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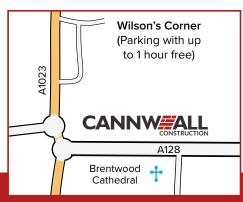


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Editor's notes...

Nik Allen, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of VISIONBrentwoodOngar.

As they say, time really does fly. Often in our publishing world, it feels like the months just whizz by, largely owing to the fact that we are always planning months ahead when it comes to content, advertisers' campaigns and editorial.

My son is going into pre-school in September and my daughter is going into the big kid part of the nursery - this blows my mind. My wife and I are always in awe of how quickly the kids develop, how they communicate with one another and, of course, their ever improving tantrums! I

remember being told those wise words: "Enjoy the younger years; they won't last forever." And they really don't. It's all about savouring those little moments as they do go quicker than I ever could have imagined.

The moral of the story is to enjoy the present, be present and enjoy the sleepless nights. It's hard sometimes, but just remember that you will miss these days one day!

I heard a quote recently that summed it up perfectly when they are this age: "The days are lona, but the years are short." This really hit home for me.

Until next month, take care of yourselves and each other.

Mik Allen

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Vision Magazine Essex

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STAR QUALITY

ne of the most enduring television programmes in broadcast history has certainly lived up to its famous quote – "Live long and prosper".

And if the legacy of the iconic sci-fi series wasn't reason enough to don the Starfleet uniform, the so-called Star Trek Day – September 8 to you and me – surely is.

Legendary actor Leonard Nimoy committed almost 50 years of his life to playing the Vulcan character Spock, dating right the way back to the first *Star Trek* pilot episode in 1964. And until his death in 2015, the actor presided over a franchise that never lost its edge or appeal.

In fact, it's because the series is as admired today as it was on its original run back in 1966 that director J.J. Abrams has been tempted back for a third reimagination, expected to air sometime in 2023.

Before then, Trekkies have a special date in the calendar upon which they can hang their USS Enterprise hat. That's thanks to the growing popularity of September 8 on the sci-ficalendar, a date affectionately known as Star Trek Day.

The date mirrors when Trekkies got their first glimpse of the crew in 1966 – the result of Gene Roddenberry's vision of a drama inspired by Forbidden Planet, Horatio Hornblower, and Gulliver's Travels.

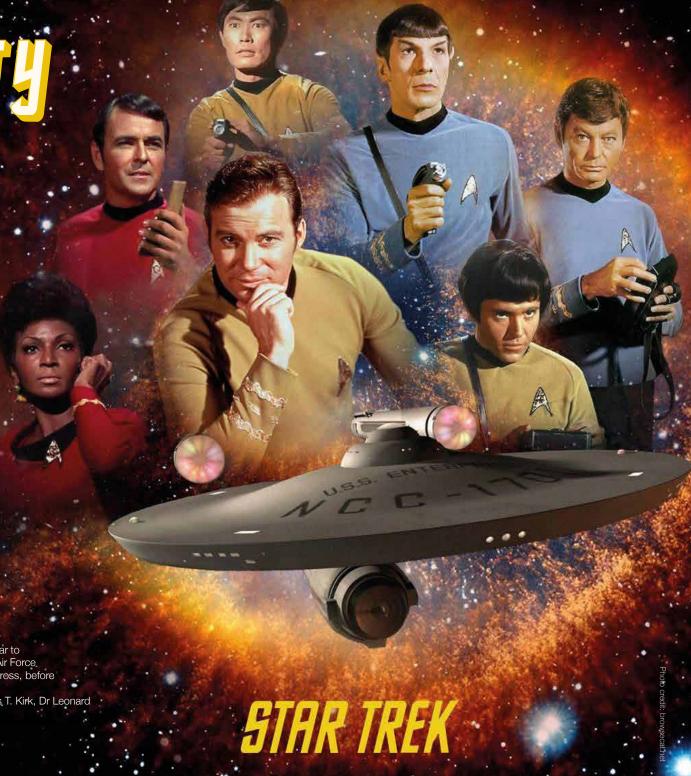
To say that Star Trek has blown apart pop culture over the course of its existence is something of an understatement – with revenue approaching £10billion, it's certainly one of the highest-grossing media productions on record.

The 2009 Star Trek reboot movie by Abrams saw a new alternate timeline so as to continue with the original characters, albeit portrayed by a new cast. Indeed, the franchise has so far managed to swerve some of the prequel/sequel criticism levelled at its distant sci-fi relation, Star Wars.

Perhaps the reason for that is because *Star Trek* has always succeeded in showing a strong regard for humanity because it's the universe – our own shared universe – they're all fighting for. Maybe that's why it has stood the test of time for seven decades. It's certainly what fans the world over will embrace on September 8, with thousands of meet-ups celebrating characters, friendships, memories and just a bit of old-fashioned sci-fi sorcery.

Strangely, it's possible Roddenberry, the show's creator, had the Second World War to thank for his vision of space warfare; he was a brave bomber pilot for the US Army Air Force during the conflict, and was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross, before becoming a police officer in Los Angeles.

He got his big television break soon afterwards, and so too did the likes of James T. Kirk, Dr Leonard McCoy, Montgomery Scott and others.





IT'S 26 YEARS SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE SPICE GIRLS' DEBUT SINGLE, WANNABE, BUT **MEL C IS STILL GOING STRONG**

elanie Chisholm has stuck close to her roots - following the phenomenal success of her stint as Sporty Spice with the Spice Girls, her solo career has sparked eight albums and produced three number-one singles, and will sees embarking on a UK-wide book tour.

For those of us old enough to remember it, the summer of 1996 was a golden one. Britpop had given the country a unique swagger, the Euros were here, the sun was out and beer was cheap. And riding on the coat-tails was a new thing called 'girl power', pushed by a spectacular PR machine and fronted by the Spice Girls.

The legacy of the band that followed, both musically and in inspiring a generation of girls to stand tall and be heard, is well known; though perhaps the greatest accolade you can give to Simon Fuller's creation was that each member went on to achieve great things – and Mel C is no scenes of her showbiz lifestyle, as well as revealing exception.

Visually, she's a world away from the tracksuitclad kung-fu kicking star who pirouetted around stages and Top of the Pops studios – these days the singer, at 48, is stylish and motherly; yet can still mix romantic anthems with dancefloor anthems.

"For me, music has always been about evolving with the things around you," she says. "You need to follow trends, while still keeping your own sense of originality and creativity over the music you make."

Away from the bright lights, Mel C has encountered her own fair share of challenges. She's battled depression, eating disorders, and admits that up until the birth of her only child, Scarlett, in 2009, she never fully had a sense of responsibility to herself.

2022 is an exciting year for the singer, as not only has she got a number of upcoming performances, but she is also publishing her firstever autobiography, which promises to tell all about her time with the Spice Girls as well as the years that followed. It will take readers behind the the darker side of fame, and finally gives Mel C the chance to tell her story in her own words.

Who I Am: My Story is available to purchase from September 15.



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NATURAL REMEDIES FOR LIMESCALE THAT YOU CAN FIND IN YOUR KITCHEN CUPBOARD

ver the past year, one in three Brits claims that hard water in their home has worsened, with limescale becoming an increasingly common problem in many UK households.

If you are looking to eliminate limescale without the use of harsh chemicals, the below home remedies are just what you need.

VINEGAR

Have you noticed a build-up of limescale on your taps and showerheads? If so then you need to act fast as this can cause dullness, chipping and peeling. One of the most effective methods for removing this is to fill a plastic bag with white vinegar and then attach it to the affected area. Leave for 15 minutes to soak, or overnight for stubborn limescale build-up.

BAKING SODA

Limescale on the glass of your shower can be tricky to shift, especially if it has been allowed to build up. To remedy this, create a cleaning spray using 1 tsp baking powder, 1 tbsp white vinegar and ½ cup warm water. Spray onto the glass, leave for 3-4 minutes and then wipe with a clean cloth. You do not need to rinse the glass.

LEMON JUICE

Lemon juice is one the most versatile natural cleaning remedies available, having the ability to dissolve dirt, remove grease, deodorise and tackle limescale. Simply pour pure lemon juice into a spray bottle, spritz on the affected area, leave for 30 minutes and then clean off with water and a soft cloth.

CITRIC ACID

If you do not like the strong smell of vinegar, then citric acid is a good choice for descaling your kettle. Simply boil a half-full kettle, turn it off and unplug it. Next, add 2 tbsp of citric acid and leave for 20 minutes. Pour out the water and rinse twice before using.

HOME

UNMASKED

THE HISTORY OF TAPE - AN ESSENTIAL ITEM IN EVERY HOUSEHOLD

dhesive tape. Where would we be without it? It's hard to imagine not having it as part of our daily lives. From wrapping gifts to decorating and undertaking craft projects, tape is a must-have in every home.

But have you ever given much thought to how tape was invented? Let us give you a short history lesson on the history of tape - more specifically, Scotch Tape.

RICHARD GURLEY DREW: THE BRAINS BEHIND SCOTCH TAPE

Scotch Tape is the invention of American Richard Gurley Drew (1899-1980). Drew was a student at the University of Minnesota who dropped out and went to work for 3M as a lab technician. While we might associate 3M with Post-its and office supplies, back in the 1920s it was a leading sandpaper manufacturer. The history of Scotch Tape, however, actually begins with masking tape.

On realising car manufacturers were having difficulty marking car parts without stripping the paint, Drew invented a tape made of cabinetmaker's glue and treated crepe paper. It was a hit with carmakers and in 1925 was sold under the name Scotch Masking Tape.

Richard Gurley Drew

In the 1930s, Drew developed the transparent tape that became known as Scotch cellophane tape. And the rest, as they say, is history, with Drew's invention paving the way for many more products to be developed over the years.

TAPE TODAY: A HOUSEHOLD STAPLE

Tape and masking tape are essential items for most decorating and craft projects. Masking tape is a decorator's staple, creating smooth lines in paintwork as well as helping to create patterns and shapes. Clear tape, meanwhile, is handy for crafting, DIY and repairing broken items.

Where would we be without these household essentials? It's safe to say that Drew thoroughly deserves his place in the National Inventors Hall of Fame.



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A candle wick holderGlue dot (heat resistant)

for decoration (optional)

> Thread the wick through the holder and apply the wick tab to the inside bottom of the jar.

> Pumpkin spice (ground) plus a few whole spices, such as cinnamon, star anise, cardamom, clove or allspice,

>Warm the jar in the oven at 30°C.

> 1 tsp (5ml) pumpkin spice essential oil

- > Gently melt the wax in a microwave or double boiler.
- > Cool for a few minutes then stir in the essential oil, mixing thoroughly.
- > Fill the jar to 1cm below the rim and make sure the wick is still in the centre.
- > When the wax gets cloudy, sprinkle a pinch of pumpkin spice on the top and scatter the whole spices.
- > Cool at room temperature then trim the wick.

Add a homemade label or check out Etsy for something really stylish. Remember to remove the whole spices before lighting your candle.

There are loads of other ways to decorate your home with pumpkins this autumn. Why not try one of the below ideas?

- > Arrange a group of pumpkins and decorate them by painting, drawing or spraying them in metallic colours and add a few chunky faux candles. Remember, odd numbers of items work best.
- > Hollow out a pumpkin, fill with water and add seasonal flowers or pop in a pot filled with small succulents.
- > Fill a hollowed-out pumpkin with a glass jar. Twist a small bendy branch with berries around the top and add a candle (a faux candle is safest).







ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DECORATE WITH WALLPAPER

allpaper is one of the easiest ways to decorate your home. It adds colour and style, helping to bring your spaces to life. But why should wallpaper stop at the wall? There are lots of home projects you can do with wallpaper to bring a unique twist to your interiors.

Bring some colour to your next DIY project with these creative wallpaper ideas.

ADD PATTERN TO A CHEST OF DRAWERS

Wallpaper is an easy way to brighten up the plainest chest of drawers. It's an easy hack that is perfect for upcycling a dated piece of furniture. Why not invest in new decorative knobs or handles to complete the transformation?

BRING COLOUR TO YOUR WALL PANELLING

Wall panelling has been a huge trend in recent years, but if you want to do something different with yours, wallpaper could be just the trick. Cut wallpaper to size and place it inside the panels to create a striking feature wall.

FRESHEN UP KITCHEN CABINETS

Wallpaper can transform your basic kitchen cabinets and give them a new lease of life. Add a simple pattern to create some interest that could make a nice contrast against the items on display.

FRAME IT

Art can be expensive, so why not turn your wallpaper into a work of art instead? Framing pieces of wallpaper can help you create feature walls and add decorative touches to coffee tables, sideboards and more. You can do this affordable DIY using wallpaper samples from stores, making it a quick and affordable way to update your decor.

Getting creative with your wallpaper is a great way to embrace the trend, without committing to covering your walls. Try using different colours and textures to create an impression in your home.



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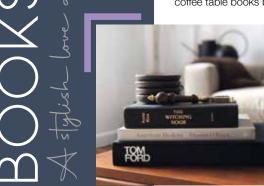
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here aren't many decorative pieces that have the bonus of being informative and entertaining, but that's exactly what you get with the coffee table book. So how did coffee table books become so popular?



References to books being used as decorative pieces date back centuries. but it was Michel de Montaigne who made one of the earliest references to the practice. In his essay Upon Some Verses of Virgil, he wrote: "I am vexed that my essays only serve the ladies for a common movable, a book to lay in the parlor window."

Books became a popular gift in the 18th century. Large volumes like encyclopedias and almanacs were popular to have on display owing

to their lavish bindings and engravings.

In the 1920s, attitudes to books started changing. It was common for people to display books they had never read, intended to create an impression of their interests or education to visitors. Books with seemingly unattractive covers were often rebound to look more fitting in the owner's home.

CENTRAL HEATING AND THE 60S

The term 'coffee table book' had been in use for a long time, but it didn't really take off until the 1960s.

With the arrival of central heating, there was less need to sit near a fireplace, creating space for the coffee table and a less formal sitting environment.

Books were published containing images and art, providing the perfect item to adorn the coffee table and perhaps leaf through to learn something new.

AN INSIGHT INTO YOUR STYLE

Today, coffee table books cover all kinds of genres and styles. Some are used for purely decorative

purposes, others give a glimpse into someone's interests and tastes. Not only do they make for stylish décor, but they also provide a topic of conversation, making them a popular feature in most homes.

COFFEE TABLE BOOK SUGGESTIONS

For animal lovers - The Photo Ark: One Man's Quest to Document the World's Animals | For the interiors-obsessed -Architectural Digest at 100: A Century of Style | For the fashionista - Tom Ford | For the film buff - Accidentally Wes Anderson

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Bethan Gray

SUBSTANCE TO THE STY

hrough a heritage that includes a maternal family descending from a nomadic Rajasthani clan that migrated across Arabia and Persia over centuries, a passion for global art and the experiences of travel have permeated Bethan Gray's appreciation for a design look that crosses from India to the Middle East, North Africa to South America.

How this translates itself back to the somewhat more structured surrounds of lounges, bedrooms and workspaces in the UK is the challenge that was taken on when Bethan Gray Design was established in 2008. The agency, based in London, is run by Bethan and CEO husband Massimo, and follows a decade she spent as Habitat's design director - a role that connected her with craftspeople all around the world.

Now, using a combination of client stories and experiences, plus the expertise of master craftspeople – with styling partnerships that are based on mutual trust and respect - she has created contemporary design and home accessories. The result has been four ELLE Decoration British Design Awards for her statement pieces. From contemporary deco-like chests of drawers that echo Arabic shimmers and desert landscapes to elegant cabinets, bold coffee tables and velvet sofas, the translation of stories and heritage into stunning furniture is complete.

> While the price tags in stores such as Harrods and Liberty's may push some away, Bethan focuses on styling that can be replicated by anyone.

"My modus operandi is elegant lines, both in the edging of furniture and the detail within it. Set against browns, greens, creams and statement shades, it's possible to create a palette that transports the mind to far-off places and a desire to

"For me, it's about the practicality of a room or a piece of furniture, combined with the journey that piece can take you on, and that combination feels very special."



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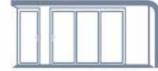
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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



School traffic issue set to improve for school term

Parents have welcomed new traffic restrictions aimed at reducing traffic near several Brentwood schools.

Traffic on Sawvers Hall Lane had been described as a "nightmare" by parents and residents, but an ending is in sight as new measures are being introduced ahead of the new school term.

Essex County Council (ECC) is removing 26 waiting and parking spaces on Sawyers Hall Lane and widening the footpath to encourage pupils and parents to walk to school.

New Park and Stride locations will also be set up at the car parks at William Hunter Way, Chatham Way and the Brentwood Centre - all within one mile of the schools near Sawvers Hall Lane.

These will be operational from this month and the car parks will be free for parents at school drop-off and pick-up times.

A number of other behavioural change measures, will be encouraged, including a project delivered by national charity Living Streets to encourage more pupils to walk to school and a project supporting walking buses.

One parent, whose daughter attends Becket Keys School, said: "I think this can only be a good thing and it is very much needed.

"It was a nightmare before, so something needed to be done.

"My only concern is that once the winter months come, people won't want to walk or cycle. Instead, they will just go to another road nearby and cause problems there."

ECC hosted a virtual workshop on August 17 to update parents on the new measures.

BRENTWOODPROPERTY NEWS



Peter Garland-Collins

The Brentwood Realtor

Your REAL Estate Agent For Life!

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

In August, property website Rightmove reported that house prices had fallen slightly for the first time in 2022. Immediate thoughts turn to the cost of living crisis and six consecutive interest rate rises being the cause. Whilst it is likely these will have some impact throughout the rest of the year, the drop is actually due to seasonality and people being on holiday after a prolonged period of all our lives being restricted through the pandemic.

Brentwood and the rest of the U.K. should see a areater number of properties listed for sale in September after the majority of people have taken their holidays.

Want to move by Christmas?

If you want to move by Christmas, Rightmove also reported that its taking about 136 days to currently complete a sale. If you have a property you need to sell in order to make the move, then now is the time to take action!

Feel free to get in touch to discuss how me and my team can help you with anything property related.

Local Property Statistics

Current number of homes 197 for sale in CM14. Current average £473 sold price per Sq.Ft. Average sold price £388k August 2022.

5 Year Average Price Growth

-10% 1-year	12% 3-year	4% 5-year
Aug 2022		£388,272
Aug 2021		£433,458
Aug 2020		£370,443
Aug 2019		£347,921
Aug 2018		£373,899
Aug 2017		£371,799
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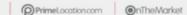
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ssex Wildlife Trust (EWT) is hosting a fundraising challenge in Brentwood.

The Running Wild fundraiser – a 90-minute challenge of obstacles, water, climbing, sliding and lots of mud – will take place on Saturday, October 8.

Held at the award-winning Nuclear Races Wild Forest site, participants will spend 90 minutes climbing over, crawling through and jumping across some crazy obstacles, before finishing with a 20-foot 'deathslide' into a lake.

Founded in 1959 by volunteers, the EWT protects more than 8,400 acres of land across 87 sites. It is supported by 39,000 members. It is now the county's leading conservation charity and money raised through

the event will help the EWT on its mission.

All entrants to the Running Wild fundraiser must be over 13 and under-18s must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

Registration is completely free for those who are able to raise £100 or more for EWT. Seventy per cent of your sponsorship must be with EWT no later than Friday, September 9, to secure your free place. Otherwise, participants will be required to pay in full. Tickets cost £42 for adults and £32.40 for children.

The full address is Wild Forest, Parsonage Farm, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 0LA.

To find out more about the event and sign up, please visit bit.lv/3c75to0

Man faces murder trial following fatal fight

A man from Brentwood accused of murder is due to appear in court this month.

Jevegenijs Lapkovskis, 36, of Warley Hill, will appear at Basildon Crown Court for his trial from September 26.

The date was set at a previous hearing at the same court on August 5.

Lapkovskis is accused of killing Lee Murrell, 29 (pictured right), at an address at Warley Hill on April 5 this year.

Police were called to the property with concerns for the welfare of a man, but sadly, Mr Murrell was pronounced dead at the scene.

Essex Police subsequently launched a murder investigation and Lapkovskis was arrested and charged, as reported in the May 2022 edition of **VISION**BrentwoodOngar.

At the hearing on August 5, the court heard how Mr Murrell died after a fight. Despite accepting that he was present, Lapkovskis denied the charge of murder.

In a tribute following his death, Mr Murrell's family said: "Our hearts are broken. Lee is, and always will be, a much-loved son and brother."





Kids taste success at chess championships





Two talented chess whizz kids from Brentwood tasted success at the European Championships where they represented England.

Brentwood School chess sibling supremos Nina (pictured above left) and Max (pictured above right) have just returned from the European Chess Union Championships in Greece.

Nina won a bronze medal in the individual Under 14 blitz championships, a version of speed chess. She was in joint first position

but eventually ended up third following a tiebreak.

Meanwhile, in a larger field, Max played above his

ranking to come 15th in the Under 12 blitz event and 21st in the rapid tournament.

Both Max and Nina also represented England in the team events; Nina for the Under 18 Girls' team and Max making his international team debut for the Under 12 Open team.

The team competitions took place over seven days, with the U18 Girls finishing ninth overall and the U12 Open team fifth.

Both players were also in action at the FIDE-Rated standard play and rapid play tournament, hosted by Brentwood School, over the August bank holiday.

Council to explore new fundraising scheme for town

Prentwood Borough Council (BBC) says it will explore creating a fundraising scheme which would help the community.

The scheme would allow people to contribute to a community fund which could then be spent on Brentwood communities, initiatives and groups.

Similar schemes already exist across the country, including 21 in London.

As well as improving the lives of Brentwood residents, it is hoped the scheme could increase investment in local communities and support the development of

areas by bringing together residents, philanthropists, corporate donors, public sector organisations and civil society organisations to raise money and address local priorities.

A BBC spokesperson said: "This council recognises the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on many residents and groups in Brentwood.

"While we acknowledge that we already have community funds in place, we believe there could be further opportunities to enhance these."

Councillor Gary White, who represents Hutton Central, who proposed the motion, said: "I am hoping that we can see what valuable lessons there are out there that we could use to the advantage of our residents."

Dishonest doctor erased from medical register

Adoctor who carried out two instances of a colonoscopy procedure at a Brentwood hospital despite being banned from doing so has been erased from the medical register.

Hugo Taylor, now retired, was working at the Spire Hartswood when he performed the procedures in February 2018, but he had been barred from carrying them out by Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals since July 27, 2016.

He did not tell Spire that he had been banned from doing colonoscopies, an action found by the tribunal to have been "dishonest".

Now, a Medical Practioners Tribunal Service hearing has found his actions as warranting the label of misconduct, and he has been erased from the medical register.

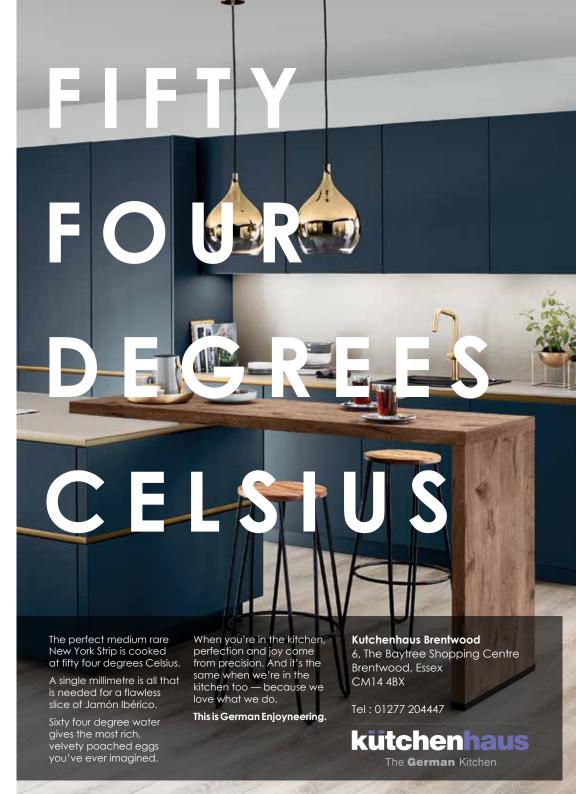
It was also found that Mr Taylor made several mistakes during the procedures.

In its conclusion as to what sanction to place on Taylor, the tribunal said: "Mr Taylor risked the health of these patients, who could potentially have had cancer.

"Furthermore, he did not appear to take care when undertaking the procedures – he undertook them very quickly, knowing of his competency issues, which again put the patients at risk of harm."

Spire has been contacted for comment.







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Thames Forest to benefit from funding boost

↑ forest in Brentwood is set to benefit from mass Aplantations thanks to a £44million funding boost.

Thames Chase is among 13 community forests to benefit from a slice of £44.2million allocated to improve woodlands in the South East.

It is hoped the investment will help the forest adapt to a warmer world, reduce the risk of flooding, provide sustainable UK-grown timber and provide an environment for biodiversity to thrive.

It will also help create more jobs in the forestry and environment sector.

Covering nearly 40 square miles, Thames Chase is spread across Brentwood, Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Thurrock local authority areas.

The money is part of the government's £750million Nature for Climate Fund, which works to expand woodlands near cities, towns, villages and rivers.

Forestry minister Lord Zac Goldsmith said: "Our economies, livelihoods and wellbeing all rely on nature.

"As well as tackling the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, this significant funding will create diverse treescapes across the country and improve the health and wellbeing of local communities."

Paul Nolan, chair of England's Community Forests, said: "We welcome the opportunity to establish woodlands close to people, to deliver the benefits that we know they provide."

Resident takes to the ballroom for hit show

A comedian and broadcaster from Brentwood will be a contestant in this year's series of Strictly Come Dancing.

Ellie Taylor (pictured right), who was born in Brentwood and attended St Martin's School, is the ninth celebrity contestant confirmed in the BBC show.

She joins a line-up that includes Will Mellor, Kym Marsh, Richie Anderson, Kaye Adams, Jayde Adams, Ellie Simmonds OBE, Tyler West and Matt Goss.

Ellie began her career as a stand-up comedian after appearing on ITV's Show Me the Funny and has gone on to appear on BBC's Mock The Week, The Mash Report, Live at the Apollo, Ted Lasso and many more.

Speaking about the announcement, which was made on August 9, Ellie said: "Well, cover me in fake tan and roll me in seguins. I'm absolutely over the moon to be a part of Strictly 2022.

"At the moment, I'm focusing on the excitement and glitter and choosing to ignore the fact that I have the dancing ability of a newly born giraffe. Bring it on."





BURGHART for BRENTWOOD



Alex Burghart MP for Brentwood and Ongar



After a summer of record-breaking temperatures and lack of rain, which has led to us all being asked to limit our water use and see our gardens, playing fields and parks shrivel to a mass of scorched prickles, this edition is published as the children head back to school, and MPs head back to Parliament with a new Prime Minister leading the government.

As I write, the leadership vote has not closed, but whether Liz Truss MP or Rishi Sunak MP take up the role, one of their first jobs will be to look at what can be done to tackle the concerns of many about the impact of the rise in the cost of living.

Sadly, as we emerged from the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, we were hit by a perfect storm of increasing costs of consumer goods and rising domestic fuel costs as global gas demand increased after pandemic restrictions were lifted.

Ministers have been active throughout the summer, discussing the rising energy costs with energy producers and helping households in the UK with rising costs. So far, all households will get $\pounds 400$ off energy bills, households receiving means-tested benefits will get $\pounds 650$ towards their costs, with additional payments of $\pounds 300$ for pensioners and $\pounds 150$ for people receiving disability payments, and there's a $\pounds 150$ council tax rebate for households in council tax bands A-D.

We're still looking at other ways to help, and details of what the government will do will be released in the coming weeks. However, if you're worried about the cost of your energy bills, please talk to your energy provider to arrange a payment plan you can afford. Citizens Advice has excellent advice which you can find at www.citizensadvice. org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply

Thames Crossing joins alliance

The Lower Thames Crossing has signed the Brentwood Environmental Business Alliance (BEBA) Pledge to support the group and contribute towards a greener, more sustainable future.

Brentwood Borough Council and local businesses are working together to tackle the challenges faced by climate change and to help businesses in the borough reduce their carbon footprint.

Businesses signing up to the green pledge make a commitment to minimise their environmental impact.

Leader of the council, councillor Chris Hossack (pictured right), said: Together with other local businesses, we are stronger and can create innovative solutions for reducing carbon emissions in our businesses, our communities and the planet."

Brentwood Borough Council announced it will be carbon neutral by 2040.

Matt Palmer, executive director of Lower Thames Crossing (pictured left), added: "I'm delighted for the Lower Thames Crossing to sign the BEBA pledge and we are excited about working closely with the BEBA Community over the coming years."

For more information, visit brentwood-beba.co.uk





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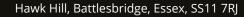


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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



Railway will host special diesel engine gala

pping Ongar Railway will see a special locomotive back in action at an event this month.

On September 17 and 18, the Class 20 locomotive 20001 will make a return after undergoing maintenance, including an engine overhaul and a repaint.

The train will make its first appearance in more than three years at the railway's Autumn Diesel Gala event.

The event will consist of three train-intensive services across the weekend. All trains will be running synonymously with a fleet of Heritage buses which will be operating between Ongar, North Weald, Epping

Underground and Shenfield National Rail stations.

The trains will offer a series of refreshments at the train bar where they will be serving a selection of draught beers, alongside wines, lagers and soft drinks, with the event hosting its very own Real Ale Train on September 17.

The event will be offering £5 cab rides for those who would like to see the line from the unique vantage point of a loco cab. The gala is also providing brake van rides which like the cab rides, will be done on a first-come first-served basis.

Find out more at www.eorailway.co.uk



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LOCAL



Council wants out of RideLondon cycle route

Ongar Town Council (OTC) is hoping to withdraw the town from being involved in a major London cycling event.

OTC is to write to the organisers of RideLondon Essex to call for the town to be excluded from the route for next year's mass participation cycle event.

Councillors unanimously voted on August 18 that OTC's views should be expressed to the event organiser, London Marathon Events, as well as to Essex County Council (ECC) and Active Essex.

An announcement was recently made that ECC has approved the event, which attracted more than 20,000 cyclists this year and will take place next year on Sunday, May 28. However, no decision has yet

been taken over the route.

ECC said engagement will take place over the route before a decision is taken in the autumn.

OTC chairman councillor Derek Birch told the town council meeting: "It closed the town down. It basically locked everyone in."

Councillor Simon Cole said: "The impact on the town was unacceptable."

OTC is also complaining that a post-event public meeting to gauge public views had not taken place.

Ongar was a focal point for this year's event with two rest stops – at Ongar Leisure Centre and the two High Street car parks – as riders arrived at the Four Wantz roundabout on both the 60-mile and 100-mile routes.

New domestic abuse support group launched

Thrive Survivors Group is offering residents of Ongar peer support and professional facilitators in safe, comfortable surroundings.

Funded via the Epping Forest Public Health Grant and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), the group is a collaboration between the Epping Team Ministry, Epping Forest Health and Wellbeing Board, Changing Pathways and Epping Forest CSP and is proving to be a vital resource for women who have found the courage to leave abusive relationships.

Changing Pathways, an organisation providing free and confidential support to those subjected to domestic abuse and stalking, runs the meetings.

Changing Pathways facilitator Bexx and mindfulness coach Catherine offer attendees support with coping strategies and next steps.

Phillis, the Thrive group coordinator, is also a domestic abuse survivor, bringing a personal element to the discussions.

Councillor Holly Whitbread, chair of Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership, said: "It brings together a number of organisations that are able to provide emotional and practical support for women escaping domestic abuse."

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Metal detectorist discovers medieval coins



wo early medieval gold coins found by a metal detectorist in Ongar have been purchased by Epping Forest District Museum.

The tremisses, valued at £7,500 by the Treasure Valuation Committee, were unearthed towards the bottom of Bansons Lane in autumn 1999, at the time that work was being carried out on the entrance road to the Kings Head car park.

Ongar Town Council approved making a £250 contribution towards the purchase cost.

lan Channell, collections officer at the museum, told the town council the coins date from the late 6th to 7th century.

Mr Channell said: "There are no comparable objects, chronologically, culturally or stylistically, in the collection.

"The coins are evidence that the Kingdom of Essex. and the wider heptarchy, were not discrete, static entities existing in a vacuum, but were very much linked ethnically, culturally, religiously and economically with each other and the European continent."

Man arrested after racially charged attack

Aman from Ongar has been arrested in connection with an investigation into an attempted assault and criminal damage.

Police received a report that a man had made threats to a man in his 40s and then tried to run him over in Wych Elm, Harlow, at around 7.30pm on May 31.

The victim also reported being racially abused and that his car was damaged.

At the beginning of August, a 34-year-old man from Ongar was arrested on suspicion of attempted grievous bodily harm with intent, assault, criminal damage, and racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment.

He has been released under investigation.

A spokesperson for Essex Police said: "If you have

any information, CCTV, dashcam or any other footage in relation to this incident, please get in contact with us. Please guote crime reference number 42/139201/22.

"You can let us know by submitting a report on our website at www.essex.police.

"Alternatively you can call us on 101."

Vacancies open for new councillors

ngar Town Council (OTC) is on the lookout for new councillors, with vacancies currently available.

Anyone can apply for the positions, with OTC saying the candidates should be able to listen, be a voice for their community and attend meetings.

OTC says any prospective councillor can expect to feel a "sense of achievement and pride", particularly when they see decisions they have helped to make create a difference in the community.

It also offers assurances that there will be support from other councillors and that there is no need for an election for candidates to be appointed.

All that is needed is a CV or a short note explaining why you are interested in becoming a councillor and what you could contribute to the town.

An OTC spokesperson said: "The main role of a town councillor is to represent the views of all residents within the town and to listen to, and understand, the views and needs of different groups in the community.

"Whatever needs changing in your neighbourhood, you could be just the person to change it.

"Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work."

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 8pm at the council offices in Bansons Way, and you will be invited to attend and speak to the

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HEARTBEAT

WHY DOCTORS ARE ADVISING CAUTION WHERE HEARTBEAT-TRACKING DEVICES ARE CONCERNED

echnology has put us more in touch with our bodies than ever before. It all began with the advent of the internet, whereby we could quickly and effectively research ailments by typing symptoms into Google.

Of course, seeing as we've all wrongly self-diagnosed a worst-case scenario, it might be said that the technology lets us down, and that concept is at the core of why a growing number of doctors are expressing fear at the breadth of heartrate monitors that now follow our every move.

From the simple Fitbit to the Apple Watch, right through to medical-grade vests measuring every throb and pulse, the data we accumulate can often be used in realtime to warn us of a possible problem, because when someone's heart skips a beat, tech companies want to let that person

know about it.

Yet cardiologists say the information these devices produce isn't always useful. After all, notifications from the devices aren't definitive diagnoses, and in our pursuit of health we are now more likely to respond in a manner that leans on the healthcare system, when what we are receiving is often a false alarm.

"The technology has outpaced us," says Rod Passman, a cardiologist at Northwestern University who's assisting with a study examining the Apple Watch's ability to screen for heart rhythm conditions. "Industry came out with these things because they could. Now we're playing catch-up and trying to figure out what to do with this information."

So while some products will call for help if the wearer has been in a car crash or had a bad fall, others are fully making patients the protagonists in maintaining their health, and that's dangerous.

Rod adds: "The fact is that these devices are lifestyle, not healthcare, devices, and the hundreds of millions of users need to enjoy their exercise without the anxiety of the unknown."







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'm probably a perfectionist," admits Idris Elba, who turns 50 this month. "With what I do, I need to be, whether it comes from film, music, whatever. You're putting a piece of art out there, and you need to be confident with it because once it's out there, it's out."

For a perfectionist, however, Elba is chilled and agreeable in conversation. He offers cool, considered responses with ease.

The man radiates so much energy and intensity that you can't escape it, and that permeates through an increasingly diverse slew of roles, embodying the likes of DCI John Luther, Heimdall in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *The Wire*'s Stringer Bell and Charlie Jaffey in *Molly's Game*.

And yet those iconic characters only represent half of what the Londoner is all about.

His style, swagger, gruff exterior and devastating charm mean he is a man who can flit between so many different worlds; and yet he pulls off the look with respect and humility.

"I think a lot of that comes from the fact I had to struggle to get to this point," he says. "For many years, I was a nobody who couldn't catch a break and just blended into the crowd.

"There were very few directors who wanted to take a chance on me, and as time went on, so too did I begin thinking that I should just focus on my music, or my art, or perhaps just get a real job."

The relief is that Elba didn't. In 2022, he has George Miller's epic fantasy adventure *Three Thousand Years of Longing* opposite Tilda Swinton, and *Thor: Love and Thunder*, plus the film version of *Luther*, which will screen on Netflix.

"Luther returning as a film is a really big new thing, and I think for it to work it needed to be different.

"You are elongating what you have to play with, yet at the same time shortening the whole story into two hours, so the very fabric is altered.

"I think for that reason you can regard it as original and very exciting."

Asked whether he actually affords himself the ability to stop and take stock, the father-of-two notes: "I don't have much time to rest, and I don't really like long sleeps. They don't put me in a place of urgency and that's where I want to be, certainly in terms of work and productivity and happiness. That's not to say I don't try to get as many hours of good sleep as I can – I'm just not very good at it," he laughs.

"It's a real balancing act and it's safe to say I'm not there yet."

Elba's laid-back approach is a factor that will win him a bounty of script offers moving forward. He is someone who, in these troubled times of panic, indecision and hysteria, emits an effortless sense of cool. "I think it's easy to confuse being laid-back with being laissez-faire about things," he says. "I think you can be calm and charged at the same time.

"Your actions don't always reflect your emotions – hey, I'm an actor, after all." And one of our finest...



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SLE & STEADY wins the race

There's something magical about turning a humble hedgerow berry into something to tease the tastebuds, like sloe gin. And better still, it's really simple to make. Sloes grow on blackthorn bushes, which are found all over the UK. The bushes blossom in

early spring with clouds of pretty white flowers, and the deep purple berries start forming in August. For sloe gin, people often recommend that you don't pick them until after the first frost. Apparently, this makes the berries sweeter and softer. The only problem is that birds love sloes, too, and they might get there before you do.

So the Woodland Trust recommends that you pick sloes from late September. After washing and drying them, just pop them in the freezer. This creates an artificial frost - and the berries will keep in the freezer for several months.

When you're out picking sloes, it's a good idea to wear gloves and a long-sleeved top as their branches are prickly and covered with thorns. And remember, sloes don't taste good raw. And while eating them in this state won't harm adults, never give them to children.

How to make sloe gin

Ingredients:

500g sloes (rinsed and dried) | 250g caster sugar | 1 litre gin

Method:

- Prick the sloes with a cocktail stick and tip into a 2-litre glass jar.
- Add the sugar and gin, seal the jar and shake well.











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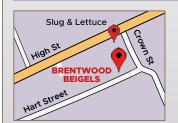
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Blackberry

They look good, they taste good, and they do you good too. What more could you ask of a fruit you can gather for free?

Blackberries have been eaten in Britain since Neolithic times. And there are plenty of places to pick them throughout most of September. You'll find them in straggly clumps, in woods, hedges, heaths, roadside verges, and perhaps in your own garden.

Blackberries are a great source of vitamin C, potassium, manganese and antioxidants. Research indicates they may help prevent heart disease, certain cancers and inflammatory conditions such as arthritis.

You'll need to pick the berries when they're ripe - when their colour changes from red to purplish black. Once you're home, wash them in cold water. Add a little salt and leave them to soak for 5-10 minutes. This will get rid of any bugs, which should float to the surface.

Remember, fresh blackberries don't last long. So make sure to use them within a day or two or freeze them for later.

There are loads of delicious blackberry recipes both sweet and savoury. This one's a twist on

INGREDIENTS:

250g sugar | 375g plain flour | 1 tsp baking powder | 200g butter (soft) | 1 egg | 450g blackberries (washed) | 1 tbsp cornflour

HOW TO MAKE:

- > Preheat the oven to 190°C/170°C fan/gas mark 5 and grease a 20x30cm tin.
- Stir together 200g sugar, flour and baking powder. Using a fork, blend in the butter and egg. The dough will be crumbly.
- Pat half the dough mixture into the tin.
- Mix together the fruit, the remaining 50g sugar and cornflour. Mix gently (it doesn't matter if the mixture is a bit squishy).
- Spread the blackberry mixture evenly over the douah.
- > Crumble the remaining dough mixture on top.
- > Bake for 35-40 minutes, till the top is golden.
- > Cool, then cut into squares. Enjoy!





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f you know your lickswishy from your snozzberry, chances are you're a fan of author Roald Dahl. September 13 - the author's birthday - marks Roald Dahl Day, and schools around the world will be celebrating the occasion with a host of fun

Dahl was born in Wales in 1916 to Norwegian parents. He was just four years old when his father died. His mother decided against moving the family back to Norway, as she knew her husband wanted their children to have a British education, which he regarded as the best in the world.

Dahl's schooldays inspired many of his children's books. For instance, at his boarding school, children were asked to taste test Cadbury's chocolate bars, which inspired Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. But there were more sinister influences too, such as scary adults. In his books at least, the children always got their revenge.

After leaving school, Dahl worked in East Africa and was a spy and an ace fighter pilot during the Second World War.

In 1953, Dahl married American actress Patricia Neal and together they had five children. The couple divorced after 30 years and Dahl later married film producer Felicity Crosland.

From 1953 until his death in 1990, Dahl lived in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, in a house with a specially built writing hut in the garden. This was where he wrote all 20 of his famous children's books, from James and the Giant Peach in 1961 to The Minpins, published after his death.

In 2012, the interior of the hut was carefully removed and installed in its new home, the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, also in Great

He is buried at St Peter's Church, Great Missenden, along with his snooker cues, some good burgundy, chocolates, HB pencils and a power saw.

For more information, visit roalddahl.com/createand-learn/join-in/roald-dahl-day







Wave goodbye to

re you struggling to find snacks for your kilds that aren't loaded with sugar? Check out these sugar-free snacks that are easy to prepare, cost-effective to make and help to support healthy teeth and gums.

Roasted chickpeas

Although chickpeas are most commonly associated with houmous, they can also be roasted to create a healthy sugar-free snack. Simply place on a baking tray, drizzle with olive oil and then add whatever spices your children like.

Vegetable pikelets

Perfect for little ones who are averse to eating vegetables when they can see them, vegetable pikelets are a great savoury after-school snack. Make a batter by mixing 2 cups wholemeal flour, 3 tsp baking powder, 2 eggs and 1.5 cups of milk. Add 2 cups of your chosen vegetables and 1 cup cheese. Mix and then fry like little pancakes.

Peanut butter dip

Although some peanut butters contain sugar, you can get natural ones that are sugar-free at most supermarkets. To make a delicious kid-friendly dip, whip together equal parts cream cheese and peanut butter until light and creamy. Serve with apples or celery.

Boiled eggs

Super-simple, filing and nutritious, boiled eggs are a great snack for kids who come home from school starving. You can hard boil eggs in advance, peel and store in the fridge. Serve just as they are, sprinkle with spices or make some devilled eggs.



Quacamole

Avocado is full of healthy fats and makes a great snack for babies, toddlers and older children alike. To make a delicious guacamole, smash up or blend a ripe avocado and then squeeze in some lime juice. Stir in a little Greek vogurt until you get the desired consistency. Serve with veggie sticks or pitta.





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5 PET PARENTING mis (akes

e are a nation of animal lovers, with 59 per cent of UK households owning a pet. However, that doesn't mean that we always get everything right with their care. Read our list of the most common pet parenting mistakes below to see if you're guilty.

X NOT TRAINING YOUR PET

Did you forgo puppy training? If yes, then you are putting your pooch at a distinct disadvantage. When done correctly, training can help to provide quidance, support and structure, all of which your puppy needs in the early stages of their development.

X OVERFEEDING YOUR PET

Overfeeding is an extremely common pet parenting mistake which can lead to a whole host of health problems. Whether you don't know the correct portion sizes or you are guilty of handing out too many treats, it is vital that you help your pet maintain a healthy weight.



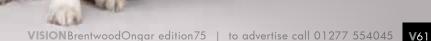
Vet bills can be extortionate, which can lead to pet parents avoiding essential check-ups. That being said, it is actually more cost-effective to take your pet to the vet regularly rather than wait until they require treatment. Remember, prevention is always better than cure.

X FORGETTING DENTAL HEALTH

Oral health problems such as sore gums. tooth decay and bad breath can all affect pets in the same way that they do humans. Therefore, it is essential that you care for your dog's or cat's teeth. Daily brushing is the most effective way to prevent periodontal disease and only takes a few minutes of your day.

X NOT GIVING ENOUGH ATTENTION

While you may have showered your new puppy or kitten with love, it can become all too easy to fall into the habit of not paying your pet enough attention. However, the more you observe your pet, the more likely you are to spot any behavioural changes or health issues.





ost animals go into hibernation in autumn as it is the most efficient way to survive the cold winter months. Find out how to recognise hibernating wildlife in your garden and how to help them survive until spring.

Signs of hibernating wildlife

Leaf pile

A pile of leaves in a corner of the garden, in the compost bin or behind the shed can mean you have a hibernating hedgehog or two. Hedgehogs can also hibernate in bonfire piles, so be sure to check before you light.

Movement in a pond

If you have a pond in your garden and you notice movement or shadows at the bottom, this could mean that frogs are hibernating there. These are typically male frogs as they favour hibernating in water rather than in mud or under leaves.

Mounds of soil

Small mounds of soil can indicate that mining bees are nesting in your lawn or in your borders. If this is the case, it is likely that their offspring will be hibernating there until spring.

Long grass

Although long grass is not a sign of hibernation, it is highly likely that wildlife will be seeking shelter there. In particular, caterpillars and moths hibernate in long grass, as well as beetles and other grubs.

Leaves on a wall

If you notice leaves on a wall in your garden, these may not actually be leaves but clusters of butterflies who often hibernate in groups.

How to protect hibernating wildlife

- * Create leaf and log piles
- Have plants that offer winter nectar, such as mahonia and hellebores
- Move any bug houses to a sheltered spot
- Put up a nest box for birds
- Avoid late tidying of any potential hibernation snots
- Leave out a supply of nuts to support squirrels as they collect food.



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oes your garden boast beautiful blooms during spring and summer but look a little bleak and bare the rest of the year? If yes, then check out these flowering evergreen plants that promise to provide colour all year round.

Heather: Heathers are compact, evergreen shrubs that boast tiny bell-shaped flowers in an array of stunning shades including white, pink, red and mauve. You can find varieties that flower in summer and autumn, and even ones that bloom during the coldest months of the year.

Creeping myrtle: Creeping myrtle, aka Vinca minor, is a blue-flowering vine that boasts shiny evergreen leaves on long, arching stems. With the ability to provide ground cover for shade, creeping myrtle can grow up to six inches tall, with a spread of 18 inches. Ideal for those who want an attractive and hardy evergreen plant in their garden.

Azaleas: If you have a shady spot in your garden that needs brightening up, then azaleas are the ideal choice. A small evergreen shrub that showcases bright flowers in spring and vibrant greenery all year round, plant azaleas in the ground or opt for dwarf varieties in pots if you are short on space.

Camellias: Camellia sinensis is a welcome sight in late winter and early spring, offering an abundance of colour when most other plants are not in bloom. With glossy evergreen leaves that promise to look good throughout the year, camellias thrive in shady spots and acidic soil.

Choisya: Choisya, also known as Mexican orange blossom, is a low-maintenance evergreen shrub that proudly displays white star-shaped flowers and glossy green leaves. Plant in a sunny and sheltered spot and enjoy the delicious smell of orange blossom in late spring/early summer.



Beautiful

eptember is the perfect month for planting spring bulbs, and these can be placed directly into borders or in pots for patios and smaller gardens.

Discover our top picks for a blooming beautiful spring garden below.

Snowdrops: Snowdrops are the first bulbs to flower, usually in February, and are often hailed as the first sign of spring. With the ability to flower whatever the weather, even in snow, these delicate flowers thrive in moist, well-drained soil and in partial shade. Grow in borders or pots.

Vises: Iris reticulata is ideal for small pots, window boxes and raised beds. Bringing some muchneeded colour to your garden as early as February, irises like the sun and free-draining spots.

Crocuses: Crocuses provide a carpet of colour in the garden from late winter onwards and are very easy to grow. They are well suited to both borders and pots; place them in a sunny spot for best results.

Tulips: Tulips come in almost every colour, from pastels to rich shades. They are perfect for adding vibrancy to spring borders in April and May but can also be grown in pots. Tulips favour full or afternoon sun and the soil must be well drained.

Hyacinths: Highly fragrant and available in a wide range of colours, hyacinths look amazing in borders in the front garden or in pots for a splash of colour. Hyacinths thrive in most soils as long as they are not too wet. Plant in full sun or partial shade.

Daffodils: Daffodils are synonymous with spring and there are many different varieties for you to choose from. Ranging in height from 10cm to 45cm, daffodils can be yellow, white, cream or lemoncoloured. They grow very well in pots but also make a great addition to borders.





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YOUR RETIREMENT TODAY

The class of 2022 retirement report¹ provides a riveting insight into the plans and thoughts of those either planning to retire this year or recent retirees, really highlighting the changing face of retirement in the UK.

The last couple of years have impacted people's plans, with many people reassessing what retirement looks like to them. Fewer people are giving up work entirely, choosing to adopt a more staggered approach to retirement. Two-thirds (66 per cent) plan to continue working in some capacity during retirement; of this number, some plan to move to part-time hours, others intend to continue working for their own business. start their own new business or volunteer. Therefore, a third of retirees' plan to give up work altogether, down from 44 per cent of 2021 retirees.

FINANCIAL READINESS

Confidence in financial readiness to retire has fallen. with only 25 per cent feeling financially ready to retire, versus 30 per cent in 2021. A key factor in this fall is the rising cost of living, with 28 per cent of respondents unsure how to mitigate the impact of rising inflation on their retirement income – a prime concern for those with large cash holdings.

PASS IT ON

With more than half (56 per cent) of retirees planning to pass on wealth to their loved ones, just 23 per cent feel confident about how they will pass on any leftover assets to loved ones. Only nine per cent have started gifting wealth to reduce their Inheritance Tax liability. Interestingly, just 30 per cent have had conversations with their partner about passing on their estate, while just 26 per cent have spoken to their children about it.

NO TWO RETIREMENTS ARE THE SAME

Retirement is a thriving new beginning to plan for. Whether you're thinking about a gradual retirement or full retirement, how do you visualise your retirement years? Have you thought about your income requirements or tax implications? Have you started a conversation with family about how you want to use your wealth to help them? Advice can help you seek clarity and provide focus and direction.

At HCR, we take the time to understand our clients' unique planning needs and circumstances, so that we can provide you with the most suitable solutions in the most cost-effective way. For a free review of your current financial situation, please contact Karyn Vogel on 01277 654153.

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HOW TO HACK-PROOF YOUR PASSWORD

There is a hacker attack every 39 seconds, with 300,000 new on your social media profiles. malware created every day.

One of the easiest ways to protect your data is by using strong passwords.

1. USE EIGHT CHARACTERS MINIMUM

Each character you add to your password makes it harder to crack. Your passwords should contain a

minimum of eight characters and up to 20 if you can remember them.

2. AVOID WORDS IN THE DICTIONARY

Using words that are correctly spelt from the dictionary is not a good idea as these are much easier to hack. This is particularly true if you use a word that is related to either your personal life or

3. DO NOT USE FAMILY NAMES

This may seem obvious, but you will be surprised at how many people use the names of their children, spouse or pets in their passwords. This information

is easy to guess and can be readily found

4. INCLUDE SPECIAL CHARACTERS

A good trick is to replace certain letters in your passwords with special characters. For example, rather than using the password 'Edward1', you could use '3dw4rd!'. By replacing letters with characters that look similar, you are also less likely to forget your password.

5. USE PASSPHRASES, NOT PASSWORDS

A phrase such as the title of a book or a line in a film is much more difficult to crack than just a word. Plus, once you start replacing some of the letters with special characters, you are even closer to creating an unhackable password.

6. TRY A PASSWORD GENERATOR

There are many free apps that you can download which will generate passwords for you. These passwords are designed to be completely random, which does make them harder to remember, but means they are nearly impossible to hack.





here do you think the world's most exclusive address is? Beverley Hills? Mayfair? It turns out the answer isn't on dry land.

That's right, the world's most exclusive property is actually on the water - the superyacht Somnio. Due to launch in 2024. Somnio has 39 on-board apartments, which are fully tailored to the owner's wishes.

take a closer look.

THE LARGEST YACHT IN THE WORLD

Somnio is set to become the largest supervacht in the world, measuring 33,500 gross register tonnage and almost 222 metres long. Replacing cabins with luxury apartments, it will bring a whole new meaning to the phrase 'travel in style'.

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> Co-founder and captain Erik Bredhe, who oversaw the €500million project, says: "Beauty may be found as much on the inside of Somnio as on the outside. As the only residential supervacht in the world, we are delighted to work with designers that complement our exacting standards. Our owners will experience only the best, as befits a vacht of this nature."

> With prices starting at €15million, Somnio's actual route is a closely guarded secret, making the superyacht not only exclusive, but elusive too.



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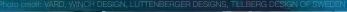
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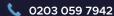


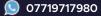












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HOW TO MAKE EYELINER USING ACTIVATED CHARCOAL

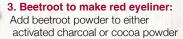
- > Break a few capsules of activated charcoal into a small dish.
 - > Dip your eyeliner brush directly into the charcoal and apply.
 - > You do not need to add any other ingredients as the charcoal will naturally mix with the oil on your skin and stay in place once applied.

HOW TO MAKE EYELINER USING ALMONDS

- > Use a pair of tweezers to hold an almond while you burn it with a lighter. Make sure you wear heatproof gloves to protect your hands.
 - > Continue to burn the almond until half of it has turned to soot.
 - > Scrape the soot into a dish using a butter knife.
 - > Try to avoid scaping any large chunks of unburned almond into the dish.
 - > Dip your eyeliner brush into the soot and apply it in your preferred style.
 - > If you prefer a more gel-like consistency, you can add a few drops of jojoba, almond or coconut oil.

HOW TO MAKE DIFFERENT COLOURED EYELINER

- 1. Cocoa to make brown eveliner: Mix unsweetened cocoa powder with a few drops of water or jojoba oil and apply.
- 2. Spirulina to make green eyeliner: Pour spirulina powder into a dish and apply directly or mix with water or oil for a gel effect.



to create a reddish hue.

4. Mica powder to make a rainbow of colours: Mica powder can be bought online and comes in every colour of the rainbow. Use this powder the same way you'd use activated charcoal.

EYELINER HACKS YOU SHOULD

- > Draw small dots on the top of your lash line with a pencil and then join with liquid liner
- > Use a magnifying mirror
- > Always start with the eye you find the most difficult.



is back in Town!

ringe is back with a vengeance this autumn and has already been spotted on stars such as Charlize Theron and Olivia Palermo. From tasseled denim jackets to fringed mini-dresses, there are so many stylish ways you can embrace this trend in 2022.

WHAT IS FRINGE FASHION?

Fringe first came into fashion in the 1920s as part of the flapper look, with dresses that were typically cut from luxurious materials and ornamented with fringed trim. Over the decades, fringe has gone in and out of fashion, but is now back bigger and bolder than ever before. It can be found in many different styles on garments made out of a variety of fabrics, from leather and suede to denim and silk.

HOW TO ROCK FRINGE THIS AUTUMN

1. Fringed midi leather skirt

Why rock only one autumn 2022 fashion trend when you could embrace two? Leather is a great material for fringing and, when showcased on a midi skirt, guarantees you will look super stylish.

2. Fringed denim jacket

The denim jacket is the perfect wardrobe staple to take you fron summer to autumn, and adding a little (or a lot) of fringe detailing can inject a touch of fun to any outfit. Look for an oversized and boxy shoulder with plenty of fringe for maximum effect.

3. Fringed wrap dress

Ideal for taking you from shopping to a hot date, a fringed wrap dress promises to make you look sophisticated and stylish. Pair with some strappy shoes and minimal accessories for an effortlessly glam vibe.

4. Fringed accessories

If fringed clothing is a little bit too far outside your fashion comfort zone, then why not try adding a few fringed accessories? For your first foray, fringed earrings are a great choice, c why not pick up a tasseled handbag?



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alance Awareness Week takes place from September 18-24 and aims to broaden the understanding of inner ear disorders and how they can affect someone's daily life.

Most people take balance for granted, yet without it, you can suffer a whole host of health problems.

Why is balance important

Balance is needed to perform everyday activities, including walking, going up and down the stairs, and even just standing upright. It is particularly important in older adults, as good balance can help to prevent falls. Some of the main benefits of improving your balance include:

- > Preventing injuries
- > Improving posture
- > Strengthening muscles
- > Improving coordination
- > Improving cognitive function

How to improve your balance

There are several exercises you can do at home to improve your balance, and you don't need a single piece of equipment to do them.

Single leg lift

Stand upright with your feet close together. Keep your head straight, take a deep breath and slowly lift your right leg off the floor. As you gain confidence, bring your leg higher so that your knee is as close to your chest as you can comfortably manage. Repeat with your left leg.

Single leg lift side version

Stand upright with your feet close together. Keep your head straight and your eyes forward, then slowly lift your right leg to the side. Make sure you keep your body upright as you do this. Do not lean to the side. Repeat with your left leg.

Balance walk

Find a straight line or place a piece of tape on the floor. Extend both arms to your side, keep your feet straight and place your right heel at the tip of your left toes. Next, place your left heel at the tip of your right toes. Continue placing one foot in front of the other without straying from the line.







hances are you don't pay that much attention to the condition of your nails. However, did you know that a change in their appearance can indicate an underlying health condition?

BEAU'S LINES: Beau's lines are deep grooved lines that run from side to side on the fingernail or toenail. They often look like ridges or indentations on the nail plate. Beau's lines can indicate uncontrolled diabetes, a zinc deficiency or peripheral vascular disease.

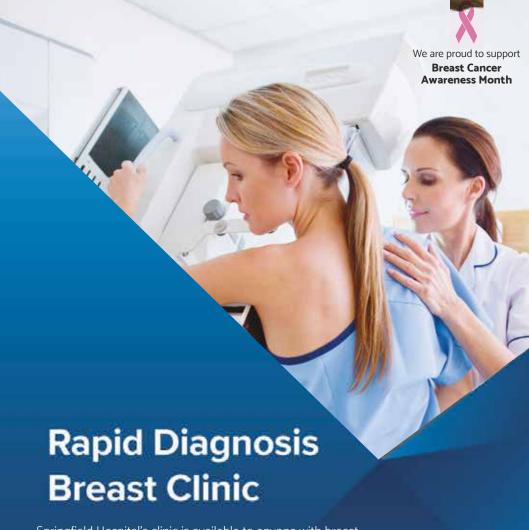
TELLOW NAIL SYNDROME: If you have yellow nail syndrome, your nails will thicken and nail growth slows down. This results in a yellowish discolouration of the nails. Yellow nail syndrome is often a sign of respiratory disease or lymphedema.

IERRY'S MMLS: Terry's nails is a condition that makes the nails appear white apart from a narrow pink band at the tip. This nail condition can occur because of ageing, but it can also be a sign of a more serious health concern such as liver disease, kidney failure or diabetes.

SPBON MALS: As the name suggests, spoon nails are soft nails that look as if they have been scooped out. Spoon nails are often a sign of an iron deficiency or a liver condition known as hemochromatosis. They are also associated with heart disease and hypothyroidism.

IMIL CLUBBING: Nail clubbing occurs when the tips of the fingernails become enlarged and the nail curves around the fingertips. Nail clubbing can be a sign of inflammatory bowel disease, cardiovascular disease or liver disease. It is also sometimes the result of low oxygen in the blood.

WIL PITTING: Ice-pick-like depressions in the nall are known as nail pitting. This nail condition is common in people with psoriasis. Nail pitting can also be related to connective disorders such as Reiter's syndrome and alopecia areata.



Springfield Hospital's clinic is available to anyone with breast symptoms. If you are paying for yourself, just call the number below to make an appointment. If you are using your private medical insurance, please call your insurance company to get an authorisation number. Then call our appointments line who will make an appointment for you.

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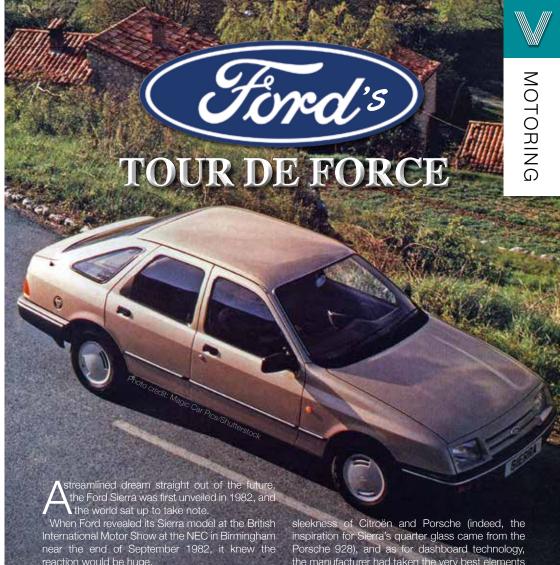
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reaction would be huge.

The company was in the throes of investing more than \$1.2billion into the design, production and manufacture of this sleek, slick piece of automotive engineering, and the industry immediately knew it had something big on its hands.

For Ford, the reaction was just what the doctor ordered. The pressure had been on to find a successor to the Cortina, a stylish car that was, nonetheless, constructed around convenience and practicality.

Industry experts guessed that the manufacturer's next move would be to push those ideals further forward, but instead Ford went into overdrive with a design that rivalled the comfort of Audi, the

the manufacturer had taken the very best elements from the likes of Saab and BMW.

Sure enough, after a slow initial take-up (mostly because of a punchy purchase price and an excess of Cortinas still sat on forecourts, now with muchreduced process), drivers gradually fell in love with the Sierra.

The Sapphire and, of course, sporty Cosworth models nicely tweaked the Sierra proposition, and it wasn't until the Mondeo arrived in 1993 that sales began to fall.

Looking at the Ford Sierra now, some may label it cumbersome and clumsy by today's aerodynamic standards, but in the 1980s, it was the very height of motor chic, and its legacy lives on today.



PUZZLES & TRIVIA

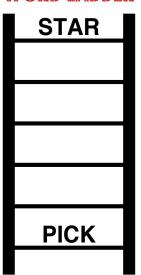
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DID YOU KNOW?

- Trees contain quite a lot of water. When lightning strikes, most of the water reaches boiling point, turning it to steam and increasing pressure. This can cause the tree to explode.
- The average blue whale has a heart approximately the size of a car.
- Around 90 per cent of humans live in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ▶Blue whales are able to hear each other from around 500 miles away.
- ▶ Platypuses can produce their own venom which is injected through barbs on the male's back legs.
- ►When threatened, ostriches run, although their powerful kick is capable of killing a human or even a lion.

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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