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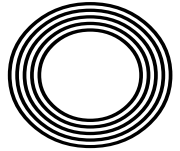
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Editor's notes...

APRIL 2022



Nik Allen, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION** Leigh Thorpe Bay. It's fair to say we've all been shocked and saddened by events in Ukraine, as Putin's military offensive tears apart the lives of millions of innocent people.

It's difficult to see any silver lining in skies filled with the rain of artillery shelling, yet there is perhaps one, and it is significant in protecting us from the catastrophe of a full-on world war.

The answer is the digital age. In the past, wars were fought with tanks and guns, whereas we now live in an age where disincentives for conflict can be laid by freezing of funds, removal of services and banning of oligarchs.

Russia's army pursued Ukraine through bloody warfare, yet back in Russia, the everyday trades, services and liberties that were afforded their citizens are being squeezed.

It gives me hope that wars these days are about more than who has the biggest weaponry. We are so interconnected by the digital age, that threatening to flick a switch might be the most dynamic deterrent.

I can only hope that Putin realises quickly that while punishing the people of Ukraine, he is doing the very same thing to his own.

Nik Allen

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SEWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS



Photo credit: BBC and Comic Relief



FROM NOSE CLIPS TO KNITTING NEEDLES, TOM DALEY OBE'S DIVE FOR DELIGHT GOES ON

There is a perennial youth about Tom Daley OBE that sets him apart from so many of our other stars of the pool.

Sure, he possesses all the boyish good looks and charm he had when first making waves – although, as a diver, preferably not too many – back in 2008 with his first of four Olympic appearances.

The shelf life for a competitive diver is usually preciously short, particularly when combined with constant invitations to engage in media duties, campaign work and promotional activity.

Yet Daley has maintained focus, kept an eye on the prize and, in what may well be regarded as the heyday of his career, is arguably more successful than ever, having scooped gold in the Tokyo Olympics last year on the 10m board.

"I love what I do, and while it's great to have a

career in the media, that's never what I set out to achieve," he says. "What I wanted, from day one, was to be successful, and I'm not going to give that up until my body tells me it's time to."

It has been a whirlwind 12 months for Daley, who was named Best Male Diver at the LEN Awards this year and came second in BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Yet it was in partnering Matty Lee on the 10m board at the 2020 Tokyo Games last year – the event being delayed by a year because of COVID-19 – that Daley recounts as his greatest Olympic performance of them all.

He says: "It was a case of eighth time lucky, you might say. It was one of those events where you start well, hold your momentum, then it suddenly comes into focus that you might have a real chance of doing something special.

"It validates everything I have put into the sport."

And while Daley is a public figure with a hugely marketable profile – "I don't really think of myself as anything other than a diver... fashion photoshoots always involve me wearing more clothes than I do for my day job" – much of his desire to keep achieving in the sport he loves has been at the expense of other professional opportunities, as well as a proper home life. He wed American screenwriter, director and producer Dustin Lance Black in 2017, and a year later the couple had a son together, named Robbie.

"There is a huge toll on your private life in a sport such as this, but I try my best to balance things," says the double world and six-time British champion.

Daley, who recently launched knitting website Made With Love, is a passionate philanthropist. Recently,

he completed a gruelling four-day challenge in which he rowed, cycled, ran and, of course, swam the distance between the Olympic Park in Stratford and his home town of Plymouth, to raise money for Comic Relief.

When Tom finally reached the finish line, he said: "If you can, please donate what you can to Red Nose Day because it would make a world of difference to so many families all across the country.

"To come home and see all my family here, as well as so many people, is pretty special, so thank you. I don't really know what else to say other than I just need to go and sleep for about six years. Thank you all so much and love you.

"It was one of my toughest challenges yet, but epitomises how I just want to keep pushing myself forward."



STORM CHAOS

STORM EUNICE MAY HAVE BLOWN ITSELF OUT, BUT THE AFTER-EFFECTS ARE LONGER LASTING

Storm Eunice came, saw and conquered. She may have taken the name of someone your grandmother used to bump into at the local jumble sales, but there was nothing charitable about this confrontational weather system that wreaked havoc over the course of a three-day period, causing damage estimated at more than £350million.

Eunice was one of the most powerful to hit the south coast of England since the Great Storm of 1987. A top wind speed of 122mph whipped round The Needles of the Isle of Wight, while inland trees were felled, roofs damaged – including that of The O2 arena – transport routes closed, and major incident warnings issued by the emergency services.

More than a million homes were left without power at various points across a 72-hour period, beginning on February 17.

Ultimately, Eunice blew herself out, and gradually things have got back to normal; although for the

families of the three fatalities of the UK storm, things will never be the same again.

The naming of storms has always provoked interest, although the practice is relatively new and only dates back to November 2015, when Abigail was the first to be named. The Met Office decided labelling them would do more to alert people to how dangerous they could be, as well as making the reporting and following of them an easier task. There is real science behind the theory too – the human brain attaches a stronger emotional tie to a name than it does to a concept.

What we shouldn't do is confuse a relatively gentle title for something that, at its worst, can be fatal. Dudley, Gladys and Ruby may sound sweet and unassuming, but they're anything but at 3am as tiles are ripped from your roof.

The best news is that the Met Office invites people to send in their own suggestions of names – email nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk with your own cute (or totally terrifying) choice.

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5 USES FOR

SODA CRYSTALS



Cheap and versatile, soda crystals can be used for so much more than just softening water or cleaning your washing machine. A powerhouse of a product, soda crystals will fast become your go-to cleaner for many common household tasks.

1. TO UNBLOCK THE SINK – If your plugholes become clogged with food waste, debris and grease, you are likely to experience unpleasant odours and slow-draining water. Rectify this by pouring one cup of soda crystals directly down the plughole, followed by a kettle of boiled water.

2. TO CLEAN YOUR EXTRACTOR FILTER FAN – If your extractor fan is covered in grease, this can be easily remedied with soda crystals. Create a strong solution using one cup of soda crystals and one pint of water, pour into a bowl, and let your filter soak for 10-15 minutes. Scrub any leftover residue using a sponge and then rinse.

3. TO REMOVE ALGAE FROM PATIO OR DECKING – Over the winter, your outdoor patio or decking may have succumbed to algae and moss. To get it looking new again, create a regular solution of soda crystals using ½ cup of crystals and one pint of water and pour over the surface. Leave to sit for an hour, scrub with a firm bristle brush and rinse with a hose.

4. TO RESTORE CARPETS AND RUGS – Soda crystals are the perfect cleaning solution for dull and faded carpets or rugs. All you need to do is sprinkle an even layer of soda crystals over the area and leave for a few minutes. Then apply your normal carpet cleaner to finish.

5. TO SOFTEN TOWELS – Crunchy towels are the worst, but fortunately, this problem can be easily solved by soaking them in a regular solution of soda crystals – mix ½ cup of soda crystals and one pint of warm water. Leave for one hour then rinse.





3 REMOVAL REMEDIES FOR

BLACK MOULD



Black mould is a common, yet nasty, household problem that no homeowner likes to face. However, there are remedies that promise to eradicate all signs of this troublesome tarnish.

BAKING SODA: If you want a natural remedy to remove black mould from your home, then a little baking soda is all you need. Used for generations to banish black mould, baking soda has a pH level of around 8-8.1, which is too high to allow mould to thrive.

HOW TO MAKE AND APPLY A BAKING SODA SOLUTION:
Add ¼ tsp of baking soda to 2 cups of water | Pour into a spray bottle | Liberally spray the affected area and scrub thoroughly with a brush | Rinse with cold water | Treat again to prevent the mould from returning.

VINEGAR: Another natural remedy, vinegar is acidic, with a pH of around 2.5, which means it can attack the structure of mould and actively break it down.

HOW TO APPLY VINEGAR:
Pour undiluted vinegar into a spray bottle | Spray directly onto the affected area | Leave for 15 minutes | Spray again and wait a further 15 minutes | Wipe clean with a damp rag.

BLEACH: Known for its ability to kill practically everything in its path, bleach is a powerful cleaner that can effectively get rid of black mould on non-porous surfaces such as tiles and sinks. The only problem with using bleach is that you need to be aware of the bleach fumes. Make sure you wear rubber gloves and a faceguard before you start cleaning.

HOW TO MAKE AND APPLY A BLEACH SOLUTION:
Mix one part bleach with four parts water | Pour onto the affected area and gently scrub with a damp cloth | Once finished, dry the area with a soft cloth.

OUR TOP TIPS FOR PREVENTING BLACK MOULD: Invest in a dehumidifier | Keep kitchens and bathrooms well ventilated | Tackle leaks as soon as they appear | Spread out towels and shower curtains to dry.



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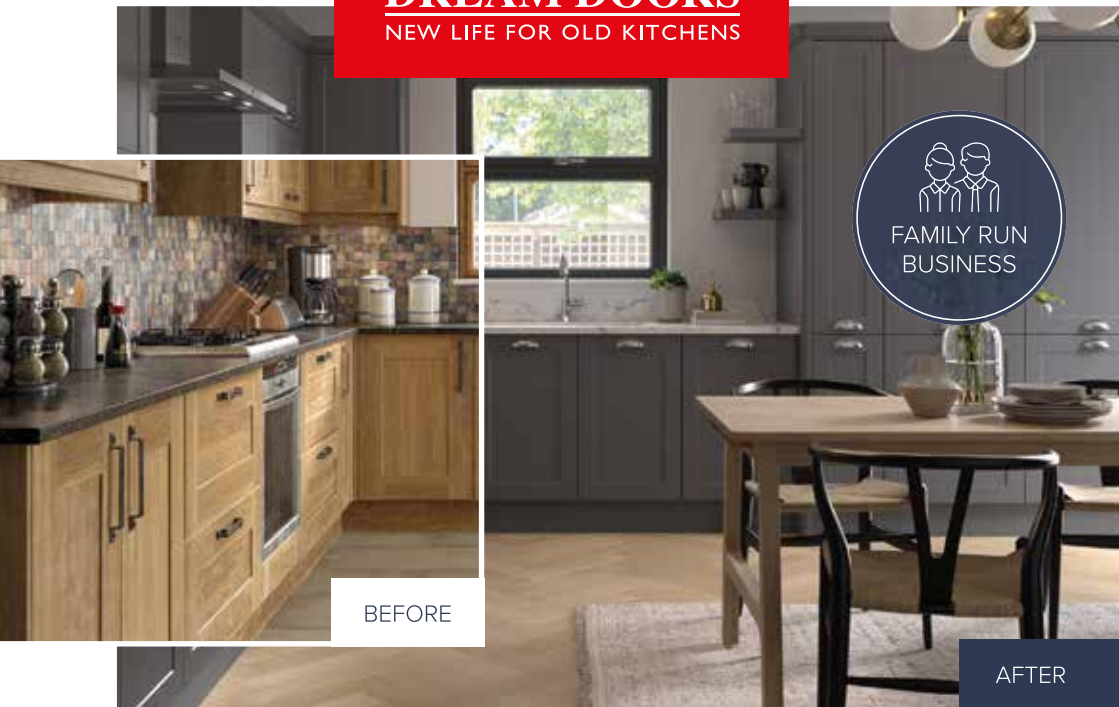
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NICK OF TIME

NICK KNOWLES CELEBRATES 30 YEARS ON OUR SCREENS

When Nick Knowles said an emotional farewell to his *DIY SOS* show at the end of 2021, it brought the curtain down on an impressive period of renovating, refreshing and reviving people's living spaces. It's a shame the 59 year old's tenure ended in such acrimonious fashion – the presenter was unceremoniously binned after appearing in an advert for Shreddies. In mimicking his role in *DIY SOS*, he had broken a BBC contract rule, and the axe fell. Comedian Rhod Gilbert replaced Knowles, who has since not been short of offers for new work. So it appears that life – and home improvements – continue.

Knowles got his break in television back in the early 1990s as a reporter on nightly news show *Coast to Coast*, which aired on TVS, the precursor to ITV Meridian.

From 1994, he presented a motorcycle programme called *Ridge Riders* for eight years, before the BBC saw Knowles' potential and

matched him up with Lowri Turner for a new-launch DIY show that would ride on the coattails of the hugely successful *Changing Rooms*.

The format of *DIY SOS* was fast-paced and usually leant on solving property issues for those in need of help, rather than people simply wanting a change of decor.

The success of *DIY SOS* led Knowles into daytime shows such as *Real Rescues*, *Wildest Dreams* and *Last Choir Standing*. However, it was becoming a game show host, notably through the lottery programme, that shaped the charismatic Southall-born frontman. *Who Dares Wins*, *Secret Fortune*, *Perfection* and *Break the Safe* guided him to star presenter status, and the inevitable *I'm A Celebrity* invitation. He subsequently finished sixth in the 2018 show, which was won by Harty Redknapp.

As for what comes next, Knowles's *Heritage Rescue* show on Quest looks at historic buildings in need of restoration – proof that there's always another DIY project lurking just around the corner.

Photo credit: Jake Morley/BAPTA/Shutterstock



WALK-IN SHOWER vs



WET ROOM



Walk-in showers and wet rooms have never been more popular, with families, professional couples and people with mobility issues all taking advantage of their stylish and practical designs.

However, what exactly is the difference between a walk-in shower and a wet room? And which one is right for your home?

WHAT IS A WALK-IN SHOWER?

Walk-in showers typically exist on a shower tray that has been installed directly onto the floor. They are not an extension of a bath and instead have their own cubicle. They are built as low to the main surface of the bathroom as possible so that you can enjoy a seamless transition from one space to the next.

WHAT IS A WET ROOM?

A wet room is a completely waterproof bathroom space that features a shower area that is flush with the rest of the floor. Water drains through a drain that is usually located in the shower section, and the room can include a shower screen to reduce spray in the bathroom.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIFFERENCES?

While a wet room is an open-plan space in which the floor has been altered to allow water to drain from it, a walk-in shower features a low-profile shower tray that has either one or two glass screens. Both options provide easy access and style. Often, homeowners opt for a walk-in shower if they do not have the budget for a wet room.

WHY CHOOSE A WALK-IN SHOWER?

- > Ideal for smaller bathrooms or en suites
- > Perfect for people with limited mobility due to the low shower tray
- > Offers a minimalist design
- > More affordable than a wet room
- > Low maintenance

WHY CHOOSE A WET ROOM?

- > Easy access for the elderly and disabled
- > Incredibly luxurious
- > Suitable for small and large bathrooms
- > Easy to clean
- > Can add value to your home.

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LOCAL NEWS

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LOCAL NEWS LEIGH-ON-SEA



Surge of support for Ukraine crisis from residents

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council (LoSTC) has been working with local groups to provide a donation point to support those affected by the crisis in Ukraine.

Donations are being collected at Leigh Community Centre, which are then taken to The MegaCentre in Rayleigh before being transported to Poland and Ukraine.

A huge number of donations have already been received and the appeal is ongoing; however, donations of blankets, clothing, bedding and some foods are no longer being accepted. Surplus items will be given to local food banks and charities.

Staff and councillors at LoSTC have thanked the army of volunteers who have helped to pack boxes and deliver donations, as well as residents for coming together to provide whatever help they can.

Leigh Community Centre is open for donations on an ongoing basis, from 9am to 9pm Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 4pm on Friday.

The most needed items are bandages, men's underwear, baby bottles, baby food and formula milk, dog and cat food, disposable cutlery, cough syrup, dioralyte, ibuprofen, paracetamol, batteries, torches, matches, candles and thermal camping mats.

Police appeal for witnesses following assault

Essex Police officers are appealing for witnesses following an assault in Leigh-on-Sea.

Police were called to The Oakleigh bar in London Road at 12.45am on Sunday, February 6, after reports that a man had been punched. The victim suffered cuts and bruises to his face.

Police enquiries are ongoing and they are asking for any witnesses to contact them. If you have any information, you can submit a report online at www.essex.police.uk or call 101, quoting incident 60 of February 6.





Air ambulance called after car crash



Photo credit: Trevor Greenfield

An air ambulance was spotted arriving in Leigh-on-Sea last month following an accident.

The ambulance landed in Eastwood Park after a car crashed into the front wall of a house on Hudson Crescent on Thursday, March 10.

A man was transported by land to Southend University Hospital for treatment.

A spokesperson for East of England Ambulance Service said: "We were called to Hudson Crescent on March 10 after receiving reports of a collision. An ambulance, ambulance officer and Essex & Herts Air Ambulance attended. Crews treated a male patient at the scene before transporting him by road to Southend Hospital for further assessment and care."

ambulance, ambulance officer and Essex & Herts Air Ambulance attended. Crews treated a male patient at the scene before transporting him by road to Southend Hospital for further assessment and care."

Council seeks views on new branding concepts

Southend-on-Sea City Council is asking for opinions on proposed concepts for a new logo as part of a rebrand of the former town.

After the area celebrated achieving city status on March 1, the council agreed to change its name to Southend-on-Sea City Council.

Last month, the council's cabinet discussed four branding concepts developed by local company, Formara, and will seek the views of local people, businesses and key stakeholders.

Leader of the council, councillor Ian Gilbert, says: "The cabinet report builds on cross-party engagement through working groups and conversations with all political groups to work towards developing a new corporate brand for the council. This engagement has informed the four options that we would be seeking feedback on.

"The exciting change to a city includes a name change for the council and an opportunity to look forward as a strong, ambitious and cohesive city

with new branding. Four ideas have been carefully developed and we want to gather people's views."

At a Scrutiny Committee meeting on March 16, the item was referred back to cabinet. The next cabinet meeting is not until after the local elections, so the public engagement and next steps cannot happen until after the elections have taken place in May.

School pupil wins design competition with new logo

A Leigh-on-Sea pupil has won a competition to design a new logo as part of a programme of events to help educate young people on recycling.

A total of eight local schools submitted 130 entries for the competition to design a logo for PlastiCity, a project aiming to increase commercial and industrial plastic waste recycling.

The PlastiCity team selected four finalists, whose designs then went to public vote on Southend-on-Sea City Council's social media channels.

The winning entry came from Deililah Eastwood (pictured below right), nine, from Leigh North Street Primary School, whose logo design will be used at future PlastiCity events.

Deililah won a PlastiCity trophy, which was made from recycled plastic and donated by local company, 3D Filaprint. She also won a certificate, a £20 voucher and a framed copy of her design.

In addition, the school received a £50 voucher to go towards environmental education, with all prizes sponsored by Thorpe Hall School. Three other pupils from Leigh North Street Primary School received a certificate and badge as runners-up.

Councillor Carole Mulroney, Southend-on-Sea City Council's cabinet member for environment, culture, tourism and planning (pictured below left), attended an assembly to hand out the awards.

She said: "It is so important for us to involve our young people in any work to help promote recycling of plastics. These children are the future of our city, and the passion they showed throughout was exhilarating.

"I would like to thank all of the schools and students who participated in the competition."



Photo credit: Southend-on-Sea City Council

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Photo credit: Essex Police

Former teacher jailed for child sexual abuse offences

A former teacher from Thorpe Bay was jailed for more than two years following a number of child sexual offences.

Bobby Rudd (pictured inset), 36, of Pentland Avenue, Thorpe Bay, was jailed for 28 months at Basildon Crown Court last month for engaging in sexual communication with a child, causing a child to watch a sexual act, and five counts of sexual activity with a child by a person in a position of trust.

Rudd has previously worked at Shoeburyness High School and The King Edmund School, Rochford, as a music teacher, with both schools assuring parents that they are committed to doing everything possible to keep students safe.

A spokesperson for Shoeburyness High School said: "Although this person is no longer a member of staff, I understand there will be concern among former and

current students, parents and the wider community.

"As soon as Essex Police contacted us, all correct processes and procedures were immediately followed for the safety of all concerned. The safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff remains our highest priority and we continue to support staff and anyone in our school community who has been affected by this news."

A spokesperson for The King Edmund School, Rochford, said: "The school is aware of the recent court case involving Bobby Rudd, a former member of staff. The offences committed by Mr Rudd do not relate to any pupil at The King Edmund School.

"Nothing is more important than the safety and wellbeing of our students and we strictly follow all safeguarding policies and procedures as set out in statutory guidance and by the local authority."



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JAMES DUDDRIDGE MP



Member of Parliament for Rochford and Southend East



LOCAL NEWS THORPE BAY

During a recent visit to Southend High Street, I began to feel rather optimistic about the future of our new city.

I was being shown around the new bouldering centre in Victoria Shopping Centre, when Wagamama announced it was planning to open a new restaurant in Southend.

Being the UK's newest city brings many exciting opportunities, not least that of potential business investment.

However, as people's traditional shopping habits have changed, our High Street has struggled to keep up with the pace of modern living.

But both these businesses – one an independent social enterprise, the other a popular restaurant chain – are good examples of what Southend needs.

No longer do the masses just want to shop when they go to a high street. They want to be entertained, socialise or simply have an additional reason to be there – such as a medical appointment.



So, could we entice a tech giant like Apple to open a store in Southend city, sat next door to a new independent café? Or another big restaurant chain such as Five Guys, where you could meet friends after a blood test at the NHS centre in Vic Plaza?

Now is the time to seize the opportunities a city can bring.

Schools fight plastic waste

Thorpe Bay schools are blazing the trail for other schools and businesses in the area by collecting their hard-to-recycle plastics for specialist recycling.

As part of the PlastiCity project, run by Southend-on-Sea City Council, the schools have launched innovative mini recycling hubs.

Thorpe Hall School, Thorpedene Primary, Heycroft Primary, Kingsdown School, Southend High School for Boys and Southend Adult Community College are collecting different types of plastic for recycling.

These waste plastics will then be broken down into high-quality raw materials for use in the manufacturing industry.

Pupils will also take part in school assemblies run by the council's waste and recycling partner, Veolia, to help them better understand how they can help combat plastic pollution.

As part of the project, Thorpe Hall School successfully applied to the Veolia Sustainability Fund. The funding will be used to provide some of the collection containers needed for the schools' recycling hubs.

Councillor Carole Mulrone, Southend-on-Sea City Council's cabinet member for environment, culture, tourism and planning, said: "Our local young people are extremely passionate about the environment, and I am proud of those schools involved for taking proactive steps to increase plastic recycling.

"Not only will the school recycling collection trial save lots of plastic from landfill and incineration, it will also encourage schools to make positive, lasting changes."



Photo credit: Southend-on-Sea Borough Council



HISTORY

TITANIC'S WATERY

Grave Remains

SOME 110 YEARS ON FROM THE SINKING OF THE MOST FAMOUS SHIP IN HISTORY, TITANIC'S WATERY REMAINS ARE STILL VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHED

April 15, 1912, will be a date forever etched in the annals of maritime disaster as, at 2.20am, the RMS Titanic sank into the icy depths on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

It is a ship made famous by its demise, and as another anniversary passes, the sinking of this 'unsinkable' vessel continues to fascinate, terrify and, dare we say it, even entertain the world in every bit the same way as it always has.

This year marks the 110th anniversary since the ship sank to the bottom of the North Atlantic, taking 1,517 poor souls with it.

The ship remains 13,000ft beneath the surface, as any attempt to retrieve it would see it break up, while diving to the wreck can only be performed by registered scientists.

And while companies OceanGate and Bluefish have both developed state-of-the-art submersibles

that can take explorers on the 90-minute descent, the price tag of £100,000 per person means this is one disaster best viewed through the eyes of documentary-makers and film directors.

The Titanic sank when it struck an iceberg. Spotted at the last minute, First Officer William Murdoch attempted to turn the ship to avoid it – experts believe if it had hit the iceberg head on, it probably would have survived. Instead, while it could reportedly stay afloat with as many as four of its 16 compartments filled with water, five were breached, with the dipping of the bow causing water from the ruptured spaces to spill over into forward compartments.

It wasn't until 1985, during an expedition led by Robert Ballard, that the Titanic was finally discovered. However, bacteria eating away at the wood and metal of the ship mean that, within 50 years, the wreck will be almost unrecognisable.



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Photo credit: Ken McKay/ITV/Shutterstock

OUT OF THE BROOM CUPBOARD... *and onto centre stage*

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF PHILLIP SCHOFIELD

The title 'first in-vision continuity presenter for Children's BBC' perhaps isn't one he'll want as his epitaph, and yet the role that set Phillip Schofield on the path to becoming one of daytime and primetime TV's true modern icons is perhaps one of his most significant.

It's September 1985 and a 23-year-old Schofield has just returned to the UK after four years in New Zealand. Having already worked at the BBC as a bookings clerk and teaboy when he was a teenager, the charismatic, charming, chipper broadcaster was thrust into the not-so-glamorous surrounds of *The Broom Cupboard*, on Children's BBC.

Sitting at a cramped, squalid, cluttered desk, he was accompanied by Gordon the Gopher, and was a kids' TV first as the dull lead-in screens between programmes were replaced by a chatty, sociable presenter who offered personality and no small amount of humour.

The formula was an instant hit and set Schofield on the way to broadcasting brilliance. *Going Live!*, in which he appeared opposite Sarah Greene, came along two years later.

Adult programming followed – from four years hosting the *Smash Hits Poll Winners Party* to *Talking Telephone Numbers* and *Test the Nation*, Schofield's versatility bridged genres of entertainment as effortlessly as it did the range of demographics who would marvel at his calm and charisma.

No better has that been seen than when in full flow with sidekick Holly Willoughby on ITV's leading daytime show, *This Morning*. When the duo first worked together back in 2009, few would have expected such natural chemistry to emerge. From endless innuendos to heartfelt and touching interviews and reports on all manner of issues, the pair have been at the epicentre of *This Morning*'s steely grip on the National Television Award for Best Daytime/Live Show, which it has won every year under their stewardship.

Of course, for someone who has been in front of the camera for so long, controversies will ultimately come along – from an ill-conceived set-up of then-Prime Minister David Cameron live on air, to a more light-hearted revelation from Schofield that he had been dyeing his hair since the age of 16 to ward off grey, something he now embraces.

Then, in February 2020, the personal revelation that the married father-of-two was coming out as gay proved a sensational storyline. In true *This Morning* style, the presenter and Willoughby conducted what amounted to an open counselling session – his heartfelt admission only serving to endear us to him further.

Away from the show, Schofield, who turns 60 this month, continues to pick the prime slots in ITV's entertainment programming, with quiz and challenge shows such as *Dancing on Ice*, *All Star Mr & Mrs*, *5 Gold Rings* and *The Cube*. There has also been a raft of factual programming, including coverage of royal events – The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the weddings of Princes William and Harry, and a tribute to Prince Philip.

And in February, daytime doyenne Lorraine Kelly dedicated her show to Schofield's 40 years in the business.

In a rapidly changing television industry where personalities come and go, Phillip Schofield has proved himself a man for every occasion. He is someone who can put an arm round a guest one day and laugh at his own failings the next, as well as being arguably the greatest thing to ever emerge from a broom cupboard.

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OUR Queen

This year, Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II, will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service on the throne and cementing her as Britain's longest-serving monarch.

After reigning for so long, the Queen has had a wonderful and interesting life. But how much do you know about the Queen? Here are some facts you may not have heard before.

THE QUEEN HAS TWO BIRTHDAYS

I'm sure we'd all love two birthdays, especially if only one adds another year to our age. The Queen has two birthdays: April 21 – the day she was born – and her 'official' birthday, which takes place on the second Saturday in June with a celebration known as Trooping the Colour. This is so that her birthday can be celebrated when the weather is better.

THE QUEEN SUPPORTS ARSENAL

Whoever knew Her Majesty is a Gunner?

THE QUEEN DOESN'T NEED A PASSPORT...

British passports might be issued in her name, but the Queen herself doesn't need a passport. She's never needed a passport to travel, but has visited more than 100 countries.

...OR A DRIVING LICENCE

The Queen is the only person in the UK who doesn't

need a licence to drive. She continues to drive at 95 years old.

THE QUEEN LIVES AT WINDSOR CASTLE

Windsor Castle is one of 26 royal residences and also has the title of being the largest castle in Britain.

THE QUEEN OWNS STRANGE PETS

The Queen is famous for owning corgis, but she also owns an elephant, two giant turtles, a jaguar and some sloths. They were all gifts from overseas and live at London Zoo.

THE QUEEN'S NICKNAME IS 'LILIBET'

Which is the name Prince Harry and Meghan Markle chose for their first daughter – Lilibet Diana Mountbatten-Windsor.

And there you have it. Now you know a bit more about Her Majesty ahead of her Platinum Jubilee.

Photo credit: Alesia Pendermonico/Shutterstock.com



CONTAIN YOURSELF

Five ways to master container gardening, for maximum effect

Container gardening is pretty much what it sounds like – the display of plants, flowers and herbs in containers.

Gardening this way offers variety, flexibility and a great deal more control than placing plants in flowerbeds or around borders. To get it right, you need to abide by a few simple rules.

ONE:
Location location location

The ability for your plants to flourish will almost certainly depend on location. Around six hours of sunlight a day and a south-facing position will offer them the best chance to make something of themselves.

TWO:
Choose your container wisely

While containers come in all shapes and sizes and cater for various budgets, the golden rule is to allow adequate room for your plants to grow, and to ensure there is adequate drainage in the bottom.

THREE:
Heavily soiled

You can pick up a bag of high-nutrient, moisture-retaining, airy soil at the garden centre for less than the price of a glass of wine, and it will be considerably better for your plants than standard garden soil.

FOUR:
Water lovely plant

Try to water plants every morning to allow them to flourish during the day. Watering in strong sunlight runs the risk of leaves being singed. Positioning containers next to a natural water source will help as well.

FIVE:
Feed greed

Adding nutrients, slow-release fertilisers and liquid feed to your watering can – or even directly to the container – will give your soil and your plant a perfect boost each day, as well as helping it to fend off any nasties.



Photo credit: idealhome.co.uk



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Create your own OUTDOOR KITCHEN

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that many of us turned our attention to our gardens to create the perfect outdoor living space. Great for entertaining, hosting in the garden has become the ideal way to entertain family and friends. Creating an outdoor kitchen gives you a stylish space to cook outside so you can make the most of the warmer weather with your family and friends. Learn how to create an outdoor kitchen on any budget, ready for summer entertaining.

MEASURE YOUR SPACE: You can design an outdoor kitchen to suit all kinds of spaces. Measure your designated area to establish what you have to work with. A basic kitchen will need space for an appliance, like a barbecue, and some workspace. The larger your space, the more you'll be able to add.

FIND THE RIGHT APPLIANCES: Find cooking appliances that will suit your budget. Pizza ovens are bang on trend and can be used for all cooking. However, if that doesn't take your fancy, barbecues and grills are available in different sizes according to your needs. Some people even add fridges and microwaves to their outdoor spaces.

GET YOUR CONNECTIONS IN PLACE: You may need to bring in professionals to provide electricity, lighting and plumbing to your space. Keep everything secured away for safety and to make sure the space looks neat and organised.

BUILD A SHELTER TO COVER ALL WEATHER: A shelter is a must if you're dealing with electrical equipment, but it will also help you make the most of your space. Having shelter will let you use your outdoor kitchen in any weather, for year-round entertainment.

MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH STORAGE: Storage is a must for your outdoor kitchen. Shelving, trolleys and cupboards can keep your utensils, tableware and other supplies safe and clean, ready for when you need them.

An outdoor kitchen is a must if you like entertaining at home. Start now to get yours ready in time for summer.

Photo credit: Grillo via housebeautiful.com, Moriso/Landform Consultants/ikea via idealhome.co.uk



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SPORT

BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS...

THE GREAT Dame

Each month, we look at one of the most significant events in British sporting history. This month, it's Dame Kelly Holmes DBE and her double Olympic gold



It's possible to strive for so long for something that you imagine it may never arrive, and that's certainly true in the case of Dame Kelly Holmes DBE.

An athlete who turned professional in 1993, she initially enjoyed a number of successes, including winning the 1,500m title at the Commonwealth Games in 1994.

Injuries – notably stress fractures – marred the years that followed, and while interspersing her time on the sidelines with silver and bronze medals, Holmes believed she may never return to gold medal contention.

"It was always silvers and bronzes," she says. "I was proud to be picking up World Championship medals, and of course my first Olympic medal – the 800m bronze in Sydney in 2000 – was wonderful. But I was never close enough to think I could move myself up."

At the Athens Olympics in 2004, Holmes, by then 34, was in the heyday of her career. Her form

going into the 800m and 1,500m events had been good – she'd scored her first major gold in five years at the Commonwealth Games in 2002, with three silvers the following year.

And, sure enough, everything clicked in Athens. For once injury-free, she powered past rival Maria de Lurdes Mutola on the final bend in the 800m to take a gold medal in a victory celebrated up and down the country. She had only decided to enter the race five days previously.

Her specialist event, the 1,500m, proved another dream race. She ran from the back of the field, advanced, and this time held off World Champion Tatyana Tomashova of Russia on the home straight, setting a new British record in the process.

Holmes had become only the third woman in Olympic history to do 'the double', and, to prove it was no fluke, won gold at the IAAF World Athletics Final later in the year, before hanging up her spikes.

A true people's champion, Dame Kelly now undertakes fantastic work as an athletics and mental health ambassador.

Photo credit: sipa/Shutterstock

BOWLED out

**A SPORTING ICON LIKE NO OTHER
LEAVES US ALL TOO SOON**

There are some deaths that confound logic, sense and, in many ways, fairness. The passing of Shane Warne, one of cricket's all-time icons, surely falls into that category.

The 52 year old's contribution to the game was almost immeasurable. There were the Ashes triumphs, the World Cup wins, the record wicket hauls and the exemplary media career that saw him transition from Aussie baddy to one of the game's truly loved characters.

Warne had been misunderstood at times during that golden era of the 90s, which began in earnest in 1993 at Old Trafford when he bowled what became known as the 'ball of the century', in taking the wicket of Mike Gatting.

For the years that followed, Warne was every bit the posturing, scheming, bleached-blond Aussie who toiled, tricked and turned over English batsmen with alarming regularity. He almost singlehandedly made spin bowling cool, and sparked a generation of others looking to perfect the art.

And as partisan as he was, this was someone respectful to the game, as ready to praise rival sides as he was happy to bemoan the failings of his own. He never concealed his love affair with the UK, and as a result we took his passion and honesty into our hearts.

It made the shock of his death, owing to a suspected heart attack, so much more devastating. There was also a dreadful irony at play where Warne's final tweet, from March 4, gave tribute to the death of another Aussie cricketing great, Rod Marsh, who died just hours before Warne.

That Warne was about to join him on the magnificent wicket in the sky represented the same unexpected turn akin to one of his bewildering leg-spinners.

In his death, we have lost not just an Australian sporting great, but also someone whose craft, passion, enthusiasm and humility made the game of cricket what it is today.

We're living in an uncertain era prompted by a pandemic, lockdowns and insecurity for the future. The result of all this is, more than ever before, a desire in people to take greater responsibility for their own actions – across health, employment and, of course, finances.

So while we can't be totally sure of what's to come, we can at least organise our money and budget according to what's laid out in front of us, and that has made cash management apps really popular. Here is a selection of some of the best on the market:

EMMA (free or £59.99 for enhanced annual subscription)

Emma assesses all spending, including loan and credit card repayments, and works out a full schedule of income and expenditure so that you can restrict or extend depending on where you are at certain points of the month.

Handily, it integrates with the likes of Boots, B&Q and Gousto to offer cashback initiatives. However, the constant pushing to upgrade to the paid product can become annoying.

MONEY DASHBOARD (free)

This app operates in much the same way as Emma, but plots graphical representations to take a deeper dive into personal finances.

YOLT (free)

This app comes with a prepaid debit card as well as a set of money management tools. This gives greater control and enables a 360-degree solution for consumer spending that is reported directly back into the app, meaning no money will mysteriously go missing.

PLUM (free or up to £3 per month for premium)

An app for savers, this tool is great for those who want to know, on a month-by-month basis, how much they can afford to put to one side.

Premium options even offer opportunities by which money can be invested directly from the app.



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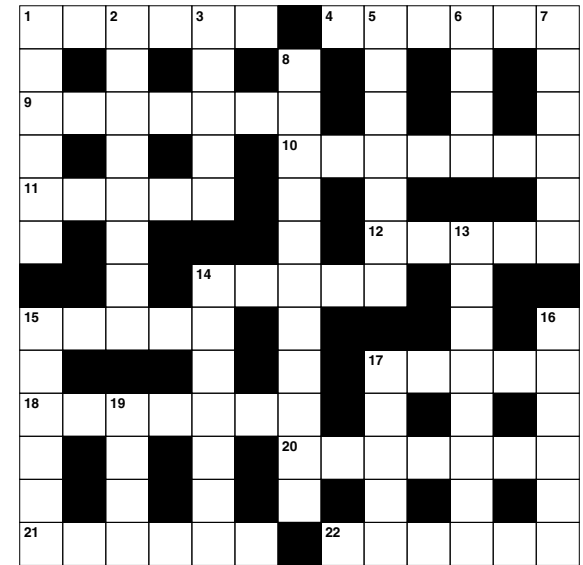
Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

ACROSS

1. Creative act (6)
4. Pertaining to vinegar (6)
9. Nerve impulses (7)
10. Not solid or liquid (7)
11. Send money in payment (5)
12. Country in North East Africa (5)
14. Loathe (5)
15. Sense of seeing (5)
17. Wrong (5)
18. Light shoes (7)
20. Prior (7)
21. Enjoy greatly (6)
22. Large eel (6)

DOWN

1. Wish for (6)
2. Propelling the body through water (8)
3. Haggard (5)
5. Small mat (7)
6. A group of three (4)
7. Form-fitting garment (6)
8. Sea beacons (11)
13. Giving way under pressure (8)



14. Reaches (7)
15. Female sibling (6)
16. Listener (6)
17. Refrain from (5)
19. Invalid (4)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ The heart of the average blue whale is approximately the size of a car
- ▶ The Chrysopelea snake can leap from trees and 'fly' distances of around 300 feet
- ▶ Dogs can sense human emotion, knowing when people are feeling sad, happy or something else
- ▶ The platypus is one of the few living mammals to produce venom
- ▶ Some spider species try to eat their partners after mating
- ▶ The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland
- ▶ Every tiger and zebra has a unique stripe pattern
- ▶ A flamingo's head has to be upside down when it eats

SUDOKU

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	2	3		7				
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	9		5		4	2		

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Guide to the best hot springs in the world

While many of us enjoy a soak in a hot tub during a getaway, there's nothing better than the natural version – a hot spring. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon where water is heated from the Earth's crust. Some of the world's most popular travel destinations are home to some incredible hot springs, and are a must to experience during your visit. Check out our guide to the best hot springs in the world.

blue Lagoon Geothermal spa, iceland: One of the most famous hot springs in the world, more than 4,000 people visit Blue Lagoon every day. The beautiful blue water, alongside the idyllic mountain scenery, provides the perfect spot for relaxation. With 38°C temperatures and an on-site spa, a visit to Iceland isn't complete without a visit to Blue Lagoon.

pamukkale thermal pools, turkey: Pamukkale Natural Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to a dozen thermal springs. It's a picture-perfect setting with beautiful blue water set against white limestone – ideal for relaxing in the Turkish sun. The Egyptian Queen Cleopatra is known to have visited the Pamukkale pools.

banjar hot springs, eali: The Banjar Hot Springs provide a stunning setting across two levels and offer complete relaxation. There is even a family pool, providing something for everyone in this wonderful part of Indonesia.

kerosene creek, new zealand: New Zealand provides so many amazing experiences, and Kerosene Creek doesn't disappoint. Set deep within the Rotorua forest, spending time relaxing in this striking hot spring is an experience you won't forget.

cascate del mulino, italy: One of Tuscany's most popular spots, the Cascade del Mulino is open 24 hours a day, allowing guests to experience its beauty at all times of the day and night. The limestone pools are magnificent, and it's a great place to unwind after a day exploring the sights of Tuscany.

With incredible hot springs located all over the world, will you visit one on your next adventure?

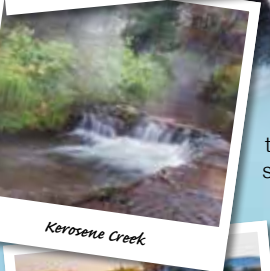


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GETTING Shirty!

THE HISTORY OF THE SLOGAN T-SHIRT

Since the first slogan t-shirts were worn in the 1950s, our desire to shout messages – without the use of a megaphone – has never relented.

Across political statements, pop culture (think Frankie Says Relax), Fila and Champion leisurewear, the slogan t-shirt has become a fashion icon that goes beyond visual appeal. It is used to express opinion, reference popular culture, and has accelerated campaigns, initiatives and product sales for its ability to unite people with similar perspectives.

The popularity of the casual t-shirt came to prominence some 70 years ago, prompted by a young Marlon Brando in the film *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

In the years that followed, innovations in print technology saw everyone from Disney to Andy Warhol decorate the fronts of our chests with a desire to make statements.

By the 1970s, and led by designer Katherine Hamnett, the slogan t-shirt was being adapted for more political purposes.

She said: “It seemed as if democracy was slipping through our fingers. The slogan t-shirt was something to give you a voice... something to believe in that you could wear on your chest that could be read from 200 yards away.”

In recent years, the visual t-shirt has become as much a reference to being fashionable as it is an indicator towards a political or social movement. From Nike to Hugo Boss, French Connection to Fortnite, the signifier of a brand or product is a nod to our own preferences.

And yet, in these challenging social times, the expectation is of a return to stronger statements around gender, Brexit, diversity and general politics.

Whatever the message, the slogan t-shirt is here to stay.

Photo credit: ASOS.com



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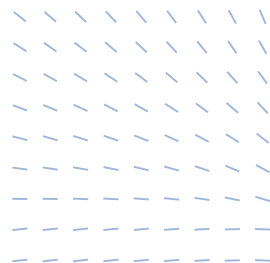
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Natural MENOPAUSE MANAGEMENT



A NATURAL APPROACH TO MANAGING THE MENOPAUSE

Whether you don't want to take hormone replacement therapy (HRT), you can't for medical reasons or you want to supplement this prescription treatment, there are natural ways that can help you to manage the menopause.

EAT A HEALTHY DIET

Women's bone density reduces during menopause so it is essential that you eat a diet rich in calcium to keep your bones healthy and strong. Reducing your sugar intake and eating low GI foods can help to reduce mood swings, while eating healthy fats can help increase the healthy bacteria in your gut which can diminish after menopause.

REDUCE ALCOHOL INTAKE

Some women find that alcohol exacerbates their symptoms, especially hot flushes. Alcohol can also increase your risk of developing osteoporosis, heart disease and some types of cancer. Plus, it is high in calories, which is not ideal if you are experiencing weight gain as a result of the menopause.

PARTAKE IN REGULAR EXERCISE

Important for both your cardiovascular and bone

health, as well as reducing feelings of stress and anxiety, it is more beneficial to exercise gently and regularly than it is to go all out once in a while. Both yoga and swimming are great options for women undergoing the menopause.

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY (CBT)

If you are suffering with low moods and/or anxiety as a result of the menopause, CBT can help you work through these emotions. There is also some evidence that suggests CBT can help to control hot flushes.

TRY HERBS AND SUPPLEMENTS

There are several herbs and supplements that are said to help manage menopause symptoms, including:

- > Black cohosh – to alleviate night sweats and hot flushes
- > Red clover – to slow down bone loss and alleviate hot flushes
- > Dong quai tea – to ease pelvic pain and regulate oestrogen levels
- > Valerian root – to treat joint pain, aid sleep and reduce hot flushes.





TAME THE

CURLS

Does your curly hair drive you to distraction? Does the mere hint of heat or humidity turn your luscious locks into a frizzy frenzy? As one of the most precarious months of the year, April can bring sun, rain and wind, all of which can wreak havoc with your curly hair. Find out how to manage your mane below.



Avoid hair-styling tools
Although you may be tempted to use your trusty straighteners, blow dryers and hot combs even more when the heat and humidity are ruining your usually sleek curls, this is the worst thing you can do. Instead, let your curly hair dry naturally or use a diffuser and invest in a good air-dry styling cream.

Deep condition frequently
When the weather can't make its mind up, now is the time to embrace conditioning treatments, as these will help your hair to stay in optimal condition. If you usually deep condition once a week, change this to every other day when the weather starts to heat up.

Try the pineapple trick
If the heat and humidity tend to attack your curls while you are sleeping, then the pineapple trick is just what you need. All you need to do is loosely gather your curls at the highest point of your head and secure them with a band. This will guard against frizz.

Layer up products
If the forecast is rain, then you need to be prepared by applying the right products for your type of hair before you leave the house. For medium-textured curls, opt for a water-based mousse, or if your hair is fine, an alcohol-based one is better. Once dry, spray your hair liberally with an anti-humidity product.

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BRUCEKING

on why people buy



BUSINESS & PROPERTY



In his final column, sales mentor and personal growth coach, Bruce King, discusses why people buy and how to stop yourself buying things you don't need.

We all buy for emotional, not logical, reasons, although we'll create logical reasons to justify our decisions.

For example, did you buy or were you sold a new pair of shoes when you had plenty already and your favourite pair just needed a good polish? You bought a new pair because you love new shoes and they make you feel good, or the salesperson said you looked great in them.

Maybe you justified your decision with logic on the basis that if someone saw your expensive new shoes, you would create a better impression.

Ever bought a new car when there was nothing wrong with your current model, but the look, feel and smell of a new car makes you feel wonderful, and the salesperson said you looked so impressive in the driving seat?

Perhaps you justified your decision on the basis

that a new, more expensive car would impress your customers and make them more likely to do business with you.

Why do we do this? The answer lies in how the brain works – it has an emotional part and a logical part. All decisions we make start in the emotional part – that's how our brains work.

If the emotion is strong enough, we'll usually ignore the logical part. Love and want are both strong emotional reasons for buying something.

To stop ourselves being sold to, switch on the logical part by asking a question – something as simple as, 'Do I really need this new car or these new shoes?' your brain will probably respond with a resounding 'NO!' and save you a lot of money.

More information:

Bruce King is recognised internationally as a leading sales, marketing and personal growth strategist, addressing audiences and coaching sales teams and managers in 23 countries. For more information, visit bruceking.co.uk



MOTORING



MAGNIFICENT MOTORS

THE MODIFICATIONS BEING MADE AHEAD OF THE 2022 FORMULA 1 CHAMPIONSHIP

The evolving entity that is Formula 1 is undergoing perhaps its most rapid change ever in 2022, with a blueprint for the future (and the new season which began in Bahrain on March 20) based on two principles – greener and more competitive racing.

On the eco side, the fact that the world's exemplars of motoring excess have signed up to increasing bio-components within the fuel system is impressive. The new season has seen this increase from 5.75 per cent of fuel load to 10 per cent, via the new E10 fuel. The E stands for ethanol, which has a near-zero carbon footprint, and sets a precedent for even cleaner fuel in the future. F1 experts are already working hard to formulate a fully sustainable product in the near future.

Combining this eco drive with more competitive, exciting racing – the like of which we saw at the conclusion of the 2021 championship when Lewis Hamilton had an eighth world title snatched from his

grasp – is a win/win for F1. To aid this, the new cars set to be launched are rounder, slicker and more stunning to look at.

Included in their structure are moves to make them more equipped for closer racing (with the removal of excessive downforce), notably through over-wheel winglets and wheel covers. They also have 18-inch low-profile tyres, reducing overheating when they slide, plus entirely new front wings and noses so as to generate consistent downforce when close to a car in front.

Finally, rolled tips on the rear wing will allow clean air for chasing cars to drive through.

Further good news for F1 fans is that the existing power units – the 1.6l turbo-hybrid – remain. These are the most advanced engines on the planet, and are designed so that the unit will separate from the chassis without exposing the fuel tank. This also makes it the safest racing car ever made.

All we need now are the drivers...

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