



**WHISKY
VERSUS
BOURBON**

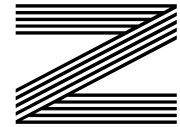
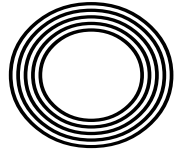
**GET FIT
WITH
FUNCTIONAL
FITNESS**

Glam up your eyes
with crystals this Christmas

MAKE YOUR OWN
cutlery holder for the festive season

Kylie
MINOGUE AO OBE

The singing actress we just can't get out of our heads



FREE

Photo credit: BBC/Guido Mandozzi



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Editor's notes...

NOVEMBER 2023



Brett Shohet, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION** Bishop's Stortford. Recently, I helped to organise a business exhibition in Bishop's Stortford, and it brought to my attention how success is all about strengths - both your own and other people's. An efficient business owner will focus on what they do best, while delegating tasks to the other people on their team according to their skills.

The vibrant energy and rich variety of products and services on display at the exhibition created an environment ripe for networking, forging new relationships and generating business opportunities. It was a testament

to the power of community and collaboration. Together, we proved that when East Herts businesses come together, great things happen.

The exhibition might have concluded for this year, but the journey continues. We're thrilled to announce that we've already secured a date for next year's event, scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024. Stand bookings are now open, so please contact me if you're interested in getting involved.

With Christmas fast approaching, I'd like to encourage readers to shop local this festive season. Many people have lamented their quiet high streets, but how many of them are actually getting out there and supporting their local businesses? Remember, if you don't use it, you'll lose it.

Brett Shohet

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

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CONTACT US:

bishopsstortford@visionmag.co.uk | 01279 939134 | www.visionmagherts.com

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CONTRIBUTORS | Tabatha Fabray, Fiona Goble, Annabel Stock

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DOCTOR WHO

60 YEARS



MARKING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOCTOR WHO – THE MAN, THE WOMAN, THE SHOW, THE MOVEMENT

Asking celebrities how they remain so youthful has become par for the course, but none has achieved as much ongoing success and vigorous relevance as the great Doctor, who at 60 is looking pretty fresh.

On Christmas Day, the Doctor's latest regeneration will be revealed, but not before some highly anticipated TV specials for the show's anniversary in November.

Making his grand return as the fourteenth Doctor, fan favourite David Tennant is set to wow once more for three anniversary episodes. The Scottish actor originally starred as the tenth Doctor from 2005 until his final episode aired on New Year's Day in 2010. Catherine Tate will also reprise her role as the Doctor's companion Donna Noble, with Neil Patrick Harris also joining the cast.

Though Patrick Harris is a newcomer to the *Doctor Who* fold, his character, The Toymaker, is not. First appearing in a now classic episode titled *The Celestial Toymaker*, from the show's third season in 1966, he was originally portrayed by actor Michael Gough.

The Toymaker is a memorable antagonist owing

to his whimsical yet sinister demeanour and his ability to create intricate and deadly challenges for the Doctor and his companions. The character's distinctive appearance and personality have made him a notable figure in the show's lore, one that aligns perfectly with Patrick Harris' dramatic and theatrical flair.

One of the greatest success stories for the BBC, *Doctor Who* began in 1963 when Sydney Newman OC, the corporation's head of drama, tasked producer Verity Lambert OBE and writer Anthony Coburn with creating a TV science fiction series. Their vision gave birth to *Doctor Who*, a show that would combine history, adventure and futuristic concepts in a unique way.

William Hartnell portrayed the original incarnation of the Doctor, a mysterious Time Lord with the ability to regenerate. The Doctor, along with his granddaughter Susan and two teachers, Ian and Barbara, travelled in the TARDIS, a time machine that looked like a 1960s British police box on the outside.

The series is listed in the Guinness World Records as the longest-running science fiction television series in the world, with Tom Baker holding the title for starring in the highest number of episodes – a whopping 178.

Despite its popularity, *Doctor Who* faced a significant hurdle in 1989 when it went on an extended hiatus. Aside from a TV film in 1996, the Doctor would not be fully regenerated until 2005.

This was the beginning of the show's modern era, helmed by writer and showrunner Russell T. Davies OBE and starring Christopher Eccleston as the ninth Doctor.

The most recent revamp of the series sees Davies return as the showrunner, taking over from Chris Chibnall who

introduced Jodie Whittaker as the 13th Doctor. Hot on the heels of his 2021 success *It's a Sin*, and with *Sex Education* star Ncuti Gatwa playing the 14th Doctor, Davies is in a fine position to return the show to its noughties glory.

The King's NEW COINS UNVEILED



SHOWCASING HIS PASSION FOR CONSERVATION AND EQUALITY

When His Majesty King Charles III was crowned, he thanked the public for their kindness and encouragement, and vowed that he and Her Majesty Queen Camilla would rededicate their lives “to serving the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and Commonwealth”.

Putting his money where his mouth is, quite literally, the edge inscription of the new £2 coin reads ‘In servitio omnium’, which means ‘In the service of all’. It was taken from the King’s inaugural speech on September 9, 2022, and chosen by him personally.

The coin is one of eight that have been unveiled by The Royal Mint, ranging from 1p to £2. Determined to distinguish his reign from that of his beloved mother, the King has also embossed them with another of his great passions: nature.

Featuring endangered species from across the British Isles, such as the puffin, the red squirrel and the bee, along with flowers and the oak tree leaf, the coins reflect His Majesty’s devotion to conservation and equality.

Here is the full list:

- **1p coin:** Hazel dormouse... which has seen its population halve since 2007
- **2p coin:** Red squirrel... expected to blend into the colour of the copper coin
- **5p coin:** Oak tree leaf... a rich habitat for biodiversity in woodland areas with a long monarchic association
- **10p coin:** Capercaillie... found in a small part of Scotland and threatened with extinction
- **20p coin:** Puffin... 10 per cent of the world population is on the UK’s coastline
- **50p coin:** Atlantic salmon... at threat from river pollution and habitat loss
- **£1 coin:** Bees... 250 species found in the UK
- **£2 coin:** National flowers – a rose (England), a daffodil (Wales), a thistle (Scotland), a shamrock (Northern Ireland)

The coins will replace those designed by Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2008 and may be in use by the end of 2023, but The Mint has confirmed that all existing currency remains legal tender.

Photo credit: royalmint.com

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Tackle that TARNISH



If your bling is looking more dull than dazzling, then these tried and tested DIY cleaning techniques are just what you need.

HOW TO CLEAN STERLING SILVER

1. Try baking soda

For severe tarnish, mix three parts baking soda with one part water. Wet the silver and then apply the paste with a soft, lint-free cloth. Work into the crevices, rinse well and buff.

2. Apply toothpaste

Toothpaste is a mild abrasive and therefore ideal for cleaning silver. Simply apply a dab to your silver jewellery and rub gently with your finger or a soft cloth. Rinse and buff.

HOW TO CLEAN GOLD (WHITE, YELLOW AND ROSE)

1. Use ammonia

Ammonia is a powerful cleaner so is best used for occasional deep cleaning rather than frequent use. Add one part ammonia to six parts water, soak your gold jewellery for one minute, rinse and gently pat dry with a polishing cloth.

2. Soak in warm, soapy water

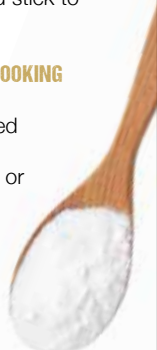
Fill a bowl with warm water, add a few drops of washing-up liquid and leave to soak for 10-15 minutes. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush to dislodge dirt, rinse and dry.

JEWELLERY TO BE CLEANED PROFESSIONALLY

Gold and sterling silver can be safely cleaned at home. However, more delicate metals, such as platinum, should be cleaned by a professional. If your jewellery contains precious stones such as diamonds, sapphires or rubies, you should stick to mild soap and water.

HOW TO KEEP SILVER AND GOLD JEWELLERY LOOKING ITS BEST FOR LONGER

- > Store your jewellery in an acid-free, closed container.
- > Do not leave your jewellery in direct heat or sunlight.
- > Avoid your jewellery coming into contact with chemicals.
- > Remove your jewellery before bathing, swimming and exercising.



Crystal Craze



According to Pinterest, there has been a 110 per cent increase in searches for crystal eye make-up over the last year, with this beauty trend showing no sign of slowing down.

Versatile, flattering, and oh-so-pretty, find out how to rock this statement look with our tips below.

What tools do you need to do crystal eye make-up?

To master this trend, you will need a pair of tweezers, lash adhesive, and your chosen crystals. For complete beginners, you can also buy jewels that already have adhesive on them. It is worth noting that the smaller the crystals, the harder they will be to apply.

Where to place your crystals

There is no hard and fast rule when it comes to where to apply crystals around your eyes; you can basically be as creative as you want. However, it can be a good idea to place your crystals in places that you want to draw people's attention to. For example, the inner corner of the eyes, the upper lash line and the lower lash line. Be careful when using adhesive near your eyes.

Crystal eye make-up looks to try

Crystal cat eyes: Create your usual cat eyes using black liquid eyeliner, and then apply gems to the upper lash line along the eyeliner for a mega-bling finish.

Silver gem-encrusted wing liner: Instead of the basic black winged liner, apply five or six tiny silver crystals from the outer corners of your eyes, extending upwards towards your temples.

Colour combinations: Crystals and eyeliner come in a wide variety of colours so don't be afraid to mix it up a bit. We love combining blue and silver, gold and metallic shades, and a full rainbow of crystals with any liner of your choosing.

How to remove crystal eye make-up:

Not a beauty trend for the office, you can easily remove any crystals using a cream or oil-based make-up remover. This will lift the jewels off the face without causing any irritation to the skin.

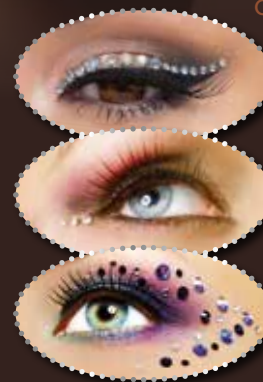


Photo credit: Marjam Mequillage via YouTube.com



The *Sunshine* VITAMIN

Vitamin D makes sure our bones, teeth, and muscles stay healthy. It also helps our immune system. And some studies suggest it might even help fight low mood and fatigue.

From early spring to the end of summer, most of us get all the vitamin D we need from our skin reacting to sunlight. And you only need to be outside for around nine minutes a day if you're light-skinned and 25 minutes or so if your skin's darker.*

But what happens when you're stuck inside and summer sunshine is a distant memory?

SHOULD I TAKE A SUPPLEMENT?

The government recommends that we all take a daily vitamin D supplement in autumn and winter. There's not enough sun around, and you can't get all the vitamin D you need from food.

Some groups are advised to take a supplement all year round. This includes children aged four and under, people who can't get outside, and people who wear clothes that cover most of their skin when they're outdoors.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I TAKE?

The recommended dose for adults and children over one year is 10 micrograms daily. This is equivalent to 400 IU (International Units). Supplements vary, so choose one that contains at least this amount. For babies, ask your health visitor or pharmacist.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

You can buy vitamin D in pharmacies and most supermarkets. If you're part of the government's Healthy Start initiative, you can get vitamin D supplements for free.

CAN YOU OVERDOSE ON VITAMIN D?

Adults shouldn't take more than 100 micrograms (4,000 IU) of vitamin D daily, and children aged one to 10 shouldn't have more than 50 micrograms (2,000 IU). However, for some people, vitamin D could still be harmful even when taking less than the maximum recommended dose. Always check with your doctor if you are worried.

*Cancer Research Campaign UK



FUNCTIONAL FITNESS 101

WHAT IS FUNCTIONAL FITNESS?

As the name suggests, functional fitness is a type of physical training that is designed to make your body function better in everyday life. More specifically, functional fitness exercises help to make daily motions such as picking up your children, carrying your shopping and walking around easier and safer.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FUNCTIONAL FITNESS?

There are many benefits to practising functional fitness, including: Enhanced strength | More flexibility | Better balance and agility | Better range of motion

THE BEST FUNCTIONAL FITNESS EXERCISES

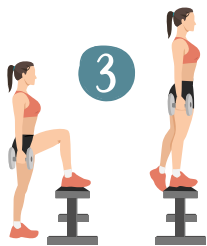
Functional fitness exercises prioritise natural movements over exercises that are carried out on a machine. For example, squats and pull-ups over leg presses and lateral pull-downs or going for a hike rather than using an elliptical trainer. Some of the most effective functional fitness exercises are:

1 BEAR CRAWL: Begin in the tabletop position on the floor | Bring up your knees so they hover above the ground | Using opposing arms and legs, take a small step forward with each limb | Return to the starting position, then repeat on each side for one minute, rest and repeat three times

2 FARMER'S WALK: Pick up a couple of weights (kgs that you feel comfortable walking with) | Keep a tight posture with your shoulders back | Take small, manageable steps back and forth across the room | Rest and repeat for two minutes

3 STEP-UPS: Step up and down from a bench | Continue for one minute, rest and repeat three times | Add weights if you want to challenge yourself | Upgrade to a box jump where you jump up and down with two feet rather than alternate feet

4 PLANK: Adopt the push-up position | Push through your hands and squeeze your body, engaging your abs | Hold for one minute, rest and repeat three times.



What's the difference between... Whisky & bourbon

Do you like whisky but say you can't stand bourbon? If yes, you may be surprised to hear that bourbon is actually a type of whisky.

Discover the main differences between bourbon and other whiskies below. Plus, some delicious whisky and bourbon cocktails.

WHAT IS WHISKY?

Whisky is a family of distilled liquor that is made by fermenting wheat, rye, barley or corn. It is then aged in wooden barrels that are typically made of oak. This is what gives whisky its distinct brown colour and taste.

There are many different types of whisky, including Scotch (Scottish whisky), Irish Whisky, Rye whisky and Japanese whisky.

WHAT IS BOURBON?

Bourbon is a specific type of American whisky that is made from at least 51 per cent corn and aged in new charred oak barrels rather than reused ones. The name bourbon comes from Bourbon County in Kentucky, which is where this popular spirit originates from. Straight bourbon whisky has to have been aged for at least two years.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN FLAVOUR?

Bourbon has a sweeter flavour than other types of whisky, boasting notes of vanilla, oak, and caramel. This is owing to the high concentration of corn. Rye whisky tastes grassy and peppery with a spicy finish, Scottish whisky is malty and buttery, Irish whisky is known for being light and fruity and Japanese whisky has floral notes with hints of oak.

POPULAR WHISKY COCKTAILS:

- > *Whisky Sour* – 50ml whisky, 35ml lemon juice and 12ml simple syrup
- > *Old Fashioned* – 50ml rye whisky, 1 sugar cube, a few dashes of water and angostura bitters
- > *Whisky Highball* – 50ml whisky and 100ml soda water or ginger ale
- > *Whisky Smash* – 50ml whisky, 25ml simple syrup, ¼ lemon wedge and 1 sprig mint

POPULAR BOURBON COCKTAILS:

- > *Bourbon Sour* – 50ml bourbon, 35ml lemon juice and 12ml simple syrup
- > *Kentucky Mule* – 50ml bourbon, 15ml lime juice and ginger beer to top
- > *Bourbon Manhattan* – 50ml bourbon, 25ml sweet red vermouth and 2-3 dashes angostura bitters.



The perfect ROAST CHICKEN

From how to create a classic roast dinner to carving it up to get the most meat out of it, the below will guide you through each step.

TO ROAST THE CHICKEN

You will need:

1 whole chicken | Half a lemon | Butter | Salt and pepper

Method:

- > Pre-heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas mark 6.
- > Take the chicken and remove any giblets that may be in the cavity. You can, of course, buy whole chickens with the giblets already removed.
- > Put the half lemon into the chicken cavity and smear butter over the whole bird.
- > Season with salt and pepper.
- > Cook the chicken uncovered for 20 minutes per half a kilo, with an extra 30 minutes for good measure.
- > To make sure the chicken is thoroughly cooked, give the legs a prod to see if the juices run clear,

or cut into the breast to see if the meat is white.

TO CARVE THE CHICKEN

You will need:

A very sharp carving knife | Carving fork | Chopping board (preferably with a well to catch any juices)

Method:

- > **Remove the legs:** Use the carving fork to hold the chicken in place and cut across the skin between the breast and the leg. Pull the leg away from the breast and use your knife to cut through the joint. Repeat on the other side.
- > **Remove the wings:** Repeat the process above – pull the wing away from the breast and cut through the joint. Repeat on the other side.
- > **Remove the breast meat:** Carefully run the knife down the centre of the breastbone to cut through the skin. Run the knife down the breastbone, cutting the meat from the bone.
- > **The rest:** Pick off any remaining meat to use in a pie or soup or freeze in a container for another day.

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NUISANCE NITS

Nits are the bane of every parent's life and can be a nightmare to get rid of. While over-the-counter treatments are effective, they can also dry out your child's scalp and hair. Discover four natural alternatives below.

ESSENTIAL OILS

With the ability to eliminate nits and nourish the hair, there are several essential oils that you can try, including tea tree oil, lavender oil, neem oil, clove oil and eucalyptus oil. For best results, mix 15-20 drops of your chosen oil with 60ml of olive oil, apply to the scalp and comb through with a nit comb.

RAW GARLIC

Raw garlic has antibacterial properties and can be used to suffocate nits. To use garlic on nits, crush a peeled bulb of garlic into a paste and then mix with either olive oil or lime juice. Apply to the head, leave for 30 minutes and then wash the hair as normal. No combing needed.

CONDITIONER

If you are worried about drying out your child's hair, then you may want to try applying a thick conditioner to suffocate the nits before using a fine nit comb to remove them. This also helps to make the combing process less painful for your child.

VINEGAR

Both normal vinegar and apple cider vinegar can be used to effectively kill and get rid of nits. All you need to do is mix one cup of vinegar with one cup of warm water. Distribute the mixture evenly onto the scalp and cover with a hair cap. Leave for 30 minutes and then wash with their usual shampoo. No combing needed.

MORE TOP TIPS FOR NIT REMOVAL:

- ✦ Wash all bedding and any recently worn clothing in hot water.
- ✦ Vacuum upholstered furniture, rugs, soft toys and car seats.
- ✦ Recheck the scalp every day for two weeks.



Don't ask the price, IT'S A PENNY

In 1884, a Polish immigrant opened a stall in Kirkgate Market in Leeds, selling household goods, haberdashery and toys for a penny a pop. Back then, who could have guessed the stall would blossom into retail giant Marks & Spencer?

SO HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

Michael Marks was born into a poor Polish Jewish family in what is now Belarus. He emigrated to England when he was 23 years old to escape persecution. He settled in Leeds and got work at John Barran & Sons' garment factory.

Marks soon branched out. He started buying goods from a local wholesaler and selling them door to door. With the profits, he opened his first market stall, known as 'Marks' Penny Bazaar', and branded it with his then-famous slogan, 'Don't ask the price, it's a penny'.

In 1894, Marks teamed up with Thomas Spencer, his wholesaler's bookkeeper. The company continued to grow. But sadly, it soon lost its two founders. Spencer died in 1905 at the age of 53, and Marks died in 1907 at just 48.

By then, the company had 145 stalls

and shops nationwide and a turnover of £400,000 – which is worth more than £61million today.

MARKS' SON SIMON TRANSFORMED THE BUSINESS...

In 1926, the company was floated on the stock market and moved into clothing and food. It made its reputation by selling only British-made products. And it offered cash refunds for items, however long you'd had them, so long as you had the receipt.

Simon Marks launched the St Michael brand name in honour of his father in 1927. The name was a symbol of quality and appeared on items from ready meals to overcoats till the company rebranded in 2000.

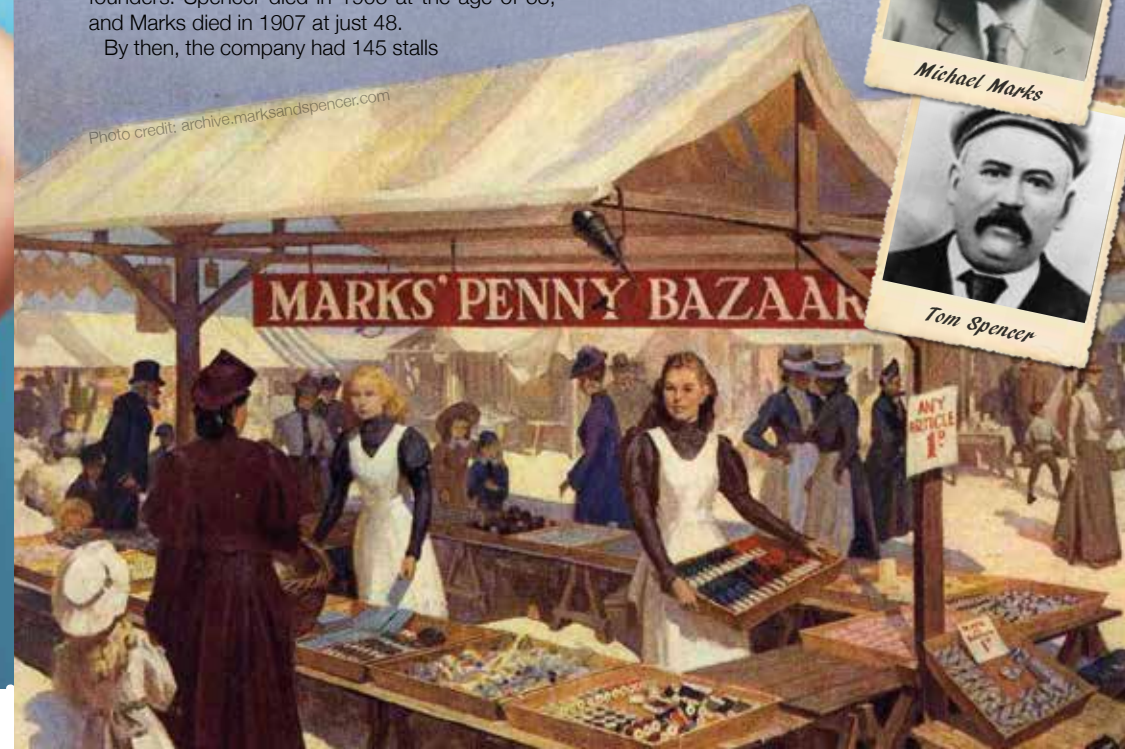
Since the late 1990s, the company's had a rocky ride. Be that as it may, it still has around 1,500 stores and turned over £6.6billion last year.



Michael Marks



Tom Spencer





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INTERIOR DESIGN PROFILE

NICOLA HARDING & Co.

HOME & DIY



After five years of working with landscape designer Arne Maynard, Nicola Harding decided to launch her own studio in 2008, a move that has seen her become one of the UK's most respected designers. Her work has a classic touch, made timeless with the right pieces and colours creating looks that are unique, but work perfectly for the spaces they're in. If you love flashes of colour and quirky features, then Nicola Harding could serve as your perfect designer inspiration.

ABOUT NICOLA HARDING

According to Harding: "Our aim is to create places rich in atmosphere, places people feel enchanted by and connected to, places people quickly feel at home in."

This comes from Harding's background of living on military bases that had a standard design, where the smallest personal touches could make a space feel more like home.

Harding's designs are full of personality, using the history of the property to create designs that work with the features, bringing them to life through the pieces and textures that then make the space feel loved and warm. From antique furniture to bespoke pieces, the result is effortlessly charming, a look that people fall in love with.

BRINGING NICOLA'S STYLE INTO YOUR HOME

What's fantastic about Nicola Harding's portfolio is that every space is unique. This makes it easy to create similar looks in your home, but with your own personality shining through. Some tips for emulating some of Harding's wonderful style include:

- > Use colour in unexpected ways. From doorways to ceilings, you can use colour in different places to add quirky accents. A dusky or pale pink on the walls keeps the space light, while vibrant blue or green furniture will add some interest. Choose a neutral shade to paint skirtings and coving to break things up and bring your colour scheme together.
- > Enhance your home's existing features. If you have archways or beautiful fireplace settings, why not paint them to make them more of a feature?
- > Consider adding furniture that's of the property's time, with antique finds providing a sustainable way to decorate your home. Keep an eye out for dressers, sideboards and lamps that have hand-carved details, as well as metallic hardware to make the look more high-end.
- > Use tonal elements to bring together different colour palettes. Using different shades of a single colour (pink and grey are popular choices), as well as patterned looks for your furniture, such as sofas and accent chairs and textiles (rugs, cushions, curtains), adds layers to the room and can quickly add interest and personality.

Photo credit: nicolaharding.com



HOW TO USE DARK PAINT WHEN DECORATING THIS AUTUMN/WINTER

As we step into autumn, interior design is turning towards the snug and inviting. One of the biggest trends making waves in the world of home décor is the use of paints in all sorts of moody hues. So if you're fed up with all those whites and pale greys, read on and discover how dark paint colours have so many advantages.

1 CREATE A COSY HAVEN

Dramatic colour doesn't have to mean stark charcoals and deep navy blues. For something more alluring, think about using warm, earthy tones like dark beige, deep terracotta or green. These nature-inspired tones will help transform your space into a cocoon-like sanctuary.

2 SEAMLESS EDGES

If you're using dark paints, why not go all in? A dark feature wall won't change the look of your room much or make it look bigger. But if you paint all your walls, woodwork and ceiling the same colour, it can look fabulous. The uniform colour blurs the room's edges, making it appear more spacious. So it's a great idea for small spaces.

3 SOFT AND INVITING

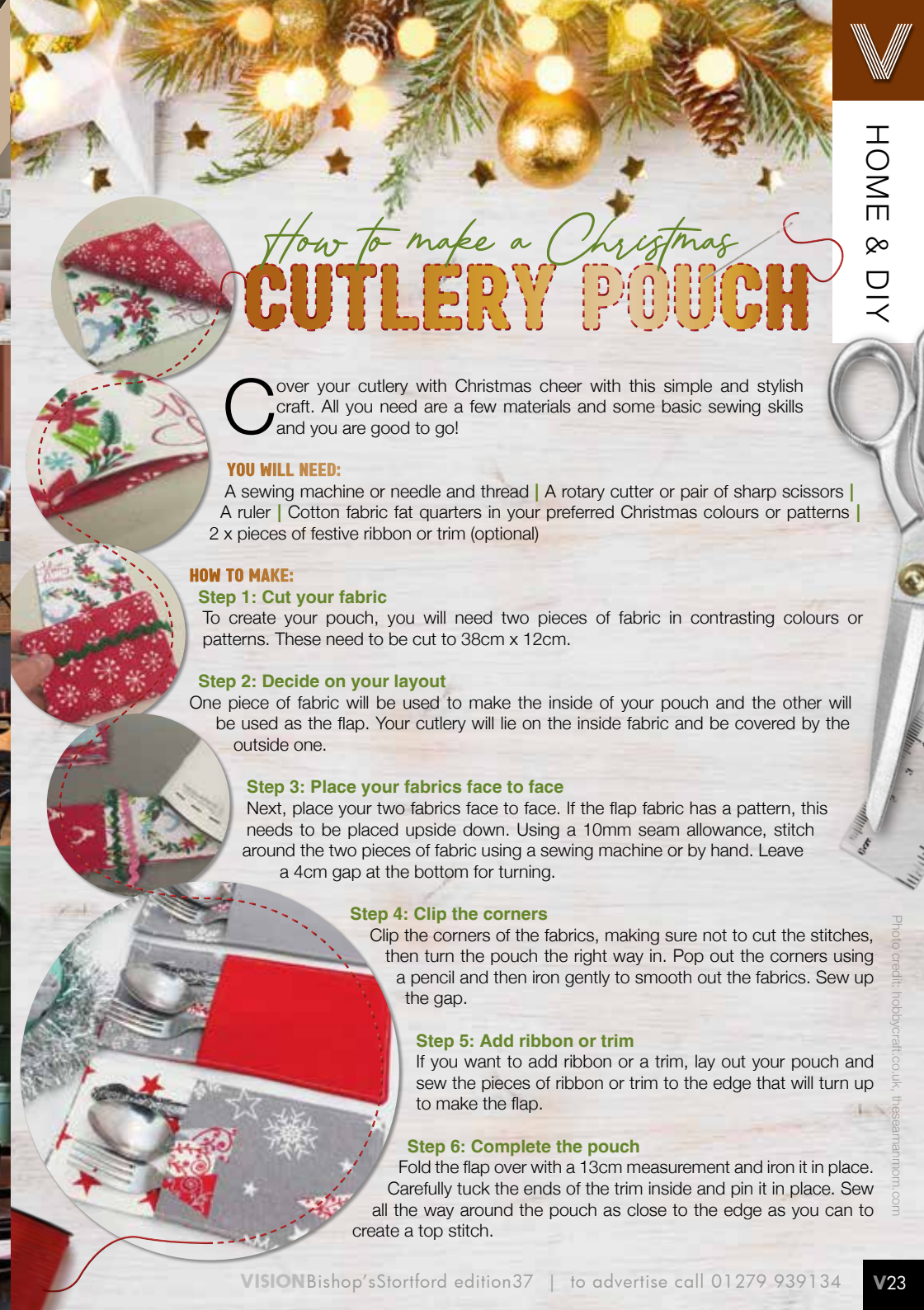
Matt paint and natural pigments will soften the overall look of your walls, making moody colours less imposing and more welcoming. For woodwork, opt for an eggshell finish to blend into your matt walls.

4 AS DEEP AS YOU DARE

Blacks can look great on walls, but many have blue undertones, which will look cool. That's perfect if that's what you're after. But for something warmer, choose a black with brown undertones.

As autumn takes hold, it's time for a paint adventure. Remember, paint can be changed if you don't like it. So unleash your inner decorator, invest in some sample paint pots, and get ready to welcome colourful warmth into your living space.

Photo credit: farrow-ball.com



How to make a Christmas CUTLERY POUCH

Cover your cutlery with Christmas cheer with this simple and stylish craft. All you need are a few materials and some basic sewing skills and you are good to go!

YOU WILL NEED:

- A sewing machine or needle and thread | A rotary cutter or pair of sharp scissors | A ruler | Cotton fabric fat quarters in your preferred Christmas colours or patterns | 2 x pieces of festive ribbon or trim (optional)

HOW TO MAKE:

Step 1: Cut your fabric

To create your pouch, you will need two pieces of fabric in contrasting colours or patterns. These need to be cut to 38cm x 12cm.

Step 2: Decide on your layout

One piece of fabric will be used to make the inside of your pouch and the other will be used as the flap. Your cutlery will lie on the inside fabric and be covered by the outside one.

Step 3: Place your fabrics face to face

Next, place your two fabrics face to face. If the flap fabric has a pattern, this needs to be placed upside down. Using a 10mm seam allowance, stitch around the two pieces of fabric using a sewing machine or by hand. Leave a 4cm gap at the bottom for turning.

Step 4: Clip the corners

Clip the corners of the fabrics, making sure not to cut the stitches, then turn the pouch the right way in. Pop out the corners using a pencil and then iron gently to smooth out the fabrics. Sew up the gap.

Step 5: Add ribbon or trim

If you want to add ribbon or a trim, lay out your pouch and sew the pieces of ribbon or trim to the edge that will turn up to make the flap.

Step 6: Complete the pouch

Fold the flap over with a 13cm measurement and iron it in place. Carefully tuck the ends of the trim inside and pin it in place. Sew all the way around the pouch as close to the edge as you can to create a top stitch.

Photo credit: hobbycraft.co.uk, theseamstress.com



CLASH *of the* FABRICS



TOP TIPS FOR COMBINING CONFLICTING FABRICS TO CREATE HARMONIOUS HOME DÉCOR

We're conditioned to think about our home interiors in ways that mean they match, complement and merge in the most perfect of ways.

Yet true innovation often brings about conflicting elements, so why not try these juicy style juxtapositions en route to awesome in-home ambience?

LEATHER AND WOOD

Sumptuous soft leather against solid wood is about as luxurious as you can get in a modern home. From leather cushions on a wooden bench or a walnut wood bedframe with leather panelling, the contrast between hard and soft is impossible to resist.

SUEDE AND COTTON

Both are beautifully soft, and yet the rugged texture of suede almost feuds violently with the plush softness of cotton. Ideal for brightening up bland bedding, suede cushions are the perfect foil to give your bedroom a hotel feel before removing for a restful night of sleep.

WOOL AND SILK

Wool and silk may be the oddest of bedfellows, but together they conspire to make something rather beautiful. From luxurious rugs to coveted curtains and upholstery for almost anything, the colour, quality and sheer beauty combined make this a dream duo.

TWEED AND CORD

Tweed is a very harsh material that has bundles of presence, which is why you should match it with something softer, like cord. Both have a vintage and almost classic feel, which works perfectly for a formal sitting room.

CHROME AND GLASS

Creating an almost retro/futuristic feel, the stunning mirror shine with the transparency of glass transforms an ordinary coffee table into a futuristic centrepiece.

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These days most homeowners suffer from a lack of storage space. So many precious items that need to be kept - but where to store it all? That's where Home Counties Loft Ladders come in.

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watchwords are Quality, Integrity and Value. Quality in the materials that we use for all our installations and the fact that all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesmen, so our customers are assured of the best job.

Integrity in that we will turn up at the time we say and make sure the house is spotless when we leave, and value in that we offer our services at a price people can afford.

Our business relies on referrals and we get a huge amount of our calls from people who have been referred to us by our existing customers

- that simply wouldn't happen if we didn't adhere to our overriding principles.

At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for

every installation we carry out!

So, if you want to make use of your loft space, call Jamie free on 0808 301 9551 and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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Kylie

MINOGUE

After a huge year, Kylie Minogue AO OBE

is rewinding up for the grand finale with an ITV extravaganza, *An Audience with Kylie*.

Few of us can boast of a career of more than three decades; even fewer can achieve such a feat in the cut-throat music industry, and one in a billion can do it with the grace, style and panache of Kylie.

An undisputed queen of reinvention, the 55-year-old Aussie delighted her fans earlier this year with the sizzling floor-filler *Padam Padam*. It was a track that not only launched her back into the charts (the song peaked at number eight, becoming her 52nd Top 40 single in the UK), but also flaunted her spectacular and seemingly ageless appearance in the accompanying music video.

For Kylie – who returned to where it all started this year in the well-received *Neighbours* finale – such moments have become second nature. Bursting onto the music scene in the late 1980s with her debut single, *I Should Be So Lucky*, her angelic voice, combined with a girl-next-door charm, made her an instant sensation.

Kylie continued to release chart-topping hits that solidified her status as a pop sensation. Songs like *Got to Be Certain*, *Je Ne Sais Pas Pourquoi* and *Especially for You*, a duet with

Jason Donovan, became anthems of the era. Her catchy tunes and memorable music videos created a pop culture phenomenon.

By the time the 90s rolled around, however, saccharine pop was on the wane. Rather than fade away,

Kylie retreated into her cocoon and reappeared as an indie princess, even collaborating with the master of melancholy, Nick Cave, on *Where the Wild Roses Grow*.

Another defining moment of Kylie's career came in the early 2000s with the release of *Fever*. The album's lead single, *Can't Get You Out of My Head*, became a global phenomenon. Its hypnotic beat and unforgettable hook catapulted Kylie back to the top of the charts worldwide and solidified her status as an international pop icon.

Though she is adored across the globe, her status here in the UK is one of particular reverence. So much so that Kylie, who was awarded an OBE in 2007, has spent much of the last few decades living in London and now owns an apartment in the highly coveted Hyde Park One building, alongside a house in her home town of Melbourne.

Fortuitously, her abode in Britain's capital is a short walk from the location of her ITV special, the iconic Royal Albert Hall. *An Audience with Kylie* promises to dazzle with an array of floor fillers from both her recent album, *Tension*, and her award-winning back catalogue. She will also field a bevy of questions from the floor posed by specially invited VIP guests, including celebrity Kylie superfans.

Kylie said of the event on December 1: "I'm so excited to announce that I am teaming up with ITV for *An Audience with...* at London's iconic Royal Albert Hall. I'll be performing some of my favourite tracks from throughout my career and no doubt answering some surprising questions from the audience."

The one query she's sure to bat away is talk of retirement. An icon of modern music, the industry – in all its inconsistency and fragility – is indebted to this marvellous mainstay, and her star will surely never be allowed to wane.



FROM YOUR AREA

LOCAL NEWS

Resident takes on charity skydive



A Bishop's Stortford woman with a fear of flying has completed a skydive for a charity that provides support for young carers.

Laura Hoti, 42 (pictured above right), works for Action for Family Carers (AFFC), which provides respite for young people helping to care for a parent or other family member.

She decided to push herself to overcome her fear and raise funds for the charity by completing a tandem parachute jump on Saturday, October 28.

Laura said: "It's a massive hurdle for me as I've battled with a severe phobia of flying, which has seen me resort to hypnotherapy and using Valium to get on planes for holidays.

"I want to overcome my fear, but, more importantly, I want to raise money for the charity that I feel passionate about."

Laura raised £500 for the charity, and is now considering another skydive next year.

Organisations team up to advise residents in need

Citizens Advice East Herts (CAEH) has joined forces with Bishop's Stortford Food Bank to help the town's most vulnerable residents.

Since October 19, an adviser has been working at the food bank at The Methodist Church on South Street one day a week to help clients tackle the root of their problems, either face to face or by telephone.

Food Bank chairman Bill Macdonald said: "We worry that unless we deal with the causes that bring a person into food poverty, any help we give them will

only be short term.

"That's why we're really pleased to be able to be working with CAEH to provide an adviser.

"It's much better to help the person get out of poverty than simply giving them food to help them cope."

The project is jointly funded by the food bank and CAEH, thanks to grants from the Brazier Trust administered by Bishop's Stortford Town Council.

Maxine Bromyard, chief executive officer at CAEH, said: "Our work is about helping people find a way out of their problems. We make sure people are supported as they take steps to help themselves."

The project will run for a six-month trial period with the hope it can be extended if it is successful.

If you would like to request to use the food bank contact East Herts Citizens Advice on 01920 459944.

Documentary raises vital funds for charity

A Bishop's Stortford resident has produced and screened a film celebrating the journey of his disabled brother.

Simon Baker's brother, Matthew (pictured below), undertook a charity swim in his local swimming pool, equivalent to the length of the English Channel.

The screening of the film, *My Brother Matthew*, which took place at South Mill Arts Centre on Sunday, September 10, has raised £960 for Multiple Sclerosis Society (MSS).

The documentary takes viewers on a journey through Matthew's life, his unique challenges and the heart-warming support system that rallies around him.

The additional funds raised at the screening bring Matthew's fundraising total for MSS to £3,243.



Photo credit: Simon Baker

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JULIE MARSON MP

Conservative MP for Hertford and Stortford



LOCAL NEWS



I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Repair Café in Sawbridgeworth, who managed to repair my broken British Legion commemorative military figure. It was a fiddly job but Chris expertly managed it! They have a great set up there and have the most lovely cakes too. Thank you to Chris for his excellent repairs and thank you to the entire team at the Repair Café for hosting me.

Following the news that Ware is receiving a banking hub, I'm calling for a banking hub in Sawbridgeworth as well. I want to hear your views – please take part in my survey at www.juliemarson.org.uk/form/sawbridgeworth-banking-survey

I was so pleased that the government is investing a further £80million to protect essential bus services that will enable local authorities to make travel improvements in their communities. Hertfordshire County Council will receive nearly £1.5million in funding.

Bus services are vital for many who are unable to drive. I am delighted to see the government supporting our residents to get where they need to go with public transport they can rely on.

I was at Conservative Party Conference last month, where I had the opportunity to speak to the Alzheimer's Society about the incredibly valuable work they do on behalf of patients. Alzheimer's is one of the six major conditions in the government's new Major Conditions Strategy, with funding for Alzheimer's research set to reach £160million next year.

I also dropped in to see the National Farmers' Union. We talked about the importance of food security and sustainable farming and how beloved our farmers are, with the public now ranking farming as one of the most favourable occupations, second only to nursing. I am always happy to show my support for British farmers and growers and the high-quality, environmentally friendly and nutritious food they produce.



WWW.JULIEMARSON.ORG.UK



Bathe in Roman history in the rural quiet of Welwyn

Think of the many locations that house incredible Roman architecture in the UK and your mind is led to the elegance of Bath, the sprawl of Verulamium in St Albans, or perhaps even the mindboggling expanses of Hadrian's Wall.

Examining a rather more run-of-the-mill location – specifically the A1 motorway in Welwyn – may not hold quite the same connection to these courageous invaders who settled in Britain nearly 2,000 years ago; yet the evidence of their presence is no less evident or startling.

For while the aforementioned Bath is even named after its Roman leisure pools of bubbling, steaming hot water – a place where the important and wealthy would socialise and relax – Welwyn has its own Roman Baths, offering a unique glimpse into the daily life of these people.

Welwyn's sleepy village status perhaps belies the notion of such an age-old building, where so many

would gather socially. The baths were discovered in the 1960s by a local archaeologist named Tony Rook. In the decade that followed, the full extent of the discovery was revealed; though no sooner was the excavation completed than the Ministry of Transport announced the route of a new motorway, the A1, directly over the top.

These days, planners would need to devise a new route around such an important site, yet in the new era of the motorcar, the decision was made to encase the baths in a steel vault, not dissimilar to the tunnels you see on the London Underground.

The structure does at least protect the baths from the vibrations of the motorway above, with visitors able to walk along a viewing gallery and look down at the well-preserved remains of the bathing suite.

The cold, warm and hot rooms (frigidarium, tepidarium, and caldarium) are all well preserved; while additional archaeological material from the site is stored at Mill Green Museum, in Hatfield.



Photo credit: roman-britain.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL EVENTS



LUXURY CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP
The Coach and Horses, Thorley Street,
Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4AS
Saturday, November 25, 9.30am – 11.30am



Photo credit: All Events

Using a beautiful selection of seasonal and locally grown foliage, you will learn how to create a traditional, moss-based door wreath. Starting with mossing your bases all the way through to finishing with your choice of decorations, the final look will be totally up to you to create.

Each workshop lasts around two hours and all materials are provided. Either a glass of prosecco, a hot drink or a soft drink are included.

Tickets cost £65 from www.bit.ly/45ZExfk

PAUL HAZEL COMEDY HYPNOTIST + PARTY NIGHT
H@ME & EAT, Unit 3 Birchanger Industrial Estate, Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2TH
Saturday, November 25, 7pm

Paul Hazel, a household name and a sensation from television, will be gracing H@ME & EAT for one night only, promising an evening of uproarious fun and unforgettable moments. His incredible talent for hypnotism will leave you in stitches as he takes volunteers from the audience on a hilarious journey into their subconscious minds. Watch as your friends and family become the stars of the show, performing outrageous and unexpected acts under Paul's spell.

Following this is an electrifying Eighties and Nineties disco. Dust off your neon leg warmers, break out your flannel shirts, and unleash your inner dance diva.

Tickets cost £15 each and can be purchased by visiting www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/paul-hazel-comedy-hypnotist-party-night-tickets-716463671127

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
North Street, Market Square, Potter Street, and South Street, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2LD
Saturday, December 2, 9.30am – 4.30pm

More than 100 stalls will join the regular traders from the Thursday and Saturday Markets as well as the monthly Farmer's and Craft Market. There will be a variety of music and entertainment and Santa will also be popping by.

Find out more at www.bishopstortfordtc.gov.uk/what-do/events/christmas-fayre

BEETHOVEN'S CHORAL SYMPHONY NO. 9
Bishop's Stortford College Memorial Hall, Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2PQ
Saturday, December 2, 7.30pm

Bishop's Stortford Choral Society and the Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia present Beethoven's mighty *Ninth Symphony*. It's a work rarely performed outside the UK's biggest cities and concert halls. Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Brahms' *Song of Destiny* complete the concert line-up.

Tickets cost £20 for adults or £5 for students and under-16s from www.shorturl.at/emwD8

BRUNCH WITH SANTA AT DOWN HALL
Down Hall Hotel & Spa, Matching Road, Hatfield Heath, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 7AS
Wednesday, December 20, 10.30am – 1pm

Enjoy a very special brunch with the whole family this December at Down Hall. Indulge in a sumptuous menu while your children eagerly await a visit from Santa with a special gift to create magical memories.

Tickets cost £50 for adults, or £25 for children aged two to 12 years, and £5 for children under two.

Purchase your tickets from www.shorturl.at/amtFH



Photo credit: Google Maps

SEAL PUP SAFARI



Have you ever yearned to see fluffy white seal pups in their natural habitat? If so, a trip to Blakeney Point in north Norfolk could be up your street.

Blakeney Point is home to England's largest grey seal colony – and winter's a great time to visit. From the end of October to mid-January, around 4,000 pups are born – and you can't fail to spot some.

What is Blakeney Point?

Blakeney Point is a four-mile stretch of pebbly beach with a backdrop of dunes, salt marshes and mudflats. It's one of England's 220 National Nature Reserves and is looked after by the National Trust.

Can I walk there?

You can walk to the point from the car park at Cley beach. But it's not for the fainthearted. It's a four-mile walk, mostly on shingle. But if you're fit and love nature, you're in for a treat!

What's the best way to get there?

The most exciting way to get a closer view of the

seals is by boat. Several companies offer seal-watching trips from nearby Morston Quay. You can travel there by car or on the Norfolk CoastHopper bus service from places like Sheringham and Cromer.

The boat trip will take around about an hour. Just remember the boat trip is for viewing only; you can't land there.

Planning ahead

Remember to book your seal trip in advance and get there early. Places on the boats fill up quickly, and the car park can be a challenge. Even on a warm day, the sea can be chilly and might splash you. So pack some warm clothes and some rain gear. And remember your camera and binoculars!

Let's talk seals

- > Grey seals are marine mammals
- > Adult Grey seals can weigh up to a whopping 300kg
- > Grey seals can live for 30-40 years
- > Britain has more than 120,000 grey seals – 40 per cent of the world's total.

Photo credit: Piasana Krasteva/Shutterstock.com



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Having always been a bit of a golfer and having reached a point where it was time to downsize, Great Hadham Country Club was perfect.

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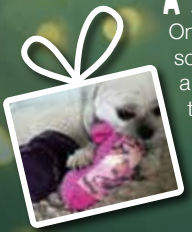




Homemade CHRISTMAS GIFTS for your pet

If your pet is just like another member of your family, then you will want to treat them on Christmas day too. Discover three homemade Christmas gifts for your furry friend that they are guaranteed to love.

A sock and ball toy



One of the easiest and most affordable DIY pet gifts, a sock and ball toy will provide hours of fun for your dog on a shoestring budget. Simply place an old tennis ball or two into a sock and tie in a tight knot. For a festive twist, use a Christmas-themed sock. Once unwrapped, swing the sock around, play tug-of-war or launch it down the garden for a quick game of fetch.

A cat scratcher



If your cat loves to scratch your furniture, then they are long overdue their own scratcher. All you need to do is attach a piece of rope around a piece of wood using a hot glue gun and then hang the wood on the wall within reach of your cat or glue/screw to a wooden base. Rub some catnip on the rope to make this gift even more enticing for your feline companion.

A no-sew pet bed



Stop your pet from sleeping on your bed by making them their own place to sleep with just a few basic supplies, including some anti-pill fleece fabric, a small bag of polyester fibrefill material and a pair of sharp scissors. Simply decide what size bed you want to make and then cut an extra eight inches all the way around two pieces of fleece fabric so that you have enough to cut four-inch strips to tie the bed together. Fill with the polyester fibre material until plump, and tie to finish.

Photo credit: petguide.com, thecottagearket.com, instructables.com



AUTUMN arrivals



While many might scoff at the idea of the UK being a warm winter getaway with gourmet food, it's a top holiday spot in the bird world! That's right – as temperatures drop elsewhere, large numbers of our feathery friends flock to Britain.

MAJESTIC GEESE AND SWANS

Leading the parade of bird visitors is the fabulous pink-footed goose. When the temperatures dip in Iceland, and food gets scarce, the geese fly to the Faroe Islands, rest a bit, and then head to the UK. Similarly, Bewick swans head over from Siberia, while whooper swans make their way from Iceland.

VIBRANT COASTAL LIFE

Every autumn, the UK's beaches and wetlands burst into life with a big mix of wading birds from northern Europe, the Arctic, Russia and northern Canada. These include lapwings, dunlin, oystercatchers, bar-tailed godwits, redshanks, and grey plovers from the Arctic.

INLAND VISITORS

Moving inland, colourful Bohemian waxwings, with their distinctive crests, black eyeliner, and peach-tinged plumage, fly in from Scandinavia. You can sometimes spot them in large flocks in berry-laden bushes in towns, car parks and gardens. And it's not uncommon to see large numbers of dainty goldcrests with a radiant yellow stripe along the top of their heads. Despite weighing no more than a ten-pence piece, this remarkable bird journeys across the North Sea to spend its colder months with us.

Other northern European visitors you might spot in your garden include redwing and fieldfare – both types of thrush.

When spring comes, the birds fly back to their homelands to breed. Given the warming world and milder climates in their nesting territories, these winter visitors might one day no longer grace our shores. So let's all appreciate them a bit more – while we still have the opportunity.



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GARDENING

ROCK ON

How to create a rock garden

In recent years there has been something of a rock revival going in Britain's gardens, front and back.

A trend that came to the fore in the nineties has seen something of a revival, with an increase in sales of rocks and alpine plants. Add in pebble mulches and gravel, and it's clear we are refreshing our garden spaces to add height, texture and, dare we say it, perhaps the odd splash of cascading water.

As for how to style your perfect rock garden, a slope obviously helps. If you don't have one, fear not – you can create a display by banking rocks closely together, filling in gaps with brick, stone or rubble to create a defined ridge.

It's a good idea to look for local stone – this will add character and provenance to the garden; and while many varieties may be expensive to buy, searching locally online may well bring about cheap or even free sources of stone.

Let rocks develop a patina of age – don't clean them or they won't look authentic – and bury them about a third of the way into the ground, tilting backwards, allowing space for grass and plants to flourish around them.

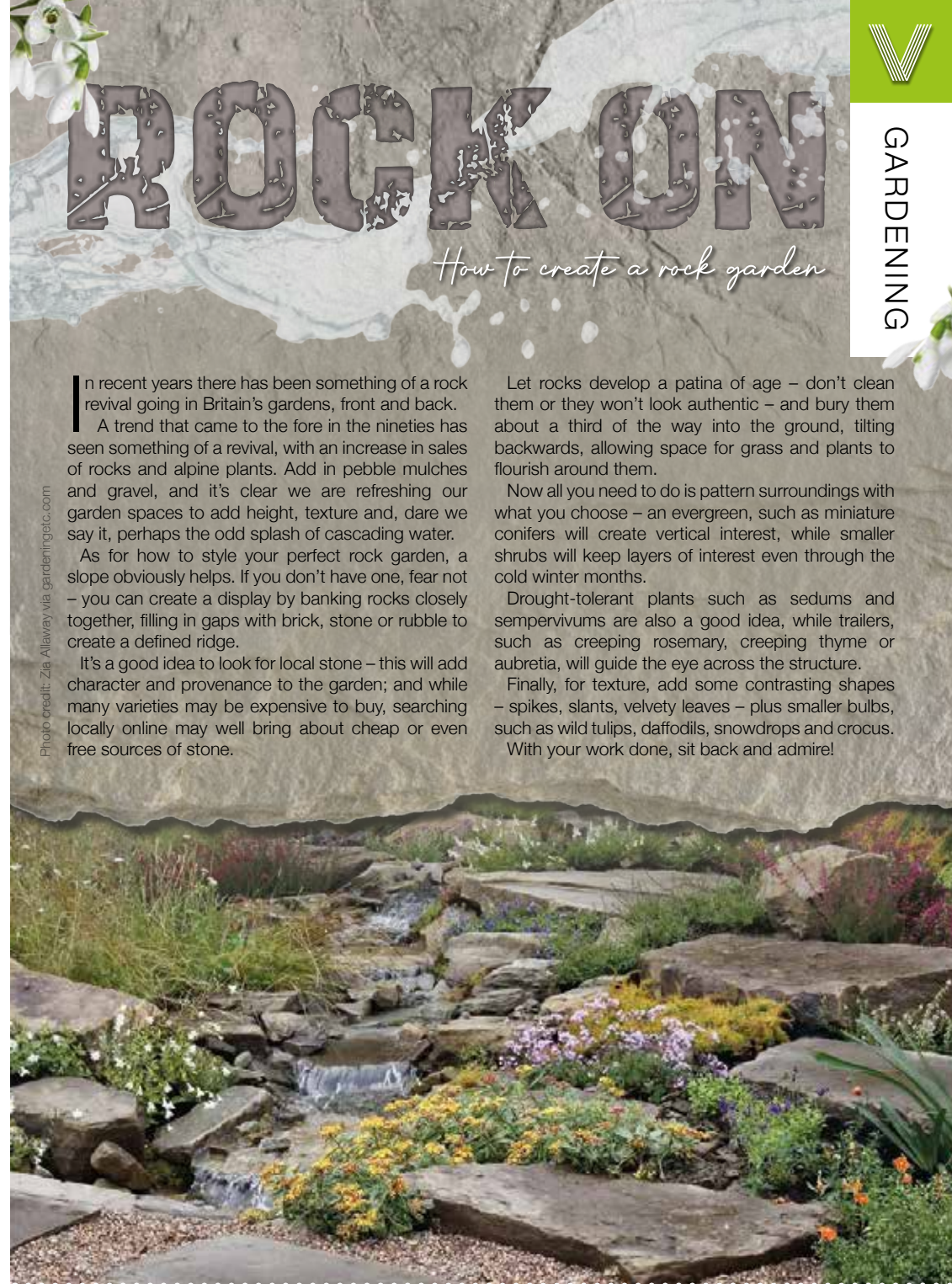
Now all you need to do is pattern surroundings with what you choose – an evergreen, such as miniature conifers will create vertical interest, while smaller shrubs will keep layers of interest even through the cold winter months.

Drought-tolerant plants such as sedums and sempervivums are also a good idea, while trailers, such as creeping rosemary, creeping thyme or aubretia, will guide the eye across the structure.

Finally, for texture, add some contrasting shapes – spikes, slants, velvety leaves – plus smaller bulbs, such as wild tulips, daffodils, snowdrops and crocus.

With your work done, sit back and admire!

Photo credit: Zia Allaway via gardeningetc.com



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THE MISSING PIECE OF YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN...

We'd all like to make the most of our retirement, and it's important to think about the whole of your finances when planning for the enjoyable retirement you are looking for. Funding for later life is becoming more and more of a concern, with many pensions falling short of expectations and people living longer than in previous years.

Interest-only mortgages are becoming a real issue for many who are finding they have no means of repayment, and increasing numbers of over-55s are looking towards a lifetime mortgage as a way of securing financial stability in later life.

Equity release could help pay off existing debts or allow you the funds for home improvements. You could afford that special holiday or help your family financially. There's lots to consider but finding the right plan to suit your needs could provide the solution you're looking for. You can choose between one

lump sum payment or smaller amounts to draw down as and when you require them, with no repayments to be made, and we're here to help with tailored advice for the choice that's right for you.

The retirement landscape has changed considerably and it's time to consider the role that housing wealth could play in later life planning. With property playing an increasing part in the wealth of those in later life, and the changing landscape leaving people potentially in a situation of being asset rich and cash poor, arguably it is more important to consider Equity release in meeting people's needs in retirement.

The cost of living is increasing as a result of price inflation, mainly on energy and transport. Increases in price inflation are particularly significant for those on lower incomes, a group which includes many pensioners; 18 per cent of all

pensioners were in relative poverty After Housing Costs (AHC) in 2019/20, though by the time pensioners reach age 85 and over, 27 per cent are in relative poverty.^[1] Pensioners can also be distinctly affected by inflation, as they tend to spend income on specific goods and services in different proportions than the general population.

If Equity release is something you think you could benefit from and you would like more information on our lifetime mortgage products, please arrange a no obligation discovery call to see how the friendly team at Downton Mortgages and Financial Services can help.

^[1] DWP (2021) Households below average income: an analysis of the income distribution FYE 1995 to FYE 2020.



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A Lifetime Mortgage will reduce the value of your estate and may affect your entitlement to means-tested benefits and tax status. The impact of not servicing monthly interest payments on a Lifetime Mortgage is that the outstanding debt can grow rapidly, thus reducing the value of your estate.

For example, if the interest rate was 7% a year, a £50,000 loan would double to £100,000 after 10 years assuming no repayments are made.

This is an example for illustrative purposes only and personalised advice and recommendations should be sought from a qualified professional. You are strongly advised to register a lasting power of attorney. This will allow your affairs to be managed by somebody else if your mental abilities significantly decline.



SCAN ME

A landlord's guide to improving your EPC RATING

Want to attract more tenants, help the environment, and potentially increase the value of your property? Here are some top tips to boost your EPC rating.

What is an EPC rating?

An EPC rating is a standardised indication of a property's energy efficiency. The minimum EPC rating for landlords of private domestic rented properties is E. However, the government has proposed that all rental properties will need a rating of C or above by 2028.



Triple glazing

Buildings lose most of their heat through their windows, which means that the better your glazing, the less energy your property will waste. Triple glazing is estimated to be around 40 per cent more thermally efficient than double glazing.



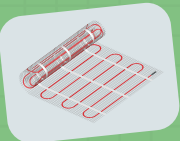
Solar panels

The cost of installing solar panels has dropped considerably in recent years, by as much as 82 per cent since 2010. However, they are still just as effective at making homes more efficient and raising your EPC rating.

How to achieve a higher EPC rating

Smart lighting

Your choice of lighting contributes to your property's EPC rating, with energy-efficient light bulbs, aka LEDs, generating less heat and lasting longer. Smart LED lighting can also be automated, which means that there is no need for light switches as all the lighting is controlled via an app.



Underfloor heating

Underfloor heating systems use less energy because they operate at a lower temperature.

Help from your energy supplier

If your tenants are receiving benefits such as universal credit, working tax credit or child tax credit, you may be able to get help with the cost of insulation and replacing or repairing the boiler. Your property must have a rating of E, F or G to be eligible.



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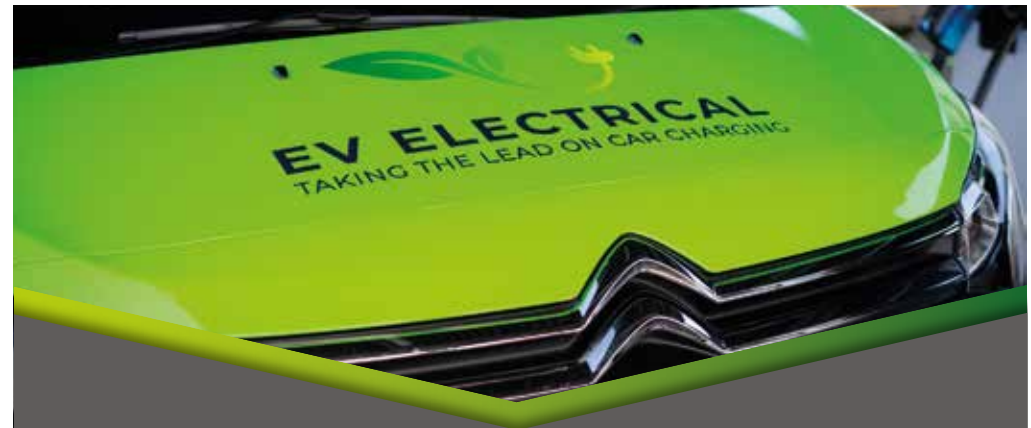
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PETROLHEAD PODS

Searching for a motoring podcast that suits your taste? Whether you're into humorous stories, daring adventures or the latest car news, there's something for everyone.

Podcasts are all the rage nowadays, yet navigating a route through the thousands available to download can be exhausting.

Here are six of the best that will further fuel your love of the fast lane.

CAR CHAT: British photographer and fervent car aficionado Sam Moores hosts, with a primary focus on high-performance vehicles and racing.

The podcast features diverse guests, from prominent Instagram personalities to experts from within the automotive industry, and broaches all the trending topics from within the motoring universe.

FULLY CHARGED: Robert Llewellyn presents his renowned Fully Charged brand, which comes in the form of a YouTube series, news platform and live event. The podcast also features exclusive conversations with experts deeply knowledgeable about the complex realm of EVs, renewable energy and sustainability.

GARETH JONES ON SPEED: Gareth collaborates with Richard Porter (known for Sniff Petrol, BBC *Top Gear* and *The Grand Tour*) and his tech-savvy buddy Zog as they deep-dive everything car-related, from daily commuter routes to high-end supercars, vintage vehicles to motorsport.

SPIKE'S CAR RADIO: Spike Feresten, comedy

scribe and TV host, unites celebrities, automobiles and comedians in this captivating podcast that's bound to spark car envy.

Engaging with top-tier car enthusiasts, he delves into their most memorable car tales, the prized vehicles in their collections and their all-time favourite rides.

THE COLLECTING CARS PODCAST: *Top Gear's* Chris Harris invites guests to discuss all facets of the automotive world. With a special emphasis on racing narratives, this podcast is a perfect fit for F1 enthusiasts, tackling the hot topics with colour and humour.

THE SMOKING TIRE: With a sunny Californian edge, car enthusiast and YouTuber Matt Farah treats listeners to interviews spanning the motoring spectrum, showcasing everyone from film stars to industry experts. So plug in and ride the soundwaves!





BAD SPORTSMANSHIP:

BUTT & WARNE

on the spot



Photo credit: Andrew Foster/Shutterstock, Gill Allen/Shutterstock

Cricket undoubtedly has universal popularity. Combine this with its intricacies, its longevity as a game, the ease of online betting and the variety of bookmaker markets, and you have the potential for foul play, on an international scale.

Take Pakistan's 2010 tour of England, for example; a series that became the centre of a sting by the *News of the World* (NoTW) where its reporters secretly filmed Mazhar Majeed, a British bookmaker and agent, giving bribes to visiting players ahead of the Lord's Test.

Money was offered on the proviso that two Pakistan fast-bowlers, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir, would deliberately send no-balls at agreed times – known as spot-fixing. Even the team's captain, Salman Butt, was in on the scam.

The NoTW exposé ended with jail sentences meted out to all four, with the three players also receiving lengthy bans.

While the idea was brazen and reflective of the global gambling market, it was not the first time it had happened. Between 1994 and 1995, an Indian man referred to as 'John the Bookmaker' handed over cash to Australian stars Mark Waugh and Shane Warne in exchange for pre-match weather and pitch information.

'John' soon upped the ante, requesting team selections and tactics, but the duo refused. The Australian Cricket Board became aware of the allegations and the action taken was to fine each player privately.

In the aftermath, the Aussies claimed that Pakistan captain Salim Malik had approached them with bribes in exchange for losing matches. While their own credibility as witnesses had evaporated, the story was pursued, and former captain Malik received a life ban in 2000.

In 2023, cricket's abundant riches implies spot-fixing should be less appealing to players, yet the lure of a payday is always there.

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Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

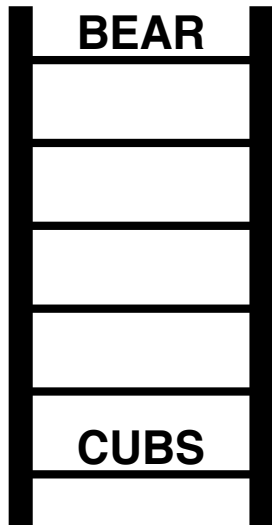
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DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ The earliest version of Monopoly was invented by Elizabeth Magie in 1903 and was originally called the Landlord's Game.
- ▶ The longest game of Monopoly lasted for 70 days.
- ▶ There are more than 300 varieties of Monopoly, including *Pokémon*, *Game of Thrones* and *Harry Potter* versions.
- ▶ The Monopoly Man's real name is Rich Uncle Pennybags, and he is said to be based on American investment banker J P Morgan.
- ▶ Monopoly is available in 47 languages and sold in 114 countries.
- ▶ American jeweller Sidney Mobell created a Monopoly set made of 23 carat gold, rubies and sapphires, worth £1.4million.

WORD LADDER



THE AIM: Change the word at the top of the ladder one letter at a time to make the word at the bottom.

HOW TO: Change one letter on each step to make a new word. By the time you reach the end, you should have created the new word.

DO NOT rearrange the order of the letters.

TIP: There is usually more than one way to solve this puzzle.

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