101.

"If you would like to make an anonymous report, you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers by visiting its website at crimestoppers-uk.org or by calling 0800 555 111."

School rated as Outstanding in report

A school in Shenfield was graded as Outstanding in a recent Ofsted inspection.

Shenfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School received the top score across quality of

education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, and early years provision.

A spokesperson for the school said: "Shenfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School is a lovely place to both learn and work. Every child values their own uniqueness and they celebrate each other's success with great pride.

"The school has a wide-ranging, engaging and creative curriculum in place, where pupils have the opportunity to make their own choices.

"The governors and parents are supportive and committed to making this the best school it can be and the staff team is both dedicated and determined to do the best for our children at all times."

To read the full report, head to reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/139763

Youth football team win the county cup

Billericay Town FC's Under 14 Blues team have been crowned county cup champions after snatching victory in a thrilling penalty shootout.

The Blues' journey in the Essex Andrews Under 14 Cup started in December of last year. Wins against Grays Athletic, Springfield, Great Wakering, Maldon and Tiptree saw them reach the final, where they faced off against Buckhurst Hill on May 7.

More than 250 people were in attendance for the tense encounter. Locked at 0-0, the match went into extra time.

The penalty shootout ended after nine penalties each, and it was Billericay Town goalkeeper Josh Bentley who was the hero, saving three penalties to secure his team the trophy.



Photo credit: Essex County FA



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Alex Burghart MP for Brentwood and Ongar



LOCAL NEWS



What a glorious weekend of celebrations we had across Brentwood for His Majesty the King's coronation on May 6. It was magnificent to see an abundance of flags, bunting and red, white and blue shop window displays across the area and to see all the street parties and public celebrations marking this rare and very British occasion.

I watched the ceremony at home with family and friends and was mesmerised by the chance to watch this most ancient ceremony, which has taken place in Westminster Abbey for almost 1,000 years. On the Sunday, I joined worshippers at St Martin's Church in Ongar for their Coronation Commemorative Service to mark the crowning of our new King.

Brentwood Borough Council pulled out all the stops with an afternoon of free entertainment and sport in King George's Playing Fields on bank holiday Monday. I took my family there to enjoy fire lighting with the Scouts, fundraising with the Friends of Wallace Kennels, and very good conversations with the volunteers from Brentwood Foodbank, Brentwood

Rotary Club and the Brentwood Air Cadets, whose young members did an outstanding job organising the parking.

The young musicians of the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band were as polished as ever, and were joined by the Brentwood School Big Band and massed choirs of St Thomas's Church for a spectacular concert.

For the Imperial Youth Band, this was their second big event for the coronation weekend, having been the main attraction at the Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council celebrations too. Crown Street traders also held a bank holiday event, with activities for all the family.

Huge congratulations to the organisers and volunteers who, as always, worked so hard for all local residents. Despite the rather grey weather throughout the coronation weekend, it was a magnificent chance for everyone across the Brentwood and Ongar constituency to come together to celebrate the crowning of His Majesty King Charles III.

God Save the King.

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WHAT'S ON

YOUR LOCAL EVENTS

BRENTWOOD ART TRAIL

Butterfly Meadow, 32 Hall Lane,
Shenfield, CM15 9AN
Wednesday, June 7, 1.30pm – 3.30pm



Photo credit: eventbrite.co.uk

This session will be hosted by volunteers and led by local artists and art teacher Sue Mills. Participants will learn about Butterfly Meadow's plants, wildlife and history, and have the opportunity to create artwork.

To reserve a free spot, head to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brentwood-art-trail-walk-talk-create-at-butterfly-meadow-tickets-627987125397?aff=ebdso porgprofile

THE ESSEX CORNHOLE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Chantry Centre, Chantry Way,
Billericay, CM11 2BB
Saturday, June 17, 6.30pm – 11pm

Join this fun knock out style cornhole tournament. The aim of the game is to try to land beanbags on the board, with three points for getting it through the hole and one point for landing in it. The games will raise money for a resident who is travelling to Borneo to help local communities.

To purchase tickets, visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-essex-cornhole-championship-registration-562211669237?aff=ebdssbcitybrowse&keep_tld=1

THE LOST RAILWAYS OF ESSEX

Shenfield Parish Hall, 60 Hutton Road,
Shenfield, CM15 8LB
Monday, June 19, 7.30pm – 10.30pm

If you are a train enthusiast, then you won't want to miss out on this event, hosted by the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society. Head to Shenfield Parish Hall to find out more about the lost railways in Essex from presenter Tony Crosby.

For more information, head to rcts.org.uk/event/the-lost-railways-of-essex

AMBITIOUS WOMEN IN ESSEX NETWORKING

Billericay Town FC, New Lodge,
Blunts Wall Road, Billericay, CM12 9SA
Wednesday, June 21, 12pm – 2pm

Ambitious Women in Essex is hosting a networking event in collaboration with Billericay Town FC. Gender equality activist Vanessa Vallely OBE will be a guest speaker on the day, and general manager Kim Coster will explain the club's new Wavemakers programme.

Tickets are free and can be reserved online at www.bit.ly/43eDLug

BILLERICAY FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

Billericay Town FC, New Lodge,
Blunts Wall Road, Billericay, CM12 9SA
Sunday, July 23, 11am – 5pm

The Billericay Food & Drink Festival is back for a third successful year at Billericay Town FC, with more than 50 stands of fabulous food and drink, free samples, and face painting, as well as ideas for home entertaining and more.

You can enjoy live music from local performers and watch a charity football match hosted by festival sponsors, local estate agents Stanton Hockett.

This year, the event will be supporting The British Red Cross.

Tickets are £5 on the door or £4.50 at Eventbrite. To get tickets, head to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-billericay-food-drink-festival-2023-sunday-23rd-july-2023-11-5pm-tickets-580697902057

Win a pair of tickets as **VISION** Billericay Shenfield has 10 pairs to give away. Simply send your details to billericay@visionmag.co.uk by Friday, June 30, 2023, for your chance to win.



Photo credit: Nicky Hayes Photography

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A piece of wartime history lost to industrialisation

This month, we remember Belmont Castle, an Essex site rich in history, which survived German artillery from above only to succumb to the gradual creep of industry from below ground.

A once-grand architectural gem, Belmont Castle stood majestically atop a hill in Grays. Erected in 1795 by Zachary Philip Lynch, this Grade II listed building was a symbol of wealth and prestige, boasting a rich history that spanned more than two centuries.

The castle was designed in the Gothic Revival style by Samuel Wyatt, and showcased an impressive façade characterised by tall, pointed arches, intricate stone carvings and a symphony of decorative elements. The building was adorned with battlements and turrets, creating an imposing silhouette against the Essex skyline.

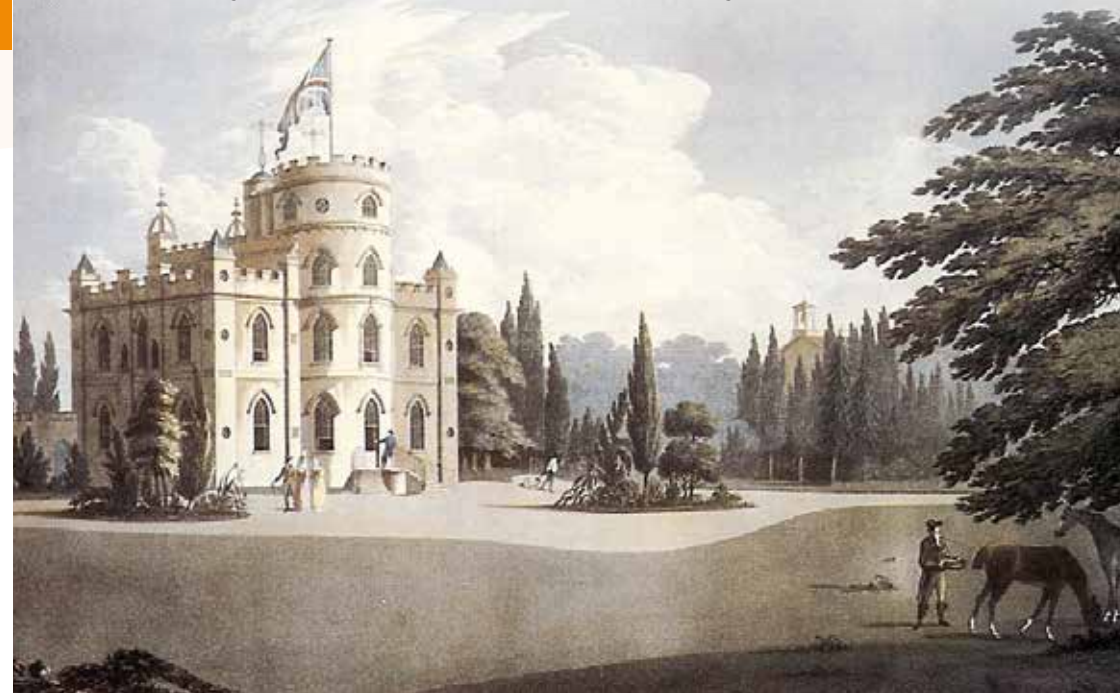
Its grandeur was further accentuated by an expansive estate featuring vast gardens, meandering pathways and lush, verdant landscapes.

The castle played host to various notable figures and events throughout its history. It is rumoured that

the renowned English poet, Lord Byron, once stayed at the castle as a guest of its original owner, Zachary Philip Lynch.

In 1815, it was acquired by James Walker, a prominent civil engineer. He added an observatory, making the castle one of the few private residences in England to feature such an amenity. During the Second World War, Belmont Castle was requisitioned by the British Army and served as the headquarters for the Royal Artillery's Anti-Aircraft Division.

Many may have thought it was in good hands, having been returned to the state, yet in truth the move sounded the building's death knell. This was despite it being an exemplar of grandeur and a reflection of the opulence of a bygone era, and irrespective of its rich history, illustrious guests and unique features. Belmont Castle was forced to make way for the relentless expansion of the huge Grays Chalk Quarry, which had crept unerringly towards it in the preceding years, and was demolished in 1943.



LOCAL FEATURE

flower POWER



Spotted at Dior, Dries Van Noten, Prada and Lela Rose, florals have dominated the catwalk and are set to be everywhere this summer. Perfect for anyone who loves stand-out fashion, this is one trend that promises to lift your mood and make you smile.

HOW TO WEAR FLORALS THIS SUMMER

Wear with a plain solid colour

Mixing floral prints is very hard to do, so if you are new to wearing florals, it can be a good idea to wear your chosen print with a plain solid colour, preferably in a complementary or matching tone.

Add an edgy twist

If you find florals a bit too girly, then you might want to toughen up your look with something edgy such as a leather jacket or a pair of biker boots. Alternatively, you could add a masculine element with a tailored jacket or boyfriend jeans.

Experiment with accessories

For those who don't want to go full on with the floral trend, why not invest in a few floral accessories, such as a floral handbag, jewellery, scarf or hat?

Rock a floral shirt

A floral shirt is the way to go for style as appropriate for the office as it is for time with friends. Team with a pair of smart jeans for a casual day look, or wear a floral t-shirt with a tailored suit for a more playful take on your standard office attire. Or to test the water, why not invest in a floral tie?

HOW TO PICK THE RIGHT FLORALS FOR YOUR BODY SHAPE

- * If you have a fuller figure, avoid oversized prints as these can make you appear wider than you actually are
- * If you have a slim build, then a medium floral print works best
- * Smaller prints work for most body shapes, including pear-shaped and hourglass
- * Use a large floral print on any areas of your body that you want to make look larger
- * Use a small floral print on any areas of your body that you want to make look smaller
- * Play with different proportions to see what works best for you.



Photo credit: ASOS.com



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King Charles' CORONATION QUICHE

With the coronation still fresh in everyone's minds, why not have a go at making your very own King Charles coronation quiche? This dish was chosen to celebrate British seasonal produce – and also because the King loves eggs and cheese.

YOU WILL NEED: (serves 6)

FOR THE PASTRY: 125g plain flour | 25g cold butter, diced | 25g lard | 2 tbsp milk | Pinch of salt
Or 250g block of readymade shortcrust pastry

FOR THE FILLING: 125ml milk | 175ml double cream | 2 medium eggs | 1 tbsp chopped fresh tarragon | 100g cheese | 180g cooked spinach, lightly chopped | 60g cooked broad beans | Salt and pepper | Pine nuts for garnish, if desired | You will also need a 20cm flat tin and baking beans

HOW TO MAKE:

1. To make the pastry, sieve the flour and salt into a bowl. Add the butter and lard and rub the mixture together using your fingertips until you have a breadcrumb-like texture.
2. Add the milk a little at a time and bring the ingredients together to form a dough.
3. Cover and leave to rest in the fridge for 30-45 minutes.
4. Lightly flour your work surface and roll out the dough into a circle approximately 5mm thick.
5. Lightly grease the tin with butter and line with the pastry, being careful not to

make any holes. Cover and rest for a further 30 minutes in the fridge.

6. Preheat your oven to 190°C/170°C fan/gas mark 5.
7. Line the pastry case with greaseproof paper, add baking beans and bake for 15 minutes.
8. Take the case out of the oven, remove the paper and beans, and leave the pastry case to one side.
9. Reduce the oven temperature to 160°C/140°C fan/gas mark 3.
10. To make the filling, beat together the milk, cream and eggs.
11. Scatter half of the cheese into the blind-baked base and then top with spinach, broad beans, tarragon and seasoning.
12. Season and pour over your liquid mixture of milk, eggs and cream.
13. Sprinkle over the remaining cheese.
14. Place in the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until set and lightly golden.
15. Garnish with pine nuts if desired.

Photo credit: Daniel Leal/AP/Shutterstock



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Enchanting ELDERFLOWER

Elder trees are very common in the UK and, come late May, start to develop masses of tiny white flowers which eventually turn into purple elderberries. The elderflower is known for its light and floral taste and makes a great addition to cordials, cakes and more.

ELDERFLOWER CORDIAL

YOU WILL NEED: 2 ½kg granulated or caster sugar | The zest of 2 unwaxed lemons | 20 fresh elderflower heads | 85g citric acid – you can buy this online or at your local pharmacist

HOW TO MAKE:

- > Gently heat the sugar and 2 ¾ pints of water in a pan until the sugar has dissolved.
- > Bring to the boil and turn off the heat.
- > Add the elderflower heads, the lemon zest and the citric acid to the pan and stir well.
- > Cover the pan and leave to infuse for 24 hours.
- > Line a colander with a clean tea towel and set it over a large pan.
- > Ladle in the syrup and let it slowly drip through.
- > Pour the leftover liquid into a sterilised jar. You can sterilise a glass jar either on a hot rinse cycle in the dishwasher or in the oven for 15 minutes

at 160°C/140°C fan/gas mark 3.
> The cordial is ready to drink and can be kept in the fridge for up to six weeks.

ELDERFLOWER DRIZZLE CAKE

YOU WILL NEED: 175g softened butter | 175g golden caster sugar | 3 eggs | 140g self-raising flour | 85g ground almonds | ½ tsp baking powder | 100ml milk | 4 tbsp elderflower cordial | 4 tbsp white or golden granulated sugar

HOW TO MAKE:

- > Heat the oven to 160°C/140°C fan/gas mark 3.
- > Grease and line a 900g cake tin.
- > Beat the butter and 175g sugar until light and fluffy.
- > Add the eggs, flour, almonds, baking powder and milk, then whisk until smooth.
- > Pour into the tin and bake for 45-50 minutes until risen and golden.
- > Prick the cake all over with a skewer.
- > Mix the cordial and extra sugar and pour all over the cake.
- > Leave to cool in the tin and drizzle with icing if you wish.



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GOD SAVE THE KING

Princes, princesses, presidents and pop stars alike crowded into Westminster Abbey to witness the historic coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, and what a marvellous day it turned out to be.

On Saturday, May 6, 2023, the world's gaze turned to Westminster Abbey in London. More than seven months had passed since we said a final farewell to our beloved Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and what bittersweet joy it was to witness King Charles III's official ascent to the throne.

Naturally, comparisons were not drawn between this event and the Queen's funeral, but instead to her coronation 70 years previously. This was the first televised coronation, broadcast on radio and television around the world. Both ceremonies were watched by millions, though the King's was the first British coronation to be televised in glorious, high-definition technicolour.

Regardless of your feelings about the monarchy, it can't be denied that when it comes to pomp, ceremony and splendour, no one does it like Great Britain.

The journey from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey alone was a thing of wonder, with joyous fans lining the streets as more than 4,000 members of the Army, RAF, Royal Navy and Commonwealth forces in immaculate dress uniforms accompanied the Diamond Jubilee State Coach.

One BBC commentator remarked how the coach – drawn by eight Windsor Grey horses – looked like something from a fairy tale, before admitting that so ancient are ceremonies such as these, that the fairy tales are more likely based on them.

Inside the abbey, proceedings took on an even more timeless quality, with the two-hour ceremony effortlessly fusing the old and the new. One poignant example of this was during the presentation of the orb, sceptre and other regalia – pieces from the Crown Jewels that hold “incalculable cultural, historical, and symbolic value” and date back to the 17th century – by various faith leaders, and the carrying of the Sword of State by a resplendent Penny Mordaunt MP.

Another poignant moment was when the King was screened from the public as he was anointed with holy oils by the Archbishop of Canterbury, because this is an event historically regarded as taking place between the sovereign and God. The anointing was carried out using an ampulla and coronation spoon, which is believed to date back to the 12th century.

Finally came the moment all had been waiting for as His Majesty sat resplendent in the Robe Royal – made for King George IV's coronation in 1821 and one of four robes worn during the service – and was adorned with St Edward's crown. After crowning Charles, the Archbishop boomed, “God Save the King”, a sentiment that was then echoed by all in attendance.

Shortly after, Her Majesty Queen Camilla was also crowned, with Queen Mary's Crown placed on her head. Interestingly, she was granted the title of Queen on the late Queen Elizabeth II's request.

The late His Majesty Prince Philip, on the other hand, was never given the title of king. This is because a ruling queen's husband is called a Prince Consort, as the title of king is only given to a monarch who inherits the throne. If King Charles passes away before Queen Camilla, Prince William, who is the heir to the throne, will become king. Queen Camilla will not become a reigning queen; her title will change to queen dowager, the official term for the widow of a king.

Following the ceremony, the King and Queen were joined by the other senior royals and their children on the balcony at Buckingham Palace for the traditional Royal Air Force flypast which, despite the rain and subsequent need to simplify the air show, drew to a close to a most historic and memorable day for all.

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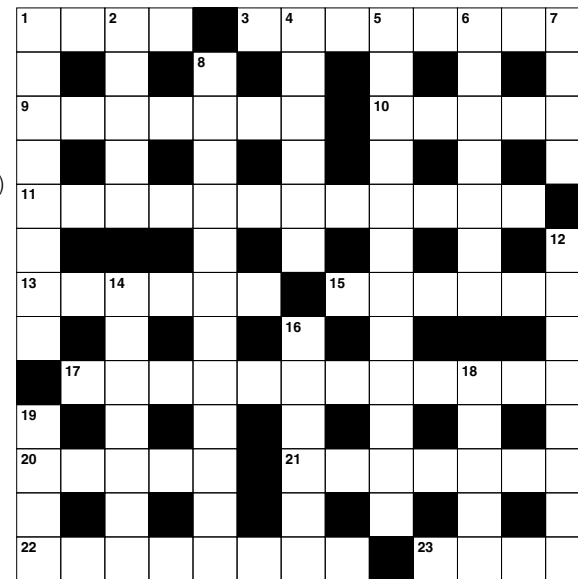
Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

ACROSS

1. Beloved; expensive (4)
3. Break (8)
9. Majestically (7)
10. Giraffes have long ones (5)
11. Uncurled (12)
13. Fierce or domineering woman (6)
15. Dual audio (6)
17. Ruinously (12)
20. Simple (5)
21. Inactive pill (7)
22. Conceptual thinker (8)
23. Arduous journey (4)

DOWN

1. Mocking (8)
2. Ire (5)
4. Sense of musical time (6)
5. In accordance with general custom (12)
6. Uncertain (7)
7. Otherwise (4)
8. UFO (6,6)
12. Exterior of a motor vehicle (8)
14. Print anew (7)



16. Ear bone (6)
18. Give a solemn oath (5)
19. Tuba (anag) (4)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Your eyes blink an average of 20 times a minute. That's more than 10 million times a year.
- ▶ The entire surface of your skin is replaced every month, which means you have about 1,000 different skins in your life.
- ▶ If you live to age 70, your heart will have beaten around 2.5 billion times.
- ▶ Laid end to end, an adult's blood vessels could circle the Earth's equator four times.
- ▶ Bodies give off a tiny amount of light that's too weak for the eye to see.
- ▶ Your left lung is approximately 20 per cent smaller than your right one.
- ▶ You produce about 40,000 litres of spit in your lifetime. Or to put it another way, enough spit to fill around 500 bathtubs.

SUDOKU

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		4					2	



STAYING ALIVE!

Unless you have someone looking after your garden while you are on holiday, you may be wondering how you are going to keep your plants alive and well until you return. Discover our top tips below.

WATER BEFORE YOU GO:
Before you leave for your holiday, make sure you give all the plants in your garden a thorough watering. Soak any pots, containers and hanging baskets at the plant base until the water rises above the soil. Allow this water to soak in and then repeat.

MOVE POTTED PLANTS:
Move potted plants into shady areas of your garden to slow the rate at which they dry out and to help them stay hydrated. Avoid using shade cast by the eaves of your home as this can prevent any natural rainwater from reaching them.

MAKE SOME MULCH:
A thick mulch can help to reduce the evaporation of water and lock moisture into the ground. You can

make mulch from woodchips, gravel and decorative stones or even with just a few handfuls of good quality compost. Place around the base of your plants in a doughnut shape.

INVEST IN AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM:
If your budget allows it, an irrigation system will deliver a controlled amount of water to reach your plants at set times during the day. This is a good choice if you are away for a longer period of time, or you go away frequently.

- TOP TIPS FOR HOUSEPLANTS:**
- > Move any houseplants away from direct sunlight to cooler, darker areas of your home
 - > Give them a good, deep soak for around 10 seconds but make sure to drain any excess water
 - > Place one end of a damp cloth into a glass of water and the other end in the soil. When the plant becomes thirsty, it will absorb moisture from the cloth
 - > Gather your houseplants together to create a humid microclimate.



bringing lawns to life

Our wonderful customers like our service so much, that over 40% of new customers joined us through their recommendation which, if you think about it, is a recommendation in itself.

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Belladonna is one plant that you do not want growing in your garden. Belladonna, sometimes referred to as deadly nightshade, is extremely toxic to humans, dogs and cats, and needs to be quickly identified and removed.

WHICH PARTS ARE TOXIC?

All parts of the belladonna plant are toxic to humans and domesticated animals, including the leaves, flowers, fruits and roots. It is not toxic to birds and wildlife, although when honeybees feed on belladonna, the honey they produce can also be toxic.

HOW TO IDENTIFY BELLADONNA

Belladonna is a tall and bushy perennial that grows three to four feet high and wide. It boasts dark green leaves that are oval and unevenly sized. On the bottom part of the plant, the leaves are solitary but on the upper parts, they grow in pairs. Belladonna blooms from June through to early September, with dull purple or lavender flowers that are slightly scented.

The fruit ripens between late August and September and is black and shiny like a cherry.

HOW DOES BELLADONNA SPREAD?

Belladonna spreads very quickly, just like a weed. This plant dies back in winter and then regrows in spring from its thick, fleshy roots. Birds that eat the seeds can spread the plant to other areas via their droppings.

HOW TO REMOVE BELLADONNA FROM YOUR GARDEN

You must protect your skin when handling belladonna, so make sure you wear long sleeves, long trousers, boots and gloves. If the plant is particularly tall and there is a risk of it coming into contact with your face, then you should wear goggles.

- > Dig out the plant with all its roots
- > Dispose of the plant in your garden waste bin
- > Disinfect any tools you have used
- > Wash your work clothes immediately and separately from your other clothing.

NEW CARE HOME COMING SUMMER 23

Our new state-of-the-art elderly care home with generous landscaped gardens built in the grounds of our existing Dudbrook Hall

Dudbrook Hall has been building a new care home within the rear of the existing Dudbrook Hall. This will feature:

- 62 Ensuite Bedrooms
- Residential Care
- Dementia Care
- Cafe
- Hair Salon
- Therapy Room
- Activity Rooms
- Music Room
- Library / Cinema Room
- Terraces
- Landscaped Gardens
- Dementia Garden



drive between Ongar & Brentwood town centres and all their great amenities.

St Michaels Homes are looking forward to when we can move across from our existing care home, Dudbrook Hall, into our new state-of-the-art care home Dudbrook House. Currently, we are planning to move into our new home by early September 2023. We are looking forward to welcoming newcomers to our new home, and all current residents at Dudbrook Hall will also be moving across to our new care home facility. At St Michaels Homes, we can offer support with our day placement service, short stay (i.e. for a weekend or week) or respite care. This gives a carer the peace of mind that their loved one is safe and sound, and within a friendly/social environment where they can enjoy all the same advantages as our residents. This also give you, the main carer, time to relax and enjoy time away from your care duties without worry. Also, if you have any planned or unplanned hospital

operations/surgery, and require help and assistance during your recovery, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us and we will do our utmost to help you back on your feet.

Come enjoy our beautiful surroundings and let our family-run care homes care for your family. Please pop in and see our brand-new



Orangery. The views are beautiful from the windows and is such a lovely place to sit and relax with family and friends.

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“ It has become my main objective to combat loneliness and isolation within our elderly communities. ”

Sean Watson - Director



Dudbrook Hall Care Centre

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Howard Lodge Care Centre,

Beacon Hill Rd, Kelvedon Common,
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TECHNOLOGY



Ride ELECTRIC

We see these casual speedsters effortlessly and gracefully gliding their way along the roads, and the realisation is that the days of pumping pedals may be on its way out.

It appears the electric bike revolution is here to stay; yet with the price of these magnificent machines is considerably more than their manual counterparts, handlebar aficionados are instead exploring ways to convert their existing rides into battery-powered versions.

It turns out it's not actually that difficult. Conversion devices can suddenly transform our humble bikes into rapid, resplendent electric vehicles.

These devices work by replacing a normal bike's rear disc-brake rotor with its own drive, which looks and works just like a traditional disc-brake rotor.

A weighty unit housing the battery and a 250-watt-hour motor clips onto the bike frame, with the rotor slotting into the clip-on unit and engaging with the gearing inside. Internal gearing turns the

special brake rotor, spinning the rear wheel and, hey presto, you're away.

You should be able to achieve almost 40 miles of assisted cycling, and be able to propel the vehicle at speeds of almost 20mph.

Recharging takes around two-and-a-half hours, and the unit can be easily unclipped and charged inside.

Pedal bikes have long been an incredibly green way to travel – it's the reason there are 20 million on Britain's roads. While those who use them as part of their job – think food delivery driver or parcel courier – may like the added speed and energy conservation of an e-bike, the stronger target market for this product is those keen to ditch the car for short trips, but who need some kind of propulsion when it comes to embarking on two-wheeled adventures.

Whatever the reason, users choosing an e-bike look certain to light the path... or road!



SEASONAL LAWN TREATMENTS

Early summer is when your lawn really starts to become alive, and when you're probably going to start regularly using your garden for things like BBQs and parties.

At this time of the year our core treatment focuses on ensuring your lawn has all the things it needs to grow lushly thick and verdant throughout the season.

Lawn feed

We use our own, specially formulated, summer fertiliser which has been created to avoid scorching your lawn, even if there is very low soil moisture. Our fertiliser will nourish your lawn and give it the leg up it needs to develop into a rich, deep, green colour.

Weeds

As your lawn springs into action, so do the weeds. The warm weather will cause common weeds to germinate and spread. These don't just look unsightly, but they also leach nutrients from your lawn. If necessary, we will apply our own weed-control solution during your treatment to eliminate all unwanted plant life from your lawn.

Aeration

Aeration can be an excellent complement to your seasonal treatment. Aeration allows water, air and nutrients to reach the grass root where it's needed, while

also combating soil compaction. We offer two different types of aeration: hollow tine and spiking.

Hydration

Lack of moisture can be a major concern in the warmer months. Our hydration service uses a professional wetting agent that works within the soil to optimise your lawn's use of water, helping it stay hydrated.

Overseeding

Barren patches of lawn can be caused by multiple things such as wildlife, mower damage or lack of moisture. In conjunction with either scarification or aeration, overseeding sows grass seeds over your turf allowing this damage to be repaired far quicker than if you left it to regrow unaided.

Fungicide

While we might think of lawn fungus as being an autumn concern, it can also be prevalent over the summer too, caused by things like mulch. Our specialist fungicide service uses a powerful fungicidal agent to eliminate various pervasive fungal infections in the lawn.

Get in touch to speak to one of our dedicated experts for a FREE lawn consultation

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SPORT



A Very BRITISH RACKET

Nothing conjures up a British summer better than Wimbledon, the oldest tennis championship in the world. In true British fashion, it's not all about who wins – or even the lovely sound as the racket whacks the ball. Think strawberries and cream, bizarre tennis outfits, celebrity spotting, and an endless obsession with the weather.

To mark this year's contest, which takes place from July 3 to 16, let's look at a few fun facts.

- The first Wimbledon took place in 1877, but only involved men's singles. Ladies weren't allowed to compete until 1884.
- Wimbledon attracts around 500,000 spectators, and millions more from around the globe catch up on TV.
- During an average tournament, players go through around 55,000 balls.
- The grass on the Wimbledon lawns has to be precisely 8mm high.
- There's a strict rule that Wimbledon players must wear white clothes – though a small dash of colour is now allowed. The tradition started in the 1800s to avoid sweaty patches showing up on dark clothing.

• Yellow tennis balls were introduced in 1986 because they were more visible on TV than the white ones.

• At the last Wimbledon tournament, spectators consumed almost 2,000 servings of strawberries and cream, along with a staggering 250,000 glasses of Pimm's.

• The tournament employs around 250 ball boys and girls, selected from 27 nearby schools, who must pass a test to ensure they can stand still for at least three minutes.

• The longest tennis match in history was held at Wimbledon in 2010. It lasted for 11 hours and five minutes over three days between Frenchman Nicolas Mahut and the eventual winner of that year's championship, American John Isner.

• This year's tournament marks Rufus the Harris's Hawk's 16th year as chief pigeon scarer, making sure matches aren't interrupted by unwanted avian guests. Follow him on Twitter or Instagram.

So whether you're lucky enough to attend in person or will be watching the competition from the comfort of your own home, sit back, relax and enjoy this prestigious display of sporting prowess – Pimm's optional.

Photo credit: Meaning March/Shutterstock.com

BEACH SAFETY TIPS FOR DOGS

Most dogs love the beach. They can run around, play in the sand and cool their paws in the sea. However, if you are planning to take your four-legged friend to the seaside this summer, you need to make sure you know how to keep them safe.

CHECK LOCAL RULES

There are lots of dog-friendly beaches all over the UK, so be sure to check the local rules of your chosen spot before you head out to avoid disappointment. You can find this information at www.thebeachguide.co.uk/dog-friendly

TEACH YOUR DOG TO SWIM

Most dogs are not natural-born swimmers, so it can be a good idea to teach them how to swim before you take them to the beach. There are many guides online on how to teach your dog to swim, such as this one: www.purina.co.uk/articles/dogs/behaviour/training/teach-dog-to-swim

PROVIDE FRESH WATER AND SHADE

If you are planning to spend a long time at the beach with your dog, then you will need to provide fresh water and shade to prevent overheating and dehydration. Also, watch your dog to ensure they don't drink too much seawater.

APPLY SUN CREAM FOR DOGS

Dogs can get sunburn in the same way that you can, so you need to make sure you apply

sun cream that is specially formulated for pets. This is especially important for dogs with light skin and short fur.

BE VIGILANT OF DANGEROUS ITEMS

Dangerous items such as broken glass and rocks can easily become buried in the sand and, if trodden on, can injure your dog's paws.

RINSE YOUR DOG

Once you have finished your day at the beach, be sure to rinse off your dog's coat to remove any sand, salt and germs before you head home.



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Stroll YOURSELF SLIM

Finding the time, not to mention the inclination, to exercise after having a baby can be hard. However, what if you could combine taking your baby for a walk with getting fit? Welcome to the world of stroller fitness.

WHAT IS STROLLER FITNESS?

As the name suggests, stroller fitness is a workout where you use your baby's buggy or stroller to get fit. Perfect for parents of all fitness abilities, a stroller workout can be as intense or as gentle as you make it. Plus, no babysitter is needed, as your baby will be with you every step of the way.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF STROLLER FITNESS?

One of the best things about stroller fitness is that it allows you to get back into exercise without having to leave your baby. Depending on the exercises that you choose to carry out, stroller fitness can provide a full body workout, or it can be used to target specific muscle groups or problem areas.

FOUR STROLLER EXERCISES TO GET YOU STARTED

Walking lunges: If you want to tone and strengthen your lower body, then walking lunges are a great choice. Take long strides as you push your buggy and lower your body until your front thigh is almost parallel to the ground. Continue for one minute, rest for 30 seconds, and repeat.

Jump squats: These burn more calories than standard squats. Use your buggy for balance, engage your core, push up through your heels as you jump up, focusing on soft knees as you land. Continue for 30 seconds, rest for 30 seconds, and repeat.

Pram chest press: Work your chest, arms and core with the pram chest press. Push through your shoulders, tensing your core as you push your buggy away from you and then pull it back towards you. Do 15 reps, rest, and do a further 15.

Pram chest press with lunge: To increase the intensity of your workout and up your heart rate even more, alternate walking lunges with the pram chest press. This exercise will work your whole body. Continue for 30 seconds, rest for 30 seconds, and repeat.



TAKE THE PAIN OUT OF YOUR PROPERTY INSURANCE CLAIM

A leak from a bath waste went unnoticed, the ceiling below was lath and plaster which absorbed the water with no visible damage until it became so heavy a large section crashed to the floor.

Resolve was recommended to the policy holder by a relative and we sent out a dedicated claims manager. When we arrived the ceiling debris was all over the floor and furniture, we removed the debris and carried out a primary clean.

The insurance company had requested three quotes, she was very pleased when we explained the service and they would not be required because we would deal with everything.

We carried out a survey and issued a scope of the repairs to the insurance company. We met the Loss Adjuster and agreed the scope of works and immediately started works.

The room had to be sealed and a dust extraction unit set up. This enabled us to clear the ceiling without contaminating the rest of the property. We installed plasterboard and plastered. The decorations were then completed to a high standard.

All the works were carried out by our team of tradesmen. On completion the customer signed a satisfaction note and the insurer paid the pre-agreed cost.



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Prescriptions

ALL ABOUT

How much does a prescription cost in England?

The prescription charge in England is £9.65 per item. However, you can get an NHS prescription prepayment certificate (PPC), which can help you save money if you need more than three items in three months or 11 items in 12 months.

A PPC costs:

- ✚ £31.25 for three months
- ✚ £111.60 for 12 months

You can purchase a PPC either online or with any registered pharmacy.

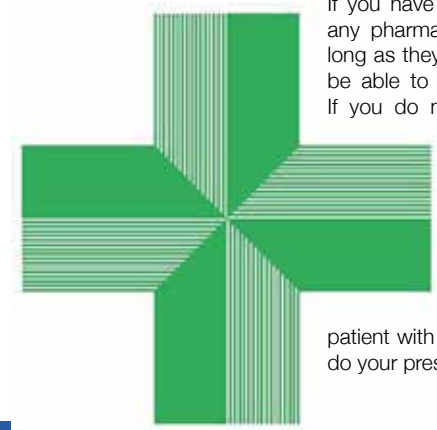
Who is eligible for free prescriptions?

You are eligible for free prescriptions if you are:

- ✓ Aged 60 or over
- ✓ Under 16
- ✓ Aged 16-18 and in full-time education
- ✓ Pregnant or have had a baby in the last 12 months and have a valid maternity exemption certificate
- ✓ Have a specified medical condition and a valid medical exemption certificate
- ✓ Have a continuing disability that prevents you from going out and have a valid medical exemption certificate
- ✓ Hold a valid war pension exemption certificate and the prescription is for your accepted disability
- ✓ An NHS inpatient

You are also entitled to free prescriptions if you or your partner receive certain benefits, or if you are under 20 and the dependent of someone receiving certain benefits, such as income support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. Contraception is free for everyone in England.

Is it possible to get an emergency prescription?



If you have a prescription, you can visit any pharmacy to get your medicine as long as they have it in stock, or you may be able to use an NHS walk-in centre.

If you do not have a prescription, you may be able to get an emergency supply from your local pharmacy. Take your old prescription or the medicine's packaging with you if you have it. If you are away from home, you can register as a temporary

patient with another GP and ask them to do your prescription for you.

Can you get your prescription delivered to your door?

If you are unable to leave your home, your local pharmacy may be able to deliver it to your door free of charge. Alternatively, some retailers such as Boots will deliver your prescriptions for a small fee.

Is a bad hip stopping you from doing everyday things?

Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital reveals the signs you might need a new one.

What is a hip replacement?

This is a procedure to remove your damaged hip joint and replace it with an artificial joint. It's used to treat hip pain, most commonly hip osteoarthritis, which is gradual wear and tear of the joint. During the procedure, the damaged joint is removed and replaced with an artificial ball and socket joint (a prosthesis). There are many different types of hip replacement and your surgeon will recommend the one that's best for you.

There are no set rules when it comes to hip replacement. While the surgery is commonly associated with older patients, in truth it's a life-changing procedure for anyone with a worn hip joint.

The following signs may indicate hip arthritis or be symptoms of other problems. The best way to accurately diagnose the state of your hip is to speak to a specialist and have an x-ray.

1. Hip or groin pain

Pain around the hip or groin area can be one of the major indicators that there may be an underlying problem with your hip joint. Let's look at some of the different ways it can manifest.

Pain when walking

If hip or groin pain is preventing you from walking normal distances for you or completing your usual daily activities, then speak to a specialist.

It's important to remember that this can be relative to you. For some, being able to comfortably stroll a short distance to the post box or local shop is enough. For others, being unable to complete a five-mile walk is unthinkable. It all depends on your lifestyle.

You may find yourself compensating with a limp, relying on a walking stick, or even needing painkillers just to cope with the pain of walking or other activities such as climbing the stairs or getting into a car.

Pain during exercise

Soreness or pain during or after exercise which is stopping you from being as active as you normally would, be it jogging, swimming or other physical activities, can be a sign of hip arthritis.

The pain is usually localised between your hip and knee. If the pain is lower down towards the ankle the problem might be caused by back problems.

Pain at night

If hip pain makes it hard to fall asleep or you find yourself waking up because of the pain caused by your movements in the night – talk to someone about it. There are a number of hip or joint-related issues that could be affecting your sleep.

2. Stiffness

Difficulty putting your shoes or socks on is a common sign of stiffness in your hip, especially if one foot is more difficult than the other. You may also start to feel your hip joint clicking, popping or grinding in ways which impair your normal range of movement. If this is an ongoing problem, you should speak with a specialist.

3. The one leg test

If you can't stand on your problem leg for longer than a minute – even with the support of a door frame or table-top for balance, then you might have a problem with your hip.

There are some other exercises you can try at home to see if you could benefit from hip pain treatment. For instance:

- Lying on your back or sitting, can you bring your knee to your chest? Assist with your hands if you need to.
- Lying on your back, can you move your leg out to the side without moving your trunk?
- Sitting on a chair, can you place your ankle on the opposite knee and let the knee drop down as far as possible?

For each test, compare both sides of your body. You may find the test easier on one side than the other, and many people notice this.

4. No relief from other treatments

Most hip problems can be resolved without a full hip replacement. There is a range of treatments available, including physiotherapy and medication that may better address your symptoms.

If your hip pain is not severely limiting your daily life, or you have found ongoing relief from these less invasive treatments, then it indicates a hip replacement is likely not the right option for you yet.

At Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital our experienced team of orthopaedic surgeons are experts in lower limb procedures and provide quick access to hip replacement surgery.

How to book a consultation at Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital

If you are interested in hip replacement surgery or want expert advice from a professional, you will need to book a private consultation with one of our orthopaedic experts before proceeding with any treatment. To book a consultation, please contact our dedicated hospital enquiry team on:

Telephone: **01277 695 631**

Online: **www.nuffieldhealth.com/hospitals/brentwood**

Visit: Brentwood Hospital, Shenfield Road, Brentwood, CM15 8EH



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SLEEP

like a baby?



Are you thinking of co-sleeping but not sure if this is the right choice for you and your baby? Discover five benefits of co-sleeping below. Plus, five factors that mean you should NOT co-sleep.

1 You can meet your baby's immediate needs
Most babies require feeding, changing and soothing throughout the night. If you are close to your baby, then you can meet their needs without having to get out of bed. You can also do this with minimal disruption, which means your baby is more likely to fall quickly back to sleep.

2 You can build up your milk supply
For breastfeeding mums, co-sleeping can help you to maintain a good milk supply for your baby. As breastmilk production works on a supply-and-demand basis, if you are sleeping with your baby, you are in the ideal position for frequent night-time feeds.

3 Your baby can practise self-rousing
Although sending your baby into a deep sleep may sound appealing, babies are not actually meant to sleep in this way. Babies who co-sleep are frequently roused when close to their mothers, which can help them to learn how to use their self-preservation instinct to rouse when there is any danger.

4 Your baby can develop stronger bonds
Research suggests that infants who co-sleep develop stronger emotional relationships both with their parents and with other people. It may also help children to grow up with higher self-esteem and less anxiety, and to become more independent.

- When you should NOT co-sleep:**
- > You have been drinking alcohol
 - > You are a smoker or use e-cigarettes
 - > You have taken any drugs that may cause drowsiness
 - > Your baby was premature (born earlier than 37 weeks)
 - > Your baby had a low birth rate (less than 2.5kg or 5.5lbs).

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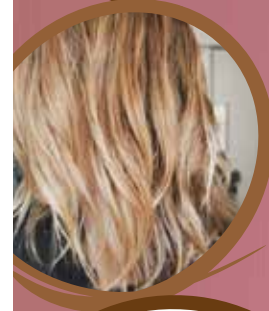
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Goodbye GREASE



If you struggle with greasy hair, then these hairstyles are just what you need to skip a hair wash and still look and feel great.

BABY BRAIDS: If the front of your hair is prone to oil, then baby braids offer the perfect way to conceal this. Start by working a little bit of dry shampoo through your hair and then section out the front strands. Braid them as tightly or loosely as you like and secure with a clear hair band.

A SNATCHED PONY: Delivering a super sleek look, a snagged pony is bang on trend and perfect for days when you don't have time to wash your hair. Separate your hair into two sections (top and bottom half) and apply a smoothing serum. Then brush from roots to ends, making sure that the front is smooth and tight. Join the sections at the crown and secure with a hair band.

WET-LOOK WAVES: Rather than try to hide the natural oils in your hair, embrace them with wet-look waves. To start, dampen your hair and add a liberal amount of heat protectant spray. Then gently blow dry your hair and add waves using a curling iron. Apply hair oil to complete the look.

A ZIGZAG PARTING: Add a playful touch to a low ponytail with a zigzag parting. Perfect for distracting from greasy roots, you need to invest in a tail comb to get a zigzag parting right. Start at the centre of your parting and then use the comb to form a zigzag along the parting line. For best results, keep all the zigzags within the same one-inch margin.

A SILK SCARF: If your curls are looking a little oily, then pile them high on your head and add a silky scarf for added visual interest and to conceal grease at the roots.



Photo credit: Instagram @justinmarjan, capellistyle.it, Pinterest/goldfishkiss.com, terrificresses, Etsy



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The Travel Boutique, Travel Lounge in Shenfield is always at the heart of your travel plans and provides a personal service, impartial advice and the widest variety of holidays. Many of our loyal customers have already enjoyed treasured getaways in 2023 and have already booked with us for 2024.

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Janette Healey at The Travel Boutique





TRAVEL

PLANE sailing

Love family holidays but dread flying with young children? Discover five ways to keep your kids occupied on a plane, with options for all ages.

BOOK A WINDOW SEAT

If your budget allows for it, booking a window seat is a great way to keep your children entertained during take-off and landing. Whether they just gaze at the views below or look for animals in the cloud shapes, children of all ages can enjoy looking out of the window during a flight.

ACTIVITIES TO KEEP THEM OCCUPIED

Remember to pack colouring and puzzle books in your hand luggage to help keep boredom at bay. Alternatively, bring blank paper and pens and ask your children to draw what they can see out of the window, or what they imagine your destination will look like.

You can also bring travel games or even a pack of playing cards; simple games like snap are perfect for little ones, while older children can enjoy more advanced games like solitaire.

DOWNLOAD AN AUDIO BOOK

If you want a bit of peace and quiet but you don't want your kids glued to a screen the entire time, then an audio book is a great alternative. There are so many books to choose from – just make sure you remember to pack headphones.

PACK PLENTY OF SNACKS

Do not underestimate how distracting snacks can be for kids during a flight, especially younger ones. Rather than buying them on the plane, bring a selection of your children's favourite snacks with you in your hand luggage and then give them out sporadically throughout the flight.

TALK ABOUT YOUR TRIP

Chatting about what you are planning to do when you get to your destination and what you are excited about, can be a great way to pass the time and engage with your children. You can also take the opportunity to teach them about the different places you are flying over.



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“Healthy eating is a way of life so it’s important to establish routines that are simple, realistic and ultimately liveable”
– Horace



My Background

Being able to balance good nutrition with busy lives is not always easy. I have spent over 25 years working in the financial services industry in London and know from first hand experience how hard it can be to focus on a healthy lifestyle whilst at the same time commuting, working long and often stressful hours, managing a home, a family and a social life.



At age 40, I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism. Doctors prescribed medicine to support my thyroid, medicine which I will need for the rest of my life. I wanted to understand why and how an under active thyroid had developed as well as learn how I could take control of my life to help manage my symptoms.

After researching how best to do this, I went back to school (College of Naturopathic Medicine in London) to retrain and qualify as a Naturopathic Nutritionist. Working with evidence based research, I have changed how I think about the food my family and I consume - from how it is sourced, to its preparation and even the pans I use to cook with. I now maximise my health through nutrition and lifestyle and aim to minimise the risk of other health issues arising.

Life is constantly changing and I have been able to use my training and skills to re-balance my nutrition to support the symptoms and changes that the perimenopause brings. Through Alison Lovell Nutrition, it is my goal to use my knowledge and experience to help others optimise their own health and lifestyle.

To get in touch, call me on 07359 509 133 or email: info@alisonlovellynutrition.co.uk.



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HOW TO CHOOSE THE PERFECT OFFICE

Whether you're on the hunt for your first office for a new start-up or you have an established enterprise needing to relocate or upsize, we can help you to find the perfect commercial property for your business.

TRANSPORT AND PARKING: Is the office located in an area that boasts good transport links? Is it convenient for you, your employees and your clients? Do you need office parking? If yes, how many spaces do you need? Is it included in the price or available at an additional cost?

VISIBILITY AND PASSING TRADE: Is the office easy to find? How much foot traffic does it get? Depending on the nature of your business, you may need an office space that offers both visibility and passing trade.

REPUTATION OF THE AREA: Although you may want to try to cut costs, if your chosen office space is in an area that is not considered to be attractive or safe, this could have a detrimental effect on your business.

LOCAL AMENITIES: It is unlikely that you want an office space that is in the middle of nowhere with no local amenities such as cafés, restaurants and shops – especially if you love to wine and dine your clients.

SQUARE FOOTAGE: Another crucial factor is the size of the office space. You need to think not only about how many employees you have but also whether or not you need to store supplies on site. Remember to consider the long-term as well as the immediate future.

OFFICE FACILITIES: Make sure you know what is included in your rental agreement. For example, will the space be fully furnished? Is there a reliable and fast internet connection? Are utility bills and business rates included?

CONTRACT LENGTH: Are you looking for a long-term lease or a more flexible, short-term contract? Long rentals often work out cheaper, but only if you are able to commit to the agreed length of time.



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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.

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Head of Family Team
sallyward@mplaw.co.uk



Roisin McCorry
Consultant
roisinmccorry@mplaw.co.uk



Jas Pannu
Solicitor
jaspreetpannu@mplaw.co.uk



Yvonne Taiwo
Solicitor
yvonnetaiwo@mplaw.co.uk

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easy Does it

THE SUCCESS OF CHARISMATIC EASYJET FOUNDER, SIR STELIOS HAJI-IOANNOU

When launching a brand, it pays to make sure you have people rooting for you. And easyJet founder Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou has one big thing on his side – charisma.

The now 55 year old, whose success as the founder of a revolutionary airline concept soon led to him being instantly recognisable by first name only, caused a major stir in the airline business in the mid-1990s when he started running a cheap shuttle air service between Luton and Scotland.

At the time, the concept of cheap air travel was one that had never taken off – literally. However, by putting on a ‘no frills’ service that did away with complementary food, refreshments and even seat reservations, Stelios found a gap in the market that short-haul travellers loved.

Soon, the airline was servicing destinations across Europe. With fares starting at just £1, the marketing took care of itself.

It wasn't Stelios's first venture into transport.

He had previously owned a shipping business, Stelmar Shipping, and had learned the ropes from his father, who was hugely successful in the same space.

Yet nothing quite rivals the serial entrepreneur's achievements with easyJet. He and his family still own one-third of the business, which values his stake at more than £4billion. This is despite the fact that, as a group floated on the stock exchange, he has repeatedly fallen out with the company's senior managers, declaring that shareholders have had no notable return in more than a decade.

Stelios's battles with Ryanair founder Michael O'Leary are also legendary – Stelios was once portrayed as Pinocchio on a Ryanair advert.

He now lives in Monaco, and received a knighthood from Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for services to entrepreneurship in 2006.



Photo credit: Stuart Clarke/Shutterstock





MOTORING

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CAR IN HOT WEATHER

When temperatures soar, your vehicle requires a little bit of additional TLC. Unless, of course, you don't mind having to fork out for expensive repairs.

PARK IN THE SHADE: Although this may seem obvious, it is really important that you try to park your car in the shade when the sun is at its hottest. This will help to prevent your dashboard from drying out and cracking.

USE A WINDSHIELD PROTECTOR: A windshield protector can help to keep your car cool and prevent sun damage. These are low-cost and easy to use; simply unfold and slide into place on your dashboard.

WAX YOUR CAR: If a heatwave is on its way, it can be a good idea to wax your car as this provides a layer of protection between your car and the sun's powerful ultraviolet rays.

CHECK THE TYRE PRESSURE: Hot pavements and low tyre pressure are a dangerous combination and can lead to a blowout. Therefore, you should make sure that you regularly test your tyre pressure when the warm weather hits.

USE SEAT COVERS: As well as protecting both leather and fabric seats from spillages and stains, seat covers can also help to keep them cool and prevent sun damage.

CHECK YOUR COOLING SYSTEM: To prevent your engine from overheating, you need to make sure that the cooling system is in good working order. Have the belts checked and the antifreeze drained. Also, make sure that you change the belts and fluids on a regular basis.

WASH AND DRY OFTEN: Both sun and heat can cause your car's exterior to crack and fade. However, frequent washing and hand drying can help to remove dirt and dust particles that can cause scratches and dull your car's finish.



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The Reading Rooms

The Billericay home of the Open Bible Learning Group



Each Sunday afternoon, The Open Bible Learning Group open the doors to anyone with an enquiring mind and interest in reading their Bible and more effectively.

The group meet **2:30 each Sundays** in the Reading Rooms, 73 Billericay High Street to explore the exciting and powerful message God has revealed in his word, the Bible, by means of talks, discussions and presentations.

The Open Bible Learning Group are just ordinary men and women who first met here in the Reading Rooms in 1957 as a place worship and to study. The topics to be covered in June include talks and seminars on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 pm:

- June 4th – **Promises to king David**
- June 11th – **Promises to you and me**
- June 18th – **Jesus' return - what to watch for!**
- June 25th – **God's design in creation**
- July 2nd – **The connection between the Old and New Testaments**

Visit our website OpenBibleLearningGroup.com/Events for a full list of events. Perhaps try a free Home-Study Packs, Stream or download Audio Recordings or to watch past special event recordings, search  **@openbiblelearninggroup** for our Six 5 minute **"Bible Shorts"** or 3 part video special series **"The Bible"**.

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The Open Bible Learning Group – Why listen to them?

So many different voices seem to compete for our attention these days, both online and offline. Take, for example, the appeals that are made by so-called Christian churches... not only are there very many of them (hundreds of groups exist in Essex alone)... but at times they can each seem to have their own 'unique' teaching. How can this be right, given there is just one Bible?

Recently, I caught up with, a member of the Billericay Open Bible Learning Group (OBLG), and asked Simon, how OBLG have come to a clear and simple position on these things? "If something can be demonstrated from the one Bible – and shown to be consistently taught – then there really is no debate. The truth can only be found in God's Word, so that's where the investigation must both start and finish. Misunderstandings," he told me, "generally only begin when the Bible is set aside."

Of course, most paper Bibles are at least 1,000 pages long, so people can understandably feel a bit overwhelmed when they first approach the book. So I asked Simon, how can somebody who is not so familiar with the Bible build up at least a basic starting knowledge? Where should they start? What are the key themes or topics? And, how can someone get a bit of supportive guidance if needed?

"They're good questions, which is why, to help with all of this, the Billericay OBLG have created a series of so-called 'Bible Shorts' for YouTube on key topics (e.g. God; the Gospel; the Christian hope), each lasting



no more than five minutes. These shorts are intended to be just an introduction, but importantly they apply the same approach that any study should, with the Bible as the touchstone and it is constantly referred to."

Alongside these 'Bible Shorts', OBLG also available have various full length recordings of their recent talks and special presentations, which can be viewed or just listened to free of any obligation. So, if you can't make it along in-person or just want to start your Bible journey in your own time, why not check out their website openbiblelearninggroup.com or their YouTube channel [@openbiblelearninggroup](https://www.youtube.com/@openbiblelearninggroup). It only needs to start with five minutes of your time... with "Bible Shorts – An introduction to the Bible"

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