

**FIVE  
HOME  
DÉCOR  
TRENDS**

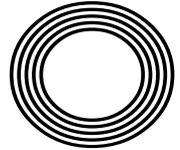
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*A tribute to the iconic actress*  
**JUNE BROWN OBE**

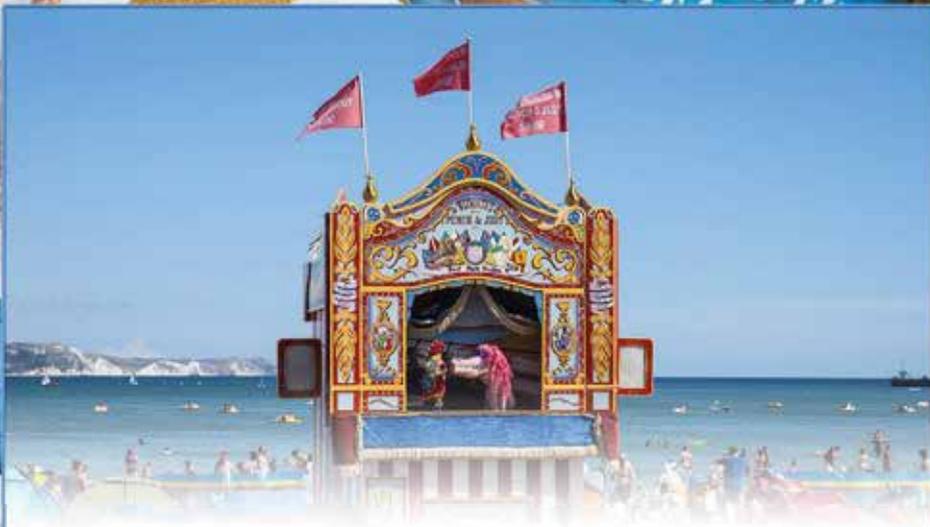
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# Editor's notes...

MAY 2022



Nik Allen, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION** BrentwoodOngar. Let's cut to the chase - times are tough. We are in a post-COVID malaise, our energy bills are soaring, and you need to remortgage just to put enough fuel in the tank to get you to Tesco.

I hear the grumbles of discontent from all around, but it's worth being reminded of where we've come from.

Two years ago, the country was in panicked disarray. Furloughing, grants and an estimated total of £400billion in losses due to COVID-19, were all going to have to be paid back at some point.

So here we are, in a tight situation, and one that's being exacerbated by events in Ukraine.

Personally, I'm trying to maintain perspective - we were always going to have to bite the bullet, and I'm afraid it seems now for everything we have taken out, we may need to pay back. I am focusing on the concessions made to me. Not only did the NHS save the lives of some of my family members, but the combined efforts of all political parties and organisations steered myself and my loved ones back on course.

While nothing comes for free, it's also true that nothing lasts forever, so please keep the faith.

*Nik Allen*

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# Golden BROWN

## BIDDING FAREWELL TO JUNE BROWN OBE, WHO DEPARTED FOR A NEW STAGE IN APRIL

Dot Cotton, played by June Brown OBE, was the cigarette-smoking, crackly voiced hypochondriac who combined a hard edge with sultry soft compassion, enveloping and influencing a bounty of characters who stepped foot onto the hallowed, concrete East London streets of Albert Square.

So synonymous was the actress with the role that few would liken her to anything else on screen. She was *EastEnders*' longest-serving character, having appeared in the opening episodes way back in 1985. And after a four-year break at the start of the 1990s, she returned to the fray for a further two decades.

Alongside the likes of Dame Barbara Windsor DBE (Peggy Mitchell), Wendy Richard MBE (Pauline Fowler), Pam St Clement (Pat Butcher) and Letitia Dean (Sharon Watts), Brown represented a golden era of forceful female characters around the Square – iconic for a girl-power generation that was a world away from the pop stars and film actors the media would have us believe were fuelling the charge for equality.

And yet June Brown was about so much more than just one character. In the years after the cessation of the Second World War, she appeared at the National Theatre, and as recently as 2009 was on the West End stage in *Calendar Girls*, for which she confidently stripped for the role.

What does link Dot Cotton to the actress herself is a strength of purpose and poise.

"I have always believed in saying how I feel," she said in an interview last year. "Life is too short to hold back and I'm not sure I have long left. And I have always been this way."

---

*'I will always celebrate my life... I have been very lucky, but I have tried my hardest, always, and I hope I've made people happy along the way'*

---

"Ultimately, I think people respect you more if you are upfront and honest with them. Of course, you may offend them at the start, but honesty in the end it's admirable, and as human beings we're not cut out to agree with each other all of the time."

Such assuredness clearly enamoured June Brown to a bevy of directors, producers and casting agents. Born in Needham Market, Suffolk, she was evacuated to Leicester during the war, and joined the Old Vic company when peace was restored. Thus began an acting career that took her from Shakespeare to *Dixon of Dock Green*, TV plays through touring theatre productions, fantasy adventure as Nannie Slagg in *Gormenghast* to Lady Eleanor in the Time Warrior series of *Doctor Who*. She even had three episodes as the timid Mrs Parsons in *Coronation Street*.

Brown was awarded an MBE at Buckingham Palace in 2008, followed by an OBE in this year's New Year Honours. She is survived by five children – Chloe, William, Naomi, Sophie and Louise – from her second marriage, to actor Robert Arnold, who died in 2003. She had all her children in her forties – another daughter died in childbirth.

While *EastEnders* was the project that defined the June Brown we will remember, this was ultimately someone who gave so much across seven decades as an actress, and whose efforts touched so many.

"I will always celebrate my life," she said. "I have been very lucky, but I have tried my hardest, always, and I hope I've made people happy along the way."



## Long live THE QUEEN

On February 6 this year, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service.

So, what is the secret to her success and her longevity? Let's take a closer look.

### REGULAR MEDICAL SCREENINGS

Of course, The Queen has access to some of the best medical care that the country has to offer, and she takes full advantage of this with regular preventative screenings and check-ups.

### LONG WALKS

The Queen knows the importance of regular exercise, and the royal family are known for their love of long walks in the grounds of Balmoral. The Queen has always been an avid walker, taking after The Queen Mother.

### MENTAL STIMULATION

The mind is just as important as the body when it comes to longevity, and The Queen is very aware of keeping herself mentally astute. Committed to staying abreast of current issues, she has previously visited Google headquarters, showing an interest in the internet and emailing her grandchildren.

### MAINTAINING A CONSTANT WEIGHT

The Queen has never appeared to be overweight and has benefited from freshly prepared meals which include vegetables, game and poultry provided by the estate. Fish is also a staple on the royal menu, and The Prince of Wales is a long-time leader in the organic farming movement.

### DAILY CUPS OF TEA

High tea is enjoyed at precisely 5pm and is a British ritual that is embraced by Her Majesty. Tea has numerous health benefits, including being antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer. The Queen is also said to credit her peachy complexion to barley water flavoured with lemon and other citrus fruits.

### THE OCCASIONAL TIPPLE

Small amounts of alcohol appear to have beneficial effects on the heart and brain, and The Queen has been honest about her enjoyment of German sweet wine, as well as gin and Dubonnet.



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# Colourwashing

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Colourwashing is one of the latest interior trends to explode onto Instagram, Pinterest and other corners of the internet. It's a striking paint trend that creates a rustic, vintage feel, yet looks right at home in even the most modern spaces. Get ready to explore the art of colourwashing and how to try it in your home.

### WHAT IS COLOURWASHING?

Colourwashing, also known as faux glaze painting, is a paint technique in which a layer of diluted paint is applied over a base colour to create a washed look. It's a modern and colourful take on a classic whitewash and is easy to create yourself.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO A COLOURWASH

- To create a colourwash at home, you will need:
- > Two types of paint, a lighter and a darker shade – one serving as your base, and the other to create the wash effect. It's up to you whether or not to use the light or dark shade as your base.
  - > A transparent water-based glaze. You could also use water.
  - > A roller or brush to apply your base colour.

- > Either a sponge or a soft brush to paint the wash.

### HOW TO DO A COLOURWASH

- > After prepping your wall by using sugar soap to clean the area, you'll need to paint either one or two coats of your base layer. Allow to dry.
- > Mix the colourwash using four parts glaze to one part paint.
- > Apply your colourwash in small sections using a brush or sponge, spreading quickly once applied. You can either use a swirling motion, a criss-cross pattern or random strokes to create your desired effect.
- > Leave to dry, and apply a second coat if desired.

This is one of the most basic colourwashing methods, but you could try other methods to help you achieve the desired effect. Colourwashing creates an on-trend look and is a stylish take on the classic colour block wall.



Photo credit: Brand - Zinc Textiles, Stylist - Sarah Harwood, Photographer - Alex J Curtis via www.livingetc.com



# HOME DÉCOR TRENDS 2022



Looking to update your interior design for summer? Discover the top five home décor trends for 2022. Plus, our top tips on how you can incorporate them into your home.

**ARTIFICIAL GREEN WALL:** Going green has never been more on trend, with sales of houseplants surging since the start of the pandemic. Perfect for those who want to bring the outdoors in, you can create a faux foliage wall using affordable, artificial succulents and foliage and a basic box frame.

**VELVET FURNISHINGS:** If you love the style of the 1970s, then you'll be pleased to hear that velvet is making a huge comeback in 2022. Although this opulent material went out of fashion when minimalism dominated the interior design world, it has now returned to favour, and is bolder and brighter than ever before.

**AUTHENTIC DESIGNS:** Handmade home décor items are becoming increasingly sought after, as homeowners look for a more personalised and authentic-looking home. From bespoke furniture to heritage collections, anything made on a smaller scale is in this year. They may be more expensive, but one-of-a-kind items will transcend any trends and last a lifetime.

**ROYALCORE:** Spurred on by the likes of *Bridgerton* and *The Crown*, royalcore embodies everything ornate and aristocratic. Whether you opt for an abundance of gold, intricate detailing or rich colour schemes involving purples, blues and reds, this is one TikTok trend that isn't going away any time soon.

**SOFTER SHAPES:** Say goodbye to straight lines and sharp angles and hello to rounder, more feminine shapes. Referred to as the 'curve comeback', look for rounded chairs, tables and sideboards. Providing a natural feel, softer shapes are both more practical and aesthetically pleasing.



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As a designer, finding a defined route between contemporary and classic is no mean feat. It requires vision, patience and nerve to throw energy behind contrasting, conflicting styles, before emerging with something precise and exact.

Interior designer Stephanie Barba Mendoza's ability to do this stands her apart from many of her contemporaries.

For more than 40 years, the London-based designer has toyed with vintage and modern, classic tiling and smooth walls, rich sprays of flowers and hard-edged furniture, producing a sumptuous smorgasbord of style that layers material and colour, and completing a look with an abundance of warmth.

Mendoza works with talented craftspeople to create interiors, often bringing antique items into a space to add not just visual interest, but also a feeling of provenance and purpose.

She cites influences as diverse as Freddie Mercury, René Magritte and Serge Roche, and admires others who push their boundaries to the limit.

"It all comes from a rejection of conformity for me," she says, "and when I find clients who share that idea of rebellion, it inspires me as much now as it did the first time I took to styling a space.

"We must appreciate in interior design, in art, in creativity, the fact that escapism and fantasy is as deep and wide as the imagination, and in that respect is endless.

"If we can live in a space, then we can envision anything, and it will always be correct."

The trick to replicating Mendoza's statement style is to individualise on carpets, fabrics, furniture and objects. No matter the style or era, the devil is truly in the detail, and the designer proves the sum total is most definitely greater than the parts.



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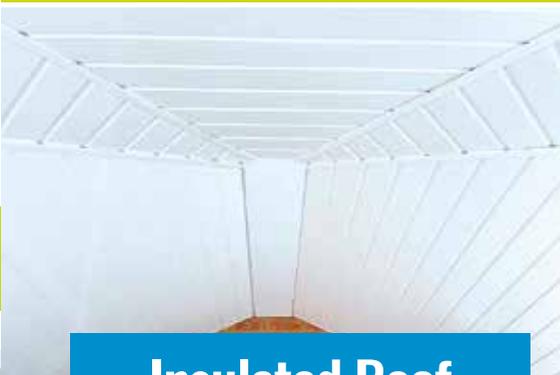


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**B**leach is cheap, cheerful and it does the job. However, it is not designed to be a multipurpose cleaner for your home and there are certain things that it should never be used on.



✗ **WOODEN SURFACES:** As a general rule, bleach should not be used to clean wooden surfaces or floors as it can alter the wood's natural finish. Furthermore, it is not very effective at removing mould from wood-based materials such as wallboard, ceiling tiles and wall studs as these are all porous materials.

✗ **MOST METALS:** Bleach contains ingredients that serve as oxidants during the cleaning process, so metals like stainless steel, copper and chrome can become corroded or discoloured when exposed to it. You should also never use bleach to try to remove rust as it can make it more resistant and harder to remove.

✗ **STONE COUNTERTOPS:** Stone is another porous material and can therefore also be damaged by the application of bleach, even when diluted. If you have granite, marble or quartz countertops in your home, clean these surfaces with a simple water and liquid dish soap solution.

✗ **FRESH PRODUCE:** Although bleach is used in commercial food production, you should not use it at home to sanitise fresh foods such as fruits and vegetables. Instead, to remove any germs or bacteria, simply rinse the produce under cold water for 1-2 minutes.

✗ **DRAINS:** While many people pour bleach down their drains to clean and banish odours, this is not recommended as the chemicals in chlorine bleach can kill the beneficial bacteria that the septic system needs to break down solid waste.

Never mix bleach with other chemicals and cleaners, including ammonia, rubbing alcohol and vinegar. This can result in toxic fumes being released into your home which can cause a host of issues, including severe coughing, internal organ damage and even death.

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# BEST WAY TO PAINT A ROOM

**W**hen you decide to go down the DIY route with painting, you'll want to make sure you get it right. Understanding the order to paint a room in will help you achieve the best finish, as well as make your paintwork look professional. Learn what order to paint a room in, ready for your next interior décor project.

### START WITH THE CEILING

Once a ceiling has been prepped, you can get to work with painting. Start by cutting in the edges with your desired paint. Then you can quickly roller the remainder of the ceiling with the desired number of coats.

### TACKLE THE WALLS

Painting the walls requires a little more precision. You'll need to cut in the edges, either freehand or by using some masking or decorators tape. Using a roller, you can paint the remainder of the wall. You may need a smaller roller to get to the hard-to-reach areas.

### DO THE DOORS AND WINDOWS

Take your time applying special woodwork paint to your doors and windows. This type of paint dries slowly, so you'll need to give yourself plenty of time between coats. Remember to mask your edges for a clean finish.

### FINISH WITH THE SKIRTING BOARDS

When the rest of your paintwork is dry, fill and sand any cracks between your wall and skirting, mask up the edges then apply two coats of your woodwork paint, letting it dry thoroughly between each coat.

And there you have it. Now you know exactly what order to paint a room in to get the best results.




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## WAYS TO GET SUPER *soft towels*

There is nothing quite like getting out of the bath or shower and wrapping yourself up in a big, fluffy towel. Sadly, over time, your towels can turn from super soft to super stiff. Discover five simple tricks for softening your towels below.

**WASH IN WARM WATER:** Washing your towels in warm water, ideally around body temperature, can help to keep them softer for longer. This is because it helps them to absorb the detergent better, resulting in less build-up on your towels.

**REPLACE FABRIC SOFTENER WITH VINEGAR:** Most fabric softeners contain silicon, which makes your towels repel water, meaning they will not get the best wash. Instead, add one cup of white vinegar once every six weeks when washing your towels to remove soapy residue and restore full absorbency.

**USE LESS DETERGENT:** As mentioned above, a build-up of detergent can leave your towels feeling stiff. Counteract this by adding a little less detergent when washing them so that your machine's rinse cycle can eliminate every last bit of stubborn soap.

**ADD BAKING SODA:** Another staple from the storecupboard, baking soda can help to loosen the fibres in your towels, as well as clean off any chemicals and dirt. Mix half a cup of baking soda with your normal detergent and wash as normal. Baking soda can also banish any musty odours from damp towels.

**TOSS IN A TENNIS BALL:** If you have any unused tennis balls lying in your garage or garden, toss a couple of these into your next load of towels. As they bounce around your machine, they will remove any lumps of soap and simultaneously fluff up your towels. Dryer balls can also be used.

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We used RLS for our bathroom fit recently and couldn't have been happier. Such a friendly, tidy, helpful bunch of guys. From our first meeting where Ryan came to quote, all the way through to the completion we have been so impressed and are absolutely blown away with our new bathroom. Thanks guys  
Location: CM15 - Reviewed in: November 2021

So we thought we would use a local company to install a new bathroom for us. I must say I'm so glad we did - all work carried out to a professional standard, we asked for some extra work and nothing was a problem. The standard on completion was excellent and we are over the moon with it. I would totally recommend this local company for all your plumbing/bathroom needs. Keep up the great work boys  
Location: SS17 Southend Road - Reviewed in: October 2021

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# LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



Photo credit: Essex Police

## Man charged with murder of young resident

A Brentwood resident charged with murder following the death of a man in the town is due to enter a plea in July.

Essex Police were called following concerns for the welfare of a man in Warley Hill, Brentwood, shortly after 1.10pm on Tuesday, April 5. Officers arrived and found a man aged in his 20s had died. He has now been identified as Lee Murrell (pictured right), 29.

An investigation was launched and, as a result of police enquiries, a man was arrested and questioned on suspicion of murder.

Jevegenijs Lapkovskis, 36, of Warley Hill, Brentwood, has since been charged with murder.

Lapkovskis appeared at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on April 9, before attending a preliminary hearing at Basildon Crown Court on April 12.

He has not yet entered any pleas and remains in custody.

He is next due to appear at Chelmsford Crown Court on Monday, July 25, for a plea and trial preparation hearing.

In a statement, Lee's family said: "Our hearts are broken. Lee is, and always will be, a much-loved son and brother. He has been taken from his family and friends far too soon.

"While we try to come to terms with our sudden and devastating loss, the family asks for privacy at this extremely difficult time."

A friend of the Murrells set up a fundraising page, with donations going towards funeral costs and to help with Lee's mother's living costs while she is unable to work. The fundraiser raised more than £2,300.

# BRENTWOOD PROPERTY NEWS



The Brentwood Realtor

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Hello, I am Peter Garland-Collins and I am delighted to bring to you my monthly, property column, focussing mainly on Brentwood and the surrounding areas.

With the end of the financial tax year last month, I thought it would be worthwhile to look at what is happening with the housing market as a whole this month.

### SALES AGREED

The property press are reporting that Q1 this year saw 342k sales agreed, which is nearly 17% greater than Q1 in 2019. At this kind of transactional level and sustained activity, volumes are on track for 1.2 million transactions in 2022.

### AVERAGE ASKING PRICE

The average asking price has risen by nearly 19% in the last two years with the average house value in the UK breaking through £350k for the first time. On the whole this is due to the reduced availability of properties on the market and increased demand from first time buyers.

Aside from Inner London, the whole of England and Wales, at a regional level, has just under two months' worth of property stock left to sell and overall, the available months of stock are down by almost half on historical norms.

Bringing this back to Brentwood and our team, on average we are achieving 107.49% of the asking price since the start of the year. Whilst we are currently in a sellers market, meaning more enquiries, we are exhausting all of the market to ensure we are only putting forward the best buyers to our clients.

On a community level, it was amazing to see so many people at the Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt on Crown Street. It was an honour to provide the winners of the colouring competition with some yummy Easter eggs. Thank you to the Chicken & Frog Bookshop, The Larder and Ridgewell & Boreham for organising. Brilliant day!

*Peter Garland-Collins*

### Local Property Statistics

Current number of homes for sale in CM14. 176

Current average price per Sq.Ft. £505

Average asking price. £396k

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# DAVID LEPINE

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Photo credit: Baytree Shopping Centre



# Council closes in on plans for new cinema

Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) says it is close to bringing a three-screen cinema to The Baytree Shopping Centre.

The council has revealed that its company, Seven Arches Investments Limited, recently held "productive and fruitful discussions" with a major cinema chain, which have resulted in terms being provisionally agreed, subject to formal sign-off by the respective decision-making boards and planning permission being granted.

The construction of a cinema would form part of the first phase of the council's redevelopment of the shopping centre, which it purchased last year "as

part of its commitment to enhancing the town centre and to support the borough's economic recovery".

Leader of BBC, councillor Chris Hossack, said: "The council's acquisition of The Baytree Centre was fundamental in enabling our regeneration and transformation plans for the town centre.

"We have talked about a cinema for too long in Brentwood, so it is great news to finally be able to announce we have a fantastic operator on board to bring an exciting new facility for the long-term benefit of the town centre and our residents across the borough."

# Man arrested after targeted incident of robbery

A man from Brentwood has been arrested on suspicion of robbery after a five-figure sum of cash was stolen in a "targeted incident".

Essex Police were called to Beauchamp Roding just before 7pm on Sunday, April 3, to reports that three men had stolen a five-figure sum of cash from the victim. It is believed that the men involved were armed.

Two people were subsequently arrested on the evening of Wednesday, April 6.

A 35-year-old man from Brentwood was arrested on suspicion of robbery and suspicion of possession of cannabis. He has been released on bail until April 30, as **VISION**BrentwoodOngar went to print.

A 17-year-old boy from Canvey was also arrested, but will face no further action.

Detectives from Loughton CID are keen to speak to anyone who may have been in the village between 6pm and 7.30pm and saw anything suspicious, and are asking anyone with dashcam or doorbell footage which may be relevant to get in touch.

You can submit a report online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) or call 101 quoting the crime reference number 42/84037/22.

Information can also be given to independent charity, Crimestoppers, anonymously on 0800 555 111 or at [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)



LOCAL NEWS BRENTWOOD

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Photo credit: Barking and Dagenham College

# Apprentice reaches semi-final of competition

An apprentice from Brentwood who is studying electrical installations at Barking and Dagenham College has got to the semi-finals of Screwfix Trade Apprentice 2022.

Hard-working tradesman Sean Le Strange (pictured), 30, applied for the competition earlier this year, and became one of just 30 apprentices selected to go through to the semi-final from more than 2,500 applicants.

Sadly, Sean's journey ended there, as he did not make it through to the final 10.

Speaking before the results of the semi-final came through, Sean said: "Being one step closer to the final is exciting and I will put my all into demonstrating my skills, commitment and passion for the trade."

"To be crowned Trade Apprentice 2022 would be an incredible accolade that would help me realise my potential and help me to pursue my dream of becoming a professional tradesperson."

Sean was shortlisted as a result of his passion and ambition, which shone through in his application.

# Podcasts to aid people with their mental health

A free and confidential NHS service is inviting Brentwood residents to listen to a series of podcasts that explore the challenges of everyday life.

Vita Health Group offers a range of therapies, called Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), to adults aged 16 and over who are registered with a Brentwood, Basildon, Billericay or Wickford GP.

The group's new podcast series, *Making People Better*, focuses on four different topics.

In the Sleep podcast, experts Tom Bivins and Dr Omar Kowlessar explore all aspects of sleep and provide tips on how to prepare for a restful night.

The Children's Mental Health podcast, featuring mental health experts Sally Tribe and Dr Omar Kowlessar, provides help and guidance for parents and family members.

The Mood and Coping with Blue Monday podcast sees Vita Health Group's Philip Adkins and Lucie Ironman discuss the topic of mental health, while the Suicide Prevention Conversations podcast with Philip Adkins discusses the importance of tackling stigma around suicide.

To listen to the podcasts, go to [www.vitahealthgroup.co.uk/news/podcasts](http://www.vitahealthgroup.co.uk/news/podcasts)



Stock Images



# BURGHART for BRENTWOOD



Alex Burghart MP for Brentwood and Ongar

Since being elected, I have had a steady stream of complaints to my office about the prevalence of fly-tipping on farmland and country roads across Brentwood and Ongar.

Farms have been in touch, pointing out that they have to bear the cost of disposing of domestic and DIY waste. Others have reported seeing tipper trucks blatantly tipping waste in country lanes.

It's an issue I have raised with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Roger Hirst, and ministers within the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I am very pleased that the government has now brought in additional measures to tackle fly-tipping and make waste disposal easier.

It is important that local people can dispose of their waste in a responsible and convenient manner. A DIY charging consultation will explore and

ensure that charging arrangements in The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 are clear, especially in relation to waste arising from small-scale DIY activities.

The government banned backdoor charges on local residents disposing of household rubbish at household waste centres in 2015, and since then, guidance has made clear that this includes DIY household waste. Here in Brentwood, residents can dispose of limited amounts of DIY and construction waste for free.

The government's latest measures also build on our commitments earlier this year to help clamp down on waste crime. Proposals include a reform of the Carrier, Broker and Dealer regime to increase competence and background checks needed to operate as a waste carrier, broker or dealer.

I will monitor how these measures affect the blight of fly-tipping, but please keep letting me know if your area is affected by this antisocial behaviour.

# Appeal to support Ukraine

Two Brentwood residents have joined forces to help people in Ukraine affected by the current conflict.

Julia Rojcova, from Schmidt Brentwood, and Dmytro Karpenko, from Woodland Coffee Shop, both have family and friends in Ukraine. They have been collecting supplies which are then delivered directly to Ukraine.

Speaking to VISION Brentwood Ongar, Julia said she wanted to do something to help and has been blown away by the support from the Brentwood community.

She said: "I couldn't just be an observer. Millions of Ukrainians were forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in safer places.

"Two days after the start of the war, I saw Dmytro on the doorstep of our shop at Schmidt Brentwood with the same intentions - we need to do something! We started working together on collecting help for Ukraine.

"The support and kind words that we continue to receive are overwhelming. We are deeply humbled by how Brentwood and the wider Essex community came together to help."

You can help by donating at [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/brentwoodhelpforukraine](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/brentwoodhelpforukraine) or by dropping a donation of tinned food and medical and hygiene supplies to Schmidt Brentwood on 71 High Street or Woodland Coffee Shop on 37 Ongar Road.



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## YouTuber explores 'haunted' former school for videos



A YouTuber has uploaded videos filmed at a "haunted" former school in Chipping Ongar.

Adam Day (pictured above), whose YouTube channel is called A Day in the UK, spent two nights by himself at the former Great Stony School, now Zinc Arts, for two videos, which he uploaded recently.

The YouTuber, who makes videos exploring different areas of the UK, first visited the High Street site in February, and was surprised when a member of staff, Sonia, told him that the former school was haunted.

The staff member's creepy stories, along with his viewers' requests, convinced Adam to try to experience the supernatural events first-hand.

Adam said: "In this episode, Sonia and I dig deeper into the origins of the school, boarding houses, and the unfortunate abuse which took place at the Hackney children's homes.

"During a walk around the old school, Sonia tells me about a recent 'clearing' which took place in the old headmaster's office, and the little boy who allegedly haunts it."

You can watch both videos now by going to [www.youtube.com/c/ADayintheUK](http://www.youtube.com/c/ADayintheUK)

## Town football team finish second in final league game

Ongar Town FC's young reserves side had to settle for second place in the Essex Olympic League Reserves Trophy following their 2-0 loss to May & Baker FC on Monday, April 25.

Despite a courageous run that saw Ongar beat opposition such as Leigh Ramblers, Corinthians and Catholic United – the last of which was a tense thriller with a penalty shootout – they were eventually undone by their opposition, with two second-half goals deciding the match.

It was a goalless and closely fought first half of the game, however, despite a few close calls from May & Baker and a free kick that hit the bar from Ongar.

Unfortunately, it was a different story after half time,

with Town denied opportunities to level the score via penalties by the referee.

Despite the disappointment, Ongar's manager said on Facebook after the game: "Well done to the Bakers, who played hard and were worthy winners. Everyone said it was a great game to watch. Sometimes it's just not your day.

"Totally proud of the effort from my lads. All of them put in 100 per cent. Never gave up trying, heads never dropped."

## Key workers climb mountain for charity

An Ongar-based firefighter has climbed Mount Snowdon while carrying a breathing apparatus set on his back to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity.

Ronald Hill (pictured below right) completed the challenge towards the end of March along with his friend, Stuart Wilkinson (pictured below left), for the charity, which has a special place in his heart.

Ronald explained: "The work they do to give personalised support to the whole of the fire service community is invaluable.

"They support the mental, physical and emotional health of not only serving firefighters, control and support staff, but also their families."

Stuart, who is a local paramedic, decided to raise money for The Ambulance Staff Charity.

Ronald and Stuart, who have raised nearly £1,000 so far, met during lockdown.

Ronald said: "During the first COVID-19 lockdown, I volunteered to work for East of England Ambulance Service. During this time, I worked alongside Stuart and we became good friends. Stuart organised the climb following an injury at work, and so I agreed to make the climb alongside him to assist."

Stuart's JustGiving page has now closed, but you can still donate to Ronald's fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ronald-hill-firefair](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ronald-hill-firefair)





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# The history of **BANK HOLIDAYS**



Who doesn't love a bank holiday? They offer the chance to sit back and relax and spend time with family and friends, and this year, many Brits will enjoy an extra day off to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

But how did bank holidays first come about?

## THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND THE EXCHEQUER STARTED THE TREND

Before public bank holidays were made official, the Bank of England and the Exchequer were known for taking holidays to celebrate Christian festivals and royal events. In fact, they were believed to have taken around 40 days off each year. Unfortunately, this was cut down to just 18 days in 1830 and then down to just four in 1834.

## THE BANK HOLIDAYS ACT IN 1871

In 1871, the Bank Holidays Act was drafted by banker and politician John Lubbock, the first Baron of Avebury. This was when the first official bank holidays became law in

England, Wales and Ireland. These holidays were: Easter Monday, Whit Monday, the first Monday in August and Boxing Day.

Meanwhile, Scotland had New Year's Day, Good Friday, the first Monday in May, the first Monday in August and Christmas Day.

## ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO BANK HOLIDAYS

In the 1971 Act, New Year's Day, Good Friday and Christmas Day became bank holidays in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The 1971 Act also made January 2 and Boxing Day a bank holiday in Scotland only.

In 1978, the government made the first Monday in May a bank holiday in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A Northern Ireland only bank holiday to mark the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne was introduced in 1926 and falls on July 12.

In 1965, the first Monday in August bank holiday was changed to the Monday following the last weekend in August in a bid to increase trade. Scotland was exempt from this.

# Has Rolls-Royce built the **fastest electric aircraft?**

The world needs some drastic changes to help combat the effects of global warming. Vehicle manufacturers are working hard to develop electric models that provide great performance, as well as being energy efficient.

While perhaps better known for manufacturing cars, Rolls-Royce also produces aircraft parts. It has recently announced that it has created the fastest all-electric aircraft, reaching a maximum speed of more than 387mph. But has Rolls-Royce truly succeeded with its bold claim? And what will this mean for an energy-efficient future?

## Spirit of Innovation

Rolls-Royce has been testing its latest project, an all-electric aircraft known as the Spirit of Innovation. During the tests, the aircraft was able to reach a speed of 345mph over a distance of three kilometres, which it believes has broken the record for the fastest electric aeroplane. It's a part of the Accelerating the Electrification of Flight project, which is being partially funded by the Aerospace Technology Institute, in partnership with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial

Strategy and Innovate UK. The data has been sent to officials for verification.

## Rolls-Royce: Making 'jet zero' a reality?

Spirit of Innovation comes just as world leaders pledged to reduce the impact of global warming at COP26. In a recent press release, Warren East, CEO of Rolls-Royce, said: "Following the world's focus on the need for action at COP26, this is another milestone that will help make 'jet zero' a reality and supports our ambitions to deliver the technology breakthroughs society needs to decarbonise transport across air, land and sea."

Using innovations such as electric aircraft, this could soon become a reality.

## What's next?

Rolls-Royce has a long history of breaking records, and it will no doubt seek to improve upon the Spirit of Innovation. As the company looks set to become net zero by 2050, there could be some exciting times ahead in the world of electric vehicle development.



Photo credit: Rolls-Royce





TRAVEL

# ENJOY A healthier HOLIDAY

Hotels are a place to go to enjoy luxury, comfort and relaxation. But one hotel in Costa Rica is taking things to the next level with a completely holistic experience.

The Hacienda AltaGracia describes itself as “an escape for those seeking total wellbeing and unbridled adventure”.

You’ll find the hotel in the Talamanca Mountains in Costa Rica, a truly tranquil spot that lets guests take things at their own pace and helps them recharge, reconnect and expand their horizons.

### WHAT BENEFITS DOES IT OFFER

A stay at Hacienda AltaGracia is tailored to you, and is inclusive of all meals and non-alcoholic drinks. Throughout your stay, you’ll be able to enjoy a range of adventure, wellness and cultural activities, helping you truly focus on your wellbeing.

### WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE HOTEL

On arrival, guests are given a virtual health coaching consultation, resulting in a tailored plan to aid each individual’s stay.

The hotel offers many different activities, including jungle hikes, botanical yoga, horse riding, trips to the bird observatory, river baths, and much more. Your visit is altered to suit you and also includes a range of dining experiences.

### WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT

The hotel has already won a place on *Condé Nast Traveller’s* top 50 resorts in the world and is attracting attention for its unique approach and wide range of experiences.

If you’re looking to get away from it all and focus on getting your life back on track, then this could be the hotel for you.

Photo credit: aubergeresorts.com, thetimes.co.uk



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**D**enise van Outen is Essex's doyenne of design – a star who has risen up through the soap world and carved a brilliant niche in mainstream entertainment, plus retained a sense of dignity when things have gone against her.

In many ways, she is an exemplary example of someone who has successfully crossed over the changing face of the celebrity world. When she first appeared on our screens, as a presenter on Saturday morning kids' TV show *Massive!*, van Outen instantly caught the eye. She'd progressed through the famous Sylvia Young Theatre School and worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company before landing that debut role. While she was also seen on the mean streets of Sun Hill on *The Bill*, acting roles would quickly take a back seat when the opportunity to host *The Big Breakfast* came about in 1997.

In the post-Chris Evans/Gaby Roslin era, van Outen excelled opposite Johnny Vaughan, and the pair would reunite a decade later on Capital Radio, even if the relationship between the two was eventually to sour.

That disintegration has been one of a number of setbacks the Basildon-born star has recovered from. Her marriage to actor Lee Mead – who was victor of the *Any Dream Will Do* talent show for which van Outen was a judge – ended in 2015, although the couple had split up two years previously. They have a daughter together, named Betsy.

Most recently, the presenter was in a long-term relationship with sparky commodities trader Eddie Boxshall. She has also famously dated Jamiroquai frontman, Jay Kay.

In the interim, though, van Outen has excelled in every way. By her own admission, her autobiography, *A Bit of Me*, released in March, was a candid and poignant reminder of the successes in her life.

She said: "I actually found writing it very therapeutic – it reminded me how much I had done, and at a time when I was perhaps fixating on the things that didn't go to plan, made me think about so much that has gone well.

"I feel we should all take time to look back on positive elements of what we do and who we are. It's good for the soul and it gives us energy to move forward and be positive."

At present, van Outen is on tour with *The Masked Singer*, ITV's hit talent show on which she played Fox. The bravery to put herself in the spotlight and under pressure is at the entertainer's heart – across *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Dancing on Ice* and *Celebrity Gogglebox*, the comfort, charisma and 'girl next door' image is one viewers love.

"On television and in life, I just strive to be myself. You need self-worth and self-respect in what you do, and you need to focus on retaining and celebrating that at all times.

"The point where you feel you are losing that is the point at which you need to adjust and evolve."

While we applaud van Outen's bravery in making change, in many ways we'd like her to stay just the way she is.

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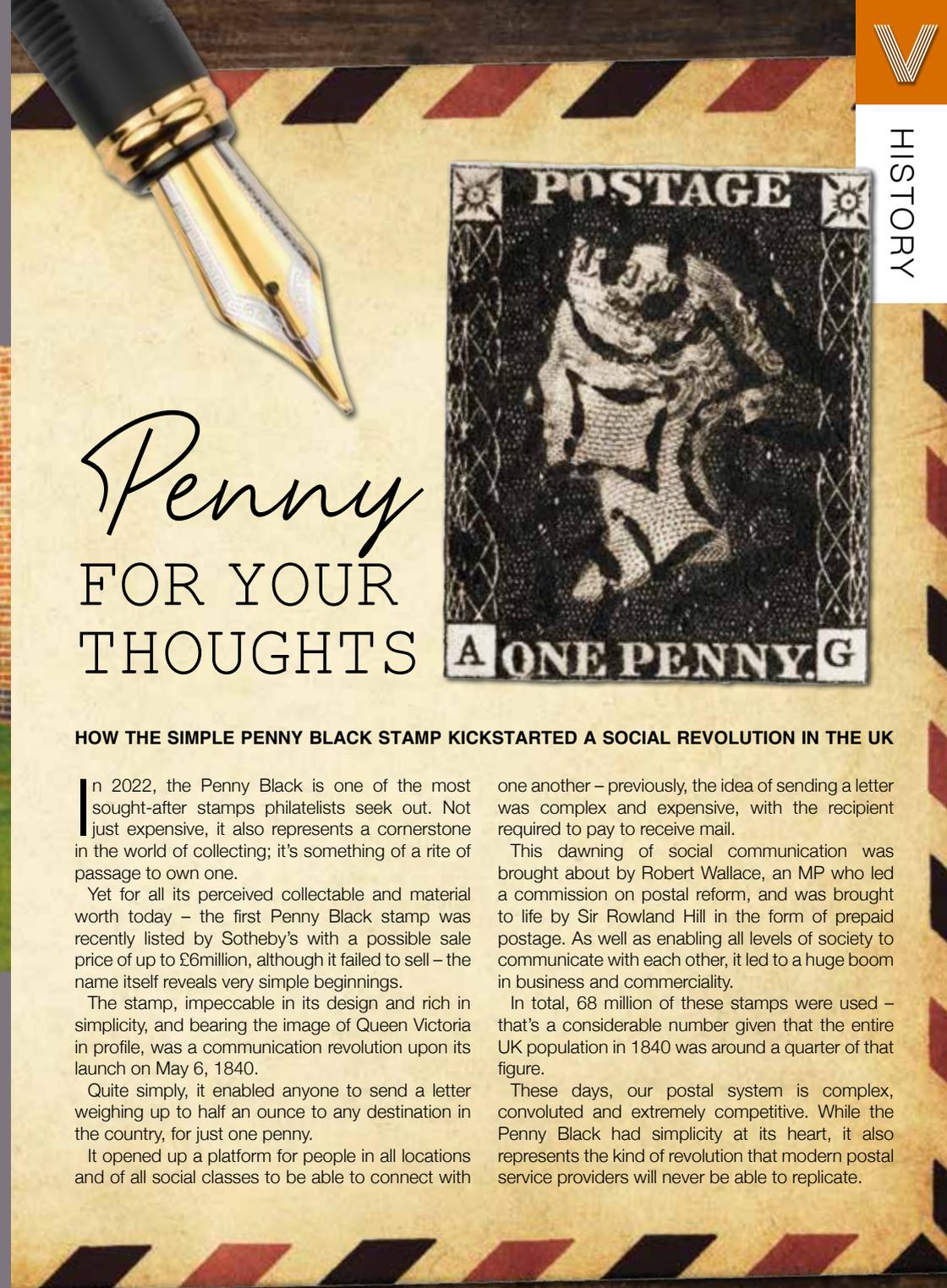
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HISTORY



# Penny FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

### HOW THE SIMPLE PENNY BLACK STAMP KICKSTARTED A SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN THE UK

In 2022, the Penny Black is one of the most sought-after stamps philatelists seek out. Not just expensive, it also represents a cornerstone in the world of collecting; it's something of a rite of passage to own one.

Yet for all its perceived collectable and material worth today – the first Penny Black stamp was recently listed by Sotheby's with a possible sale price of up to £6million, although it failed to sell – the name itself reveals very simple beginnings.

The stamp, impeccable in its design and rich in simplicity, and bearing the image of Queen Victoria in profile, was a communication revolution upon its launch on May 6, 1840.

Quite simply, it enabled anyone to send a letter weighing up to half an ounce to any destination in the country, for just one penny.

It opened up a platform for people in all locations and of all social classes to be able to connect with

one another – previously, the idea of sending a letter was complex and expensive, with the recipient required to pay to receive mail.

This dawning of social communication was brought about by Robert Wallace, an MP who led a commission on postal reform, and was brought to life by Sir Rowland Hill in the form of prepaid postage. As well as enabling all levels of society to communicate with each other, it led to a huge boom in business and commerciality.

In total, 68 million of these stamps were used – that's a considerable number given that the entire UK population in 1840 was around a quarter of that figure.

These days, our postal system is complex, convoluted and extremely competitive. While the Penny Black had simplicity at its heart, it also represents the kind of revolution that modern postal service providers will never be able to replicate.



# PUZZLES & TRIVIA

PUZZLES

Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

- ▶ ALMOND
- ▶ AMBER
- ▶ AUBURN
- ▶ BEIGE
- ▶ BRONZE
- ▶ BUFF
- ▶ CARAMEL
- ▶ CHOCOLATE
- ▶ CINNAMON
- ▶ COCOA
- ▶ GINGER
- ▶ HAZEL
- ▶ MAHOGANY
- ▶ NUTMEG
- ▶ RUST
- ▶ SAND
- ▶ SEPIA
- ▶ SIENNA
- ▶ TEAK
- ▶ UMBER

R	U	S	T	I	K	R	S	U	N	E	P	U	E	M
B	L	D	B	L	R	N	O	M	A	N	N	I	C	O
R	A	O	M	J	B	D	L	N	U	T	M	E	G	K
T	U	D	A	D	R	C	H	E	N	I	A	T	Z	A
E	B	U	H	O	O	V	T	H	M	I	K	S	S	L
A	U	M	O	L	N	T	R	A	P	A	A	B	Q	M
K	R	K	G	I	Z	X	O	E	I	N	R	P	A	O
S	N	I	A	X	E	C	S	T	D	E	R	A	E	N
U	I	A	N	O	O	U	S	F	O	H	L	C	C	D
M	U	E	Y	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	K	O
B	Y	S	N	I	E	G	I	E	B	C	C	R	T	Q
E	C	S	T	N	O	S	P	G	I	N	G	E	R	P
R	H	I	B	E	A	D	A	B	U	F	F	O	H	T
C	R	R	C	R	E	B	M	A	A	I	O	T	S	R
Y	D	L	E	V	P	H	A	Z	E	L	O	Q	C	F

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Venus travels all the way around the sun before it completes a full rotation.
- ▶ All the planets in the solar system rotate anticlockwise, except Venus.
- ▶ The moon has no atmosphere, so it's likely that footprints on it will last forever.
- ▶ The sun makes up more than 99 per cent of the solar system's mass.
- ▶ Dogs, cats, monkeys, frogs and guinea pigs have all been taken into space.
- ▶ Owing to gravity not pulling you down, it's likely you'd be slightly taller if you went to space.
- ▶ Neptune's winds are the fastest in the solar system, reaching approximately 1,600 miles per hour.

## WORD LADDER

W	A	S	H
T	O	Y	S

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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BUSINESS & PROPERTY

# BITCOIN *for beginners*

The cryptocurrency market has exploded in the last few years, with everyone from Elon Musk to Snoop Dogg enjoying a slice of this highly lucrative pie.

If you think you'd like to test the cryptocurrency waters, then the below beginner's guide is just what you need.

### Choose a cryptocurrency trading programme

When choosing a trading programme, you want one that is regulated so that you feel safe in your investment. You should also look at how easy it is for you to withdraw funds. The most popular cryptocurrency trading programmes in the UK are eToro, CoinMama, PrimeXBT, and BlackBull Markets.

### Pick crypto to invest in

Most active cryptocurrency traders allocate the majority of their investment to either Bitcoin or Ethereum, as these move more predictably than smaller altcoins. That being said, you may also choose to invest in smaller mid-market cap cryptos as, although riskier, this can deliver higher returns.

### Select your strategy

If you google 'crypto-trading strategies', you will be met with nearly 110 million results, which can make the strategy process a little confusing. For those who are completely new to trading, we recommend that you book onto a cryptocurrency trading course such as 'Become a Trader' with TradeCobb or 'Cryptocurrency Fundamentals' by Udemy.

### Consider automated crypto trading

Another option for beginners is to utilise the services of an automated crypto-trading platform such as eToro or Learn2Trade. These work by using trading bots to enact a strategy that is based on your investment goals.

### Our top trading tips for beginners

- Start with a small investment
- Choose a secure wallet to keep your digital assets safe
- Research the market thoroughly first
- Set stop-loss levels and stick to them
- Don't be afraid to diversify your portfolio
- Do not let your emotions dictate your decisions.



# PICTURE Perfect



## Getting your home ready for those seller snaps

You shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but that's exactly what happens when potential buyers explore a house for sale. Those seller images have become increasingly important for putting your home in the best light and generating interest in your property.

Take a look at these tips to get your home ready for those all-important photos:

- > Put away all clutter. If it doesn't need to be there, get rid of it.
- > Clear the worktops and put accessories away; it will help to create a more spacious look.
- > Add flowers and other decorative features to give a more homely feel.
- > Make sure windows and other glass surfaces are fully wiped and dust-free.
- > Hide away unsightly items like bins.
- > Curate your toiletries so they don't appear cluttered – put out your most premium products.
- > Fold any towels neatly, and don't leave wet towels lying around.
- > Make sure curtains are properly hemmed and dust-free.
- > Make all beds and change your bedding regularly.
- > Put away all your shoes and clothes.
- > Create an ambience with a lit fire and candles.
- > Make the front of your house more appealing by keeping the lawn mowed and bins out of sight.
- > Give your garden a once-over to remove any debris.
- > Put the toilet lid down – nobody wants to look inside someone's toilet.
- > Finally, get into the habit of regular cleaning to keep your home dust-free and sparkling.

These easy tips will help your home look its best in seller photos, and will hopefully inspire someone else to make memories there.



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### Q What Can CoverSURE Brentwood Help With?

A With our wide suite of insurance products, it'd be easier to list what we can't help you with! Whether it's insurance protection for your house, your business or even your van, we can help you find the cover you need for less.

### Q Why Should You Use CoverSURE Brentwood?

A We pride ourselves on our exceptional customer service. No risk is the same and we'll take the time to truly understand your needs before recommending a product that's tailored to you. We have access to some of the UK's biggest and best insurers, meaning that you get the strong customer service of a local broker with the insurance policies of a national chain.

### Q How Can Insurance Protect You?

A Depending on what kind of cover you're after, insurance can provide a safety net against a variety of risks you face on a daily business. Insurance can be the difference between your business running smoothly or going under. The difference between your delivery vehicle being off the road for months or days.



### Q How Can You Save Money On Your Insurance?

A Whether combining multiple risks on to a single policy or simply looking at your cover levels, there's plenty of ways you could save money on your insurance. Why not get in touch with us and see if we can save you money?

### Contact CoverSURE Brentwood

For all your insurance needs, get in touch with CoverSURE Brentwood. You can call us on 01277 295 504 or email [brentwood@coversure.co.uk](mailto:brentwood@coversure.co.uk). We look forward to hearing from you!



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## TIME TO SPRING INTO ACTION

Spring is very much a season of hope; a time to look forward and plan. While that's not always easy amid headlines concerning the cost of living crisis and immense global political tensions, it's important to look beyond short-term bouts of market volatility and ensure your financial objectives remain firmly aligned to your life goals.

### INVESTING IS FOR EVERYONE

The fear of losing money can be a powerful deterrent to investing. However, most of us have been investors throughout our lives – if you own your home, for instance, you've invested in the property market, if you own jewellery, you're effectively investing in precious metals. With inflation factors at play, some may consider holding too much cash as a risky move at present.

### DIVERSIFICATION IS KEY

While it's easy to understand potential unease in the current climate, it's also important to appreciate that markets have always experienced short-term bouts of volatility. The key to managing this risk is by diversifying your assets. By holding a balanced portfolio with a mix of equities, bonds, property and cash, investors can effectively mitigate risk by ensuring 'all their eggs are not in one basket'. By building safety nets as well as opportunities for returns into your plans, you will end

up with an optimum mix of investment, protection and saving instruments, allocated according to your circumstances, objectives, and risk tolerance.

### PLAN, PLAN, PLAN

Recent research<sup>1</sup> also vividly highlights the importance of investing in relation to retirement planning. The study found that less than 40 per cent of the population is currently on track to receive a moderate level of income in retirement. In other words, if most people don't act now, they face living on only the most basic standard in later years.

### REGULAR REVIEWS PARAMOUNT

One way to ensure your financial plans stay on track is by arranging regular reviews. This will help to identify any areas of concern and ensure you avoid any untoward financial surprises at a later stage in life. With planning and careful consideration, we can assess and develop a robust plan to align and flex with your changing requirements and priorities. We'll help you spring into action and ensure you can look forward to a sound financial future.

For a free review of your current financial situation, please contact Karyn Vogel on 01277 654153.

<sup>1</sup>HL, 2022

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# POTATO MILK

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FOOD & DRINK

Potato milk? As in milk from potatoes? While it may seem weird, potato milk – which is actually just starchy water that resembles milk – is packed full of nutrients and can make a great alternative to dairy milk.

### WHAT IS POTATO MILK AND WHAT DOES IT TASTE LIKE?

Potato milk is a creamy, milk-like liquid that is made from potatoes. You can find potato milk that is sweetened and unsweetened, with the latter tasting slightly salty. In terms of consistency and colour, it is more like soy milk than dairy milk and offers both the creaminess and fattiness you expect from a milk product.

### WHAT ARE THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF POTATO MILK?

- Low in sugar and saturated fat
- Contains vitamin C
- Contains fibre
- Rich in antioxidants
- Can enhance digestion
- Good for vegans and those with dairy allergies or intolerances

### WHY CHOOSE POTATO MILK?

The main selling point of potato milk as a vegan and dairy-free alternative is its sustainability credentials. Growing potatoes is twice as land-efficient as growing oats, uses 56 times less water than growing almonds, and has a much smaller climate footprint than dairy milk.

### HOW TO MAKE POTATO MILK

You can buy potato milk from some supermarkets (it can be found under the brand name DUG) or you could try making your own with the below recipe:

- Boil 1½ cups of sliced potatoes in 4 cups of water until tender but not falling apart.
- Pour the leftover liquid into a blender.
- Add the cooked potato with 1 tsp vanilla extract, ¼ cup of almonds and 2 tbsp of honey or maple syrup to sweeten, and blend well.
- Strain your potato milk through a fine-mesh sieve, cheesecloth or tea towel – you may need to do this twice.





# Go Wild

**W**ild garlic can be enjoyed raw or cooked and has one of the longest seasons of all wild plants. The ideal vegetable for first-time foragers, this milder variety of garlic can be added to a whole host of dishes.

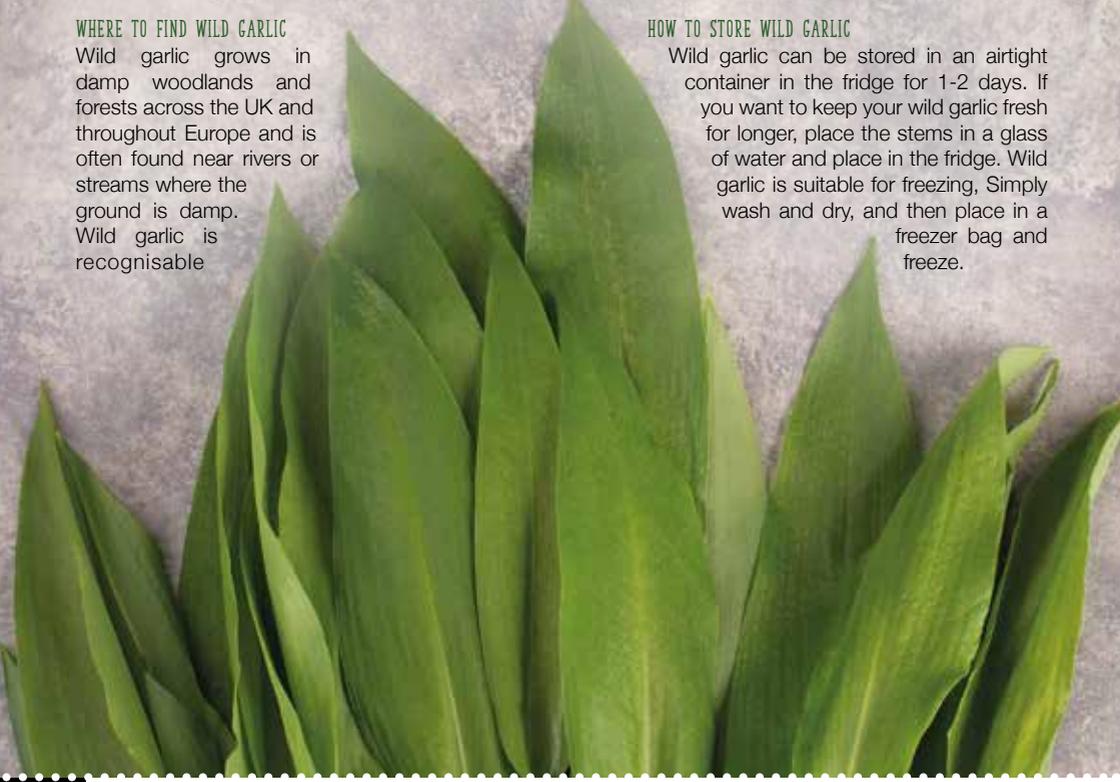
**WHEN IS WILD GARLIC IN SEASON?**  
Wild garlic leaves appear in March and are best picked when young. These leaves are delicious added to soups, sauces and pesto. From April to June, the flowers start to emerge and these make a great addition to salads and sandwiches.

**WHAT TO DO WITH WILD GARLIC**  
Wild garlic pesto | Wild garlic and nettle soup | Wild garlic butter | Wild garlic chicken kiev | Wild garlic and watercress tart | Baked new potatoes with wilted wild garlic

**WHAT DOES WILD GARLIC TASTE LIKE?**  
All parts of the wild garlic plant are safe to eat, including the bulb, leaves and flowers. Wild garlic is less pungent than standard garlic cloves, delivering a sweeter and more delicate taste. If you pick a wild garlic leaf and gently squeeze it, you will instantly be met with the distinctive garlicky aroma.

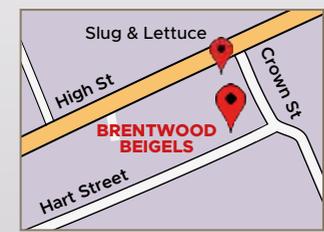
**WHERE TO FIND WILD GARLIC**  
Wild garlic grows in damp woodlands and forests across the UK and throughout Europe and is often found near rivers or streams where the ground is damp. Wild garlic is recognisable

**HOW TO STORE WILD GARLIC**  
Wild garlic can be stored in an airtight container in the fridge for 1-2 days. If you want to keep your wild garlic fresh for longer, place the stems in a glass of water and place in the fridge. Wild garlic is suitable for freezing, Simply wash and dry, and then place in a freezer bag and freeze.



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# Are you worried about a men's health problem?

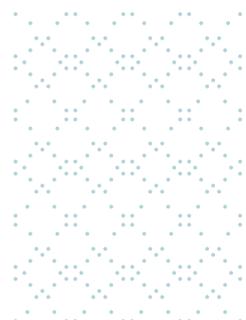
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# Relieve ACID REFLUX without medication



**T**hat all too familiar burning sensation in your chest coupled with persistent acid regurgitation? Yes, we are talking about the nightmare that is acid reflux. It affects as many as one in four adults in the UK, but you don't have to turn to shop-bought medications when acid reflux rears its ugly head.

### EAT SLOWLY AND SPARINGLY

If you are prone to grabbing a quick sandwich at lunch or, even worse, not eating all day and then consuming a huge meal in the evening, then you are much more likely to suffer from acid reflux. Instead, aim to eat little and often, and as slowly as you can.

### SIT UPRIGHT AFTER EATING

While lying down on the sofa after a big meal is one of life's little joys, this is not a good idea if you suffer from acid reflux. Instead, remain upright directly after eating and avoid eating anything just before bedtime.

### AVOID CERTAIN FOODS

Some foods are much more likely to trigger acid reflux and should be avoided, including fatty foods, tomatoes, onions, garlic, chocolate and anything spicy. You should also limit your intake of tea, coffee and alcohol.

### DRINK MILK

One of the most popular natural remedies for acid reflux, milk is alkaline, which means it can feel soothing to drink. However, it can worsen heartburn once digestion begins. To prevent this, opt for lower-fat milk where possible.

### CHEW GUM

The act of chewing gum stimulates the production of saliva, which is another alkaline substance. This can help reduce the symptoms of acid reflux and help to push your stomach contents back into the stomach.

### SIP GINGER TEA

Ginger root has been used for centuries to cure stomach aches and nausea and can help to reduce acid reflux. Sip ginger tea slowly for best results.



# Sun, Sea and Sand

## THE SECRET TO BETTER HEALTH?

**W**hen the sun's out, there's one place we all want to go – the beach. A trip to the beach gives us those feel-good vibes, reminding us of holidays and childhood outings. But did you know that a visit to the beach can give you a health boost? Discover some of the health benefits of a trip to the beach.

*It helps you get your dose of vitamin D*  
Vitamin D is known for boosting your immune system and maintaining strong teeth and bones. And one of the best ways to get it is from the sun. A trip to the beach on a sunny day can help you get a dose of vitamin D that can do wonders for your health.

*Sunlight is good for your sleep*  
Getting outdoors during the day is good for regulating your serotonin levels. This can help you sleep easier, enabling you to get into a sleep pattern to make sure you get the rest you need. Spending time outdoors is also good for your mental health, helping to reduce depression and other conditions.

*Walking on the sand is great for fitness*  
Taking a walk on sand can be a big calorie

burner. It's harder to walk on sand than on concrete or other surfaces, so you'll burn energy as you move. You could even try running on the sand for an even bigger workout.

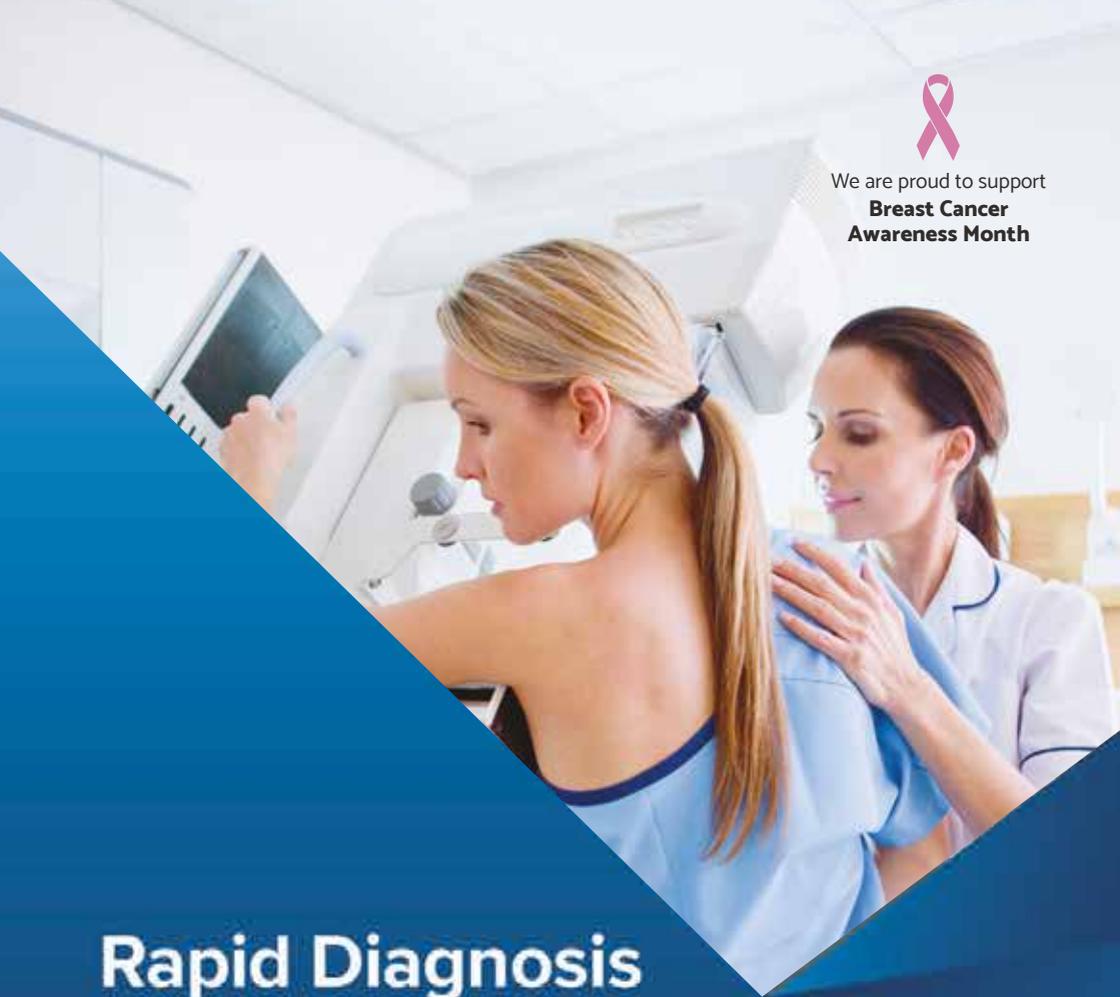
If you're feeling brave, jump in the sea and enjoy a swim. A lot of people find this invigorating and great for their health. The seawater can also help alleviate symptoms of arthritis and even skin conditions like eczema and psoriasis.

*The sea air could help you relax*  
Breathing in the sea air could be just what you need to help you relax. The negative ions have a calming effect, helping to ease stress and boost your mood. The sea air has also been said to help reduce the symptoms of asthma, improve allergies and alleviate respiratory problems.

Next time you're feeling down and in need of a quick pick-me-up, head to your nearest beach and take advantage of this natural health booster.



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BEAUTY

GET READY TO

# ice-roll

The beauty world is currently going crazy for cold, with a massive surge in popularity for treatments such as ice baths, cryotherapy and cool sculpting.

So, what is the latest freezing fashion? Introducing ice-rolling, the new skincare technique that promises to tighten and brighten in an instant.

3. Roll outwards on the sides of your mouth and then down under your chin.
4. Finish with your neck.
5. An ice-roller can also be used on your collarbone and upper chest if desired.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING AN ICE-ROLLER?

There are multiple benefits to using an ice-roller, both in terms of the massage technique used and the application of cold. These include:

- > Boosts circulation
- > Restores radiance
- > Encourages optimum skin cell function
- > Reduces puffiness and redness
- > Reduces the appearance of broken capillaries
- > Decreases any inflammation
- > Tightens the skin

#### WHAT IS ICE-ROLLING?

The process of ice-rolling is actually very simple and involves massaging your face with an ice-roller. This nifty gadget contains a mixture of gel and water which turns to ice once placed in the freezer. However, unlike normal ice, which when placed on the face melts in a matter of seconds, the ice within an ice-roller will stay solid for longer so you have more time to reap the rewards.

#### HOW DO I USE AN ICE-ROLLER?

For best results:

1. Roll the device in a zigzag motion up and down your forehead and then from left to right.
2. Move down to beside your nose and lower cheek, working upwards and applying a little pressure.

#### DOES ICE-ROLLING HURT?

Although some cold therapies can be a little bit uncomfortable, ice-rolling is not one of them. However, it is recommended that you do not leave the roller on one area for too long as it will get very cold, and this can cause discomfort.



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# Flip OFF



FASHION

A summer footwear essential for many, you may be surprised to learn just how bad this flimsy footwear can be for your overall foot health.

falling off, which could lead to dangerous driving. It is, however, illegal to ride a motorcycle while wearing flip flops.

**RISK OF SPRAINS:** Although flip flops are fine for the occasional trip to the beach, when worn all day, they can cause your feet to start to turn towards the middle of your body instead of staying straight. This can put you at a much greater risk of spraining your ankle.

**EXPOSURE TO SHARP OBJECTS:** Flip flops are not known for their sturdiness, and as they become worn down, you may find your feet on the receiving end of a sharp nail or piece of glass.

**LACK OF SUPPORT:** Flip flops provide a distinct lack of arch support, which can cause your plantar (the band of tissue in the arch of your foot) to start to pull. This can lead to a painful condition called plantar fasciitis, which may need a combination of physical therapy, anti-inflammatory medications and possibly even cortisol injections to treat.

Footwear styles that are healthier AND more stylish than flip flops: Sandals | Espadrilles | Woven slip-ons | Boat shoes | Penny loafers.

**TWISTING OF TOES:** As the name suggests, flip flops tend to be floppy, meaning you will often have to curl your toes down to stop them flying off while you walk. Over time, this can mean the toes stay fixed in this curled position, causing an affliction called hammertoe.

**COULD CAUSE DANGEROUS DRIVING:** Although there is no law in the UK that explicitly bans wearing flip flops while driving, it does put you at higher risk of an accident. Their lightweight design makes them prone to





KIDS



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**WHAT IS KINETIC SAND?**

Kinetic sand is essentially sand that has had other ingredients added to it to create a soft and crumbly consistency, like beach sand, but is also able to hold its shape. Easy to clean and store, kinetic sand should last for several years and is great for child development and sensory play.

**HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN KINETIC SAND**

**YOU WILL NEED:**

2½ cups of fine sand such as play sand (available in a variety of different colours) or decorators sand | 1½ cups of cornstarch | ½ cup of oil such as cooking, baby or mineral | An airtight container with a lid

**HOW TO MAKE:**

Pour the sand into your chosen container | Mix in the cornstarch | Slowly pour in the oil and mix well | Continue to mix until there are no oily or dry spots in the mixture | Start to play.

**HOW TO STORE KINETIC SAND**

Although kinetic sand does not dry out, you should keep it clean and dust-free in a resealable bag or an airtight plastic container. When kept like this, it should last for between three and five years.

**IS KINETIC SAND SAFE?**

Kinetic sand is non-toxic but is not intended for consumption. Any child under the age of three should be supervised when playing with kinetic sand.

**KINETIC SAND ACTIVITIES**

- > Dig for fossils with small dinosaur toys
- > Use Play-Doh tools to roll out and cut shapes
- > Make ice cream with scoops and spoons
- > Hunt for buried treasure using plastic coins and gems
- > Build a Mr Potato Head out of kinetic sand
- > Practise writing letters and numbers in the sand.



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values have been held dear for a number of years. Since starting the business some years ago Cloudy2Clear have remained true to their core values of supporting the local community by providing a service that saves the public money.

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GARDENING

# Create your own DIY BAR



When it comes to entertaining at home, there's one thing everyone needs – a garden bar. Garden bars have grown in popularity in recent years, and you can easily build your own with a little creativity and determination.

Get ready to transform your garden into your new local with these tips for building the perfect garden bar.

**HOW BIG CAN YOU GO?** Garden bars come in all shapes and sizes. From a tiki bar to your own garden pub complete with flat-screen TV and pool table, you can be as ambitious as you like. Decide on your budget and how much space you have to create the perfect outdoor bar.

**TRY DIY OR READY-MADE.** A DIY garden bar is the perfect chance to get creative. You can use recycled materials and design a space that's ideal for your needs. Alternatively, you can find ready-made garden bars in places like Argos or Etsy, or hire someone to custom build your bar.

Using a pre-existing structure, such as a shed or potting bench, your extension or garage, could also help you make the most of your garden space, and give you a good foundation for your garden bar.

**MAKE IT SHELTERED.** Some shelter is a must for any British garden bar. Whether you choose to have your bar enclosed or build a solid weatherproof canopy, having shelter will protect your bar while helping you make the most of it in any weather.

**ADD APPLIANCES AND STORAGE.** From fridges to pumps and spirit dispensers, your garden bar can have it all. Buy your equipment and get it installed by professionals to make sure the job is done safely. Don't forget to add storage.

**BUY SOME ACCESSORIES.** Some of the essentials you'll need for your garden bar include: Glasses (you could create your own labels too) | Bottle holders | Ice bucket | Cocktail shakers | Towel hooks | Bottle openers/corkscrews

**GIVE IT A NAME.** Once your bar is all in place, the last thing to do is give it a name. Name it something unique – it's your bar, after all.



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# Planting A PALM TREE

A huge trend this summer, palm trees make a great addition to any garden. Although most palm trees need warmer climates, there are some that are suitable for planting outdoors in the UK.

**CHOOSING A PALM TREE:** You need to choose a hardier variety of palm tree if you want it to be able to survive the cold and frost. There are three types of palms that have a track record of growing well in the UK. These are Chusan Palm (*Trachycarpus*), Dwarf Fan Palm (*Chamaerops*) and Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum*).

**PLANTING A PALM TREE:** You can plant palm trees at any time of the year, although during spring or early summer is best as this will give your palm five or six months to grow strong before the first frost. Palm trees love a sunny position so are perfect for patio pots or for areas in your garden that get ample sunlight.

**TO PLANT IN THE GROUND:**

- > Dig a hole twice as wide and a few

inches deeper than the root ball.

- > Add a handful of slow-release palm fertiliser to the centre of the hole.
- > Remove the root ball from its container and carefully straighten out any coiled roots.
- > Place the top of the root ball in the hole and fill with one-half soil and one-half rotted manure or compost.
- > Make sure that the palm trunk is not deeper than it was in its original container and that the roots are not at all exposed.
- > Water the palm tree – aim for between 10 and 20 per cent of the original container size. The soil should be wet, not soggy.
- > Apply a six-inch layer of mulch over the root zone.
- > Water again.

**CARING FOR A PALM TREE:**

- > Water your newly planted palm daily for the first two months.
- > After three or four months, apply a slow-release fertiliser for palms.
- > Wrap the trunk in the winter with water pipe insulation or heat tape.



Photo credit: palmcentre.co.uk



GARDENING



# KNOW YOUR *knotweed*

Two little words that spark fear in the hearts of homeowners across the UK – Japanese knotweed. Known for its ability to spread rapidly, this destructive weed sets down strong roots that can cause havoc with the foundations of your property.

*How to identify Japanese knotweed in your garden*  
Japanese knotweed has several distinctive characteristics that can help you identify it in your garden, including:  
Zig zag stems | Lush green-coloured leaves | Heart or shovel-shaped leaves with a flat base | Bamboo-style stems | Red-tinged shoots | Often found in dense clumps | In July, look out for creamy white flowers | Between September and November, it will leave brown stems once the leaves have died back

*How to stop Japanese knotweed from spreading*  
Although it is not illegal to have Japanese knotweed in your garden, you are required to take steps to stop it becoming a problem in neighbouring gardens.

*Spray with chemicals*  
If you choose to tackle Japanese knotweed yourself, you need to make sure you are using the right chemicals to carry out the job efficiently and safely. Look for a glyphosate-based product such as Roundup Tree Stump Weedkiller that has a label recommendation for controlling Japanese knotweed. It typically takes three years to treat Japanese knotweed using this method.

*Bury it*  
You are legally allowed to bury Japanese knotweed at the site as long as you bury it at a depth of at least five metres, cover the plant remains with a material that does not allow the plant to grow through it (known as a root barrier) and do not bury any other waste with it. CuTex Copper Root Barrier is ideal, functioning as both a physical and a chemical barrier.

*Seek professional help*  
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has worked with the Property Care Association to establish a trade body for Japanese knotweed specialists in the UK, where you can find a register of vetted consultants and contractors. Find out more at [www.property-care.org](http://www.property-care.org)



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**C**ats love to sleep – it's one of the things we envy the most about them. But have you ever given much thought to what your cat's sleeping position means?

**BELLY-UP CAT:** A cat that sleeps with its belly exposed and paws splayed is a cat that feels secure and comfortable in its surroundings. It's exposing the most vulnerable part of its body, showing you it feels safe in its home.

**CURLED-UP KITTY:** A curled-up cat with its tail wrapped around its body and head tucked in, means several things. This position helps it stay warm and also helps the cat protect itself from potential threats.

**IN A BOX:** Cats love to sleep in a box or any small space as it makes them feel safer than being in an open space. It's a normal behaviour that helps them feel warm and secure.

**EYES HALF-SHUT:** A cat that sleeps with its eyes half-shut is doing so to enable it to react quickly to any threat or disturbing noise. It's common in noisy

households, or for cats in new surroundings.

**LOAF OF BREAD:** The 'loaf of bread' position is where a cat sleeps with its paws and tail tucked under its body, making it look like it has no legs. Cats choose this position for comfort and to stay warm. This position is also a sign that your cat is happy and relaxed.

**SLEEPING ON YOU:** A cat sleeping on you can be for a couple of reasons. It either wants to feel added protection with a 'safety in numbers' approach, or it wants to feel close to you and benefit from some extra warmth.

**STRETCHED OUT:** A stretched-out cat is a happy and relaxed cat, who's usually in a deep sleep. When a cat is in this position, it's best to let it stay there.

**PAWS ACROSS FACE:** A cute position to witness, paws across the face can mean your cat is trying to keep its nose warm or block out the light. A cat that's hiding its face wants to be left alone, so it's best to let your cat be in this position.





SPORT



# SCOOTER *loopy*

THE INAUGURAL E-SCOOTER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HITS UK SHORES

It seems you can barely step outside your house or place of work before being confronted by an e-scooter tearing its way past with almost reckless abandon.

While streets and, more worryingly, pavements are awash with e-scooters, there is also a growing abundance of them on racetracks around the UK.

Indeed, their popularity has given rise to the formation of the international eSkootr Championship, with the UK given the honour of kicking off this inaugural battery-powered procession in May.

And while many of the riders we witness on a day-to-day basis adorn themselves with work bags, shopping and, in some cases, passengers, the competitors embarking on a six-location world championship campaign are driving forward for landmark success. The scooter, designed by motorsport technology firm YCOM, boasts inflatable tyres, a 1.5kilowatt hour battery and a carbon fibre chassis.

While competition is the name of the game where e-scooters are concerned, the organisers also recognise the need for education, stating that they intend to accelerate micromobility culture and technology in forward-thinking global cities, working closely with city officials and local governments to outline the benefits of a rapidly changing mobility landscape.

Their challenge, in the UK at least, is that privately owned e-scooters are illegal unless ridden on private land. Only those hired from approved leasers are allowed on roads. However, the pressure is mounting on the government given rapidly accelerating purchase numbers – in 2021, there were an estimated one million privately owned scooters.

The 30 professional competitors taking part in the 2022 championship have their sights on different goals. After the UK race on May 13 and 14, they travel to Switzerland, France, Italy, Spain and USA – a six-race set-up performed on S1-X vehicles primed to hit speeds of more than 100kmph. All those riders require is bravery... and a lot of it.



Photo credit: official.esco.live

BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS...



SPORT



# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL 1999

EACH MONTH, WE LOOK AT ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN BRITISH SPORTING HISTORY. THIS MONTH, IT'S MANCHESTER UNITED'S LATE LATE SHOW AT CAMP NOU IN THE 1999 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

The concept of 'Fergie time' was a familiar one throughout the nineties as Manchester United's fast-paced, ruthless, attack-minded side saw off allcomers, even if so many of those wins came in the very dying embers of matches.

And injury time was three minutes in when superb Ole Gunnar Solskjaer stabbed in the goal that brought European glory back to Manchester United after a wait of 31 years.

The Reds had scored just moments before to level a match in which they were outplayed by Bayern Munich for long spells, but Teddy Sheringham's 91st-minute leveller set up the most dramatic finale ever seen in a European final, and United's time had come.

Few in red, even now, dispute the fact that the Germans should have been out of sight in the game, but what matters is finding the net, and in a

decade in which so much went right for the Class of 92 and teammates, there was an inevitability that Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Giggs and co. would come good.

These days, in reflection, the stories of that night in Barcelona are muddled in with George Best leaving for a drink 10 minutes before the end. Then there's the famous shot of a United fan with his back to the pitch taking a photo of Reds fans, just as Solskjaer scored. Even Gary Lineker weighed in recently by announcing he lost his wallet in the commotion of the winning goal – another anecdotal pearl of brilliance from the presenter.

Ultimately, though, there were very few who didn't want United to bring English football back to the top table that night. That they grabbed victory from the jaws of defeat made the achievement so much more special.



MOTORING



# DEATH TRAP

THE DANGERS POSED BY LOOSE OBJECTS IN YOUR CAR

We all know the dangers represented by cars and, as responsible drivers, invest time and effort in protecting the occupants of our cars from the dangers of the road. Yet what if there were a collection of hazards inside our vehicles – things that account for more than 15,000 injuries every year?

What we're talking about here is the threat posed by everyday items within a car. From a metal tissue box on the back shelf to dashboard air fresheners, from tablets and devices right the way through to cans of drink and snacks. The point is, when a collision occurs, it's not just the things on the outside of the vehicle that can cause harm.

A string of recent awareness campaigns has been designed to make motorists more aware of the risks when our vehicles are decorated with possessions. Securing items or, better still, putting

them away in door or back-of-seat pockets, or the glove compartment, ensures that if impact occurs, those possessions won't come hurtling through the air towards you.

Think carefully about luggage storage, make sure floor mats are secured in the correct positions, and do your best to keep pets secured and still.

Furthermore, if you think the threat of being hit by a loose or unsecured object in your car only comes about in the event of a road traffic accident, think again. Anything from sharp cornering to speed bumps may dislodge an item and send it on a path towards you or your passengers.

In the modern era, cars are more and more becoming extensions of our home. While that gives us the chance to adorn them with small items and luxuries, it's always smart to keep a close eye on the potential danger they might pose.



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