

HOW TO
PERFORM
CPR ON
AN ADULT

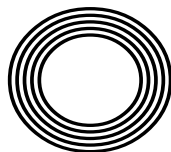
50 YEARS
of Mr Men and Little Miss

Sue Barker

Celebrating the TV presenter's career

SIR RICHARD BRANSON

The billionaire completes out-of-this-world venture



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Editor's notes...

AUGUST 2021



Brett Shohet, Editor

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

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. While it's been a tough year in many respects, this summer of sport has been an absolute blessing - I'm exhausted just watching it.

It's been an amazing couple of months - tennis, cricket, Formula 1 and now the Olympics have all made for fantastic viewing, but football in particular has made this summer special for me and so many others.

The 2020 European Championships offered an opportunity to celebrate with friends and family - I felt like a kid again, cheering and going mad.

What a fantastic escape from some of the struggles we've had as a nation in recent times.

Unfortunately, it ended in disappointment. And I'm not referring to the championships themselves - our players were absolutely phenomenal - I'm referring to the individuals who inexcusably decided to abuse three young players from our heroic squad. Those committing such hate crimes are the only individuals who let our country down during the Euros, and I hope they are ashamed of themselves.

On a lighter note, we have fantastic opportunities for some new sales staff as we look to grow our team. So if you're interested in taking up a sales or business development position, please get in touch with me.

Thanks as always for reading.

Brett Shohet

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

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SPORTING INJUSTICE?

SUE BARKER CBE'S DEPARTURE AS A QUESTION OF SPORT HOST INFURIATED AN ADMIRING BBC AUDIENCE, BUT THE PRESENTER'S CAREER IS ONE TO BE CELEBRATED.

The ever-evolving world of sport is perhaps only rivalled these days by the BBC's drive for diversity and representation, so the fact Sue Barker CBE has managed to keep pace over the past 24 years is nothing short of commendable.

Alas, the 65-year-old former British tennis star has fronted her final show as presenter of the iconic *A Question of Sport* (AQoS). When news of her departure first broke towards the end of last year, there were clamours of resistance and dismay from every corner – after all, not only is Barker's demographic one that arguably struggles for airtime in the BBC's revised content package, but hosts with her informed, cheeky, charming aplomb are exceptionally hard to come by.

Barker certainly won't be short of new projects – she has always combined presenting duties across AQoS, BBC Sports Personality of the Year, Wimbledon, athletics and the Olympics. While many of those other engagements will carry on, the AQoS team will need to pull out all the stops to replace not just Barker, but also team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell, with personalities able to knit together format and team mechanics with such precision. It was Barker's infectious laugh, slightly mumsy approach to the captains, and an ability to keep up with the cut and thrust of fast-paced questions that saw the show strip off its slightly stuffy demeanour of the Eighties and Nineties, when it resembled a more sporty version of *Mastermind*, and become a programme beloved by so many.

'The presenter has never been afraid to push forward ideas – it was that courage and confidence that put her in the spotlight...'

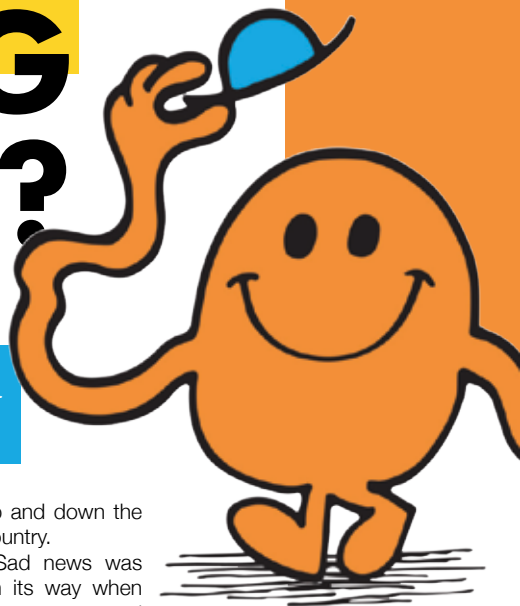
The presenter has never been afraid to push forward ideas – it was that courage and confidence that put her in the spotlight as a tennis player back in the 1970s. At the age of 17, she turned pro, and captured the hearts of the nation three years later when she won the French Open, defeating Renáta Tomanová in the final. On home soil, Barker reached the Wimbledon semi-finals in 1977, but was surprisingly beaten by Betty Stöve.

She continued to vie for titles and, at her peak, sat as the third best tennis player in the world. But injury and loss of form followed, and she retired in 1984, aged 28. Nonetheless, Barker claimed 15 singles and 12 doubles titles across her career, and her popularity was such that, on retirement, she slipped almost seamlessly into the media world, initially with Australia's Channel 7.

After three years at BSkyB, she joined the BBC in 1993, assuming the role as AQoS host four years later. While the years managing charismatic AQoS captains such as Dawson and Tufnell, plus Ally McCoist, Frankie Dettori and John Parrott, have certainly given Barker an occasionally dominant exterior on-screen, she is someone who carries herself with humility, humour and no small amount of style. Her contribution to television over the past three decades was reflected in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June, with Barker awarded the title of CBE for services to broadcasting and charity, having previously been given an MBE in 2000 and an OBE five years ago.

The presenter, who is married to landscape gardener, Lance Tankard, and lives in the Cotswolds, presented her final show in May. The new series will be fronted by comedian Paddy McGuinness. The *Top Gear*, *Take Me Out* and *I Can See Your Voice* host said: "It's an honour and opportunity I'm certainly not taking lightly".

A LONG TICKLE?



Celebrating 50 years of the Mr Men and Little Miss characters

It all started with Mr Tickle, a seemingly innocent, curly-armed cartoon character created by Roger Hargreaves. The illustrator was, at the time, a 36-year-old Yorkshire-raised writer and designer who, having become disillusioned with working in advertising and copywriting, developed characters to entertain his children.

The *Mr Tickle* book came first and sold a million copies in its first three years on the shelves. Perhaps it was the simplicity of the stories, perhaps the wonderful illustrations, perhaps the fun and colourful tales – whatever it was, Hargreaves had landed upon a series that was about to explode when the BBC picked it up and began broadcasting the stories, narrated by *Dad's Army's* Arthur Lowe.

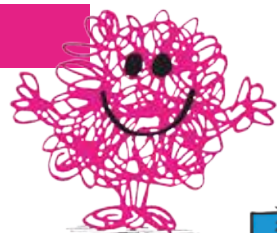
With *The Mirror* and the *Daily Mail* getting in on the act in the form of comic strips, other characters came to the fore. Now titled *Mr Men and Little Miss*, the illustrations and instantly recognisable bold capitalised font became a staple for kids

up and down the country.

Sad news was on its way when Roger passed away unexpectedly in 1988. A publishing legacy that had its roots in a father wanting to create captivating stories for his kids was suddenly under threat. It was therefore somewhat apt that his son, Adam, just 25 at the time, would take over the reins. By the turn of the century, he had developed a number of new characters for a new generation of kids whose languages, tastes, interests and fashions had moved on from those early days.

To date, the *Mr Men and Little Miss* series has developed characters based on real-life icons as diverse as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Spice Girls, as well as being featured across the London Underground and on Royal Mail stamps.

Photo credit: allaboutstamps.co.uk



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BEAUTY

MAKEOVER

your mane

Unlike women, most men seem to have an “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” approach to getting a new hairstyle. But does your current cut really complement your face? Discover the latest hairstyle trends for men based on each face shape below.

THE TEXTURED CROP

Best for triangle-shaped faces

If you’ve got a commanding jawline that outmeasures your cheekbones, then you have the perfect face shape to rock the textured crop. Seen on the likes of Chris Hemsworth and Jake Gyllenhaal, ask your barber for some extra weight on the sides and length and texture on the top.

THE LONG & LAYERED

Best for oval-shaped faces

For those with an oval face, you are in the lucky position to be able to carry off long hair à la Jason Momoa. For optimum results, go for regular trims so that your hair remains in good condition. Avoid if you have very fine hair.

THE CHERUBIM

Best for heart-shaped faces

Heart-shaped faces perfectly suit a cherubim cut, which both Justin Bieber and Harry Styles have previously showcased. Best described as a grown-out bowl cut, this hairstyle is popular with men who want the versatility of length for styling and don’t mind a slightly feminine look.

THE MESSY BED QUIFF

Best for diamond-shaped faces

Great for showcasing length on the top and natural texture, this is an easy style that requires little maintenance. Make sure to ask for plenty of length in the fringe, getting shorter towards the back.

THE SWEEP BACK

Best for square-shaped faces

If you are growing out your hair and you have a square-shaped face, you are the ideal candidate for a swept back look. Enjoying renewed interest since the series *Poldark* hit our screens, ask your barber to balance your hair for this longer style.

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WEDGES

Whether you're lacking in the height department or simply love the look

of elevated footwear, the right shoe can transform your style and your self-esteem.

However, do you opt for a more comfortable wedge or a sky-high stiletto?

What is the difference between wedges and heels?

Technically, wedges fall into the high-heeled shoe category as they do have a raised heel. That being said, with a wedge heel, you get a solid, wedge-shaped outsole that is elevated at the heel and tapers down to a flattish toe. With a high heel, the heel portion is separate from the sole underneath the toe.

Why choose wedges?

Wedges are a great option for women who struggle to walk on traditional heels, as they offer support and height by evenly distributing your weight throughout the sole. Wedges come in a variety of different materials including cork, leather, rubber and jute and can be closed or open-toed. You can even get wedge boots that make a comfier alternative to regular heeled boots.

Wear to the beach, a casual occasion or lunch with the girls.

Why choose heels?

There are several types of heels, including stilettos, kitten heels, block heels, mules and heeled boots, with each one providing a slightly different look and feel. If you are a pro at walking in high heels and want a showstopping look, then stilettos are the shoe for you. However, if you struggle with too much height, opt for a more modest kitten heel.

As a general rule, the wider the heel, the easier it is to walk in and the more support it offers your foot.

Wear to a formal occasion, a night on the town or an important meeting.

Protect your feet by limiting wearing high heels to three times a week, regularly stretching your calf muscles and soaking your feet in an Epsom salt bath for 10–15 minutes after wearing.



vs
Heels



1



2



3



4



5



6



HOW TO

PERFORM CPR

ON AN ADULT

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) could save your life, the life of a loved one or the life of a stranger. Find out how to perform CPR on an adult below.

HOW TO DO CPR ON AN ADULT:

- > If you find someone collapsed, do not place your face close to theirs. Instead, check to see if they are responsive by asking them questions. If they do not respond in any way, they are unresponsive and should be treated as soon as possible.
- > Next, check that their airway is open and clear by placing one hand on their forehead to tilt their head back and using two fingers from your other hand to lift their chin.
- > To check if they are breathing, do not place your face close to theirs. Instead, watch to see if their chest moves.
- > If an adult is unresponsive and not breathing, ask someone to call 999 or 112 for emergency help and to find a defibrillator while you commence CPR as detailed below.
- > Place a towel or piece of clothing over the mouth and nose of the casualty to protect yourself from the risk of infection.
- > Kneel next to the person and put the heel of your hand on the middle of their chest.
- > Put your other hand on top of the first and interlock your fingers, making sure that they do not touch the ribs.
- > Keep your arms straight, lean over the person and press down hard to the depth of 5–6cm before releasing pressure.
- > Allow the chest to come back up.
- > In line with new COVID-19 guidelines, do not give rescue breaths.
- > Continue to perform CPR until emergency help arrives, the person starts to show signs of life and starts to breathe normally, or until a defibrillator is ready to be used.

TOP TIP:
Use the beat of the song *Staying Alive* to keep the right speed when performing chest compressions

IN NEXT MONTH'S EDITION, LEARN HOW TO PERFORM CPR ON CHILDREN AND BABIES.



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ON YOUR BIKE

Learning to ride a bike is a rite of passage for most children, yet only three per cent of adult Brits cycle daily. It has the ability to transform your health and reduce the cost of your commute, so let's take a closer look at the benefits of biking. Plus, our tips to help you get started.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF REGULAR BIKE RIDING?

Riding a bicycle regularly provides one of the best ways to reduce your risk of health problems associated with a sedentary lifestyle. A low-impact activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, consistent cycling can:

- Increase cardiovascular fitness
- Improve muscle strength and flexibility
- Enhance joint mobility
- Decrease stress levels
- Improve posture and coordination
- Strengthen bones
- Lower body fat levels
- Reduce anxiety and depression

VISIT YOUR LOCAL BIKE SHOP

Rather than shopping online, it can be a much better idea to visit your local bike shop as they will be able to offer advice on choosing the right bike for your needs.

INVEST IN THE RIGHT KIT

Although you don't need to spend a fortune, you should invest in:

- A helmet
- A bike lock
- Bike lights
- Padded cycling shorts

ADJUST YOUR BIKE ACCORDINGLY

For maximum comfort and to avoid injury, you need to find your optimal saddle height. This can be carried out by placing your heel on the pedal at its furthest away point. Your leg should be straight so that when you clip in, there is a slight bend.

BEST BEGINNER-FRIENDLY BIKES

- Apollo Slant Men's Mountain Bike
- Cross Daisy Classic 26 Inch Wheel Size Heritage Women's Bike
- Pinnacle Lithium Two

NOT READY TO GET ON THE ROAD?

If you invest in an exercise bike instead, you can enjoy all the benefits of cycling without having to step foot outside your front door.

BEST INDOOR SMART BIKES

- Peloton Indoor Training Bike
- Echelon Smart Connect EX3
- Sportstech SX400 Speedbike



HEALTH & FITNESS



ACID CELLS

Most people will get a verruca at some point in their lives, with this unsightly virus being most common in children and young adults. Although you can buy verruca treatments, these can damage the surrounding skin, making it more vulnerable to reinfection.

So why not try the following natural remedies instead?

APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

Wash your foot and soak in water for 20 minutes | Use a pumice stone to gently remove any dead skin | Apply a thin layer of Vaseline around the verruca | Fix an apple cider-soaked cotton ball over the affected area | Check and replace until the verruca has gone.



ONION

Place several ½-inch slices of onion in a bowl, sprinkle with salt, cover and let it sit for one hour | Wash your foot and soak in soapy water for 20 minutes | Rinse and pat dry | Break an onion slice and rub over your verruca | Take another slice, place it on the verruca and cover with an adhesive bandage | Leave for three days and then check to see if the verruca has shrunk | Replace until the verruca has gone.



DUCT TAPE

Place a suitable-sized piece of duct tape over the verruca | Leave for six days. If the tape falls off, replace immediately | Immerse the verruca in warm water | Gently rub the verruca with an emery board | The next morning, apply a new piece of duct tape to begin another six-day cycle | Continue for up to two months or until it's gone.



TEA TREE OIL

Dilute three or four drops of tea tree oil in a small amount of aloe vera gel | Apply a small amount to the verruca with a cotton wool ball | Tape the cotton wool in place with sticking plaster | Leave overnight | Remove in the morning and rinse foot | Repeat until verruca has gone.



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UNUSUAL FRUIT OF THE MONTH:

Kiwano

The kiwano – also known as the horned melon owing to its spiky exterior – is an exotic fruit that is native to Southern Africa. Boasting an incredibly versatile flavour, kiwano can be enjoyed in many different ways.

WHAT DOES KIWANO TASTE LIKE?

The flavour of kiwano has been unusually likened to that of a cucumber, a banana and a lemon/lime. Its texture is similar to a passion fruit or pomegranate, with ripe kiwano showcasing orange skin and lime-green, jelly-like flesh. The skin, flesh and seeds are all edible, although be careful when eating the horns.

HOW TO PREPARE KIWANO

- Take a knife and slice in half – either through the middle or lengthways
- Gently loosen the pulp away from the skin using a knife
- Scoop out the pulp with a spoon or by squeezing it with both hands over a bowl
- Alternatively, slice into wedges and eat in the same way as you would an orange

WAYS TO EAT KIWANO

- As a simple snack
- In a juice or smoothie
- In a cocktail such as a kiwano margarita or kiwano daiquiri
- Added to a tomato salsa
- Frozen into an ice lolly
- Blended into ice cream

HOW TO STORE KIWANO

The kiwano fruit does not like the cold, so it is best kept out of the fridge and instead stored

at room temperature. An unripe kiwano can last for around 20 days at room temperature, whereas a ripe one will stay fresh for up to 10 days. Once cut, it needs to be used by the next day.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF KIWANO?

Kiwano is a low-calorie fruit that is high in vitamin A, beta carotene and magnesium. The seeds contain antioxidants, which can help to boost your immune system.



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Super SIMPLE SCONES

To celebrate Afternoon Tea Week, we are treating you to a delicious and simple scone recipe that anyone can master. Plus, discover the proper way to enjoy a quintessentially British afternoon tea.

YOU WILL NEED (makes 8 scones):

350g self-raising flour | 1 tsp baking powder | 3 tbsp caster sugar | 85g butter, cut into cubes | 175ml milk | 1 tsp vanilla extract | ¼ tsp salt | Squeeze of lemon juice | Beaten egg for glazing | 30g sultanas if desired | Jam and clotted cream to serve

HOW TO MAKE:

STEP 1: Heat the oven to 220°C/200°C fan/gas mark 7.

STEP 2: Pour the flour into a large bowl and add salt and baking powder. Mix well.

STEP 3: Add the butter and rub with fingers until you have a crumb consistency. Stir in the sugar and sultanas if desired.

STEP 4: Heat the milk in the microwave for 30 seconds until warm and then add vanilla extract and lemon juice.

STEP 5: Place a baking tray in the oven.

STEP 6: Make a well in the dry mix and add the liquid. Combine quickly.

STEP 7: Scatter flour on a clean surface and tip out the dough. Dredge the dough with more flour and fold over until smooth.

STEP 8: Pat into a round shape, around 4cm deep, and then take a 5cm-diameter cutter and dip it in flour. Plunge into the dough and repeat until you have all your scones.

STEP 9: Brush the scones with beaten egg and arrange on the hot tray.

STEP 10: Bake for 10 minutes until risen and golden on top. Enjoy with jam and clotted cream.

AFTERNOON TEA ETIQUETTE TIPS:

- Sandwiches must be eaten first – with fingers, not cutlery
- Scones should be second and eaten warm
- Scones should be broken in half by hand and each half eaten separately
- One person, 'mother', is elected to pour the tea. Guests can then add milk and sugar if desired
- Tea should be stirred back and forth, never in a circle
- A touch of fizz is allowed.





HIVE *alive*

SMART HEATING SYSTEMS AND HOW THEY WILL STYLE OUR FUTURES

Like a scene from a science fiction novel, you can now control appliances and systems in your home using your voice, a sleek home hub, or even remotely via your smartphone. From doorbells and lighting to security cameras and motion sensors, it has never been easier to make your home work for you. We also now have smart heating systems, such as Hive or Google's Nest, that have revolutionised how we heat our homes.

As the names suggest, these systems are developed with your preferences, lifestyle and – most importantly – comfort in mind. Gone are the clunky thermostats of yore that were either painfully complex to programme, or frustratingly simple with nothing more than a temperature dial. Both Nest and Hive boast stylish thermostats with customisable options, and, even better, you can also download a corresponding app that gives you full control over both your heating and hot water even while away from home.

Better still, this level of control helps you save money in the long run. Going to be home an hour late from work? Simply delay your heating until you're on your way back. Concerned about a sudden drop in temperature while you're away for the weekend? Enable the frost setting via your app to protect your pipes. You can even create zones within your house by buying smart radiator valves, to reduce your overall energy output while you're at home.

Going forward, it seems likely that devices such as these will become as ubiquitous as the kitchen sink as we edge closer towards the reality of the hi-tech modern home.



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WHEN THE MONA LISA *went missing*

DETAILING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THEFT OF THE ICONIC PORTRAIT

Stealing the world's most famous pieces of art is usually about status, spite or financial gain, yet for Vincenzo Peruggia, the architect of the theft of the Mona Lisa on August 21, 1911, it was none of these things... or so he said.

Painted in 1503, the painting ended up in France following Napoleon Bonaparte's widespread plundering of art during the Napoleonic Wars. Many of its various mysteries – the creeping smile, the haunting face, even the lack of eyebrows – can only be answered by its long-dead creator, Leonardo da Vinci.

The masterpiece had hung in the Louvre for more than a century before Peruggia, an employee at the museum on the banks of the Seine, snuck it out under his smock after having hidden in the building overnight. The gendarmerie were at a complete loss as to who stole the artwork and the theft created a media sensation, with the mystery featuring on the front pages of newspapers worldwide.

Peruggia kept the painting in his apartment in Paris for two years, then took it back to Italy. Herein lies his claim that it was removed expressly with the intention of returning it to its homeland. The thief's explanation was undermined by the fact that when contacting Florence art dealer Mario Fratelli, he placed a 500,000 lire price tag on the piece.

No sooner was the deal discussed than the prospective buyer contacted the police and Peruggia was arrested.

For his crime, the Italian received only a short prison sentence – he served seven months and was hailed a patriot upon his release. Alas, his attempts were in vain, as the Mona Lisa was returned to the Louvre, where it has been on display ever since, its notoriety merely enhanced by the theft.

Peruggia died in 1925 on his 44th birthday, leaving behind a wife and daughter.



ARE HYBRID MATTRESSES WORTH THEIR HEFTY PRICE TAG OR IS IT A LOT OF HYPE?

First came spring mattresses, then foam, and then came the exalted combination of the two. Every reinvention brings new promise of “the best night’s sleep you’ll ever have” – along with an ever-expanding price point.

New kids on the bedding block, such as Simba, Eve and Emma, have all devoted themselves to giving you the most dream-inducing, pain-relieving eight hours of rest. But regardless of their lofty claims, it is still a leap into the unknown for those accustomed to traditional brands.

So what exactly is a hybrid mattress? Well, it’s a multi-faceted design combining layers of both pocket springs and breathable foam to create a mattress that offers mouldable, gravity-defying support AND resistant buoyancy. This means not only will you feel supported in all the right places, but also that the surface resists dipping and sagging over time. They also keep you cooler during the warmer months and are less reactive to movement – ideal if your partner tends to toss and turn.

Photo credit: city.com

Another benefit that sets these flexible beauties apart from other mattresses is that they generally come vacuum-packed in relatively small boxes. Not only does this make them ideal for top-floor flats in narrow buildings, but it is also a marvel in itself as you watch your new bedfellow expand from a tightly-packed roll into a welcoming crash pad.

Not found on the high street, these hybrid designs still remain a reasonably left-field take on the mattress concept – hence the current lack of a big name, bargain equivalent. Pioneers in the field pride themselves on the huge amount of technology and design that goes into creating each prototype, with Simba bedding even boasting ‘space-inspired’ fabric. All also offer a limited-time sleep offer in which you can change your mind – creating a second market for the refurbished rejects.

So is it worth splashing the cash? If you are perpetually unsatisfied with your sleep options, you definitely ought to give one of these a try. After all, what’s worse – counting pennies or counting sheep?



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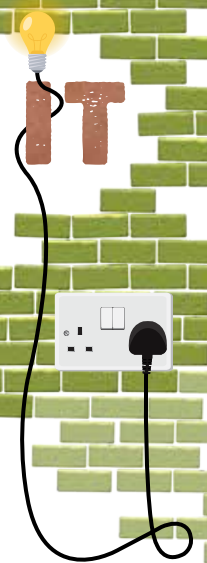
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HOME & DIY

BRICKING IT

THE SMART BRICKS THAT CAN REVOLUTIONISE
HOW WE USE ELECTRICITY IN OUR HOMES



Most of us know that bricks are brilliant insulators against the cold. In warmer periods, their thermal mass qualities can mean heat is released very gradually over time – something that's perfect for maintaining the temperature of our homes.

However, advances in construction technology are set to take our desire for energy- and cost-efficient warmth to another level.

Scientists have developed a new type of brick that works more like a battery, thanks to fine strands of special conductive polymer fibres, called PEDOTs.

The new bricks, which appear a darkish brown colour instead of the standard red, are coated with an epoxy in order to waterproof them, and are then connected to a power source. The result is that the heat stored within a single brick can power a LED light for 10 minutes.

At present, the technology on offer won't allow the bricks to be used for construction purposes because they contain an acid component in their ingredients, but scientists are looking for alternative constituents that would mean safe and durable building blocks that can be used to power the very homes they act as a border for.

What's more, it's said each brick can be charged 10,000 times without losing any more than 10 per cent of its storage capacity, suggesting longevity when put into a physical, built-in structure.

At present, each brick would cost around £2 to make, though if the necessary adjustments could be made to ensure the product becomes construction-friendly, that cost would be brought down dramatically – as would energy bills.





BANISH BATHROOM BACTERIA

Have you ever thought about how often you should clean and replace items in your bathroom? If not, the below advice from our cleaning experts may come as a shock to you.

BATHROOM TOWELS

You may be surprised to find out that bathroom towels should be washed after every three uses. Furthermore, they should be replaced entirely every one to three years.

TOP CLEANING TIP: Always hang up your towels to dry fully after each use.

BATH MATS

This essential is one of the most germ-ridden areas of your bathroom and needs to be washed every three to seven days and thrown away after two years. For mats with rubber backing, spray generously with white vinegar weekly and wash in cold water every three to four weeks.

TOP CLEANING TIP: Clean on a 40-degree wash and hang to dry.

TOILET BRUSHES

Covered in lots of harmful bacteria, your toilet brush should be cleaned weekly and replaced every six to eight months. Soak in a mixture of boiling water and bleach and allow to drip dry.

TOP CLEANING TIP: Rinse after every use for maximum longevity.

SHOWER HEADS

Shower heads should be cleaned monthly and replaced every six to eight months as harmful bacteria thrive in this moist environment, which can be harmful to the respiratory system, especially for at-risk patient groups.

TOP CLEANING TIP: Soak in a mixture of three cups hot water and one cup white vinegar for 30 minutes and then scrub with an old toothbrush.

LOOFAHS AND TOOTHBRUSHES

Both these items should be replaced every one to three months. Toothbrushes should be rinsed after every use and the handle should be wiped down once a week. Your loofah should be rinsed thoroughly after each use.

TOP CLEANING TIP: Soak your loofah in warm water and a few drops of essential oils weekly to deter bacterial growth

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grillo designs:

inspiration

FOR EVERY HOME

Get to know Grillo Designs, a UK-based interiors blog that has all the inspiration you need to transform your home

The internet is full of incredible home inspiration, but let's face it – not all of it is achievable. Those Pinterest perfect homes are often only possible with a huge budget and a team of professionals to pull it off.

So it makes a refreshing change when someone like Medina Grillo comes along. Medina's love all of things interiors led to her starting her own Facebook page back in 2014, and she now runs an award-winning blog, Grillo Designs.

Full of inspiration showing renters that they too can do incredible things with their homes, Grillo Designs is the style guide you've been looking for to transform your space.

Medina describes herself as "an IKEA-loving-upcycling-junkie-DIY-passionate-home-décor-crazy momma and wife", who shares her cool and unique designs with the world. A healthcare worker by day, she works with her partner, Vince, to bring her design ideas to life.

Grillo Designs has more than 174,000 followers on Instagram, while the blog has won several awards.

In addition to Grillo Designs, Medina is the voice behind #HowIRent - "a celebration of all the amazing renters out there who, in spite of it all, have managed to transform their homes into abodes of personality and style".

Medina's style is contemporary, blending muted shades with pops of yellow and creating interest through textures and patterns. With Grillo Designs, you can find all kinds of inspiration to create beautiful, stylish looks for your space.

BRINGING GRILLO DESIGNS INTO YOUR HOME

Grillo Designs highlights fun, quirky DIY projects you can bring into your home, whether rented or owned. Here are some amazing ideas to help you transform your own space:

1. CREATE A DIY COFFEE CORNER IN YOUR KITCHEN

Using some shelving, hooks and maybe a few pieces of artwork, you can create a stylish space to display your favourite mugs and coffee items and celebrate your love of the bean.

2. UPDATE DATED DRESSERS TO GIVE THEM A NEW LIFE

Dresser or chest of drawers chipped, covered in scratches or just a bit dull? Give it a simple makeover. You could stain the wood, paint using multi-surface paint and add some new hardware to create a complete transformation.

3. CUSTOMISE YOUR IKEA ALEX DRAWERS

Most people have some trusty IKEA Alex drawers around – especially if you've built a home workspace for yourself during the COVID-19 pandemic. Make yours a little more unique with some stickers or contact paper to add your own quirky design.



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HOW SIR RICHARD BRANSON MADE THE ULTIMATE JOURNEY AND FIRED VIRGIN GALACTIC INTO THE ANNALS OF HISTORY

Sir Richard Branson has been the voice of countless business tomes and multiple entrepreneur tutorials, all advising success-hungry go-getters how they can flourish in the relentless world of enterprise.

And that's great, until you consider how many times he himself has come close to what we might deem ultimate bankruptcy – death.

In his second autobiography, *Finding My Virginity*, the 71-year-old self-starter lists 75 occasions when the end might have been nigh – from swimming to shore from a sinking fishing boat on honeymoon (he and first wife, Kristen, were the only survivors), to falling down a gaping gorge on Necker Island, to so many serious airborne emergencies you'd be surprised if he ever wanted to leave terra firma again... except, this is Richard Branson.

A man who has never admitted defeat, the Virgin founder has now ascended to a level of human achievement that sets him apart from anything he has achieved in an office or on a shop floor. That's because on Sunday, July 11, the daredevil journeyed 53 miles to the edge of space on his craft, Unity, ably supported by two pilots and three employees. He departed from the Spaceport America facility in New Mexico, with the intergalactic trip and re-entry completed in around an hour.

Branson said: "I have dreamt of this moment since I was a kid, but honestly nothing can prepare you for the view of Earth from space.

"The whole thing was just magical."

Branson's competitive streak is the thing that has kept him going for more than half a century in business, and the fact that he is the first to

successfully complete a space tourism venture ahead of Amazon's Jeff Bezos and SpaceX's Elon Musk didn't stop his rivals from congratulating him afterwards.

Ever the type of person to prepare a platform for future exploration, he admitted afterwards: "I've had my notebook with me and I've written down 30 or 40 little things that will make the experience for the next person who goes to space with us that much better."

While Branson's innovative endeavours in space tourism are clearly a unique first for 'everyday' humans, we are a long way from the days of the Space Race and an era where countries were driven to send rockets into space with competitive regularity. In a sense, that makes his daredevil ways even more applaudable, although it was

always destined that he would be the first. From hot air balloon near-disasters over the Atlantic in the 1980s to bungee jumping off Victoria Falls in Zambia, Branson has always put himself forward as the exemplar not just of his Virgin brand, but also of a mindset that insists everything is achievable if you have the courage and conviction.

Perhaps such a desire to explore comes from when, as a four-year-old, his parents used to drop him off on one side of Blackheath and tell him to find his way home. Perhaps his brand of risk dates back to the early days of Virgin Records when he narrowly avoided a prison sentence after illegally importing records; or perhaps this addiction to adventure is the very thing that fuels Sir Richard Branson on to future innovation and further greatness. Whatever it is, he is a unique inspiration and someone we rightly revere.



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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



LOCAL NEWS EPPING



Town show goes ahead after restrictions are lifted

Dozens of community and trade stalls returned to the Epping Town Show at Stonards Hill Recreation Ground last month.

The show – which is organised by Epping Town Council and was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 lockdown – featured a funfair and programme of arena acts and entertainment, including pipe bands, Morris dancing and singers.

There were also Punch and Judy shows, a science show, donkey rides, petting farm animals and a

children's area.

There were doubts over whether the show would go ahead after Prime Minister Boris Johnson delayed the end of lockdown from June 21 to July 19, but the council decided it would still be safe to host the event.

Before the show, a council spokesman said: "As the COVID-19 situation continues, there will be changes to the look and format of the event to allow for social distancing, such as two metres between stalls, and the event will be outside on the recreation ground."



MP delighted to visit new secondary school



Dame Eleanor Laing, MP for Epping Forest, met staff and students when she visited a new school in Epping High Street last month.

The Tower School is an independent school catering for children aged 11-18 with a primary diagnosis of autism.

Dame Eleanor Laing MP was escorted on a tour of the school, which opened in late April, by headteacher Kerry Linden. She met a number of staff including head of education, Danny Neville, who spoke to her about the school's curriculum.

She then joined pupils in their food technology lesson, where they were designing and making both savoury and sweet pizzas.

Dame Eleanor Laing MP said: "I was delighted to be able to visit The Tower School and meet the staff and students who are already making great use of their new surroundings.

"The school offers fantastic educational opportunities for young people with autism, and it is great to have such facilities here in Epping.

"I was particularly pleased to hear about the school's special educational needs provision, and to sample some of the sweet pizza specially created by the students."

Campus football teams celebrate doing the double

Footballers at New City College's (NCC) Epping Forest campus are celebrating winning the double after two of its sides won their respective leagues.

Both the Epping first team and the second team won their Association of Colleges Sport Summer Series Leagues, ending the season as champions.

The first team were winners in the Men's Championship East, Group D League, and the second team topped the Men's Regional League, East Group D.

NCC sports coach, Paul Griffiths, said: "Congratulations to all the players on their achievements. A special mention goes to the Epping

football coaching team – Andy, Aaron and Timmy. They have done a fantastic job."

To apply for one of the sport courses run at New City College campuses in Epping Forest, Havering, Hackney, Redbridge or Tower Hamlets, visit www.ncclondon.ac.uk and search 'sport' in the course finder bar.



Charity founder 'proud' to celebrate first anniversary

A charity that serves Loughton residents has celebrated its first anniversary.

3food4u, which was founded by Pesh Kapasiawala on June 29 last year, has grown throughout the past 12 months and supports those in need across Essex.

To celebrate the anniversary, Epping Forest district councillors visited the charity and surprised staff with a special cake as a mark of their gratitude.

Pesh said: "We're so proud and excited – how time has flown. From just an ethos and vision of treating and supporting people humanely, with dignity and respect, to providing a vital service to the community and being the largest emergency food agency – all within a year."

The charity hosts community surplus hubs in Waltham Abbey, Loughton, Chigwell and Ongar. Contact Pesh at pesh@londonresidential.co.uk if you would like to attend.



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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



Popular pub bags two prestigious awards

A pub in Theydon has scooped two national awards in the space of a few days.

The Theydon Oak Pub was awarded with a Travellers' Choice Award for 2021 on behalf of TripAdvisor – meaning that the pub was voted as being in the top 10 per cent of pubs from all over the world.

Just a few days earlier, the pub was also told that it had won Best Traditional Pub in the London and South East Prestige Awards.

The quaint pub on Coopersale Street has a large selection of beers, ales, fine wines and malt whiskies, and is extremely popular among local residents.

Speaking to **VISION**EppingTheydon, the pub's landlord, Iain Moran, said: "We were delighted to have been voted for in the TripAdvisor awards; it's always a

fantastic thing to get that sort of recognition.

"With the Prestige Awards, we didn't even know that we had been put forward for that, so it came as a complete shock. But the whole team is so proud of that, especially after what's been such a strange couple of years."

Like many in the hospitality sector across the country, Iain admitted that the coronavirus lockdowns were a big struggle for the Theydon Oak Pub, but he thanked his customers and staff for coming back even stronger.

He added: "I think everyone needed it by the time we were able to reopen, and I've not seen anything like it since we have. Our customers have been really positive since returning, and long may it continue."

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Friends raise £3k with cycle challenge



Three friends have cycled across the country in less than 24 hours to raise more than £3,000 for an Essex children's hospice.

Jacob Chambers, 27, from South Benfleet, Brad Adams, 32, from South Woodham Ferrers, and Barry Gray, 31, from Great Baddow, recently pedalled from Aberystwyth Pier in Wales to Southend Pier to raise money for Little Havens.

It took them just 22 hours and 34 minutes, riding through the night with five refuel stops along the route, with their last one being in Theydon Bois.

Jacob said: "We chose Little Havens as Barry and I had previously raised money for the charity doing our Everest challenge. Knowing the charity well after that event, and knowing what a great job it does in caring for families, in our eyes we couldn't do it for any other charity.

"Especially throughout everything that's happened this past year, we still desperately need charities like these to continue to do the great work they do."

Lauren Eagle-Allen, fundraiser for Little Havens, said: "We are all so in awe of Jacob, Brad and Barry. To commit to such a gruelling challenge really shows us how much they care. Our specialist care is completely free, but only thanks to the donations and sponsorship from fundraisers like this."

Man pleads guilty to killing two people in collision

A man from Theydon Bois has admitted killing two people by dangerous driving in an eight-car collision in Harold Wood.

Paul Ballard, 39, of Theydon Bois, pleaded guilty to the two charges via video link at the Old Bailey on Wednesday, July 14.

Eileen Haskell, 64, and Richard Trezise, 48, died after the collision, which involved Ballard's Volkswagen

Golf, in Squirrels Heath Road on February 20, 2020. Emergency services were called to the scene shortly after 1.15pm.

Prosecutor Edward Franklin said the guilty pleas were acceptable to the Crown and asked for the outstanding charges to lie on court file.

Rhys Rosser, defending, asked for seven days to finalise a basis of plea.

Judge Richard Marks QC adjourned sentencing until August 11, as **VISION**EppingTheydon went to print.

Driver jailed for four months after lying to police

A driver has been jailed after being caught speeding at 110mph and lying to police.

Obinnaya Nelson, 50, of Bishops Rise, Hatfield, was spotted speeding by an officer on the M11 near Theydon Bois on April 16, 2020.

The officer stopped Nelson, who gave false details.

A penalty notice was sent to the person he had named, who replied saying he had not been in the country at the time of the offence and had left his car keys with Nelson.

The man spoke to Nelson and asked him to complete the penalty notice form, but Nelson submitted the form with false details.

Officers visited Nelson in August 2020 and he denied being the driver. He was later charged and taken to court in connection with the matter.

Nelson admitted perverting the course of justice, driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence and driving with no insurance, at Chelmsford Crown Court on June 15.

He was jailed for four months on Tuesday, July 6, and banned from driving for eight months.

PC Gill Brettell said: "Nelson showed a complete disregard for the law by driving at excess speed while uninsured and unlicensed, putting other drivers at risk.

"He then consistently lied to police by giving them false details and putting the blame on two innocent people.

"He now has the time to consider the consequences of his actions from inside a prison cell."



Photo credit: Ruby Ward @theartoflondonn



CAR TRAVEL etiquette

THE SIX RULES PASSENGERS MUST OBEY ON LONG JOURNEYS

Whether setting off for a jaunt across the middle of America or simply on a work trip up the A1, it's important to recognise the hidden hierarchy that exists when it comes to car journey etiquette.

While our top six rules are all slightly tongue-in-cheek, we can all probably pick out times when we've heard the person behind the wheel pull rank.

THE HEAT IS RISING

It's a confident – and possibly rude – passenger who starts messing with a car's climate control. Sit tight and sweat it out... it's still better than walking.

DRIVER DJ

From the minute you leave to the second you arrive, the soundtrack of your journey is deemed to be in the hands of the person behind the wheel. If you are graced with the opportunity to "put something else on", choose decisively and wisely.

IT'S A CAR, NOT A BIN

One for the kids – whether chocolate bar wrappers, Happy Meal toys or poorly mopped-up orange squash, there is nothing that angers a driver more than finding his or her car resembling a bin lorry at the end of a long trip.

FREE PETROL

Contributing towards petrol is usually something that's laid out before a journey starts, but if this hasn't been discussed and you find yourself pulling up at your destination, it's usually polite to offer.

THANKS FOR THE RIDE

Gratitude costs nothing, and a simple 'thank you' to the driver will make him or her feel that much better about themselves after suffering half an hour of you bemoaning Arsenal's recent woes.

THE FEET TREAT

Your pinkies should always be kept out of sight and in the footwell (there's a clue in the name). Raising them to the height of the dashboard – and leaving them there – is a one-way ticket to taking the bus next time.



PREP YOUR GARDEN FOR



Whether you love to garden or not, there are several jobs that need to be taken care of during the last few weeks of summer if you want your garden to remain intact over winter and thrive come spring.

DIG UP ANNUAL FLOWERS

Although annuals are great for a single season, providing vibrant colours and stunning scents, they do need to be dug up and added to your compost heap before winter.

ADD FERTILISER TO YOUR LAWN

You may not usually fertilise your lawn, but your grass needs this in order to maintain healthy growth. Typically, plants absorb nutrients through their roots, but you can give your lawn an extra boost with a good quality lawn fertiliser such as Growmore Garden Fertiliser.

CLEAN AND COVER YOUR POND

If you are lucky enough to have a garden pond, you should remove any leaves and other gunk before the weather turns cold. You should also cover it with a net to protect against falling leaves and other debris.

CUT YOUR PERENNIALS

Perennials will survive all year round, but they can also dominate your garden over winter if you let them. Avoid this by cutting them back to soil level and disposing of the cuttings to prevent further growth.

DE-WEED YOUR GARDEN

One of the least appealing garden tasks, but if you don't get your weeds under control before winter, you face a mammoth job come spring. Always remove weeds by the root and refrain from using weedkiller near other plants.

PROTECT YOUNG TREES

Young trees need protection during the winter months as they are more susceptible to damage from frost, ice and wind. Tree-guarding wraps are ideal for protecting their trunks.

Photo credit: nomorebirds.co.uk

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GARDENING

ONE MAN WENT TO MOW

We cherish our gardens for the freshness, variety and life they bring to our homes, but a bit of cultivated creativity can add a whole new level of interest to your luscious lawn.

PERFECT PATTERNS

You can achieve the most wonderful lawn patterns simply by adding a striping kit to your lawnmower. This bends the blades of grass, meaning that stripes can be achieved by leaning the grass towards or away from the eye.

THREE OR MORE STEPS TO HEAVEN

From stepping stones to a mosaic path, breaking up your lawn with a decorative stone or wooden walkway will give it personality and depth, as well as preventing the gradual wearing away of grass marking out the path to the shed.

SIMPLY SOLAR

Give your lawn light and radiance, even when the nights begin to draw in, with a selection of solar lights which can be inserted into the beds around the perimeter.

WILDLIFE

Section off a quiet part of your lawn in order to create your own mini wildflower meadow. Plants and grasses such as cowslip, red clover, hoary plantain and birds-foot trefoil can be bought from garden centres and will add a rustic feel to your garden, where plants and insects can thrive.

MAIN FEATURE

A water feature will bring extra life to a lawn, as well as providing an audible, gentle backdrop to days spent in the garden. The hard work is in the installation, but with a variety of traditional and contemporary features, coming in all shapes and sizes, you can quickly bring extra interest to your lawn space.

STONE THE CROWS

Finally, how about making a focal point out of large rocks, an old tree trunk or some scattered driftwood as an artistic feature on your lawn? Not only will your garden space have abounding personality, but you'll also be encouraging natural life into the various nooks and crannies.



Scrap that!



If you are looking for ways to reduce waste and save money on fresh produce, then growing scraps – also known as garbage gardening – is the way to go.

Bulb vegetables

Vegetables such as spring onions, leeks and fennel can be grown in a similar way to leafy greens. Cut off the end with the tiny roots so that you have a scrap about one-inch tall. Place root down in half-an-inch of water in a saucer and keep fresh. A supply of shoots will soon appear, which can be immediately harvested. Alternatively, transplant into soil to enjoy these veg indefinitely.

Leafy vegetables

Leafy vegetables that grow in heads, such as celery, romaine and bok choy, are some of the easiest scraps to grow. Cut off the plant's base (around an inch tall), place it cut side up in a saucer and add half-an-inch of water. Water regularly and place in a sunny spot indoors. Leafy scraps will grow on a sunny indoor windowsill all year round or can be transplanted into soil when they show roots.

Root vegetables

When it comes to root vegetables such as beetroots and turnips, you can grow tasty leaves that are ideal for salads and sautés. Just cut off the top, leaving half-an-inch of the vegetable attached, and place cut side down in water in a shallow container so that only the root is covered. Fresh greens will soon appear.

Avocados

This fruit regrows easily in water. Just clean the pit, stick in three or four toothpicks around one-third of the way down from the pointy end and sit the pit on a glass so that the toothpicks support it on the rim. Add enough water to cover the pit's bottom half and refresh regularly. Once the pit has roots and a sprout, move to a container with soil, keeping the top half of the pit above the soil line.



PET MYTHS

BUSTED



MYTH: Two male guinea pigs can't live together.

TRUTH: As long as your cage is big enough, there is little chance their occasional spats will lead to any real life-threatening behaviour, but in any case it is wise to neuter them both to prevent the need for dominance.

MYTH: A big garden means you don't need to walk your dog.

TRUTH: Just because you have access to an outdoor space that is large enough for your pooch to run around in, it can't replace a walk, as canines crave new scents and exploration. Experiencing much of the world via their olfactory sensors, those constant stops to sniff are vital to your dog's wellbeing.



MYTH: There is no need to use flea and tick treatment during the winter.

TRUTH: Though we refer to 'flea season' during the summer months, these critters don't just die off in winter, particularly as we generally keep our pets inside our warm homes. So keep your furry friends topped up whatever the weather, because prevention is definitely better than cure.

MYTH: Cats always land on their feet.

TRUTH: While they do possess an 'air-righting reflex' – meaning they can adapt their bodies quickly in order to land safely – this isn't an exact science. Too short a fall and they often land on their side, while too large may cause damage to their ligaments and bones.



MYTH: Wheels are an integral part of your hamster's happy home.

TRUTH: The sight of a hamster spinning on its wheel is a familiar one as it powers relentlessly through its daily exercise. While this is an excellent way for them to burn off all those honey treats, the classic hamster wheel is actually now thought to be detrimental to spinal health, unlike its 'flying saucer'-shaped counterparts.



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DIY COLOURED CHALK

A low-cost summer activity that kids of all ages love, why not save yourself the trouble of hitting the shops and make your own super-sized coloured chalk that is perfect for using on the pavement, exterior walls and anywhere else your kids fancy getting crafty? Don't worry, it will all wash off in the rain.

YOU WILL NEED

- > 1 cup of water
- > 2 cups of plaster of Paris
- > 3 tbs of food colouring or poster paint
- > An old tin or plastic cup
- > Cardboard toilet roll tubes (one for each colour of chalk)
- > Baking paper
- > Masking tape

HOW TO MAKE

- > Seal one end of each of your toilet roll tubes with masking tape. Ensure neat seals to avoid leakage
- > Line your toilet roll tubes with baking paper
- > Pour the water into a tin or large plastic cup,

then add the plaster of Paris and the paint or food colouring

- > Carefully pour the mixture into the toilet roll tubes
- > The plaster of Paris should begin to set after around 15 minutes. You can tell when it is about to harden as it will warm up
- > Leave for a couple of hours or ideally overnight
- > Peel off the toilet roll cardboard, and voila!

OTHER CHALK CREATIONS TO MAKE AT HOME:

- > **Chalk rocks.** Use balloons to mould your chalk recipe into the shape of rocks
- > **Chalk pops.** Insert wooden craft sticks and use a silicone pop mould or ice cube tray to create a lollipop shape. But remember these are not for eating. They are for drawing purposes only
- > **Glitter chalk.** Add glitter to the mixture for some added sparkle
- > **Squirt chalk.** Fill a squirt bottle two-thirds full with a mixture of corn starch and baking soda, add your preferred food colouring and fill to the top with water. Fill another bottle with vinegar and squirt on chalk patterns for a fizzy surprise.



Had enough of WFH?

Coworking is a great choice for professionals who are tired of working from home, missing working with others, but don't want to do the commute into the city.

What is coworking?

Coworking is a great way for professionals to come together in a shared space and work independently on their projects, in the company of others. It's different to a typical office space because people generally aren't working for the same company/business.

What are the benefits of coworking?

Coworking allows you to work in a shared space with others, and create a community with other business owners / professionals.

You're not tied into lengthy lease contracts. You use the space as flexibly as you need, be that a couple of days a week, or one week with us every month.

If you're a parent and need some mental and physical space away from home, coworking is a great way to support you.

There are natural opportunities for networking and meeting other professionals.

Coworking spaces are members only, so you can bring all your tech with you and leave it securely with us if you want to.

Who uses coworking spaces?

- Freelancers ■ Working parents
- Remote workers ■ Small business owners
- Entrepreneurs



What is The Epping Connection?

The Epping Connection is Epping's first coworking space. We're a creative, friendly and inclusive workspace located on Epping High Street, just above the Artisan Fine Art gallery. We're open Monday to Friday from 8am – 6pm, and you can book a tour to visit us on our website. Check out our social media to see more about us.

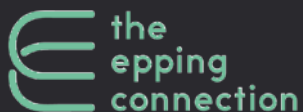
Oh and The Epping Connection is pet-friendly! Pets are a great way to create a friendly and happy place to work from.

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I PREDICT A RIOT

FROM BUILD-A-BEAR TO THE NUTELLA PANIC, THESE ARE THE MOST EPIC CONSUMER RAMPAGES EVER

When consumers get a taste for a retail trend, there's every chance that seemingly sane people will transform into bloodthirsty consumers.

While it happens every year with Black Friday and January sales, here are four other occasions when people have stopped at nothing to get their hands on a cherished prize.

THE FRENCH NUTELLA PANIC

It was a seemingly average 2018 before French supermarket Intermarché decided to slap a 70 per cent discount on Nutella. Cue a stampede for the spread, reminiscent of a situation four years previously where a hike in the price of hazelnuts caused similar stampedes across the UK. Nutty!

THE BUILD-A-BEAR BOOM

Thursday, July 12, 2018, will forever be known as the Build-A-Bear day of mayhem. An initiative that invited customers to "pay their age" meant a top-of-

the-range bear could be purchased for well below the usual price point of around £50.

Yet they reckoned without the devotion of a younger audience, leading to stores being overrun, queues of up to four hours and police being called. What's more, the exercise turned out to be wholly unprofitable for the chain.

TESCO'S BEER BONANZA

A computer error back in 2012 meant that instead of discounting two cases of beer by £4 at the checkout, the booze was costing £4 in total. It took the retailer hours to fix the error as shoppers across the country performed relays in emptying the shelves.

AND WHO CAN FORGET THE 2020 TOILET ROLL HUNT?

As COVID-19 gripped the world in the spring of 2020, so too did a strange perception that this global pandemic would see us imprisoned in our bathrooms. As early toilet roll fanatics bought up large stocks of paper, so too did others in fear of supplies being exhausted. Thankfully, normality was resumed within a few weeks.



Photo credit: margouillat photo/Shutterstock.com, Helen89/Shutterstock.com, D K Grove/Shutterstock.com



RECOVERY AND YOUR PENSION

SANDY PABIAL Independent Financial Adviser

We have just gone through the biggest economic downturn in 300 years. Despite the government's efforts to protect businesses and jobs, the UK economy has lost billions.

Many of us will have seen the effects in our pension portfolios. It means that this year's statement may be a little disappointing, with your pension pot showing little growth, if it has not actually fallen.

But there could be some good news. According to Barclays, the UK economy could be set not just to recover, but to grow at its fastest rate since 1948.

Has your pension suffered?

Many pensions will have weathered the storms of the last few months, thanks to the skills of pension fund managers.

Whether it is your workplace pension or a personal pension, your pension contributions are invested on your behalf. Pension fund managers use a number of techniques to spread the risks, avoid high risk holdings and ensure that your funds are invested for steady growth and security. Losses should have been minimised – but your pension may still have suffered some setbacks.

Even the most far-sighted investment manager could not have foreseen the effects of lockdown.

Fortunately, although the falls in the markets this time last year were frightening, good management and shrewd investments should have protected you from the worst of the losses and already be taking advantage of the recovery in the markets.

The stockmarkets are still volatile, but they have come

back up a long way from the depths they fell to this time last year. Your pension should remain the core of your retirement planning. But the important question is – what will happen now?

The recovery could boost your pension pot

The recovery provides reasons for optimism as businesses get busier, the stock market rises and the value of the investments that make up your pension pot rise with it. But it might not be simply going back to business as usual. The world has changed since the pandemic struck. Some sectors, such as high street retail and travel have been hit worse than others.

On the other hand, there will be some sectors and some businesses that are poised to benefit as the recovery begins to gather speed. eCommerce and logistics businesses are already thriving.

It may be time to look again at how your pension plans are reflecting the opportunities.

Time for a pension review

We can start with a full pension review of your existing arrangements. We can prepare a projection, showing the kind of retirement income you might be able expect, and whether Covid has caused a shortfall. We can then show you what changes you could make to take advantage of the recovery.

This could include taking out a personal pension if you do not already have one – or boosting your existing contributions. Remember, your pension is a powerful way to invest because of the tax benefits it enjoys. You can invest your full salary or up to £40,000 a year, whichever is lower – with tax relief benefits on your contribution at basic, higher or additional rate depending on your tax status, while your fund manager gets to work with your investments.

The information contained in this article is based on the opinion of Continuum and does not constitute financial advice or a recommendation to suitable retirement strategy, you should seek independent financial advice before embarking on any course of action. A pension is a long term investment. The fund value may fluctuate and can go down, which would have an impact on the level of pension benefits available. Pension income could also be affected by interest rates at the time benefits are taken. The tax treatment of pensions in general and tax implications of pension withdrawals will be based on individual circumstances, tax legislation and regulation, which are subject to change in the future. The value of investments can fall as well as rise and you may get back less than you invested.

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The quick answer is yes.

Scientists have found that driving around with low levels of fuel can be bad for the preservation of performance. At these levels, the debris and accumulated gunk in the tank has more chance of being ingested into the filter when it drops below the pump intake level.

Conflictingly, while having a full tank may give you a feeling of power and motoring potential, the weight of the fuel can end up costing you more, since that same additional weight requires more power to lug it around.

The general recommendation is to try to keep your tank above a quarter full at all times, and not beyond three-quarters. Within this range you're

protecting the cleanliness of the tank while not overloading it with excessive weight.

Of course, if you have genuine focus on optimising fuel cost and efficiency, you're probably already looking at the dawning of the greener fuels era, which could be heading to our fuel station forecourts as early as next year.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps recently unveiled plans to introduce E10 as the standard grade at pumps in the UK. The current E5 petrol contains five per cent bioethanol; by embracing a minimum 10 per cent renewable energy ratio within the fuel, it is expected we will reduce CO₂ emissions by 750,000 tonnes per year – that's the equivalent of taking 350,000 cars off the road. And while an estimated 600,000 vehicles won't be compatible with the fuel, these concerted efforts to continue to reduce the nation's carbon emissions have been welcomed by environmental campaigners.

Looking back on when we first met...



SPORT



HOW GARETH SOUTHGATE'S ENGLAND HEROES CAME SO CLOSE TO ENDING 55 YEARS OF HURT

Putting to one side the sour way it ended, the UK's Euro 2020 experience was undoubtedly the tonic the whole nation needed.

While, as a country, we are certainly not alone in the mental and physical setbacks encountered over the past 18 months, the spectre of COVID-19 loomed particularly large over these shores. Even as the showpiece final played itself out at Wembley on July 11, the banks of empty seats showed that the pandemic is not over yet.

Add in economic and societal tensions, and a successful England team was the boost everyone was hoping for. And for a few weeks, we were uplifted, inspired and full of admiration for our heroes.

In Gareth Southgate, England had a manager of wisdom, yet weighed down somewhat by the

expectation of what this team should do. Making it to the World Cup semi-final three years ago became a standard to replicate, at the very least, and with home advantage for all but one game in the tournament, there was always the justified belief we should go far.

Many label the former defender a 'yes man', but his team selections clearly showed a resilient, stubborn side to his character. Blessed with an unprecedented array of attacking flair, Southgate opted for a 'safety first' strategy, nullifying the opposition's forward threat in three group games – two of which saw 1-0 wins (versus Croatia and Czech Republic), with the other an admittedly dour goalless draw against Scotland.

In the first knockout game, a 2-0 win against old rivals Germany; in the quarter-final, a totally

dominant showing as Ukraine were hit for four; in the semi-final, the courage and fortitude to come from behind (and the shock of actually seeing someone put the ball in our net) as we defeated Denmark 2-1.

Southgate's confidence in his stubborn 5-3-2 formation was upheld in every game. When he switched to a 4-3-3, we marvelled at the sudden versatility of the squad. It's this very thing that will give us the confidence to succeed at the World Cup in Qatar next year, when expectation levels will once again be incredibly high.

Regrets? Well, the horror of the penalty shoot-out came back to bite us. But apart from that, some will feel we should have been more positive going forward. In Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane, we always had matchwinners. Even with five at the

back, the wing-back play of Kyle Walker and Kieran Trippier offered attacking intent. But many will point to the lack of real opportunities for Jack Grealish, Jadon Sancho, Jude Bellingham, Marcus Rashford, Phil Foden and others, and wonder what those talented lads might have achieved with longer on the pitch.

The good news is that 'youth' is almost a byword for England now. We had the second-youngest squad in the whole tournament and, arguably, on paper, the most talented. It's been some time since we've been able to lavish such high praise on our Three Lions, even if we still find ourselves ticking the box titled 'unfulfilled potential'.

In Gareth we trust, and he will know better than anyone else how we can take that one last step forward into football folklore.

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BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS...

Super Saturday:

LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS

Each month, we look at some of the most significant events in British sporting history. Proving that good things really do come in threes, we recall Super Saturday at the London 2012 Olympics.

August 4 always had the potential to be one of the defining days of the London 2012 Olympics.

Of course, Team GB had a memorable campaign anyway, accumulating a total of 65 medals, 29 of them gold. But sometimes events come together to produce a compilation of such exhilarating determination, skill and sporting endeavour, that a nation feels truly united.

And so it was at the Olympic Stadium on the first weekend of August when, within a 45-minute period, three British athletes wrote themselves into sporting folklore.

First up was Greg Rutherford in the long jump. The toiling set of leaps eventually ended with him setting a benchmark of 8.31m – one that nearest rival, Mitchell Watt of Australia, couldn't better.

Jessica Ennis-Hill then stepped up in the 800m. The Brit needed victory in the event to take heptathlon gold and led from the start. Having dropped to third by the time the final straight

emerged, she powered home to the roar of a deafening crowd, and gold was secured at 9.02pm.

Confirmation of Rutherford's gold came at 9.24pm, and with the Brit still soaking up the applause from his winning jump, Mo Farah tore past the bell on the final lap of his 10,000m run. Leading into the bend, he powered away from the pack to land the ultimate middle-distance prize – Olympic gold.

Farah's achievement came at 9.42pm. It was an evening – 42 minutes, in fact – of athletics that will never be forgotten and, perhaps, never bettered.



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ACROSS: 1. MIRE, 3. PROBLEMS, 9. NESTLED, 10. SEPAL, 11. FRY, 12. NACRE, 13. TITLE, 15. OUSTS, 17. UNTIL, 18. RYE, 19. IDEAS, 20. UNKEMPT, 21. GANGSTER, 22. JOEY
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PUZZLES & TRIVIA

PUZZLES

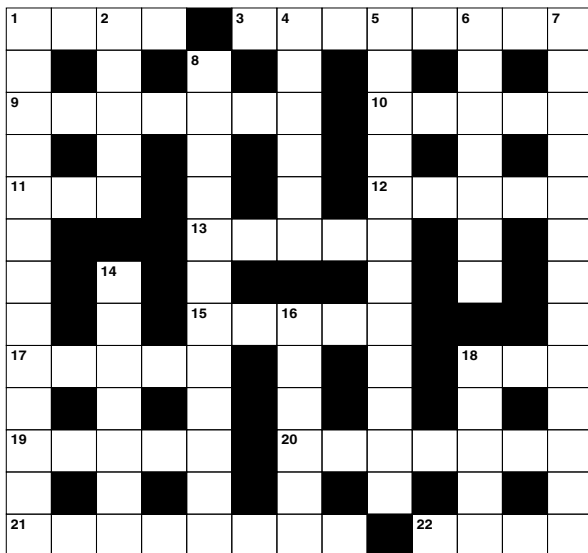
Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

ACROSS

1. Bog (4)
3. Difficulties (8)
9. Settled oneself comfortably (7)
10. Flower part (5)
11. Cook in hot oil (3)
12. Mother-of-pearl (5)
13. Name of a book (5)
15. Drives out from a place (5)
17. Up to the time when (5)
18. Cereal plant (3)
19. Mental impressions (5)
20. Not tidy (7)
21. Mobster (8)
22. Young kangaroo (4)

DOWN

1. Making (13)
2. Tarnished (of a metal object) (5)
4. Least polite (6)
5. Efficient (12)
6. Anticipates (7)
7. Obviously (4-9)
8. Decomposition by a current (12)
14. Among (7)



16. Safe (6)
18. Lover of Juliet (5)

DID YOU KNOW?

► As early as 250 AD, cocoa beans were once used as barter currency in exchange for food and clothes

► In 1961, Hamburger University was opened in the basement of a McDonald's restaurant in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Graduates received a Bachelor of Hamburgerology degree

► When you eat a chilli, the burning sensation is caused by a chemical compound called capsaicin

► Cucumbers are made up of around 96 per cent water, making them the food with the highest water content

► A bunch of bananas can also be referred to as a 'hand' and a singular banana a 'finger'

► Almonds are actually seeds, although many people classify them as nuts

SUDOKU

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



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