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September 2020

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III Vision Magazine Essex

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

Editor's notes...



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

I hope everyone is doing well and beginning to find their footing in this 'new normal' we're living in. While we're not out of the woods with COUID-19

yet, businesses such as ours are beginning to get back to a place not so far from where we were pre-lockdown. All it takes is a walk down local high streets to see that we're not the only ones getting over the worst of it now; it really is a pleasure to see shops and restaurants lively again. It also means that I'm able to have little trips out with my family from time to time, and to take clients out for lunch again.

I'm finding myself able to focus on the more trivial aspects of my life again - some days, for example, my biggest concern is the weather. I can head out on a sunny morning confidently sporting shorts and a T-shirt, but by midday I'm often wishing I'd worn a jumper instead.

Usually, I'd be sick of all the summer rain we've been having in recent weeks, but since moving into my new home last month, the garden has become a priority for my girlfriend Kirstie and me. When we first moved in and the days were purely hot and sunny, we noticed the garden's grass wasn't turning areen at all after being watered. I remember looking up whether rainwater would be better for it and, lo and behold, along it came.



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HORROR-Scope

IF YOU'RE A SCORPIO, BAD NEWS COULD BE ON THE WAY, WITH A 13TH SIGN OF THE ZODIAC COMING INTO PLAY.

ASA's apparent 'discovery' of a 13th star sign has created furore in the astrology world... if you'll excuse the pun. From way back, 3,000 years ago, when the Babylonians created the zodiac chart, we have always recognised 12 star signs or constellations, representing the 12 months of the calendar.

In recent times – aided by the Twitterati windup merchants – a 13th sign has come to the fore: Ophiuchus, the serpent-bearer. Recognising this, with a proposed window of between November 29 and December 17, has meant true Scorpios now have a timeframe of just seven days, beginning on November 23.

Worse news is to follow, with the revelation that because constellations have shifted so much in the time since the Ancient Greeks first threw together a chart of the skies, the dates of all the other star signs have changed too, as follows:

CAPRICORN: January 20 – February 16 AQUARIUS: February 16 – March 11

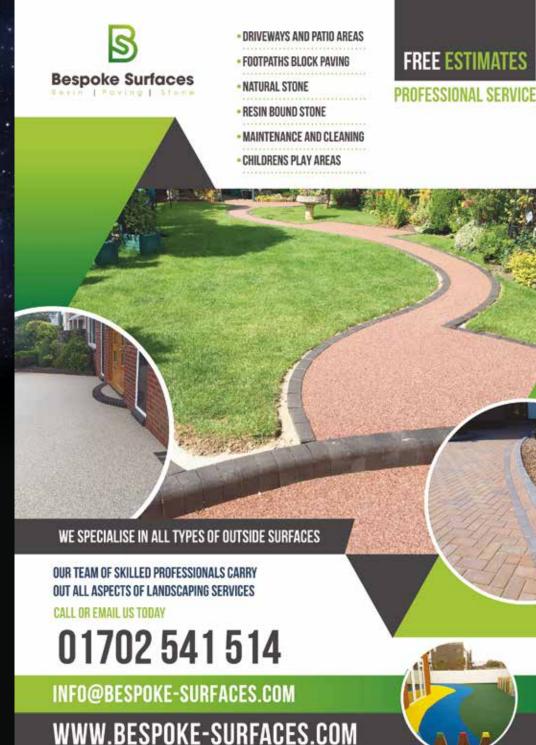
AQUARIUS: February 16 – March 11
PISCES: March 11 – April 18
ARIES: April 18 – May 13
TAURUS: May 13 – June 21
GEMINI: June 21 – July 20
CANCER: July 20 – August 10
LEO: August 10 – September 16

VIRGO: September 16 – October 30 LIBRA: October 30 – November 23 SCORPIO: November 23 – November 29 OPHIUCHUS: November 29 – December 17 – SAGITTARIUS: December 17 – January 20

Yet before you rip up your posters or begin laser removal of that tattoo, relax. NASA's 'new discovery' is anything but – even Ancient Greeks from three millennia back knew of Ophiuchus, as they did another eight stars in

the sky that could legitimately have been included on the zodiac. Simply, some appear much less prominently in the sky, so only the largest 12 were chosen.

And the shifting of dates? Well, astrology is a very personal thing, and whether we follow a star sign of what we once were or what we are now, it makes little difference – we are all invested in this existence, and no matter what star sign we are, none of us is getting out of here alive!





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Dr.Mariens we love you

ur long-lasting love affair with Dr. Martens has spanned seven decades and shows no signs of slowing down. They are worn by men, women and kids alike, so let's take a look at what makes this iconic footwear brand so special.

THEY OFFER UNRIVALLED COMFORT: Although you will need to break them in a bit, Dr. Martens will undoubtedly be the most comfortable boots you ever own. The hard leather has the unique ability to be

Photo credit: Wozzie/Shutterstock.com, kudryavtsev dmitriy/Shutterstock.com

able to mould perfectly with the shape of your foot, resulting in a feeling of walking on THEY LAST FOREVER: Dr. Martens might not be the cheapest boots you have ever bought, but they will offer the best value for money. Unlike other leather that may split or crack. Dr. Martens will last vou a lifetime.

THEY TRANSCEND TRENDS: As all other footwear trends come and go, and then come again, Dr. Martens have stuck resolutely to their fundamental USPs, and fashion followers love them for it.

THEY ARE INCREDIBLY VERSATILE: There are so many different looks that you can go for with a pair of Dr. Martens:

- > Sophisticated with chinos and chunky knitwear.
- >Street style with cut-offs and a slogan tee.
- > Casual with a simple pair of black trousers and matching jumper.
- > Modern with jeans and a leather jacket.

CELEBRITIES OF ALL AGES LOVE THEM: Miley Cyrus. Diane Keaton, Susan Sarandon, Jared Leto and Robert Pattinson have all been papped rocking these vintage and stylish boots.

THEY COME IN A WIDE VARIETY OF COLOURS AND

DESIGNS: You can pretty much find a pair of Dr. Martens in every colour you can think of, plus they do some truly unique designs, including one with renaissance art printed all over them. Need a bit of extra height? Yes, Dr. Martens come in heeled versions









he flexible and fabulous fringe rarely goes out of fashion. Instead, it adapts to the season at hand and offers a simple yet stylish way to update vour look.

However, to get it right and avoid the common pitfalls of bad bangs, you need to choose the right fringe for your face shape.



THE SIDE FRINGE

Best for round face shapes

Popular with the likes of Mila Kunis, Emma Stone and Renée Zellweger, the side fringe is incredibly flattering for those with more round faces. Opt for a feathered fringe to give your face a more slender look and to draw attention to your eves and mouth.



THE A-SHAPED FRINGE

Best for square and oblong faces

This face shape tends to be wider at the cheeks and more angular around the jawline. A soft A-shaped fringe can help soften your features and switch the focus to your eyes.



THE CURTAIN FRINGE

Best for heart-shaped faces

A long side fringe, aka the curtain fringe, is ideal for those with a heart face shape as this style will help widen out a narrow chin and highlight both your cheekbones and jawline. Ask for a feathered look to perfectly balance softness and structure.



THE FULL BLUNT FRINGE

Best for those with a small forehead

You may think that having a small forehead means you cannot pull off a fringe, but this is simply not true. A full and blunt fringe will instantly add length to your face and broaden your forehead. This style suits those with poker-straight hair better than those with waves.



THE FULL CHOPPY FRINGE

Best for oval face shapes

With this face shape you want a full fringe that will cover your forehead but not one that will overpower your delicate features. Adding choppiness at the ends will create a softer and more textured feel.





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he latest buzzword in beauty, non-comedogenic, refers to any skincare product that is formulated to not cause blocked pores. It's ideal for those who suffer with acne, blackheads and oily skin. Let's take a closer look at non-comedogenic make-up and skincare products and how they work.

What are blocked pores?

Comedogenic originates from the word 'comedones'. which are the imperfections commonly found in those who experience acne, otherwise known as blocked pores. There are two types of blocked pores:

- > Open comedones, or blackheads, which are caused when sebum reaches the skin's surface. opens and turns black.
- > Closed comedones, whiteheads, where sebum grows beneath the skin surface.

What causes blocked pores?

There are many factors that contribute to blocked pores, including:

Heavy make-up use | Excessive oil production Hormones | Not having a good skincare routine Sweating | Sun exposure | Genetics

Does non-comedogenic make-up work?

Although non-comedogenic make-up and skincare products will not prevent breakouts, what they will do, unlike other beauty products, is not contribute to

any more acne. Not the ideal solution to your stubborn spots, but a helping hand, nonetheless.

What is the difference between non-comedogenic products and oil-free products?

Those with oily, blemish-prone skin will be all too familiar with oil-free skincare and make-up products that promise to reduce spots and balance out your skin. Oil-free products are free from petrolatum but can contain other oils. However, non-comedogenic products differ in their approach as they are completely free of pore-clogging ingredients.

Here are a few non-comedogenic skincare products that you can try:

- > Estée Lauder Double Wear Stay-in-Place Make-up
- > NARS Radiant Creamy Concealer
- > Maybelline New York Shine Free Oil Control Loose Powder
- > Neutrogena Oil-Free Acne Moisturiser
- > Cetaphil Cleansing Lotion for Sensitive Skin
- > Neutrogena Ultra Sheer Dry Touch Sunscreen



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IS CBD ILLEGAL?

THINGS THEY'LL NEVER TELL YOU ABOUT CBD

- CBD is not an illegal drug it is a food supplement, just like multivitamins.
- It is from the same plant based family as cannabis; there are several species with different compounds.
- Cannabidiol (CBD) cannot make you high; onlyTetrahydrocannabinol (THC), (compound found in cannabis) can. CBD products are legal if they contain less than 0.2% THC.
- Promarvel CBD is isolate based so there is no THC.
- In the UK CBD is classed as a 'novel food' by March 2021 all CBD retailers must comply with the Food Standards Agency's regulations. Promarvel CBD are ahead of the curve an application to the FSA regarding our products has already been submitted. Discover our lab tests on our website.

What will it do for me?

- Ensure your endocannabinoid system (home of the messengers between your brain and body) performs well when fighting imbalances within.
- It may relieve anxiety and reduce pain two of the most common usage reasons.
- It is not harmful. We recommend you book a consultation with us to see if CBD will meet your needs.

Which retailer do I buy from? Our deal-breakers:

- 1. A retailer committed to educating their customers
- 2. Transparency look for lab tests, farm and manufacturer details
- **3.** A real company a registered UK address, company registration number, customer reviews and an actual person to speak to.





ARE YOU AN emotional eaten?

any people have understandably struggled with healthy eating during lockdown, with stress, boredom and increased feelings of wanting to treat ourselves all being contributing factors.

However, now that we have started to return to normality, are you still eating for reasons other than hunger?

MINDLESS EATING

Do you often find yourself eating for no particular reason? Do you simply take mouthful after mouthful without even registering what the food tastes like or whether or not your appetite has been sated? If yes, you need to stop eating in front of the TV and start appreciating your food more. Ensure you chew your food as many times as you can and listen to your stomach when it tells you that it's full.

BOREDOM EATING

If you find that you reach for the snacks when you

have nothing else to do, then you are eating out of boredom rather than because your body needs sustenance. Try to find yourself something else to do, such as read a book, phone a friend or go for a walk: any activity that will take your mind off eating.

STRESS EATING

We've all been there. Perhaps you have an important meeting at work, you are struggling to make ends meet or maybe your relationship is going through a rough patch. Whatever the reason, eating when you are stressed can help to alleviate anxiety, even if only momentarily. The key to avoid stress eating is to know your triggers and to actively try to avoid them.

EATING TO MASK YOUR FEELINGS

Whether you feel sad, depressed or lonely, eating to try to push down your feelings is never the answer. Instead, try to identify why you are feeling this way and talk to someone if you need to.

Mr Smith

n the age of Instagram personal trainers, it takes quite something to stand out from the crowd, though British muscleman and health heavyweight James Smith seems to have achieved just that.

.....

James Smith, a personal trainer (PT), body coach, diet expert, life guide and educator, is the perfect foil to all the impossibly toned, happy, talented, loaded influencers that saturate our Instagram feeds.

Sure, the 31-year-old Bondi-based trainer has a physique most of us will never get anywhere near, and if you look at the simply seductive backgrounds on his photo shoots you will get the impression his is a life to be craved. Yet as soon as James begins speaking on health, fitness, well-being and our ability to be better people both physically and mentally, you discover that this is someone not dressed up in the fake realities of so many PTs.

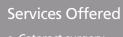
He is self-deprecating, funny and, while a slight upper middle-class twang may tell us more about his background than he would like to give away, his expletive-decorated videos and posts paint someone fully appreciating the fact that inspiring people to be better means being down to earth.

His Instagram feed (@iamessmithpt) has more than 640,000 followers: and in November, his book Not a Life Coach hits the shelves. following on from the hugely successful Not a Diet Book which, somewhat fortuitously, was released just a month before lockdown.

Whether focusing on diet or self-help, his mode is as the maverick, and someone personal improvement.

"For me, real help must come in the form of true honesty. If you start from a point of wanting to achieve something unrealistic, you will never get there," he says.

"Start low, hit your target, then restart at a higher level. By trying not to change your life so much, you may inadvertently do just that!"



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id you know that there are currently 3,108 people in the UK waiting for a transplant at this exact moment?

Organ Donation Week is designed to encourage people to make a decision about organ donation and to share their choice with their family and friends.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT LAW **REGARDING ORGAN DONATION?**

You may not know this, but the English organ donation law has changed to a 'opt out' system rather than an 'opt in' one.

What exactly does this mean? In a nutshell. if you are not in an excluded group and you have not confirmed whether you want to be an organ donor or not, it will be considered that you agree to donate your organs when you die.

CAN ANYONE REGISTER TO BE AN **ORGAN DONOR?**

There is no age limit for organ donor registration, and anyone can decide to become an organ donor after death. However, if you

want to add your name to the NHS Organ Donor Register, you will need to live in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE **ORGAN DONATION PROCESS**

- · All donors are treated with dignity and
- There are strict regulations in place to help care for the dying, and organs will not be removed until a patient's death has been confirmed in line with these criteria.
- Organs cannot be sold or bought.
- Your body will be returned to your family after
- Families are always consulted before organ donation goes ahead.

WHAT CAN I DONATE?

If you decide to register as an organ donor, you have the choice to donate organs such as your heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas and small bowel. You can also choose to donate your tissues, including your bone and corneas.

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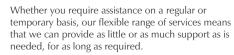




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The dream foods that burn more calories than they provide

t seems perverse that the eating of food and quaffing of drink could actually lead you to lose weight, but this is the reality of 'Negative-Calorie' foods, even if their existence has been called into question

Certainly, for dieters or those simply looking to watch their figure, the era of feeling guilty about burgers, sweets, biscuits and more could be over... that is, if you can stomach some of the following:

The go-to choice among Negative-Calorie foods – this peppery stick requires more energy to eat than it gives you in return.

> A tough food item that requires a fair amount of mouth-work. Combined with the fact that our favourite fruit is high in water content, it's little surprise that the energy effect is minimal, although the fibre will do you good.

TOMATOES

Another supermarket favourite that's high in water content. Eating a simple tomato often feels like a waterfall for the mouth. At just 18 calories per 100g there's little to worry about as far as the waistline goes, and the statins present offer a great potential fix for those suffering from high cholesterol or high blood pressure.

CAULIFLOWER

Tough as old boots and with the aroma of them too, cauliflower is a versatile veg that offers bags of vitamin C and contains absolutely zero fat.

At just two calories per cup, coffee without the addition of milk, cream, sugar or flavourings is blissfully low, and, as a thermogenic, will actually stimulate the burning of fat for energy.

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Ithough traditionally used for stews and soups, slow cookers are now being tested out on a wide variety of dishes, including cooked breakfasts, lasagne and even steaming hot cocktails. What more could you want on a blustery autumn day?

BUTTERBEER RUM (YES, JUST LIKE IN HARRY POTTER BUWITH A BOOZY HIT)

You will need: 6 cups water | 2 cans cream soda | 1 cup brown sugar | ½ cup unsalted butter | ½ cup butterscotch syrup | 3 cinnamon sticks | 1 tsp vanilla essence | 1½ tsp salt | 2 cups spiced rum | Whipped cream and golden sparkling sugar crystals for decoration

How to make: Put in the water, cream soda, sugar, butter, ¼ cup of butterscotch, cinnamon sticks, vanilla and salt | Cover and cook for 3–3½ hours | Stir in the rum | Use the remaining butterscotch to coat the rims of your glasses | Pour, top with whipped cream and sprinkle with sugar crystals

INDULGENT HOT CHOCOLATE

You will need: 1 litre milk | 300ml double cream | 200g chopped dark chocolate | 100g chopped milk chocolate | Whipped cream, marshmallows and chocolate shavings to serve | Optional: liqueur or schnapps - coffee, peppermint or cinnamon

How to make: Pour the milk and double cream into your slow cooker | Add the chocolate | Cover and cook on low for 2 hours | Remove the lid, give it a good stir, then replace the lid and cook for a further 20 mins | Add 4 shots of your chosen liqueur | Spoon into mugs and top with marshmallows, cream and chocolate shavings

CARAMEL APPLE CIDE

You will need: 2 cups vodka | 8 cups apple cider | 1 cup caramel syrup | 2 tsp ground cloves | 2 tbs cinnamon | 1/4 cup brown sugar | Apples to garnish

How to make: Add all the ingredients to your slow cooker | Cook on low for 3 hours | Serve in mulled cups or glasses with sliced apples and cinnamon sticks



alt has been used for thousands of years to preserve food and is the most common seasoning that we use today. However, do you know your Kosher from your Celtic? Your Himalayan from your Hawaiian?

1. Table Salt: Table salt is typically mined from underground salt deposits and is highly processed, containing additives to prevent clumping. This type of salt dissolves very quickly owing to its small grains and is therefore great for use in baking.

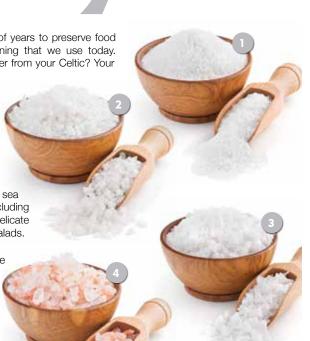
2. Sea Salt: Obtained from evaporated seawater, sea salt is typically unrefined and contains minerals including zinc, iron and potassium. Ideal for pairing with delicate foods like fish and shellfish or for sprinkling over salads.

3. Kosher Salt: Used for drawing out the moisture in meat, this salt is perfect for use in the koshering process. Once dissolved in food it tastes the same as table salt, but its unique texture sets it apart. Use to season meat and vegetables.

4. **Himalayan Pink Salt:** The purest form of salt in the world, Himalayan pink salt is mined in Pakistan. As well as its distinctive colour, this variety of salt has a much higher nutritional value than table salt. Use as a finishing salt on popcorn, steamed fish or even toast.

5. Celtic Sea Salt: Originally popular in France, Celtic salt is distinguishable by its greyish colour and moist texture. Lower in sodium than table salt, Celtic sea salt has many health benefits, including promoting brain function and improving cardiovascular health. Great on fish and meat.

6. Hawaiian Red Salt: Also known as Alaea salt, Hawaiian red salt is a type of unrefined sea salt that has been mixed with volcanic clay. It is instantly recognisable by its brick red colour. Discerning palates will be able to identify a slight sweet finish to this salt. Pair with seafood and pork.













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...a piece of technology that changed our shopping habits forever

In 1995, a former Tesco shelf-stacker came up with the idea of rewarding customers' loyalty by giving them points that could be redeemed against future purchases. The concept itself wasn't revolutionary, but in a rapidly evolving digital age, the knowledge, insight and trend-tracking the Clubcard scheme offered meant the retailer's understanding of consumer habits had never been

The man behind the idea was Sir Terry Leahy. A Liverpudlian who started on the shop floor, literally, he had risen to CEO level and was already well on the way to rejuvenating Tesco's fortunes; but his adoption of the Clubcard took the supermarket chain from a top three UK retailer (in terms of profit) to a top three global entity.

The introduction of the Clubcard drove both him and the supermarket on to unparalleled heights - the most efficient method ever for analysing consumer spending behaviour. It also sparked ferocious loyalty, and enabled Tesco to

extend into sectors it had never before touched from tech to travel to insurance - with a certainty of success brought about from truly knowing who their customers were and how they would respond to products and offers.

These days, 17 million of us have a Tesco Clubcard - that's more than one-third of the adult population in the UK. Relaunched in 2009 and again last year with Clubcard Plus - which promised to save the average large family £400 a year on their shopping bill - our adoption of the technology has now become part of our daily routine.

Numerous other brands have followed suit and enjoyed the rewards over the past quarter of a century, yet none can boast a lovalty scheme that has had such a profound effect on an already successful business.





How to keep children in their own rooms - and out of your bed - at night

hen your darling daughter or darling son is able to sleep in something that doesn't come with the design feature of prisonlike bars as would a cot, it's a monumental moment - your little one's ascent into childhood now means they have their own bed.

Sadly, as many parents have discovered, the lack of those confines means it's effortlessly easy for your young one to embark on night-time expeditions into your bed, something that benefits the sleep patterns of no one.

Here are some tips for ensuring your sneaky nonsleeper stays put:

Routine

As ever, a solid, settled night-time routine is essential. A set schedule and timing (dinner followed by bath followed by story, etc) will enhance and prolong sleep, as will avoiding 'over-napping' during the day.

Light and dark

In these brighter, lighter mornings, it's imperative to want to grab a few hours yourself.

have a good blackout blind - there's nothing that lures a child out of bed more than the early rising of the sun... even if that's at 5am!

On the flipside, keep a subtle nightlight nearby. Fear of the dark will always get little ones heading for reassurance and comfort... and big ones too.

Sound planning

Consider as well soundproofing and ensuring others in the home keep their nocturnal manoeuvres to a minimum, from loud late-night games to simple stuff like not flushing noisy toilets.

Encouragement

At the age your youngster gets his or her first proper bed, you'll already be working on the greatest sleep stimulator of them all - words. Reaffirming that 'big kids' sleep in their own beds, and stay there, and perhaps a gentle reminder that sleeping in one means not having to go back into a cot, can get your precious cargo journeying off on to a dreamy voyage... speaking of which, you may









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BATTLE STATIONS

This year marks eight decades since one of the most important British victories during the Second World War: the Battle of Britain.

t's June 1940 and France has been quickly defeated by Germany in Adolf Hitler's march across Europe. His aim: to bring Gleichschaltung (coordination), the process of Nazification and totalitarian control to the continent.

Hitler was expecting the British to also fall into line and to try to agree a peace deal with Germany. In the first instance, he knew that to have any chance of setting up a successful invasion of British shores (which was codenamed Operation Sealion), he would need to combat the formidable Royal Air Force. Subsequently, he gave the Luftwaffe (the German equivalent of the RAF) the go-ahead to engage with it.

Even though the German occupation of France was rapid, the country had experienced severe damage to its air fleet; yet when asked to go to battle in the skies of Southern England two months later, it was ready.

However, the Luftwaffe hadn't reckoned on Britain's secret weapon in the Battle of Britain – the Dowding System. Named after Commander in Chief of the Fighter Command, Sir Hugh Dowding, it was a remarkable network that brought together ground defence, radar and fighter aircraft.

Knowing where and when the Luftwaffe was on its way to Britain was of huge advantage to the RAF, whereby it could then scramble fighters quickly – notably the Spitfire – to intercept the threat.

However, in truth, it was in the way the Spitfire was armed that gave it a significant edge. And that was thanks to a young mathematician, whose brilliant calculations meant it could leave the ground with

double its original gun capacity.

Her name was Hazel Hill, and she was the daughter of Fred, who was part of the Air Ministry,

Fred returned home from work one day and asked for help in providing a solution to the Spitfire's perceived lack of firepower. The iconic British warplane was initially only designed to have four guns on it; he felt it could be more but needed his daughter's help.

Many of the Air Ministry felt that eight guns would be too heavy for the Spitfire – and for its compatriot, the Hurricane – but Fred and his daughter Hazel found a way to equip the machine with double the artillery. It was a significant advancement, and it worked.

As the conflict heightened, with support from Commonwealth pilots, and as the Luftwaffe fatally miscalculated its own successes, a three-month-long skirmish in the skies eventually started to go the way of the Allies.

The Battle of Britain will go down in history as one of the most important parts of the Second World War and a colossal reason as to why Germany was unable to seize Great Britain. It was a barrier that ultimately led the Nazis to fail in their attempt to take control of Europe, and it preserved the freedom that we acknowledge with gratitude and humility today.



for your DIY

none are the days of cheap interior design shows produced on a shoestring budget – TV DIY these days is big business and even bigger impact.

INTERIOR DESIGN MASTERS

Fearne Cotton is the perfect foil for a show that delves into the personal stories of the amateur designers featured, even if the end assessments can be brutal. The aim is to win a major design contract, and because of that the tasks are on the edgier side, from minimalism to brutalism to over-the-top floweriness.

ABSTRACT: THE ART OF DESIGN

An intense watch that really delves into the elements of design and form, this Netflix series tours a number of salubrious destinations (from Soho House to Michelinstarred restaurants) in search of not just the art of design, but also how structure and form works to create something that fulfils a purpose, both in provision and comfort.

AMAZING INTERIORS

From indoor roller coasters to secret bedrooms and cinemas in the basement, Amazing Interiors looks behind the door of supposedly ordinary homes to find inspiring spaces lurking.

GRAND DESIGNS

Arguably the most popular design programme of the past decade, host Kevin McCloud MBE is the perfect master of ceremonies in overseeing renovations across a lengthy time period that often - though not always - go to plan.

THE GREAT INTERIOR DESIGN CHALLENGE

While the producers of this show may have been short of a catchy title, they more than make up for it with a vast array of brilliant platforms on which contestant designers work their magic - from 17th-century cottages to seaside villas and Victorian terraces.

TIDYING UP WITH MARIE KONDO

No matter what style guide you apply to your living space, without tidiness and a desire to remove the clutter, you'll quickly have something resembling chaos. Step in Marie Kondo, the gueen of declutter, and a show that offers a bevy of brilliant tips for keeping your home in great shape.

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Documents: what to keep and what to shred hile moving so much of our lives online means the amount of paper we have by documents, forms, booklets and more.

to deal with is perhaps not as great as it once was, it's still very easy to get swamped

Here's a simple guide to what you should be keeping and what can be satisfyingly put through the shredder:

- > Home documents: This includes everything from your car logbook (V5C) to building and contents insurance printouts, house deeds, mortgage statements, vehicle records and any rental agreements. These should be kept for as long as they are valid. Utility bills should be kept for a year.
- > Personal documents: Birth and marriage documents obviously sit high up on this list and should be kept forever; but consider as well life insurance. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates, medical records, driver's licence and pension details. These should be kept for as long as they are valid.
- > Financial documents: These include National Insurance cards, which should always be kept, to tax affairs and recent bank and credit card statements, even if you access these online. Financial documents should be accessible for seven years, but taking this online means your provider can store them rather than you.

For the most part you should now be able to shred anything else, but if you've something you're uncertain of, by all means hold on to it until your next sort-out.

The important thing is to keep hold of what's still relevant and rid yourself of what isn't. On that note, it's a good idea to keep some documents for a year after you dispose of the thing it relates to - for instance, a rented car - in case you need to check back for the purpose of a tax return, or similar.

And it's a good idea too to go back over all paperwork every now and again. Some personal effects that were important then may now be outdated, and keeping your documents organised and up to date is vital.



HOW TO ADD **GEOMETRIC** SHAPES TO YOUR HOME

German astronomer Johannes Kepler said, "Geometry is the archetype of the beauty of the world," the chances are he wasn't referring to that pink lampshade on your bedside table. And yet, where our inspiration from shapes in architecture and interiors is concerned, he might well have been.

That's because scientists believe that not only do shapes influence

matter around them, but when humans look at a circle, a square, an octagon, a hexagon, a rhombus, a crescent or any other geometric form for that matter, they instantly receive energy from the brain.

Here are some classic geometric forms that can inspire not only your home, but your mind as well.

TILES - Perhaps the most obvious form, tiles provide lines, patterns and perspectives that the brain understands and loves, be they on the floor or on walls, highly decorated or plain.

WALLPAPER - While heavily patterned wallpaper designs had their heyday in the 1970s, there is still a range of subtle patterns that can really inspire a wall. These days, the most popular technique is to be brave and bold on a feature wall.

WALL FRAMES - The shape and form of the modern wall frame is almost as important as what's hung inside it, with a cluster of wooden or metal surrounds offering a feature that is as engaging, inspiring and unique as any wall.

THROWS - The shabby chic era really brought throws into their own, but a simple geometric pattern across a plain sofa or chair can offer a contrast in style that heightens the senses without complicating things.

> lampshade, where the poise and perfection of geometric lighting will complement a variety of living spaces, including kitchen and dining areas. During the day, the contemporary nature of a hanging or grounded lampshade can inspire, while at night when lit up, it takes on a whole new aura.

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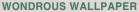


If lockdown has unleashed your inner craft fiend, you won't be able to wait to get stuck into the following ideas for transforming any uninspiring and unimaginative lampshades you have lying around the house. Be prepared to be amazed.

FABULOUS FABRIC

One of the simplest ways to change a lampshade so that it matches the rest of a room's décor is by covering

it with fabric. All you need to do is purchase enough fabric in your chosen colour or pattern or, if you are feeling particularly thrifty, you can use a selection of different scrap fabrics that you already have, and then glue it around your shade using an adhesive spray.



If you have recently decorated one of the rooms in your home or added a feature wall and you have some wallpaper left over, instead of throwing it away, why not use it to upcycle a lampshade? In the same way that you can attach fabric, simply use adhesive spray or craft glue to stick the wallpaper around your shade.

STUNNING STENCILS

For those who are feeling a bit more ambitious, you can transform a dull lampshade into a thing of beauty using just a stencil and a little paint. Simply purchase a stencil design from your local craft shop or make your own using plastic or vinyl and gently dab on your choice of paint.

GORGEOUS GOLDEN LEAF

Looking for a decadent design? By applying gold leaf, either in a particular pattern using painter's tape or all over, you can create

> a luxurious and expensivelooking lampshade at a fraction of the cost.

> > NB: Make sure you let all of the above designs dry fully before reattaching your shade to the lamp.



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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



ornchurch's new leisure centre, currently under construction next to the existing sports centre, has been named Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre.

The centre will replace the existing Hornchurch Sports Centre and is part of the council's drive to provide new and improved sports facilities.

Once open, residents will be able to enjoy a 25m eight-lane swimming pool, a 20m-wide learning and diving pool with movable floor to change the depth, a 100-plus-station health and fitness suite, a sports hall, three exercise studios and top-class changing facilities.

Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre is part of an investment in leisure and sports facilities across the borough by Havering Council.

Previously set to open later this year, Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre will now open in early 2021, subject to further impact from COVID-19.

Councillor Damian White, leader of Havering Council, said: "After what has been a difficult time for our leisure centres, it's great to be able to share this news with the community. Once completed, the centre will offer a whole range of activities and services that residents can get involved in to keep fit and healthy – something that is more important than ever.

"Our leisure centres are very popular with the community, and we are committed to providing the facilities residents need to live happy and healthy lives."

Tom Fletcher, contract manager at Everyone Active, commented: "This is another fantastic step towards welcoming the local community to our new centre. Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre will be pivotal in providing a wide range of facilities to the community and engaging people from all backgrounds in exercise."

LOCAL NEWS



Racing star encouraged by positive start to season

I ornchurch driver Bobby Thompson helped the GKR TradePriceCars.com team make a positive start to the Kwik Fit British Touring Car Championship which got underway recently.

The Donington Park opener saw a solid performance on the track for the two GKR TradePriceCars.com Audi S3s, with Bobby Thompson securing a pair of point-scoring finishes, and series newcomer James Gornall showing impressive pace on his debut.

In the second round, Thompson finished in 14th place after the first race earned him more points.

Race two ended in dramatic fashion for Thompson when he tried to make a move on Michael Crees for twelfth. Going around the outside of his rival on GP

loop, he was the victim of unfortunate contact that saw his Audi spin off into the gravel at Westfield, forcing him into retirement.

His unfortunate race two retirement meant he was forced to start from the back of the grid for the final race, and he finished in 12th place.

Bobby is 13th in the championship after two rounds, with the next event at Oulton Park as VISIONHornchurch went to press.

Thompson said: "Two rounds in I think we're in a decent position as we have shown we can be regular contenders for points, and now we just need to make that next step forward to be regularly inside the top ten rather than on the fringes of it.'

COVID-19 survivor says care staff were 'angels'

↑ dad-of-two from Hornchurch who spent nearly 100 days in hospital being treated for COVID-19 is enjoying being back home with his family.

Praising the staff who cared for him during his long stay at Queen's Hospital, 67-year-old Muthucumaru Yasocumaran said: "I got the best care from all the nurses and doctors.

"They were like angels sent from heaven to help me."

Muthucumaru, of Wingletye Lane, was admitted to the hospital during the peak of the pandemic. He had been bed-bound for a week and a half before that, however, but as his symptoms were weakness and lack of appetite his family didn't think it could be COVID-19.

His daughter, Vibenche, 32, said: "He had to go into hospital on his own and as it was so sudden, it was really frightening. At one point we were told he only had 24 to 48 hours left, which was devastating."

The family, including Muthucumaru's wife, Marla, 62, and 29-year-old son Sentan, were delighted when he was able to return home.

Devina Ramchurn, deputy matron for intensive care, said: "To see him doing so well now is amazing - he really defied the odds."



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Appeal for witnesses following fight inside pub

THE SUTTON ARMS TRADITION

Detectives investigating a fight at The Sutton Arms pub on Station Lane in Hornchurch are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Police were called at 11.10pm on Friday, July 24, following reports of an altercation inside the pub.

Officers attended but those involved had already left. One man sustained a minor head injury and was treated at the scene.

Detective constable Daniel Smith is leading the investigation.

He said: "If you were in The Sutton Arms on Friday, July 24 at around 11pm we really need to hear from you. Mobile phone footage of this incident has been widely shared online and in the press. What this

footage shows is that a significant number of people witnessed this altercation and we really need to speak to them to find out exactly what they saw.

"It is really important that we find out what you know as it could be significant to our investigation.

"If you have not already spoken to us, please get in touch with us, or stay anonymous by calling Crimestoppers."

There have been no arrests.

If you have any information that could help police investigate, please call 101 and guote CAD44036/24July. To remain 100 per cent anonymous call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit crimestoppers-uk.org

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Students celebrate A Level results

Ctudents at Havering Sixth Form College in Hornchurch had much to celebrate when A Level results were announced last month.

Principal Paul Wakeling commented: "We wish to pay tribute to our students and staff for their results, hard work, tenacity and commitment to learning. Most of our students are progressing to fantastic destinations, including top universities, and we are very proud of them.

"We are still waiting on some results to come through and we are actively working with the relevant agencies to ensure that every one of our young people gets the grade they deserve."

Successful A Level students include Nicky Ahadi who

achieved three A*s in Biology, Maths and Chemistry, despite having only moved to the UK from Iran just before starting the sixth form. She will be going on to study Medicine after taking a gap year.

Ben Clarkson will be off to the University of Nottingham to study for a Degree Apprenticeship with PWC in Accountancy. He achieved an A* in Maths and two As in Accounting and Business.

Tayla Burt gained two A*s in Criminology and Sociology and an A grade in Business, despite having to cope with the death of a close friend soon after starting the sixth form. She will be going to the University of Greenwich to study Primary Education with QTS.

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LOCAL

NEWS

Head of hospice set for charity trek



The chief executive of a children's hospice from Hornchurch is taking part in an epic fundraising challenge for the charity.

Mike Palfreman set off on a trek from John O'Groats to Land's End to try to raise $\mathfrak{L}100,000$ for Haven House Children's Hospice in Woodford Green for children and young people with terminal illnesses.

Mike commented: "We remain uncertain of what the future holds and urgently need you to continue supporting the hospice in whatever way you can as we cope with the current crisis and the difficult times that will follow."

On August 29, Paul Turrell and Simon Fanning set off on the 900-mile trip from John O'Groats to Land's End, aiming to complete the trip in just over a month.

Mike Palfreman, CEO, will join them for half the journey, and at least 40 others will be walking one or more "legs" along the way.

To donate, go to havenhouse.org.uk/fundraisers/john-ogroats-to-lands-end-walk

'Life-changing' support for girls in abusive relationships

avering Women's Aid, a charity for victims of domestic violence in Hornchurch and across Havering, has been boosted by more than £100,000 after a donation from the City Bridge Trust, the funding arm of the City of London Corporation.

The donation, £127,500, will be spread over five years to cover the salary of a young persons independent domestic abuse advisor.

Chief executive Vicki Thomas said: "We often see people come through our doors with no confidence or self-esteem, and being able to tackle the issues they face with the advisor so they will no longer feel alone makes such a difference – it's life changing.

"Young people don't have the same needs as adults and this grant will make a huge difference in helping

us to keep them safe and give them the confidence to make their own decisions and to develop healthy relationships."

For more information on Havering Women's Aid, visit haveringwomensaid.co.uk

The charity also runs a helpline for women on 01708 728759, and for male victims of domestic abuse on 01708 397974.

Students honoured for their hard work and determination

Six deserving students at Havering Colleges in Hornchurch have received Jack Petchey Awards recognising their hard work, courage and determination during COVID-19.

Staff were asked to nominate students who had achieved high attainment beyond expectations, who had shown determination and resilience, who had been volunteering during lockdown, who had overcome a personal barrier or challenge, or who had supported others above and beyond expectations.

The winners, who will each receive a certificate, a grant to benefit their course and an invitation to the annual awards ceremony in January 2021, included Alfie Martin (pictured creating a patio at home), who joined the college as a 14–16 young learner and has committed to giving 100 per cent on his construction course all year.

During lockdown, Michaela Lee used her Fashion course skills in sewing to make hospital scrubs for the group For The Love of Scrubs.

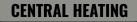
Joe Woodger worked tirelessly all through lockdown on his work placement at Queen's Hospital.

Harry Mosely has shown great persistence in Music Performance to achieve his goals.

Conor Pocock has overcome many personal challenges to stay on track and encourage others on his course and to never give up.

Pavneet Atwal has overcome personal challenges and has shown resilience and determination to achieve great results.





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JULIA LOPEZ MP





Hornchurch and Upminster

month, our local schools are welcoming the full return of children from all age groups. Over the summer I joined Prime Minister Boris Johnson on a visit to St Joseph's Primary and Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School in Upminster to see the safety measures they have put in place. It was

brilliant to showcase to the PM the hard work of the local school community after such a difficult year. I also welcomed the chance to catch up with St Joseph's head, Mrs Matthews, and to meet incoming Sacred Heart head, Mrs Qurrey, following the retirement of Kim O'Neill after two decades' incredible service.

At last year's election. I promised to increase perpupil funding for schools across our constituency, and I talked to the PM about the government's recent school funding announcements. Core funding for Hornchurch and Upminster's schools will grow by 4.2 per cent this year, ensuring that every primary receives at least £4,000 per pupil, and every secondary at least £5.150 per pupil.

Ten schools across our constituency have also received Condition Improvement Funds (CIF) to support essential building projects, including Sanders in Hornchurch.

I want to thank all those residents who supported local restaurants, pubs and cafes last month as part of the Eat Out to Help Out scheme. My team had been out in Hornchurch encouraging businesses to sign up to the scheme and surveying them about their experiences during the pandemic. Alongside a cut in VAT for hospitality businesses to five per cent, local restaurateurs told us that Eat Out proved a vital lifeline during this extraordinarily difficult period.

As our minds turn to the autumn and winter months. I know residents will want to be assured that our local health service is prepared for any further coronavirus outbreaks. Last month our NHS Trust, BHRUT, received an additional £4.1million in order to support A&E capacity ahead of the winter months and to put enhanced infection prevention and control measures in place. BHRUT wants to use this time prior to winter to treat as many non-COVID-19 patients as possible.



I would therefore encourage everyone to use our local health services should you need to - it is exceptionally important that residents know that our NHS is open

On policing, I had a very good meeting with Met commissioner Cressida Dick and her team to raise residents' crime concerns, and I shall be meeting our local borough commander. Stephen Clayman, this month as a follow-up.

The Prime Minister's recruitment campaign across the Met is ahead of schedule and the commissioner has been very happy with the quality of those applying to join the police force. I once again made the point that we want to see Havering get its fair share of new recruits. We also discussed the police handling of public order issues over the summer. I am pleased to say that arrests for drugs offences have gone up 40 per cent in recent months and tremendous progress was made during the pandemic to crack a lot of the crime gangs behind the drugs trade. Thanks to extra cash from the Home Office, the Met has managed to close 120 county lines.

I also pressed the Met commissioner on residents' concerns over illegal migration and the extent to which London police are helping the Home Secretary tackle human trafficking and exploitation gangs. I later joined a meeting of MPs with Priti Patel MP to hear about the work underway to stop illegal Channel crossings and to address worries about the number of people making that perilous journey.

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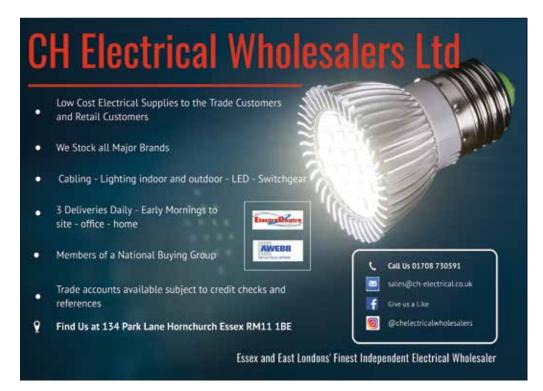
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New police team hailed a success



A team of five Metropolitan Police officers funded by Havering Council to tackle antisocial behaviour has seized more than £1million worth of stolen vehicles and arrested more than 100 people during its first six months in action.

Named the Havering Joint Task Force and based in Hornchurch, the team is intelligence led and tasked with tackling crime and antisocial behaviour hotspots.

Since its formation, the Task Force has arrested 104 suspects, with 41 arrests being for residential burglaries and 11 for possession of offensive weapons.

During that same time, 45 stolen vehicles across Havering have been recovered by the team, and intelligence has been gathered to help identify offenders for arrest and conviction.

Havering Joint Task Force has also been instrumental in planning and executing Operation Gambler – a cross-border initiative with Metropolitan Police and Essex Police, targeting high-harm offenders such as gang members, robbers, burglars and drug dealers. In total, 269 individuals have been arrested as the result of proactive, intelligence-led policing.

Councillor Damian White, leader of Havering Council, said: "From stopping burglaries to catching car thieves, these police officers, paid by Havering, for Havering, are making a real difference in the local community.

"We will continue to work closely with the Metropolitan and Essex Police to help make our borough an even safer place to live."

Film-makers make big-screen debut at festival

Amovie that was partly shot in Hornchurch has had lits big-screen debut at a socially distanced film festival.

Little Love, the latest short film from award-winning local film-making group Brentwood Movie Makers, was shown at the Romford Film Festival which ran from August 13 to 19.

Filmed entirely in Havering and Essex, it picked up a

nomination as Best Local Film.

The 16-minute film, which contains adult themes and language, tells the uplifting story of an army veteran and an asylum seeker, both damaged by the horrors of war and struggling to find their place in society, whose paths collide in unexpected ways.

The short film has already received critical acclaim from judges for the forthcoming British International Amateur Film Festival, whose prizes have already been announced and where it secured the Cavendish Prize, an accolade bestowed on a four-star film considered worthy of special merit.

Writer and producer, Michelle Devadas, said: "We're really pleased that *Little Love* will have its big-screen debut in Romford.

"It's a gritty, redemptive story, with the importance of community at its core, a theme very relevant to the world in which we now find ourselves."

Can you help the Hawks fly again?

Inline skating in Hornchurch and Havering could be under threat after the borough's only team had to leave their training venue.

Havering Hawks had been training at the Hornchurch Sports Centre but have had to leave as it is now being used as a gym and a foodbank during the pandemic.

Captain Danny Laird said if a solution cannot be found, the Hawks may have to disband after more than 32 years.

He explained: "We need a sports hall to train. We have goals and the equipment but need a venue now as training is a priority. At the moment, we are training on concrete areas which is no good for the equipment.

"If we don't train, the sport dies. We have good ties with Romford Raiders Ice Hockey, and club legend Danny Marshall is coaching an under-10s side which would have to disband as well."

If you can help, call Anthony on 07732090956 or email ant laird@hotmail.com



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ANDREW ROSINDELL



MP for ROMFORD



Britain's southern coast is currently being flooded by migrants who are crossing the English Channel illegally in order to evade our Border Force.

I am perplexed as to why the Home Office has continued to allow this situation to spiral, seemingly out of its control.

As Romford's MP, I recently wrote to the Home Secretary to forcefully express my frustration, and that of my constituents, about the escalating number of migrants entering our country illegally by crossing the Channel in rubber dinghy boats.

I am absolutely astounded as to how this crisis is being allowed to continue. The figures are shocking – 3,950 migrants (and counting) have already landed illegally on our shores and more continue to do so every day.

It is blindingly clear that, rather than a 'hostile environment', these illegal migrants have been warmly welcomed – some of whom have been

offered immediate access to regular payments while accommodated at taxpayer expense in luxurious hotels. Outrageously, millions are being paid out to failed asylum seekers.

We should instead be prioritising the most vulnerable in our society, such as the homeless, many of whom are ex-armed forces personnel.

As we know nothing about their criminal history or ideological beliefs, the potential threat these illegal migrants pose to ordinary Britons remains unclear.

The Home Office had planned to accommodate illegal migrants at Palms Hotel in Hornchurch, but after Havering Council and I raised our considerable objection, the plan was dropped.

The British people voted in large numbers for the Conservative Party at last year's election and we must uphold our pledge to protect our country's borders.

Migration is completely fine, but people must be required to enter legally.

Help Ricky make back-to-school magic

As children return to school in these unprecedented times, people in Hornchurch and Havering are being invited to create a magical moment to help them.

PixiePathways Havering Fairyland is the brainchild of Ricky Lennon-Reeve.

He said: "We suggested that people should make and create their own fairy door at home or in school and then leave it outside their front door, front garden wall or fence for children on their walk to school to see something calming."

After the idea proved popular, Ricky teamed up with Havering Mind and started to suggest the fairy doors should be put up in local parks. He has encouraged people to add to them and they've started to appear at parks across the borough, including Harrow Lodge and Hylands Parks in Hornchurch.

Preparations are now underway for the lands to be created at local schools, and Ricky, a teacher himself, said he is confident they will make a difference.

He said: "It is scary for children at the moment. They are in small bubbles and can't play with their friends. We want to let them know the world can still protect



them, care for them, look out for them even in this secluded and distanced time of our lives."

For more, search PixiePathways Havering Fairyland on Facebook





News from **Councillor Paul Middleton**

St Andrews Ward, Hornchurch Residents' Association

The COVID-19 easing is taking much longer I than expected. Some people appear to think that we are in the clear and have returned to an almost normal life.

Please be aware that the virus is still there and spreading; the people who have bravely self-isolated for several months are starting to come out again.

Please bear this in mind and give everyone as much room as possible. You might feel safe; they might not. Respect that.

If you use face masks and gloves, please dispose of them considerately by placing them in a bin; do not just drop them on the floor.

Certain areas around Hornchurch Town Centre have become 'dumping grounds' - be aware that the street cleaning enforcement team will follow up and prosecute if they can prove dumped rubbish belongs to someone.

FYI, leaving bags of rubbish next to a bin is considered fly tipping. If seen you can be fined and, if enforcement opens your rubbish and can identify you, you may be prosecuted.

Around Hornchurch Town Centre an additional 29 'On Street' Pay and Display parking bays have been rushed through the usually convoluted red-tape-filled processes.

The positive is that these 29 spaces come with a one-hour free parking allowance. Want to stay longer? You can pay for the parking via the RingGo app.

The downside is that some of the Pay and Display bays were installed in a road that was previously free



for people to park (Fairkytes Avenue). Where there are no bays - double yellow lines were painted. The spin is that we have an hour's free parking.

Where there were around 20 free parking spaces. we now have nine spaces with a free hour. A further 17 spaces were installed next to Fentiman Way Car Park.

This change was rushed through with haste; the residents and ward councillors were not consulted. I am waiting for written explanation and proof as to the urgency for these changes.

The area outside the KFC restaurant will be patrolled by parking enforcement more frequently, as too many people are blocking the pathway with cars and motorbikes. Please consider alternative areas to park while you collect your food.

Many local businesses are struggling; please consider shopping local and use the small shops where you can.

Stav safe, wash your hands regularly and be nice to others.

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Can you help a child in care?

People in Hornchurch are urgently being sought to befriend young people in care who are living outside the borough.

Known as independent visitors, the volunteers act in the interests of children and young people in care and are independent of children's services.

They meet up every three to four weeks to do an activity of the young person's choice.

Councillor Robert Benham. Havering's cabinet member for children, education and families, said: "Occasionally we have to place children outside the borough and they are located long distances away for a variety of reasons. We are urgently looking for volunteers who will travel to meet these young people, to form consistent relationships and provide the support that they need.

"Experience isn't key, but the right personality and an interest in supporting a young person is."

To discuss the role, contact Alison Day on 01708 434111 or alison.day2@havering.gov.uk

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Low maintenance, cute, curious and asleep for half the year, a pet tortoise is both intriguing and easy to cater for, which is why this crafty crawler is coming back into fashion.

or those of us of a certain age, tortoises were once all the rage. Right up there with rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters, these sluggish, shelled reptiles were extremely popular in gardens all across the UK.

Their popularity waned around the turn of the millennium when regulations surrounding their arrival in the UK started to kick in. Too many weren't surviving our frosty winters and their importation – at its peak, 150,000 of them each year - was said to

And yet, owning a tortoise bred in captivity in the UK is still perfectly legal. While you may need to 'shell out' (sorry) anything between £50 and £500

for one of these incredible creatures who originate from the Americas and Africa, people find their laidback, plodding attitude to life as inspiring as it is humorous.

They will generally eat from your garden, with their diet also featuring the likes of cucumber, carrots, lettuce, fruit and flowers; and can be safely tucked up in a hutch overnight, content by themselves or alongside a life partner.

Resilient and tough, curious and playful, cats soon get bored of them, though some breeds of dog are known to pester them and can damage their shells. And you'll struggle to get too much emotion from these garden dwellers - their lack of a hippocampus means tortoises have little emotion, memory, learning capability or spatial navigation.

> And yet, while tortoises appear a lot of fun for not a lot of effort, don't be deceived. Notorious for finding escape routes through fences and around walls, their life cycle is typically anywhere between 80 and 150 years - that's a lifetime commitment to vour shelled buddy.

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If you were born in September, your birth flower is one of the most colourful flowers of autumn: the aster. Part of the daisy family, this wild flower is known for its tiny flowerheads and long petals. Loved by pollinators, asters are ideal for growing in mixed borders around your garden.

WHAT DO ASTERS SYMBOLISE?

Asters come in a variety of vibrant colours and each one carries a different meaning:

- Purple asters, the most popular colour, symbolise wisdom and royalty.
- White asters represent purity and innocence, as well as new beginnings.
- Red asters can be used to convey undying devotion.
- Pink asters symbolise sensitivity and love.

WHAT DOES THIS BIRTH FLOWER SAY ABOUT YOU?

If your birth flower is the aster, you feel most at home on the stage and will embrace any opportunity to entertain others. You are an optimist and are devoted to living life to the full. You are also predisposed to good luck.

HOW DO YOU GROW ASTERS IN YOUR GARDEN?

Asters offer great beauty with little work and are therefore ideal for less-experienced growers. You can either choose to plant them from seed in spring or purchase a potted plant later in the year.

Plant in full to partial sun in loamy, well-drained soil and keep new plants moist until they stop blooming.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON ASTER PESTS AND DISEASES?

Asters attract aphids, spider mites, whiteflies and leafhoppers, all of which can be kept under control with the use of pesticides. They are also prone to stem rot, a fungus that can begin at the start of the germination process. Prevent this by not overwatering and

ensuring the soil is well

drained.



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The battle between gardener and slugs has never been so ferocious, but getting things back in your favour may not be as difficult as you think if you follow these handy tips.

Objects of desire

Slugs love to slither under pots, planks and other objects left lying around. If those bricks serve no purpose, remove them from your garden, otherwise all you're providing is a perfect hiding spot for this gastropod mollusc who will nibble away at your finest crops, herbs and flowers.

Grass borders

Slugs love to conceal themselves in grass. The moisture keeps them happy and the protection of long blades means they can keep themselves hidden until darkness falls, when they'll venture out and demolish your prized produce. Keep your grass short and you take away their hiding place.

Bramble ramblers

A good way to keep slugs away is to build up

bramble borders to your garden. Spiky canes will also work as a barrier to keep these slimy invaders away – they'll take one look at those sharp thorns and unwelcoming lengths of wood and head straight for next door's garden.

If slugs are already in your garden

These tips will be a bit late in the day. In that case, here are a couple of handy tricks to rid yourself of guests who have already taken up residence.

Back to those objects of desire

Use those planks and pots to your benefit by propping them up so slugs crawl underneath – you've created your very own slug trap. Now, regularly, scrape the slugs from the underside and deposit them well away from your garden.

Night-time nasties

For three or four nights in a row, venture out into your garden with a torch, a shovel and a bucket and remove as many unwelcome guests as you can find. You'll find your slug population quickly diminishes.









f you are looking for something useful to do in the garden this month then look no further than the installation of your very own water butt.

Did you know that almost 100,000 litres of rainwater falls on our roofs each vear in the UK and literally just goes down the drain?

WHY INSTALL A WATER BUTT?

If every home were to install a water butt in their garden, the UK would save an estimated 30,000 million litres of water each summer. That's enough to fill 12 Olympic swimming pools. Therefore, if a hosepipe ban were to come into effect next year, vou would have more than enough clean water to care for your plants and fill a paddling pool or two. Plus, you could save on your water bills.

HOW TO CHOOSE A WATER BUTT FOR YOUR GARDEN

Simply head to your nearest garden centre or local DIY store for a wide range of water butts, with options to suit all budgets. If you have a small garden, choose a slim, square-edged design that can sit flush against a wall. For those with more space, the bigger the better. You should also purchase a diverter kit.

HOW TO INSTALL YOUR WATER BUTT

- Choose a suitable location next to a
- Always install a water butt on a firm and flat surface that is strong enough to hold its weight when full.
- Consider investing in a stand so that you can fill your watering can from the tap at the bottom of the butt with ease.
- Follow the instructions on the diverter kit this will involve cutting through your chosen drainpipe with a hacksaw.
- Cover your water butt with a lid to prevent insects from flying in and to stop children falling in.
- Wait for the rain to fall.





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e've all arrived at a getaway destination to be confronted with that sickening feeling of having left the crimpers at home, and it's not a pleasant one. Well, with the hope and expectation of the travel industry restarting as the weeks go by, it seems pertinent to get some early planning in, so here's our all-encompassing rundown of the travel essentials you really can't leave home without:

- Currency and cards, ensuring you have enough for both holiday treats and emergencies
- Documents printed is still best, from hotel information to outbound and return flights
- 3. Passport, if travelling abroad
- 4. Driver's licence essential for car hire, but good for additional ID
- 5. Mobile phone and tablet, plus chargers
- 6. Plug adaptor
- 7. Daily toiletries, such as toothpaste, toothbrush, travel-size shower items, shaver, hairbrush
- Paracetamol, ibuprofen and any prescription drugs – better to take from your home country rather than trying new drugs in a foreign country

- List of emergency contacts to keep about your person
- Flip-flops, for any shared bathroom space where avoiding contact with icky floors is probably smart
- Practical essentials, depending on destination

 e.g. somewhere warm, sun cream
 and swimming gear (including goggles);
 somewhere rugged, walking boots and fleece
- 12. Spare underwear and socks will always come in handy and weigh very little
- 13. Deodorant and aftershave/perfume, for basic hygiene and those special nights out
- 14. Microfibre towel, which takes up less space than its fluffy cousin
- 15. Mini first aid kit
- Earplugs whether for the flight or noisy guests around the hotel, these are essential
- 17. Glasses, sunglasses, and a protective case
- 18. Spare shoes, to switch things up and give your feet a break
- 19. Padlock, for extra security
- 20. Rain cover, should the heavens open



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ENSURE you INSURE

Your home insurance checklist

nsurance is about protecting ourselves and those around us, so here's a handy checklist outlining what you definitely need, and what might be worth considering.

CONTENTS INSURANCE

In the event of an accident or theft from within your home, it's vital your possessions are covered. Many see paying out for contents insurance as a waste of money, but we will all claim for something at some

point. Knowing you're covered can bring a huge sense of relief in the midst of what is likely to be a disappointing event or episode.

You can also extend your contents insurance to items you take outside the home - consider bikes, watches, phones and more; but read the small print to ensure you're covering what you think you are.

BUILDINGS INSURANCE

Also known as house insurance, this covers your bricks and mortar, and whilst not a legal stipulation, most mortgage lenders will insist on you taking it out if you are embarking on home ownership.

LIFE INSURANCE

Purely for the protection of those around you; should the day come when you're not around, you will want to ensure your dependants have enough to get by. For what is often a small amount each month, life insurance can at least mean you are not adding financial loss to the emotional loss experienced by loved ones.

INCOME PROTECTION

Particularly good for those who are self-employed, income protection means that in the event of illness, bills can still be paid. If 2020 has taught us anything where health is concerned, it's to expect the unexpected!

CRITICAL COVER

Different from life insurance, critical cover will pay out a lump sum if you are diagnosed with a critical illness during the life of your policy. That means you'll be provided for by the policy to restore some sense of comfort and peace.













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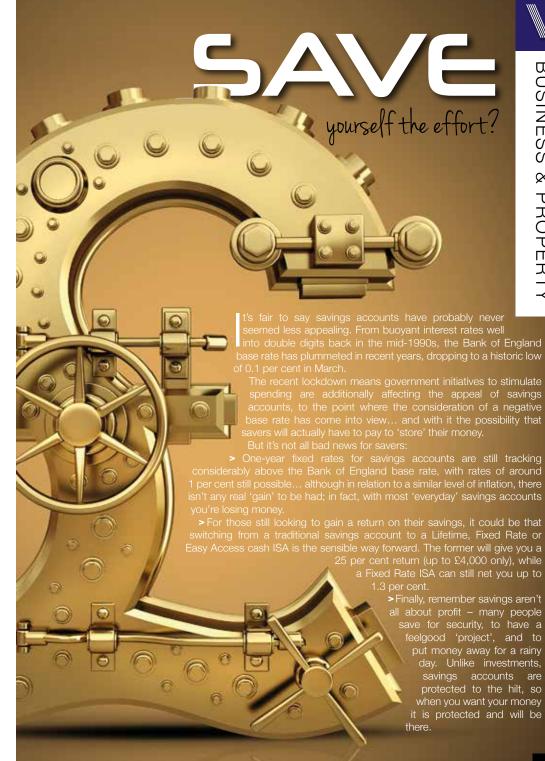
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AVOIDING THE PITFALLS OF SELLING YOUR CAR PRIVATELY

elling your motor privately can be good for a number of reasons. It's the best way to get a high price for your old set of wheels, if organised you may be able to secure a sale quickly, and in most instances you won't even need to leave the comfort of your own home... well, the driveway, at least.

However, if you are keen to strip out the middleman, beware some of the pitfalls that may lie in wait:

Telephone time-wasters

You may get countless people phoning up asking endless questions – remember, buyers will be as wary about the process as sellers. The best way to avoid this is to make your listing as detailed as possible, adding lots of photos.

Go-slow no-showers

Ever waited in for a delivery that never arrives? Welcome to the world of private car-selling.

Part-ex stress

You may find your motor is attracting the interest of

traders who would rather negotiate a part-exchange than an offer of straight cash.

Larry Hagglers

A huge worry for many vendors is agreeing a price over the phone, only to find someone at your door pressuring you for a discount.

Comeback Kings

In the event of something going wrong with the car soon after it's bought, you won't have anyone to sort this out but yourself. The buyer will also have your home address so is likely to come knocking if anything seems wrong in those weeks post purchase.

Not-so-smooth criminals

And of course, the biggest fear for those who sell privately is that someone will run off with your motor. Ensure all monies have been transferred before handing over documentation, be wary over PayPal transactions (which can be refunded) and, if accepting cash, check notes carefully.

Paint IT BLACK

re you thinking of splashing out on a new set of wheels, but can't quite decide between a blue Beamer or a silver SUV? Well, recent studies suggest your choice of car colour could be saying a lot more about your personality than you may think...

RED

This classic car colour is usually associated with boy racers and other speedy scoundrels - and perhaps rightly so. Driving a red car is said to show you have high energy and an outgoing personality. With that in mind, it's little wonder red has long been the colour of choice for vibrant Italian vehicles such as the Ferrari.

BLUE

Owning a blue car doesn't mean you're a downbeat person – instead, it signifies that you like to promote an optimistic and stable image to the world. You might not be flambovant enough to go for a red or orange roadster, for example, but you're willing to find common ground with your more outlandish automotive associates.

GREEN

It's easy to assume that driving a green car hints at an environmentally friendly outlook, and whilst it is suggested that those in green will be less inclined to fill up their tank with toxic nasties, the real reason behind picking an emerald automobile is that it reflects a gentle and patient nature. Either that, or

vou've just purchased a vintage Jag in beautiful British Racing Green - the iconic motor racing colour commonly associated with the UK.

SILVER

Silver gives off a light air of wealth, taste and prestige, while the neutrality of the colour and its ability to camouflage dirt points to a busy, workheavy lifestyle. As of this year, silver is the most common car colour in the UK, with over 22 per cent of British road users opting for an aluminium automobile.

BLACK

Whether it's an LBD or tuxedo reception, black has long been synonymous with sophistication and luxury. And when it comes to car colour, it tends to suggest in its driver a dignified personality that eschews over-exuberant displays of wealth, whilst still wanting to signal authority to fellow motorists. And just like the Men in Black, you don't mind a bit of mystery in your life, either.

ORANGE

You don't see many orange cars, and that's exactly why a carrot-coloured four-wheeler is representative of a driver who does their best to stand out from the crowd. If you're artistic, eccentric, fun-loving or trendy, an orange car is sure to turn heads... which is maybe why it's more commonly seen adorning futuristic supercars such as Lotuses or Lamborghinis.



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AFTER 30 YEARS OF HURT, LIVERPOOL FINALLY GOT THEIR HANDS ON THE BIG PRIZE

It's somewhat ironic that for a club who have struggled, grasped and flailed desperately for three decades in their attempts to restore themselves as the best club in English football, their unassailable lead at the top of the Premier League in March almost counted for nothing as a global pandemic swept in.

For a couple of months, Jürgen Klopp's side looked

as if they might be denied the prize they have striven for so long to win – through near misses, bad luck and a long duration of underachievement, the Reds have found the likes of Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City, Blackburn Rovers and even Leicester City in their way when it came to securing the biggest prize in domestic football.

Yet after Premier League chiefs, fan groups, police forces and local councils approved measures to get the competition restarted on June 17, Liverpool's history-makers were back on track. Predictably, after all the speculation, the hype and a 100-day gap in action – the longest since Second World War – the Merseyside Derby was something of a damp squib as Liverpool and arch rivals Everton played out a goalless draw.

Ultimately, Manchester City's improved form post lockdown saw Liverpool's significant gap at the top narrowed, but when the Merseysiders crushed Crystal Palace 4–0 at home on June 24, they knew that if Chelsea could beat Pep Guardiola's Citizens side 24 hours later, the title would be theirs... and that's just what happened.

True, it may have been seen as a disappointing climax for Liverpool to have had such a season of domestic dominance ended in empty stadiums and without even so much as an open-top bus ride around their famous city to savour. It's a lack of the true adulation deserving of any Premier League

champions, let alone a side who ended the campaign with 99 points and only three leadue defeats all term.

Yet, the record books will always point to the efforts of captain Jordan Henderson, top scorer Mohamed Salah, the rest of the first-team heavyweights and even the young starlets – Curtis Jones, Harvey Elliott and Neco Williams – who are gradually making their mark in the best club side in world football.

Two seasons ago the Reds finished 25 points behind champions Manchester City. Their winning margin this term confirms a 43-point shift in dominance that will impress Klopp as much as it worries Guardiola and the rest of the chasing pack.

The Anfield club's achievements are monumental – Champions League winners, World Club Championship holders and Premier League victors all at the same time. And yet, as manager Klopp states, defending their title crown is not the Liverpool way – attacking it is, and that's undoubtedly what they'll do.



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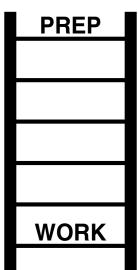
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DID YOU KNOW?

- ► Wall-E was named after Walter Elias Disney
- Disney animators often hide classic characters in scenes of their films
- ▶There is a tunnel system in Disney World so characters aren't seen in the 'wrong' lands
- ▶ Dumbo is the only lead character in a film who doesn't speak - he only makes a few
- Disney World in Orlando is around the same size as San Francisco
- ▶The original The Jungle Book was the last film to be overseen by Walt Disney before his death in 1966
- The first animated character to receive a star on the Walk of Fame was Mickey Mouse
- Mickey Mouse ears are one of the most popular souvenirs bought from Disneyland

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.

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