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## **CAROLINE FLACK**

The media backlash following the star's tragic death















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## CONTACT US

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## Vision Magazine Essex

FOUNDER | Nik Allen CREATIVE DIRECTOR | Misha Mistry CO-ORDINATORS | Rebecka Fryer, Amy Pollard, Tim Green CONTRIBUTORS | Tabatha Fabray, Charles Rae, Marie Pierides





this month's edition of VISIONLoughton. We are nearly there, **VISION** readers, only one more month and the clocks will have

I am preparing myself for a change as I start

to be a president of my network group. What a privilege. I am looking forward to it but obviously slightly nervous about what is to come. It's so nice to connect with other local businesses and business owners, especially from my industry, which is not always the most favourable. Advertising and promoting your business is not always the top of the list when starting or looking to generate more customers, but it needs to be done. Did you know Coca-Cola spends on average £6billion globally each year? It has been an established brand for many years but still appreciates the importance of keeping its brand message.

In local news, a blue plague is unveiled for the founder of The Loughton Club, police carry out extra patrols in the town and an author has released a new book.

We welcome any of your stories for our local news pages. If you have a story to share, please

send it to loughton@visionmag.co.uk I hope you all enjoy the March 2020 edition of VISIONLoughton.

Brett

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# ANDUNTAIN

# AMONG MEN

he outpouring of emotion and admiration for the late NBA star Kobe Bryant has felt insurmountable. We reflect on the achievements of one of the greatest 'ballers' ever to play the game, and reflect on the legacy he has undoubtedly left behind.

## Kobe Bryant was a giant, in more ways than one.

The 6ft 4in shooting guard graduated from high school in 1996 and was drafted by the Charlotte Hornets before being traded to the Los Angeles Lakers where he spent his entire 20-year professional career. His achievements as a sportsman at the top of his game barely need repeating, but as the fourth-highest points scorer in NBA history, his domination on the court was unrelenting.

Not that points-scoring was the sum total of Bryant's powers. Handsome, charismatic, stylish and an inspiration, his demeanour and his candour won him fans – both from the street and of celebrity status – all over the globe.

Regardless, his talent saw the Lakers won five NBA regular season championships, and on each occasion they went on to clinch the play-offs. He was the first player to have 30,000 career points and more than 6,000 assists, while TNT and Sporting News accredited him as the NBA Player of the Decade for the 2000s. Reuters even went one further, naming him its Player of a Generation.

The fact that he lost his life in such tragic circumstances, and at the age of just 41, perhaps just solidifies Bryant's legacy. Retired only three and a half years, his sudden departure leaves an indelible imprint on basketball's history.

Sure enough, across the sporting world the tributes poured in. Social media tumbled into a state of mourning, Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid held on-pitch minute silences before home games, while AC Milan players wore black armbands. In addition, talk-show hosts, journalists, broadcasters and fans the world over tried to find the worlds to rationalise an accident that had also claimed the lives of his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven other passengers.

In the immediate aftermath, a petition was set up on Change.org attempting to push forward with a plan for Bryant's image to be emblazoned on the official NBA badge. At the time of writing, it had garnered more than three million digital signatures.

And even in death, Bryant's sterling work will continue. He was official ambassador for the American nonprofit After-School All-Stars organisation, set up the Kobe Bryant China Fund, and was a huge donor to the Call of Duty Endowment. And with wife Vanessa, he also founded the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation.

And in 2018, he became the first ex-professional from the world of sport to win an Oscar for Best Animated Short, for his film *Dear Basketball*.

Every one of these initiatives, projects, investments and achievements reached out to entertain, engage and enthuse people of all backgrounds. Bryant's ongoing legacy is to continue to give back – from the basketball courts to the back yards. It's a moral and an ethos that many of us can follow, and all of us can benefit from.

## OTHER SPORTS STARS TO DIE IN AVIATION CRASHES...

| Chelsea FC Vice-chairman: Matthew Harding, died 1996, aged 42

Racecar Driver: Colin McRae, died 2007, aged 49

Swimmer: Camille Muffat, died 2015, aged 25

| Brazilian Football Team: Chapecoense died 2016 – 19 players, 14 staff members, 9 board members, 4 journalists

Leicester City Chairman: Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, died 2018, aged 60

Footballer: Emiliano Sala, died 2019, aged 28

# WHAT A WASTE

The media falls into the spotlight in the aftermath of Caroline Flack's death

ew things in 2020 have gripped, challenged and wrestled with the nation's conscience more than the death of Caroline Flack.

The popular TV and radio presenter took her own life in her east London flat on February 15, the final act in a tumultuous few months that saw a high-profile career in the spotlight of *Love Island* and *The Xtra Factor* descend into a place where the 40-year-old felt she simply couldn't go on.

While we may never know how much Flack's bust-up with boyfriend Lewis Burton contributed to her troubled state of mind, what was evident in the months and weeks leading up to her death was a bustle of unrelenting media attention.

Immediately, questions were raised as to what contribution front-page headlines in *The Sun, Daily Mail* and others had made to such a devastating conclusion to her life, and examination of the actions of the media is certainly on the agenda.

Ultimately, society is divided over the extent to which our information outlets are to blame. The tabloids are drilled into servicing PR agencies in giving the entertainment world's biggest names as much coverage as possible, so it becomes remiss to suppose that using a vehicle to court positive publicity can't then run the risk of that machine going rogue. And yet the hounding of Flack, certainly in the aftermath of the domestic abuse claim, had surely equated to bullying by the end.

WS.

While the finger continues to be pointed at the red tops, perhaps it's the wider media, notably Twitter, that should garner more of our attention. We live in an era where the quietest voice in the most remote location can fire vitriol straight into the cerebral matter of anyone in the world, at any hour.

Social media has made everyone a publisher and has given a platform to the most controversial – and it is here to stay.



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# THE RUNWAY

## OUR FAVOURITE AUTUMN/WINTER TRENDS FROM FASHION MONTH

ashion Month is over, which means that the Autumn/Winter 2020 trends have officially been unveiled. Here are some of our favourites, along with ways in which you can sport the trends instantly...

## EMBELLISHMENTS

Good news for magpies, as embellishment is one of the biggest trends of the AW20 season. Embellished accents are a great way to liven up existing autumn/ winter pieces, especially since colour palettes tend to be more muted and understated. Adding some embellishments in the form of a sequinned belt, a decadent brooch, or even a glittery strap à la Self-Portrait is an AW20-approved remedy for a dull autumn/winter wardrobe.

## PRINTS

NE

Another great way to add some punch to your autumnal wardrobe is to pile on the print. Leopard print isn't going anywhere, as it stormed the world's runways in all forms; our favourite being a stunning floor-length coat by Tom Ford. Tailored suits – which also dominated the catwalks – were given an AW20 makeover thanks to subtle and not-sosubtle print detailing, meaning you can rock two trends in one if you so dare.

## 90S STYLE

Don't get rid of your 90s wardrobe just yet. Victoria Beckham resurrected Spice Girls era platform boots, while *Clueless* style tartan skirts and slip dresses reigned supreme throughout Fashion Month. And thankfully, these are all available to buy right now. Wear tartan skirts with warm polos, tights and knee-high boots while there's still a chill in the air, and save the slip dress for your next girls' night out.

## PONCHOS

The poncho is back, but did it ever really leave? Rag & Bone, Longchamp, Carolina Herrera, and a host of other designers debuted their reimagined ponchos on the runway, proving that the poncho is here to stay for another season. Dress it up or dress it down – the styling options are virtually endless.



FASHIO

7

# GET SET, GO

ake-up setting sprays are the perfect product for ensuring that your make-up stays put and perfect for long days, or nights, on the go. However, they can be expensive and all too often you end up resorting to using hairspray instead – a definite skincare no-no. So why not make your own instead?

ROSE WATER & WITCH HAZEL SETTING SPRAY - Best for oily, mature and acre-prone skin YOU WILL NEED: 1 tablespoon rose water 1 tablespoon witch hazel 11/2 cups water 1 spray bottle

Rose water is known for its anti-inflammatory properties and can help calm down red or irritated skin, as well as being able to reduce oiliness. Witch hazel will work hard to keep your make-up in place and fight any breakouts.

## ALOE VERA & LAVENDER SETTING SPRAY - Best for dry or dull-looking skin

YOU WILL NEED: 2 tablespoons aloe vera gel | 2-3 drops lavender oil | 11/2 cups water | 1 spray bottle

Aloe vera has the clever ability to reduce oil and moisturise your skin at the same time, meaning it is the ideal ingredient for creating a setting spray for those with dry skin. Lavender is great for reducing redness and improving the overall appearance of your skin, plus it will help you to feel calm and relaxed.

## HOW TO MAKE EITHER SPRAY

Sterilise your spray bottle Mix together all your liquid ingredients and add to the bottle Shake vigorously Store in the fridge for 2-3 weeks, using when needed

## HOW TO USE YOUR DIY SETTING SPRAY

Shake your bottle to ensure all the ingredients are mixed together Hold the spray 6-8 inches away from your face Spray a few times to ensure full coverage Let the spray dry naturally - do not be tempted to rub your face or try to blend it in Reapply as and when needed

hy is it that the simplest things in life often turn out to be the most complicated? The messy topknot bun, for example. This should be an effortlessly easy and chic updo that can take you from day to night in a matter of moments; however, this seemingly simple do can be tricky to aet riaht.

## HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS LOOK:

STEP 1: Do not wash your hair - this updo works best on hair that has not been recently washed. STEP 2: Brush your hair thoroughly to get rid of any knots or tangles.

STEP 3: If you are prone to flat hair, spray a volumising spray or dry shampoo to your roots. STEP 4: Create a high ponytail, right on the top at the back of your head. STEP 5: If you have long hair, tip your head upside down to ensure that you get the ponytail right up to the crown of the head.

STEP 6: Once secure, divide your hair into two sections.

STEP 7: Twist your hair around into a bun shape and secure with pins.

STEP 8: You should now have a bun that looks similar to a ballerina's. Now for the messy part.

STEP 9: Slowly pull a few strands out from the bun to frame your face - not too many.

STEP 10: Slightly loosen the bun to add more volume. STEP 11: Optional - alter the shape of your bun using pins to secure in place.

STEP 12: Finish with a light- to medium-hold hairspray to keep your look in place.

## OTHER MESSY UPDOS TO TRY:

ω

EAUTY

The messy side bun best for bad hair days. The big messy mohawk - best for medium to long hair. The bohemian braided updo - best for greasy hair.

# LAU HOW MUCH WATER

SHOULD WE ACTUALLY BE DRINKING EVERY DAY?

T t has become the 'cure all' catchphrase, hasn't it? Feeling tired? Lacking energy? Got dull skin? A little peckish? Then have a glass of water. So accustomed have we become to this information that it's easy to believe a tall, cool glass of H<sup>2</sup>O can fix all of the world's ills.

Why is it, then, that so few of us actually manage to drink what we should? The Natural Source Waters Association believes that 89 per cent of us Brits aren't reaching optimum hydration, leading to fatigue, headaches, mental fogginess and a general feeling of 'meh'.

It is a well-known fact that a human can survive up to three weeks without food, but only three to four days without fluids. This is because our bodies are made up of 60 per cent water, meaning that even a 2 per cent drop in the total fluid levels prevents cells in our bodies operating at full efficiency. At this point, you are technically dehydrated, and it is not uncommon to feel emotional, weary and unable to concentrate.

Your goal, then, should be to aim for eight glasses (250ml each) of water per day, which is around two litres. At first this may feel excessive, but like all good habits it will soon become second nature. Handily, there are many tools designed to help us drink more, from fitness apps which encourage us to log our water consumption, free water fountains and even drinking bottles with in-built counters to help us keep track.

Another burning question is whether other beverages help us stay hydrated as effectively as water, and the answer, sadly, is no. Sure, coffee, tea, soft drinks and even alcohol will improve our fluid levels to an extent. but nothing quite hits the spot like good old-fashioned H<sup>2</sup>O. So if you want to be the best version of you this year, get drinking.

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S

# **Pred**abetes

## Everything you need to know

n England, one in three adults has prediabetes, an astonishing 50 per cent of us.

Prediabetes is a condition where blood glucose levels are higher than normal. Left untreated, the glucose levels will only increase further. This is when prediabetes develops into type 2 diabetes. But the good news? It's both preventable and reversible.

Most people with prediabetes don't know they have it. This is because many people will not experience symptoms. Those who do may find themselves being thirstier than normal, needing to go to the toilet more frequently, feeling tired, having blurry vision or having skin tags.

So there's no warning. It's only when the condition develops into type 2 diabetes that symptoms begin. If you or your doctor suspects you have prediabetes, you will most likely be given a blood test.

The good news is that prediabetes is reversible with the correct changes to your diet and lifestyle, including avoiding sugar and processed food, taking regular exercise, reducing your alcohol intake, losing weight and stopping smoking.

Preventing type 2 diabetes has to be better than living with type 2 diabetes. Even if the condition is properly managed, anyone with type 2 diabetes can expect a significant impact on their health, including dying up to 10 years earlier.

If you are overweight and over 40 years of age, you're very likely to already have prediabetes. The only way to be sure is to have a blood test. Other simple ways to help naturally prevent or treat prediabetes include

eating a low-carb or low GI diet, avoiding processed foods, giving yourself a 12-hour eating break between dinner and breakfast and drinking plenty of water.

In terms of healthy diet, one size does NOT fit all. By understanding what foods affect you most, you can improve your health by making informed food choices. No diets, no hunger and no calorie counting – just a healthier you. This is where www.prolongevity.co.uk can help.

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id you know that muscle burns more than twice the amount of calories as fat? Plus, it continues to burn energy even after you have stopped working out.

Men and women alike can incorporate the following muscle-building techniques into their workout routine.

## SQUATS

Squats, either with a barbell or without, are a great exercise for building muscle throughout your entire body, although their primary focus is on the quadriceps, hamstrings and calves.

## DEAD LIFTS

Dead lifts should be a staple part of your musclebuilding routine, working your hamstrings, quadriceps, glutes, back muscles and entire core.



## DIPS

If you are looking to build up your chest, triceps and shoulders, then dips are the ideal musclebuilding exercise for you. Unlike press-ups, parallel bar dips force you to lift your entire body weight, resulting in a more effective workout.

## PULL-UPS

The back is a muscle that is often forgotten; however, it is vital that you build strength in your back if you want your core to be strong. Pull-ups are the perfect exercise for building up your back and biceps.

## **BENCH PRESS**



The bench press is a vital exercise for increasing upper body strength. Focusing primarily on the chest, shoulders and triceps, this popular exercise

should not be limited to men; women can also enjoy the benefits of bench press.

## **OVERHEAD PRESS**

Incorporating your whole body, the overhead press is particularly beneficial for your shoulders and your arms. Depending on your weight and fitness levels, men can expect to lift anywhere between 55 and 200 pounds, whereas as women can lift between 15 and 100 pounds.

## ROWS







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Provide the ten of the finest foods to keep you looking young and healthy on both the inside and outside. Here are the first five and; see next month for the next five.

## Olive oil

A staple of the life-enhancing Mediterranean diet, olive oil has long been touted as a superfood. In fact, it was four decades ago when researchers discovered that the monounsaturated fats in olive oil were a major factor in the low rates of heart disease and cancer on the Greek island of Crete, so get drizzling.

## Natural yoghurt

High in protein and packed with calcium, yoghurt heals you from the inside out. The high calcium content helps ward off osteoporosis while the abundance of live bacteria is great for your gut.

## Berries

An easy way to get one of your five a day is to put

a handful of berries into your morning smoothie. Both raspberries and strawberries contain ellagic acid, which protects against UV rays and can help thwart wrinkles, while blueberries are rich in vitamin C – aiding blood circulation – along with potassium to beat puffiness.

## Broccoli

Not only is broccoli loaded with vitamin C and fibre, it also contains a natural compound called nicotinamide mononucleotide (NMN). Also found in cabbage, cucumber and avocado, this compound may slow down the ageing process by reducing the inflammation that causes ageing and by protecting cells.

## Sweet potatoes

Like most vegetables that are red, orange or yellow in hue, sweet potatoes contain disease-fighting carotenoids. In fact, just half of a medium-sized sweet potato with the skin on provides twice your daily recommended intake. A super spud indeed...



## YOUR DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO COOLOTE

DIFFERENT CHOCOLATE VARIETIES EXPLAINED, AND HOW TO MAKE IT YOURSELF

he cocoa bean – one of life's great pleasures. Having originated in the Amazonian rainforest, it found its way north where culinary experts evolved it into a solid treat, a sweet-tasting drink and even a powder that can be mixed with protein for nutritious accomplishment.

There are many different types of chocolate, from unsweetened (usually baking chocolate) to dark and white, many mixed and mangled with all manner of accompaniments.

Milk chocolate is by far the most popular, of course. It contains between 10 and 40 per cent cacao and has sugar and milk solids worked in with it, plus lecithin for smoothness and occasionally vanilla for taste. add the coconut oil. Place that in a shall water. Stir both until Pour in the cocoa agave syrup if you wa

Conjecture surrounds whether white chocolate is even chocolate at all, as it contains no cacao and is made from sugar and cocoa butter.

Next up is semi-sweet (60/40 in favour of cacao (or an hour in the fridge), then eat.

over sugar), dark (70/30), and hardline unsweetened chocolate, a bitter variety containing 100 per cent cacao and no sugar, and often only used in cooking.

## MAKE YOUR OWN CHOCOLATE

To make your own raw chocolate, use ½ cup of cocoa butter, ½ cup of virgin coconut oil, ½ cup of raw organic cocoa powder, plus ¼ to ½ cup of agave syrup for sweetening.

Grate the cocoa butter into a heat-safe bowl and add the coconut oil.

Place that in a shallow pan of warm – not boiling – water. Stir both until smooth.

Pour in the cocoa powder and stir, then add the agave syrup if you want to sweeten, before checking the flavour and making any necessary adjustments. Pour the melted chocolate onto a plate or into an ice cube tray and put in the freezer for half an hour (or an hour in the fridge), then eat.

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PLANNING A HOLIDAY IN EUROPE THIS YEAR HERE IS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW REGARDING TRAVEL POST-BREXIT

Regardless of whether you view Britain's belated exit from the European Union on January 31 as a cause for celebration or commiseration, the need for clarity over how the move will affect our day-to-day lives is one we all share, particularly when it comes to travel.

The good news is that, thanks to Boris's Withdrawal Agreement, we now find ourselves in a transition period until at least December 31, 2020. Put simply, almost nothing will change during this time, meaning when visiting any EU country you'll follow the same protocol as you always did.

Planes, ferries, coaches and trains are all operating as before, and you do not require any kind of visa to move across the continent. Your existing passport is still legal, and while it will need to be valid for the entirety of your trip, you won't need to have at least six months left on it as you would when visiting countries outside the EU. A full UK driving licence will also maintain the same privileges as before.

As with any holiday or business trip, it's advised you get full travel insurance to cover yourself and your possessions, though UK-registered EHICs (European Health Insurance Cards) will still be valid throughout 2020. Tech junkies and pet lovers can also rest easy in the knowledge that making calls, sending text messages and using the internet on mobile phones or tablets will not change, and pets with valid passports will also be able to travel as before.

What comes after December 31 will all depend on the deals Boris and co hammer out over the coming months. Until then, book that vineyard tour in France, the skiing adventure in the Swiss Alps, and that much-needed beach vacation in Croatia, safe in the knowledge that the legacy of Brits abroad is here to stay, for now at least.

# P talent

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email info@spottertalent.com www.spottertalent.com short, mid and long term. With this knowledge she creates workable training strategies to support the current and future needs of the business.

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o, you've got an idea. vou've honed in on a potential market, and you possess all the enthusiasm and endeavour that's going to make you the next Richard Branson. But what sort of legal entity is best for your fledgling enterprise?

The decision of whether to set up as a sole trader or limited company really depends on the sort of business vou're running and your aspirations behind it. Many starting out want to feel their way into the business world, and operating as a sole trader enables just that. In essence, you are your business. It's simple and quick to set up, and affords you the chance to start earning immediately, perhaps even alongside a full- or part-time job. At the end of each tax year you or an accountant will crunch the numbers and you can keep whatever profits you make. There are also a variety of deductions available, such as benefits for use of home and car, provision of electricity and other elements that contribute towards the running of your business.

The appeal of starting a limited company is slightly different. In the first instance, that 'limited' refers strongly to the liability - namely that you and the company are two separate entities. If the worst should happen and the business accumulates debt or runs into operational issues, the culpability is purely with the organisation and doesn't fall on your shoulders.

Limited companies also benefit from better tax breaks, but payroll is more structured and formal. There are set wage terms, and beyond that comes a whole raft of admin and filing tasks to HMRC and Companies House.

Finally, in terms of customer perception, the idea of operating as a limited company is seen to be of loftier status than a sole trader, while bringing in other directors and stakeholders and applying for commercial resources (such as business credit) is easier too.



# PRESSURE

## EQUITY RELEASE - WHAT IS IT AND WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

quity release, on the face of it, sounds like a great idea. You've worked hard, invested in a home that you own, and are of an age where you'd like to start monetising some of what's contained in those bricks and mortar.

In the simplest terms, it's the action of taking out a cash loan on your house. You don't pay anything back until your property is sold, usually when you die.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF EQUITY RELEASE:

## Home Reversion Schem

This is where a company buys a slice of your property (say, 25 per cent). It makes its money on the profit made from that investment when the property is sold, with an (expected) uplift in value. For the investor this is obviously a long-term investment, so the price offered for that quarter of your property will be well below market value.

Looked at the other way round, to monetise 25 per

cent of the value of a £1million home might mean giving up 65 or 70 per cent of it.

## Lifetime Mortgages

A much more popular option is a Lifetime Mortgage. The loan comes with a fixed interest rate, and while there are no payments to make, the interest charged is 'rolled up' and deducted from the final sale price of your home.

That means a £50,000 loan will see the repayment amount increase every year. You'll not only pay interest on the initial loan, but on the interest itself. These lenders do protect against negative equity – where the size of the debt is actually greater than the value of the home – but it could well be the case that very little of the asset is left to pass on to loved ones by the time the house is sold.

> Summing up, equity release is often viewed as an expensive way of liquidating your biggest asset, and is typically only available to those aged 55 and above.





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# PLANT OF THE MONTH: ASparagus

Α

sparagus is a highly sought after and popular vegetable owing to its subtle flavour, array of health benefits and the fact that it is only in season for a short period of time. Unfortunately, this also means that it can be quite expensive. However, it is surprisingly easy to grow your own.

## How do I plant asparagus?

Although you can grow asparagus from seeds, it much easier to plant one-year-old dormant plants, known as crowns, which you can buy from your local garden centre or online. The ideal time to plant these is in March or April.

- · Choose a sunny spot for your crowns, with well-drained soil
- Do not replace an old asparagus bed with new plants
- Clear away any weeds and add garden compost to the area
- Dig a trench that is roughly 30cm wide and 20cm deep
- Add some organic matter to the bottom of the trench
- Soak the crowns in compost tea for 20 minutes before planting
- Place crowns in the trench 40cm apart
- Top with 5cm of organic matter, such as well-rotted manure

## When can I harvest asparagus?

Unfortunately, you have to be patient when growing your own asparagus and you should not harvest them for the first two years after planting.

Once you reach the third year, you can harvest your spears from mid-April for six weeks by cutting each individual spear with a sharp knife, roughly 2.5cm below the soil, when they are no more than 18cm tall.

If the weather is warm, you should be able to harvest new spears once every 2–3 days.

## Pests to look out for include:

- Slugs and snails. Control these pests using eggshell barriers, copper tape and biocontrol.
- Asparagus beetle. Pick off adult beetles and larvae by hand and drop in warm, soapy water to kill them.

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Like the Chusan palm, bamboo plants are surprisingly strong and fiercely weather resistant. The black bamboo (Phyllostachys nigra) provides a stunning blend of black stalks and green sprays of colour,

growing in clusters and clumps, with an ability to spread guickly. Be warned, though, these plants can grow to a height of more than five metres.

## GINGER LILY

To add to these green tropical twins, try a ginger lily (Hedychium aurantiacum). Orange in its infancy once it has pushed up through the beds, it produces red florae in the later parts of summer.

## MUSA BASJOO

An evergreen perennial with large paddle-shaped leaves, this Japanese banana plant splays out its leaves and can grow to an impressive height without the awkwardness of a large trunk.

## **BEAR'S BREECHES**

Finally, complement your tropical spread with bear's breeches (Acanthus mollis) - a high-standing perennial which offers resplendent purple and white flowers. All you need to finish the tropical theme is a pina colada and some sunshine.

There is something so elegant about a palm tree. While it can transport minds instantly to those carefree holidays, the Trachycarpus fortunei is actually a hardy presence in a garden and retains

BAMBOO

you may need to protect it more during summer, with regular watering during the growing season and partial shade helpful. This plant can withstand temperatures as low as -9°C, though you should make sure the soil below is

its stunning presentation throughout winter. In fact,

e can all become bored with the same

old plants and flowers in our gardens, so

why not spruce things up with a variety of

species that offer a tropical flourish all year round?

well drained. When pruning, remove the lower leaves when they become discoloured (brown) or untidy.



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> th Easter just around the corner, now is the ideal time to start preparing some fun and simple Easter crafts for you and your children to enjoy making together over the holidays. With four different designs to choose from, your kids are guaranteed to want to create one of these showstopping Easter bonnets.

## 1. The Traditional Bonnet

Perfect for those who want a simple design that will not be too difficult to make. Simply take a plain straw hat and then staple or glue on a variety of paper flowers, baby chicks, feathers and felt Easter eggs. You can be as OTT with the decorations as you like, but ensure that the glue has completely dried before attempting to wear your bonnet.

## 2. The Easter Nest Bonnet

If your kids love making those chocolate Easter egg nest cakes, then they will be absolutely besotted with this guirky bonnet that only requires a few materials to make. All you need is some shredded yellow tissue paper, some small speckled Easter eggs and the hat itself.

## 3. The Flower Bonnet

This beautiful bonnet boasts an array of multicoloured tissue paper flowers • that can be as big and bold as you like. You can make these flowers by cutting out and layering circles of different-coloured tissue paper and then connecting them together with a pipe cleaner.

## 4. The Easter Bunny Bonnet

If you have some felt lying around then this is the bonnet for you. Simply cut out a selection of different-coloured bunnies from your felt using a stencil and then glue them around the crown and the brim of the hat. You can also write an Easter message in felt letters if you wish.



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ERA GOLDEN I V BUSINESS | BES. Lн S БS PRO SO

late night, an early morning, a highlights package - however you consumed Gypsy King Tyson Fury's catastrophic defeat of Deontay Wilder in Las Vegas on Saturday night, the seventh-round stoppage ranks as one of the most memorable boxing contests in history.

Our British heavyweights are now the undisputed bulldogs of the sport. With Anthony Joshua holding the IBF, IBO, WBA and WBO titles and Fury not just taking Wilder's WBC belt, but swiping it off him with such ferocity that the American must wonder if he can ever mentally recover himself from such a beating, our reputation as supreme kings of the ring is assured.

BOXING

BRITISH E

FOR

Fury will look back on his efforts and view them less as a victory and more as a total demolition. Having controversially been denied victory in the first drawn fight back in December 2018 – a contest he dominated despite having to dramatically pull himself up off the canvas in the final round - this was arguably the most hotly anticipated rematch since his namesake Mike battled Evander Holyfield for a second time in 1997.

While Fury came close to a sensational upset in that first fight, many regarded him as still being on the path back to full competitiveness. He had dropped out of the sport in the preceding two years, battled drug addiction and depression, and ballooned to 29 stone. In hindsight, if Wilder's unbeaten record was shown to have been under such severe threat in the first match, it was hanging by a thread in the second, particularly when he was floored in the third round by a right hook to the side of the head.

ORTS

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The American, slipping and flailing repeatedly in the minutes that followed with a suspected burst eardrum most likely affecting his balance, then suffered the ignominy of being put down by a body shot in round five; and when the white towel was lobbed pleadingly into the ring in the 99th second of round seven, history had been made... and how. Fury may be brash, eccentric, and with a level of showmanship that can verge on uncomfortable - his rendition of 'American Pie' in the ring afterwards left many shoegazing and happy to stay away from the camera lens - he retains a level of humility perhaps only rivalled by Joshua. "What a fighter you are," he said to Wilder as they hugged after the contest, even if, in truth, his opponent had been totally schooled on the path to a first. devastating, professional defeat,

Fury is a devout Christian who thanks a higher source for getting him back on the road to salvation. In return, he is philanthropist, reportedly donating huge sums to charity.

Of course, no sooner had Fury's arm been lifted by referee Kenny Bayless, was the talk of a showdown with AJ, a bout that would rank as the most lucrative in the history of the sport, and, certainly from a British boxing perspective at least, the most anticipated ever. GM RESORTS

It is a division rich in talent, with Dillian Whyte, Dereck Chisora, Andy Ruiz Jr. Oleksandr Usvk and Joseph Parker all waiting in the wings. Whether any dare risk reputation and health against the might of Fury, and whether any will be granted the opportunity, remains to be seen.

LOCAL NEWS



**LOCAL NEWS** 

Police again carried out extra patrols and used additional stop and search powers in roads in Loughton following another disturbance last month.

Uniformed officers were allowed to search people for dangerous objects and weapons without the need to have a reasonable suspicion.

The use of these powers was in place on Monday, February 17, until 7.20pm on Tuesday, February 18.

The powers are being exercised by Essex Police to protect the community and prevent incidents of crime and disorder.

Police brought in the special powers after officers were called to reports of a disturbance in The Broadway, Loughton, just before 6pm on February 17. It was reported to involve around 15 people, some of whom were thought to have had weapons, and two people were injured.

from your neighbourhood

The order covered a 1,000-metre area around the junction of Forest Road and High Road.

Police initially received reports of a disorder involving up to 15 people, some of whom were thought to have had weapons, and identified two suspects.

## Harley accused too ill to attend court

The man charged with murdering Loughton schoolboy Harley Watson was too ill to appear at a formal plea hearing at the end of January.

Terence Glover, 51, was due to appear at Chelmsford Crown Court.

The hearing was cancelled as Mr Glover was too ill

to attend in person or appear via video link.

He was also charged with the attempted murder of 10 other people injured in the collision outside Debden Park High School and one count of dangerous driving. At the time of writing, Mr Glover is next due to appear in court on April 20.





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# **'Use it' plea over community bus service serving Debden**

People in Debden are being encouraged to make use of a free community bus service.

Epping Forest Community Transport runs on Mondays and Wednesdays from The Broadway (10.35am) to Epping High Street (arriving at 10.45am). Epping Forest community transport manager Angela Canham said: "We would like to raise awareness of the Chigwell bus service – route CP03 – which

provides easy access transport for people from the Chigwell area both to the Epping Forest Retail Park in Langston Road and to Epping.

"With the service running on a Monday, as well as a Wednesday, shoppers can be in Epping for the town's weekly Monday market."

Passengers can 'hail and ride' between stops if required.

## Author uncovers dark secrets of WWII

 $A^{\text{n}}$  author from Loughton has released a new book about the dark secrets of the Second World War.

In Secret Casualties of World War Two, Simon Webb reveals the casualties that 'friendly fire' from heavy artillery inflicted upon British and American civilians.

The book claims that, in the case of the British, these deaths were part of a quite deliberate policy devised to ensure that those living in big cities remained there, despite the dangers of enemy bombing. There were times during the German bombing of London when it's believed more people were being killed by British shells than were dying as a result of enemy bombs.

The description of the book on Pen and Sword, the publisher's website, describes the London Blitz and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour as "iconic myths for Britain and America".

It reads: "Few in either nation realise, however, that these artfully constructed narratives of heroic resistance to aerial bombardment both conceal appalling massacres of their own citizens. In Britain, thousands of civilians were killed when the army shelled London and other cities in an effort to prevent those living there from fleeing the German bombs."







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## News from **THE ROTARY CLUB**

of Loughton, Buckhurst Hill & Chigwell

Our Burns Supper on January 25 in aid of Epping Forest Foodbank was a great success.

NEWS Huge thanks to Kay Morrison, Leigh Hamilton and Cathy Lawrence, along with Jean Cooper, Howard Platt from Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society, for thoroughly entertaining us.

Our next fundraising event is Youth Makes Music, in aid of local charities, on Friday, March 6 at 6pm at Chiqwell School.

There will be performances by Avon House School, Chiqwell School, Loyola Preparatory School, St. Aubyn's Preparatory School, West Hatch High School and Woodford Green Preparatory School.

Call 07973 166940 for tickets (adults £5 and students free).

Our next schedule of speakers are:

- > March 12: John Newman, St John Ambulance
- > March 19: Charity Networking Soup Event

The next free monthly Memory Café in Loughton is Friday, March 13, for people with memory issues and



their carers.

It's an activity session with singing, a guiz, bingo and games, with free refreshments.

We hold it every second Friday of the month from 10am to noon at The Loughton Club, 8 Station Road, Loughton, IG10 4NX.

Please contact Pesh if you would like to get involved with Rotary in any capacity. Email pesh@ londonresidential.co.uk or call 07973 166940.

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## LADS brings Dickens to the Lopping Hall stage

After playing to sell-out audiences in November with Pressure, Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society (LADS) is tackling another historical epoch in March when it brings Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities to the Lopping Hall stage from March 26 to 28.

One of Dickens' most popular and well-known stories, A Tale of Two Cities is a story of love, redemption and sacrifice set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution.

Over the course of the play, 21 different actors will be on stage, many plaving multiple roles, with some even working backstage.

Director Jean Cooper is excited to take on this challenge.

She explained: "It is an absolute delight to revisit A Tale of Two Cities. Rereading the novel with a view to staging Mike Poulton's adaptation has been both inspirational and terrifying. However, Poulton's expertise in finding the storyline of a huge novel and following it through makes this play compelling watching, although some of his stage directions have caused both me and my set designer sleepless nights.

At the performances, LADS will continue to make collections in aid of The Limbless Veterans charity BLESMA, its charity for the season. Tickets are on sale now. Priced £10, they are available from the box office - 07552 736110 - or by visiting www.lads.org.uk



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AMBWOOD

COSENED IN NNIFER TOLHURST

The doors to a new care home in Chiqwell have been officially opened by its first resident, together with HM Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst.

The art deco-styled Lambwood Heights on Lambourne Road is the new addition to Oakland Care's portfolio. The company also runs Woodland Grove in Loughton.

Lambwood Heights is already home to residents, including Pat Maidman, who cut the ribbon with HM Lord-Lieutenant Jennifer Tolhurst to the applause of invited guests including local councillors, local business representatives, residents and their families.

The Great Gatsby themed event featured entertainment from Lambourne Primary School Choir and singers from West Hatch High School. Guests

were invited to tour the home and see the facilities while enjoying canapés and champagne.

LOCAL

NEWS

HM Lord-Lieutenant, Jennifer Tolhurst, commented: "It was a huge honour to be invited to come and open Lambwood Heights. A lot of work has gone into the design of the building and the rooms, and there are many things here that encourage residents to be stimulated and happy."

Guests were welcomed to the event by Oakland Care's chief executive officer. Joanne Balmer, and the registered Home Manager, Sonia Kasese.

As part of the celebrations, Oakland Care made a charitable donation to Mary's Meals, a charity chosen by the Lord-Lieutenant that provides chronically hungry children with one meal every school day.

## **Commemorative blue plague unveiled**

∧ blue plague has been unveiled in memory of AWilliam Dawson, who gave The Loughton Club to the people of Loughton in 1901.

Deputy town mayor, councillor Tessa Cochrane, hosted the dedication ceremony, and councillor Chris Pond, chairman of the environment and heritage committee, informed those present of Reverend Dawson's life and connection to the town.

William Dawson was the son of the vicar of East Harling in Norfolk.

He came to Loughton in about 1892 and built a house for himself, Susancroft, in Upper Park, on what had once been the yard of the Crown Inn, before it moved. He assisted, unpaid, at St Marv's Church and continued working as warden of the Finsbury and East London Polytechnic.

Dawson was an anti-drink campaigner. He said that the men and youths of Loughton in their leisure time had nothing to do bar go to the pub. So he gave to Loughton a place where men and boys could gather, in a dry building, at minimal cost, for games and recreation. In 1901, he arranged for the present clubhouse to be built, and supported it for the rest of his life.

William Dawson died at Susancroft on November 1. 1927, and is commemorated by the large oil painting in the stairwell of the club.

A Loughton Town Council spokesman said: "He is one of Loughton's great benefactors and it's entirely appropriate that this plaque to his memory has been provided by Loughton Town Council, to remind passers-by of this man and his gifts."



# 5 Surprising USES FOR DISHWASHER RFTS

Whether you have bulk bought enough dishwasher tablets to clean your whole street's washingup three times over, or if you have mistakenly purchased the wrong brand for your dishwasher, it can be handy to know what else you can do with these clever little tablets.

## **CLEAN YOUR OVEN**

Your oven is one of those kitchen appliances that always seems to need cleaning, but oven cleaning kits can be expensive, so why not use a dishwasher tablet instead?

Simply soak the oven with warm water for 10 minutes, rub the tablet across the surface to remove stubborn grease and stains and rinse.

## **REMOVE CRAYON MARKS**

Unfortunately, children love to draw on the walls, and if they do so with crayons, you are in for a tough job trying to remove the marks. Fortunately, dishwasher tablets are perfect for this task. Just crumble a tablet into water to make a paste and gently rub the affected area.

## **ELIMINATE COFFEE CUP STAINS**

If your beloved coffee cup has seen better days but you are adamant you don't want to throw it away, then a dishwasher tablet could be your saviour. All you need to do is fill your cup three-quarters full with warm water, add a dishwasher tablet, leave for one hour and then rinse with hot water.

## **GET RID OF CAR OIL STAINS**

If your vehicle has the nasty habit of leaking oil stains onto your driveway or in your garage, then simply make a thick paste using a dishwasher tablet and some warm water, scrub into the stain and rinse with a garden hose.

## **CLEAN YOUR TOILET**

Dishwasher tablets contain bleach so are ideal for making your toilet bowl sparkle. Just drop in a tablet, wait for it to dissolve and scrub as normal.











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## Inspirational Tea Towel

Mother's Day

You will need: A stencil • Washed and ironed tea towel • Access to a printer • Acrylic paint • Dura-Lar/Mylar • Foam brush • Masking tape • Iron • Craft knife • Cutting surface, e.g. cardboard

GIFTS

## How to make:

- Decide what the tea towel will say. Perhaps an inspirational quote or mum's iconic catchphrase? Then, print from your computer to use as a stencil.
- Tape the stencil onto the cutting surface. Put a piece of Dura-Lar on top of your stencil. Then, cut out using a craft knife. Children should always be supervised by an adult whilst using the knife.
- Place the cut Dura-Lar stencil over the towel. Using a foam brush, dab the stencil with acrylic paint.
- Once completely dry, heat-set with an iron on a cotton setting for 10–15 minutes.

• To make this more child-friendly so the whole family can get involved, use fabric pens instead, and decorate the tea towel with messages and drawings.

## Ombre Tie Dye Tote

You will need: Plain white tote bag • Rit dye • 1 cup of salt • Gloves • Clamp How to make:

- Pour the Rit dye into a clean bucket of hot water. Add salt and stir.
- Wet the entire bag with water. Then, lower it into the dye about halfway, or as far as you want the ombre to start.
- Clamp the tote in position, and leave for a few minutes to set. Move the clamp up 1-2 inches every few minutes to create the ombre effect. Binse with cold water until the water runs clear. Then, machine wash.

## Mason Jar Photo Vase

You will need: A photo • Mason jar • Paint and brush • Painter's tape • Clear spray paint • Paper cup

## How to make:

- Put painter's tape on the area of the jar you don't want painted. Then, paint your desired colour.
- Remove the tape before the paint dries.
- Attach your picture to the inside of the jar using painter's tape.
- Spray the jar with clear spray paint to seal the paint.
- Place a paper cup inside the vase and fill with real or artificial flowers.















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It's peculiar how interior design tastes evolve and rearrange themselves, to the extent that what probably counted as 'thrown together' a couple of decades ago is now the very height of seductive chic.

In the 1990s, when patterned wallpaper and friezes were all the rage, the sight of some exposed brickwork would lead most homeowners to call in a plasterer.

Wind forward 30 years and the En Provence trend is based so much in that rustic, 'just arrived', minimum-fuss ethos that it's difficult to look beyond the simple, stylish beauty that's on show.

Of course, flaky brickwork and some old, semiscrubbed paintwork isn't the sum total of this trend, which, predictably, is inspired by the holiday homes and rustic outbuildings of southern France. Away from the walls, rooms take on a sense of detail within simplicity. A table and chairs provide an honest focal point; rugs, towels and throws adorn walls and furniture, while bamboo, flowers and sprigs of pattern force the eye away from the distressed elements and into the beauty of interior excellence.

IS EN VOGUE

The En Provence look takes inspiration from shades, designs and styles of the 1970s. Imagine driving through the night to arrive at a semidilapidated farmhouse buried deep in the foothills that give way to vistas over the Mediterranean. Imagine brushing away the cobwebs to find a space untouched by modernity and contemporary tastes, where furniture is placed dramatically and the smell of freshly uncorked red wine begins to fill the air.

It is a design style almost out of wartime innocence – where comfort comes in the essentials, not the excessive.

Try it yourself – simple furniture, exposed brickwork and splashes of pattern; unmatching fabrics, wrought iron and wood; and most definitely no fluffy carpets.

e is the interior designer seemingly plucked straight out of the Georgian era; he decorates himself in velvet, Merlinesque sleeves and looks like an upperclass Dave Grohl. And yet, amid silly comparisons and quiet scoffing, we all owe Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen a huge debt of gratitude.

A Design for Life

Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen had a wealthy upbringing around south-east London, albeit not one free of challenges and heartache – his father died when he was just nine years old. "I think the shock of that really propelled in me a sense of wanting to achieve something special," he says. "It made me realise how finite life was.

"My father was an orthopaedic surgeon, so making a difference was a big incentive and made me feel as if I could follow him."

Exploring needlework and fine art, he graduated from Camberwell College of Arts and started his own design agency in 1989. The success of that coincided with the first fragments of reality TV on our screens, and, coupled with a surge in homebuyers which, by association, meant an increase in people wanting to apply perfect, personal artistic elegance to their homes, the interior designer inadvertently turbo-charged a 'home entertainment' revolution.

To be fair to the now 54-year-old, there was no one else who could lead out interior consultancy in the way he did... and continues to. From voluptuous to dynamic, detailed to deep, he has managed to evolve with the times – his contemporary collections now are a world away from anything he'd have been seen to be championing in the early days of *Changing Rooms*, even if his go-to shades are still of the darker variety.

Add in flair, finesse, and that must-have presenting quality of being quite comfortable with telling people they're wrong – "I would only ever use the word 'mistaken'" – and Llewelyn-Bowen's seductive appeal spans both genders, countless demographics and various tastes – one of our true, British design champions.



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# PUZZLES & TRIVIA

11

13

17

20

22

14

## ACROSS

- Unwell (4)
   Coming out of (8)
   Freezing (3,4)
   Italian cathedral (5)
   Herb (5)
   Mode (7)
   Make tidier (6)
   Adjust in advance of its use (6)
   Sharp tooth (7)
   Shady spot under trees (5)
- 20. Ornamental stone (5)
- 21. Chanted (7)
- 22. Overabundances (8)
- 23. Dairy product (4)

## DOWN

- 1. Perfect likeness or double (8,5)
- 2. Requiring much mastication (5)
- 4. Change (6)
- 5. Reallocate (12)
- 6. Traditional piano keys (7)
- 7. Amiably (4,9) 8. Despair (12)
- 14. Antiquated (7)

## DID YOU KNOW?

► Hong Kong has more skyscrapers than any other city in the world

- Australia is the only country that covers an entire continent
- Canada's lakes and waters contain about 20 per cent of all fresh water on Earth
- ► There are more than 60 languages spoken in Kenya
- ▶ The United States of America is made up of 50 states and the District of Columbia
- Brazil has won the most World Cup titles
- Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of State of St Lucia

Papua New Guinea speaks the most languages in the world, with more than 851 individual languages listed

16. Reach a destination (6)19. Lifting device (5)

## SUDOKU



10

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19

12

21



WORLD WIDE WEB REACHES 30

hat started out as an idea for scientists to share information went on to change the world 30 years later. Sir Tim Berners-Lee's initial idea, called Mesh, was originally described by his boss as, "Vague but exciting."

It wasn't for another year, in 1990, that he started writing code for the project, which had taken on a new name: the World Wide Web.

Thirty years on, and Berners-Lee's invention has more than justified the lofty goals implied by its name. But with that scale has come a host of troubles, ones that he could never have predicted when he was building a system for sharing data about physics experiments. He is well aware of the problems. In his annual letter marking the anniversary of the WWW he writes: "While the web has created opportunity, given marginalised groups a voice and made our daily lives easier, it has also created opportunity for scammers, given a voice to those who spread hatred and made all kinds of crime easier to commit.

"It's understandable that many people feel afraid and unsure if the web is really a force for good. But given how much the web has changed in the past 30 years, it would be defeatist and unimaginative to assume that the web as we know it can't be changed for the better in the next 30. If we give up on building a better web now, then the web will not have failed us. We will have failed the web." He has a solution, but it is radical: a sort of refoundation of the web, creating a fresh set of rules, both legal and technical, to unite the world behind a process that can avoid some of the missteps of the past 30 years.

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5G technology – what is it, how does it work, and what impact will it have on your life?

he days when mobile phones were used to simply phone people are gone... and they're not coming back.

Our portable connectivity has advanced so far, so fast, that we now find ourselves in a place where, seemingly, anything is possible.

The vast majority of the UK currently operates on 4G technology – or 3G if you're having a bad day. Where simple phone mechanics have morphed into full web and app connectivity, 5G will offer users the kind of burst in speed that would make even Usain Bolt appear slow.

Users will need a 5G device – no software update to a 4G phone is going to bring you the bursts of acceleration you're hoping for. The 5G network is built on millimetre waves, and while that means a higher frequency, it also means a smaller range. The end result is that these waves don't travel as far as 4G waves, so the installation of huge quantities of nodes for maintaining the signal are the reason why there's such a slow rollout of tech.

While the experts circumnavigate those problems, what the technology means for us is rapid functionality. Say goodbye to buffering of any sort, enjoy an entire download of the Fortnite game in 10 seconds, or a whole hour-long Netflix show in four seconds... and that's HD too, obviously.

> As for its arrival, the whole of the UK is expected to be 5G ready by 2022, with various mobile networks 'switching on' cities a few at a time.

> > As with any early adoption of tech, the secret is probably to hold off at first. Early 5G handsets are expensive, and creases in the system are still being ironed out. Within a couple of years the nation's internet connectivity not only be at the very peak of optimum performance, but it will be affordable too.



# to know about leasing but were afraid to ask!

Leasing a new car used to be something that businesses did, and if an individual wanted a new car it would mean going to a main dealer. Times have changed along with buying habits, it is not unusual for people to shop for vehicles online without actually test driving the vehicle or speaking with a salesperson.

At Planet Leasing in Loughton, we adopt a unique approach. Internet pricing but with the ability to come into our office and actually talk with someone who knows what they are doing!

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# DASHCAM TO THE RESCUE

## The rise of dashcams, and why more motorists are installing them

+

f you're familiar with the phrase 'where there's blame, there's a claim', you'll know we're living in an era when most people in most areas of society are being held accountable for their actions.

And on the roads, that's certainly the case, with  $\pounds 1.2$  billion of car insurance claims paid out in just the first quarter of last year.

Many of us have found ourselves in a position where an event on the road becomes the subject of dispute, and more and more now motorists are protecting their side of the story with dashcams. From just £20, and available front and back, footage can prove invaluable In the event of a claim needing to be made.

Typically, dashcams have been plugged into car cigarette lighters, but increasingly now, compatible cams can be wired into the battery, meaning that even when parked and with keys out of the ignition, the camera will start recording whenever it detects movement. More expensive models can offer immediate playback, increased file storage and GPS, but whether investing heavily or just setting something up to get you covered

when zipping in and around town, protecting yourself – and your story – could end up saving you thousands.

And who knows, if you catch something really remarkable, your subsequent YouTube upload could go viral, landing you enough to drive something new off the forecourt... dashcam pre-fitted.

The ultimate question behind dashcams ends up being this; rather than asking, can you afford to install one, can you actually afford not to?

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In the latest instalment showcasing sports set to debut or return at the Olympics in Tokyo later this year, we take a look at karate.

uring the Ryukyu Dynasty, martial arts were banned by King Sho Shin, but they continued to be practised in secret. By the 20th century, Japanese universities had karate clubs, and in the 1960s and 1970s, martial arts movies were bringing this unique form of combat to popular culture.

It's perhaps surprising, then, that it's taken until 2020 for karate to make its Olympic debut, and even now is being presented as a non-permanent addition.

The sparring discipline of Kumite will feature three weight classes for male (67kg, 75kg and +75kg) and female (55kg, 61kg and +61kg) competitors, and there will be no mixed-gender contest. There will be 10 entrants in each category.

Rules in Kumite state that opponents face each other on an 8x8m mat, for three minutes or until one has an eight-point lead over the other.

Three points are awarded for ippon (a technique with clean connection and good form), two points for waza-ari (throwing opponent with control and accuracy, but not to extent of ippon) and one point for Yuko (a throw that places the opponent on their side).

There will also be a Kata discipline, in which judges will award points for technical (techniques, focus, correct breathing, stances, timing, transitional movements and conformance) and athletic (speed, strength and balance) performance. A total of 10 female and 10 male athletes will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals.

Karate has previously been an event at four leading athletic competitions - the 2018 Asian Games, and the 2019 African, European and Pan American Games.

> It is apt, then, that the sport will be making its Olympic debut in its homeland

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## HOW, EVEN AT 35, CRISTIANO RONALDO REMAINS A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING MODERN-DAY SPORTING ICON

he enigma that is Cristiano Ronaldo continues to enchant, endear and entertain at every turn.

A seemingly ageless talent whose presence in the sporting arena is as strong as his appeal is ubiquitous, the Portuguese has always made the almost insurmountable task of remaining impactful appear largely effortless.

The secret to staying relevant occupies a strand picked up by so many great stars... of sport, the big screen, music, fashion and more: don't outstay your welcome.

"I have always been of the mind where I know when it is time to go," he says. "We can all do things for too long and that is when the gloss begins to fade a little."

Ronaldo's perception of when to stick and when to twist can be measured with the same exemplary precision as his leaps, salmonlike, that end with a header being powered past the flailing dive of an opposition keeper. Growing up as a kid in the system at Sporting Lisbon, he was only 18 when he switched to Manchester United, but as a career progression the time was right to step up.

Arguably, he did the same thing again when, in 2009, and at the peak of his powers in the Premier League, he left to join Real Madrid for a then world record fee of £80million.

And just as it appeared he would see out a glittering career in the Spanish capital, a surprise switch to Juventus in the summer of 2018 flawed any notions that the player capped 164 by his country didn't still have within himself the passion and desire to freshen things up again.

Ronaldo, the man, is both effortlessly simple and hopelessly complicated. He is a brash, brazen, power-driven personality who, by the same token, will frequently be reduced to tears in interviews.

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He is a man who has put a barrier between himself and the mother of his first son Cristiano Jr, yet whose dedication to all four of his children – Eva, Mateo and Alana all followed in 2017 – is unrelenting.

He is a man demerited and scorned on social media as much as he is admired and praised... someone who thrives on the spirit of competition and never backs away from bestowing his personal image on anyone who will listen; and yet, in almost the next breath, he offers humility, charity, compassion, the like of which some will tell you is apparently absent from the modern game.

Ronaldo's defining impact will always have to be that made on the pitch, of course. The legacy of a sportsman should be centred precisely in sport itself, but it is indisputable that he has played a defining role in enriching our perception, understanding and appreciation of modern entertainment culture, and for that, no matter what our sporting allegiances, we have to applaud him.

**RONALDO IN STATS** 

(FIFA) Ballon d'Or: winner in 2008, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017 FIFA World Player of the Year: 2008

Holds the record for the most goals in... Champions League (129), European Championships (nine), FIFA World Cup (seven), Nations League Finals (three)

League title wins: 6 (in 3 different countries: England, Spain, Italy) Champions League wins: 5

European Championships wins: 1 (Portugal, 2016) Total number of goals scored for club and country: 724

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## WHAT'S ON in your area

Simon Targett Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton, IG10 1HD March 10, 7pm – 8.30pm



Dr Simon Targett is a writer, historian and media consultant who has served as a correspondent and senior editor on the *Financial Times* and as global editor-in-chief of The Boston Consulting Group.

He will discuss New World, Inc. – the riveting story of pilgrims, profits and the venture capitalists behind Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh.

For more information and to book, visit essexbookfestival.org.uk/events

## The MBs

## Loughton Club, 8 Station Road, Loughton, IG10 4NX

## March 21, 8pm

From stax soul to rock 'n' roll, ska and reggae. Tickets are £5 each and available at the bar. They will also be sold on the night subject to availability. Doors will open at 7pm.

## Mind Body Spirit Fair

## Loughton Club, 8 Station Road, Loughton, IG10 4NX

## March 22, 11am – 4pm

V66

Pampering treatments, healings, 1-2-1 psychic readings, retail stalls and free workshops.

Lots of stalls selling a variety of products, from Crystals to healing jewellery.

 $\pounds$ 2.50 for adults on the door or free for those aged 16 and under.

For more information, visit www.eventbrite.

co.uk/e/mind-body-spirit-fair-22nd-march-2020-250-entrance-pay-on-day-tickets-87001127715

## Practically Pink Tribute Act

Forest Tandoori, 12 Forest Road, Loughton, IG10 1DX

## March 26, 8pm

No set menu on the night. Order anything you'd like from the menu.

Pink tribute at 8pm and party from 9.15pm. Booking is essential. Call 0208 508 7185.

### Therapy Dog Storytime Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton, IG10 1HD

#### April 4, noon – 1pm

Does your child love dogs and enjoy reading? Build your confidence by reading to our special therapy dog who loves to listen.

Contact Loughton Library or call 0345 603 7628 to book your child into a time slot.



## Kitty Cat Fun

Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton, IG10 1HD

## April 8, 2pm – 4pm

Hear a fun cat-themed story and watch it come alive as you explore what you need to care for cats. Join in with fun activities and take home free goodies.

This free event is for children aged three to 12. Parental supervision required.

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BRAESIDE SCHOOL Buckhurst Hill www.braesideschool.co.uk





COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL Epping www.coopersalehallschool.co.uk



Four privately-owned local independent schools make up the Oak-Tree Group: Braeside, Coopersale Hall, Normanhurst and Oaklands. The schools are known for their outstanding teaching and excellent pastoral care. Visit the school websites for further information and to book a personalised tour.

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