

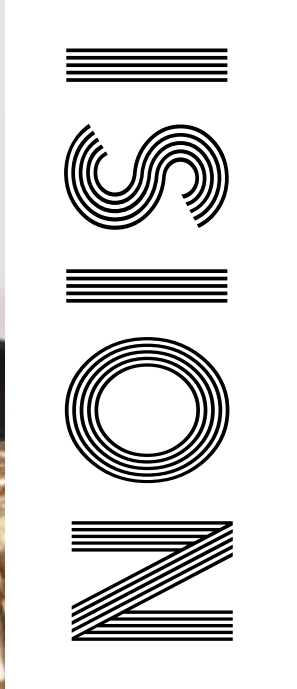


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PETER KAY

Bolton comedian announces first tour in 12 years

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Editor's notes...

DECEMBER 2022



Brett Shohet, Editor

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

Like many people concerned about the cost of living at the moment, I've been reviewing my bills and expenses to see where I can make savings. It comes down to luxury versus necessity, but make sure you think twice before deciding what you can do without.

Some businesses may be thinking they should cut down on their advertising and marketing in the current climate. However, I'd argue that it's now more important than ever to do all you can to generate income for your business. I have always used the phrase, 'If nothing changes, nothing changes.' This can be used in life as well as in business.

Of course, if you need support or help getting visibility for your business, please get in touch with us and we'll see what we can do to help.

It seems no sooner are the Halloween decorations taken down than the Christmas decorations start appearing. As a child, the festive season seems to take forever to come around, while as an adult, it comes round all too quickly - and goes by just as fast. So it's important to enjoy every second while it lasts.

Please also try to spend your pound locally and support your local businesses this Christmas. I'm sure they will appreciate it. Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Brett Shohet

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

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WHIPPING UP A STORMZY

Stormzy's appeal is widespread – a musician, a fashion icon, a fulcrum for equality in what is a complicated social landscape, and the first grime artist to headline Glastonbury. With a new album out, the rap star – real name Michael Ebenezer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr – explains that his journey to greatness is no accident, but the result of sheer determination and hard work.

Stormzy will never be everyone's cup of tea. His music is genre-splitting but ultimately relies on a listener's ear for rap, grime and dubstep-infused combinations. Meanwhile, his politics often lean on diversity, equality and race, leading to an unapologetic prevalence of support for Black artists, musicians and students.

Yet whether you respect the 29-year-old Croydon native for his take on music and life or not, the fact he has battled back from depression, and is vocal in promoting good habits and good actions as methods for combating the mental and psychological ills of modern society, mean he deserves the stage he finds himself on.

Stormzy also possesses the humility to talk about the wider elements that influence his music, rather than simply pushing the marketing button for *This Is What I Mean*, his third studio album.

"Nothing would be possible without having a clear head and knowing what it is we have to do in this world to survive," he begins. "I realised a long time ago that exercise was the only mechanism that would truly keep me straight, and that's why so much of my focus is on building physical and mental strength.

"When you put on muscle, people are quick to label you as someone who wants to pose or show off, but it's nothing like that for me. Strength is just a by-product of a fitness regime that keeps my brain, my head, in the right place.

"If I didn't do it, some days I don't think I'd be able to cope."

Pushing his own vulnerability at potentially falling back into "the darkness" is an interesting slant, particularly in a music genre where confidence and bravado play such a big role in the promotion game. Yet while the rapper does accept imperfections in his armour, Stormzy is never less than 100 per cent driven to achieve.

"I find it strange and uncomfortable to aim for anything less than the greatest," he offers, with typical bravado. "That doesn't even make sense for me, that.

"If I was going to be an engineer or I was going to be a baker, or I was going to be a fireman, why would I not aim to eventually be the greatest at my job?

"I've never understood why I should just try to be the best rapper in London, or even the best rapper in the UK. I don't want to be the best rapper in the UK. I want to be the best artist in the UK."

Stormzy's new album will doubtless take him another step closer to his goal. It is a collection of 12 tracks revolving around race, love, fame, influence and contentment. "All our experiences get us to a certain place, and right now this is where I am," he says. "It feels right to be putting this record out – it feels good."



Photo credit: Tracey Welch/Shutterstock

Blind Ambition

CELEBRATING INFLUENTIAL BROADCASTER
AND BLOGGER LUCY EDWARDS

There's not a teenager out there who hasn't had to overcome setbacks – disappointing A Level results, the pain of unrequited love, and more.

For Lucy Edwards, the pain was rather longer lasting. When she was 17 years old, a life-changing operation designed to cure a rare genetic condition called incontinentia pigmenti turned out to be the most temporary and painful of reprieves. Lucy's sight returned to its fullest state, yet for a brief and tormenting four hours only.

Now aged 24, Lucy's sight has deteriorated to the point where she is holding on to the very last bits of light perception. However, she refuses to buckle under the pain of missed experiences or opportunities.

Instead, by "owning" the condition, she has styled for herself a career at the BBC – she was Radio 1's first-ever blind presenter, and is a notable fashion and style blogger/vlogger, with more than 650,000 YouTube and 150,000 Instagram followers. She regularly posts under the #blindnotbroken hashtag and has also published a book, *The Blind Beauty Guide*.

In everything she does, Lucy looks to give hope and encouragement to countless others looking to get their life ambitions back on track following disability setbacks.

"It is the trauma that drives me forward," she says. "I thought I should be open about my feelings because this brings about change. If I didn't share my life online, I don't think others would be as knowledgeable about blindness.

"It is important to show that anyone can do anything if they want to."

An important element of that is a new perception of beauty. For Lucy, her beauty routine is a holistic exercise that doesn't just rely on visuals. It's about taking time for herself, relaxing and unwinding with candles, music and aromas.

She adds: "As a blind person, these are things that mean so much to me."

Photo credit: lucyedwards.com, BBC, Twitter @lucyedwards

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Wan

WAY OF LIFE

AUTHOR, ACTOR, STYLIST, CHEF AND BUSINESSMAN, GOK WAN MBE CELEBRATES 15 YEARS ON OUR SCREENS



Gok Wan MBE has spent the last decade as a fashionista, an agony aunt and a leading light for empowering men and women to love their bodies.

He has endured a sometimes arduous journey on the road to fashion individualism and finesse, starting out in murky make-up rooms before personality and precision forged his path into magazine shoots, then onto our TV screens, where he has remained ever since.

"I was a terrible make-up artist," he laughs. "I made everyone look like a drag queen."

Yet despite working the celebrity circuit and becoming a magazine regular, the now 47 year old was "petrified" about making the leap to TV when asked to audition for a show.

"The producers wanted me to be really horrible to a woman. I walked out thinking, 'I wouldn't do that to anybody on set'. I wouldn't go up to a model and say, 'You're not good enough'. I definitely wouldn't go up to a celebrity and say, 'Your bum looks fat in that dress'."

Instead, Gok – who as a teenager weighed 21 stone before battling anorexia in his early twenties – saw TV as an opportunity to celebrate women, advancing the notion that being a stylist is about creating the best solutions and broadest fantasies for everyday people.

Much of this success came via *How to Look Good Naked*, whereby Gok repeatedly challenged the taboo that stops women from celebrating their bodies regardless of shape, and set about installing a sense of confidence within the female population.

Success breeds success, and across *Easy Asian*, *This Morning* and *Say Yes to the Dress*, the fashion guru – always instantly recognisable by his glasses, which he rates as his "best friend, and which can guide me sometimes and help me vanish in others" – has remained relevant and respected in a fast-changing world.



FASHION

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Ravishing reds



BEAUTY

There is nothing like a bold slick of red lipstick to signal the start of the festive party season, and the right shade has the ability to transform any look from okay to outstanding. Here's how to get the perfect red lip, plus how to choose the right shade for your skin tone.

STEP 1: Prep your lips – Always buff your lips before you apply lipstick as this will help to ensure that your lips are free from flakes and plumped up ready for application. Use a clean toothbrush or lip scrub, followed by lip balm.

STEP 2: Apply foundation – Foundation makes a great base for lipstick and can help your chosen shade stay put for longer. Use your normal foundation for best results.

STEP 3: Use a nude pencil – Rather than using a red lip pencil, a nude one is more forgiving of mistakes and can help you to achieve the perfect shape.

STEP 4: Fill in the colour – Use a lip brush to gradually build up colour on your lips rather than applying the lipstick directly. Add several coats for best results.

RED LIPSTICK SHADES FOR EACH SKIN TONE

Universal shades: True red shades that boast equal amounts of blue and orange look good on every skin tone.

Fair complexions: Opt for a pink-based undertone such as raspberry, which will complement the pink tones in your complexion.

Light complexions: Both neutral and warmish complexions suit orange-based reds as these will pick up the golden undertones of your skin.

Medium complexions: If you tan easily, then you should change your lip shade based on the season. In the summer, choose an orange-based red. During the winter, opt for a cherry red.

Olive complexions: With yellow-green undertones, you should look for a brick- or rust-coloured red that will warm your complexion.

Dark complexions: Dark and golden skin tones boast a yellow undertone so can pull off a bold red lipstick.

Alternatively, blue-based reds give a more natural look.





ARE YOUR SLIPPERS ruining YOUR HEALTH?

Soft, warm and oh so comfy, slippers are a staple for many. However, could they be doing more harm than good to your feet? Let's find out.

INSUFFICIENT HEEL SUPPORT: Your choice of footwear should provide both support and protection, especially if you are wearing them for long periods of time. However, with every step you take in slip-on footwear, your toes are forced to grasp the slipper to lift it off the ground and carry it, which has a negative effect on the muscles and joints of the foot.

INSTABILITY ALL UP YOUR BODY: Slippers challenge all the joints in your body owing to their lack of ankle support. In fact, an unstable ankle can drag both your knees and hips in, downwards or outwards, depending on your body type. This can cause a whole host of problems, including pain and poor posture.

HIGHER RISK OF FALLS: For the elderly, who are already at a greater risk of slipping and falling, slippers can be extremely dangerous. Slippers provide very little grip compared to other types of

footwear, which means that you are more likely to lose your balance, especially when walking on tiled, wooden or vinyl floors.

NON-BREATHABLE: Although slippers are meant to keep your feet cosy, they can easily make them too hot if they are made of poor-quality, synthetic fabric. This can create a breeding ground for fungi and bacteria and increase your risk of athlete's foot.

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU WEAR ON YOUR FEET IN THE HOUSE?

Opt for supportive, lace-up shoes that stay on the foot as you walk as these will cushion and protect your feet.

Some of the most supportive footwear brands include:

- > Birkenstock Milano
- > FitFlop
- > TOMS
- > Kalahari

It is also a good idea to walk around barefoot sometimes as this can help to strengthen and stretch the muscles, tendons and ligaments in your feet. This helps to improve balance and to prevent injury, knee strain and back problems.



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Kitchari

IS THIS THE ULTIMATE CLEANSE?

Do you love a good cleanse? Offering you the opportunity to reset your eating habits and rest your digestive system, kitchari cleanses are common in Ayurvedic medicine and offer a whole host of health benefits.

What are the benefits of a kitchari cleanse?

Eliminate toxins from the body | Aid weight loss | Improve energy | Improve digestion and restore regular bowel movements | Promote overall good health

How to perform a kitchari cleanse

Pre-cleanse: A pre-cleanse period typically takes place one week before the cleanse. During this time, you should cut back on sugar, caffeine, alcohol and processed foods.

Cleanse: During your three-day cleanse, you should aim to eat a grain-based dish for breakfast, such as oatmeal with warming spices, and then a bowl of kitchari for lunch and dinner. Aim to drink 8-10 servings of water or herbal tea each day.

Post-cleanse: In the 7-10 days following your cleanse, you should slowly reintroduce other foods into your diet. You may want to continue eating kitchari for one meal a day for the first few days to avoid upsetting your digestive system.

Kitchari recipe

You will need:

1 cup white basmati rice | ½ cup yellow mung dal | 2 tbsp ghee | Kitchari spice mix (¼ tsp black mustard seeds, ½ tsp cumin seeds, ½ tsp turmeric powder, 1½ tsp coriander powder, ½ tsp fennel powder, 1 tsp fresh grated ginger) | 1 tsp natural mineral salt | 6 cups water | 2 cups of vegetables such as asparagus, carrots, celery, green beans, sweet potato, squash or courgette, cut into bite-sized pieces

How to make:

1. Soak the mung dal overnight.
2. Strain the soaking water and then combine the mung dal with the rice.
3. Rinse the mixture until the water runs clear then set it aside.
4. Warm the ghee over a medium heat and add the seeds until they pop.
5. Add the rest of the spices.
6. Stir in the rice and mung dal and then sauté for a few minutes.
7. Add the water and bring to the boil.
8. Add the salt, reduce the heat and simmer for 20 minutes.
9. Add the vegetables.
10. Cook for a further 20 minutes.

NB: The consistency should be thick – more like a stew than a broth.

Photo credit: One Green Planet

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The Benefits of WINTER WALKING

When the weather gets wintry, it's tempting to hang up your walking boots and stay indoors. But instead of curling up on the sofa with a tub of chocolates, why not get outdoors? Recent research has shown that it could be just what your mind and body need, and it's a great way to escape the Christmas bustle.

A walk in the countryside during a downpour could improve your mood, your respiratory system and your body's immunity. This is all down to the sweet compounds released by plants, trees and soil – and the negative air ions created when water and air collide.

To get the maximum effects, go walking in the woods. Researchers found that there are twice as many negative air ions in woodland as in the open countryside. And if it's a muddy wood, so much the better – because mud contains an extra dose of health-boosting microbes.

Cold weather is another good reason to go for a wintry walk. That's because there's a type of fat in our body called 'brown fat', which helps control our weight and the sugar levels in our blood. For

some reason not yet clear, brown fat works better when we're cold.

If you want to join others for some local winter walking, check out the following:

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

This is Britain's walking charity, which organises Ramblers Wellbeing Walks – free, fairly short walks suitable for all, organised by local volunteers. For longer walks, you'll need to take out membership with the association.

- > Website: ramblers.org.uk
- > Telephone: 020 3961 3300

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

The home of everything to do with long-distance walking, including a network of local groups.

- > Website: ldwa.org.uk

There are lots of other local walking groups, some for specific groups within the community. To find out more, have a look online or visit your local library or community centre.



HOW TO COOK WITH CHESTNUTS

When it comes to festive food, chestnuts go hand in hand with Christmas. However, did you know that there are so many different ways that you can cook and enjoy these mouthfuls of nutty deliciousness.

ABOUT CHESTNUTS

Chestnuts are the large edible fruit of the chestnut tree and are popular in both Europe and China. When you cook chestnuts, they produce a delicate and slightly sweet flavour with a soft texture that has a similar consistency to baked potatoes. You cannot eat raw chestnuts so they must be cooked before they are served.

3 WAYS TO COOK CHESTNUTS

Boil them: To boil chestnuts, you first need to score them, before placing in a saucepan of cold water. Bring the water to the boil and allow to simmer for 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and then carefully scoop out a few at a time, peel off the shell and skin with a knife.

Roast them in the oven: To roast chestnuts, you first need to pierce each nut to prevent them from exploding due to internal pressure. Then place on a baking sheet in an oven that has been preheated to 200°C/180°C fan/ gas mark 6. Roast for 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Wait until they are just cool enough to peel and serve warm.

Roast them on the fire: Take an aluminium pie plate or tin foil pudding dish. Make cuts in the chestnuts and place the plate on a grill over white-hot coals. Shake the plate or dish periodically using heat proof gloves and roast until tender.

HOW TO ENJOY CHESTNUTS

- Mashed with sweet potatoes, carrots or cabbage
- Mixed with sausage meat, bacon and cranberries to make stuffing
- Blended with chickpeas to make a festive hummus
- Made into a puree and used to make chocolate chestnut cupcakes.



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FOOD & DRINK

Time for TIRAMISU

CELEBRATING THE BOOZY ITALIAN DESSERT THAT ALWAYS OFFERS A LIFT

We're used to hearing about the history and provenance of our culinary loves – tales of family traditions and secret recipes that have been handed down for centuries.

To say that tiramisu doesn't fit into that category perhaps sounds like an attempt to besmirch it slightly, but the opposite is actually true. Instead, this is a dessert whose parentage is surprisingly recent.

The dish was invented by Italian restaurateur Ado Campeol in 1972 – thus the tiramisu has just completed half a century of service in cafés, restaurants and kitchens. In that time, it has been popularised the world over.

Now is an apt moment to celebrate the dessert, as Campeol passed away at the age of 93 this October.

The pudding has an impressive legacy, especially as a combination of eggs

whipped with mascarpone cheese, coffee-soaked biscuits and bitter cocoa powder perhaps doesn't sound like the most obvious taste combination.

The name 'tiramisu' translates to mean 'lift me up' in Italian due to the kick offered by the coffee, while rum or marsala is typically added to the mix to offer a premium, eclectic edge.

QUICK TIRAMISU RECIPE


INGREDIENTS:

3 tsp instant coffee granules | 3 tbsp coffee liqueur | 250g tub mascarpone | 85g condensed milk | 1 tsp vanilla extract | 4-6 sponge fingers | 1 tbsp cocoa powder

STEP ONE: Mix the coffee granules with 2 tbsp boiling water in a large jug and stir to combine. Add the coffee liqueur and 75ml cold water. Pour into a shallow dish and set aside.

STEP TWO: Make the cream layer by beating the mascarpone, condensed milk and vanilla extract with an electric whisk until thick and smooth.

STEP THREE: Break the sponge fingers into three pieces and soak in the coffee mixture for a few seconds. Put a few of the sponge pieces in the bottom of two wine or sundae glasses and top with the cream mixture. Sift over the cocoa and chill for at least one hour before serving.





Take me to the MOUNTAINS

If mountain climbing is on your bucket list, there's no better day to start planning your trip than International Mountain Day, which takes place on December 11.

Mountains are home to 15 per cent of the world's population and about half of the world's 'biodiversity hotspots' – areas with the richest concentration of threatened plant and animal life. But go carefully and you can experience all the thrills of the mountain, while also helping local communities and protecting fragile ecosystems.

Here are three mountains suitable for a range of abilities – though remember, you'll still need a high level of fitness and endurance to tackle any mountain.

MOUNT FUJI, JAPAN – 3.776M

The hike along the most popular route to the peak of Mount Fuji takes around eight hours. Most climbers start at night to reach the summit at sunrise. The official hiking months are July and August.

PIKES PEAK, COLORADO, UNITED STATES – 4.302M

This 21km hike in the Rockies lasts the whole day and takes you to the highest point on the US mainland. As well as stunning views at the summit, there's also a state-of-the-art visitor centre.

MOUNT KILIMANJARO, TANZANIA – 5.895M

Most trails up Africa's highest mountain take five or six days, allowing climbers to acclimatise to the thin air as they go. If you're brave enough, you can even spend a night camping in the mountain's crater.

MOUNTAIN FACTS:

- There are 1,187,049 mountains in the world.
- The tallest sea mountain in the world is Mauna Kea in Hawaii at 10,205m, but more than half of it is underwater. Everest is the world's highest mountain, at 8,848.86m above sea level.
- Bhutan is easily the most mountainous country in the world – nearly 99 per cent of it is made up of mountains.
- Annapurna I in Nepal is widely regarded as the most difficult and dangerous mountain to climb.
- Around 300,000 people a year climb Mount Fuji, making it the world's most frequently climbed mountain.



Pikes Peak



Kilimanjaro



Mauna Kea



Mount Everest

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HOME & DIY

HOW TO DEFROST YOUR FREEZER

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO DEFROSTING AND CLEANING YOUR FREEZER

Can you remember the last time you defrosted your freezer? If not, then it is probably long overdue.

Although it's not one of the most enjoyable tasks, but if you don't defrost your freezer, it won't work as efficiently and will be more prone to faults.

STEP 1: TURN OFF AND UNLOAD

First, turn off your freezer and unplug it from the socket. Then, remove all the food and place it in a cooler to prevent thawing.

STEP 2: DECIDE WHERE THE WATER WILL GO

If your freezer has a drainage hose, then you can place this in a bucket to assist with the drainage process. Alternatively, lay towels or plastic liners on the floor to soak up the water.

STEP 3: ALLOW THE ICE TO MELT

The simplest way to defrost a freezer is to allow the ice to gradually melt on its own. After you have unplugged the appliance, simply leave the door open and wait for the ice to melt.

To speed up this process, you can position a fan near the door so that room-temperature air circulates into the freezer, but make sure to keep it away from any water on the floor. If you don't have a fan, you can use boiling water in pans and place on the shelves, but be careful if there are children or pets around.

STEP 4: MOP UP AND CLEAN

As the ice melts, mop it up with a rag or towel to prevent any damage to your flooring. Once all the ice has melted, you can start to clean the inside of your freezer. Mix one tablespoon of baking soda with four cups of hot water and then apply to the walls, racks and door of your freezer with a cloth. Wipe with a damp cloth to remove any residue.

STEP 5: TURN IT BACK ON AND REFILL

Once your appliance has fully dried, shut the door, turn it back on and then wait for it to reach the required temperature. This typically takes a few hours, but it can vary from one appliance to another.

Lastly, put the food back in. Repeat once a year or more if needed.

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When talking to the Manager of Cloudy2Clear windows Chris Miller it became clear that these

values have been held dear for a number of years. Since starting the business some years ago Cloudy2Clear have remained true to their core values of supporting the local community by providing a service that saves the public money.

The Cloudy2Clear service only requires the glass to be replaced and not the whole window once the unit has failed. Chris commented "Cloudy2Clear were able to assist our community through the last financial crisis in 2008 due to the savings that can be made in using our service. Unfortunately we might be going through something similar again soon and the public can rest assured that we will be there to help once again".

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HOW TO *untangle* CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Decorating your home for Christmas should be a joyous occasion but, if your Christmas lights are a tangled mess, this task can quickly turn into a full-on stressfest.

STEP 1: Get in a positive frame of mind

If you are already feeling frazzled and frustrated, then things are only going to get worse when you start trying to untangle your lights. Therefore, you need to make sure you are feeling relaxed and in the right frame of mind. Pop on some festive songs, pour yourself your favourite festive drink and take a few deep breaths before you begin.

STEP 2: Make sure you have enough space

You need to make sure you have sufficient space to lay your lights out on a flat surface, such as on the floor or across a large table.

STEP 3: Start with the plug

Always start with the plug when untangling your Christmas lights. Once located, gently work the plug through the knots. Be careful not to pull too hard as this may damage the lights.

STEP 4: Use a pencil or pen

If you come across any knots that are preventing you from unravelling your lights, gently use a pencil or pen to tease them out.

STEP 5: Keep your lights in a straight line

As you untangle your lights, make sure you keep them in a straight line to prevent further knots. It can be beneficial to enlist a helper to do this with you and to help you hang your lights on the tree.

HOW TO STORE YOUR LIGHTS TO PREVENT TANGLING:

- > Wrap your lights around a piece of cardboard and then wrap tissue paper around them to prevent damage.
- > Alternatively, wrap them around a wire coat hanger and store somewhere safe.

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Christmas CACTUS

A popular winter flowering houseplant that will make a great addition to your home this festive season and beyond, the Christmas cactus is easy to care for and maintain.

Why choose a Christmas cactus?

You may have already seen Christmas cacti in your local garden centre as they seem to be everywhere at this time of year, and with very good reason. A blooming succulent which is very easy to grow, Christmas cacti boast stunning flowers, and when tended to properly, can live for up to 100 years. They also release oxygen at night instead of throughout the day, which means they can help to improve your quality of sleep.

How to plant a Christmas cactus

Christmas cacti are easily propagated by cutting a

short Y-shaped segment from the stem tips of healthy plant foliage. Plant the segment a quarter of its own length deep in slightly sandy soil and then evenly moisten it. Place the cutting in a well-lit area but not in direct sunlight.

How to pot a Christmas cactus

When choosing a pot for your Christmas cactus, you need one that features a drainage hole at the bottom. This will help to prevent the soil from becoming too wet. Christmas cacti thrive in almost any type of potting mix that is formulated for succulents.

How to care for your Christmas cactus

Unlike other cacti, Christmas cacti are not native to hot and arid environments, which means they require completely different care. This houseplant should be kept in bright but indirect light, with an ideal daytime temperature of around 21 degrees and an evening temperature of 15-18 degrees. Water your Christmas cactus around once every 2-3 weeks, but only when the top one-third of the soil feels dry to the touch.



HOME & DIY



DULUX COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2023

Wild Wonder



For the past two decades, the design experts at Dulux have been translating global insights into their Colour of the Year, and the chosen shade for 2023 has been revealed as Wild Wonder. A warm and fairly neutral colour, there are many ways that you can incorporate Wild Wonder into your home in the new year.

WHAT IS WILD WONDER?

Wild Wonder is a mix between green and mustard yellow, and is a great choice for those who prefer warmer and more neutral shades in their home. Dulux says that this colour was created to “capture the wonders of the Earth” and hopes that it will “inspire creativity and bring a sense of nature’s magic to your living and working spaces in 2023”.

WHAT COLOUR HUES COMPLEMENT WILD WONDER?

As a colour for your home, Wild Wonder is quite hard to visualise with others, which is why Dulux has

created four colour palettes to support it:

- > Lush – soothing forest tones
- > Buzz – vibrant shades that celebrate the biodiversity of a wildflower field
- > Raw – a warm and enriching palette that embodies nature
- > Flow – shades to bring balance to your home

HOW TO USE WILD WONDER IN YOUR HOME

- > In your bedroom: Pair with other neutral tones such as sage or olive green to transform your bedroom into a restful retreat.
- > In your living room: Team with pastel pinks and blues for a contemporary look that is fun and fresh.
- > In your kitchen: Try using Wild Wonder on your ceiling, your kitchen units or as an accent behind open shelving.
- > In your bathroom: Paint your bathroom walls with Wild Wonder and then add layers of forest hues from the Lush palette in your bathroom accessories.



Photo credit: dulux.co.uk



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Everything's going TO BE OKAY

ONE OF BRITAIN'S BEST-LOVED COMEDIANS RETURNS

For a few years, it seemed you couldn't turn on the television or open a newspaper without seeing a mention of Peter Kay.

The larger-than-life Bolton-born comedian always seems to have had the Midas touch since bursting onto the scene when winning Channel 4's *So You Think You're Funny?* contest in 1997.

A year later, he was nominated for a Perrier Award for his stand-up show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and by the time the Millennium came round, he was a regular on our TV screens, extolling a brand of observational yet irreverent comedy across multiple successful sitcom series. Included in these is the iconic *Phoenix Nights* – which, despite its legacy, only totalled 12 episodes – *Max and Paddy's Road to Nowhere*, *Peter Kay's Car Share* and *Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle*. Switching almost seamlessly between filmed commitments and hilarious stand-up, it seemed Kay could do no wrong.

Kay's self-removal from the public eye was the subject of much speculation after he wrapped up his last TV projects back in 2017. It happened when his 90-date *Have Gags, Will Travel* tour planned for 2018/19 was cancelled.

He broke cover on events shortly afterwards, referencing The Lily Foundation, which works to raise awareness of mitochondrial disease in the UK.

He wrote: "The Lily Foundation is an inspiring charity that helps to improve the lives of children with mitochondrial disease."

Mitochondrial disease is a term that covers a range of often devastating conditions involving the failure of mitochondria, which live inside cells and which play a key role in providing energy. If they do not work properly, this can lead to serious problems for the body.

"I've had first-hand experience of the foundation's work and I'm proud to raise both awareness and much-needed funds to help with the inspiring work it provides to children and their families," said Kay.

With his family's health issues now, seemingly, in a place where he can refocus on work, the funnyman, now 49, is getting back to what he does best with his first UK tour in 12 years. Aptly titled *Peter Kay Live: Better Late Than Never*, he will visit Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Belfast, Newcastle, Dublin, Glasgow, Cardiff and Nottingham between December 2022 and August 2023.

However, such was the demand for tickets that the Ticketmaster site crashed under the weight of demand. Subsequently, additional dates have been added for 2024 and 2025.

Kay insisted that the ticket prices reflect the £35 cost from his last UK tour, way back in 2010. "The cost-of-living crisis has hit most and will hit everyone at some point," he said. "It's something I would do for free if I could. But even if I can't do that, this isn't a money-making exercise – it's an honour to be in demand still after all this time and I'm excited about having a laugh with people in a live setting all over again.

"I also may be a bit rusty... hence the freezing of the ticket price," he joked.

In addition, Kay, the recipient of four BAFTAs and a National Television Award, has been announced as the first artist in the world to perform a monthly residency at the O2. At a time when what we're allowed to laugh at seems under more scrutiny than ever before, it seems we could all benefit from knowing the way to Amarillo... or the North Greenwich arena, at least.



LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood

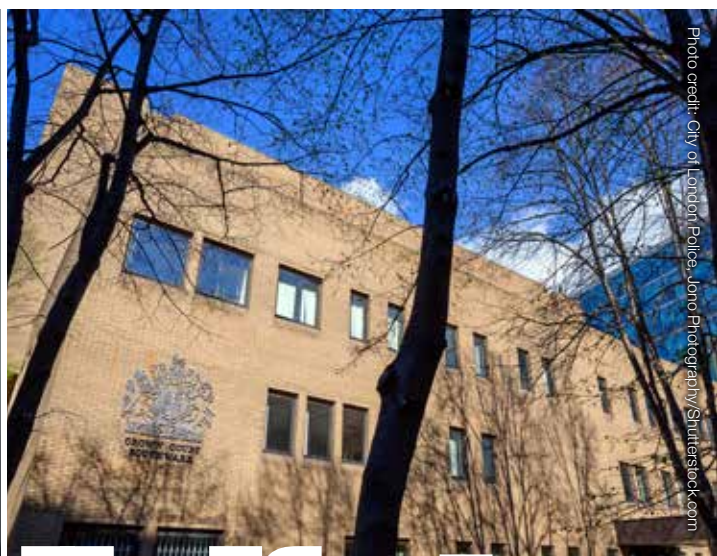


Photo credit: City of London Police, Jono Photography/Shutterstock.com

Man jailed for two years for selling set-top boxes

A Hornchurch man who made more than £2million selling illegal set-top boxes has been jailed. Halton Mark Anthony Powell, 44 (pictured left), of Maybank Avenue, Hornchurch, pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court on August 23 to supplying articles for use in fraud. He was sentenced to two years and six months in prison at the same court on November 11. Powell launched Droidsticks Ltd in 2013 and sold the set-top boxes through his shop, website and an online marketplace. He was arrested by officers from the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU), who seized nearly 1,500 set-top boxes from his storage unit and shop. A review of Powell's bank account showed that he had made a total of £2,344,949 from the sale of 24,515 set-top boxes.

The boxes, pre-loaded with software called the Droidsticks Wizard, enabled users to install add-ons to access Sky Sports and Sky Cinema channels. Sky estimates its losses from the set-top boxes at £13,826,460. Detective Sergeant Peter Gartland, from City of London Police's PIPCU, said: "Powell attempted to hide the illegitimate nature of his business by concealing evidence that he was selling products pre-configured to stream Sky Sports and Sky Cinema. "However, PIPCU officers were able to prove he was aware the set-top boxes were being used for this purpose by thousands of customers. "It is vital to remember that watching premium content without a subscription is illegal – and enabling access to it can land you with a criminal record, as this case shows."



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Photo credit: Julia Lopez



LOCAL NEWS

Hundreds attend Remembrance Day parade

Military veterans, Scouts, Guides and hundreds of residents attended a Remembrance Day parade and service in Hornchurch on Sunday, November 13.

The parade, which was followed by a service at St Andrew's Church, travelled along the High Street with a marching band leading the way, followed closely by city officials and local religious leaders.

Speaking before the event, Mayor of Havering councillor Trevor McKeever said: "We welcome everyone to come together and mark Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday once again in Havering."

"It gives the borough a chance to remember our servicemen and women from Britain and the

Commonwealth, who gave so much in order to keep us safe.

"We are proud to stand as a community to mark this significant occasion each November, which highlights the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and their continued bravery."

A service was also held at the newly unveiled Hornchurch Suttons Farm Airfield memorial, with students from St Mary's Hare Park School attending and laying poppy wreaths.

Students were given the opportunity to dress up in replica flying helmets and enjoyed a lesson by Dennis Little, a 93-year-old oral history volunteer.

Homes proposed despite previous rejection

An application for two three-storey blocks of flats on Station Lane in Hornchurch has been validated by Havering Council.

The proposal by developer Ramos Estates is for two three-storey blocks providing a total of eight flats with associated parking on an empty space behind the Driving Standards Agency, 75 Station Lane.

Following the validation, consultations will now be carried out.

A similar application was rejected in October 2021, with Havering Council suggesting that the failure to provide accessible dwellings for those with impaired mobility was contrary to London planning policy.

A planning statement on behalf of Ramos Estates said: "The scheme has been designed in accordance with the relevant policies of the development plan, taking into account the pattern and grain of the existing spaces and scale, proportion and mass."

"It will undoubtedly contribute positively to the location. There will be no adverse impact on other buildings in the locality."

"The proposed development makes efficient use of the site while having a positive impact on the appearance of the area and would result in no harm to the visual or residential amenities of any neighbouring occupiers."



JULIA LOPEZ MP

Hornchurch and Upminster



In solemn November tradition, I was honoured to attend the Remembrance Day parade and service in Upminster last month to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today. I was delighted to see such a strong turnout of residents supporting the police, school and community representatives and the Church of St Laurence in remembering the fallen.

The Hornchurch and Upminster Conservative Association laid wreaths on my behalf at Hornchurch and Harold Hill War Memorials. To mark Armistice Day, Historic England has listed the Hornchurch War Memorial as one of three First World War memorials across London to receive Grade II listed status. I am glad to see our constituency's rich heritage being recognised.

Our treasured Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch has also secured £1.44million in Arts Council England funding over the next three years, following the granting of Grade II listed status by my department earlier this year. Not only was this in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, but it also recognises the incredible contribution that the theatre has made to the local arts scene in the region.

I hope that by publication, we will have broken ground at the St George's Health and Wellbeing Hub on Suttons Lane, which will provide fantastic community healthcare when it opens in March 2024.

On policing, I recently met our Borough Commander to discuss worries about criminals targeting Emerson Park homes and vehicles and to highlight residents' concerns about local officer allocation. We now have 350 more in our Borough Command Unit than in 2018 owing to the government's police recruitment campaign. I have made numerous representations to the Mayor in recent years to ask that Hornchurch and Upminster gets our fair share of officers, but they have been prioritised for town centres like Romford and Barking and too often drawn into Central London.

In my last column, I mentioned the Boundary Commission's plans to equalise the size of Parliamentary constituencies. Its original proposal attempted to move Emerson Park Ward from Hornchurch and Upminster into the Romford seat. I am delighted to say that it has effectively dropped that plan after our local campaign, better reflecting the wishes of residents.

Finally, I have engaged in a series of enjoyable Hornchurch visits to meet the new vicar, Rev Brian Buschkill, at Nelmes United Reformed Church, and to celebrate 25 years of Hornchurch charity AddUp, which supports families where a child has ADHD. I also celebrated International Trade Week by presenting a Queen's Award to Harold Wood business Silverhook, for its work in exporting high-quality British products.

As ever, please drop me and my team an email at Julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk if you have any casework issues or would like us to arrange a tour of Parliament for you.



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ANDREW ROSINDELL

MP for ROMFORD



Westminster has been turbulent, to say the least. Three Prime Ministers in three months is unprecedented. As Sir Iain Duncan Smith once said: "No one out there is interested in who did what to whom in Westminster politics." What the people of Britain truly desire and deserve is stability at the pinnacle of their politics, and the promises of the government fulfilled.

It is for that reason our new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will get my support. I supported Boris and subsequently Liz for the same reason.

We must not be ensnared by the mistakes of the past but reflect and move forward; a theme of particular importance in December.

I, like many of you, had the privilege of observing Remembrance Sunday in Romford. We remembered the tragic loss of millions who died fighting for the

liberties we enjoy as a sovereign and self-determining people. The Armed Forces of this country are the pride of Britain, and we owe them an inestimable debt.

With the quarrels of the last couple of years behind us, I believe we are now heading in the right direction.

From tackling illegal immigration to putting a stop to community-disrupting protests, our current Home Secretary Suella Braverman has what it takes.

I will continue to urge the government to fulfil the promises of the referendum, whether they be the reintegration of Northern Ireland as an integral component of the UK or to secure our borders under an Australian-model immigration system.

We are seeing unparalleled numbers of migrants risk their lives to enter this country. We cannot and will not allow this to continue for not only its monetary impact, but also for the sake of our national security.

Fire forces move to new venue

A local group with members from Hornchurch has moved venues following a fire at its regular home at St Michael's Church.

Meetings for Havering U3A, which take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.15pm, will now take place at the hall of Romford Baptist Church.

The U3A movement encourages people no longer in full-time work to come together and enjoy learning.

Its next meeting on Wednesday, December 14, is titled Christmas with the Rat Pack, presented by Howard Slater. Classic Christmas music, such as hits by Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr and Dean Martin, will help those attending to get into the holiday spirit.

On its website, the Havering U3A group describe its aim as being: "To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle-aged and older people not in full-time gainful employment in Havering and its surrounding localities."

For more information, visit u3asites.org.uk/havering/welcome



Photo credit: Havering U3A

Man attacked with machete during aggravated burglary



Photo credit: Google Maps

A man has been hospitalised after he and his wife were attacked in their home in Hornchurch by four men, including one wielding a machete.

Police attended the property on Park Lane just after 3am on Tuesday, November 8. The victim reported that four men had entered his home and attacked him with a machete and demanded his wife hand over her jewellery and phone.

A spokesperson for the Met Police said: "Police were called at 3.06am on Tuesday, November 8, to a report of a man injured inside a property on Park Lane, Havering.

"Officers attended alongside the London Ambulance Service and found a man, aged in his 40s, suffering with injuries to his head and hand.

"He was taken to hospital where he remains.

"The victim reported that four men had gained access to the house and attacked him with a weapon.

"They also threatened his wife and forced her to hand over jewellery and her phone.

"One man, aged 41, has been arrested on suspicion of aggravated burglary. He has been bailed to return on a date in mid-December.

"Enquiries are ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to call 101 and cite reference 656/8NOV."

Youth Justice Service praised after inspection

The Havering Youth Justice Service has received an overall 'Good' rating following an inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation.

The service, which works with children and young people from Hornchurch and across Havering who are at risk of offending or are involved in offending, was lauded for helping children going through the courts and diverting them from future offending.

However, missed opportunities were noted by the inspectors, with seven recommendations made, including implementing more detailed reports, ensuring all children have access to education suitable

for their needs, and work on assessments of children.

Councillor Oscar Ford, Havering Council's cabinet member for children's services, said: "This is welcome news for the service as it demonstrates the hard work and commitment of the staff and how they are reaching and supporting our children and young people who find themselves in the justice system."

Chief Inspector of Probation Justin Russell said: "We were impressed with many aspects of Havering Youth Justice Service's work, not least its ability to focus on children's diverse needs and understanding of how to divert them away from further offences.

"It has specialists available, such as mental health and education staff, to provide support and keep children safe, which ensures the safety of other people and victims."

Mental health charity to open Christmas attraction

Local mental health charity Mind in Havering, Barking & Dagenham will be running its annual Christmas attraction this month.

Located in Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch, next to the leisure centre, Havering Christmas Land will see the historic Harrow Lodge House lit up and illuminated with twinkling lights.

There will also be a spectacular Christmas lights walkway in the secret garden, a Santa's Grotto, a ride for children, and food and refreshments served alongside mulled wine and German beer.

Entry is £4 per person, with all money helping the charity continue its work in the community. The event takes place between 4.30pm and 8pm on selected dates throughout December, with the Christmas walkway and Santa's Grotto requiring booking owing to expected high demand.

For more information and to buy tickets, please visit www.haveringmind.org.uk/christmas-2022



Photo credit: Havering Christmas Land Facebook



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News from

Councillor Paul Middleton

St Andrews Ward, Hornchurch Residents' Association



Armistice Day

Armistice Day in Hornchurch was well attended. The residents crowded the streets and several followed the procession from Appleton Way through the town centre to St Andrew's Church. Father Whiley gave a lovely sermon in memory of the ladies and gentlemen who gave their lives to keep us safe.

The data centre option

Havering has been presented with the option of building a large data centre, outside the M25, near the Worley power station.

As with any large construction project, there will be a mixture of good and bad news.

In this case, the bad news is that the area this is being considered for is green belt land.

The good news is that from the 500 acres of land, 350 acres will be turned from low-grade agricultural land into an ecology park with public access.

From the remaining 150 acres, the land will be split between the data centre and an experimental vertical farm. The farm will be run in partnership with the University of Leicester and will be powered by the heat generated at the data centre. If all goes well, this could be a blueprint for further farming in the UK.

The data centre will also produce income to help reduce the large deficit Havering Council is facing. This is not a silver bullet that will resolve all our issues, but it will go a distance to help us.

The decision on whether or not to proceed has not yet been taken. If this does go ahead, the administration will be looking to assign green belt status to current land that is not protected within Havering.

Christmas

As we approach Christmas, I hope there is a sense of joy and wonder in the air. If you celebrate Christmas, I hope you have a good one.

Unbeaten home run continues

Hornchurch FC's unbeaten run at home in the Isthmian Football League continued throughout November, with a draw against Haringey Borough and a win over Wingate & Finchley.

Playing against Wingate & Finchley on November 5 without their two leading scorers, they struggled to create chances until midway through the second half when Charlie Stimson and Danny Green scored.

The Urchins also earned a win away against Billericay Town in the league, leaving them a point off the top of the table, as well as a 3-1 win over Brightlingsea Regent in the Essex Senior Cup.

After the game against Wingate & Finchley, Hornchurch manager Mark Stimson said: "I think it was a fantastic result. To lose your top goal scorers in [Sam] Higgins and [Liam] Nash before the game can be a blow, but full credit to the boys they stepped up."

On Hornchurch sitting near the top of the table going into six consecutive away games, he said: "We're delighted. I know the crowd were singing and enjoying themselves, but all I can talk about is points per 10 games."

"We face some difficult games in the coming weeks, and all we'll do is attack each game as it comes."



Photo credit: Nicolas Datche/SIPA/Shutterstock

KFC キラジ!

Did you know that while you're tucking into your roast turkey and all the trimmings on Christmas Day, over in Japan, they're chowing down on crispy chicken with a selection of sides?

HOW DO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

In Japan, Christmas is still a secular holiday as less than one per cent of the population identify as Christian. Instead, they use this holiday as a time for families and friends to have parties, make plans for dinner and enjoy general celebrations.

WHAT IS THE JAPANESE KFC CHRISTMAS CRAZE?

An estimated 3.6 million Japanese families treat themselves to KFC every festive season, with what has to be one of the world's most unique Christmas food traditions.

In fact, demand is so high that locals often have to queue for hours to get their hands on a bucket or two of this popular cuisine.

HOW DID THIS TRADITION START?

This peculiar demand for KFC at Christmas came about because of a campaign that was inspired by Takeshi Okawara, the manager of the first-ever KFC in Japan. Shortly after it opened in 1970, he woke up at midnight with the idea to sell a 'party barrel' of fried chicken on Christmas Day. In 1974, the marketing campaign went national, calling it Kurisumasu ni wa Kentakkii, or Kentucky for Christmas. The rest, as they say, is history.

WHAT DOES THE KFC CHRISTMAS MEAL CONSIST OF?

As well as buckets of fried chicken, families in Japan tuck into lots of sides, cakes and even wine. Some of this year's offerings include:

- > A box of chicken for 3,780 yen (around £22)
- > A party box with eight pieces of chicken, a lasagne and a chocolate cake for 4,000 yen (around £25)
- > A premium roasted chicken and sides for 5,800 yen (around £35)

On average, these packages account for a whopping one-third of the chain's yearly sales in Japan.

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WHY IT'S VITAL TO KEEP YOUR GUTTERS CLEAR AND RUNNING SMOOTHLY

The sight of water either pooling in a gutter or, worse still, spilling out over the side of it, can signal real issues for your home. The autumn and winter months bring together the ultimate combination of factors that mean it pays to check your gutters now before any problems have the chance to get worse.

Your utter gutter nightmare is started by an accumulation of plant debris, sticks, twigs, leaves and bracken. This can be blown onto your roof, dropped by flying birds or, as far as moss goes, may have grown there.

This accumulation of dead matter can form an impenetrable path for rainwater, leading to leaks, damp and mould. A constant drip of liquid over a surface will soon compromise brick material and coatings, with the water penetrating through gaps in the mortar. It will eventually hit your internal plaster layer, often getting trapped behind paint and wallpaper, whereby it will spread across the wall.

The first you may know about this is a discolouration of wallpaper, or a slightly wet stain that's cold to the touch. At this point, that handful of stuck leaves may have compromised an entire wall, which will require drying out and possible replastering.

Externally, blocked gutters can also rot wooden fascia boards around your roof. These are in place to deflect water and wind from the property, and when they deteriorate, their effectiveness drops.

Finally, blocked gutters can also lead to foundation damage; and if you have a cellar or basement – or any other room below surface level – this will be particularly susceptible to flooding.

While you may imagine scaling a ladder in order to hook out a handful of decomposing matter is easy, it often pays to enlist professional help to ensure the job is done properly.

Gutter maintenance specialists will know what to do if they encounter animals or nests, and they may also be able to attend to other quick bits of maintenance, such as replacing loose or broken tiles.



Create your own SENSORY GARDEN

A sensory garden is designed to stimulate the five basic senses of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste, and has the ability to enhance your sense of wellbeing, reduce stress and calm the mind. Find out the best sensory garden plants and features below.

CURRY PLANT: An evergreen shrub that boasts silvery grey foliage and pale yellow flowers, the curry plant provides a beautiful aroma and is known for attracting bees and other pollinators. Plant in a sunny, sheltered spot in well-drained soil and trim regularly to help it keep its shape.

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES: Ornamental grasses such as pampas grass and architectural seed heads add structure and movement to a sensory garden. Pick creeping, hanging and straight standing grasses for maximum effect.

LAMB'S EAR: Featuring velvety foliage that looks just like a pair of lamb's ears, this evergreen perennial produces stunning purple-pink flowers in the summer months that promise to add colour and depth to your garden. Plant them in open borders with other perennials or grow in containers.

WILD STRAWBERRIES: Wild strawberry, known as *fragaria vesca*, produces small and super-sweet fruit that is perfect for stimulating your senses of smell and taste. This plant loves partial sun and fairly damp conditions.

LAVENDER: Easy to grow and care for, lavender can add both scent and colour to your garden, as well as attracting pollinators. Weave in among other summer-blooming flowers or plant near your home to enjoy its strong aroma whenever you pop your head outside the door.

A WATER FEATURE: A water feature such as a pond, fountain or bird bath makes a great addition to a sensory garden. Providing beautiful reflections, calming sounds and contrasting texture, it will also attract wildlife and a wide variety of colourful birds.



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SCAN ME

COMPANIONS at Christmas



PETS

Christmas is a time to relax and spend time with your loved ones. And your four-legged family members also love the chance to enjoy more time together, as well as greeting visitors, taking in different sights and smells, and giving you puppy-dog eyes for extra treats.

Your dog can bring joy this Christmas, and hanging out together can also help you escape from the seasonal stress.

Dog behaviourist Zoe Willingham, who has 23 pups, shares seven magical moments you can enjoy this Christmas.

1. Count down to Santa Paws' arrival with their own doggy advent calendar and make them happy every morning.

2. Give them a special toy to play with when you dress the Christmas tree so they're not jumping up at the baubles.

3. Top up your training to make sure they have the essential skills to wow your guests and anyone you visit with their impeccable manners.

4. Get social and enjoy a festive feast at your favourite dog-friendly pub or restaurant.

5. Wrap up warm and get outdoors together. It might be chilly, but being in the fresh air, taking in the scents, and spending time with you means your dog will be happy and content.

6. After your wintry walk, what's cuter than seeing your dog curled up snoozing while you watch your favourite Christmas film?

7. Your pup is sure to be top of Santa's Nice List, so make sure they have a doggy stocking packed with fun toys and healthy treats to open on Christmas morning.

Want to chat about fun activities you can enjoy with your dog or ask a question about training? For more tips and advice, please visit www.bestbehaviourdogtraining.co.uk



Queen for 70 years

BUT COULD IT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT?

Would Elizabeth have become queen if her uncle, King Edward VIII, hadn't renounced the throne to marry the woman he loved? And would she have reigned for so long?

In December 1936, King Edward VIII abdicated the throne to marry divorcee Wallis Simpson. This was because he didn't want to live without the woman he loved by his side and, at the time, the Church of England didn't allow divorced people like Mrs Simpson to remarry in church if their ex-spouse was still alive. And as Edward was the nominal head of the church, it was felt he had no choice but to step aside.

So the crown passed to Edward's younger brother, who became King George VI. When George died in 1952, aged just 56, his elder daughter, the 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth, became queen. As Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, she became the UK's longest-ever reigning monarch – leading the country for 70 years until her death earlier this year.

But what would have happened if things had gone differently?

What if Edward had married Mrs Simpson but refused to give up the throne? Because the couple didn't have children together, Edward's younger brother George would still have been his heir. Edward survived his younger brother by 20 years – so the crown would have still gone to Elizabeth. But this would have happened in 1972, not 1952. So she would have ruled for 50 years rather than the record-breaking 70.

It's also possible that Edward would have had at least one child if he'd married someone other than Mrs Simpson. The line of succession would then have passed through this child – and Elizabeth may have never become queen.

Another line of thought is that Edward's attitude to the monarchy and politics was troublesome, and the monarchy wouldn't have survived his rule.

But that's another story.

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ANALOGUE TELEPHONE (1970)

Stylish, slick, colourful, and with echoes of art deco, this was arguably the best thing the 1970s produced when it came to fashion. Although it's only worth £40 now, that's still significantly more than a new home phone.

POLAROID CAMERA (1974)

Classic, contemporary and, at the time, sitting at the very peak of stills technology. Nowadays, the 195 is almost unusable.

However, if you've got one of these lingering around, you could be pocketing anything up to £600. Smile for the camera.

CASIO CALCULATOR WATCH (1983)

We've all been sat on the bus desperate to work out something using Pythagoras, and Casio found the

answer. Nowadays, Siri will do it for you, and you can invest the £275 it'll make you in other ways... a full-sized abacus, perhaps.

NINTENDO GAMEBOY (1989)

Where personal gaming began, the Nintendo, in both design and playability, was utterly unique.

This is one of those rare items that still has as much to offer as it did when released, but if you've got one at the back of the cupboard, you might want to cash it in for up to £250 and buy yourself a new Xbox instead.

IPOD CLASSIC (2001)

Anyone who thinks mass-storage phones have made iPods largely valueless needs to think again. This classic from 2001 was Apple's first punt at the music market, and stored what seemed, at the time, a bewildering 1,000 tracks. It's now moved into 'antique' mode and will make you a cool £150, although remember to wipe that Gareth Gates album off it first.



A new way OF LIVING



THE TREND FOR COMMUNAL LIVING IS HERE, AND IT'S CALLED COLIVING

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It is an innovative social construct that uses a new blueprint for accommodation design, whereby tenants in a space have individual rooms, but shared social and kitchen areas.

The concept is much the same as you would have in a student house, though the target market is very much young professionals, and the architectural and interior finish reflects a demographic who are in employment and looking to build careers and interactions with like-minded people.

While in terms of location, Coliving can provide a huge advantage with reductions in commuting time

and cost, an additional environmental impact comes by way of shared amenities, all-inclusive bills and communal events and facilities.

While for some young people the idea of being thrown into a space with a number of strangers may be daunting, Coliving spaces are typically extremely careful to maintain high safety standards for residents, with letting agents carefully screening both residents and staff, and most include a 24/7 concierge service to help manage the building.

Coliving also provides flexibility for residents who don't want to be caught in long-term renting situations; nor might they have the ability to put a large deposit down. Instead, a rental term might be for just a few days up to a few months, and longer if desired.

What people therefore get is a ready-made community of like-minded people, excellent facilities, and all the social and practical benefits of living in a central, busy part of town.



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CHARACTER

CHRISTMAS CREATIONS

Do you love creating handmade cards and gifts for your family and friends at Christmas? These handprint and footprint designs are super cute and offer the perfect way to personalise a wide range of presents this festive season.

If you are making a custom plate or mug, after following the below steps, apply a glaze with a brush or sponge to protect from water and wear and tear.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

YOU WILL NEED:

Child-safe paint (red or brown) such as finger paints or poster paints | Red pom poms or buttons | Goggle eyes | PVA glue | A small bell | Ribbon | What you would like to print on – A4 card, a roll of paper to make wrapping paper, plate, etc

HOW TO MAKE:

- > If making a card, fold the A4 card in half.
- > Dip your child's hands in the paint and place on the front of the white card – these are the reindeer's antlers.
- > Dip one of your child's feet in the paint and place on the card below the handprints – this is the reindeer's face.
- > Glue the eyes to the top of the footprint.
- > Glue a button or a red pom pom to the centre of the footprint for the nose.
- > Glue the bell and ribbon to the heel area of the foot.

Father Christmas

YOU WILL NEED:

Red and white poster paint | Cotton wool | PVA glue | Goggle eyes | Black marker pen | What you would like to print on – card, wrapping paper, plate, mug, etc

HOW TO MAKE:

- > If making a card, fold the A4 card in half.
- > Paint your child's fingers in white paint.
- > Paint the lower half of their palm and thumb red.
- > Paint the top of their palm peach (mix some red and white paint together to make this colour).
- > Press down on the coloured card.
- > Once dry, draw on Santa's face and glue on the eyes.
- > Stick cotton wool at the end of the thumbprint and along the top of the red to form Santa's hat.
- > If painting an item of crockery, omit the cotton wool; use enamel paint instead and apply a clear gloss glaze to finish.



Photo credit: twinkl UK



KIDS

BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE *Fiesta*



WITH NEWS THAT THE FORD FIESTA IS TO TAKE A PERMANENT SIESTA, WE CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF THIS BRITISH MOTORING MAINSTAY

If there is one car that portrays the modern era of motoring, it is undoubtedly the Ford Fiesta.

It was 1976 when the first Fiestas rolled off the Ford production plant in Dagenham, arrowing their way to the driveways of motorists looking for an affordable, fuel-efficient and fun way to conquer the roads.

The Fiesta has always been instantly recognisable among an ever-increasing and sometimes perplexing range of Ford models. Indeed, even though its lifespan traverses four decades and eight generations, the car that has shifted more than 22 million units – one fifth of those in the UK – has always stood out as the ultimate fun run-around.

The car has come in saloon, hatchback and even convertible versions – always nippy, always chic, and with a speediness that belies what has always been a modest price tag.

Indeed, the Fiesta epitomised a new generation of car buyers through the 1980s, who were keen to ditch the clumsy, clunky motors of the era, looking instead for a rather more streamlined and sporty approach.

Yet while the model arrived as a mark of practicality and fashion, it has found its exit governed by the same elements, ultimately being undone by the green car revolution. Hence Ford is also ditching the Galaxy and the S-Max, with the last of these being produced next April. Instead, the manufacturer – which has slipped to fifth globally in recent years, behind Toyota, Volkswagen, Hyundai and General Motors – is channelling all its energy into three new electric passenger vehicles and a further four new commercial models.

The Fiesta's day may be done, but the car's presence will be celebrated on our roads for many years to come.

Photo credit: emrhankearunuk/Shutterstock.com, redbubble.com

BOWLED OVER



ENGLAND CLINCH T20 WORLD CUP SUCCESS

England's hard-hitting, bombastic-bowling T20 side are the best in the world – their clinching of the World Cup in Australia in the middle of November capped a memorable few weeks Down Under, in which captain Jos Buttler MBE's side battled back from adversity to lift their first world crown since back in 2010.

Chasing a modest Pakistan total of 137 in the Melbourne final, an early batting wobble was calmed by the inspirational Ben Stokes OBE, as England knocked off the required runs with an over to spare.

It was another monstrous moment for Stokes, who has made a habit of being England's go-to man for the big occasion. Indeed, when entering the crease with the side 45/3, there were fears his side might wilt at the final hurdle, having got themselves into the final despite a group defeat to Ireland and a rain washout draw versus Australia.

Perhaps we shouldn't have worried. After all, it's getting to be something of a regular thing, both for Stokes and in the way the England team have showed real prowess in their white-ball cricket over the past few years.

Stokes was instrumental as the Three Lions clinched the ODI World Cup in 2019, and although he has stepped down from 50-over duties now, he will look to overturn the odds and inspire the Test side to victory over Australia in next year's Ashes.

In the final, he smashed 52 off 49 balls to steer his side home, with Buttler's 26 and Harry Brook's 20 other notable contributions.

No one can question the fact that England were deserving champions. On the way to lifting the trophy, they defeated T20 heavyweights New Zealand, Sri Lanka and India, and in the final, repelled the threat of arguably the most feared bowling attack in the game, as Pakistan failed to find the breakthroughs they needed.



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SPORT

BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS...

A score to REMEMBER

Each month, we look at one of the most significant events in British sporting history. This month, we go back 21 years to England's famous 5-1 victory over the Germans at the Olympic Stadium in Munich.

"This is getting better and better and better," enthused John Motson OBE as Michael Owen sauntered through to propel England into a 4-1 lead against old foes Germany. And there was still more to come as Emile Heskey made it five, capping a special night for Liverpool, as all the goals were scored by Reds; for Sven-Göran Eriksson, who truly arrived as Three Lions' manager on that incredible Saturday evening; and for England fans everywhere, who finally felt justified in putting expectation over hope.

Of course, the expectations we had over the so-called Golden Generation were, in fact, misplaced. England crashed out to a freak Ronaldinho goal in the World Cup finals the following year, then suffered countless other false dawns throughout the Noughties, more often than not involving penalty

shoot-outs... for a change.

However, on that special night in Munich, all was good with the world. Very good. England had trailed to Carsten Jancker's fifth-minute goal, but Owen's hat-trick and Steven Gerrard MBE's piledriver on the stroke of half-time confirmed a special night for British sport.

Not only had England exorcised the spectre of Euros heartbreak five years previously, but they'd also exacted revenge on the Germans for the 1-0 defeat they suffered at the old Wembley Stadium in 2000 – a match that was to be Kevin Keegan's final game in charge.

That his replacement, the enigmatic Swede Eriksson, had turned the tide to such an

extent in the 11 months in between, was a big part of arguably the most complete England performance of a generation (and right up there with the 4-1 hammering of the Netherlands at Wembley at the 1996 Euros).

The project may not have finished the way it should have, but we could revel in the glory for one night.

Deutschland
England
1 : 5
Olympiastadion:
München

Photo credit: Associated Press

ONE SMALL STEP FOR YOU, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR YOUR BUSINESS



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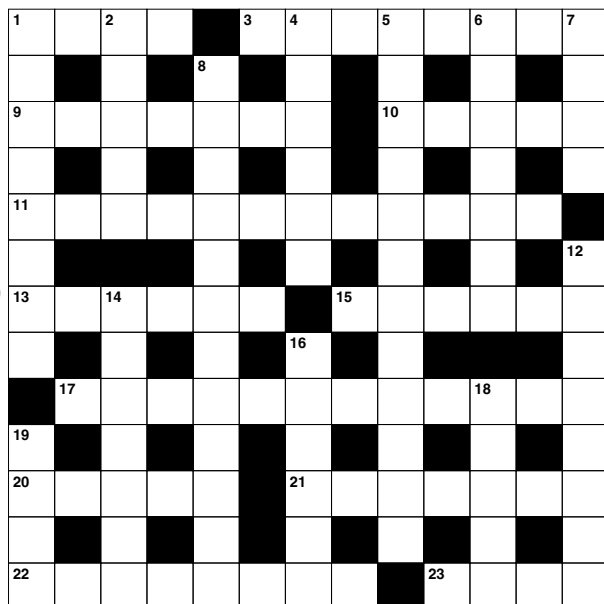
PUZZLES & TRIVIA

ACROSS

1. Prima donna (4)
3. Stated emphatically (8)
9. Shackle (7)
10. Animal that walks on two legs (5)
11. Narcissism (4-8)
13. Contributes information (6)
15. Not noticed (6)
17. Easy to converse with (12)
20. Person who flies an aircraft (5)
21. Pays no attention to (7)
22. Where photographs are developed (8)
23. Stitches (4)

DOWN

1. Relating to the home (8)
2. Type of plastic (5)
4. Constructs a building (6)
5. Intricate and confusing (12)
6. Retaliatory action (7)
7. Extinct bird (4)
8. Author of screenplays (12)
12. Opposites (8)
14. Liked by many people (7)
16. Gambling house (6)
18. Flat-bottomed boat (5)
19. Moved quickly (4)



DID YOU KNOW?

- Christmas takes place on December 25 – the day the Roman Catholic Church chose to mark Jesus' birthday. No one actually knows the exact date Jesus was born.
- Not everyone celebrates Christmas on the same day. For example, Greek Orthodox Christians often celebrate on January 7.
- Many Christmas traditions come from the Victorian era, including crackers, roast turkey and gift-giving.
- Christmas trees were first seen in Germany in the 16th century, when fir trees were decorated with fruit and nuts.
- *Jingle Bells* was originally a Thanksgiving song written in 1850.
- It only took six weeks for Charles Dickens to write *A Christmas Carol*.

SUDOKU

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7	5			1			4	
8						5		
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