

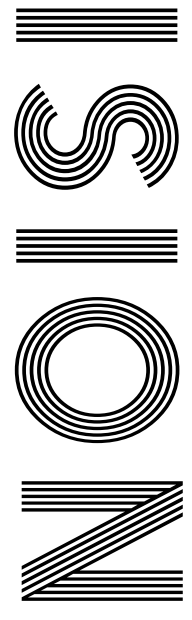


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Editor's notes...

JULY 2023



Nik Allen, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION** LeighThorpeBay. As we enter the heart of summer, July brings forth a special milestone for many families in our community. Summer is a time of transition and excitement as our little ones embark on a new chapter in their educational journey - the leap from preschool to primary school.

As a father currently going through this, I marvel at how quickly the years have flown by and reflect on the wonderful memories created during this time.

In particular, I want to highlight the efforts of our local preschools and primary schools in ensuring a smooth and successful transition for our young learners.

It is heartening to see that our local educators understand the importance of building strong foundations for our children from the very beginning. They recognise that a supportive and nurturing environment during this critical transition phase can make a world of difference in shaping a child's educational journey.

Investing time and effort in ensuring our children settle in well and have the best possible start demonstrates the commitment of our educational institutions. Such collaborative efforts between nurseries and primary schools lay a solid foundation for our children's academic, social and emotional development.

I hope everyone enjoys their summer holidays before the new school term.

Nik Allen

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MARTIN TYLER'S fantastic finish

Celebrating both the career and the caressing tones of Martin Tyler, one of the most revered and celebrated football commentators of the modern era, who has left Sky Sports after 33 years of service.

"Manchester City are still alive here... Balotelli... AGUERROOOOO! I swear you'll never see anything like this again. So, watch it. Drink it in."

Martin Tyler's almost indelible words that accompanied Manchester City's first Premier League title in 2011/12 came more than two decades into his service as lead commentator for Sky Sports, the leading UK broadcaster of the English top-flight since its inception in 1992.

To link the Chester-born wordsmith with the pioneering, game-changing nature of Rupert Murdoch's pay TV revolution is an appropriate fit. Both supported each other in the growth of a football product that, rightfully, was to present our domestic league as the very best in the world.

That piece of iconic commentary came on a day when the blue half of Manchester scored two injury-time goals against QPR to wrestle the title away from their city rivals United. Many regard it as being right up there with the sport's other legendary narratives – from Kenneth Wolstenholme's "They think it's all over... it is now" in the 1966 World Cup Final, to Brian Moore's "It's up for grabs now" as Arsenal won the league title with virtually the last kick of the 1988/89 season at Anfield.

Indeed, that spine-tingling commentary is held so dear by the club's fans that many have it painted on walls, or inscribed on body parts – a goal and a string of words that kicked off a football revolution that now sees Manchester City as truly the dominant side in this country.

Tyler has always seen his vocal variations matched with awards – included in these are multiple gongs for Football Supporters' Federation Commentator of the Year Award, plus the much-cherished Premier League Commentator of the Decade.

Away from the satellite giant, he has voiced for Fox SBS (Australia), was the default commentator on the FIFA video game franchise between 2005 and 2022, and has also worked at the Euros and World Cup, having started out at ITV.

While the broadcaster is associated with the very top rung of the professional game, his inherent football passion comes much further down the ladder, given he is a supporter of National League side Woking.

Upon hanging up his microphone, Tyler said: "It's been a privilege to play a small part in the broadcasting history of the greatest league in the world.

"Working alongside wonderful professionals, I thank them for their support and expertise. It's been an honour as a member of a very gifted team."

Tyler, with his mannerisms, his turn of phrase and his presence that could fill the emptiest of front rooms on a Sunday afternoon, will be a hard act to follow, yet Sky Sports commentary is in good hands as Peter Drury takes the hot seat for the new season, starting in August 2023.



Photo credit: Mike Hewitt

Weird and Wonderful

festivals around the world

Summer is the time when crowds flock to music festivals, but did you know there are also a host of weird and wonderful festivals and events that take place throughout the year?

INTERNATIONAL HAIR FREEZING CONTEST: In the cold province of Yukon, Canada, the International Hair Freezing Contest takes place every February at the Takhini Hot Springs. With temperatures that reach below -30 degrees Celsius, participants dunk their heads in the hot water of the pools and then create frosty hairdos by shaping their locks as they freeze in the cold air.

BABY JUMPING FESTIVAL: Known to the locals as El Colacho, this unusual event takes place in Spain 60 days after Easter during the feast of Corpus Christi. It involves men dressing in traditional 'devilish' clothing to scare the crowd before running down the street and jumping over carefully placed babies.

WIFE CARRYING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Fancy carrying your wife around a 253.5-metre track that is riddled with obstacles? Then you need to head to the two-day Wife Carrying World Championship in Finland. A hugely popular annual event that takes place in late June/early July, the winning team is awarded a prize of their wife's weight in beer.

LA TOMATINA: You may have heard of this popular Spanish festival that involves A LOT of tomatoes being thrown about the streets of Valencia. Essentially an hour-long tomato fight for the chosen 20,000 participants, this event is held on the last Wednesday in August each year.

MONKEY BUFFET FESTIVAL: The Monkey Buffet Festival in Lopburi, Thailand, is, as the name suggests, a buffet for monkeys that takes place annually among the ruins of a temple on the last Sunday of November. The local monkey population in Lopburi is around 2,000-3,000, and all are welcome to the annual feast of fruits, cakes, vegetables and candies.

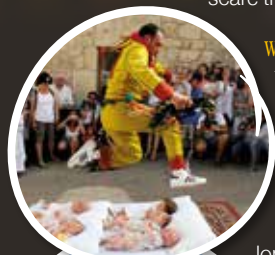


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HOME & DIY

GREAT BRITISH INTERIOR DESIGNER

LOUISE BRADLEY

Interior designer Louise Bradley has impeccable taste, and it's no wonder she's sought after all over the world to create stunning designs in properties that range from country houses to overseas villas. Louise started her business in 1991, and is a self-confessed perfectionist with an eye for detail.

CLASSIC, CONTEMPORARY BEAUTY
While her styles are striking and timeless, Louise's spaces are designed to be functional too. Her designs typically feature neutral colours enhanced with darker tones and blacks, with plush fabrics, statement lights and carefully chosen accessories completing the look. Louise's spaces represent a new modern classic style that works in different types of homes, including more traditional homes where the property's original features become elevated with Louise's designs.

RECREATING LOUISE BRADLEY'S LOOK
Some useful tips for recreating this look in your own home include:
> Keep your layout simple, deciding carefully where furniture should go to help you make the most of the space you have.
> Choose a muted colour palette that can be enhanced with darker shades to add depth.
> Dress up the space with cushions and textiles in luxury fabrics. A rug can be a simple way to give a new look to an existing space.
> Ornate mirrors and statement light fixtures add elegance, and can be an affordable way to dress up your interior if you're willing to shop around.

With looks that are simple yet timeless, Louise Bradley is the ultimate inspiration for contemporary décor that can work in any home.



Photo credit: louisebradley.co.uk

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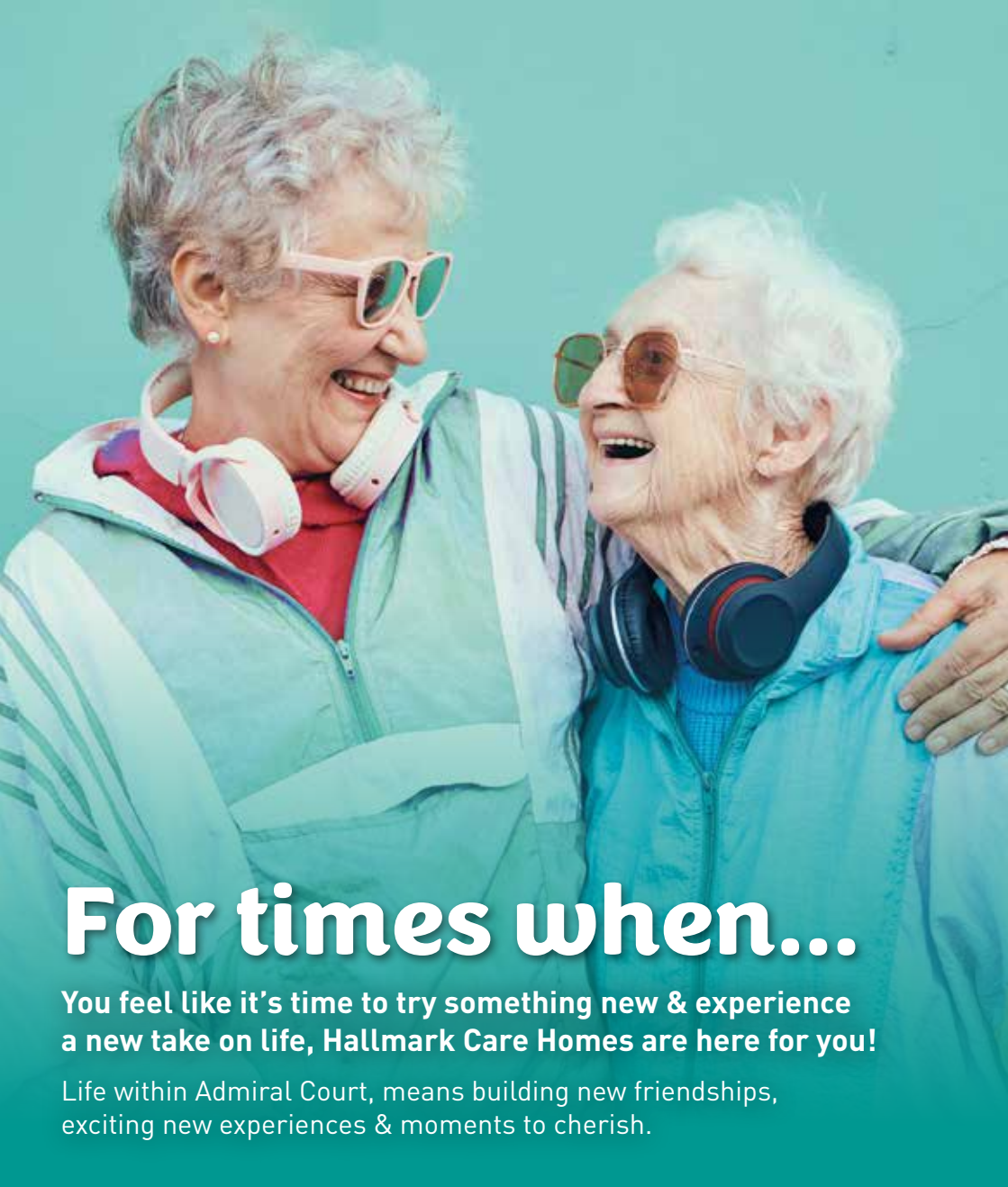


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Drenched IN COLOUR

YOUR GUIDE TO THE DRENCHING TREND

If you love a little colour, then you're going to love colour drenching. This latest interior craze is helping people utilise their favourite shades and transform spaces to give them a coordinated, striking finish. Check out our simple guide to colour drenching and how to nail the look in your home.

WHAT IS COLOUR DRENCHING?

Colour drenching means taking one colour and using it in various shades throughout a space. From your walls to ceilings and even your woodwork, using the same colour in a room can be super stylish. It's a bold look – one that can make a big impression.

HOW TO ACHIEVE THE LOOK

To achieve a colour-drenched look in your home, choose a colour that can be applied to your walls, ceiling, doors and window frames. You can then play around with accessories in the same or similar shades to help you fill out the space.

This is a fantastic way to make the most of any statement furniture items you have. A contrasting piece or artwork can really shine in a colour-drenched room, with the space creating the perfect backdrop.

WHICH ROOMS WORK BEST?

Colour drenching looks great in spaces like living rooms or dining areas. The less clutter you have, the more effective colour drenching can be. If you have a small space to work with, this can be a good way to create the illusion of a bigger room.

You can opt for light, dark or bold colours with colour drenching, helping to create a range of different effects within your home.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLOURS

When it comes to colour drenching, choosing the right colour is important – you're going to be seeing a lot of it, after all.

Some of the colours that work well for colour drenching include rich shades of navy and green, pink and burgundy. White and neutral shades can also work well, especially when paired with wooden details.

You may want to avoid using pastels like yellow, green and pale blue – the room may look too light without any contrasting features.

AN EXTRA TIP

Start with a feature wall in your chosen colour to see how it feels. If you like it and like the way the light hits the space, you can start adding to it until your room is sufficiently drenched.

Why is my ORCHID dying?



Growing orchids can be a daunting prospect, even for the most experienced gardener. That being said, when cared for correctly, this beautiful bloom can last between 15 and 20 years.

Six signs that your orchid is dying

- 1** The leaves turn yellow and drop
While the shedding of leaves is a natural process for almost all plants, if new leaves start to turn yellow or drop off, this indicates that your orchid is getting too much light or water.
- 2** The leaves have brown tips
When the leaves on an orchid turn brown, this means that they are not getting enough moisture and you need to adjust your watering schedule to water your plant more frequently.
- 3** The leaves become wrinkled
Wrinkled leaves are a sure sign of underwatering and, in some cases, the leaves may start to fold in on themselves.
- 4** The aerial roots dry up
If your orchid is not getting enough humidity, its aerial roots may shrivel, become dry and turn brown. If the root is dead, you will need to remove it with a sterilised cutting tool.
- 5** The leaves have black or brown spots
Black or brown spots on leaves are usually caused by sunburn from too much bright light. If this occurs, move your orchid to a more shaded spot.
- 6** Your orchid does not bloom
If your orchid is not blooming, then this is almost definitely owing to poor growing conditions or conditions that are not suited to your particular orchid.

- How to make your orchid live longer**
- > Position your orchid in bright but indirect light
 - > Water your orchid once a week with room temperature water
 - > Keep them in a room where the temperature is between 18 and 29°C
 - > Cut away any blooms that have died
 - > When not in bloom, give your orchid a 20-20-20 fertiliser which contains 20 per cent nitrogen, 20 per cent phosphorous and 20 per cent potassium.



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FROM YOUR AREA

LOCAL NEWS

Resident recognised on Birthday Honours List



Photo credit: Cheryl Bertschi

A Leigh-on-Sea woman has been recognised on His Majesty King Charles III's Birthday Honours List.

Cheryl Bertschi (pictured above) was awarded a British Empire Medal on the List, which was announced on June 16.

Cheryl is a tutor at Southend Adult Community College, having previously worked in a variety of education roles, including as a teacher, a pre-school manager and a support assistant.

She is also a keen volunteer, having run a soup kitchen for the homeless for the past nine years. She has been instrumental in organising Christmas present donations for children who cannot afford them, and also volunteers at night to signpost services aiding those struggling with addiction.

Cheryl is one of nearly 100 people in the education sector recognised in the Birthday Honours.

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan said: "For the King's first Birthday Honours, it's truly inspiring to see almost 100 awards given to those who are making a positive difference to the lives of families and people in education."

Teenager charged following stabbing

A 17-year-old boy from Leigh has been charged with Aggravated Bodily Harm (GBH) with intent following a stabbing in Southend.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared at Southend Magistrates' Court on

Wednesday, June 21.

A 20-year-old male also charged with GBH has been released on bail until September.

The arrests took place after police were called to the Eastwood region of the city, shortly after 3.20pm on Monday, June 19.

It was reported that the occupant of a car had been involved in an argument with a pedestrian, which then escalated, and led to the car's occupant sustaining a stab wound to the torso.

The pedestrian then struck the victim's car and left the area. The victim was taken to hospital, having received non-life-threatening injuries.

Community invited to get involved with artwork

A campaign to raise awareness and funds for those dealing with baby loss is to return for a second year, following a successful debut that saw Thorpe Bay Beach covered in knitted items.

To support Baby Loss Awareness Week, which runs between October 9 and 15 every year, a group of local crocheters decided to create an art piece that would get people in the area talking.

Following a major collaborative community effort, the beach in Thorpe Bay was covered in thousands of knitted hearts in pink, blue and white.

Now, one of the organisers, Ellie Day, is asking for even more people to get involved this year.

To find out more and get involved, contact Ellie Day at www.facebook.com/ellie.day.98

The final deadline for hearts is October 1.



Photo credit: Ellie Day

LEIGH-ON-SEA PROPERTY NEWS

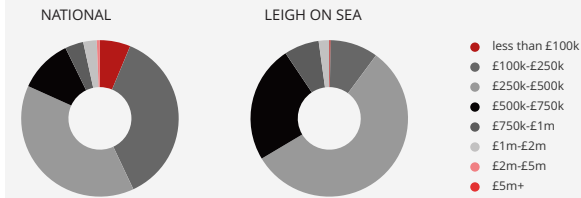
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LOCAL MARKET ROUNDUP



Over the last 12 months the average sales price in Leigh on Sea was **£409,722**. The total value of sales was **£296,869,151**.

Transactions by price band over the last 12 months



House price growth over 1 year and 5 years

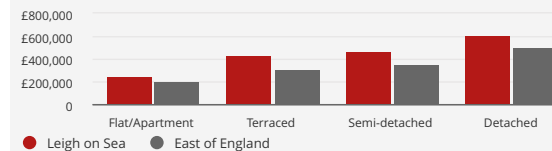


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Average prices over last 12 months



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Have a great month, see you in August.

Charlotte

NATIONAL MARKET

House prices

Rightmove reported the first monthly drop in asking prices this year with new selling asking prices £82 lower in June compared to May. Rightmove predict an overall 2% annual drop in new seller average asking prices by the end of 2023.

Economy

Inflation, the rate at which prices are rising, remained at 8.7% in May, as core inflation remains at its highest rate since 1992. The Bank of England has raised the base rate to 5%, up from 4.5%.

Transactions

The HMRC report just over 80,000 sales took place in May. Except for 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown this is the lowest May total since 2012 and 12% lower than the 10-year (2010-2019) average.

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JAMES DUDDRIDGE MP
Conservative MP Rochford and Southend East



This month, it has been my pleasure to have been invited to join assemblies at various schools in the constituency to speak on the life of a Member of Parliament, followed by Q&A sessions. I was asked some very probing questions, and despite the differing age ranges, the interest and interaction were great.

I always take away something useful from these visits, and hope that sometime in the future, something I said will resonate with them. There is always a new MP in the making somewhere.

Thank you again to the teaching staff for giving up their precious time.

Some of the schools had visited the UK Parliament Education Centre, where the tours cover all ages and a myriad of topics. This is something I would highly

recommend, and my office would be happy to pass on contact details.

On the subject of children, I met with Frankie Buzer (pictured above, right), who runs Mini First Aid South Essex for all of the family, as well as Early Years and Kids' Mini First Aid classes in pre-schools, schools and holiday clubs. Frankie's enthusiasm is contagious, and she even got me practising my first aid skills.

First aid is something we should all have some knowledge of, and more details of Frankie's classes can be found at www.southernessex.minifirstaid.co.uk

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

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Heavyweight promoter stays true to his roots



Photo credit: Gary Carr/INPHO/Shutterstock

The man who runs rings around the world's best boxers, Eddie Hearn is undoubtedly one of Brentwood's finest sporting exports, even if his activities, primarily across boxing, rarely see him break into a sweat.

Hearn, who attended the private Brentwood School before heading to Havering College in Hornchurch, is the son of Barry Hearn and therefore comes from solid boxing promoter stock. Yet over the past decade, Eddie has truly stepped out of his father's shadow.

Hearn's first foray into boxing promotion came in 2004, when he used Brentwood as the base for his first sporting event. The showcase featured a number of up-and-coming boxers, and enabled him to begin to build his reputation.

He has gone on to work with some of the biggest names in the sport, including Anthony Joshua OBE, Dillian Whyte and Kell Brook. He has also promoted numerous world champions, including Carl Froch MBE, Tony Bellew and Katie Taylor, as well as dabbling in management for poker, snooker and darts.

Hearn, who now lives in Billericay with his wife Chloe and their two daughters, is known for his flamboyant personality and an ability to promote fights in a way that generates excitement and interest from fans. He is a master of social media, using Twitter and Instagram to engage with fans and promote his fighters, both male and female.

Despite his success, Hearn is not without his critics. Some boxing fans accuse him of having too much control over the sport, and have questioned his decision to work with streaming service DAZN. This is despite the fact that the multi-million-pound deal disrupted the traditional pay-per-view model, making elite boxing more accessible to fans around the world.

The promoter's biggest fight was the heavyweight rematch between Anthony Joshua OBE and Andy Ruiz Jr, which was held in Saudi Arabia in 2019; yet more recently he brilliantly traded verbal punches with Simon Jordan on talkSPORT.

Hearn's success in boxing has given him an estimated worth of more than £100million, yet he remains fiercely loyal to his Essex roots.

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YOUR LOCAL EVENTS



WHAT'S ON

REEL ROCK FESTIVAL

Indirock, 1st Floor, Victoria Shopping Centre, 362 Chartwell Square, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5SP

Thursday, July 20, 7pm – 11pm



Photo credit: Indirock

For more than two decades, Reel Rock has been showing the best, most heart-stopping documentaries from the world of climbing, and for the first time ever, it's coming to Southend.

Tickets cost £15 per person and include a free bag of popcorn. To book, visit www.visitsouthend.co.uk/event/reel-rock-film-festival

MIDWEEK ANARCHY @ PEGGY'S

Peggy Sue's Music Bar, 1063A London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3JP

Tuesday, July 25, 6pm

Who says you can't have a party on a work night? Throw a little anarchy into your midweek with this music night, with acts including Filhos De Inacio, T-B*ch and Cannonball Statman.

Tickets cost £5.50. To book, visit www.ents24.com/leigh-on-sea-events/peggy-sues-music-bar/midweek-anarchy-peggys/6769964

MUSIC NIGHT

Leigh Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SP

Wednesday, July 26, 7.30pm – 9.45pm

Come join your community and listen to some fantastic and fun performances in the café and bar. Songs will come from across the decades, with jazz and ballads all expected.

The entry fee is £10 on the door.

FEEL GOOD FESTIVAL

Garon Park, Eastern Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4FA

Saturday, July 29, 10am – 4pm

Feel Good Festival is a chance for you to find out more about the resources available to improve your health and wellbeing. There will also be bouncy castles, food vendors, live performances and more.

Entry to the festival is free. To find out more, visit www.visitsouthend.co.uk/event/feel-good-festival-southend-2023

MUSIC AND BEER FESTIVAL

Hangar 5, London Southend Airport, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6YU

Friday, August 4, and Saturday, August 5, 2pm – 10.30pm

Amid the backdrop of the airport's Avro Vulcan, enjoy some fantastic local bands while drinking delicious locally made tipples, with street food on sale too.

Tickets cost £18 for adults and £4 for under-18s. To book, visit www.avrovulcan.com/events/music-and-beer-festival-at-the-vulcan-2023

MATILDA JR

Thorpe Hall School, Waking Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 3RD

Saturday, August 19, 3.30pm and 6.30pm, and Sunday, August 20, 4pm

The children of the Little Theatre Company have put together this performance of the hit West End musical *Matilda*. It's an impressive feature, made even more impressive by the fact that they'll have put it all together within five days of showtime.

Tickets cost £13. To book, visit www.datathistle.com/event/2156913-matilda-jr



Photo credit: Thorpe Hall School

COMER CHAMELEON



The changing mode of Jodie Comer, and why, in the face of her recent Tony Award win, the British actress's career will surely only continue to ascend.

In the pantheon of British acting royalty, Jodie Comer's journey has been gradual, yet dramatic. The 30-year-old actress has worked her way up through the slightly clichéd ranks, with the usual spread of appearances in TV staples such as *Holby City*, *Waterloo Road* and *Doctors*. Lead-character presence in *Thirteen* and *The White Princess* saw the Liverpoolian build on her early success, with widespread attention on both sides of the Atlantic finally arriving as a result of her portrayal of assassin Villanelle in the BBC drama *Killing Eve*.

Comer's appeal is obvious; she possesses distinctive flair and undeniable talent, with an ability to switch between comedy and drama, romantic segments and thriller sequences.

And nowhere better has that versatility been shown than in her recent triumph at the 2023 Tony Awards, where she garnered the Best Leading Actress accolade for her tour-de-force performance in the Broadway show *Prima Facie*.

"I've never been one to pin everything I do on the idea of winning awards," she begins, "as I believe there is so much good stuff that goes unnoticed. And really, the success or failure of a project is something that only really I can decide upon.

"That said, when recognition comes along, especially with something this big, and in an environment on stage that is a diversion from what I have been doing, it does mean so much to me and I am so grateful."

Comer wouldn't be able to achieve what she has without the eclectic blend of strength, charm and emotional vulnerability that she brings to every role. She is visually striking and phonetically exacting, and with these tools, she manages to engage an audience in a way that few actresses of her age can.

"Drama is about sharing an emotion," she says. "It's not a one-way street – the task is to envelop everyone around you in a character and a feeling."

Comer's journey to the top, while impressive, has been linear. That's what makes the Tony Award her biggest achievement yet – for the fact she stepped out, alone, looking to impress not just those at home, but the fiercely demanding New York Broadway crowd too.

The show, a one-woman play, tells the story of a lawyer who defends men in sexual assault cases, though finds the script flipped when she herself becomes the victim of a sexual assault. The play was also a hit in the West End, with a successful run at the Harold Pinter Theatre.

Beyond the stage, Comer's cinematic work is equally noteworthy. Her role in the upcoming survival film *The End We Start From*, co-starring Benedict Cumberbatch CBE, is eagerly anticipated.

"For me, it's about continuing to move forward – to try new things and to work with new people. I am flattered when I get cast alongside some real heavyweights of the industry, and it is a struggle to feel worthy, at times."

Perhaps that's what makes Comer so popular – a sense of humility and down-to-earth persona. Despite her fame, she remains a humble Liverpoolian who loves her craft and respects her audience.

Photo credit: Jon Sugg



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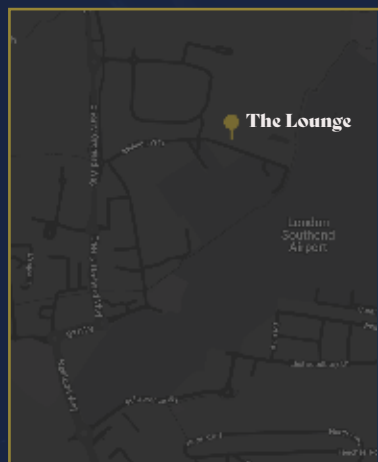
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 4th August Leanne Jarvis Finalist of The Voice UK	 5th August Sing A Long Club	 11th August Casper Clarke	 12th August Old Skool Club Night	 19th August West End Jersey Boys
 18th August Jon Hick	 25th August Reggae Night	 26th August Motown Classics with Masterpiece	 27th August Janet Kay & Carroll Thompson	

18-19 Aviation Way, SS2 6UN, Southend-on-Sea



PUZZLES & TRIVIA

PUZZLES

Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

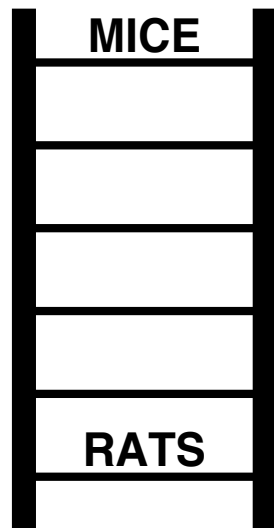
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DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Earth isn't actually perfectly round. Earth's rotation causes the planet to bulge at the equator and flatten at the poles.
- ▶ Coral reefs are Planet Earth's largest living structure. These underwater ecosystems are made up of colonies of tiny animals called coral polyps, which build calcium carbonate skeletons that accumulate over time and form the complex structures we know as coral reefs.
- ▶ The Earth's interior is not solid, but rather has a semi-solid or 'squishy' consistency owing to the extremely high temperatures and pressures.
- ▶ The Earth's diameter (the distance straight through the middle) measures a massive 12,800 kilometres, which makes it the fifth largest planet in the solar system.

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.



FOOD & DRINK

Water plays a crucial role in our daily wellbeing. From quenching our thirst to fuelling essential bodily functions, staying hydrated is vital. But many of us find it hard to drink enough water or don't know how much we need. If that's you, here are some practical ways to keep hydrated.

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

According to the government's Eatwell Guide, we should consume 1.5 to 2 litres of fluid per day— more if we're exercising or when the weather's hot. Some experts say we should drink more than that, but it's a helpful starting point.

DOES IT HAVE TO BE WATER?

No, it doesn't. Lower-fat milk and sugar-free drinks, including tea and coffee, all count. But caffeinated drinks can have a diuretic effect (increasing urine output), and sugar-free drinks can harm tooth enamel. So only rely on these drinks for some of your fluid intake.

TOP TIPS:

- ▶ Kickstart your hydration by drinking a glass of water first thing in the morning after you've woken up.
- ▶ If you don't like plain water, try infusing it with citrus fruit slices, berries or cucumber – or opt for herbal teas.
- ▶ Carry a bottle of water around with you so you can sip water on the go, whatever you're doing.
- ▶ Make drinking water a habit throughout the day – for example, before each meal or after you've been to the loo.
- ▶ Treat yourself to a smart water bottle or one with times and measurements written on it. Alternatively, download a reminder app, or set alarms or calendar alerts on your phone, to remind yourself to drink.
- ▶ Choose a water bottle, cup or glass that you like – it's easier to drink out of something you find visually appealing.
- ▶ Eat plenty of water-filled foods like fresh fruit and vegetables – they're hydrating as well as being nutritious. Watermelon, cucumber and oranges are all excellent choices.

THIRST



Beautiful

BROAD BEANS

If you want to try to eat more seasonally, then now is the time of year to embrace the humble broad bean. They're delicious, nutritious and guaranteed to brighten up your day. Discover two of our favourite broad bean recipes below.

with the mozzarella and spoon over the broad bean salsa.

- Scatter over the toasted hazelnuts.

BROAD BEAN DIP

You will need:

300g podded broad beans | 3 tbsp crème fraiche | ½ a lemon | 1 tbsp fresh dill | Flatbreads or pitta bread to serve

How to make:

- Bring a pan of water to the boil.
- Add the broad beans and cook until tender.
- Drain and refresh in iced water.
- Blitz the beans, crème fraiche and a little seasoning together in a food processor.
- Tip into a bowl and squeeze in the juice of the lemon.
- Finely chop the fresh dill and stir through.
- Serve with warm bread.
- You can store this dip in a tightly sealed container for up to four days in the fridge.

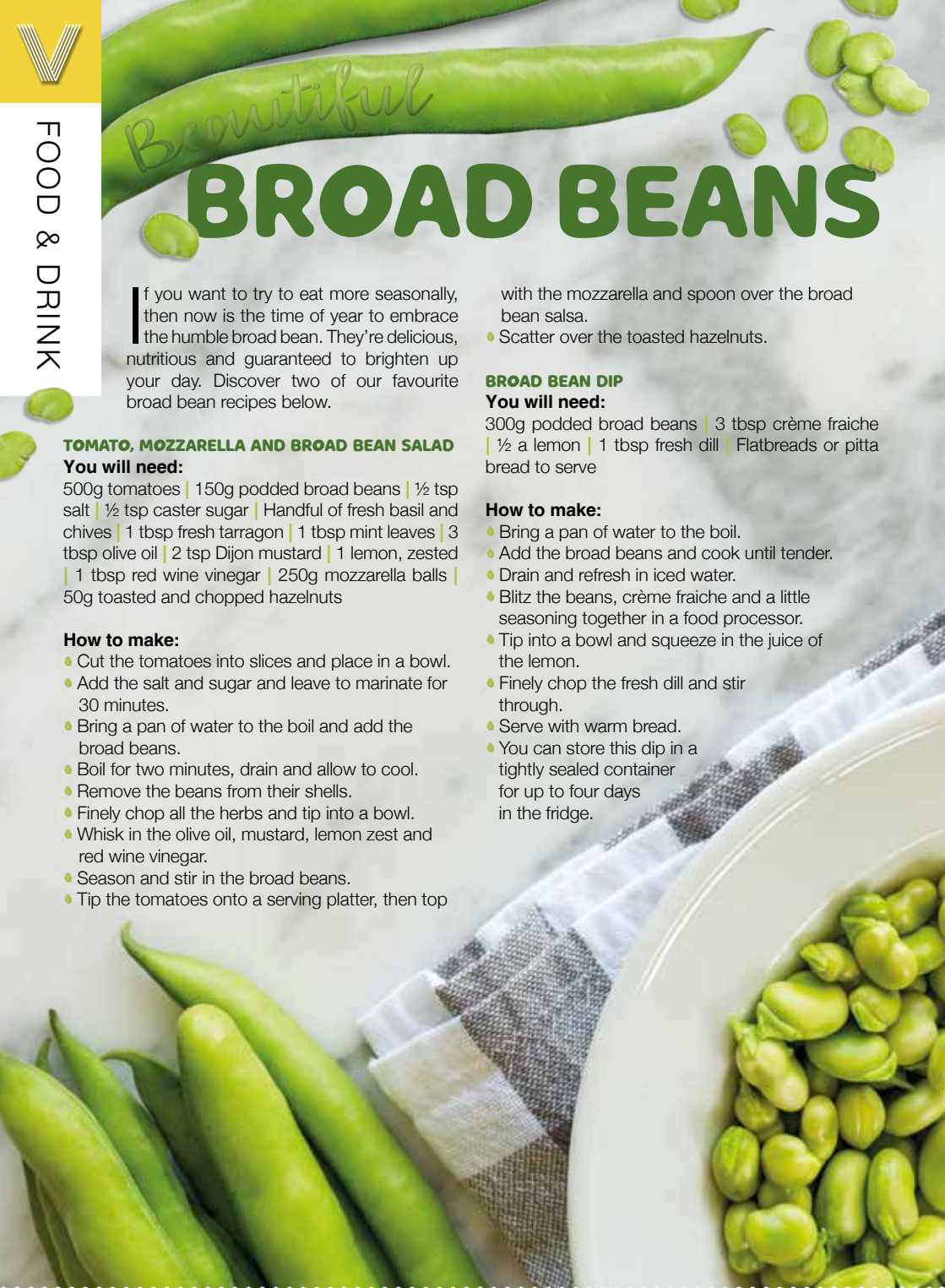
TOMATO, MOZZARELLA AND BROAD BEAN SALAD

You will need:

500g tomatoes | 150g podded broad beans | ½ tsp salt | ½ tsp caster sugar | Handful of fresh basil and chives | 1 tbsp fresh tarragon | 1 tbsp mint leaves | 3 tbsp olive oil | 2 tsp Dijon mustard | 1 lemon, zested | 1 tbsp red wine vinegar | 250g mozzarella balls | 50g toasted and chopped hazelnuts

How to make:

- Cut the tomatoes into slices and place in a bowl.
- Add the salt and sugar and leave to marinate for 30 minutes.
- Bring a pan of water to the boil and add the broad beans.
- Boil for two minutes, drain and allow to cool.
- Remove the beans from their shells.
- Finely chop all the herbs and tip into a bowl.
- Whisk in the olive oil, mustard, lemon zest and red wine vinegar.
- Season and stir in the broad beans.
- Tip the tomatoes onto a serving platter, then top





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GET SEATING savvy

With the right seating, you can transform your outdoor space into a comfortable and stylish retreat, whether you've got a simple balcony or something much grander.

GO SCANDI: One popular style for outdoor seating is the Scandinavian look, which often features slim wooden frames. This style embraces simplicity and minimalist designs, and is perfect if you're after something timeless and understated. Pair your Scandi seating with outdoor rugs for a relaxed and laid-back vibe.

EMBRACE INDUSTRIAL CHIC: If you prefer a more edgy vibe, consider industrial-inspired furniture. Look for dark metal frames and sleek designs, and choose metal planters and modern outdoor lighting to complete the look. Industrial seating is ideal for those who appreciate a modern and urban atmosphere.

OPT FOR COUNTRY HOUSE CHARM: If you're after a touch of elegance with a country house feel, look out for rattan lounge sets or daybeds. This furniture blends into the natural landscape beautifully – particularly if you add some terracotta pots and troughs – and evokes a timeless country scene. If you want to go green, choose eco-rattan, a weather-proof rattan lookalike made from recycled plastics.

CREATE A BEACHY PARADISE: For a relaxing holiday resort atmosphere, choose wooden suites you can relax into. With some mood-enhancing lighting and a solar lantern, you'll be transported to a beachy paradise, wherever you are. And if you want to complete the look, why not add a fringed parasol?

CHOOSE CAFÉ-STYLE CHIC: Indulge in the enchanting ambiance of an outdoor café with a budget-friendly bistro set. Ideal for small spaces, these sets are available in various materials, including metal, plastic and wood. Enhance the charm by adding a couple of plants, and voila! Your space becomes the perfect spot for dining al fresco.



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PETAL PERFECTION

Are you planning to throw confetti at your wedding? Then you need to know about petal confetti, also known as biodegradable confetti, and how it can help make your big day both stylish and sustainable.

WHY IS CONFETTI THROWN AT WEDDINGS?

The tradition of throwing confetti at weddings dates back to the Middle Ages, and is used to say congratulations to the happy couple and wish them a lifetime of luck and happiness.

WHAT IS PETAL CONFETTI?

Petal confetti, as the name suggests, is confetti that is made out of real flowers rather than plastic, metal or paper. It is 100 per cent biodegradable, affordable and makes a stunning addition to any style of wedding. You can create bespoke petal confetti mixes or you can order pre-mixed bags online from companies such as Shropshire Petals and Pretty Petals. There is also a confetti field in Pershore, Worcestershire, where you can

carry out pre-wedding photoshoots and purchase petals.

WHAT ARE THE BEST FLOWERS FOR PETAL CONFETTI?

There are many different flowers to choose from for your eco-friendly wedding confetti, with some of the most popular options including delphiniums, wildflowers, roses and hydrangeas. In particular, delphinium petals make wonderful confetti as they are small and delicate. It is worth noting that delphiniums and hydrangeas are harmful to dogs, so if you have any four-legged friends attending your wedding, then rose petals and lavender make a fragrant alternative.

OTHER WAYS TO USE PETAL CONFETTI

As well as being used for beautiful confetti, there are other ways in which you can use petals to make your big day just that bit more special:

- > Create a petal aisle for the bride to walk down
- > Flower girls and boys can scatter petals down the aisle
- > Place piles of petals around other decorations
- > Decorate your wedding tables.



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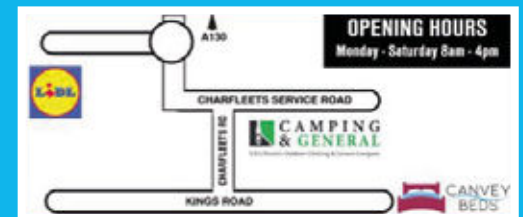
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What is a RESIDENT LANDLORD?

Have you ever thought about renting out a room in your home to bring in some extra income? Find out everything there is to know about becoming a resident landlord below.

WHAT IS A RESIDENT LANDLORD?

A resident landlord, sometimes referred to as a live-in landlord, is someone who rents out a room or a proportion of their accommodation in a property that they also live in. You are not a resident landlord if the property is split into purpose-built flats, with yourself in a separate flat, or if you are not considered by law to be a resident at the property.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING A RESIDENT LANDLORD?

The main reason that people choose to rent out a room in their home is to earn some extra money which can be used to help pay the mortgage, pay

off other debts, or be put aside for retirement.

ARE THERE ANY TAX BENEFITS TO RENTING OUT A ROOM IN YOUR HOME?

Yes, the government's Rent a Room Scheme allows you to earn up to £7,500 per year tax-free from letting out furnished accommodation in your home. If you earn less than £7,500, then your tax exemption will kick in immediately, otherwise you will need to complete a tax return or opt into the scheme.

CAN I RENT TO MORE THAN ONE LODGER?

Yes, you can. If you have more than one spare room in your home, then you can rent to more than one lodger. However, if you rent to three or more tenants who are not from the same family, this becomes a house in multiple occupation, which has very strict licensing rules.

DO I NEED TO TELL MY MORTGAGE LENDER?

Most mortgage agreements allow you to take in a lodger as long as you live in the property. However, it is worth checking with them first to make sure.

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No, not 10k in money but 10k in steps! According to a 2017 study, completing 10,000 steps a day is just as effective as doing five 30-minute workouts a week.

Here are a few more reasons why you should be clocking up some serious mileage.

To strengthen your heart

If you walk 10,000 steps per day, you will have a larger stroke volume than someone who only walks 1,000 steps a day. Your stroke volume refers to how much blood the heart beats per minute, with a larger stroke volume being a sign of greater aerobic capacity and better heart health.

To lose weight

Walking is a great form of aerobic exercise, especially if you walk briskly. This can help you to lose weight when combined with a healthy and balanced diet. Furthermore, you will store less fat than an inactive person and be better able to handle periods of excess, such as Christmas, without gaining too much weight.

To stabilise your blood sugar

People who walk 10,000 steps per day will have a much lower glucose and insulin response in their blood after eating a meal than someone who is inactive. This means that you are less likely to develop type 2 diabetes in the future.

To improve cognitive function

Daily moderate exercise such as walking has been shown to improve one's ability to learn new tasks, grow new brain cells and stave off cognitive decline. Aerobic exercise may also be able to stimulate new cell growth in the hippocampus, which is the part of the brain responsible for emotion and memory.

To reinforce healthy habits

It takes time to develop new habits, but sometimes all it takes is one small commitment to act as a catalyst for change. Start with small increases to your overall step count, before gradually increasing to 10,000 steps per day.



Never-ending NAIL POLISH



TOP TIPS TO STOP YOUR NAIL POLISH CHIPPING AND TO MAKE IT LAST LONGER

Do you wish your nails would stay chip-free for longer? Or maybe your favourite nail polishes start to become tacky before you've even used half the bottle? Either way, these tips are just what you need.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR NAIL POLISH LAST LONGER

Keep your nails short: Although you may covet long nails, the sad truth is that these are much more likely to break, chip and peel.

Buff your nails: Before applying nail polish, buff your nails using a glass or crystal file. Avoid harsh emery files which can damage the nails.

Choose the right top coat: Look for a top coat nail polish that boasts chip-resistance, protection and strengthening properties.

Always apply a base coat: The base coat is equally as important as the top coat, although this is a step that many skip. Use a strong base coat for best results.

Reapply the top coat: A top coat is not a set-and-forget type of application and needs to be reapplied once every two to three days to ensure the preservation of your manicure.

Wear gloves: Always wear gloves to protect your hands from water, chemical cleaners and any heavy-duty work.

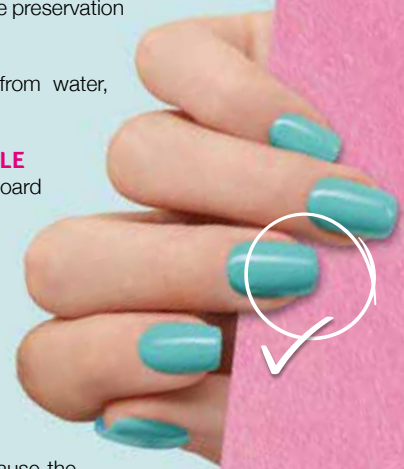
HOW TO MAKE NAIL POLISH LAST LONGER IN THE BOTTLE

Store it in a cool place: Store your nail polishes in a dark cupboard or drawer. You can even keep them in the fridge.

Invest in nail thinning lacquer: A good-quality nail thinning lacquer can be added to nail polish that has started to thicken in consistency or dry out.

Keep the cap on tight: Every time you use a nail polish, make sure you screw the cap back on tightly as this will ensure that no air gets in and dries it out.

Keep out of direct sunlight: Extreme warmth on the bottle can cause the polish to thicken or dry out, as well as lead to discolouration.





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CONVERSE *cleaning*

If your Converse trainers are looking more grimy than gleaming, then you will be pleased to hear that this type of footwear is relatively easy to clean.

All you need is a few simple ingredients and a little bit of elbow grease.

in a warm place. Never apply direct heat to your Converse trainers.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Baking soda | Toothpaste | Washing-up liquid | Stain remover | Water | A sponge | A nail brush and toothbrush | Cloths | Newspaper

STEP 3: Removing tough stains

For any stubborn stains, apply stain remover directly to the affected area. Leave for five to 10 minutes and then wash off using a nail brush. Leave in a warm place to dry. It can be a good idea to test your stain remover on a section of the shoe that is not visible first, such as the outer edge of the tongue.

HOW TO CLEAN:

STEP 1: Cleaning the laces

Remove the laces from your Converse and then create a cleaning solution using 50ml of washing-up liquid, 1 tbsp toothpaste, 1tbsp baking soda and 200ml of warm water. Soak the laces for two to three hours and then hang to dry.

STEP 2: Cleaning the shoe

Stuff each shoe with newspaper and generously apply toothpaste to the shoe using a toothbrush. Leave for 15 minutes. Wash off all the toothpaste using a nail brush and warm water, then leave to dry

NB: You should never machine wash or dry Converse trainers as this can damage the shoes.

How to keep white Converse white

If you have recently purchased a pair of white Converse trainers, spray them with a water and stain repellent spray before you wear them. When a stain occurs, spot clean immediately with an equal mix of warm water and washing-up liquid.



KIDS



CHORES

Would you like your children to start helping out around the house, but are unsure of what they should be doing? Use this guide to age-appropriate chores and create the ultimate chore calendar for your family.

AGES 2 AND 3: Most toddlers love to help their parents with chores, although their help may not actually be that helpful! Although you will be needed every step of the way, the below chores are a good place to start with this age group:
Making their bed | Picking up their toys | Helping to feed pets | Helping to wipe up spills

AGES 4 AND 5: Preschool-aged children should still be fairly motivated to help and love one-on-one time with adults. Suitable chores include:
Clearing and setting the table | Dusting | Making

their beds independently | Helping to tidy their room

AGES 6 TO 8: School-aged children are more independent and can keep track of their responsibilities. Chores you may want to entrust to them include:

Washing small plates and bowls | Helping to care for pets | Taking out the rubbish | Sweeping or mopping | Making their own breakfast or snacks | Tidying their room

AGES 9 TO 12: At this age, you can set a schedule and expectations when it comes to help in the home. Chores they are able to take on include:

Helping to wash the car | Learning to load and unload the dishwasher | Cleaning the bathroom | Operating the washing machine | Helping to prepare simple meals

AGES 13 TO 18: Most teenagers are capable of handling any household chore as long as they have been taught how to do it properly. Depending on their school commitments and schedule, tasks you may like to delegate include:

Vacuuming | Doing their own laundry | Cleaning out the fridge | Preparing family meals | Ironing clothes | Mowing the lawn | Caring for pets.



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DROP IT

like it's hot

THE PERILS OF BIRD DROPPINGS ON OUR CAR EXTERIORS, AND WHY YOU NEED TO REMOVE THEM QUICKLY

When a bird decides to lighten its load your head, it's said to be a sign of good luck.

Well, tell that to motor aficionados and they may well disagree, because unequivocally, bird poo is bad for your car's paintwork and should be removed immediately.

The acid in bird poo begins to corrode the shiny coat that sits atop your cherished four wheels within 48 hours. This acid kicks off a rusting process, which can be difficult and expensive to fix.

The fact that birds consume a large amount of gravel in their diet means that not only do you need to be quick in removing deposits, but careful as well, or you'll find that despite being prompt in ridding your paintwork of the mess, it's left behind a horror show of scratch marks too.

Preventing the deposit of bird poo on your car is a near-impossible task, though ensuring you don't park under trees or roofed overhangs will reduce the chance of your car resembling a painter and decorator's radio.

The best and easiest method to get rid of

the mess is simply to spray it with WD-40. This will serve to loosen the droppings. You should then use a sponge or microfibre cloth to pinch them up from the surface of the car.

Baking soda mixed with dish soap and dispensed from a spray bottle can be just as good, while pre-prepared over-the-counter formulas are expensive, but equally effective.

The real trick to ensuring no long-lasting marks on your vehicle where bird poo is concerned is rapid detection, so keep your eyes peeled and leap into action at the first sign of air attack.



BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS...

BOTHAM'S ASHES



This month, we look back at one of the most significant events in British sporting history, when Lord Ian Botham OBE single-handedly derailed the Australian Ashes machine.

It's rare to find a sporting event named after one person, let alone a whole series, yet July sees the celebration of more than four decades of the term Botham's Ashes – a tribute to a one-man masterclass that turned a dramatic series of matches on its head.

Australia came to England in the summer of 1981 keen to win back the urn, and in a low-scoring first Test at Trent Bridge, they bowled the hosts out for 185 and 125 to seize the initiative.

The second Test was drawn, and the Aussies looked to be coasting to success in the third, at Headingley, as they clocked up 401/9, before skittling England out for just 174. Lord Botham's half-century appeared little more than a consolation, and while a follow-on total of 356 (with the talismanic former footballer 149 not out) had the hosts ahead, it

seemed inevitable that Australia would put away the chase target of 129 very easily.

Only once previously in Test history had a team won after following on, yet the Aussies reckoned without Bob Willis MBE's devastating eight wickets for just 43 runs with the ball, and collapsed to 111 all out, allowing England to level the series.

Past that point, it was a Lord Botham masterclass – he took five wickets in the second innings in the fourth Test at Edgbaston with the Aussies requiring just 150 to win; then bagged a century at Old Trafford as England went 2-1 up. It was his third successive Man of the Match performance.

And in a sixth Test at The Oval, another century from 'Beefy' wrapped up a 3-1 Ashes victory.

From a position of apparent hopelessness, Lord Botham's courage, bullshness, power and fortitude guided England to a sensational series win.

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