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# Editor's notes...

MAY 202

Nik Allen, Editor

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

This month, we witnessed a unique event in most of our lives: the royal ceremony in which a monarch is crowned.

The coronation of King Charles III, which took place on Saturday, May 6, was a momentous occasion that was celebrated with great pride and enthusiasm by all of us. It marked the first coronation since that of the late Queen in 1953, which was the first time the royal occasion had been televised. Millions of people tuned in to watch the ceremony, and the same was true this year. It was a time to come together as a nation and rejoice

in the rich culture and history that make our country unique.

I had a significant event in my life take place at the end of April. I was lucky enough to be invited to 10 Downing Street to a Local Media Champions Reception with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, RT Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP.

I felt honoured to attend and connect with other local media peers throughout the UK. With regional editors across the country invited to the event, it was good to see how far our publications have come to be in such esteemed company.

Mik Allen

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Vision Magazine Essex

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he death of Paul O'Grady MBE at the end of March brought a premature end to the life of one of our most respected modernday entertainers – someone whose own reinvention helped the gradual process of changing attitudes in British society.

Growing up on the sometimes rough, often competitive back streets of Liverpool in the Swinging Sixties required more than a little spark and swagger, so it's probably little surprise that one of its finest exports, Paul O'Grady, created a career built on the foundation of his larger-than-life personality.

"As the saying goes, if you can't beat them, join them – and if you can't join them, become a drag act," laughed Paul O'Grady in one of this final interviews.

He departed from us at 67, seemingly with another decade or two of wit, charm and pzazz still ready to be unleashed, and the tributes have been extensive and heartfelt.

O'Grady had a number of jobs growing up, including working as a clerk, a waiter and a barman. It was only when he moved to London that he managed to create a career out of his passion for entertainment and performance.

The star's main outlet was the dynamic and daring Lily Savage, a drag queen act who became hugely popular on the underground scene, and eventually gained mainstream appeal when Channel 4 took up the option to give him a stint on *The Big Breakfast* after Paula Yates' resignation. The likes of *The Lily Savage Show*, *Blankety Blank* (which the character fronted for five years) and *Lily Live!* followed, showcasing the full mainstream evolution of a character. It was a long way from O'Grady's first TV appearance on *The Bill* back in 1988 as a transvestite prostitute informant named Roxanne (credited to Paul Savage).

While Lily Savage was eventually retired, the legacy of such a dynamic figure lived on. The character had opened doors for a brand of leftfield entertainment, and helped carve a path for LGBTQ+ rights and promotion across mainstream entertainment.

"I had been in that world since the seventies when I began performing in pubs and clubs around London, so it was all very natural for me, and had been for decades," he said.

"That I lived in a country that embraced me and loved me for who I was, I found wonderful, and it compelled me to go on to do other things."

The successful *The Paul O'Grady Show* ran on weekday afternoons for eight years across two spells, and the entertainer also saw huge popularity across extensive theatre, charity and radio work, as well as the likes of *Blind Date* and *For the Love of Dogs* (2012-23). The latter of these popular TV programmes was filmed in late 2022 and is currently showing on ITV1.

In recognition of his contributions to TV, radio and theatre, he was made an honorary Doctor of Arts at De Montfort University Leicester in 2010.

"I always found you can talk about absolutely any subject if you approach it with interest, respect, humility and humour. That's the way I have tried to embrace all the challenges that have come my way." he said.

His funeral, which was held on April 20, featured a significant contribution from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, who lined the streets with their four-legged residents in honour of the decade O'Grady spent presenting the ITV reality show at Battersea

"I've always got on better with animals," he joked. "They are much more my type. As I've said before, I am not bothered about sex, money or fame. I just want a mongoose."

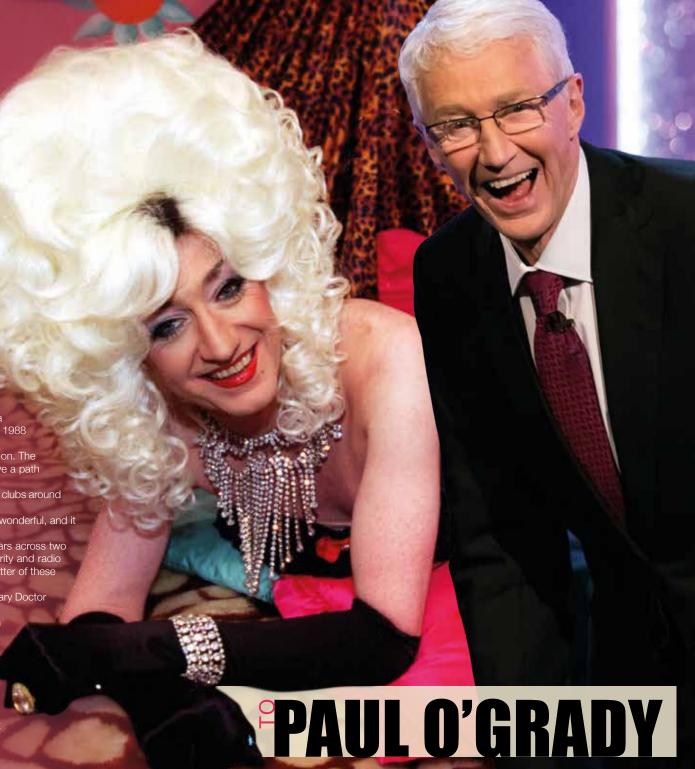


Photo credit: Glenn Copus/Evening Standard/Shutterstock, Ken McKay/Shutterstock

# A GUIDE TO THE

ave you ever wondered why the moon appears to change shape each night? These are known as the moon's phases, and it isn't actually the shape of the moon that changes but our view of it.

Find out more about the different phases and names of the moon below.

#### WHAT ARE THE PHASES OF THE MOON?

- 1. New moon: You cannot see the moon when it is a new moon.
- 2. Waxing crescent moon: In the Northern Hemisphere, you see the waxing crescent moon

  8. Waning crescent moon: In the Northern as a thin crescent of light on the right.
- **3. First quarter moon:** The first quarter moon

- appears as a half moon.
- 4. Waxing gibbous moon: This phase is between a half moon and full moon. Waxing means it is getting bigger.
- **5. Full moon:** You can see the moon completely illuminated during full moons.
- 6. Waning gibbous moon: This phase is between a half moon and full moon. Waning means it is getting smaller.
- 7. Last quarter moon: This appears as a half moon but with the opposite half illuminated to the first quarter moon.
- Hemisphere, you see the waning crescent moon as a thin crescent of light on the left.



#### **FULL MOON NAMES**

Each monthly full moon has a special name, many of which originated from Native American culture:

January: Wolf Moon February: Snow Moon March: Worm Moon **April:** Pink Moon May: Flower Moon June: Strawberry Moon July: Buck Moon

August: Sturgeon Moon September: Full Corn Moon October: Hunter's Moon November: Beaver Moon **December:** Cold Moon

#### WHAT IS A BLUE MOON?

A blue moon is an additional full moon that appears every once in a while. Typically, a year contains 12 full moons - three in each season - but sometimes a 13th full moon appears, known as a blue moon. Blue moons usually occur once every two to three years but can occur twice in one year. This is next due to happen in 2037.

#### WHAT IS A HARVEST MOON?

The harvest moon is the full, bright moon that occurs closest to the start of autumn. The term comes from the days before electricity when farmers relied on the moonlight to harvest their crops at night.

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# DISCOVER YOUR **ZODIAC**

id you know that each zodiac sign has its own bespoke colour palette? Based around the concept of colour psychology, here are the best colours for you and your home, plus why you are drawn to them in the first place.

- > AQUARIUS: Elevated primary colours... Not one to stick to the rules, you're drawn to colours that stand out. Choose primary colours with a twist, such as turquoise or deep red.
- > PISCES: Soft and daydreamy colours... A true romantic, opt for soft hues such as seafoam green and lavender that promise to make you feel open and carefree.
- > ARIES: Big and bold colours... Energetic and passionate, you are linked to powerful colours that draw the eye, such as red and deep oranges.
- > TAURUS: Playful and bright colours... Light shades of pink and pastel green are perfect for your playful
- > GEMINI: Contrasting colours... Geminis are associated with the colour yellow owing to their sunny deposition. Add in some neutral shades for enhanced balance.
- > CANCER: Gentle and cool colours... You gravitate towards cooler and lighter tones such as light blue and
- > LEO: Striking and statement colours... You command attention, so bold and warm colours such as orange, yellow and gold are ideal for you.

or concepts for Virgos. Instead, you are drawn to earthy tones such as forest green and dark brown. > LIBRA: Warm and welcoming colours... You

> VIRGO: Grounded and earthy colours... No flashy colours

have energy that likes to promote harmony, so lavender and pink are both great colours for you

> **SCORPIO:** Dark and moody colours... As a sensual and mysterious being, you are inspired by maroon and crimson tones.

- > OPHIUCHUS: Deep and mysterious colours... Located between Scorpio and Sagittarius, you are both passionate and unpredictable. Purple should be your go-to colour.
- > SAGITTARIUS: Inspiring and intelligent colours... You want a space that makes you feel free, so greens and blues are the colours that draw you in.
- > CAPRICORN: Simple and minimalistic colours... Neutral colours such as white, grey, black and ivory are the perfect match for your calm demeanour.



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# Your guide to SPINGES

#### A GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT SPONGES AND HOW TO KEEP THEM CLEAN

while you may not have given much thought to sponges, if you hate doing the dishes or cleaning kitchen worktops, the right sponge can help to make tiresome tasks a breeze.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF SPONGE?

#### NON-SCRATCH SPONGES

Sponges that are labelled as non-scratch are safe to use on non-stick pots and pans, as well as real wood surfaces. They also will not scratch the surfaces of ceramic bakeware. Non-scratch sponges are a good choice for cleaning glassware as they effectively remove dirt without causing any damage.

#### **HEAVY-DUTY SPONGES**

As the name suggests, heavy-duty sponges are highly abrasive so should be used to remove tough, stuck-on dirt and debris from kitchen items such as stainless steel pans.

Heavy-duty sponges are not suitable for non-stick cookware, as they are

likely to scratch their Teflon coating, nor for ceramic cookware or copper pans.

#### **CELLULOSE SPONGES**

Cellulose sponges are made from recycled plant fibres, making them a good option for those who want to reduce their carbon footprint and become more sustainable. The main benefits of cellulose sponges are that they are low-cost and very absorbent. However, they are also prone to collecting bits of food over time, so you need to make sure that you

sanitise your sponge weekly and throw it away when it shows signs of wear. Ideal for cleaning kitchens, windows, countertops and bathrooms.

#### **HOW DO I CLEAN REUSABLE SPONGES?**

The best way to kill bacteria harbouring in reusable sponges is to clean them in your microwave or dishwasher. If you choose the former, wet the sponge thoroughly and heat on high for one minute. Alternatively, place on the top rack of your dishwasher with the drying cycle on. Do this once a week for best results.



#### HELEN GREEN

DESIGN STUDIO

Tho doesn't appreciate a taste of luxury, especially when it comes to home design? One of the most famous names in British luxury interiors is Helen Green Design. Originally founded by the late Helen Green in

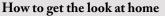
2002, the design house describes itself as "a comprehensive luxury interior design studio synonymous with the creation of beautifully crafted, multi-layered, elegant

Learn more about what makes Helen Green Design one of the best in the business and how you can recreate the look at home.

interiors". And we agree.

From stand-out homes in Belgravia to yachts that travel the world, Helen Green Design is behind a wide variety of exquisite home interiors.

Blending both modern and traditional elements, you can expect neutral shades paired with luxury textures to create wonderful designs that are always sure to impress.



While Helen Green Design is a design house that oozes sophistication and luxury, it is possible to get the Helen Green look at home. Here are some easy tips to help you make high-end more affordable:

■ Work with the details of your home. From panelling to Lintricate ceiling patterns, you can keep some of the original features of your home to contrast the modern touches you bring into it.

→ Keep spaces clean and clutter-free to let Lyour statement furniture do the talking. Less is more to create an elegant look.

→ Use textures to add detail. From textured Jwall art to textured flooring and walls, you can easily add some features to make your interior look and feel more expensive.

Helen Green Design provides the perfect inspiration for any home looking for a highclass upgrade. However, you don't need a luxury budget in order to achieve this look in your own home.









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## FROM YOUR AREA

#### **Resident 'disgusted'** over bird poo at station



Adisgruntled Thorpe Bay resident has taken to social media to express his disgust over the state of the area's train station.

Commuter Joe Smith posted a video on Twitter of pigeons nestling in a ceiling crevice at the station, and the seating areas and platform covered in their excrement. In the tweet, he called on train operating company c2c to improve the situation.

Joe said: "c2c, when are you going to do something about the amount of pigeon poo and infestation of pigeons at Thorpe Bay? It's all over the benches, handrails, floor, signs - everywhere. It's disgusting!"

In response, a c2c spokesperson said: "We are sorry about this. The teams are in the process of putting in new conduit covers and spiking.

"Many of the pigeons are young and the teams are not allowed to do anything apart from clean up at the moment as per Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) conditions. We are sorry for inconvenience caused."

DEFRA has been contacted for comment.

#### Man caught using dead woman's Blue Badge

Aman who was caught fraudulently using his deceased mother-in-law's Blue Badge in Leighon-Sea has been fined.

Francisco Fernandez was caught by a plain-clothed counter fraud officer after having parked his car on double yellow lines on Leigh Road.

Fernandez explained to the officer that his mother-inlaw was not with him at the time, prompting suspicion which led to the Blue Badge being kept from him.

Further investigation discovered that Fernandez's mother-in-law had passed away in September 2021.

Appearing at Basildon Crown Court on Wednesday. April 19, Fernandez pleaded guilty to the charge of false representation concerning use of a Blue Badge. He was fined £369 and was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £148 and £320.10 in legal costs, bringing the total amount to £837.10.

#### **Staff complete 33-mile bike** ride in memory of colleague

Ctaff at a Leigh-on-Sea accounting firm have Ocompleted a 33-mile cycle ride to raise money in memory of one of their founding partners.

Michael Hallybone, who spent 33 years working at Platt Rushton, sadly passed away in February after being diagnosed with leukaemia.

To pay tribute to Michael, several employees of the firm took on a 33-mile bike ride on Saturday, April 22, starting at their offices and making their way through Rayleigh, Paglesham and Thorpe Bay. Several walkers also joined in with the fundraising.

All the money raised on the day went to Blood Cancer UK, a charity dedicated to funding research into all types of blood cancer, including leukaemia.

Posting on social media, the firm said: "Platt Rushton would like to congratulate its teams of cyclists and walkers for their efforts on Saturday. The cyclists completed their 33-mile route, and the walkers managed a respectable five miles!"

At the time of writing, the company has raised more than £4,600. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/ fundraising/platt-rushton-charity-cycle



# LEFG FF ON-SEA

# LOCAL MARKET ROUND UP (1)

Over the last 12 months the average sales price in Leigh on sea was £4497.788 labelt2 tallocations to less averages £3465099c284 Leigh on sea was £417,788. The total value of sales was £340.099.284.

#### Transactions by price band over the last 12 months



WESTERN ROAD

Average prices over last 12 months

Egh on sea Average prices over last 12 months £4866.000 Semi-detached Detashed-f1m £200,000 Leigh on sea East of England f1m-f2m Detam-£5m

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£1m-£2m f2m-f5m

f5m+

#### **CHARLOTTE** kw **ADAMS**

Hi, I'm Charlotte Adams – your new local property expert for Leigh-On-Sea. I am delighted to bring this monthly local property column focusing on SS9 and surrounding areas.

I am a local estate agent living in Leigh-On-Sea and my aim is to bring you useful property content each month.

Wenaven partnered with keller trends Williams as it allows me to be a local in the tiles bould by the trends was in the tiles bould be the was in the tiles but the was in the tiles was in the was in the tiles was in the in the UK's housing market Wilkhoay dietaitead webicurs don't enuiting incal school catchments, shops, Physings parks expublic transport links. Parenter to developer in seek, and the office of Budget looking rear atacking to the latest official forecasts by the Office of Budget Responsibility. Price growth of over 19% was Faghallowys happy to have an informal Tenak amenormenainnelatatein vaheren tean. effects of strike action countering a rise in tenwagesamuelena acateria adalyar yote effects of strike action countering a rise in WOVII IN THE TOUT THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O Webbare belief tre nomy grew by 0.1%

1 Mover than in March 2019 according to in June. of sales appeals has especially the mist time the volume levelomes that in March 2019 according to

The number of sales agreed in March 2023 was just

#### NATIONAL MARKET

Price moderation of 6.8% is expected for the housing market over the course of 2023/24 according to the latest official forecasts by the Office of Budget Responsibility. Price growth of over 19% was recorded for 2021-22.

#### Economy

The UK economy remained static in February, the effects of strike action countering a rise in collection to the destroy of the de in the UK's housing market

#### Twithat to the tailed focus on our

The wall profeste preed in March 2023 was just Rightmove. This represents the first time the volume o House with Seen back to its pre-pandemic letvels imceds extremble 6.2022. expected for the housing market over the course of 2023/24 according to the

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#### **JAMES DUDDRIDGE MP**

**Conservative MP Rochford and Southend East** 





ast month, I completed my fifth London Marathon.

Each year, I run the marathon on behalf of charities, and in March I announced that I would be running on behalf of Southend Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

To support my fundraising efforts, I joined local travel insurance brokers InsureandGo at the end of March for a charity work experience shift, which helped to raise  $\mathfrak{L}1,600$ . With all the support from my family, friends and constituents, I raised a total of  $\mathfrak{L}3,593.88$ .

Running alongside my Parliamentary colleagues, our fundraising efforts totalled £68,492.76 for good causes across the country, such as Barnardo's, St John's Hospice Lancaster, Geeza Break, Cancer Research

UK, Royal Surrey Charity and Maggie's Centres.

I am incredibly proud of my fundraising efforts this year, increasing my previous record by £186.88.

Looking back at the 2022 London Marathon, I found more time to prepare this year, and I even ran the Brighton Marathon to warm up. I completed the course in five hours and 34 minutes – albeit slightly sore once I crossed the finish line.

Finally, as ever, I'm here to help, so if you require my assistance as your Member of Parliament, then please do not hesitate to contact me via email at james@jamesduddridge.com or contact my office on 01702 616135.

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#### THE ROLLING STONES STORY

Palace Theatre, 430 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Southend-on-Sea, SS0 9LA Saturday, May 27, 8pm

The Rolling Stones Story is a high-energy concert celebrating the music of the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band. Experience a truly authentic Rolling Stones spectacle, complete with an awesome production, the finest musicians and the world's number-one Mick Jagger lookalike in Paul Ashworth.

To buy tickets, visit southendtheatres.org.uk/online/ tickets-the-rolling-stones-story-southend-2023





WHAT'S



Chalkwell Park Rooms, Chalkwell Park, London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS0 9SY Tuesday, May 16, 8pm till late



As well as featuring at Cork Jazz Festival, Cheltenham Festival, and Rve Jazz & Blues Festival, popular band Pixie and the Gypsies regularly perform soldout shows at Ronnie Scott's The Spice of Life and PizzaExpress Jazz Club Soho.

To buy tickets, visit allevents.in/hockley/pixie-andthe-gypsies/200024300395223

#### THE AMAZING BLUES BROTHERS

The Royal Hotel, 1 High Street, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1JE Friday, May 19, 7pm till late

Classic songs, sensational performers and a show that's on a mission from God. All this and more is packed into this superb high-octane, foot-pounding production, as these two fabulous singers recreate the magic of The Blues Brothers.

Featuring countless rhythm 'n' blues classics, plus all the hit songs from the popular movie, including Everybody Needs Somebody to Love, Gimme Some Lovin' and Rawhide.

Purchase tickets from www.leigh-on-sea.com/ event/detail/the-amazing-blues-brothers-at-the-royalhotel-southend.html

#### THE BODYGUARD

Cliffs Pavilion, Station Road, Southend-on-Sea, **SS0 7RA** 

Monday, May 22, to Saturday, May 27, various

This musical is based on the smash hit film starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston. Former Secret

# **Enjoy the delights of the traditional British seaside**

or those who crave a bit of nostalgia, and maybe worry that our ability to connect with iconic seaside locations of old is a thing of the past, a trip to Frintonon-Sea is the perfect remedy.

There is little to rival the natural vibrancy of a sumptuous, sunny, sandy beach, as radiant sun beats down on the coolest, finest Essex sand.

And yet, where Frinton-on-Sea is concerned, serenity and nostalgia come as much from its vibrant rows of beach huts as they do from the wondrous natural environment.

Its architecturally precise promenade sees beach huts painted in a kaleidoscope of bright colours, and these have been an integral part of the town's heritage for more than 100 years. Simple in their form, they retail for upwards of £50.000 - vet if a 12ft square space is adequate for you to relax, change or store beach essentials in, then perhaps the investment is worthwhile? These picturesque huts have become a symbol of traditional British seaside culture and continue to draw visitors from far and wide, vet Frinton is about so much more.

Its unspoiled sandy beaches are awardwinning and stretch for miles along the coast, and the gentle slope of the shoreline creates a shallow, safe swimming area that is perfect for families and children. Meanwhile, the absence of amusement arcades, commercial outlets and 'kiss me guick' hats ensures that this part of the Tendring coastline retains a sense of simplicity and class that few other resorts around the UK can rival.

Even the aforementioned promenade, adorned with Victorian-style streetlamps and ornate railings, holds a sense of class about it: while further back, extensive parkland shows the town's custodians are just as adept with grass as they are with sand.

Frinton-on-Sea has a population of fewer than 5,000. Although several times that number swarm into the area on hot summer days, it rarely feels anything other than idyllic. The next time you're looking for an idvllic British seaside escape. Frinton should be top of the list.





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ATURE



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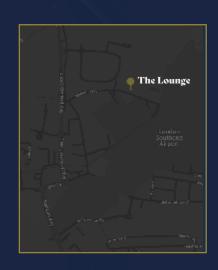
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Omar



13th May Party Night



19th May 80s & 90s Party



20th May Acid Lounge



26th May Soul Party Night





# **GOT SOME FRONT**

ur front gardens are typically a bit more restrictive than the spaces behind our homes, but that doesn't mean we can't still make them look stunning.

They are the outdoor spaces that typically lack privacy, are exposed to dirtier air, and may even find themselves hosting a car or work vehicle. Therefore, for the added aggro our front gardens have to put up with, it's sensible to keep things simple, saving your energy for the private space at the back.

sensible to limit a front garden to perhaps just five or six variations. If you include too many different styles, it can create a hotchpotch of ideas that will only make your home look untidy.

Also try to prioritise privacy over prettiness. The front of our property is exposed to all and sundry, so carefully positioned hedges, shrubs and trees can keep unwanted eyes away. Just be sure not to

position larger living matter in front of windows to prevent blocking out the light.

When selecting plants, consider varieties that will last all year round, saving you a constant summer/winter change-up. Think summer roses that progress into gorgeous winter blossoms, and evergreens that will grace the changing seasons with constant class.

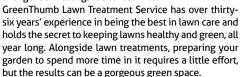
As far as a lawn goes, while artificial grass has never been better or looked more authentic, a small area of real grass, or perhaps one either side Beginning with plants and varieties of flowers, it's of a path, is low maintenance and can be taken care of with a simple mower. While it's tempting to bring a wild meadow into the equation, that look is always better achieved in a larger garden, where a rugged area is established in a well-tended garden.

> Finally, if you're looking to pave or lay down slate or stone in a front garden, remember weeds will still work their way through, so keep an eye on things, particularly in the summer months.

keeping your front garden low maintenance



ummer is coming. Warmer, longer days and a burst of beautiful GreenThumb flowers, all best enjoyed in the garden alongside a lush lawn.



One of the most important lawn care jobs for a goodlooking lawn is correct and regular mowing. Dry, sunny days are the best conditions for lawnmowing. Ensure mower blades are kept sharp or replaced when needed, to avoid causing damage to the grass plant. Cutting the grass too short, too soon will weaken the grass, attracting unwanted weeds and moss. It's best for a lawn to be cut



at least once a week, to a height of about 25mm (1"). In dry weather, increase the height of the cut up to 50mm (2").

A lawn needs to be watered, just as any

outdoor or indoor plants do. Hotter, drier weather can turn a lawn yellow and dry. It's best to give a lawn a drink early morning or late in the evening.

Rake up any dead leaves and twigs and cut back overhanging shrubs and plants; grass needs as much direct sunlight and air as possible to stay healthy. It's also a good time to repair bare patches. To do so, carefully rake the patch to create a bed, sow the seeds with a little top-soil and don't let them dry out; they will germinate in a few days (temperature permitting).

GreenThumb have the solution to transform any piece of grass, whatever the size or condition - into a healthy, fresh and beautiful lawn.







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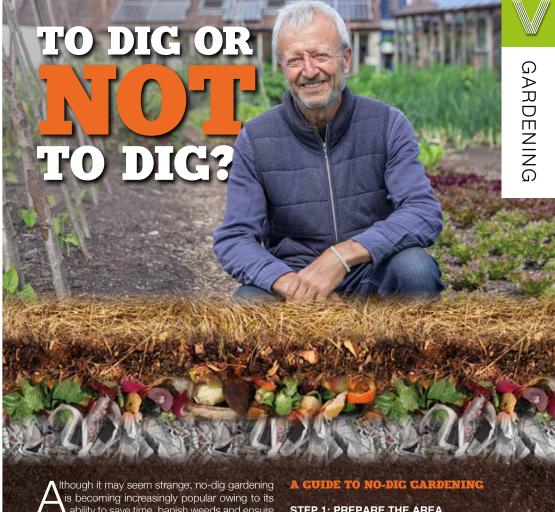
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ability to save time, banish weeds and ensure plants grow more healthily.

#### WHAT IS NO-DIG GARDENING?

No-dig gardening is a method of cultivation that aims for minimal disturbance of the soil. Made popular by Charles Dowding, an author and avid gardener, nodig gardening requires less fertiliser and pesticide, is suitable for any size garden, and can be used to grow flowers, shrubs or vegetables.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

No-dig gardening is beneficial to your soil, garden and the environment, and can significantly reduce the need to weed. Soil stores a lot of carbon, which means that the more you dig, the more is released into the atmosphere. There is also evidence to suggest that digging upsets the structure of the soil.

#### STEP 1: PREPARE THE AREA

Remove any large weeds and then cover the ground in a layer of light blocking material such as torn-up newspaper. If creating a no-dig area on grass, add a layer of manure and lime first.

#### STEP 2: ADD LAYERS

Add a layer of kitchen scraps, such as vegetable peelings or fruit waste, and a layer of compost made from leaves and grass cuttings. Then, add a layer of straw, another layer of compost, and finally another laver of straw.

#### STEP 3: MAKE WELLS FOR PLANTING

Create wells about 10cm deep in the top layer of straw and fill them with compost. Then, plant your seeds or seedlings into the wells. Water well and wait for your no-dig garden to grow.



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# UNUSUAL SPORT: (MODERWALE RUG)

HEARING THE RALLYING CRY OF 'SWIM LOW, SWEET CHARIOT', IT CAN ONLY BE AN INVITATION TO PLAY UNDERWATER RUGBY

n 1961 in Cologne, Germany, a new variation on water polo was invented.

overseers were still unclear as to what the rules contact sport so, within reason, anything else goes.

Ultimately, it was decided that there should be six players per side in the pool at any one time, with further substitutes from a total squad of 15 able to

Most team formations comprise of two forwards. two backs and two goalkeepers or left-wingers, with the aim being to keep possession and score after outwitting the opposition through speed, skill and holding your breath.

The underwater rugby ball is plastic and filled with salt

water and the players have to score in steel goals a hybrid sport containing elements of rugby and which are located at the bottom of opposing ends of the pool. The pool dimensions have to be between

> Officials are present to judge possible offences, resulting in punishments such as warnings, free

> There were 18 countries involved at the last World the first non-Nordic nation to win a gold medal,

Underwater rugby is said to be the only true 3D sport in the world in the way both the ball and the players can travel in three dimensions and in all directions - imagine, for instance, having a teammate 5m below you in a pool. For this reason, its popularity is exploding.

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n unusual vegetable owing to its very sour yet slightly sweet taste, rhubarb is instantly recognisable by its deep pink hue. Super simple to grow, rhubarb is popular for both sweet and savoury dishes.

#### What are the health benefits of rhubarb?

- > Contains high levels of fibre, which is linked to lower cholesterol levels
- > A good source of vitamin K, which is beneficial for vour bone and heart health
- > Full of antioxidants that protect the body from free
- > May help with digestion and to treat digestive disorders

Serve as it is or strain the liquid through a muslin-lined sieve first.

YOU WILL NEED: 250ml cider vinegar

100g golden caster sugar | 300g chopped rhubarb | 4 chopped medjool dates | 1 tsp grated ginger 1 cardamon pod

HOW TO MAKE: In a pan, heat the cider vinegar and caster sugar until dissolved | Add the chopped rhubarb, ginger, dates and cardamon pod and cook for 15-20 minutes | Once you have a thick chutney consistency, season with salt to taste | Store in sterilised jars for up to two years (unopened).







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he may only recently have become a recognised TV star, but Esme Young has had a career most budding fashionistas can only dream of.

On first impressions, fashion designers Esme Young and Patrick Grant make unlikely candidates for a sparkling television duo, but that is precisely what they have become as judges on *The Great British Sewing Bee*.

Both have decades of experience in the fashion industry, yet it is Young's effervescent wit and charm that has made her a media darling in her twilight years. She is a natural in front of the camera, but given the Bedfordshire native's illustrious life and career – as revealed in her memoir Behind the Seams: My Life in Creativity, Friendship and Adventure – this is hardly surprising.

After graduating from Central Saint Martins in the early 1970s, Young and three of her female friends launched the Camden-based fashion collective Swanky Modes, whose designs appeared in *Vogue* 

and were snapped by the likes of David Bailey and Helmut Newton. During these carefree years, Young lived in a squat in Maida Vale, partied with the likes of David Bowie and the Sex Pistols, and saw Swanky Mode dresses worn by superstars of the era such as Grace Jones and Cher.

In the 1990s, Young moved into cinema. Her creations included Leonardo DiCaprio's shirt in *The Beach* and Renée Zellweger's iconic bunny outfit in *Bridget Jones's Diary*.

Alongside her judging role, Young teaches at Central Saint Martins, where she passes down her sartorial wisdom. Musing on how she was taught darning, mending and crocheting by nuns at the all-girl convent school she attended, the talented designer confesses that while seeking perfection in the seams and sleeves she judges, she also wants to be excited and surprised by contestants' creativity.

It seems that, even at 74, Esme Young's best days remain ahead of her.

# A guide to

# EXPIRATION DATES

e honest, how often do you check the expiration date on your make-up? If the answer is hardly ever, then you're not alone.

Unfortunately, out-of-date make-up can cause a whole host of problems, including skin irritations and eye infections.

#### FOUNDATION: Shelf life of six months to one year

You can keep your foundation germ-free for longer by keeping your fingers away from the neck of the bottle and gently dripping the formula onto the back of your hand before applying. If your foundation starts to separate, it definitely needs to be binned.

#### CONCEALER: Shelf life of six months to one year

Similar to foundation, concealer can last up to one year as long as you keep it out of direct sunlight and avoid touching the applicator with your fingers. Again, if it separates, throw it away.

#### LIPSTICK: Shelf life of one year

Typically, a lipstick should last for around 12 months. However, if you notice a change in texture, whether it has started to dry out or become gloopy, or if it starts to smell funny, it is no longer usable. Remember to store your lipstick in a cool, dry place.

#### Shelf life of one year

Pencils tend to last longer than other eve products as they are sharpened regularly. Keep away from steam for enhanced longevity.

#### Shelf life of three months

If you don't want to get a nasty eye infection, you should be replacing your mascara once every three months or sooner if you notice that the formula has started to become clumpy or smell strange. Never share mascara.

#### Shelf life of three to six months

Although powder eyeshadow can potentially last for up to two years, because it is used around the eyes, you should replace it more often.



#### How do bees make honey?

Using their hollow tongues, bees suck up the nectar from flowers and store it in part of their stomach. Back in the hive, they requrgitate the mixture and spread it through the honeycomb cells. They then fan it with their wings to evaporate the moisture and turn it into honey. There are more than 300 different kinds of honey, depending on the flowers the nectar comes from.

Of course, honey is delicious spread on toast. But did you know it's also a great natural health and beauty aid because it contains micronutrients, including vitamins, minerals and antioxidants? It also has moisturising, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. For maximum benefits, choose raw, organic honey.

#### Healthy scale and hair

To treat your scalp, use a tablespoon or two of honey straight from the jar. Leave for a couple of hours before rinsing and shampooing. For a hair mask, mix a tablespoon of honey with the same quantity of olive oil. Leave on for 15 minutes before rinsing and shampooing.

#### Minor cuts, grazes and insect bites

If you're unlucky enough to suffer a cut or bite, simply dab on some honey to help with the healing process.

#### Core thronto

To relieve a sore throat, mix a tablespoon of honey with 1/4 teaspoon turmeric in a mug of warm water or tea, and sip when you need it. You can also use the mixture as a gargle.

A tablespoon or two of honey before bed, eaten or in a drink, can help regulate your blood sugar and make you feel relaxed.

#### Romember

Never give honey to children under one year as certain bacteria in honey can produce toxins in a baby's intestines. Also remember that honey is high in sugar and calories. The information here is for guidance only - it is not medical advice.



# PUZZLES & TRIVIA

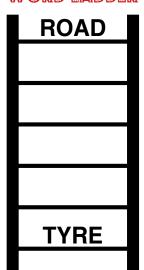
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#### DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Members of the Royal Family are not allowed to sign autographs. This is in case somebody tries to forge their signature.
- ▶ During her reign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sent more than 300,000 congratulatory cards to people celebrating their 100th birthdays, and more than 900,000 messages to couples marking their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary.
- ▶King Charles III, the former Prince of Wales, has been the heir apparent since he was three years old.
- ▶In November 1965, while a student at Gordonstoun School, the then-Prince of Wales played the lead in Shakespeare's Macbeth.
- ▶The former Prince of Wales has presented the weather forecast on the BBC.

#### WORD LADDER

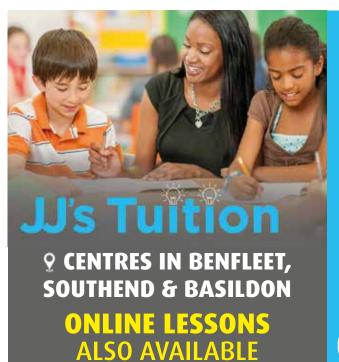


THE AIM: Change the word at the top of the ladder one letter at a time to make the word at the bottom.

HOW TO: Change one letter on each step to make a new word. By the time you reach the end, you should have created the new word.

DO NOT rearrange the order of the letters.

TIP: There is usually more than one way to solve this puzzle.



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"From the start, through design, planning and build, Christian worked with me to bring to life my vision of the perfect garden office. I've never been happier, or more productive, working from home." Omar, Leigh-on-Sea



"Amazina iob by Christian and his team! GO WFH were recommended to us and did not disappoint, with their professionalism and attention to detail." Mr and Mrs Wright. Westcliff





f you want to start saving, then you may be wondering where to put your hard-earned cash. Two of the most popular options are ISAs and savings accounts, but which one is best for you?

#### WHAT IS AN ISA?

ISA stands for individual savings account and offers a tax-efficient way to save money. There are four types of ISAs:

- Cash ISAs
- Stocks and shares ISAs
- Innovative finance ISAs
- Lifetime ISAs

The government sets a limit for how much can

be saved each financial year and does not charge any tax on the interest you earn.

#### WHAT IS A SAVINGS ACCOUNT?

A savings account offers a safe place to put aside your money and allows you to earn varying amounts of interest. Depending on your circumstances, you may have to pay tax on any interest earned.

There are several different types of savings accounts, including:

- Easy-access accounts
- Fixed-term accounts
- Regular savings accounts

ISA	Savings Account
Completely tax-free	Interest is taxed if you earn over £1,000 for basic tax earners and £500 for high tax earners per year
You can deposit up to £20,000 per year	No limits on deposits
Limited to opening one type of ISA per year	No limits on how many accounts you can open
Good for large amounts and long-term saving	Good for large amounts and long-term saving

Before you decide whether to open an ISA or a savings account, you need to determine your needs and savings goals. Typically, you can earn more competitive interest rates on a savings account and. depending on the account, you may be able to both deposit and withdraw money. However, an ISA is a good choice if you want to protect yourself from paying tax on any interest earned.





# SECOND CITIES

FIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHERE THE LESSER-KNOWN SECOND CITIES OFFER, ARGUABLY, MORE THAN THE CAPITAL

#### 1. BERGEN, NORWAY

Many people visiting Scandinavia will instantly migrate towards Oslo for its green spaces, architecture and nightlife, yet for those looking to sample a more stylish, artistic side of Norwegian culture, Bergen is the choice. A seductive port decorated with colourful houses and romantic cobbled streets, it is the gateway to the fiords.

#### 2. KRAKÓW, POLAND

Poland's elevation into a popular location to visit over the past 20 years has been impressive, and this is no better exemplified than in the way Kraków, its second city, welcomes visitors.

A former European Capital of Culture, it is a creative tourist's dream, with arts, crafts, collections and museums, plus a host of theatres for the performing arts.

#### 3. PORTO, PORTUGAL

Located on the Iberian Peninsula, many parts of Porto were built with the aim of luring in foreign investment, so it makes sense that Lisbon's smaller sibling has an abundance of interest and charm.

From bridges to cathedrals, elegant gardens to wine tasting – the city is the birthplace of port wine – it's a smorgasbord of tastes and flavours.

#### 4. CORK, IRELAND

The last port of call for the Titanic before it headed off across the Atlantic, Cork has a lot going for it, with a bustling market, friendly people, and a renowned food and drink scene.

Much more personal than Dublin, it introduces tourists to the rural delights of southern Ireland.

#### 5. KOŠICE, SLOVAKIA

A modern city with an eco edge, Košice combines incredible architecture dating back centuries with a defined approach towards sustainability and the repurposing of old spaces for creative industry.

With a warm welcome and thriving arts scene, this is an inspirational place which transports visitors into a world that reflects the past while embracing the future.

#### GUIDE TO BUYING A

# USED SCOOLER

hether you are a first-time buyer or are seasoned in the world of scooters, a used one can save you a pretty penny.

Below are four questions you need to ask before buying a used scooter.

#### **DOES IT RUN?**

While this may seem like a no-brainer, before you buy a used scooter, you need to make sure that it actually runs. Once you have established that it does, the next step is to listen to how it sounds. Four-stroke engines should have a smooth hum, whereas two-stoke engines should sound like a gentle chainsaw, so make sure you listen out when you do a test drive.

#### HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SITTING?

If you are purchasing a used scooter online, take a close look at the pictures. Does the scooter look dusty? If yes, then it may

have been sitting unused for a while. Make sure you check the battery and the tyres as both of these are likely to need replacing.

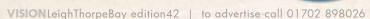
#### CAN YOU STILL GET SPARE PARTS FOR THE SCOOTER?

While you can still get spare parts for most scooters that have come out in the last decade, it is always worth checking before you sign on the dotted line. Don't forget to also be vigilant of scooters that are missing several body panels, as this can be a sign of a crash or that the scooter has been stolen.

#### WHO IS THE SELLER?

You can choose to buy a used scooter from either a dealership or a private seller. While there are advantages and disadvantages for each option, a dealership is a safer bet as you can find out about their reputation online and they are more likely to provide detailed checks on their scooters.







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