

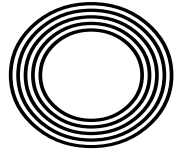


SUN SAFETY FOR YOUR BABY

RSPCA CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

PUMP IT UP
How to rock ballet pumps

STUCK IN A RUT?
Top tips to help improve productivity



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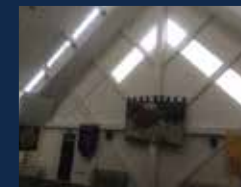
BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Editor's notes...

JUNE 2024



Nik Allen, Editor

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

Who wants to be bored? Well, it turns out, we all do - or rather, we should all strive to be bored every now and again.

Let me explain. I've spent the past few days planning things for myself and my family this summer - those six long weeks that are an extended version of every half term, long weekend and inset day. And in the 24/7/365 world we live in, it often feels like there's an expectation to schedule fun.

However, long before technology and wall-to-wall entertainment took over, I remember days as a kid when we made do with some very basic elements - sticks from the garden, a sheet of paper and a pen, or some Lego bricks.

Undoubtedly, we had a lot less, but our reaction was, in essence, to create a lot more. And recent research suggests that some of the most valuable experiences can emanate from basic, ordinary, organic things, because they tap into a sense of creativity that the internet age has perhaps taken away.

So maybe it's time to reconnect with some basic elements? Now then, where did I put that crumpled old piece of tin foil?!

Until next month, take care of yourself, and each other.

Nik Allen

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PROTECTING ANIMALS FOR

200
YEARS

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) was founded 200 years ago this month. A small group of dedicated people gathered in a London coffee shop to discuss how to prevent animals from being badly treated. They shared a common goal: to stop cruelty to animals and improve animals' lives. This humble beginning marked the start of a flourishing national movement.

In many ways, animal welfare has improved considerably since the 19th century – partly because of the RSPCA. But new times bring new challenges, and the organisation's work throughout England and Wales remains vital. Despite all the progress, there are still many issues that need attention, and the RSPCA must continue to adapt and respond to these challenges to ensure animals are treated with respect.

THE RSPCA IN HISTORY

The RSPCA has made countless contributions to animal welfare over the years – far too many to list! But here are just a few key milestones – each one representing a significant victory in the fight for

animal rights and welfare.

- **1835** – Cruel sports like bear and bull baiting are banned
- **1870** – The last bullfight in England takes place
- **1914** – A fund for horses wounded in the First World War is set up
- **1998** – Testing cosmetics on animals is banned
- **2019** – Wild animals are banned in circuses

ON THE FRONT LINES

The RSPCA has its own teams dedicated to saving animals in danger, investigating animal crimes and providing advice on animal care. These teams work tirelessly, often in difficult and dangerous situations.

The organisation also runs several hospitals and wildlife centres. These facilities are staffed by skilled veterinary surgeons, nurses and carers who provide treatment and support to help animals recover.

Wherever possible and appropriate, animals are returned to their natural habitats.

SHAPING LAWS AND MINDS

The organisation also campaigns for improved animal welfare laws, educates young people about animal care, and provides expert advice to help ensure animals are well treated. Through its advocacy efforts, the RSPCA has influenced significant changes in legislation, leading to better protection for animals. Meanwhile, education programmes in schools are teaching future generations about the importance of compassion and proper care for pets and wildlife.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate its 200th year, the RSPCA is launching a year-long campaign to grow its movement to one million supporters, so people can join in creating a better world for animals – and a better world for us all. There will also be special events such as the One Fun Day, the #50MilesForAnimals challenge,

and the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards. These events are designed to engage the public, raise awareness and generate support for the RSPCA's essential work.

For more information on getting involved in the RSPCA's 200th birthday celebrations, please visit www.rspca.org.uk/200th or contact your local RSPCA branch or shop. Whether you choose to volunteer, donate or participate in events, your support can make a difference. Join the RSPCA in celebrating 200 years of compassion and help create a brighter future for animals everywhere.





Watch out for this year's National Bingo Day on Thursday, June 27. Even if you've never played before, now's the time to have fun, meet new people, and maybe even win a prize!

BINGO THROUGH THE AGES

- Bingo began in Italy in the 1500s, when people played a lottery game called Il Giuoco del Lotto d'Italia (The Game of Lotto of Italy).
- A version of the game reached the US in the 1920s, where it was first called Beano. The name Bingo started by mistake when someone called out "Bingo!" instead of "Beano".
- Bingo became popular in the UK in the 1960s, and the first bingo halls and clubs soon appeared.
- The first online bingo sites were established in 1996 – and there are now more than 200.

National Bingo Day is a chance for people of all ages and backgrounds to get together and celebrate the excitement of bingo (although remember that bingo halls are usually for ages 18 and over).

Activities will be held at bingo clubs around the

country, and online events will also be held.

MAKE THE DAY YOUR OWN

You don't have to follow the crowd. There are lots of ways you can put your own twist on the day, and here are just a few ideas:

1. Throw a bingo party with family and friends.
2. Organise a charity bingo game to raise money for your favourite cause.
3. Set up a game of Reverse Bingo – you start with a full card and erase numbers as they're called.
4. Organise a bingo walk or scavenger hunt where participants collect bingo numbers at various checkpoints.

WHY NATIONAL BINGO DAY MATTERS

National Bingo Day is more than just playing games. It's a chance for people to enjoy an entertaining tradition that many of us love – and it's a great way of meeting and making friends.

Remember to mark Thursday, June 27, on your calendar – and get your dabbers ready for a day of bingo joy!



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Magic MAYO

Mayonnaise is one of the most popular condiments, boasting a creamy texture and tangy taste. However, did you know that it can also be surprisingly useful around the house?



TO DUST HOUSEPLANTS

If you have any faux houseplants in your home, you will know only too well how dusty these can get. Give them a whole new shine using just a clean cloth and a little bit of mayonnaise. Dust the leaves first, wipe with the mayo and then buff to finish.

TO SHINE STAINLESS STEEL

Stainless steel is susceptible to smudges which can make your surfaces and appliances appear dirtier than they actually are. To remedy this, grab a clean cloth and a small dab of mayo and use them to buff and restore any stainless steel in your home.

TO BANISH SQUEAKY HINGES

If you are driven to distraction by a squeaky hinge in your home, then all you need is a small amount of mayonnaise and 10 seconds of your time. Simply slather the mayo onto the hinge using your finger and then open and shut it several times to get it worked into the hinge. Wipe away any excess mayo using a paper towel or clean cloth.

TO REMOVE CRAYONS FROM WALLS

Have your little darlings let their artistic side run wild? Crayon marks on the walls can be a nightmare to remove, but you will be pleased to hear that mayonnaise offers the perfect solution. Use your finger to apply a layer of the condiment to the crayon marks and leave to sit for 10-15 minutes. Then wipe away with a clean cloth.

TO ERASE WATER STAINS

Erase water stains and rings on wooden furniture using just mayonnaise. Cover the mark completely, leave for 48 hours and then wipe with a clean cloth.

NB: You can use either full-fat or light mayo to achieve the same results.



SHAPE UP YOUR SPACE

UNLEASH YOUR INNER ARTIST WITH GEOMETRIC WALL ART

Geometric art is super fashionable right now. But original artwork is pricey – so why not make your own? You can create something beautiful even if you're a complete beginner. And it won't cost a fortune – you can buy everything you need for less than £20!

What is geometric art? Geometric art involves using basic shapes like triangles to create visually appealing designs.

A mural or a canvas? You can paint directly onto your wall using emulsion paint, whether it's leftovers or sample pots. Alternatively, purchase an artist's canvas and use acrylic paints to create a masterpiece to hang on your wall.

What do I need? For both murals and canvases, you'll need paint, masking tape and appropriately sized paintbrushes.

Decide on your design. First, sketch your design on paper rather than directly onto the wall or canvas. We recommend using straight lines, so choose triangles and squares rather than half moons or circles. Now select paint colours to complement your room's décor. Using three or four colours works best, and a combination of matt and metallic paints can look really cool.

Get it taped. If you're working directly on a



wall, start by outlining the entire area of your mural with masking tape. For both murals and canvases, apply masking tape to the areas that will form the outlines of your shapes, so that they remain your base colour. Ensure the tape is firmly pressed down and the edges are smooth. If you're working on a canvas, extend the tape (and later, the paint) down the sides of the canvas for a polished look.

Get painting. Paint each section from the edge of the tape in to avoid the paint bleeding, rather than brushing from the middle of each space out towards the tape, and don't apply your paint too thickly. Once you've done all the edges, you can fill the shape. When your masterpiece is completely dry, carefully peel off the tape.

Voilà! You now have a stunning piece of geometric art to adorn your wall.



Photo credit: What Walls Want via ebay.com, ighoandme.com



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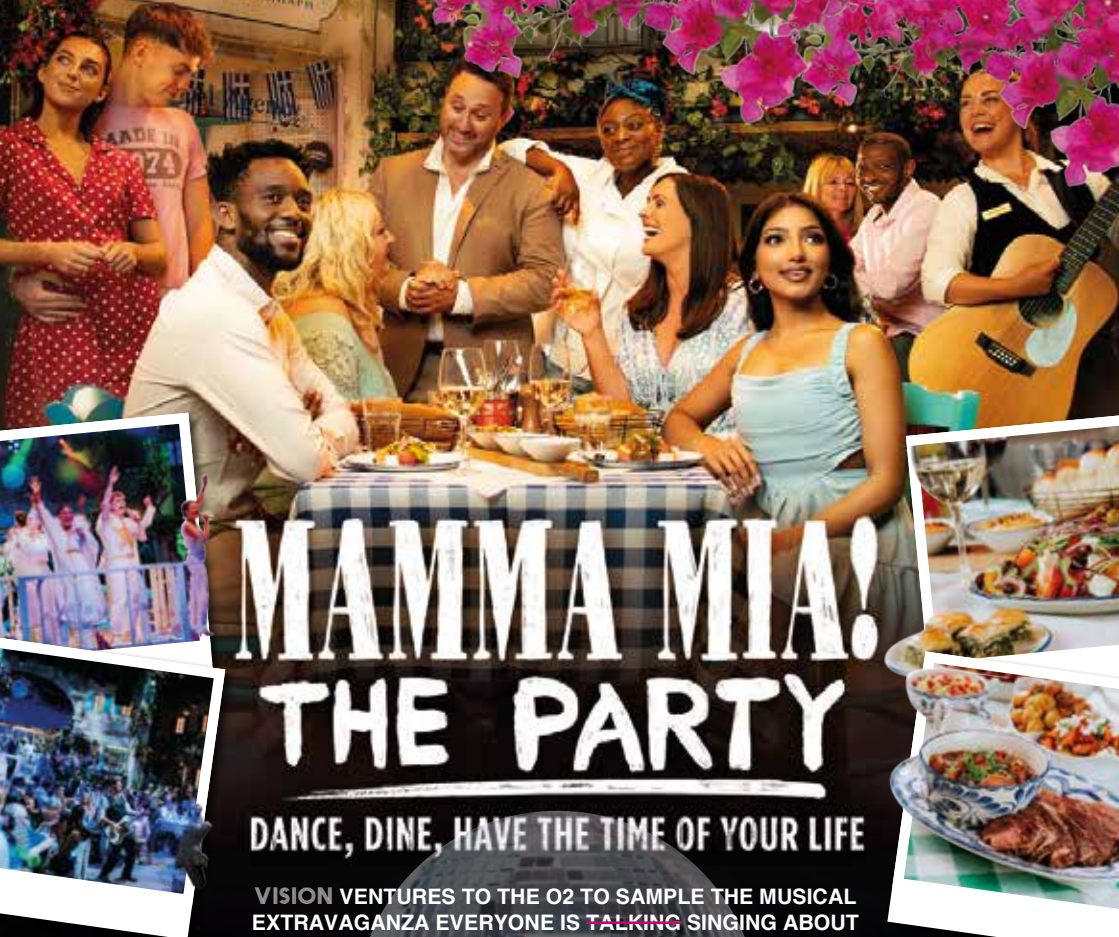


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VISION VENTURES TO THE O2 TO SAMPLE THE MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA EVERYONE IS TALKING SINGING ABOUT

At the point of being invited along to perhaps the ultimate immersive theatre experience – *Mamma Mia! The Party* at the O2 in London – there was, admittedly, a small sense of trepidation. We've all been to and sampled the splendour of musicals; and sometimes we've found ourselves woven into the performance in terms of, perhaps, our seat being a little too close to the action!

To combine that accidental participation with knocking back a four-course meal and expensive bottle of plonk... well, it's enough to pique the interest of even the most reluctant theatre-goer!

Mamma Mia! The Party, which has a year-plus run at the O2 Arena booking through to June 2025, follows the main characters' love story in Greece, while celebrating the influence ABBA has had on modern music.

Make no mistake, this is no bargain basement night out – what the creators have put on is a premium, all-encompassing experience.

The fun theatrical dining experience starts with

a free welcome drink, and is set in a taverna in Skopelos with the audience seated as if they are in a restaurant.

As the story begins with foot-tapping brilliance, so too does a marvellous celebration of the Mediterranean food landing on each table. Guests can enjoy a wide selection of hot and cold Greek delicacies, from fluffy mezzes to succulent lamb shanks, delicious tabbouleh to sweet loukoumades (doughnuts).

The actors, band, set design, atmosphere and hospitality are all second to none, and at no point do you feel the need to rush the process... a key factor in the show's duration of more than four hours. Performers buzz around, firing up songs and interacting with the audience at any opportunity.

By the end, you're left wondering if you really have been taken back a few decades to a sun-trapped corner of Greece. On departure, the sight of North Greenwich Tube station will confirm that, sadly, you have not; but until then, transport your imagination, your mind, and your perception of musicals to a whole new place.

Photo credit: Grant Walker



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FASHION

PUMP

it up



Ballet pumps are one of the biggest shoe trends of the summer, having dominated the catwalks earlier this year. Versatile, comfortable and super stylish, these can be worn for all occasions and with many different outfits.

What are ballet pumps

Ballet pumps are a type of flat-heeled, round-toed shoe that are typically lightweight and look similar to the shoes worn by ballet dancers. They are often made from soft leather, but you can also find them in materials such as canvas, PVC and nylon.

Where to wear ballet pumps

To the office: Simple, soft leather ballet pumps are perfect for the office owing to their neat design and flat soles. Avoid embellishments and pair with a smart skirt, dress or formal trousers.

To a party: If you don't like wearing heels, embellished ballet pumps are a great alternative for parties and nights out. Wear with your favourite dress, jumpsuit or midi skirt.

To a wedding: Elegant and graceful, ballet pumps are the ideal match for a wedding guest outfit. Opt for pale pastel colours such as cream, pink or powder blue.

For every day: Ballet pumps are comfortable and stylish, making them the obvious choice for everyday casual outfits. Great with straight-legged jeans and a shirt or vest top.

How to wear ballet pumps

- > Avoid wearing tights, stockings or socks with ballet pumps as these can cause unsightly creases and wrinkles around the ankles.
- > Different strap styles can make your legs look either shorter or longer. Thick ankle straps can take length off your leg, whereas thinner straps can help to elongate them.
- > Show some skin. Ballet flats look most flattering when the lower leg or ankles are showing, so keep dresses and skirts above ankle length or pair them with cropped trousers.
- > Complement your ballet pumps with statement accessories such as a chunky necklace, a large clutch bag or a bold belt.



Photo credit: ASOS.com

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Unique Art Deco houses encapsulate bygone era

Discover the Oliver Hill Art Deco Houses and their demonstration of architectural excellence and innovative brilliance.

Sitting quaintly in the charming district of Tendring and designed in the 1930s by the renowned architect after whom they are named, the Oliver Hill Art Deco Houses are more than just structures – they are enduring symbols of a bygone era, encapsulating the spirit of Art Deco design.

Out of the original 12 located on the Frinton Park Estate, 10 still proudly exist today, each showcasing the elegance and forward-thinking design typical of the 1930s.

Crafted during a time when the popular style was at its zenith, they reflect an era characterised by optimism, progress and a flair for the dramatic. The clean lines, geometric shapes and occasional opulent detail of these houses speak of an era when design was both an artistic expression and a bold statement.

For visitors and architecture enthusiasts, the properties offer a unique glimpse into the past.

Walking through this neighbourhood is like stepping into a different era, where each house reveals its own story of design evolution and cultural history.

Safeguarding them has been a community effort, underscoring their significance not just as residential spaces but also as historical landmarks, and today they mean different things to different people.

For the residents, they are cherished homes, carefully maintained to preserve their original charm and character. For architecture students and historians, they serve as a real-life textbook of Art Deco design, offering insights into the techniques and trends of the time period.

More than that, though, they are now serving to inspire future generations of designers, calling many students, architects and planners to the area – not to mention the odd ambitious estate agent, with many of the properties estimated to be worth in excess of £1million each.



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Photo credit: Zoopla



The iconic, evocative voice born in Billericay

Alison Moyet MBE has always been a remarkable figure in the music industry, possessing a distinctive voice that resonates through generations and captivating audiences with her soulful sound and profound lyrical depth.

Born in Billericay in June 1961, growing up in a vibrant community exposed Moyet to various musical influences. Adding those to her love of global icons Gladys Knight and Janis Joplin assisted in shaping her own unique style.

In the early 1980s, Moyet rose to prominence as one half of the synth-pop duo Yazoo, alongside former Depeche Mode and future Erasure musician, Vince Clarke.

Their hits *Only You* and *Don't Go* are timeless classics, showcasing Moyet's powerful vocals against the backdrop of Vince Clarke's innovative electronic soundscapes. Following Yazoo's disbandment, Moyet embarked on a successful solo career.

Moyet's debut solo album, *Alf* – named after her punk-era nickname – released in 1984,

was a commercial and critical success. Featuring hits like *All Cried Out* and *Invisible*, it cemented her status as a solo artist.

Her voice – characterised by a deep, rich timbre – set her apart in an era dominated by synth-pop and new wave. However, throughout her career, Moyet has shown a remarkable ability to evolve.

She's successfully navigated through various musical styles, from the synth-pop of Yazoo to blues, jazz and even theatre. Her adaptability and willingness to experiment with different genres demonstrate her versatility and commitment to artistic growth.

The 62 year old's journey is a testament to her enduring talent and versatility. From the streets of Billericay to the global stage, she has left an indelible mark on the music industry.

Moyet now lives in Brighton with her husband, David Ballard, with whom she has a daughter, Caitlin. She also has a daughter, Alex, with her former partner Kim McCarthy and a son, Joe, from her first marriage to Malcolm Lee.



Photo credit: BBC/Shiraine Forrest



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Garden Room



Need a space just for you or to host friend or family gatherings? We can design a space that enables everyone to feel comfortable & relax.



YOUR LOCAL EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

SUMMER FETE

St Augustine's Church,
70 St Augustine's Avenue,
Thorpe Bay, SS1 3JQ
Saturday, June 29, 12pm – 3.30pm



Photo credit: St Augustine's Church, Thorpe Bay

St Augustine's Church's Summer Fete is back this year, featuring a teddy bear parachute from the tower. The parachute drop costs £1 and there are no age restrictions. Those taking part can choose to make their own parachute in advance, make one on the day, or use one provided. Instructions for how to prepare a parachute are available at www.t.ly/YVN01

ANNUAL CHARITY DUCK RACE

Victoria Wharf, High Street,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2EN
Sunday, June 30, 11.30am

Sponsor a duck by buying a £1 ticket either on the day or in advance in the Old Town - if your ticket matches one of the first ducks home, you could win a prize. The race will take place at Victoria Wharf and there will also be lots of games on Strand Wharf.

All proceeds go towards the Lions Club of Leigh-on-Sea Charitable Trust.

OPEN DAY IN SOUTH ESSEX

St Clement's Church, 17 Broadway,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1PG
Saturday, July 13, 9am – 8pm

In celebration of the group's 55th anniversary, the Essex Association of Change Ringers is holding a celebration day which will see members ringing bells at a plethora of churches across South Essex. Between 9am and 9.55am, the group will be at St Clement's

in Leigh-on-Sea, before heading to numerous other churches, including St Augustine's in Thorpe Bay.

If you'd like to play the bells, tickets will be available to purchase from mid-June for £20 or guests are invited to pay on the day at the first five towers for £22.

For the full schedule or to contact organisers about purchasing tickets, see www.shorturl.at/d1qcD

SUMMER FAYRE

Shoeburyness High School, Caulfield Road,
Shoeburyness, SS3 9LL
Saturday, July 13, 12pm – 3pm

With a jam-packed entertainment schedule featuring multiple teacher-on-teacher gladiator races, acting and dancing troupes, and the school band, this is a Summer Fayre not to be missed.

Entry is free and booking is not needed.

THE RAPSCALLIONS

The Peterboat, 27 High Street,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2EN
Sunday, July 14, 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Come on down to seaside pub The Peterboat for a late afternoon of live music courtesy of The Rapscallions. An energetic three-piece party band from South Essex, this is a free event you don't want to miss.

Booking is not needed and all ages are welcome.

LUKE BRITNELL – LIVE AND UNPLUGGED AT THE CROOKED BILLET

The Crooked Billet, 51 High Street,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2EP
Friday, July 19, 8pm – 10.30pm

Amazing local talent Luke Britnell returns solo to The Crooked Billet for a lively singalong session.

Entry is free and booking is not needed.



Photo credit: Luke Britnell



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AS SHE DEPARTS FOR THE UNITED STATES WITH A FIFTH SUCCESSIVE WSL CROWN AS CHELSEA BOSS, A NATION OF FOOTBALL LOVERS SALUTES THE ENIGMATIC EMMA HAYES OBE

The spectacular rise of women's football in this country has made household names of the game's best players; yet the likes of Mary Earps MBE, Lauren James and Sam Kerr OAM are not the only stars on show, a fact proven by outgoing Chelsea manager Emma Hayes OBE.

The fiery, firm-talking Blues boss is arguably the most recognisable manager in the game – although England coach Sarina Wiegman OON CBE may disagree! – and someone whose tenure in West London has been nothing short of sensational.

In the Women's Super League's (WSL) most competitive era, Hayes has led Chelsea to 14 major trophies, including five successive Super League titles – the last wrapped up on the final day of the domestic season with a 6-0 demolition of Manchester United.

She now departs to take charge of the US women's team.

The fact that Hayes has chosen to venture to the burgeoning football across the pond shouldn't come as too much of a surprise. Her managerial career actually kicked off Stateside when she took charge of the Long Island Lady Riders in 2002, progressing on to Iona Gaels. A short stint at Arsenal Ladies followed before Hayes found her niche at Chicago Red Stars, where she worked as head coach and director of football operations.

Arguably, this insight, refined on both sides of the Atlantic, has informed the 47 year old's approach to football. She is a master tactician and one of the sport's most resilient characters, as well as a driving force behind mental and physical health in sport.

Her own evolution has run alongside that of

the game, and moving back Stateside in what is perhaps the biggest job in the game will add another layer to an already flourishing career.

"There are some opportunities in football that become just too great to refuse," says Hayes, "and I think this is one of them.

"The US women's team job is massive in every way, and I look forward to reconnecting to life over there, as it gave me some of my happiest memories.

"In my head, it was probably time to look for a new challenge anyway. We have done marvellous things at Chelsea, but I think both myself and the club need a new approach and direction, and I've no doubt we will both find it."

Ever controversial, Hayes has stoked the furnaces in the past with her comments on equal pay, player-to-player relationships, and the use of the tag "male

aggression" in describing a co-manager.

"When I've caused a stir, it's usually been in the heat of the moment," she says. "I am big enough to admit to my mistakes and to own them. I will make more in future, I'm sure!

"If I can supplement those slip-ups with winning trophies and continuing to push forward everything within this brilliant game, I'll take that!"

Hayes's first task is to restore the US women's team to their number one FIFA ranking. They currently sit fourth – their lowest-ever rating – behind world champions Spain, England and France.

"It's a big job, but I can't wait to get started," she says. "Hopefully, my experiences will go on to inspire not just the next generation of footballer, but coaches and managers as well. That really will be my greatest achievement."



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GARDENING



PRUNING *climbing* PLANTS

In part 2 of our feature on how to prune climbing plants, we look at how to prune sausage vines, wisteria, clematis and climbing roses.

HOW TO PRUNE CLIMBING ROSES:

- > In the first year after flowering, prune away any stems that are growing away from the structure.
- > In the second year and beyond, repeat this step and, if your roses are getting too vigorous, cut away some of the weaker growth.
- > Cut out any dead, damaged or diseased parts of the plant each time you prune.

HOW TO PRUNE WISTERIA:

- Wisteria can be left unpruned if you have enough space for it to do its own thing. However, for the best blooms, you should prune it twice a year, in late summer and again in winter.
- > In summer, control the size of your plant by pruning any green shoots that have grown during the current year to a length with five or six leaves.
 - > In January or February, when the plant is dormant, cut back the same stems to two or three buds from the main stem.

HOW TO PRUNE SAUSAGE VINES:

- During the spring and summer, sausage vines have the potential to put on metres of new growth, which means that you may want to prune them to keep them under control. However, no regular pruning is needed.
- > Wait for any blooming to finish and then remove as much from the longer shoots as necessary.
 - > Remove any dead, damaged or diseased leaves.

HOW TO PRUNE CLEMATIS:

- Clematis plants fit into one of three pruning groups and it is vital that you identify which group your one is in so that you can prune it effectively.
- > Group 1 clematis, such as Montana and Alpina varieties, require no pruning at all.
 - > Group 2 clematis, such as Niobe, Piilu and Nelly Moser (large flowering varieties), should be pruned lightly in February.
 - > Group 3 clematis, including smaller flowered Viticella varieties, need to be thoroughly pruned in spring.





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HIDDEN HAZARDS IN HOSEPIPES

The arrival of the summer sunshine means playing in paddling pools, topping up ponds and watering the plants. But did you know that your humble hosepipe is hiding a whole host of health hazards just waiting to strike?

1 SCALDING WATER: When a garden hose is left in direct sunlight, the water inside it can heat up. In fact, the water can easily reach temperatures that are hot enough to cause burns and scalding injuries.

2 CONTAMINATION WITH CHEMICALS: Hosepipes can release harmful chemicals such as lead, phthalates and BPA into the water, and this is especially true when they are heated up by the sun. These chemicals can pose health risks when ingested or absorbed through the skin.

3 ALGAE AND BACTERIA GROWTH: Warm and stagnant water in your hosepipe can create an environment for algae and bacteria to grow, and this can lead to unpleasant odours. It may also cause health issues if the contaminated water comes into contact with your skin, and severe complications if ingested.

4 LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE: One of the most dangerous types of bacteria that your hosepipe can breed is Legionella, which thrives in warm, stagnant water. While Legionnaires' disease is rare, it can cause serious illness or even death to the elderly and those with an underlying illness.

How to keep your hosepipe safe:

- > Keep it somewhere cool and make sure it's out of the sun.
- > Drain all of the water out before use by running it over a tall place such as a garden fence where gravity forces the water to exit the hose.
- > Fit an approved double-check valve to prevent any water or contaminants from flowing back into your main drinking supply.
- > Always turn the hosepipe off at the tap and, ideally, fully disconnect it when not in use.
- > Fit a self-closing flow control, such as a trigger spray gun, to prevent it from being used when unattended.
- > Use a watering can when possible to reduce your overall water usage.



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KIDS



SUN SAFETY

tips for babies

Whether you are planning to stay in the UK this summer or you are travelling to another country, if you have a baby, you need to make sure you are keeping them safe in the sun.

Keeping your baby protected from the sun
Babies under six months old should be kept out of direct sunlight as their skin does not contain enough melanin to protect them from the sun. Sunscreen is not recommended for babies under six months. Older babies should be kept out of the sun as much as possible, particularly in the summer and between 11am and 3pm when the sun is at its strongest.

Dressing your baby in the sun
Choose fabrics that are made from natural materials such as organic cotton and bamboo as these will feel cool and allow your baby's skin to breathe. Always make sure your baby wears a sun hat with a wide brim or a long flap at the back to protect their head and neck from the sun.

Avoiding dehydration
Babies need to have access to plenty of fluids when they are exposed to hot temperatures, in the same way that adults do. Breastfed babies do not need any water until they have started to consume solids, but they may want to breastfeed more than normal during hot weather. Formula-fed or combi-fed babies under six months can have a little cooled boiled water as well as their usual milk. Once you have started to introduce solids, your baby can have sips of water with their meals.

Keeping your baby cool
There are many ways to keep your baby cool when the sun is shining, such as running them a cool bath before bedtime, keeping their bedroom cool in the day by closing the blinds or curtains, and using a fan to allow air to circulate. In the daytime, babies can play in a paddling pool as long as they are supervised at all times and kept in the shade.

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HOW TO TACKLE TROUBLESOME

TAN LINES

Whether you have a t-shirt tan from working in the sun or swimsuit tan lines from a recent holiday abroad, these noticeable patches of paler skin can wreak havoc with your summer look. Here's how to tackle your tan lines.

1 LEMON SCRUB

Scrubbing can help to get rid of dead skin cells which can make your tan lines a lot less visible, and lemon is the perfect natural exfoliant. Simply mix the juice of one lemon with a little bit of sugar and a tablespoon of honey and work the mixture into your skin. Rinse off and see your tan lines start to fade after applying for only a few days.

2 SELF-TANNER OR BODY BRONZER

If you are struggling to get rid of unwanted tan lines, why not try covering them up instead? A self-tanner or bronzer can help to hide lighter areas and make them blend in better with your tanned skin. Just make sure you choose a shade that matches your tan or you could end up looking even more patchy. Body make-up coupled with setting powder and a setting spray is also effective.

3 BAKING SODA

Baking soda is a natural whitener, making it ideal for reducing the appearance of unwanted tan lines. To treat a single area of skin, create a thick paste using half a cup of baking soda and a few tablespoons of water, or, for a full body fade, add a cup of baking soda to your bath. Leave on the paste or soak in the bath for around 15 minutes and start to see results in one or two days.

4 POTATO SLICES

Potatoes are a rich source of vitamin C which has been proven to help lighten the skin. To use this method, either apply thinly sliced potatoes directly to the skin or make a mask by blending potatoes and applying them to the outer edges of your tan lines. Leave on for 20-30 minutes and then wipe off with a clean cloth. Repeat for two or three days or until you get the desired results.



BEAUTY





AROMATHERAPY

awareness week

Aromatherapy Awareness Week (June 8-14) is designed to highlight the important role aromatherapy can play in the management of our health, with activities and events taking place all over the UK.

What is aromatherapy?

Aromatherapy is a holistic healing treatment that uses aromatic essential oils to enhance physical and emotional health. Considered to be a science and an art form, aromatherapy is used to treat a variety of different conditions.

What can aromatherapy oils be used for?

- ✔ Peppermint to manage pain
- ✔ Lavender to improve sleep quality and for discomfort during labour
- ✔ Ylang ylang to reduce stress and anxiety
- ✔ Eucalyptus to soothe sore joints and to boost immunity
- ✔ Rosemary to treat headaches and migraines
- ✔ Cardamom to improve digestion
- ✔ Ginger to alleviate the side effects of chemotherapy

How to practise aromatherapy at home

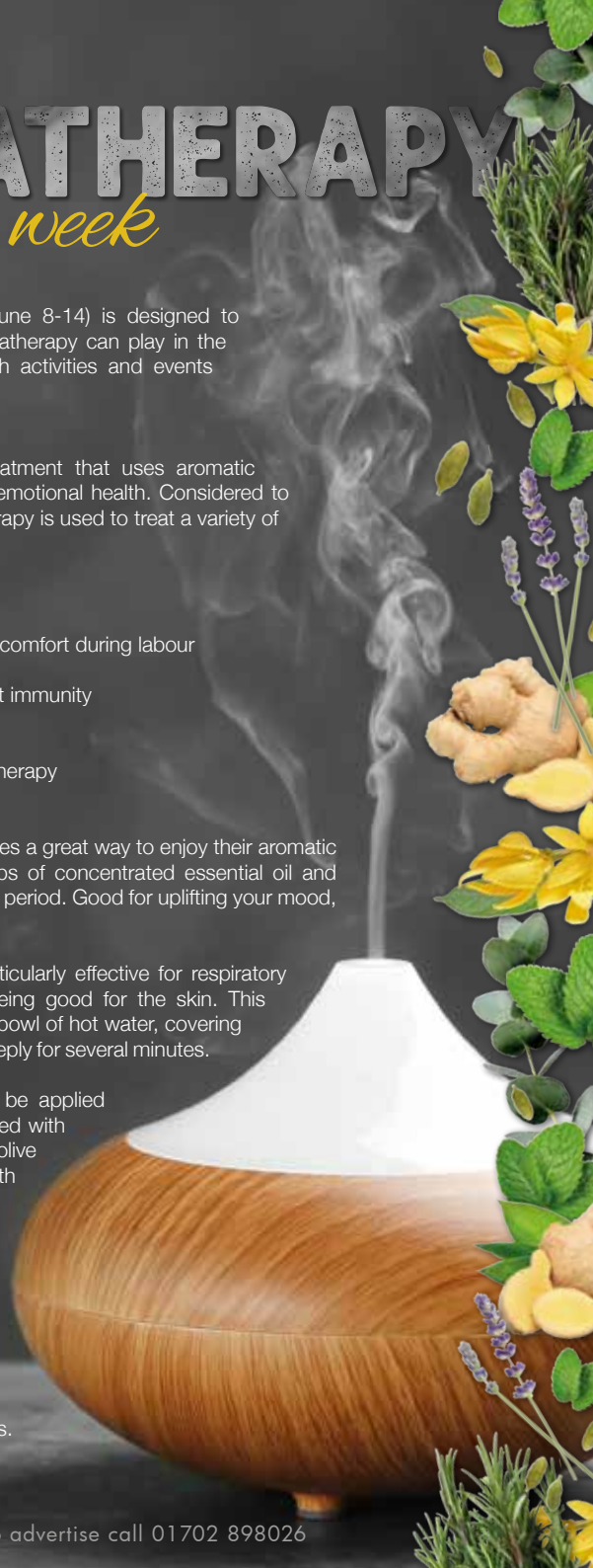
1 Use a diffuser – Diffusing essential oils provides a great way to enjoy their aromatic properties. This works by taking a few drops of concentrated essential oil and disseminating them into the air over an extended period. Good for uplifting your mood, promoting relaxation and aiding sleep.

2 Inhale the steam – Steam inhalation is particularly effective for respiratory issues and sinus congestion, as well as being good for the skin. This involves adding a few drops of essential oil to a bowl of hot water, covering your head with a towel and inhaling the steam deeply for several minutes.

3 Apply topically – Some essential oils can be applied topically to the skin, but these must be diluted with a carrier oil such as coconut oil, almond oil or olive oil. This method is good for massage, making bath oils, and creating soothing balms for pain relief.

Safety precautions

- ✔ If you have any allergies or sensitivities, perform a patch test on the skin before using a new essential oil.
- ✔ Keep essential oils out of reach of children and pets.
- ✔ Pregnant and breastfeeding women should consult their doctor before using essential oils.



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One of the most popular vegetables for home gardeners, this plant is often responsible for creating an abundance of produce. So, what can you do with your surplus tomatoes?

SUN-DRIED TOMATOES (serves 4)

You will need:

1kg tomatoes | 4 garlic cloves | 20g fresh oregano | Olive oil | Sea salt

How to make:

Quarter the tomatoes and remove the seeds | Place in a colander and sprinkle generously with sea salt | Leave for 20 minutes and rinse with cold water | Make a paste by crushing the garlic, oregano and a drop of olive oil | Mix with the tomatoes until evenly coated | Arrange on greaseproof paper, cut side up | Set your oven to a low temperature (around 90°C/ 70°C fan/ gas mark 1) and put in the tomatoes | Dry them in the oven for around 3 hours – do not let them start to brown | Leave to cool before placing in a sterilised, airtight jar and filling to the top with olive oil | Lasts for up to one year | Perfect for adding to salads and pasta dishes

TOMATO CHUTNEY (makes 2 x 300ml/half-pint jars)

You will need:

1kg tomatoes | 500g finely sliced red onion | 4 sliced garlic cloves | 1 chopped red chilli | 4cm piece of fresh ginger, peeled and chopped | 250g brown sugar | 150ml red wine vinegar | 5 cardamom seeds | ½ tsp paprika

How to make:

Tip all the ingredients into a large pan and bring to a gentle simmer, stirring occasionally | Simmer for one hour, then bring to a boil until the mixture turns dark, jammy and shiny | Pour into sterilised jars and allow to cool before covering | Will keep for up to six weeks in the cupboard | Add to Indian-style curries, to elevate a sandwich, or use as a dipping sauce

TOMATO SALSA (serves 4)

You will need:

600g chopped tomatoes | 160g chopped onions | ½ cup green bell pepper | 2 tbsp fresh lime juice | 4 tsp chopped fresh jalapeno pepper (with the seeds) | 4 tbsp minced fresh coriander | ½ tsp ground cumin | ½ tsp kosher salt | ½ tsp ground black pepper

How to make:

Stir all the ingredients in a bowl until combined | Alternatively, for a smoother salsa, blitz in a blender | Add a little lemon juice or vinegar before storing to preserve your salsa for longer |

Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to one week or up to one year in the freezer

Use as a dip for crisps, to cool down fajitas, or as a burger topping.



Working from home comes with a whole host of benefits, such as a better work/life balance and no commute, but that doesn't mean it's without its challenges. If you struggle to maintain productivity levels throughout the day, these products are just what you need.

1 AN ERGONOMIC MOUSE

A standard mouse can cause discomfort to the hand, wrist and forearm over time, whereas an ergonomic mouse is designed to keep them in a more natural position. It also requires less grip and force, which can help to prevent strains and other injuries.

2 AN ADJUSTABLE DESK

If you do not have a good workstation setup, you are at risk of injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome, mouse shoulder and repetitive strain injury, all of which can harm productivity. An adjustable desk allows you to alternate between sitting and standing to encourage movement and reduce strain.

3 A WELLBEING PLATFORM/APP

Working from home can be stressful, especially when family life starts to overlap with your office hours. To ensure you can work productively without damaging your health, consider downloading a wellness app such as Unmind, Headspace or Happify which can help you de-stress, sleep better and improve your mental wellbeing.

4 A DESK PLANT OR TWO

Indoor plants have been scientifically proven to improve concentration and reduce stress in the workplace. They have also been shown to boost productivity and creativity. Choose low-maintenance plants such as the snake plant, peace lily and aloe vera.

5 A WI-FI RANGE EXTENDER

As a remote worker, you will know only too well how important a good Wi-Fi connection is, and that there's nothing worse than poor signal when you have a deadline looming. A Wi-Fi range extender connects to your Wi-Fi router and works to strengthen its signal to areas it cannot reach on its own.

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DAY EXCURSIONS

JULY

- 1st - Polhill Garden Centre
- 2nd - Bluewater
- 2nd - Brighton Races
- 3rd - Ickworth House
- 3rd - Kent Lavender
- 3rd - Windsor
- 4th, 5th 6th 7th - Hampton Court Flower Show
- 4th - Tiptree cream tea & farm tour
- 5th - Petworth House
- 6th - Medieval Day at Arundel Castle
- 9th - Batemans
- 10th - Hastings & Rye
- 11th - Broadstairs
- 11th - Margate
- 13th - Bressingham Gardens
- 13th - Saffron Walden
- 14th - Columbia Road Flower Market
- 15th - Afternoon Tea at Cressing Temple

- 16th - Howletts Wild Animal Park
- 17th - Brighton
- 17th - Clacton
- 17th - Walton on the Naze
- 19th - Hertfordshire Canal Cruise & lunch
- 20th - Air Tattoo Fairford
- 21st - London Zoo
- 21st - Waterperry Gardens
- 22nd - Essex Countryside with lunch
- 23rd - Canterbury
- 23rd - Herne Bay
- 23rd - Savill Garden
- 24th - Bluebell Railway
- 24th - Ipswich
- 24th - Woodbridge
- 25th - Ruxley Manor Garden Centre
- 25th - Southwold & Aldeburgh
- 26th - Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway with lunch
- 27th - Maldon Promenade
- 27th - Norwich

- 29th - Ashford Designer Outlet
- 29th - Colchester Town or Zoo
- 30th - Eastbourne
- 30th - Whipsnade Zoo
- 31st - Sandringham Flower Show

THEATRE TRIPS

- 31st July - Fawltly Towers
- 22nd Oct - Abbaphonic at the Royal Albert Hall
- 31st Oct - Dixieland Jazz Show
- 15th Jan - Devil Wears Prada
- 29th Jan - Starlight Express
- 8th May - Oliver

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STAY COOL

this summer in the Faroe Islands



TRAVEL

If you don't want to risk the sweltering heat of Britain in August, never mind the crowded beaches, why not make a beeline for the enchanting Faroe Islands?

Tucked away in the North Atlantic, the best thing for heat-haters is that summer daytime temperatures average just 12°C. But there's much more to the islands than cool breezes.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The 18 islands that make up the group offer rolling green hills dotted with colourful cottages. There are also mountains, waterfalls, rugged coasts, caves and fjords. But there are some lovely towns as well. Many of the 18 islands are now connected by tunnels and bridges.

The Faroes are a self-governing region of Denmark. It has its own language – Faroese, which is closely related to Icelandic. But English is also widely spoken.

WHERE CAN I STAY?

There are plenty of places to stay, from quaint wooden cabins to luxury hotels. Airbnb is an excellent way to explore the main options. Prices aren't rock bottom, but they're generally similar to those in the UK – and public transport is cheap.

IS IT SUITABLE FOR WILDLIFE LOVERS?

Yes, especially birdwatchers. Thousands of puffins fly freely, and there's an astonishing array of other seabirds, including gannets, fulmars, loons and petrels. Summer is the perfect time to visit because it's breeding season. There are also seals, dolphins, and plenty of sheep.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

As well as outdoor activities like fishing, kayaking and surfing, there's a lively music scene and plenty of great restaurants specialising in lamb, fish and seafood.

HOW CAN I GET THERE?

You can fly direct from Edinburgh in around an hour. You can also fly via Denmark from most UK airports. Alternatively, you can get a ferry from Edinburgh, which will take around five hours.

For more information, see visitfaroeislands.com





DON'T

STALL ON FINANCE

While car finance may seem an exhausting ride, for younger four-wheeled wannabes, it can light up the road to the fulfilment of driving dreams.

The word finance can sometimes bring about a wealth of negative connotations, yet as far as young drivers are concerned, it's a gateway to fast-lane freedom, and finally a way to steer clear of trains, bikes, buses and the repeated blagging of lifts.

While the advantages of buying a car on finance can be enjoyed by anyone, it's particularly helpful for younger drivers.

Finance, as a whole, removes the burden of coughing up the full price for a vehicle in one, with monthly payments to be made over an agreed period.

There are three main routes. Hire purchase offers flexible terms that can facilitate

payments over longer periods, and leads to the ownership of the vehicle at the end of what can be a long road. This is good for someone with an undeveloped or poor credit score (such as a young driver), and imposes no annual mileage limits.

However, the finance company retains ownership until full and final payment, and monthly payments can be higher than other finance options since they cover the car's full value rather than its depreciation.

In addition, failure to keep up with payments risks repossession of the vehicle.

Slightly different is personal contract purchase (PCP). This is formed of a deposit, lower monthly repayments – albeit with mileage terms and fees for excessive damage, wear and tear – and a balloon payment at the end to either purchase the vehicle outright and hand back the keys, or part exchange for a new car.

Personal Contract Hire (PCH) financing eliminates depreciation concerns, includes delivery, breakdown cover, road tax and warranty, and offers lower monthly payments than PCP, allowing frequent car changes. However, you will always hand the car back at the end.

The good news is even drivers with a provisional licence can qualify, meaning the dream of owning a car can soon become a reality.



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DOWN: 1. CIRCUMSPECTLY, 2. NEUTRAL, 3. OVERINDULGED, 4. ROBBED, 5. THEIR, 7. MASSACHUSETTS, 8. ADVANTAGEOUS, 15. TROWELS, 16. GHOTTO, 18. COMMA



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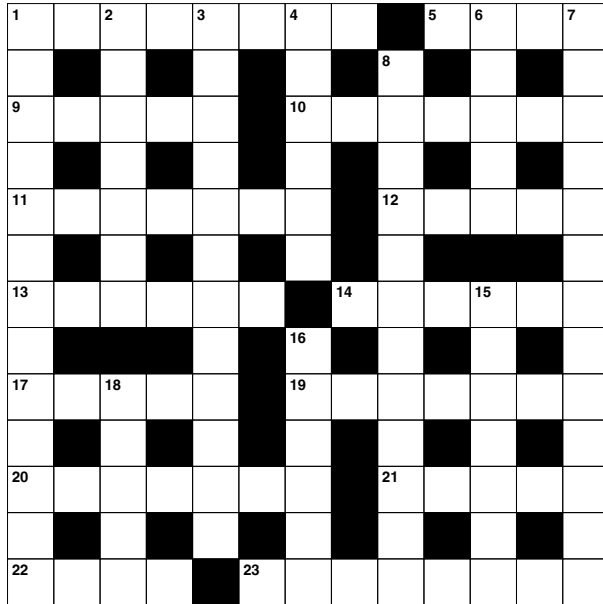
Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

ACROSS

1. Outlines (8)
5. Individual article or unit (4)
9. Path or road (5)
10. Nocturnal burrowing mammals (7)
11. Country whose capital is Kyiv (7)
12. Main artery (5)
13. Food that is not liquid (6)
14. Pain in the side (6)
17. Do extremely well at (5)
19. Ignores (anag) (7)
20. Storm (7)
21. Not concealed (5)
22. 365 days (4)
23. Is composed of (8)

DOWN

1. Warily; cautiously (13)
2. Impartial (7)
3. Ate too much (12)
4. Stole from (6)
6. Belonging to them (5)
7. State of the USA (13)

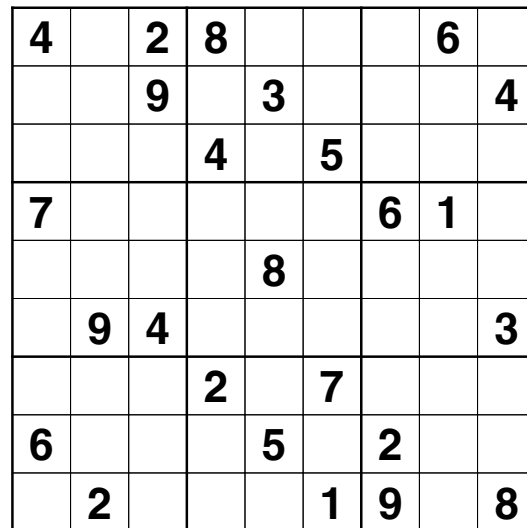


8. Beneficial (12)
15. Gardening tools (7)
16. Small cave (6)
18. Punctuation mark (5)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Megalosaurus was the first-ever dinosaur to be described and named. It walked on its two hind legs and could grow up to three metres tall.
- ▶ One of the largest land animals ever found is named Patagotitan; it could grow up to 37.5 metres in length and weighed up to 57,000kg.
- ▶ In contrast, the Microraptor is one of the smallest known dinosaurs, and was only about the size of a crow. It had wings on both its legs and arms.
- ▶ The Tyrannosaurus Rex had 60 teeth and could deliver up to six tons of pressure in one bite.
- ▶ Though the Stegosaurus could grow up to nine metres in length, its brain was only the size of a lime. It had a spiked tail which it used to defend itself.

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