

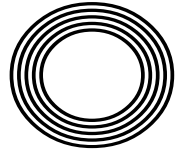


## TOP TIPS FOR TANNING SAFELY

*Celebrating 50 years  
of hip-hop music*

**CHERRY PICKED**  
The latest kitchen colour trend

**PROSECCO PAIRING**  
*Top foods to pair with your bubbles*



**FREE**

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# SIMON THOMAS

TV presenter named as new host of iconic show



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# Editor's notes...

AUGUST 2023



Brett Shohet, Editor

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

I recently went on my first overseas holiday in four years. It was lovely to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily working life and have a chance to relax - even if I do feel guilty stepping away from the business for a short while. However, it's important to remember to take a break every now and again and give yourself the chance to relax. After all, you'll come back to work with renewed vigour and a fresh perspective.

As previously mentioned, I purchased an established business exhibition. The event will be held in Hertfordshire in October and is sponsored by

London Stansted Airport. Preparation is going well so far, and I'd encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved to please get in touch or visit [www.bsmb.co.uk](http://www.bsmb.co.uk).

With the summer holidays upon us, now is a good chance to get out and about and support your local businesses - whether that's having lunch in a local restaurant, paying a visit to a local attraction or watching a show in a local venue. Our what's on page has a great variety of events in your local area to keep the whole family entertained, so make sure to check them out.

I hope you have a brilliant summer - and I hope the weather cooperates!

*Brett Shohet*

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

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## CONTACT US:

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CONTRIBUTORS | Tabatha Fabray, Fiona Goble, Holly Bullen

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Be a part of it

## BSMB – The Next Chapter

**VISION** editor Brett Shohet has taken over the reins of a prestigious business exhibition in Bishop's Stortford.

Brett, owner of the B7 Media Group, is the new organiser of the Bishop's Stortford Means Business (BSMB) exhibition, which attracts more than 350 participants every year and has the slogan 'Be a part of it'.

Sponsored by London Stanstead Airport, BSMB dates back to 2001 and was founded to provide an opportunity for businesses large and small to present their goods and services to the community.

Speaking about why he decided to take over the exhibition, Brett said he will be continuing the ethos of the exhibition, bringing creative ideas to support both new and loyal exhibitors and encourage even more visitors to attend.



He said: "I am consistently looking for ways to invest in our communities and promote local businesses.

"This exhibition is the next step in expanding and growing the Vision brand and we are hoping to roll out

the exhibition to more areas in the future.

"In turn, this will help give local businesses the chance to promote and showcase their products and services."

Brett also wanted to express his gratitude to former organiser Robert Lee, who has been championing businesses across the community for more than 20 years.

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# HIP-HOP... AND YOU DON'T STOP

**H**ip-hop – one of the most explosive, inventive, innovative and celebrated genres of music – celebrates its 50th anniversary in August.

In 1983, David Bowie said that hip-hop music held the only real creative musicians. That's quite a statement from someone who continues – even after his passing – to occupy an iconic aura of melodic and songwriting brilliance. "With black music," he continued, "there's a very strong social point to make. There's a means of discovery and a purpose, and for that reason, hip-hop stands itself apart from almost anything else."

At the time, the genre had only been around for a decade. Yet in the 40 years since then, it has evolved to cross over almost every divide you can imagine. It is no longer the domain of a single skin colour or a social demographic, nor is it a set of rules regarding sound, samples and BPM. Its continued growth across popular culture, from its beginnings as the sound of the streets, sees its modern purveyors streaming by the billions and selling out venues of any size.

The original 'sound of the underground' style came about via DJ Kool Herc's *Back to School Jam* in 1973 – a track credited as being the first example of a genre that sees artists speak vocals over a backing track.

Over the years, lines have been drawn between the genre and its near-acquaintance, rap. While the latter is arguably the purest form of 'rapped' poetry and music, hip-hop also embraces fashion, graffiti, dance and DJing, and envelops female performers as much as male. These influences were seen in the way Kool Herc's booming, crowd-stirring sound soon influenced Grandmaster Flash, who brought in techniques such as scratching, punch-phrasing and the backspin.

Between 1979 and 1983, disco and funk narratives came into the style, with *Rapper's Delight* by The Sugarhill Gang gaining global popularity and serving as something of a blueprint for future tracks. The genre's so-called 'golden age' between 1983 and 1997 saw artists such as Run-DMC – whose third single *Rock Box* in 1984 provided the first rap video played on MTV – De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest build social influence and bring innovation to a sound that was rapidly diversifying.

The 1990s brought gang rivalries onto the scene, not least those involved in the infamous East versus West Coast feuds between the likes of Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Wu-Tang Clan and others. The dispute led to rival sides upping the ante on each new release, culminating in the much-publicised deaths of Tupac Shakur in 1996 and The Notorious B.I.G. the following year.

The Millennium saw the rise of 'bling bling' – a term coined by Lil Wayne – with R&B-infused hooks from artists such as J-Lo, Ashanti and Mariah Carey. Kanye West, Eminem and 50 Cent were some of the last to benefit from music sales in physical form as online piracy and streaming sites led to a decline in CDs.

*The Eminem Show*, from 2002, sold 27 million copies and became the best-selling hip-hop album of all time. The fact that this was achieved by a white artist confirmed the genre's total 360 evolution.

In the modern era, and bolstered by social media, the likes of Nas, Jay-Z, Mos Def, Talib Kweli, and now Kendrick Lamar, Stormzy, Kanye West and Nicki Minaj have worked to build personality into their presentation of the music.

As hip-hop now prepares to celebrate 50 years with a variety of events, celebrations, exhibitions, competitions, and one-off shows and DJ events, it's clear that where the genre goes next will be, as ever, for the music to decide.



Photo credit: the50thanniversaryofhiphop.com



# Slightly sticky®

In the early 1970s, church chorister Arthur Fry was searching for a bookmark that wouldn't fall out of his hymn book or damage it. Then he remembered a not-very-sticky glue created by a colleague in the product development department at the 3M Corporation a few years before.

In 1968, Doctor Spencer Silver developed a glue that was strong enough to stick, but could be removed easily without leaving a sticky mark. You could also easily reposition it. Fry took a bit of the glue, spread it along the edge of a piece of paper, and created the perfect bookmark for himself.

Fry and Silver left 'bookmarks' around their office to communicate with their team. Co-workers started asking for them, too. A year or two later, 3M created the Post-it Note brand and launched into production with its 3x3in sticky notes. They were yellow only because that was the scrap paper the company had on hand.

At first, interest was slow. But in 1979, following a mass free giveaway campaign, the product took off. Everyone had a pad of Post-it Notes to stick on files, computers, desks and even doors.

But the brains behind the product continued their inventing, and Fry and Spencer worked for 3M their whole working lives.

The notes are now available in many shapes, sizes and colours. In 2003 came Super Sticky Notes with stronger glue. In 2019, 3M launched its Extreme Notes, which are water resistant and 100 times stronger than the originals.

The same year saw the launch of the Post-it app, which 3M claims "brings the simplicity of Post-it Notes to your smartphone, tablet and Chromebook".

3M's patent on Post-it Notes expired in 1997, but the name and the original yellow colour remain trademarked to this day – those little paper squares we love, though we never knew we needed them.



Photo credit: cibemijas.com



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**STAINS**  
*be gone!*

Denim is designed to be durable and can cope with the rough and tumble of being out in the elements. However, what do you do if your favourite pair of jeans becomes stained?

Find out how to remove the most common stains from your jeans and other denim garments below.

**HOW TO REMOVE GRASS STAINS**

1. Pre-treat the stain using laundry detergent, washing-up liquid or vinegar mixed with a small amount of warm water.
2. Scrub the liquid into the grass stain using a toothbrush or nail brush.
3. Wash the item on its usual laundry cycle.
4. Repeat all of the above again if the stain is still visible.

**HOW TO REMOVE MUD STAINS**

1. If the mud stain is wet, allow to dry completely. Do not attempt to remove the mud while it is still wet as this can spread the stain further.
2. When dry, gently scrape off any excess mud with a plastic spoon or knife.
3. Gently brush the stain with a small brush or toothbrush.
4. Apply a few drops of washing-up liquid to the stain and rub in using your fingers.
5. Add a drop of water to the stain and briskly rub with a brush on both sides of the fabric.
6. Wash the garment, following the care guidelines on the tag.
7. Repeat steps 4 to 7 for really stubborn stains.

**HOW TO REMOVE WINE STAINS**

1. As soon as possible, pour a small amount of white vinegar onto a clean cloth and gently blot the area. Do not rub as this may set the stain further.
2. For bigger wine stains, soak the denim overnight in a solution of one part vinegar and one part water.
3. Rinse with cold water and then wash on your usual washing cycle.

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# Amazing ASPIRIN

Most households have a box or two of aspirin lurking in their medicine drawer, but did you know this little white pill can be used for so many more things than just pain relief?

#### TO GET RID OF DANDRUFF

One in five people suffer with dandruff, with men more likely to be affected than women. Forgo expensive shampoos and simply crush two or three aspirin and mix them into the normal amount of shampoo that you use. Apply to your scalp and leave to sit for two or three minutes before rinsing.

#### TO SOFTEN HARD SKIN ON FEET

Wear your sandals with pride by softening any hard skin on your feet using the power of aspirin. Crush five tablets and mix with half a teaspoon of lemon juice and half a teaspoon of water. Mix into a paste and apply to your feet. Put on a pair of socks and leave for 10 minutes before rinsing with warm water.

#### TO EXFOLIATE YOUR FACE

Aspirin is an amazing exfoliant and can be highly effective in removing dead skin cells. Crush five aspirin and mix with two teaspoons of lemon, lime or orange juice. Apply to your face, leave for a few minutes and gently scrub off.

#### TO RESTORE HAIR COLOUR

If your hair colour is beginning to fade, aspirin can help to revive it. Dissolve six to eight aspirin in a glass of warm water, rub the solution through your hair and leave to set for 10-15 minutes. Alternatively, add the mixture to your shampoo.

#### OTHER BEAUTY BENEFITS OF ASPIRIN:

- To treat psoriasis – crush five uncoated aspirin, mix with a quarter of a cup of warm water and apply to the skin.
- To reduce redness from stings and bites – apply a wet aspirin directly to the sting or bite.
- To treat ingrown hairs – mix two aspirin tablets with a teaspoon of warm water and apply the paste to the affected area.
- To remove sweat stains from clothes – dissolve two white aspirin in half a cup of water and apply.





# How to TAN safely

Many of us love spending time in the sun to achieve a golden glow. The sun can also boost our vitamin D levels and help us stay healthy. But it's important to remember that tanning can damage your skin, so follow these tips to stay safe while you sunbathe.

**1 Avoid sunbeds.** These emit harmful UVA rays that can increase your risk of skin cancer, and can also cause your skin to age prematurely.

**2 Choose the right sun cream.** Make sure to look for products labelled 'broad spectrum' to make sure you are protected from both UVA and UVB rays.

**3 Watch the clock.** Research suggests that after a few hours, your body won't produce more melanin, the pigment responsible for tanning; you'll just be exposing your skin to UV damage. It's worth noting this time can vary from person to person, so better to be on the safe side and make sure you're not spending too much time in the sun.

**4 Spend time in the shade.** This reduces your sunburn risk and helps prolong the life of your tan.

**5 Cover up.** Wear protective clothing, especially if certain areas of your body are prone to sunburn.

**6 Eat sun-friendly foods.** Foods rich in lycopene, such as red or orange fruits and vegetables like tomatoes, can boost your skin's natural sun protection.

**7 Don't mix fake tan with SPF products.** This can cause the SPF to break down, reducing its effectiveness.

**8 Be cautious during peak sun hours.** Take extra precautions between 10am and 4pm. Regularly reapply sun cream every two hours, even if you're not swimming.

**9 Choose the right aftersun.** Look for products that hydrate and soothe your skin and avoid products that contain alcohol, as these can irritate your skin and could make your tan fade more quickly.

Remember, while you might feel that you look good with a tan, healthy skin is your top priority. So if you can't resist sunbathing, follow these tips to enhance and prolong your tan while minimising the risks.



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Abbot Care Home is situated amongst peaceful open parkland and features beautiful, landscaped gardens. The people who live here enjoy a comfortable environment and benefit from the home-from-home atmosphere.

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# Sculpted SHOULDERS

The shoulder joint is notoriously unstable, so if you want to avoid injury and enjoy good posture, you need to take the time to strengthen this area of your body. Add these exercises to your workout routine once or twice a week.

## 1. UPRIGHT ROW

Start with your feet under your hips and your legs straight | Hold a dumbbell in each hand, with your palms facing towards your body and the weights touching your quads | Pull your elbows up and out wide to lift the dumbbells to your chest | Lower the dumbbells to return to the starting position | Complete 15 reps

## 2. BANDED PULL-APARTS

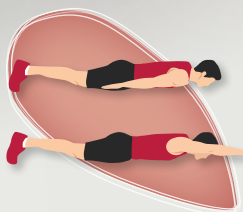
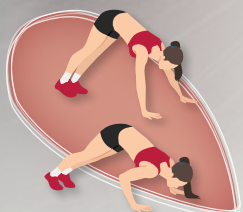
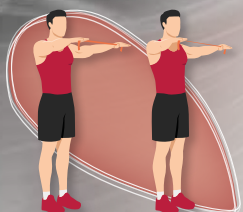
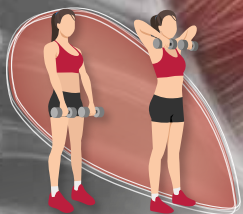
Start by standing with your feet shoulder-width apart | Holding a resistance band with both hands, extend your arms straight in front of your body and raise them to shoulder height | Make sure that your palms are facing the floor | Engage your core and pull your fists apart past your shoulders | Slowly return to the starting position | Complete 10 reps

## 3. INVERTED PUSH-UP

Start in an upside-down V position with your feet flat on the floor, your hands pressed onto the floor and your hips in the air | Bend your elbows out wide to the sides so that your head touches the floor | Press through your hands to return to the starting position | Complete 10 reps

## 4. REVERSE SNOW ANGEL

Start by lying face down on a mat with your legs extended straight, your forehead resting on a folded towel and your arms by your sides | Keeping your arms straight and your palms facing the floor, bring your arms out to the side in a wide arc and overhead | Reverse the movement to return to the starting position | Complete 15 reps.



# Amazing APRICOTS

SEASONAL, FRAGRANT AND OH SO DELICIOUS, DISCOVER THREE SIMPLE APRICOT RECIPES

## WHITE SANGRIA

**You will need:** 1 apricot, chopped | 1 nectarine, chopped | 1 orange, peeled and chopped | 3-4 strawberries, sliced | 1 tsp caster sugar | Pinch of ground cinnamon | 325ml Spanish white wine such as white Rioja | 50ml triple sec | 150ml ginger ale

**How to make:** Place the fruit in a bowl and sprinkle over the sugar and cinnamon | Mix, cover and place in the fridge for 1 hour | Tip into a large jug and pour in the wine and triple sec | Add the ginger ale and a large handful of ice | Stir and serve in tall glasses with ice

## CHICKEN WITH GINGER AND APRICOTS

**You will need:** 4 chicken thighs (skin on and bone in) | ½ tsp ground ginger | 10g fresh root ginger, peeled and finely chopped | 100ml dry white wine | 1½ tbsp white balsamic vinegar | 1 tbsp runny honey | 4 large ripe apricots, halved | 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary

**How to make:** Preheat the oven to 210°C/190°C fan/gas mark 6½ | Season the chicken with salt and pepper and sprinkle the skin with ground ginger | Heat extra virgin olive oil in a large frying pan, brown the chicken on both sides and then lay it to one side | Pour off any excess oil from the pan and gently fry the fresh ginger for 2-3 mins | Add the wine, then the vinegar and honey | Cook until the sauce starts to thicken | Add the apricots and rosemary | Return the chicken to the pan, skin side up | Transfer the pan to the oven, uncovered, and roast for 35 minutes | Serve with steamed white rice or crispy smashed potatoes

## POACHED APRICOTS WITH MASCARPONE

**You will need:** 75g golden caster sugar | Zest of ½ orange | 6 dried apricots | 6 apricots, halved | 5 drops of orange flower water | 100ml mascarpone | ½ vanilla pod, seeds scraped out

**How to make:** Place 50g sugar and 150ml water in a pan with the orange zest and bring to a slow boil | Add the dried apricots, cook for 3 mins, and add the fresh apricots | Cook for 10 mins | Turn off the heat and add the flower water. Leave for 1 hour at room temperature | Whisk the mascarpone with the remaining sugar and vanilla | Serve over the apricots.



Photo credit: joyousapron.com, taste.com.au, thegoodwebguide.co.uk

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Do you love a glass or two of Prosecco? Fancy knowing what snacks you should eat alongside this popular Italian beverage?

Discover these top five perfect Prosecco pairings that promise to tantalise your tastebuds and stop the bubbles from going straight to your head.

#### HOW TO PAIR PROSECCO

Although most people tend to enjoy Prosecco on its own, it is actually a fantastic pairing wine, which boasts crisp and refreshing flavours that go well with everything from sweet treats to salty snacks. As a general rule, high acidity and dry Proseccos pair well with rich and creamy desserts, and sweeter ones such as rosé Prosecco are best enjoyed with savoury foods.

**POLPETTE:** Highly popular in Italy, polpetta is a type of meatball that is usually made from pork, beef or a combination of both. Small and delicious, this is the perfect snack to pair with a glass of Prosecco.

**BRUSCHETTA:** You have probably already heard of bruschetta as it often features in the antipasti section of an Italian restaurant's menu. So simple, yet oh so delicious, this toasted bread is rubbed with garlic before being topped with olive oil, tomatoes, basil and even more garlic.

**SALADS:** While a salad may not be the first dish that springs to mind when you think of Prosecco, the fairly low alcohol content of this popular beverage makes it ideal for pairing with a light and fresh dish. For best results, match Prosecco with spinach, strawberries and goat cheese. It can also work well with a classic chicken Caesar salad.

**MILD CHEESES:** If you love cheese almost as much as you love wine, then you will be pleased to hear that there are many mild cheeses that make the perfect accompaniment to Prosecco. Try a glass with a slice of creamy mozzarella, ricotta or burrata.

**DESSERTS:** When it comes to Prosecco and sweet dishes, opt for crème brûlée or cheesecake with dry Prosecco, or a fresh fruit tart or fruit salad with sweeter varieties.



# CHERRY ON TOP KITCHENS!

**L**ike to stay one step ahead of the latest kitchen design trends? Summer 2023 sees the arrival of an abundance of vibrant kitchens adorned with the deep reddish-pink shade of cherry. Here's how to incorporate this bold look in your kitchen.

## COMBINE CHERRY CABINETS WITH WHITE ACCENTS

If you want to completely overhaul your kitchen, then opting for cherry cabinets provides a bold take on this look. To stop the space from looking too dark, add stainless steel appliances and white accents such as white granite countertops.

## INSTALL CHERRY WOOD FLOORING

If you don't want to change the colour of your cabinets, another high-impact way to add cherry to your kitchen is by installing cherry wood flooring. Providing a pop of vibrancy underneath your feet, try to keep the rest of your kitchen bright to keep the space looking fresh.

## OPT FOR A CHERRY SPLASHBACK

If you want to use this colour sparingly to see if you like it, then why not try adding a cherry-coloured splashback to your kitchen? Providing the perfect way to embrace this trend without going all out, high-gloss cherry splashbacks are bang on trend this summer.

## CHOOSE SHAKER-STYLE DESIGN

If you would like to try a new kitchen style in this pivotal room in your home, then the popular shaker style lends itself well to the cherry trend. Known for its clean lines, understated elegance and classic style, cherry shaker cabinets suit both traditional and contemporary homes alike.

## PICK CHERRY APPLIANCES

Another simple way to incorporate cherry into your kitchen without breaking the bank, cherry appliances such as a kettle and toaster can add a pop of colour without being too overpowering. Alternatively, if you have a little more cash to splash, a cherry-coloured cooker or fridge-freezer provides a more show-stopping look.

Photo credit: Magnet via Idealhome.co.uk/jpg, oziesplash.com.au, jinteriordesign.com

# Home Counties Loft Ladders, Quality You Can Trust!

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

The company, based locally, offers homeowners the opportunity to maximise their storage space with a loft ladder, 50sqft of boarding and a light – all fully fitted in less than a day from just £444! But it's not just the affordability of the package that makes Home Counties Loft Ladders stand out, as manager Jamie Oakley explains: 'Our

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

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

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

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

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

every installation we carry out!

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



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# DIY POCKET PILLOW

A pocket pillow makes the perfect storage space for a wide range of household items such as remote controls, newspapers and magazines, books, toys and so much more. Plus, it is great for cuddling!

## WHAT YOU NEED:

A pillow insert – these are available in a wide range of sizes | Three types of fabric – one for the front, one for the back and one for the pocket | A pair of scissors | An acrylic ruler | An iron | Sewing machine (optional)

## HOW TO MAKE:

### Step 1: Cut your fabric

The amount of fabric that you need will be dependent upon the size of your pillow.

- > **For your front piece:** Cut the fabric 2.5cm bigger than your pillow insert all four sides.
- > **For your front pocket piece:** Decide how tall you want your pocket to be and then cut double the length. The width should be the same as your front piece of fabric.
- > **For the back pieces:** Each piece of fabric needs to be the same width as the front and the length needs to be about half the height plus 7-8cms so that the envelope will overlap the back.

### Step 2: Fold, press and stitch the fabric

- > Fold the bottom edge of one of the back pieces over 6mm and press.
- > Fold the edge another 6mm and press again. Topstitch to create a finished edge and repeat for the second back piece.
- > Fold the pocket piece in half for enhanced durability, press the folded edge down and topstitch along the top edge either by hand or using a sewing machine.
- > Press the front piece and lay it facing up. Then, lay the pocket piece facing upright on top of the front piece with the bottom edges aligned.
  - > Next, lay one of the back pieces face down on top of the front piece with the raw edges lined up at the top.
  - > Place the other back piece face down on top with the raw edges lined up at the bottom and pin all the way round.
  - > Sew all around the pillow with a 12mm seam allowance.
  - > Cut the corners off at an angle and, if you intend to wash the cover, sew the edges with a zig-zag stitch to prevent fraying.
  - > Turn the pillow cover right side out, lay the cover flat and press the seams.
  - > Place the pillow insert into the cover and adjust so that it is nice and square.

Now all that is left to do is fill your pillow pocket!



Photo credit: Milly and Pip Gifts and Cards via notonthehighstreet.com



GREAT BRITISH INTERIOR DESIGNER:

VEERE GRENNNEY  
ASSOCIATES



Veere Grenney started his interior design company back in 1996, and since then has continued to feature on the list of leading interior designers, not just in the UK, but in the world. His style introduces traditional details to contemporary spaces, creating individual looks that are anything but dull.

## ABOUT VEERE GRENNNEY'S MAGICAL STYLE

Interiors expert Dara Caponigro (creative director of F. Schumacher & Co, former editor in chief of *Veranda* and editor at *ELLE Decor*) perfectly pins down Grenney's style: "He knows when to pull out the stops and when to show quiet restraint, creating interiors that are, at once, serene and exciting, and never forgetting that rooms should be comfortable and livable."

Wall art is a key feature of many of Grenney's interiors, alongside classic fabrics and interesting colour palettes that help bring together classic and modern details. Above all, the spaces he creates are comfortable and practical, which clients can enjoy for years to come.

## HOW TO RECREATE VEERE GRENNNEY'S UNIQUE STYLING IN YOUR HOME

While Grenney's style is unique, it can help provide the perfect inspiration for your own home. Some of the ways you can adapt Grenney's look include:

- > Look for some vintage pieces to upcycle and restore – it's surprising what paint or new upholstery can do to transform your space.
- > Create a tonal look using different shades of the same colour to add depth and interest – ideal if a clashing colour scheme isn't for you.
- > Embrace wall art to help reflect your personality while adding some unique finishing touches to your room. Find different pieces you love that you will enjoy for years to come.
- > Look for non-traditional furniture styles and mix and match your pieces – it's a great way to gradually build up your furniture collection over time.

With a wonderful portfolio to spark inspiration, Veere Grenney Associates is a modern design house full of ideas you can incorporate into your own interiors.



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T&C's Apply

# Whiffy WASHING



HOME & DIY

**D**o you sometimes forget to take your washing out of the machine and it all starts to smell a bit musty? Or perhaps your washing machine is past its best and prone to bad odours? Either way, if you want your laundry to smell amazing, try these top tips and tricks.

### TACKLE MUSTY SMELLS

If you have left laundry in your washing machine for too long, it may start to smell a little musty. Fortunately, you can easily rectify this by filling your machine with the hottest water your clothes will tolerate and adding one cup of vinegar. Leave to soak for 10 minutes and then wash as usual but with the addition of one cup of baking soda. Voilà no more musty smells!

### PRE-TREAT SMELLY STAINS

If an item of clothing has a bad odour owing to a smelly stain, then simply mix one tablespoon of baking soda with a little bit of water to form a paste and then apply directly to the offending spot.

Allow it to sit for 10 minutes and then wash in your washing machine on its usual cycle.

### MAKE YOUR OWN DRYER SHEETS

Dryer sheets have a number of uses, such as to soften, eliminate static and remove bad odours, and you can easily make your own. All you need is a small piece of cotton fabric from an old t-shirt or sheet and 5-10 drops of an essential oil such as lavender or eucalyptus. Place in your dryer for the last 10 minutes and your clothes will smell amazing.

### USE SCENTED DETERGENTS OR FABRIC SOFTENER

One of the simplest ways to make your washing smell good is to use a scented washing powder or fabric softener. However, it is worth noting that these can leave residue in your machine, which can cause mildew over time.



From sticky-back plastic to

# SOCCER SATURDAY

LOOKING AT SIMON THOMAS'S IMPRESSIVE RISE FROM THE *BLUE PETER* STUDIO TO THE SKY SPORTS HOTSEAT

In the modern era of 24/7 television, our sports presenters are as much icons and celebrities as the sports stars they lyrically wax over. Yet in the case of Simon Thomas, successor to the iconic Jeff Stelling on Sky Sports' showpiece results show, *Gillette Soccer Saturday*, the new man in the hotseat is happy to let the scorelines do the talking.

The youthful-looking 50-year-old has been announced as the main man to showcase the weekly results frenzy on Sky Sports. A dynamic and demanding position, he'll need to convey all of recently retired Stelling's multitasking zest and zeal, while managing the maddening behaviour of a panel of pumped-up pundits.

Yet Thomas comes from an environment that offered a rather more serene take on live-TV pressure. Born in Norwich and educated at the University of Birmingham, his career in broadcasting began at the BBC where he worked as a *Blue Peter* presenter from 1999 to 2005. Unforgettable to many in their formative years, his warm and engaging manner won the hearts of the nation.

"*Blue Peter* was an incredible foundation for me," he begins. "The show taught me how to handle the pressure of live TV while always watching what I said and how I said it. You have to constantly monitor language and approach, so that was a steep and valuable learning curve for me.

"Switching to sports broadcasting," he explains, "was the chance to be a bit looser and more expressive. I wouldn't say the job is easier, just different."

Regardless, Thomas's rise has been impressive, so much so that he is backed across the board to step into the giant shoes left behind by the legendary Stelling – a significant undertaking that only someone with Thomas's proven track record and likeability could handle.

The journalist is undoubtedly up to the challenge – he has also presented BBC *Proms in the Park*, covered for (another ex-*Blue Peter* face) Matt Baker MBE on Radio 3, worked on the *This Morning* show, and bravely raised awareness for treatment of blood cancer following the sad death of his first wife, Gemma, in November 2017.

By that time, Thomas was already highly regarded at Sky Sports, where he was able to play out a love for football, and his beloved Norwich City Football Club. "As a presenter, you try to keep your allegiances hidden... unless you're Jeff Stelling, in which case everyone watching knows you support Hartlepool United.

"I'll keep my own bias a bit quieter... for the first few shots, at least."

Thomas admits he may feel the pressure in the opening exchanges of his new role. Not only is the drive for reporting at its most intense on a Saturday afternoon, but he'll likely have to find a substitute for Stelling's unparalleled love of quick wit and high-bar humour, not to mention his predecessor's vast football knowledge

"I want to create my own legacy rather than just follow Jeff's, and it's nice to have some incredible football people on the panel who will help me navigate a route through the mass of results.

"It has always been a privilege to work for Sky and this is a dream. All I need now is for Norwich to get back to the Premier League and it'll be the perfect match-up."





# FROM YOUR AREA

LOCAL NEWS

## Schoolboy wins big in national radio awards



A 10 year old from Hertford has won a prestigious national radio award for the second year running.

Jack Andrews won Best Podcast in the Young Audio Awards, organised by the Radio Academy, for his podcast *Jack to the Future*.

In the online ceremony in July, Jack received his trophy in a surprise video call from Times Radio presenters Fi Glover and Jane Garvey.

Jack started his podcast during lockdown in March 2021. For each episode, he interviews guests about a different 'future' theme, which so far has included artificial intelligence, photography and evolution.

It's the second time Jack has been recognised in the awards, having also won in the Best in Speech category in 2022.

Jack said: "I really didn't think I was going to win again. I feel really proud and to win for this category is amazing. I hope it helps other people realise that they can make audio too!"

Jack's prize includes a one-hour radio show on national station Fun Kids, plus opportunities to learn more about a career in the industry.

## Police issue appeal after supermarket assault

Detectives are trying to trace members of the public who intervened during an assault in Hertford.

The incident occurred outside Sainsbury's in Hartham Lane, at around 4.30pm on Monday, July 3.

It was reported that a member of security staff was assaulted as he tried to detain a woman who had

allegedly stolen items from the store.

Detective Constable Caroline Mellowship said: "Enquiries have ascertained that a number of people stopped to help during the incident, including one man who alerted staff at the customer service desk.

"I'm appealing for these people to please come forward, as their accounts could prove key to progressing the investigation further."

Anyone with information is asked to contact DC Mellowship at [caroline.mellowship@herts.police.uk](mailto:caroline.mellowship@herts.police.uk)

Information can also be reported by calling 101, quoting crime reference 41/53439/23.

## Community invited to open day at new leisure centre

The local community is invited to check out the facilities at the new Hartham Leisure Centre in Hertford as the development nears completion.

An open day at the centre will take place on Saturday, September 9, and will be packed full of fun free activities.

The centre is owned by East Herts Council (EHC) and managed by Everyone Active. As part of the council's £9million refurbishment project, the centre will feature a two-storey extension, housing a state-of-the-art gym, studios, soft play facilities and a café.

Councillor Sarah Hopewell, executive member for wellbeing at EHC, said: "I am really pleased that the leisure centre is nearing completion. Whether you're a regular member or it's your first visit, I encourage everyone to join us at the grand opening for a chance to see our exciting new facility first-hand."

More information about the open day will be shared via [www.everyoneactive.com/news/hartham-leisure-centre-refurbishment](http://www.everyoneactive.com/news/hartham-leisure-centre-refurbishment)



**JULIE MARSON MP**  
Conservative MP for Hertford and Stortford



LOCAL NEWS



I was lucky to visit some amazing people and places in and around Hertford last month. Celebrating this year's Care Home Open Week at Bentley House Care Home was a highlight. Care homes like it are a vital part of our community and I remain a firm supporter of their work. It was a lovely afternoon – thank you to the wonderful staff and residents there for such a warm welcome.

It was a privilege to get a glimpse behind the hoardings of Hertford Theatre. The project will be incredible to see once open and complete.

I also visited the Corn Exchange to meet staff and check out their latest work. It is a really impressive venue, packed full of events this summer – head over to take a look!

It was a pleasure to meet local farmers and National Farmers' Union representatives again to discuss rural

issues, including food production, crime, payments schemes, and environmental sustainability. We always have really productive and interesting meetings but this time I did get to ride a combine harvester too!

The Blackbirds pub in Hertford reopened after an impressive refurbishment. I attended their official launch party recently and even pulled the first pint to celebrate! The pub looks absolutely brilliant and is a real asset to the community. I look forward to seeing it go from strength to strength and wish general manager Elaine all the best for the future.

I met with representatives from Hertford Foodbank again to discuss local needs and issues and how my office can help. Though the summer is in full swing, my work for constituents carries on as normal. If you need my help please do not hesitate to get in touch at [julie.marson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:julie.marson.mp@parliament.uk)

**WWW.JULIEMARSON.ORG.UK**

# From stately home to a cultural music icon

It's fair to say each live music venue carries with it a unique, sometimes mystical feel. They are spaces where entertainment, creativity, inspiration and exultation collide; yet in most cases, this happens in dingy clubs.

That Knebworth House in Hertfordshire has achieved its status as one of the world's most iconic live music destinations seems perverse given that the regal opulence, centuries-old architecture and fields of rural calm bely the musical magnificence that has taken place there.

Regardless, the first noteworthy event occurred in 1974 when Knebworth House, a remarkable example of the Victorian Gothic Revival architectural style, hosted its inaugural concert, headlined by The Allman Brothers Band.

In the subsequent years, a litany of famous acts followed, including Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd and The Rolling Stones. With each new concert, Knebworth's prestige grew.

It was the 1980s, though, that truly saw Knebworth transition into an epicentre of progressive and hard rock, with notable performances by the likes of Genesis, Frank Zappa and Deep Purple. Perhaps the most significant concert during this era was in 1986, when Queen played one of their last performances with original frontman Freddie Mercury.

In the 90s, the burgeoning Britpop movement found a base at Knebworth – the pinnacle of this being the iconic two-day concert by Oasis in 1996, attended by more than 250,000 fans. The spat that had emerged between the band and Robbie Williams intensified when the former Take That man laid on three concerts at Knebworth to 300,000 attendees.

In more recent times, the harder edge has returned, with the likes of Metallica, Iron Maiden and Slipknot all making defining appearances at the stately home.

Knebworth remains unique as a place of cultural significance. Rooted in rich history, architectural brilliance and the pure hedonism of live music, it continues to etch an indelible mark as an emblem of British culture.



Photo credit: visitors.co.uk

# Time for WALKIES!

Do you know how often you should be walking your dog? While many dog owners assume that one or two walks per day is sufficient, different breeds actually require different amounts of physical exercise.

**Breeds that need 30+ minutes of walking per day:**  
Bichon Frisé | Yorkshire Terrier | Miniature Dachshund | King Charles Spaniel | Chihuahua | Maltese | Papillon | Pekingese | Pomeranian | Miniature Pinscher

**Breeds that need 1+ hour of walking per day:**  
Lhasa Apso | Shih Tzu | English Bulldog | Shetland Sheepdog | Miniature/Toy Poodle | Miniature Schnauzer | Cocker Spaniel | Cairn Terrier | Pug | Whippet | West Highland Terrier | Tibetan Terrier | Dogue de Bordeaux | Basset Hound | Saint Bernard | Bull Terrier | Border Terrier | Staffordshire Bull Terrier

**Breeds that need 2+ hours of walking per day:**  
Siberian Husky | Golden Retriever | Samoyed | Alaskan Malamute | Border Collie | Boxer | Dalmatian | English Springer Spaniel | German Shepherd |

Labrador Retriever | Weimaraner

## Other factors to consider

In much the same way as you would not expect a toddler to be able to walk long distances, you should not overtire a puppy by making it walk too far or for too long. Likewise, as dogs get older, their stamina and ability to exercise decreases, so they do not need to be walked for as long.

If your dog has a health problem, then it can be a good idea to talk to your vet about how long your pet needs to walk each day.

## Top tips for walking your dog:

1. Always bring fresh water for your dog
2. Vary your route so that you and your dog do not become bored
3. Pay attention to the weather, as extreme heat and cold can be dangerous for your dog
4. Ask before approaching other dogs
5. Let your dog sniff around
6. Don't forget to always carry doggy poo bags around with you.

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# ITEMS ~~NOT~~ TO STORE IN THE SHED

Can't find a place for something in your home or garden? Stick it in the shed! If you find yourself saying this often, you ought to know that there are some items that you should never store in a shed. Discover them all below.

**CANNED FOODS:** If you like to stockpile canned or tinned foods, then you should know that it is not safe to store these in your shed. Any container that is made from metal can be subject to rust, which can lead to holes and spoiling of the contents.

**PAINTS AND GLUES:** Although many people store unused paint and glue in their shed, this is not a good idea. In extreme temperatures, the components of both these liquids can start to break down. Furthermore, if they freeze, they will become lumpy and unusable.

**CLOTHING AND BEDDING:** If you do not have much storage space in your home, you may be tempted to store out-of-season clothes, bedding and spare towels in your shed. However, this is not recommended as they are highly likely to be exposed to insects and moths that can damage the fabrics, and they will probably end up with a nasty musty smell.

**FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES:** You should not store flammable substances such as gasoline, acetone, diesel, lighter fluid and barbecue lighter blocks in your garden shed as these pose a fire risk. Highly flammable liquids should be kept in a well-ventilated spot that is not attached to your main living area, such as in a flammable liquid locker or purpose-built storage unit.

**RUBBER TYRES:** Rubber tyres should not be stored in your shed as these need a controlled climate to stay in optimal condition. Sheds can become very hot and humid in the summer and very cold in the winter, both of which can have an adverse effect on rubber.



# Take your garden from NEGLECTED



# TO PERFECTED

When life gets busy, our gardens are often near the bottom of the list when it comes to dishing out some TLC. Yet no matter how badly your outdoor space may have been neglected, it won't take much to bring it back to its former glory.

## RESEARCH YOUR REVIVAL

Decide on what you want to include in your garden – perhaps an eye-catching water feature, a rustic path, a flamboyant array of flowerbeds, or a children's play area. The first step is to write and sketch your flora and fauna phoenix from the flames.

## SUN SORCERY

When planning areas, consider at what times of the day you'll be using the garden most, and where the sun rises and sets. Maximising light and warmth will increase your enjoyment of your outdoor space.

## CROP, DON'T CHOP

Trees and bushes in an overgrown garden can make it seem as though nature has reclaimed the space, yet once you start trimming back these dominant growers, you'll find a garden that has space, light and a feeling of openness.

## GRASS IS GREAT

Don't be afraid of employing a large grass area – it is practical and beautiful, and even the roughest of overgrown expanses can be brought back to life with some lawn seed and a dedicated period of watering.

Also consider sowing wildflowers around the sides of the grass area for a magnificent mini meadow.

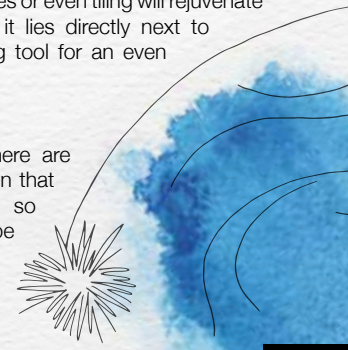
## PERFECT PATHS

Garden paths are not just practical; they look great too, and will help to guide the eye better than anything you can plant.

Breathing new life into a garden path by jetwashing, adding a layer of stones or even tiling will rejuvenate your garden. And if it lies directly next to grass, use an edging tool for an even sharper look.

## BE BOLD

Finally, be brave. There are few things in a garden that won't grow back, so you can afford to be bold when making changes or cutting things back.



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**TRAVEL**

# HOW TO FIT MORE IN YOUR SUITCASE

**D**o you struggle to fit all your holiday essentials into your suitcase? Then these space-saving tips are just what you need!

**SHORTLIST YOUR CLOTHES:** Before you even start packing, you should gather your clothes together and determine what you actually need. Try to be as ruthless as possible and, if in doubt, leave it at home. Also look for versatile garments that can be dressed up or down for maximum usage.

**ROLL YOUR CLOTHES:** This is a very effective space-saving techniques. Rather than folding your clothes and placing them in your suitcase, roll them instead. Plus, rolled clothes tend to wrinkle less than folded ones. Place larger items at the bottom of the suitcase and smaller rolled clothing at the top.

**PLACE ITEMS INSIDE YOUR SHOES:** Shoes can take up a lot of space in your suitcase, so it can be a good idea to stuff them with smaller items such as jewellery, ties and underwear to maximise space. You should also pack your shoes on their sides rather than on their soles.

**USE TRAVEL SPACE BAGS:** Space-saving travel bags, also known as compression bags, are perfect for shrinking bulkier items of clothing, such as jumpers and jackets, into a more compact unit. These are also designed to keep your clothes wrinkle-free. Garment folders are a good idea if you are taking delicate items which are prone to creasing, such as silk dresses or linen suits, and toiletry bags are perfect for makeup and travel-sized toiletries.

**THE BUNDLE PACKING METHOD:** The bundle packing method is an effective packing strategy that involves filling a small pouch with soft items like socks and underwear and then wrapping larger clothing items around the pouch to form a bundle.

CLASSIC CARS

# SUSTAINABLE FUEL

MOTORING

A leading supplier of bespoke fuels has launched a new sustainable petrol using biofuel made with agricultural waste, which is aimed at classic cars.

Classic car owners are sticklers for tradition, yet the pressure of the electric vehicle (EV) revolution has inspired even this staunch demographic to look for ways to make their motors more masterful in the modern era – without ripping out the very fabric of what makes a vehicle so special.

In short, engine specialist Coryton has come up with a way of reducing the need for classic car owners to modify their retro roadster, by creating a fuel alternative that offers greener driving and a low carbon footprint.

SUSTAIN Classic is a plant-based petrol with three fuel types – Super 33, Super 80 and Racing 50. Super 80, the fuel with the highest

sustainable content, is said to lower greenhouse gas releases by a minimum of 65 per cent compared to fossil-based fuels.

The biofuel is manufactured using agricultural waste – such as crop residues, straw and other by-products – to produce a fuel that creates significantly less atmospheric pollution.

The formula isn't cheap, though, with the lowest pricing of the three fuel types coming in at £3.80 a litre.

However, each meets European compliance standard EN228, as well as containing premium additives that clean and protect the car's engine.

The fuel offers a healthy and competitive alternative to typical EV refits for classic retro roadsters, which often come with a hefty conversion price of around £6,000.

David Richardson, business development director for Coryton, said: "Each kilogram of CO<sub>2</sub> we avoid is a win. The pressure is on motorists to make sensible and meaningful changes, but it doesn't mean we have to throw away the essence of what makes these classic cars so iconic."

Photo credit: topgear.com



# YOUR LOCAL EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

## PAGE ONE – BOOK CLUB TASTER

Hertford Library, 10 Dolphin Yard,  
Maidenhead Street, Hertford, SG14 1DR  
Tuesday, August 22, 3pm – 4pm



This is a free taster session for children aged seven to 11 to try out the new book club.

The Page One club will start in September and will be held in four-week blocks, costing £10 per child.

The free taster session on August 22 is titled Top Trumps Sport. Please book at the enquiry desk in the library.

Parents/guardians of under eights must stay in the library during the sessions.

## THE ROLLING CLONES

Hertford Corn Exchange, 39 Fore Street,  
Hertford, SG14 1AL  
Saturday, September 2, 7.30pm – 11.30pm

The Rolling Clones make musical time travel possible. They manage to weave a web of rock 'n' roll nostalgia in which you'll be more than willing to be caught forever.

Tickets cost £15 in advance or £17 on the door. Under 18s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

To get tickets, head to [www.bitly.ws/Q3Zh](http://www.bitly.ws/Q3Zh)

## HERTFORD FARMERS' MARKET

Market Place, Hertford, SG15 1DF  
Saturday, September 9, 8.30am – 1pm

The Farmers' Market in Hertford takes place in Market Place on the second Saturday of every month.

The market features produce from local livestock, poultry and dairy farmers, together with fruit and

vegetables, honey, preserves and bakery products from the countryside surrounding Hertford.

## HERTFORD'S BUILDINGS OF DELIGHT – PART ONE

Hertford East Station, Mill Road,  
Hertford, SG14 1SB

Sunday, September 10, 11am – 12.30pm

Explore Hertford's range of architectural styles on this free guided walk as part of Heritage Open Days. This walk will take in the historic buildings between Hertford East and Parliament Square.

The walk starts at Hertford East Station at 11am and lasts for an hour and a half.

No unaccompanied children.

To get tickets, visit the Hertford Town and Tourist Information Centre, call 01992 584322 or book online at [www.bitly.ws/Q3Zm](http://www.bitly.ws/Q3Zm)

## HERTFORD CASTLE HERITAGE DAY

Hertford Castle, Hertford, SG14 1HR  
Sunday, September 10, 12pm – 4pm

As part of the national Heritage Open Days weekend, Hertford Town Council is hosting its annual Hertford Castle Heritage Day event.

The castle grounds will be transformed for the day and will include a small settlement of interactive medieval encampments on the main lawn, including a programme of entertainment such as fire breathing, falconry flying displays, storytelling and even re-enactment battle scenes.

Low-cost activities include face painting and archery, plus food and drink stalls.

The event is free but donations are welcome to the Mayor of Hertford's Charity Appeal Fund.



# Lollylicious!

If you have children, you will know only too well how quickly a freezer full of ice lollies empties during the summer holidays. Fortunately, you don't have to keep running to the shop for more, as these homemade lollies are guaranteed to go down a treat.

## Orange and Carrot Ice Lollies (makes 6, vegan)

### You will need:

5 large carrots | Juice of 3 large oranges and the zest of 1 | 1 satsuma, peeled and chopped

### How to make:

Finely grate the carrots and place them in the middle of a clean tea towel | Gather up the towel and squeeze the carrot juice into a jug | Add the juice of the oranges and top with a little water if needed until you have 360ml liquid | Stir in the zest and satsuma pieces | Carefully pour into lolly moulds and freeze overnight

## Ice Lolly Pens (makes 6, vegetarian)

### You will need:

50ml sugar-free blackcurrant cordial | 50ml sugar-free orange cordial | Red and orange natural food colouring | 50g blueberries | 50g chopped strawberries | A handful of halved red grapes

### How to make:

Pour each cordial into a separate jug and add 5 tsp of the corresponding food colouring into each one | Stir 100ml of water into each | Place a few blueberries, strawberries and grape halves into 6 lolly moulds | Top up 3 moulds with blackcurrant cordial and 3 with orange cordial | Freeze for at least 4 hours | Remove the lollies from the moulds and pour extra food colouring into a small dish | Dip the lollies into the colouring and use them to draw on clean paper, licking as you go

## Strawberry Milk Pops (makes 12)

### You will need:

400g ripe strawberries | 200ml semi-skimmed milk | 405g can of light condensed milk

### How to make:

Place the strawberries in a food processor or blender and blitz until smooth | Add the milk and condensed milk and blitz again to combine | Pour the mixture into 12 moulds | Freeze for a minimum of 4 hours until solid

To make the above quantities, use lolly moulds sized at 16x15x10cm, or you can use moulds you already have but adjust accordingly.



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**A**re you looking to drive customer engagement? Turn one-time buyers into loyal customers? If the answer is yes, then you need to know about omnichannel marketing.

#### **WHAT IS OMNICHANNEL MARKETING?**

Omnichannel marketing is a cross-channel content strategy that includes both traditional and digital forms of marketing. Designed to deliver a seamless customer journey, all channels need to work together to create a unified experience.

#### **EXAMPLES OF OMNICHANNEL MARKETING ARE:**

- ▶ A customer receives an SMS message about a sale or promotion when shopping in store.
- ▶ A customer receives a shopping basket abandonment email after browsing a website and adding an item to their basket.
- ▶ A customer receives retargeting ads for abandoned basket items they have added in an app.
- ▶ A customer receives a discount code via email after not completing a purchase on a website.

#### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF OMNICHANNEL MARKETING?**

There are multiple benefits to omnichannel

marketing, including: Greater reach | Enhanced customer satisfaction | Boost in sales | Increased customer engagement | A more personalised customer experience | Enhanced customer loyalty | Improved brand recognition and recall

#### **HOW TO IMPLEMENT AN OMNICHANNEL MARKETING STRATEGY:**

**Data collection and analysis:** In order to implement an omnichannel marketing strategy, you need to make sure you have collated sufficient data about your target audience. Once you have this data, you then need to translate it into actionable insights.

**Map the customer journey:** It is crucial that you create customer journey maps before launching an omnichannel strategy, as this will enable you to create targeted campaigns that are more likely to result in sales.

**Test and optimise:** The secret to any successful marketing campaign is in testing and optimising. Allowing you to see what works and what doesn't, and how to adjust accordingly, there are several testing tools that you can utilise, such as Omnicore and HubSpot and Kissmetrics' A/B Testing.



# WREXHAM RED DRAGONS RISING AGAIN

HOW A CELEBRITY TAKEOVER HAS BREATHED FIRE INTO THE WORLD'S THIRD OLDEST PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB

Although Wrexham AFC were founded in 1864, have won the Welsh Cup a record 23 times, and famously knocked holders Arsenal out of the FA Cup in 1992 – one of the biggest giant-killing victories in the history of the competition – nothing could prepare them for November 2020.

For that was when Hollywood came to town, as Canadian-American actor Ryan Reynolds and American actor Rob McElhenney bought the club. At first, it seemed to be the actions of millionaires playing out a celebrity whim; yet what has materialised since has been heart-warming and gut-wrenching in equal measure, reviving the fortunes of a forlorn team and town.

No sooner was the takeover of the club complete than streaming services Disney+, FX and Hulu agreed a docuseries. *Welcome to Wrexham* was designed to follow the club's fortunes on and off the field, a world away from the glossy excesses of similar fly-on-the-wall series involving Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur.

With the club languishing in the fifth tier of

English football, the hope was that the new influx of exposure, revenue and players – not to mention the impetus of a truly global fanbase – would drive success and promotion back to the Football League. However, it wasn't that straightforward.

A failed promotion campaign in 2021/22, despite the club finishing second in the table, was compounded by defeat to Bromley at Wembley in the FA Trophy Final.

Yet last season, the team regrouped, clocking up a record 111 points to win the National League title, a campaign during which they also reached the FA Cup fourth round.

This season will see them back in the Football League for the first time since 2008, with owners who have made a truly spiritual connection to the fans, the town and, of course, the team.

With further investment, Wrexham are already favourites to take the League Two this coming season.

You can't help but wonder just how far the dragon's fire can reach.

Photo credit: Craig Cowie/Huw Evans/Shutterstock



# Sundae Driving

The history of the ice cream van



With its eye-catching graphics and classic serving window, who can resist the charm of an ice cream van? As it tootles along in the sun to a jangly version of *O Sole Mio*, it's a mouth-watering sight. But did you know these iconic vehicles, now seen across the globe, were actually invented in Britain?

In the 1850s, Carlo Gatti, a Swiss-born Londoner, brought the delights of ice cream to the masses. As well as setting up an ice cream restaurant, he launched a fleet of hand-pushed carts with ice-filled containers to keep the ice cream cold.

In the 1920s, ice cream tricycles were introduced so sellers could move around more quickly. And as technology improved, vendors sold their wares from converted vehicles with basic refrigeration units inside.

But it was in the 1960s that things really changed.

In 1962, Bryan Whitby, a refrigeration engineer from Crewe, developed his idea to run ice cream machines directly from a van's engine. This made the vans much lighter and allowed them to be built in a distinctive shape, making it easier for vendors to navigate narrow streets.

He launched into production with his friend, Colin Morrison, and their vans quickly gained popularity. Over the years, several new designs have been launched, and the vans are now exported to more than 60 countries.

Bryan Whitby died in 2016, but the company, Whitby Morrison, is now run by his son, Stuart, and two grandsons.

Moving on into 2021, Whitby Morrison launched the ePower ice cream van to provide a green energy solution for ice cream sellers. As the vans are solar-powered, operational costs are lower and the vehicle is better for the environment. So, let's hope all this tempts more people to take up the trade, as the number of ice cream vans on British streets is sadly declining.



Photo credit: whitbymorrison.com

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# PUZZLES & TRIVIA

PUZZLES

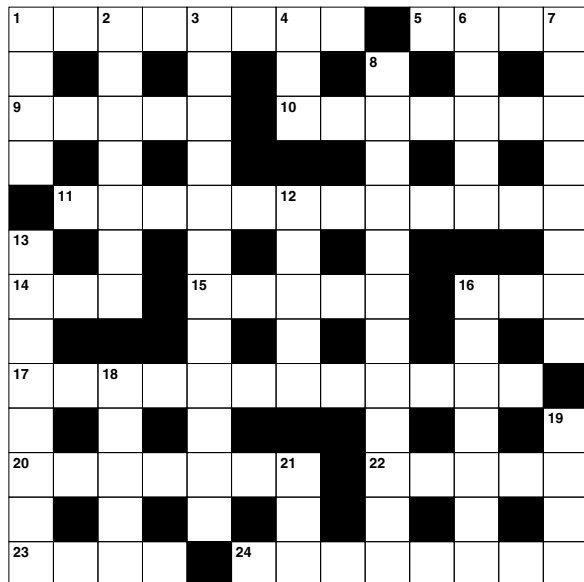
Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

## ACROSS

1. Dawn (8)
5. Whip (4)
9. Obtain information from various sources (5)
10. Exposes; shows (7)
11. Clothing such as a vest (12)
14. Tear (3)
15. Aqualung (5)
16. Argument against something (3)
17. Person's physical state (12)
20. Strife (7)
22. Possessed (5)
23. Utters (4)
24. Gauges (8)

## DOWN

1. Gear wheels (4)
2. Clear mess away (5,2)
3. Discussion (12)
4. Belonging to us (3)
6. Alert (5)
7. Suffering from indecision (8)
8. Unnecessarily careful (12)
12. Haggard (5)
13. Goes before (8)
16. Singer (7)
18. Beastly (5)
19. Chances of winning (4)
21. Expected at a certain time (3)



## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Giraffes are the tallest mammals on Earth. Their legs alone are taller than many humans – about six feet.
- ▶ The mammals can run as fast as 35mph over short distances.
- ▶ Giraffes are already extinct in at least seven countries in Africa.
- ▶ Giraffe spots are like human fingerprints; no two giraffes have the same.
- ▶ Their tongues are a bluish-purple colour and are between 45 and 50cm long.
- ▶ Giraffes are very social animals and roam around in groups. These groups, called towers, typically have around 15 members led by an adult male. The other members are females and young males.
- ▶ In the wild, giraffes live for around 25 years.

## SUDOKU

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|   | 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 |   |   |   | 4 |
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