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Celebrating

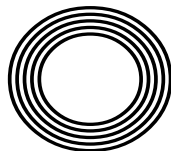
150 years of The FA Cup

ANNIE MAC

Radio DJ steps down after 17 years

Laura
WHITMORE

Presenter back in the limelight with new series of Love Island



FREE

Photo credit: ITV Pic



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Editor's notes...

JULY 2021



Brett Shohet, Editor

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

I hope everyone has been out and about, enjoying some of the freedoms that we sorely missed for so long. I for one have been, and it's been a pleasure. Not just in terms of being able to have a pint down the pub, or to see clients in the flesh, but also to be casually interacting with strangers.

I can't tell if it's because we've been deprived of it for so long or if I had simply forgotten what it was like to have a polite chat with someone, but people are just so engaged and welcoming at the moment when it comes to conversation.

I think the 2020 Euros are playing a big part in morale and engagement. Of course, I'm writing this well before the conclusion of the tournament, so from an England perspective... please take everything I say with a pinch of salt. But the tournament is certainly having a positive impact - it's great to see people enjoying the games down at their locals and to hear real fans roaring at the stadiums.

My dog has also been enjoying his freedom - perhaps a little too much. He recently ran out of the house and went exploring. We found him playing with other dogs down the road. If he keeps this up, we may have to impose Tier 1 doggy restrictions.

Brett Shohet

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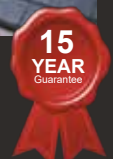
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BRIDGE

TOO FAR?

IT HAS BEEN JUST 50 YEARS SINCE LONDON BRIDGE WAS SOLD AND MOVED TO LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA. BUT HOW AND WHY DID THIS COME ABOUT?

As far as the architecture of London goes, 50 years seems like only a very short period of time. For context, other recognisable landmarks in the capital built at the start of the same decade, the 1970s, include Euston Tower and the Barbican Estate, with the likes of the Lloyds Building and NatWest Tower built only a few years later.

So it's astounding to consider that the London Bridge that we know, love and recognise – the elegant five-line concrete box girder bridge that connects Monument on the north bank to London Bridge station on the south – has only been in place for five decades. It's even more astonishing that its forerunner now spans a small conurbation in the desert of western Arizona.

That a London landmark which had been in place since its construction 130 years previously ended up being dismantled, one brick at a time, shipped 4,000 miles around the world and reassembled, is one of those eccentric curiosities we would most likely expect of the Victorians. But this happened just eight years before Margaret Thatcher came into power. London would never look the same again.

In fairness, the old London Bridge had seen better days. Although it had survived the Luftwaffe's rain of bombs during Second World War, structural issues caused by ageing, combined with the increased weight and frequency of traffic, meant the bridge was sinking into the Thames at a rate of one inch every eight years. Surveyors were left querying the affordability of renovations.

At first, it seemed the bridge might have to be broken up and scrapped. But a city councillor by the name of Ivan Luckin decided he would capitalise on London's historical reputation by heading abroad to market the 1,000ft construction.

While the peculiar proposal largely fell on deaf ears, it did pique the interest of eccentric American businessman, Robert McCulloch. An industrialist who had made millions through oil and motorisation,

he was keen to market Lake Havasu City, which sits equidistant between Phoenix and Las Vegas, as a global tourist destination. In need of a talking point and a centrepiece that would define both his and the city's ambition, he agreed to purchase London Bridge for the not inconsiderable sum of \$2.4million.

The bridge was subsequently dismantled, with workers numbering each individual granite brick and carefully marking its position on the huge structure. It travelled to North America via the Panama Canal, before landing in Long Beach, California. It was then transported in trucks to its final destination.

The bridge, which originally spanned a section of desert before the growth of the city, was reinforced with a steel shell in order to circumnavigate the same issues over weight of traffic that had brought about its demise in the first place. On October 10, 1971, it was finally opened to a flurry of fanfare. London's Lord Mayor attended and a banquet comprising the meal that had been served when the bridge was first constructed back in 1831 was prepared.

While McCulloch died in 1977, his bridge over the desert lives on, with the attraction bringing an estimated two million visitors to Lake Havasu City each year.



THE LEGENDARY RADIO 1 DJ ANNIE MAC MOVES ON TO PASTURES NEW AFTER 17 YEARS

There can be little disputing the impact Annie Mac has had on our understanding and appreciation of dance music over the past two decades.

Having joined Radio 1 as a producer back in the early Noughties, the Irish DJ breathed fresh energy into an ailing electronic music scene, overseeing a number of breakthrough genres, including dubstep, trap and drill, while continuing to celebrate the house and techno sounds that have defined a generation.

Yet now, at 42, the pioneer has announced she is leaving behind two decades of influence in order to focus on more private ventures, including writing a book and spending time with her family.

There is also the small matter of her podcast work, and of course the return of live gigs – both of which go to show that a DJ cannot spend too long out of the spotlight. That said, we might assume a

musical legacy that has educated, informed and inspired is now coming to an end – for now, at least. Annie wrote on her Instagram page that she would be coming back to radio broadcasting when the time was right.

The Dubliner first got her foot in the door at the BBC working as a broadcast assistant on the Steve Lamacq show. By 2004, she had her own slot, *Annie Mac's Mashup*, and for the past six years has presided over the weeknight *Future Sounds* show.

Always one to push boundaries and extol the virtues of music across genres well beyond the norm, the famously curly-haired Annie has, among other things, hosted *The Culture Show* and *Top of the Pops*. She is also the curator of AMP Lost & Found Festival.

Now, a new set of sounds awaits this airwaves innovator, and no doubt we'll be tuning in.

Photo credit: Dawn Fletcher-Park/SOPA Images/Shutterstock



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PROTECT YOUR SKIN from UVA and UVB rays



We all know the importance of using sunscreen, not just when the sun is shining, but all year round. However, do you know what sun protection factor (SPF) you should be using for your skin type? And whether your make-up contains SPF?

Why is SPF so important?

A good sunscreen will block the harmful effects of the sun's UVA and UVB rays, which can wreak havoc on the health of your skin, causing not only premature fine lines and wrinkles but also an increased risk of skin cancer. When buying sunscreen for the body or face, look for two things: the SPF, which protects your skin from UVB rays, and the UVA rating, which ideally should be five stars. In the UK between March and October you should wear at least SPF30 with a four-star UVA rating. However, for maximum protection, wear SPF50 with a five-star UVA rating.

SPF by skin type

OILY SKIN: Many sunscreens that offer a high SPF tend to be thick on the skin, causing already oily skin further issues such as blocked pores and blackheads. Prevent this by opting for an oil-free sunscreen or using a lightweight moisturiser with SPF included.

SENSITIVE/ACNE-PRONE SKIN: Avoid sunscreens that have too many chemicals or unnecessary ingredients, such as fragrances and preservatives. Instead, choose a non-comedogenic sunscreen or a mineral powder sunscreen that feels weightless on the skin.

DRY SKIN: Dry skin sufferers can benefit from an SPF serum which simultaneously protects and hydrates the skin. Alternatively, try a dry oil spray with SPF, although this will need to be applied several times a day for maximum protection.

Does make-up with SPF work?

Skin experts state that you need 1-1.5tsp of sunscreen to adequately protect your face from the sun, so it is highly unlikely you are applying sufficient foundation to use this as your sole form of protection. Plus, most SPF make-up only protects against UVB rays, not against harmful UVA ones, which can cause skin cancer.

BEST SPF MAKE-UP: Charlotte Tilbury Magic Foundation | bareMinerals Original Foundation Broad Spectrum SPF 15 | L'Oréal Paris True Match Super-Blendable Compact Make-up | Neutrogena Healthy Skin Compact Make-up.

Remember, make-up should be worn as a second line of defence against the sun, after your chosen UV protection product.

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HOW TO

SAFEGUARD YOUR sunglasses

Protecting your eyes from the sun's powerful rays is a must, but don't forget that you also need to safeguard your sunglasses from both accidental damage and general wear and tear.

Protect from scratches

Whether you have plastic or glass lenses, you should always store your sunglasses in a hard case to protect them from scratches. If you do not have a hard case, a microfibre pouch is your next best option.

Remove smudges

Sunglasses are prone to smudges from sun cream, make-up and your skin's natural oils. To smooth away smudges, rinse your glasses under warm water and, using your fingers, apply a few drops of mild washing-up liquid. Rub gently, rinse and dry with a microfibre cloth.

Avoid harmful cleaners

Never use rubbing alcohol, vinegar or any other standard household cleaners on your sunglasses, as these can potentially damage the lenses. Also

refrain from breathing on them and wiping, as this can cause deterioration.

Do not leave in the car

Leaving your sunglasses in your car on a hot day can cause the lenses to delaminate, making them less effective in protecting your vision from the sun. Particularly avoid placing them on the dashboard, where heat is more intense.

Don't place on top of your head

Although you may like how this looks, placing your sunglasses on your head can cause the screws to loosen and fall out. Plus, it can damage the nose-pads.

Don't take designer sunnies to the beach

If you have spent a lot of money on designer glasses, you may want to wear them all the time. However, the combination of sand granules and seawater is a major hazard. Sand can scour away at the lenses and delicate hinges, while the salt in seawater can cause lasting damage to metal components and lens coatings.



Time to PLANK

The pursuit of perfect abs can feel like a distant dream - but not anymore. Love it or hate it, planking provides a fast and effective way to strengthen your core, shape your waist and create amazing abs.

Check out these four plank variations that guarantee to deliver.

1. THE REACHER PLANK

Ideal for building control and strengthening your core muscles, take this move slowly for maximum results.

- > Start in the plank position with your palms touching the ground and your arms straight
- > Reach one arm forward until your elbow is straight
- > Bring your arm back down to the ground
- > Repeat with your other arm.

2. THE HIP DROP SIDE PLANK

Work your side muscles, also known as your obliques, as well as your abs with this plank variation.

- > Lie on your side with your elbow directly under your shoulder and your forearm on the ground in front
- > Stack your legs on top of each other and lift your body off the ground
- > Slowly drop your hips towards the ground, as low as you can, and then raise them.

3. THE WALKDOWN PLANK

Great for building up strength to do push-ups, the walkdown plank is like a moving plank.

- > Begin in the plank position with your forearms touching the ground
- > Slide one hand back and place it under your shoulder
- > Push up with that arm and repeat with the other arm
- > Now you are in the push-up position, reverse the steps to lower yourself back into the plank pose.

4. THE REVERSE PLANK

Providing a full body workout, this final plank is a tough one.

- > Sit tall on the floor with your legs extended in front of you
- > Place your hands behind you, either on the floor or on a foam roller
- > Lift your hips, forming a straight line from heels to shoulders
- > Add an optional tricep dip or leg raise if you want more of a challenging move.

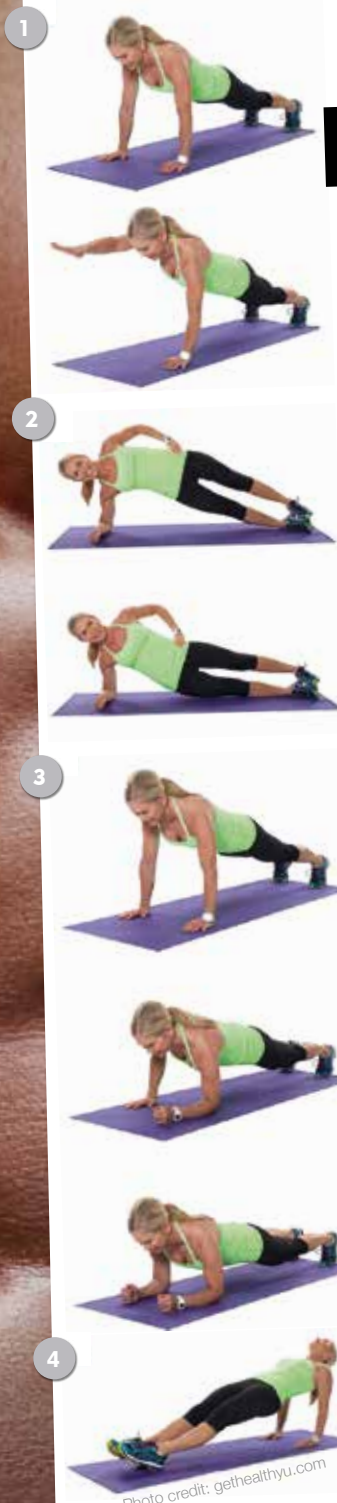


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Natural IMMUNITY

THE FOODS YOU SHOULD EAT TO BOOST YOUR NATURAL IMMUNITY

Having a good immune system helps fight off infections and maintain your health, yet it can sometimes be confusing knowing which foods we should be consuming to take our body's natural protection to the next level.

Here are four consumables that will have a positive effect on your immune system as part of a healthy diet and lifestyle.

GARLIC: Highly nutritious, low in calories, full of vitamins, laced with nutrients and perfect for combatting sickness and the common cold, garlic also lowers blood pressure and reduces cholesterol. There's even evidence to suggest the antioxidants it contains can prevent long-term diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia.

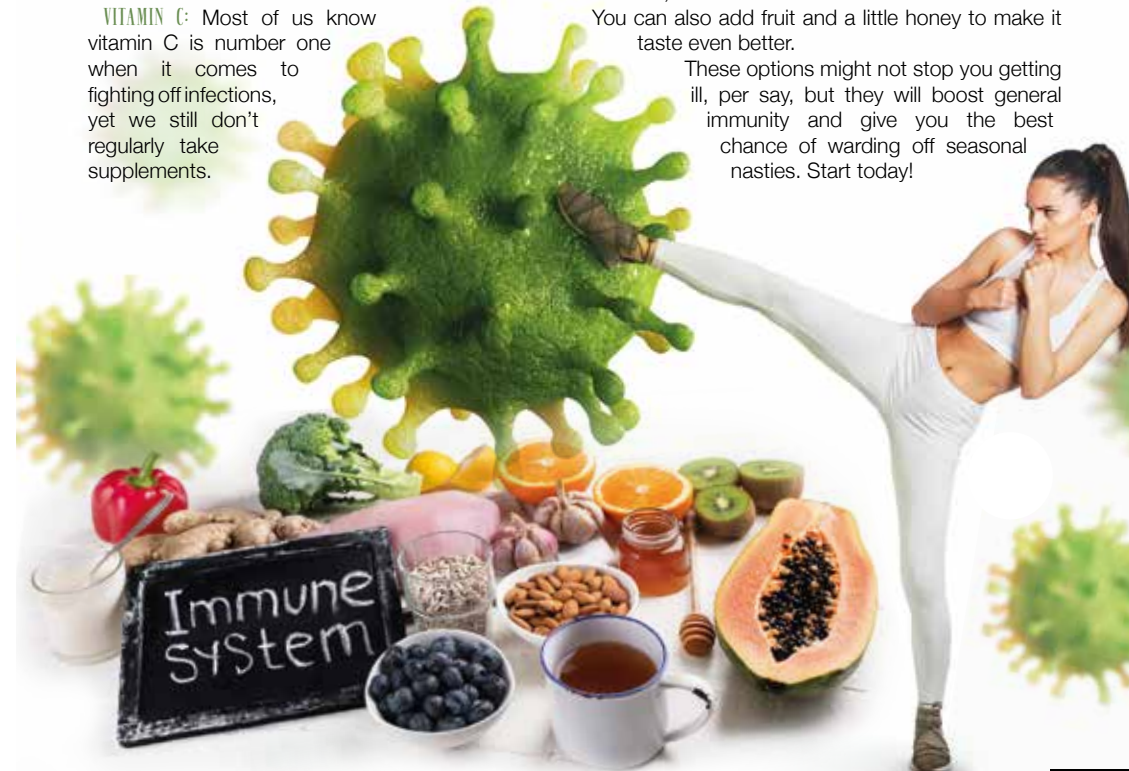
VITAMIN C: Most of us know vitamin C is number one when it comes to fighting off infections, yet we still don't regularly take supplements.

Vitamin C is an antioxidant that helps the body grow, develop and repair, maintaining your body's natural defenses.

STEAMED BROCCOLI: Some of us don't like our greens, but a bit of broccoli or spinach as part of a healthy meal or drink (spinach is especially good in smoothies) can really boost immunity. Steaming broccoli (not boiling) is also thought to be the best way of keeping the nutrients in. Both of these green options are loaded with vitamins, minerals and nutrients.

YOGHURT: Another good option is yoghurt, which can be added to cereal, shakes or eaten by itself. Look for Greek yoghurts with live and active cultures, and choose natural rather than flavoured. You can also add fruit and a little honey to make it taste even better.

These options might not stop you getting ill, per say, but they will boost general immunity and give you the best chance of warding off seasonal nasties. Start today!



Unusual veg of the month: Cardoon



Considered a delicacy in Mediterranean countries, the cardoon is a large, stalky vegetable that is closely related to the artichoke. Although it takes some time to prepare, its tender texture and distinctive flavour make it well worth the wait.

- > Gently remove the outer portion of the stalk as you would with celery
- > Cut into ½-inch pieces and soak in water and lemon juice to avoid browning.

HOW TO COOK

Cardoons are typically used in a similar way to artichoke hearts and can be steamed, braised, sautéed, blended into a soup, added to a stew and even eaten raw. Many recipes call for cardoons to be pre-cooked for 15 minutes in boiling water to remove bitterness.

WHAT DOES IT TASTE LIKE?

With a similar, yet slightly more bitter taste to an artichoke, the exact flavour of a cardoon will be dependent on its growing conditions and maturity. For a sweeter cardoon, opt for the lightest in colour.

IS IT GOOD FOR YOU?

The cardoon is a nutrient-rich vegetable that contains protein, fibre, carbohydrates, calcium, potassium, iron and a whole host of important vitamins. It is also low in calories and boasts high levels of folic acid.

HOW TO PREPARE

> Peel off the spines and thorns on each side of the cardoon using a peeler

WHERE TO BUY

Cardoons can be found in farmers' markets from midwinter to early spring. Alternatively, choose to grow your own. Cardoons can be planted outside from late April until August/September.

HOW TO STORE

Store whole unwashed cardoons in the vegetable drawer of your fridge for up to one week. Cooked cardoons will last up to three days in an airtight container in the fridge. Brined and canned cardoons can last up to one year.



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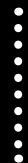
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FOOD & DRINK

HOW TO PACK THE

PERFECT PICNIC

Whether you rely too heavily on your local deli or you tend to throw in whatever you can find in the fridge, to help you celebrate National Picnic Month, we are going to show you how to plan the perfect picnic.

PREP YOUR PICNIC

The simplest way to make picnic prep more manageable is by preparing your main dish ahead of the day. Then you can simply divide the dish into portions once seated and ready to eat. Great options for picnic mains include quiches, tarts, tortillas, pies and picnic loaves.

PROVIDE PORTABLE SNACKS

No picnic would be complete without an array of easy-to-carry and fuss-free snacks. As well as all the usual suspects, such as sausage rolls, sandwiches and chicken drumsticks, why not be a bit more adventurous and try empanadas, falafel or smoked salmon scotch eggs?

RUSTLE UP SALADS AND SIDES

When it comes to picnic salads, it is best to focus on more robust dishes, such as potato salad and pasta salad, which will not wilt or become damaged in transit. Dips such as hummus, and even a mackerel pâté, are all great options and can be enjoyed with crudité or sliced pitta breads. Other delicious sides include boiled eggs sprinkled with chilli powder and garlic salt, or orzo and mozzarella salad.

PICK PICNIC-FRIENDLY PUDDINGS

Puddings for picnics are notoriously tricky, although there are a few tried and tested desserts that will save the day, such as traybakes, loaf cakes, brownies and cookies.

DON'T FORGET DRINKS

Whether you want boozy beverages or virgin varieties, you need to pack something to sip on in the sun. Choose from family-friendly options such as mint iced tea or fruit-infused lemonade. Alternatively, for a tippie that packs a punch, you can't go wrong with a classic Pimm's, a wine-based spritzer or a convenient cocktail in a can.



Photo credit: thestrimpicnics.com



CREATING THE perfect GREEN KITCHEN



Using the colour green is one of the biggest kitchen trends at the moment, and here is how you can get it right.

DARK GREEN

If you want to use dark green in your kitchen, it needs to be done carefully. Because it is such a deep colour, it will look dramatic, but it will also not reflect light to make it seem warm and welcoming. Make sure that the room has a lot of light so you can achieve this.

Keep windows plain and undressed to let in as much natural light as possible. You should also use a pale colour for backsplashes as a contrast. Warmer accents like brass, gold and copper for details will help to bring some warmth into the room.

GREY-GREEN

If dark green seems like too much for you, then you might want to go for a lighter grey-green option. This is warmer than some options when it comes to grey and can bring a sense of peace to the space.

Adding wood tones for extra warmth is a good idea. You might also want to pair it with white fittings like cabinets and sinks to bring in even more warmth. For a little bit of contrast, add in black accents to bring it all together.

GREEN ACCENTS

To incorporate green into your kitchen without making it the main aspect, there are many avenues you can take. You can do this by adding green accents or pieces to the decor, such as lampshades, artwork or tableware. If you have a kitchen island, you may want to paint the island green instead of the walls or cabinets.

Photo credit: Wickes via idealhome.co.uk, Matt Antrobus via idealhome.co.uk, plainenglishdesign.co.uk

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Six handy products you didn't know you needed



MICROWAVE CLEANER

We've all despaired at the stubborn splashes and stains that linger on the insides of our microwaves. Yet you can banish these with Angry Mama/ Home-X – simply fill with water and white vinegar and set her gradually spinning for seven minutes to effectively steam the stains away.

HERB SCISSORS

While we all believe we can chop herbs with the flourish and finesse of Michel Roux Jr, in truth, having a pair of multi-bladed herb scissors at hand is a much more sensible way of ensuring equal consistency and flavour in our food. Simply chopping into herbs with the scissors will instantly produce a spray of greenery ready for use.

FOOD VACUUM SEALER

It looks like something you'd expect to find in the local stationery superstore, but this natty vacuum sealer will do wonders for preserving the freshness of your food.

Using bags that are heat-sealed after oxygen is expelled, vacuum sealers are a quick and sensible option for conserving goods and preventing food waste.

WINDMILL WATERMELON CUTTER

Simple and incredibly satisfying, this watermelon cutter powers through watermelon flesh to produce neat cubes of fruit ready to be enjoyed.

BUTTER SPREADER KNIFE

For so long, spreading hard butter has accounted for the destruction of innocent pieces of bread, yet this three-in-one spreader knife – with holes that sail through even the hardest, most stubborn piece of butter – will bring smoothness and joy back to break times.

ICED COFFEE MAKER

With the warmer days, many of us will be reaching for iced coffees, and this clever gadget from HyperChiller can produce a cooling caffeine drink in minutes without it being watered down.



DIY SHOE STORE

Keep your shoes organised with this simple and unique DIY shoe storage – made out of PVC tubes

Keeping the whole household's shoes organised might seem impossible. With your family and friends going in and out of the house multiple times a day, the mudroom or entrance of your home can quickly end up accumulating a messy pile of shoes, flip-flops, trainers, football boots, dancing shoes and so on.

If you have not yet found a solution that suits the needs of your family and your home's design, but you have DIY skills to spare, why not trying creating your own shoe storage out of PVC pipes?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- PVC tubes – at least 6 inches (15cm) in diameter
- 220 grit sandpaper
- Handsaw or hacksaw to cut the tubes
- Soap, hot water and a sponge
- Adhesion primer
- Paint
- Wallpaper strips (optional)
- PVC glue

HOW TO CREATE YOUR SHOE STORE

1. Cut the PVC tubes into 10–12 lengths of 10–12

inches (25–30cm) each.

2. Smoothe the tube sections' edges by using 220 grit sandpaper.
3. Wash the tube sections with hot water and soap to eliminate any dust or debris.
4. Apply a layer of adhesion primer to ensure your painted shoe storage will withstand daily wear and tear.
5. Once the adhesion primer is dry, paint the tubes and apply wallpaper strips (if desired) – depending on the kind of style you are looking to achieve.
6. Leave small horizontal sections unpainted and without wallpaper on each tube so that you can glue together the different sections.
7. Once both the paint and wallpaper glue are dry, apply a line of PVC glue on the section of the tubes left unpainted.
8. Glue the sections together to create your desired design.
9. Keep the glued sections in place with clamps until the glue is dry.

Now you can start enjoying your DIY shoe storage creation.

Photo credit: diyprojects.ideas2live4.com

We're loving LAURA

WHO CELEBRATES A DECADE ON TERRESTRIAL TV

Laura Whitmore is the perfect example of someone who knows when to split. The Irish presenter has worked across multiple TV projects over the past decade or so, preferring to stand up and embrace new challenges rather than playing it safe.

As fresh-faced and dynamic as any of the new wave of TV presenters on the circuit, despite having spent more than 10 years in the spotlight, Whitmore has returned with the new series of *Love Island*, which began on June 28.

Set in Mallorca, the six-week bounty of dating, dirty dealing and dodgy dalliances has become an institution on British TV. The last series, in 2019, pulled in an audience of more than four million – with viewers keen to take a somewhat voyeuristic glance at the love lives of others.

“It’s escapism, isn’t it?” Laura says. “I think some viewers are living out holiday fantasies; others are just interested in the ins and outs of romance, of flirting and, dare I say it, sex.”

“You certainly have to be a special type of person to be on the show, though it’s been proved time and time again that the rewards are all there for anyone brave enough to take the plunge.”

Having an ability to step into the unknown and risk disappointment is certainly true to who Laura is, so in that sense she is the perfect presenter for the show. The 36-year-old struck gold when she applied for an MTV Pick Me campaign in 2008, with victory securing her a role on *MTV News*.

“WE ALL NEED TO BE PUSHED AND TESTED FROM TIME TO TIME. YOU GET NOTHING FROM SITTING BACK AND RESTING ON YOUR LAURELS.”

Landing the *I’m A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! NOW!* role in 2011 was Laura’s first introduction to reality TV, one that she held onto through stints on *The Hit* (on RTÉ Two) and the *Eurovision Song Contest Semi-Finals*, right through to appearing in the 14th series of *Strictly Come Dancing*.

“*Strictly* was a really interesting shift because it was good to put myself back in the firing line,” she says. “I think that’s a good lesson – we all need to be pushed and tested from time to time. You get nothing from sitting back and resting on your laurels.”

Away from the camera, Laura wrote Sunday Times Bestseller *No One Can Change Your Life Except For You*, a book about fear, hope and inspiration. She also recently had her first child with husband, Iain Stirling, who narrates *Love Island*.

“What’s a priority right now is ensuring work doesn’t interrupt the time we want to spend with our baby,” Laura commented recently.

First spotted out and about with her new daughter, Stevie Ré, in March, Laura is clearly the proudest of mums: “It is a wonderful next step for us and while we are very public people – it’s the nature of what we do – we do want to be able to grow our family with a sense of privacy.”

That’s certainly more privacy than will be afforded to those *Love Island* contestants this year.





LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood

Former mayoress 'will be greatly missed'



Tributes have been paid to an "incredible" former nurse and Hertford mayoress.

Marjorie Cook was diagnosed with an aggressive form of lung cancer in February this year and died on May 24.

Her granddaughter, Mary Nesbitt-Larking (pictured left with Marjorie), said: "She was a fighter to the very end. She was an incredible mother of five, grandmother to 10 and great-grandmother to six.

"She saw everyone as her family and will be greatly missed, not just by us, but by everyone who met her."

During the Second World War, at the age of seven, London-born Marjorie, her siblings and her cousin were evacuated to Abbots Langley.

Ms Larking said: "She lived with five families, and the final one she stayed with became like a second family to her. She stayed in contact with them until the end."

Marjorie later became a nurse, first practising at St Charles' Hospital in London, and she inspired her three daughters to also become nurses.

When her late husband, Charles, became mayor of Hertford, Marjorie saw this as an opportunity to use her status as mayoress to carry out charitable work in the community.

A private funeral was held at the end of June at Harwood Park Crematorium. There will be a public memorial in September.

Donations can be made to Herts Young Homeless in Marjorie's memory at www.hyh.org.uk

involving a motorbike and a fire engine at around 3.30pm on Friday, June 18.

The road remained shut until around 5.15pm, with surrounding traffic at a standstill.

The motorcyclist was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge for further treatment.

A spokesperson for Hertfordshire Police issued an update on the morning of Monday, June 21.

They said: "The motorcyclist was taken to hospital. He sustained serious injuries including a broken arm, leg and ribs.

"The road closures started to be lifted at around 5.15pm. Recovery was arranged for the motorbike."

Jewellery stolen in burglary

Detectives investigating a burglary in Hertford have released images of a man they would like to speak to as part of their enquiries.

A property in Balls Park was broken into on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 1.

Several items of jewellery were taken, along with solid silver items such as candlesticks, an ashtray and a christening mug.

Detective Constable Ben Farmer, from the East Herts Local Crime Unit, said: "Understandably, the victim is extremely upset by what happened, as the items taken are of great sentimental value.

"We would like to identify and speak to the person pictured, as we believe he may have information which could greatly assist our enquiries. If this is you, or you recognise him, please get in touch.

"I'd also like to hear from anyone else who may have information about the burglary, or who may have been offered any of these items for sale."

Anyone with information is asked to email ben.farmer@herts.pnn.police.uk

You can also report information online or call the non-emergency number 101, quoting reference 41/40805/21.



Motorcyclist injured after crash with fire engine

A motorcyclist suffered a broken arm, leg and ribs after a crash with a fire engine in Hertford Town Centre.

Emergency services were called to the roundabout on Gascoyne Way, in Hertford, to reports of a crash



Charity receives Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

A Hertford charity has been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2021 for its work with domestic abuse victims and survivors.

Future Living Hertford is one of several charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups in the county to receive the prestigious award this year, which is the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The registered charity helps men, women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse and those in recovery from addiction.

Sandra Conte, CEO of the charity, said: "I am so pleased that the work of Future Living Hertford has been recognised by the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and commitment of our volunteers since 2014.

"To run and sustain a therapeutic service such as our own is a huge challenge. Add into that the pressure of

COVID-19 and it becomes a huge task.

"We are independent from statutory organisations and are overwhelmed by the support we receive from the community, voluntary and social enterprise sectors. It certainly is a great honour to receive this award. Thank you to those who nominated us."

Two volunteers from Future Living Hertford will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in 2022, along with other recipients of this year's award.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise the outstanding work of volunteer groups to benefit their local communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

For more information on the charity, visit www.futurelivinghertford.co.uk

Nominations for the award for 2022 are now open. Visit www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntary-service

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Scheme encourages residents to keep streets litter-free

Residents in Hertford will now get extra support to help keep their streets and parks free of litter. East Herts District Council (EHDC), alongside North Herts District Council, has launched the Adopt an Area scheme to support existing volunteers who have already been litter picking in the district, as well as to appeal for new volunteers to help reduce litter. Volunteers will be asked to let the council know the area they wish to adopt and will be provided with safety information and dedicated litter bags. Anyone who adopts an area will be able to have their litter-picked waste collected alongside their normal scheduled waste and recycling collections.

For the first 100 residents signing up, the council will provide a litter picker pack, which includes everything needed to carry out regular litter picking in their area. These packs have been kindly sponsored by environmental service company, Urbaser. Councillor Graham McAndrew, EHDC's executive member for environment and public space, said: "We've recently seen an increase in the amount of people wanting to take a stand against littering, particularly in their local areas, so we are pleased to be able to support them with this great initiative." To find out more and sign up, visit www.eastherts.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/adopt-area

MP urges young people to get their first job

Julie Marson, MP for Hertford and Stortford, is encouraging young people in her constituency to book their COVID-19 vaccine now all adults are eligible to do so. Data released on June 17 shows that 125,330 doses of the vaccine have been administered in Hertford and Stortford. This figure is greater than the average number for parliamentary constituencies and includes both first and second doses. Commenting on the news that those aged 18 or over can now book their jobs, Julie Marson MP said: "Young people have sacrificed so much during the pandemic. Jobs have been lost, education has been disrupted and plans have had to be put on hold for such a long time. "While generally less at risk of serious illness compared to their older relatives, young people have done so much to protect others. I would like to thank them for this selflessness. "To all young people in Hertford and Stortford, I ask you to do one more thing during this pandemic: please get your job. "I'd also like to thank our medical professionals and volunteers who are responsible for one of the fastest COVID-19 vaccine rollouts in the world. I have been fortunate enough to have had the chance to help out at a few of our vaccine centres and I can say first-hand what an incredible job they are doing."





LOCAL NEWS

News from HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL



Hertford Town Centre has been a hub of activity in the last few weeks with the launch of three new eateries. The new Proove team, located in Parliament Square, has been enjoying cooking up some delicious pizza goodness. The Hummingbird has spread its wings under new management in Fore Street, offering delicious food and a wide choice of drinks. Anexo restaurant, located on Fore Street, sister to Hertford House, serves traditional Spanish plates with a modern edge, cooked on a wood fire.

Hertford Castle has seen the return of events to the castle lawn, including the popular Cars at the Castle exhibition, which took place in early June. There have also been a variety of new events organised by Hertford Town Council, including the open-air theatre, the health and wellbeing event, and the live screening of the Wimbledon Men's Singles Final. There are plenty more events for Hertford residents to enjoy over the summer, including the Town Centre Play Day, the Hertford Castle Live Music Event, the Food and Drink Festival and the open-air cinema. For full details of all the events, including measures that have been implemented for your safety, visit www.hertford.gov.uk/events-listings

Hertford Town Council is happy to collaborate once again with Secret Society of Hertford Crafters (SSOHC) for two town centre trails this summer for all children to enjoy. The Olympic-themed trail will celebrate a great summer of sports, and the second,



beach-themed trail will include plenty of your favourite beach and sea creatures. The crafted items will be auctioned off at the end of the trails, with proceeds going to local charities. The trails are sponsored by Spoons Kitchens and Lanes Estate Agents.

Residents and visitors can find out more about Hertford's history on two guided walks this summer. Learn about the Georgian period and its colourful characters, libertines and rakes on Sunday, July 25. Explore a thousand years of Hertford history, from the founding of the Saxon town onwards, on Monday, August 30. Tickets are £7 per person and available from Hertford Town and Tourist Information Centre by calling 01992 584322.

Charity awarded funding for app

A Hertford charity is celebrating after receiving £69,000 in funding.

Future Living Hertford, which helps domestic abuse victims and those recovering from addiction, was awarded the funding from the Comic Relief and Paul Hamlyn Foundation Build programme.

The money will be used to develop a game app for young people to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

CEO and founder, Sandra Conte, said: "We are delighted and enormously grateful to Comic Relief and Paul Hamlyn Foundation."

Future Living Hertford was one of 22 recipients to be awarded funding to develop an app aimed at children and young people.

Ms Conte added: "The app is informed and developed by children and young people, to provide help whenever they should need it."

The Build programme is a new opportunity enabling UK charities to test and develop digital solutions. Alongside funding, the charities will have access to technical support from experts and advisors.

For more information regarding the game app, visit www.futurelivinghertford.co.uk



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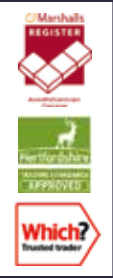
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GARDENING

If you are considering building a garden room, it is important to understand the different types and the benefits of each.

POTTING SHED OR GREENHOUSE

If you are into gardening or want to learn more about it, then having a designated potting shed or greenhouse can be helpful. A room like this can help you break into the world of gardening or expand your interest in growing different kinds of plants. If you have a small garden with minimal planting space, this is a good option for you, as you can grow a lot in one area.



PURPOSE-BUILT GARDEN ROOM

A purpose-built garden room is a more expensive option for those looking for some more living space. This style can work with any type of house. It is the most versatile option as it can be used for different purposes, such as a home office, a place to entertain friends, a playroom for children, a home gym, a garden kitchen, a lounge bar area or even a guest room. Also for this option, you may want to consider adding a water and electricity supply, which will allow you to add components such as a sink, fridge/freezer, TV, computer, lighting, electronic gym equipment and so on, depending on your needs. With a purpose-built room, you will have to ensure that you have a strong foundation for more stability; if not, this will need to be created.



POP-UP TENT

A pop-up tent is a great, affordable option for those looking for something quick to assemble that is also easy to remove. They come in many different sizes to suit different gardens. It can be a playroom for children, a place to entertain friends, a place to keep plants safe from the elements, or even for camping. This option is mostly suitable for the summer months.



SHEPHERD'S HUT

A shepherd's hut can be used as a place to entertain guests when you grill or cook outdoors. This type of garden room works best with country-style homes. You could use the hut to create a guest house, a chill-out zone, hobby room or home office. This option also requires a foundation to be added underneath.

Photo credit: Harrison James Contemporary Garden Rooms via housebeautiful.com, rajentclub.com, cotswoldscottages.co.uk



The Surge of CONNECTED FITNESS

The pandemic caused gym closures – but it hasn't stopped people from looking after their health and fitness... the home gym market just thrived

Over the past few years, the home fitness equipment market has been expanding steadily, with an annual growth rate of 2.75 per cent. But the pandemic – and related gym and sports centre closures – has been the game changer no one could have foreseen.

Today, the market for fitness apps – which was valued at a little more than \$3.3million at the beginning of 2019 – is predicted to grow by 25.6 per cent annually up to 2025, reaching an impressive valuation of more than \$13million.

So, apps and home gym equipment – such as Sweat, the Echelon Fit Bike, Runkeeper, MapMyRun and Strava – have been gaining a larger percentage of the market. But it is the Peloton phenomenon that investors are still marvelling at. As home-bound, health-conscious consumers started to invest in the firm's treadmills and stationary bikes, Peloton reported a 172 per cent surge in sales, translating into Peloton shares (NASDAQ: PTON) being up by 220 per cent.

The firm reports that the number of subscribers skyrocketed by 113 per cent by the end of June 2020, hitting the 1.09 million mark – and it is expected to reach a whopping

two million by September 2021. Peloton apps and virtual classes, which currently have more than 1.6 million subscribers, are not the only 'connected fitness' tools to look out for. The sector, which provides a safer, more accessible way for consumers to reach their fitness goals, is expected to report a compound annual growth rate of 31.2 per cent and reach a staggering \$5.96billion by 2025. Combining a consumer's digital life and fitness goals, home gym equipment, online workouts and fitness apps are taking over the market and reshaping the health and fitness industry.



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WHAT CAN £250,000

buy you in each region in England?

Have you ever wondered where you can get more bang for your buck when it comes to property investment? With the extension of the stamp duty holiday until September on home purchases below £250,000, let's see what you can buy on or under budget in each region.

NORTH EAST: Asking prices in the North East have increased by 5.4 per cent in the last year, seeing one of the biggest changes across the country. However, you can still purchase a 3-bedroom property for a little more than £150,000.

NORTH WEST: Boasting the biggest price increase, up 7.3 per cent in the last 12 months, the average asking price for a 3-bedroom property in this region is £193,357. Expect to be able to find a 4-bedroom detached new build under the £250,000 threshold.

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER: With prices up a modest 2.8 per cent, the average price of a 3-bedroom property is £188,538. Head to Bradford or Kingston upon Hull for the cheapest homes in the region.

MIDLANDS: The East Midlands is another fast-selling region and you can find some beautiful 3-bedroom detached homes in sought-after, semi-rural areas such as Sutton-on-Sea for around £245,000.

The West Midlands is one of the regions that takes the least amount of time to find a buyer (on average 65 days). You can purchase a 3-bedroom semi-detached house in the popular area of Maypole for £250,000.

EAST OF ENGLAND: The third most expensive region in the UK, you can still find some areas where your budget will stretch that little bit further, such as in Norwich where you can get a 3-bedroom detached home for £250,000.

SOUTH EAST: After London, this is the most expensive region in the UK, with the average asking price of 3-bedroom properties being £372,655. However, we did find a 3-bedroom end-of-terrace house for sale in Deal, Kent, with an asking price of £250,000.

SOUTH WEST: With prices rising by 3.4 per cent in the last year and the average asking price of a 3-bedroom property at £291,861, head to the county of Somerset to find 3-bedroom terraced properties within budget.

LONDON: Surprisingly, London is the only region to experience a drop in prices in the last 12 months. However, the average price of a home is still twice the national average. Barking and Dagenham and Bexley are the cheapest boroughs in London, where you should be able to find a 2-bedroom flat within budget.



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TRAVEL

LONDON'S Top 10 attractions

What better way to celebrate our return to some normality than by ticking off London's best tourist attractions? A lack of overseas travel means that, in 2021, these iconic hotspots will be less busy and more accessible than ever.

TEN: Borough Market

Based in Southwark, this iconic centre for high quality food and sustainable production has been pulling in admirers for almost as long as London has existed and dates back to the 12th century.

NINE: Natural History Museum

Showcasing modern science interspersed with taxonomy and biodiversity, the Natural History Museum, based in South Kensington, is a maze of walkways and corridors that continues to enchant adults and children alike.

EIGHT: St Paul's Cathedral

Sir Christopher Wren's London masterpiece, St Paul's, is an example of architectural and ecclesiastical excellence dating back well over a thousand years.

SEVEN: Victoria and Albert Museum

Design, art and style come to the fore at the V&A in a celebration of culture and craft from the UK and beyond.

SIX: Westminster Abbey

The setting for every royal coronation since 1066, Westminster Abbey is one of the most important Gothic buildings in England.

FIVE: The British Museum

A celebration of more than two million years of human history and culture, and it's free to enter.

FOUR: National Gallery

Towering over Trafalgar Square, the National Gallery is also free to visit, showcasing some of the finest artists from the UK and overseas.

THREE: Churchill War Rooms

This popular attraction allows visitors to explore the offices where Winston Churchill and his team plotted Britain's fight against the Nazis during Second World War.

TWO: Tower Bridge

Take in stunning panoramic views over the Thames from Tower Bridge's walkway and explore the atmospheric Victorian engine rooms.

ONE: Tower of London

And finally, a fortress, a palace and a prison all in one – learn how royalty reigned in London over the course of a thousand years.

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PAINT YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE

Keeping your kids hydrated can be a challenge – at least, it was before you helped them create their very own, personalised water bottle. Cheap and easy to do (depending on the design you choose), this craft requires minimal supervision.

YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 white stainless steel water bottle | A paint brush | Acrylic paint in their chosen colours | Gloss sealant or varnish

HOW TO MAKE:

1. CHOOSE YOUR DESIGN

Depending on the age of your child and their personal preferences, there is a wide range of different designs you can choose from, some of which are super simple and others that are a bit more complex.

Design ideas for younger kids: Hand prints, flowers, fruits, footballs, princesses, animals, robots or vehicles such as cars, trains or aeroplanes.

Ideas for older kids: Just their name (à la Love Island), their favourite sports team, floral or geometric patterns, or their favourite artist.

2. PENCIL ON YOUR DESIGN

If you have younger children, you may want to do this step for them, although if they want to have a go themselves, why not let them? Lightly draw their chosen design directly onto the water bottle. Don't worry about pencil marks, as the paint will cover them up.

3. PAINT YOUR DESIGN

Starting with the outline of your words or images, carefully start painting. Once you have finished the outline, fill in the rest of the shape. If you are worried about smudging, leave each part to dry before moving on to the next.

4. APPLY GLOSS SEALANT OR VARNISH

Once you have finished painting your entire design, leave your water bottle to dry completely. Then all you need to do is apply a coat of gloss sealant or varnish as per the manufacturer's instructions.





150 years of the HIGHWAY CODE



The Highway Code is something everyone is familiar with – but only a few know where it comes from and what it first looked like.

Every driver in the UK has looked through the strict set of rules that make up the Highway Code at least once. However, only a few know its history and how it has changed over time. First introduced in April 1931, the original Highway Code looked a lot different from the one we know today.

The one-penny, 24-page-long booklet was the first attempt to reduce the whopping 7,000 fatalities occurring every year on the road – at a time when there were only 2.3 million motor vehicles circulating in Great Britain.

The first edition of the Highway Code contained some advice modern drivers will be familiar with – such as being mindful of others and always putting safety first. However, the original Highway Code did not mention mirrors (as they weren't a requirement for motor vehicles at the time) and recommended drivers sound their horn while overtaking.

Most of the pages of the original booklet were dedicated to describing hand signals to be used by drivers, pedestrians and police officers – recommendations that are today collected on a single page of the 189-page modern Highway Code.

The changes in motor technologies and road design led to the introduction of new colour illustrations, a dedicated section to motorway driving, and road sign diagrams – even if there were

only 10 described in the second edition.

Although these facts might sound curious to today's drivers, the modern Highway Code still contains some unusual rules. For example, under the Road Traffic Act 1998, it is illegal for drivers to splash pedestrians with puddles, sleep in their car if drunk, and pay at a drive-through using their phone.

Undoubtedly, the Highway Code will continue to adapt to any future changes in technology and the road environment, but so far, the results of its introduction have been impressive. Today, while the number of cars in the UK has skyrocketed to 33 million, fewer than 1,700 people are killed on the road annually.

Original



Current

Photo credit: www.gov.uk, www.driving.org


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SPORT



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That Cup that FLOWETH OVER

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE FINEST DOMESTIC KNOCKOUT COMPETITION OF THEM ALL

Living in the UK, we can end up taking for granted many things that, to us, seem relatively customary, and the FA Cup arguably falls into that category.

Yet when you hear of overseas players having spent a childhood enthralled by the trials and triumphs of our most famous domestic knockout competition, the true status of the cup comes to the fore. We may have grown more complacent about a tournament that welcomes in almost 900 club sides every season, yet the FA Cup is truly a competition we should feel proud to marvel over.

July 20 marks the 150th anniversary of the FA Cup being formed. The competition began in 1871, with 15 teams allowed to enter. The final, which attracted a modest crowd of 2,000 people, saw Wanderers triumph over Royal Engineers.

In the modern game, COVID-19 notwithstanding, the semi-finals and final at Wembley are watched by crowds in excess of 85,000, and while other competitions – notably the Champions League –

have wrestled some of the attention away, the competition retains huge importance for clubs of all sizes.

Over the years, it has given us tremendous, defining memories. The famous White Horse (Billie) Final of 1923 was notable for its crowd of an estimated 300,000 people inside Wembley; while the Stanley Matthews showpiece in 1953 saw the legendary footballer lead Blackpool to a 4–3 cup success against Bolton Wanderers.

The 1981 final saw Ricky Villa score a memorable Wembley goal to see off Manchester City, and seven years later the crazy gang defeated the culture club as Wimbledon stunned Liverpool 1–0. Of course, giant-killings on the road to Wembley (think Sutton United, Hereford United, Colchester United, Wrexham and more) are part of the fabric of this great competition.

The FA Cup may have had to evolve over recent years, but its value remains.



FA Cup White Horse Final 1923

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PUZZLES

Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

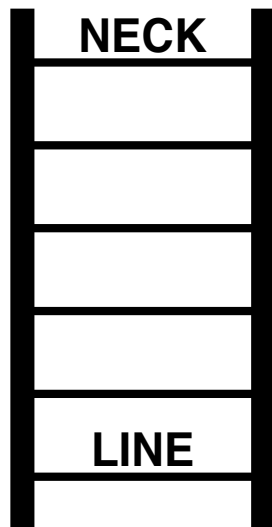
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S	P	X	S	T	E	N	I	A	N	H	G	X	R	X
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E	R	A	M	S	H	A	T	A	A	L	B	L	A	M
E	A	H	U	H	T	R	U	M	P	T	R	N	A	S

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ You can tell the outside temperature by counting the chirps of a cricket. Count the number of chirps in 14 seconds and add 40 to get a rough temperature in Fahrenheit
- ▶ The coldest temperature recorded on Earth was -89.2°C in Antarctica in 1983
- ▶ During a heatwave, the temperature can make train tracks bend, often causing delays
- ▶ The rainfall in Kerala, India, was red in July 2001
- ▶ Damage caused by Hurricane Andrew in Florida caused captive pythons to escape
- ▶ Some frogs are noisier before rain arrives as their croaks are reflected and magnified by the low clouds
- ▶ Earthworms come up closer to the surface when it rains

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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