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2023

Editor's notes...

Brett Shohet, Editor

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

It amazes me how small the world is and how we are all connected, especially when I am out and about. For example, I have known one of my contacts for ages and he has a famous comedian in his family, along with another contact who used to be a drummer for The Clash.

We just all seem to be more connected, especially with the six degrees of separation with social media and platforms like VISION.

I am consistently looking for ways to invest in our communities and support local businesses. To aid in our mission to do so, I recently

purchased an established business exhibition. The event will be held in Hertfordshire in October and is sponsored by London Stansted Airport. It will feature more than 60 stands and offers local businesses the chance to showcase their services. If you would like to know more, please contact me on the details below.

Finally, May 6 will see the coronation of King Charles III. There are many events being held to mark this historic occasion, and I'd encourage everyone to get involved with the celebrations.

Brett Shahet

This is your town's hyperlocal magazine, delivering to homes and businesses every month.

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VOICE OF FOOTBALL JOHN MOTSON OBE

n occasion, sports commentators can be more famous than the very stars they report on. John Motson OBE ascended to such a level – larger than life in the best sense, instantly recognisable by sight or voice, and arguably the most iconic football reporter the country has ever produced. His death in February may have saddened the nation, but his legacy lives on.

"Oh, what a goal! What a goal! Radford the scorer. Ronnie Radford! And the crowd... the crowd are invading the pitch..."

These are the magical words that John Motson uttered as Hereford United legend Ronnie Radford – who himself passed away just three months before Motty – thundered an equaliser into the top corner, on a quagmire of a pitch, in an FA Cup third round reply against Newcastle United in February 1972.

The Salford-born Motson has since described this as the moment he put himself on the map at the BBC, as those in power quickly pushed a three-year contract his way and promoted him to their commentary team for high-profile matches.

Motty's contribution to English and international football folklore past that point is mesmerising. He covered 29 FA Cup finals, 10 FIFA World Cups, 10 UEFA European Championships, and more than 200 England national team matches.

Motson's first work with the BBC was as a sports presenter on Radio 2, in 1968. He stepped up for his first radio commentary game a year later, in December 1969, as World Cup winner Alan Ball scored the only goal in Everton's victory over Derby County at Goodison Park.

"It felt like the start of something big for me," Motty said in a recent interview, "and really it was my absolute dream to be commentating on football.

'He covered 29 FA Cup finals, 10 FIFA World Cups, 10 UEFA European Championships, and over 200 England national team matches'

"Whether it was Wembley in front of 90,000 or a non-league game in front of a few hundred, the pleasure was in covering every shot, every run, every pass. I do believe I have been so, so lucky."

While fans can reel off Motty's commentary to accompany special moments for their respective sides, there were darker moments in the broadcaster's career too. Indeed, on April 15, 1989, during an FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, Motson had to draw upon professionalism and humanitarianism, while keeping his emotions intact, as the horrific events of Hillsborough unfolded in front of him. He later appeared as a witness at the Hillsborough inquiry.

While his own club allegiances were kept secret for much of his professional career – which also branched out into radio commentary for BBC 5 Live and talkSPORT – Motty actually revealed in his book that he was a Chelsea fan.

"When I got to *Match of the Day* in 1971, Chelsea was my first commentary. Somehow, my Chelsea loyalties were pushed into the background, as I always wanted to be unbiased and neutral.

"I deliberately avoided answering honestly when someone enquired who I supported. 'Barnet' was my usual response!"

Motson, who was famous for his sheepskin coat, had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the game, and always carried with him his own self-penned book of statistics relating to the clubs he was covering.

He passed away peacefully on February 23, 2023, aged 77 years old, thus concluding more than half a decade of exemplary service.

The influence he had over the modern game has been immense, and will continue to be even after his passing.

MEET THE MIGHTY TITANOSAUP

magine coming face-to-face with a creature four times as long as a London bus and weighing as much as 15 African elephants.

Sadly, the colossal titanosaur that meets this description, probably the largest-ever land creature, died out about 66 million years ago. But from March 31, the Patagotitan mayorum will be displayed in Europe for the first time at London's Natural History Museum.

So what can you expect to see? For starters, you can walk beneath the spectacular titanosaur cast, moulded from the most complete fossil specimen ever discovered. But there's so much more to this interactive exhibition than that.

While you're gawping in awe at the Patagotitan, you can also check out the plants and animals that were around at the time by admiring the surrounding illustrations. And you can follow the life history of a titanosaur on film, from its birth from a football-sized egg to a fully grown adult.

You can also handle fossil specimens, stare into the creature's giant skull, measure yourself against its massive thigh bone, and even smell its poo.

The original Patagotitan fossil consists of bones from seven creatures, found in the same area just nine years ago. It all began when an Argentinian farmer spotted his lost sheep on an odd-looking rocky ledge. Dinosaur finds in the area aren't rare, so he called the scientists in to get their thoughts. The rocky ridge turned out to be a thigh bone of a new species – the biggest dinosaur ever.

Life as the Biggest Dinosaur is open from March 31, 2023, till January 7, 2024, at the Waterhouse Gallery, National History Museum, South Kensington. The exhibition is suitable for children aged five and over. Tickets cost £16 for adults and £9 for children. Concessions and family tickets are available.

For more information, visit www.nhm.ac.uk



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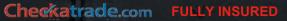
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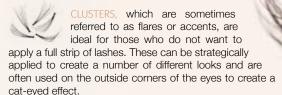


of tweezers.

GUIDE TO

ould you love to have luscious lashes? While not everyone is born with long, fluttering eyelashes, you can fake it with some high-quality falsies.

INDIVIDUAL lashes are a great choice if you want a subtle boost to the fullness and length of your natural lashes. You can get individual packs of lashes in sets of 30-60 strands and in a wide variety of lengths. Apply each individual lash using a pair of tweezers or a lash applicator.



STRIPS are the most common type of false eyelashes and come as a horizontal band that you apply across your entire upper lash. With the ability to add drama and volume, full lash strips are typically applied with lash adhesive and tweezers.

MAGNETIC lashes are a relatively new addition to the world of false eyelashes, and are perfect for anyone who struggles with the gluing stage of the application process. Gentler on the skin and on your natural lashes, magnetic lashes can be easily applied with just magnetic eyeliner and a pair

EXTENSIONS are for if you want a fuller look all the time; they offer an effective and highly aesthetically pleasing solution. However, it is worth noting that eyelash extensions do not come cheap, and that regular maintenance is needed to keep them looking their best.



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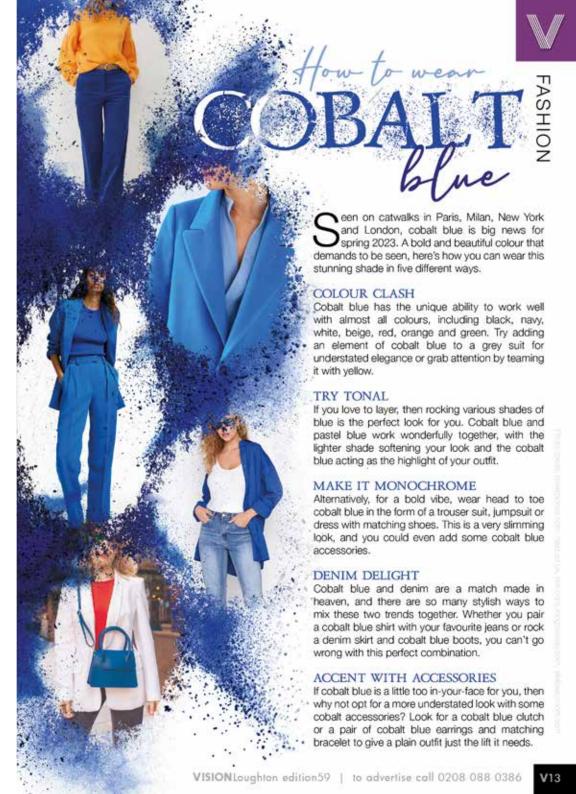
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IS GOOD FOR YOU

sounds like a line to make us splash out on new dusters and mops, or perhaps a government message to promote hygienic homes. But according to psychologists, cleaning our homes in spring really can boost our mental health.

First of all, most of us feel our energy levels increase as the days become brighter and longer. We want to pack away our winter clothes, get outdoors, and clean and reorganise our homes.

Many people find that cleaning their home makes them feel good and gives them a sense of mastery over the world around them. While many of us profess to hate housework, regularly cleaning your home is known to have positive effects.

"A lot of people do find cleaning to be very satisfying, but also to be a very good way of managing stress or anxiety," explains Dr Dawn Potter, a

clinical psychologist from Cleveland, USA.

When people are facing problems they can't solve or feel overwhelmed, she continues, cleaning can help restore a sense of control and calm.

Whether vacuuming your carpet wiping or your kitchen counter, household chores are also easyto-achieve acts of mindfulness. While you're doing them, you naturally concentrate on the task and your worries take a back seat, at least for a while.

There are also more obvious benefits to keeping your home clean and tidy. Who doesn't want to wake up somewhere clean and bright - and return home to it at the end of the day? If you work from home, this is even more important.

On the flip side, if your home environment is a mess, it can make you lose confidence and feel unorganised.

So now you have no excuses. Roll up your sleeves, grab your Marigolds and get stuck in this spring.







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Bananas about

s well as being delicious, bananas are also one of the healthiest foods around. And what better time to celebrate them than National Banana Day on April 19?

LOOK AFTER YOUR HEART

Bananas are rich in potassium, which can help lower your blood pressure and prevent your arteries from becoming stiff.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

The starch in bananas breaks down and becomes food for the beneficial bacteria in your gut. The pectin, meanwhile, can help keep you regular. Because bananas are relatively low in calories but also filling, they can also play a part in maintaining a healthy weight.

AVOID TYPE 2 DIABETES

The vitamin B6 and fibre in bananas may reduce your risk of type 2 diabetes. But if you already have this condition, ask your health professional before eating more bananas because they contain a lot of sugar.

MPROVE YOUR WELLBEING

The vitamin B6 in bananas can help you sleep, while the magnesium can help your muscles relax. What's more, tryptophan, which converts into serotonin, together with the antioxidants also contained in this popular fruit, could help improve your mood.

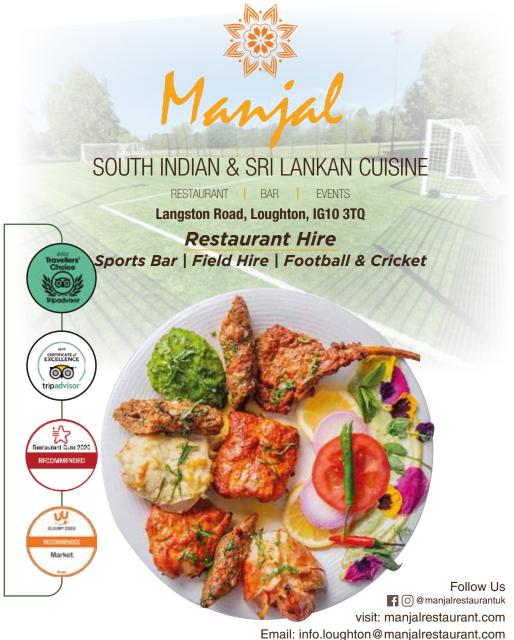
BOOST YOUR ENERGY

The sugar and fibre in bananas will give you an instant energy boost. At the same time, potassium may reduce the risk of muscle cramps. This makes them a good snack both before and during exercise.

NOT JUST FOR EATING

Try these unusual uses for bananas:

- Use banana skins as a garden fertiliser chop them up and mix them in the soil around your plants
- Tape a small piece of the inside of a banana skin to a wart or verruca to help remove it
- Mash up a banana and use it as a face mask it will hydrate your skin and help reduce blemishes
- Use the inside of a banana skin to give dull houseplant leaves a shiny new finish.





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THE BEST APPS TO CUT DOWN ON FOOD WASTE

he UK was responsible for 9.52 million tons of food waste in 2018 alone. If you are currently wasting a lot of food, then don't worry, it is never too late to turn things around.

Check out these top four apps that promise to help you cut down on food waste and save money in the process.

One of the biggest causes of food waste is uneaten leftovers and unsold items in restaurant kitchens, fridges and cupboards. The Too Good To Go app looks to reduce this by inviting people to take advantage of unsold food at a highly reduced cost. Shops and restaurants sign up to the app and then sell bags of food based on what they have left at closing time. App users can then go and collect the food.

> Olio allows you to access surplus food from other households in your local area. You can choose to either take a photo of any unwanted food that you have for your neighbours to collect, or you can search for surplus food for your own family. You can also become a Food Waste Hero by collecting unsold food from local businesses and listing it on the app.

KARMA

The Karma app works in a similar way to Too Good To Go and allows you to purchase takeaway food at a highly discounted price. Once you are signed up, you can earn loyalty bonuses every time you place an order.

NOSH

Nosh is an Al-based app that helps you to track the food you have in your own home. Users can view expiry and use-by dates all on one screen, and prioritise what items they need to eat first. You can also receive recipe recommendations and a suggested weekly shopping list based on your buying and wasting habits.



A SLICE OF A HISTORY

nere are some stories you wish were true - and the myth behind Simnel cake, the marzipan-covered fruitcake popular at Easter, is one of these.

Back in the mists of time, a certain Simon and Nelly apparently fell out while making a fruitcake. One said it should be boiled:

the other wanted to bake it. After a squabble, they settled on using both cooking methods. The resulting cake was named after both of them.

Simnel cake dates back to the 17th century when live-in staff returned to their families around Lent. often bringing food with them. By the 19th century, Simnel cakes looked like the cakes we know today, complete with 11 balls of marzipan to represent Jesus' apostles - minus Judas, the traitor.

FOR THE CAKE: 175g light brown soft sugar 175g soft butter (plus extra for greasing) 175g selfraising flour 3 large eggs 50g ground almonds 3 tbsp milk | 200g mixed dried fruit | 100g glacé cherries, quartered 2 tsp mixed spice powder

FOR THE TOPPING: 450g golden marzipan 3 tbsp apricot jam | 1 egg, beaten

HOW TO MAKE:

- > Preheat the oven to 160°C/Fan 140°C/Gas 3.
- > Grease a deep 20cm/8in cake tin and line it with baking paper.
- > Put all the cake ingredients into a large bowl and
- > Spoon half the mixture into the tin. Roll one-third of the marzipan into a 20cm/8in circle. Place it on top, then add the rest of the cake mixture.
 - >Bake for 1.5-2 hours till golden brown.
 - > Remove from the tin and cool.
 - > Warm the apricot jam over a gentle heat on the hob before using to brush the top of the cake.
 - > Roll half of the remaining marzipan into a circle, just bigger than the cake. Place it on top and crimp around the edges.
 - > Make 11 balls from the remaining marzipan and place them around the edge of the cake.
 - > Lightly brush the marzipan with the egg and grill carefully for about five minutes.





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Fitted furniture may not be the first option that springs to mind when you're thinking of updating your home, but for many, it's the best option to maximise space, increase storage and create a look that feels true to you.

Here are a few reasons why it might just be right for you, from Sliderobes – the fitted furniture experts.

✓ Extra storage

Inside a fitted wardrobe, you can add however many shelves, drawers and rails you need to hold your belongings - whereas with standard wardrobes, you're limited to the one rail or shelf that it comes



with. Sliderobes fitted solutions typically go from floor to ceiling, making the most of the height in your room, as well as the depth. Fitted options also don't have to have a back panel that creates a gap between the wardrobe and the wall, wasting space.

1t's designed specifically for you, your Laste and your lifestyle

People often don't realise just how bespoke their fitted furniture can be. Sliderobes has a collection of colours, materials and finishes to choose from. How the wardrobe looks is your decision, right down to the door handles. Sliderobes designers learn about your preferences and use their knowledge of trends and styles to help you make the right design choices.

3 Well made and is long lasting With forty years of experience, Sliderobes knows a thing or two about quality to ensure your furniture stands the test of time and we're so confident in that, that we offer a 10 year quarantee. And, instead of you sitting down with an instruction manual and screwdriver, with Sliderobes, your piece will be installed by a professional fitter.

✓ Suitable for every room in your home and 4 any awkward spaces

Fitted furniture works in any room in the home, from built-in media units in the living room to integrated home office shelving. It can also be designed around features like slopes, alcoves, chimney breasts or beams in our homes that create pockets of wasted

$\boldsymbol{5}$ It's an investment that can add value to your home

Fitted furniture is an investment but one that is so worth it, as you won't have to replace it as frequently. And if you're planning to sell your property, your fitted furniture can be an attraction, as storage space is a premium that prospective homebuyers are willing to pay for.





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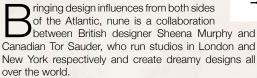
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Known for subtle, clean designs that are full of light, their projects have a Scandinavian influence that is popular in many contemporary homes.

The designers state their work is "driven by the simple belief that thoughtful design contributes to wellbeing; we work to create comfortable, approachable spaces". Their style has a calming, pleasing aesthetic, and uses a lot of light colours paired with wooden accents and dashes of colour for a look that's modern but timeless.

Their style works in contemporary apartments and Victorian period properties, highlighting nune's talent for transforming spaces into liveable works of art.





How to get the nune look

The great thing about the nune aesthetic is that it can be simple to create in your own home. Some great tips to refresh your space and embrace the nune style include:

- Keep spaces light and airy by choosing lighter colours for your walls and flooring, like white, cream, beige and grey, and bring in black, grey and wooden accents to add some contrast.
- Take a minimal approach. Add storage to hide clutter for spaces that are easy to maintain. This will also help to create a more calming environment.
- Use abstract art to add touches of personality to your space. Finding artwork that complements your colour scheme can help keep the look simple but coordinated.
- Use soft textures like fluffy or knitted cushions and throws to add cosy vibes, ideal for making a home feel warmer during the colder months.

The nune style is an easy one to recreate in your own home and can be budget-friendly.





orget weird little pompom creatures with googly eyes.; these fuzzy balls of fun have just got a whole lot cooler.

Pompoms have been decorating the tops of hats for centuries; even Vikings wore them. More recently, they've been spotted on the hats of soldiers, sailors, priests, and all manner of berets and

How to make:

Traditionally, pompoms are made using two cardboard circles.

- For a 6cm diameter pompom, draw and cut out two cardboard circles, each 5.5cm diameter.
- Then draw and cut a section out of the circles and cut a 2cm hole in the
- Place the two circles together.
- Using long lengths of yarn, feed your yarn through the centre hole and wrap all the way around the edges of the circles and back up. Continue till the hole is nearly full.
 - Break the yarn, then push your scissors between the two circles from the outside edge and cut through the yarn all the way around.
 - Tie a length of yarn very tightly around the middle then remove the
 - To finish, just give your pompom a neat haircut.

To speed things up, get hold of some pompom makers from your local craft shop or online; they only cost a few pounds.

Pompom ideas:

- Use your pompoms to create furry animal decorations add googly eyes and even little ears and tails cut out of card
- Hang them on a key to make a keyring
- Make a pair of dangly earrings
- Thread them on a long piece of yarn to make a garland
- Sew a large pompom or three smaller ones onto the corners of a plain cushion
 - Attach them around the top of a plain basket
 - For some simple wall art, hang a few lengths of varn from a piece of dowel and thread a few pompoms on each.





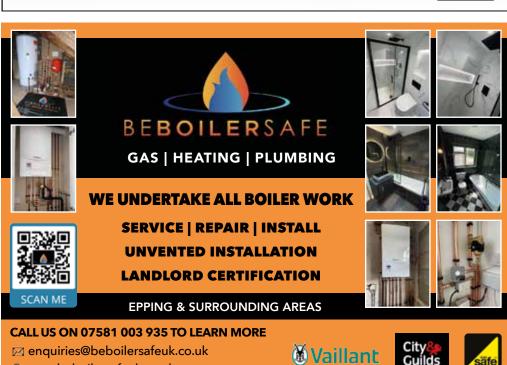
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When talking to the Manager of Cloudy2Clear windows Chris Miller it became clear that these

values have been held dear for a the business some years ago Cloudy2Clear have remained true to their core values of supporting the local community by providing a service that saves the public money.

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SPR NG REBOOT

pring cleaning is all very well. But sometimes you might feel the need Uto do something more. So why not bring in the new and throw out - or better still, recycle - some of the old? You'll feel energised and refreshed, all ready for the

brighter days ahead.

ADD A SPLASH OF COLOUR: The terracotta and dark greens we all loved in winter can look a bit dowdy in spring, so perk things up with something brighter. Yellow, bright green and pink can all liven up a home. You don't need to redecorate completely: painting a piece of furniture in a new colour can help to put a fresh spin on things. And if you don't want to go that far, add a few cushions, lightweight throws or an art print. Floral designs are perfect and look great with stripes or gingham.

BRING IN THE GREEN: Not the colour this time, but foliage. Think fresh flowers, potted plants and terrariums. If you want to be super-thrifty, a bunch of wildflowers from the garden can look great when arranged in a big glass jar. Have a hunt for some unusual containers - galvanised watering cans, terracotta pots and woven baskets can all work well.

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE: You won't have to draw your curtains or blinds so early with the longer evenings. This is often enough to make your room look bigger and brighter, but don't forget to wash the windows. If you like, add some inexpensive sheer curtains. You could also choose some springscented candles - though remember to follow safety

GET MOVING: Rearranging existing decorations costs nothing and can give a room a new lease of life. Try moving mirrors, lamps and furniture to see how it makes you feel.

Above all have fun!







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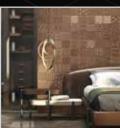
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FROM YOUR AREA



Citizen of the Year award winner announced



↑ woman from Loughton won the Citizen of the Year A2023 award at the council's annual presentation on March 15.

Heidi Chow (pictured above left) was preseented the award by Loughton Town Mayor councillor Barbara Cohen (pictured above right) in recognition of her dedication and voluntary work within the community.

Heidi said: "I am humbled and honoured to receive the Loughton Citizen of the Year award. I am really passionate about doing all I can to make my town an inclusive, caring and connected community.

"Launching the mutual aid network, organising campaigns to save local public services and running Grow Community Garden are all things that I couldn't have done on my own and so I want to express my gratitude to all the other amazing volunteers that I have had the privilege to work alongside."

Plan reveals proposals to build more than 450 homes

pping Forest District Council (EFDC) has approved a new Local Plan that includes proposals to build more than 450 new homes in Loughton by 2033.

At an extraordinary EFDC meeting on March 6, the final adopted plan was voted in by councillors.

The plan includes proposals for 455 new homes in Loughton, building on aspirations for the town to continue to be a major hub of the district and provide retail, education and employment opportunities.

Approximately 217 of these new homes could be built on Borders Lane Playing Fields.

Councillor Nigel Bedford, EFDC's portfolio holder for place, said: "This is an important milestone for the council. We can begin to deliver much-needed new homes and jobs while ensuring that we protect the important natural and built environment which makes Epping Forest district so special."

Find out more by viewing pages 134 to 140 of Epping Forest District's Local Plan which can be found at bit.lv/3KeZs6S

TV personality jailed for posting revenge porn

↑ n infamous Loughton man has been sentenced. Aafter being found guilty of voyeurism, disclosing private sexual images without consent, and breach of bail conditions.

Former Big Brother winner Stephen Bear, 33, was sentenced to 21 months behind bars on March 3 after he posted a video of a sexual nature with his ex-girlfriend, Georgia Harrison, as reported in VISIONLoughton January 23 edition.

In December 2020, Bear posted a video of him having sex with Georgia on his OnlyFans account and charged subscribers a further \$9.99 to view it.

Georgia recently starred in an ITV documentary, Revenge Porn: Georgia vs Bear, which aired on March 20, 2023.

On Instagram, Georgia said: "I was silenced for so long. This documentary is about my personal revenge porn story, and how this crime is affecting individuals and society in general."

Revenge Porn: Georgia vs Bear is available to watch on the streaming service ITVX.



DAME ELEANOR LAING MP

Epping Forest



Dame Eleanor Laing, MP for Epping Forest, attended the Women in Westminster (WiW100) event on Tuesday, March 7, where she made a short speech in tribute to Betty Boothroyd.

Betty was the first woman to have served as a Speaker in the House of Commons and served from 1992 to 2000. She passed away

The event was held as part of International Women's Day, with the MP honoured to have made The House magazine's 100 Women in Westminster list again. You can view the list at www.politicshome.com/thehouse/ partner-content/wiw.htm

The MP also supported Marie Curie UK's National #DayOfReflection to support everyone who has been bereaved and to encourage the Epping Forest community to talk about loss and to break down barriers around grief.

With the announcement of the budget in March, the Dame took to her role of chairman of Ways and Means to chair the budget debate in the House of Commons.

Ahead of Global Recycling Day on March 18, the MP spoke in the House of Commons about the launch of the Global Recycling Foundation's 2030 Vision for a Green Africa.

The MP also posted online about Buckhurst Hill



being recognised as one of the best places to live in 2023 after the town was named as one of the best places to live in Essex and the UK by The Times and The Sunday Times.

Read about why the town was nominated at www.thetimes.co.uk/article/buckhurst-hill-essex-best -place-to-live-uk-2023-008gbr36f



→ Food4U is delighted to be working with Essex Ocunty Council and partner training organisations to offer free maths training courses for everyone in the community.

The courses are designed to be practical, activitybased and focused on building skills around money, personal finance and building confidence in the use of numbers in everyday life, including supporting children to develop their skills and help with homework.

Everyone attending will receive a £20 Tesco voucher on completion of any of the courses.

To register, email Colette.3food4u@gmail.com or WhatsApp 07553 033939.

The Community Surplus Hub runs every Tuesday from 11.30am to 1pm at The Loughton Club, 8 Station Road, IG10 4NX.

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Royal Gunpowder Mills, Beaulieu Drive, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1JY Saturday, April 15, 10.30pm – 2pm



Experience an in-depth guided tour of the fascinating historical and archaeological site of the Royal Gunpowder Mills in Waltham Abbey, which includes ancient monuments and listed buildings as well as bird, animal, tree and plant life.

Your ticket includes a guided tour of out-of-bounds areas, a ride on The Gunpowder Railway – a narrow gauge railway running roughly 1km along the perimeter of the Royal Gunpowder Mills site – and much more.

To purchase tickets, visit www.royalgunpowdermills. com/experience-the-royal-gunpowder-mills

BAMBOOZLE

Waltham Abbey Town Hall, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1DE

Saturday, April 15, 7pm

Known for their musicianship and high-energy performances, Bamboozle combine influences from the swinging Twenties to the Fifties with today's popular music, in a way that mesmerises both retroloving and modern audiences.

To buy tickets, which cost $\mathfrak{L}10$, please visit bit.ly/40jndAl

HAUNTED HOUSE

Gardens of Hanbury, 2 Pynest Green Lane, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3QL

Saturday, April 22, 7.30pm - 10.30pm

If you love haunted stories and you love magic, come for an evening at Gardens of Hanbury. Hear some of the spooky stories about Epping Forest and watch the fantastic magic show by Ben Hartley. For those aged 18 and over only.

To purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/42GRIBI

HISTORY WALK: RADICALS AND BOHEMIANS

War Memorial, Kings Green,
High Road, Loughton, IG10 1RJ
Sunday, April 23, 11am – 1.30pm

Join your guide and local historian, Oona
Kelly, who will reveal the history behind
the rich and varied architecture of this historic part of
Loughton. You will also hear about local radicals, artists
and bohemians, some of whom played important roles
in shaping the lives of local people.

To buy tickets, visit www.bit.ly/3ngjylH

FITZWILLIAM STRING QUARTET

Copped Hall, Epping, CM16 5HR

Sunday, April 23, doors open at 3pm, starts 4pm The Fitzwilliam was founded in 1968 by four Cambridge undergraduates and is now one of the longest-established string quartets in the world. The concert will feature music by Johann Strauss II, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Tickets cost £20 per person. Doors open at 3pm for a 4pm start. There is no late entry to the concert.

To buy tickets, visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=fitzwilliam



JAZZ AFRICA QUINTET

Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Road, Loughton, IG10 1RB

Saturday, April 29, 1.30pm

The quintet's show promises to tell the story of jazz and its origins. Expect breathtaking musicianship, driving rhythms and some inevitable in-the-aisle dancing.

Tickets cost £22 and can be purchased from bit. $\mbox{ly/3FZp84K}$

An ancient forest with sinister secrets

pping Forest's history is as celebrated Las it is sinister – a place of great natural and agricultural beauty, yet also a place renowned as a hiding spot for the county's gangster fraternity.

At first glance, Epping Forest's beauty is rather simple - an ancient woodland of some 6,000 acres that straddles the border between the counties of Essex and Greater London, and one that serves as a thriving oasis of natural beauty and biodiversity.

It rates as the largest public open space in the London area, providing a vital green lung for millions of people who seek solace in its verdant embrace.

The forest dates back thousands of years, when it was part of a vast, continuous woodland that stretched across England. In the 12th century, it became a designated royal hunting ground, and in 1878, Queen Victoria bestowed it upon the people for their enjoyment and recreation. Since then, the City of London Corporation has managed the forest, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

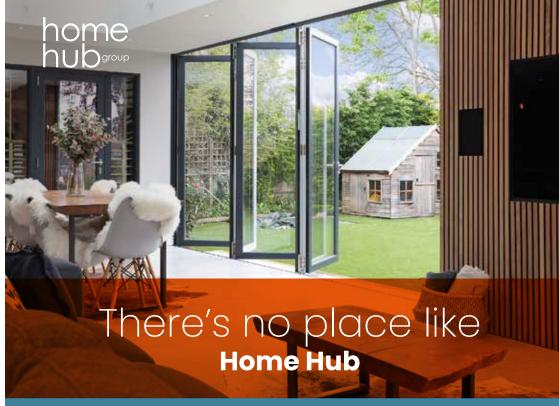
It contains more than 50,000 ancient trees majestic beech, oak and hornbeam - many of which are more than 1,000 years old, with traditional and fiercely protected woodland management practices that reflect its ecological past.

Subsequently, Epping Forest provides a critical habitat for various wildlife species, including the rare and elusive fallow deer, as well as a host of other mammals, birds, insects, and a rich variety of fungi. It's also thought to be a hotspot for truffles.

The forest contains a vast network of footpaths, bridleways and cycling trails, inviting visitors to explore its enchanting beauty.

These routes have also, in the past, offered an elaborate map for local criminal entities to dispose of contraband, weaponry and bodies. In addition, the much-vaunted Epping Forest Country Club, a collection of three nightclubs, endured a controversial existence before final closure in 2002.

In 2023, Epping Forest has largely been returned to a place that captivates and inspires visitors with its breath-taking landscapes, vibrant ecosystems, and profound historical significance.









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ooking for a simple way to add interest and style to your garden or patio area? Garden obelisks are one of the most versatile structures available and can be used effectively in any outdoor space, no matter how big or small.

WHAT ARE GARDEN OBELISKS USED FOR?

Garden obelisks are commonly used to support flowering plants and can act as a stunning focal point in your garden. They are usually made of wood or metal, and are perfect for defining the entrance to your garden, adding an extra dynamic to a seating area or even placing in a conservatory to bring a touch of the outdoors in.

TOP TIPS FOR ADDING OBELISKS TO YOUR GARDEN:

- > Make sure you place each one on a flat piece of ground
- > Bury the feet of the obelisk in the soil to prevent it from
- > Opt for a larger size to accommodate growing plants
- > Hang bird feeders off an obelisk to attract birds
- > Place in a circular flowerbed to create a showstopping centrepiece

BEST PLANTS TO GROW UP YOUR GARDEN OBELISK.

Clematis | Wisteria | Sweet peas | Star jasmine | Common ivy | Morning glory | Climbing roses

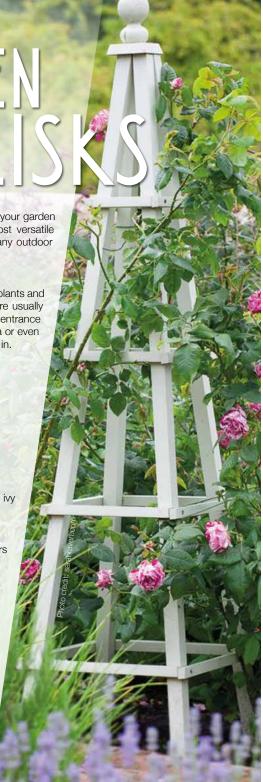
HOW TO CHOOSE A GARDEN OBELISK.

When choosing a garden obelisk, there are several factors you need to consider:

- 1. Is it weather resistant?
- 2. Does it come pre-built or is construction required?
- 3. Is it the right height for your chosen plants?
- 4. Do you want a garden obelisk that is designed to rust for a more authentic look?
- 5. What type of finial do you want? (This is the decorative feature that sits on the top of the obelisk)

WHERE TO BUY GARDEN OBELISKS.

While you can make your own garden obelisk, you will need a certain amount of DIY expertise and a number of tools to do so. Therefore, you may prefer to purchase one either online or in a store. Most garden centres offer a range of obelisks to choose from.



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FINANCIAL EXPERTS WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR SUCCESS

DGEHOG edgehog numbers are in decline in the UK, so it has never been more important for us to take care of our prickly pals. Here's how you can look after the hedgehogs in your garden and keep them happy throughout the year.

them a boost after hibernation, while in summer and autumn, it will help them to build up fat reserves to survive the winter. During periods of hot and dry weather when natural resources are scarce, fresh water and food is even more important.

WHAT DO HEDGEHOGS EAT?

If you want to encourage hedgehogs to visit your garden, then you can supplement their natural diet of worms, beetles, earwigs and caterpillars by leaving out food and fresh water. Some foods that hedgehogs enjoy are:

- >Tinned cat or dog food
- > Crushed dog or cat biscuits
- > Meat-based hedgehog food

If you notice very young hedgehogs in your garden (roughly apple-sized), then you need to soak any biscuits in water before leaving them out.

WHAT SHOULD YOU NEVER FEED **HEDGEHOGS?**

You should never leave out milk or bread for hedgehogs as the former can cause diarrhoea and the latter is not very nutritious for these small mammals. Mealworms can also cause health problems when consumed in large quantities.

WHEN TO FEED **HEDGEHOGS IN YOUR** GARDEN

It is a good idea to put food and water out for hedgehogs all year round. In spring, this will give

HOW TO FEED HEDGEHOGS SAFELY

- > Place food in a shallow dish and place this in a sheltered area of your garden
- > Remove any uneaten food each day and refill with fresh water and food
- >Clean the dishes daily using hot, soapy water and then rinse well to reduce the risk of spreading diseases between different hedgehogs.

PASS ON PARACETAM

o you reach for your trusty bottle of Calpol whenever your child shows the first signs of illness? If yes, you should know that there are alternatives to this popular painkiller.

CHAMOMILE TEA

If your child is suffering with a headache, then a cup of chamomile tea can help to relieve pain and soothe them to sleep. Encourage them to take small sips and add a natural sweetener such as honev if they don't like the taste.

COOL LAVENDER COMPRESS

For children with a temperature, a cool lavender compress can work wonders. Simply dip a cloth in cool (not cold) water with a few drops of lavender oil and then place on their head, chest or legs.

WITCH HAZEL COMPRESS

Another effective natural remedy for headaches, a cold compress with a bit of witch hazel can be placed directly on the forehead for instant relief.

TEA TREE OIL SPRAY

Tea tree oil has been proven to help the body fight off infections as it contains active bacteria-fighting chemicals known as terpenes. Fill a spray bottle with water, add a few drops of tea tree oil and spray around the room or directly onto their body to soothe any inflammation and reduce a high temperature.

PLENTY OF REST

When your child is unwell, the most important thing to do is ensure that they have sufficient rest. Don't be afraid to let routine go out the window and allow your child to nap as and when they want to. If they have a headache, a dark and quiet room is a must.

WHEN TO CALL YOUR GP:

- √ If your child is under three months old and has a temperature of 38°C or higher
- ✓ If your child is between three and six months old and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- If your child has a high temperature that has lasted for more than five days
- ✓ If your child has other signs of illness, such as a rash
- If your child is dehydrated.





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(as) HISTORY ...BEST ARTIST EVER?

ablo Picasso, who died 50 years ago this month at the age of 91, wasn't just a painter. He was also a sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, stage designer and writer. At times, he was almost as famous for his complicated love life as his art - and the many women in his life played a massive role in his art.

Picasso was born in Malaga, southern Spain, in 1881. In 1904, aged just 23, he moved to Paris. The French capital was the centre of avante-garde art - experimental art that challenged the norms of the time.

Picasso produced so much work that art historians have divided it into eight categories. The best-known is Cubism, which Picasso co-invented with fellow artist Georges Braque around 1910. Cubism involves painting an object from lots of different angles and combining them into the same picture.

Between the two world wars. Picasso became heavily involved in

the Surrealism movement, made famous by artists like Salvador Dali. In 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, Picasso was commissioned by the Republican government to paint one of his most famous works. The mural, Guernica, which includes images of fallen soldiers and injured horses, symbolises the pointlessness of war.

It's subjective as to whether Picasso is the best artist ever. His technical skills were as good as anyone's - he could produce paintings like old masters while still in his teens. But what's certain is that no one in the 20th century influenced art quite like he did.

DID YOU KNOW?

V50

- Picasso's iconic striped t-shirt was designed by Coco
- His full name is actually 23 words long: Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno Maria de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santisima Trinidad Martyr Patricio Clito Ruiz y Picasso
- He produced 47,800 works of art in his 78-year career
- His father was an art professor
- In 2005, his painting Le Rêve sold for \$155million.







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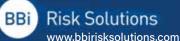


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ARPUR

They say your holiday begins as soon as you risk of being turned away at the gate. arrive at the airport, which makes getting it right, pre-flight, all the more important.

Here's our list of departure lounge dos and don'ts.

00 relax

Finally, your break from work and from the stresses of everyday life can begin. It's important to take time to relax - you deserve it!

DON'T stress about time

While it's important to be on time at the airport, it's also worth remembering you have plenty of time. Most pre-flight stresses come about because people panic they will miss their flight, but keeping a clear head is important, even if the departure gate seems like it's in a different postcode!

DO refresh

Although it's easy to grab a snack once in the air, buying a sensible meal and drinks after you pass through security is a good idea before a long flight.

NN'T he excessive

Many people celebrate going on holiday by having a tipple or two before the flight. While it might seem like a good idea at the time, arriving at the airport early or filling time if your flight is delayed, means it's easy to drink too much. If that happens, you run the

00 organise hand luggage

Keep a close check on luggage allowance, and remember that the items you carry on board need to be scrutinised. Liquids of no more than 100ml should be kept in a single, transparent, resealable plastic bag which holds no more than a litre and measures approximately 20cm by 20cm. This should be placed at the top of your hand luggage, together with any electrical items.

However, restrictions on liquids and electrical items are on their way out. Airports in the UK have until June 2024 to install new security technology, which will mean passengers can leave liquids and large electrical items in cabin luggage as they go through security. London City Airport is the first to put this new technology in place, thereby reducing hassle for passengers.

DON'T overdo the shopping

While it's tempting to pick up booze, fragrances and all manner of other discounted items in the departure lounge, it's much smarter to do this on your return journey. Anything you buy in the airport before your outbound flight will contribute to your baggage allowance on your return flight. Whereas if you save your airport shopping for before your inbound flight, anything you buy can go in your hand luggage.





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HOW TO BUILD A SKINCARE ROUTINE FOR YOUR DOG

Wash them regularly

On average, you should wash your dog once a week to preserve their skin and coat. However, this can vary depending on breed, with very active dogs requiring more frequent bathing. Always use two applications of shampoo: one to cleanse the coat and skin of dirt and old skin cells, and one that should be left on for 10-15 minutes, to penetrate the skin.

Protect them from pests

Flea control is a must if you want to keep your dog's skin in optimal condition. Use flea prevention treatments all year round and visit your vet regularly for check-ups.

The foundation of healthy skin is nutrition, so you need to make sure that your dog is getting a complete and well-balanced diet. You don't need to buy the most expensive dog food on the market: you only need to ensure that their diet fits their needs.

Apply sun cream

Dogs can suffer with sunburn in the same way you can, especially those with short hair or light skin. Therefore, it is vital that you apply sun cream that is specially formulated for dogs

during the warmer months of the vear. You can also buy animal





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Don't worry

If you are feeling a little down, this may not be because of something happening (or not happening) in your life, but may be owing to where you live.

According to an annual survey carried out by property experts Rightmove, there are 10 places in the UK where residents feel the happiest.

- St Ives, Cornwall: Coming in at number one is St Ives in Cornwall, which scored highly for community spirit, safety and a sense of belonging.
- Galashiels, Scotland: One of the most affordable areas in the top 10. Galashiels scored highly for friendliness and politeness of the locals.
- Woodbridge, Suffolk: The market town of Woodbridge came in third overall and first in the East of England.
- Hexham, Northumberland: Well known for its stunning floral gardens and parks, the market

town of Hexham came in fourth on the list.

- Perth, Scotland: The vibrant riverside city of Perth, which was once the capital of Scotland, came second in Scotland and fifth overall owing to its sense of belonging.
- Harrogate, Yorkshire: Harrogate is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and scored highly on access to nature and green spaces.
- Anglesey, Wales: Hitting the top spot in Wales, Anglesey gained the highest score for its local green spaces and abundance of nature.
- Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: A historic market and cathedral town, Bury St Edmunds is surrounded by countryside and boasts a rich history.
- Stirling, Scotland: Coming in third out of all locations in Scotland and ninth overall, the historic city of Stirling is known for its friendly local community.
- Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Cirencester sadly could not beat St Ives in the South West but still made it into the top 10 owing to its beautiful countryside and picturesque Cotswold villages.



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While most of us assume the classic car arena is reserved exclusively for those whose sense of nostalgia is matched with astoundingly deep pockets, think again.

There are a number of iconic motors that, with a bit of research and a customary forecourt or driveway haggle, can be yours for much less than you may imagine.

MGB GT/ROADSTER

Iconic in shape, and dating back to the 1960s, the Roadster comes in a hard- and soft-top. It was the motor that generations of future Ferraris were modelled on.

Incredibly, you can pick up a GT for a little more than £5,000.

LAND ROVER DEFENDER

When Land Rover ceased production of the Defender back in 2016, the price of those remaining was expected to rocket, but it hasn't happened.

Instead, you can pick up this classic rural runaround for well under £10,000. The only warning will be that many may have lived a life of being slung around country roads and farms, and the repair bills can be punchy.

FORD CAPRI

The Capri is a car whose shape was as cool and laidback as the person behind the wheel. Its influence was the Ford Mustang, and you can sense the muscle car behind this classic 1980s motor, which can be yours for a smidge over £10,000.

PORSCHE 924

A Porsche for under £5,000? It's possible. While the 924 hasn't gone down in the motor annals as one for the purists, this mid-80s master still looks incredible, and the pop-up headlamps are a thing of beauty.

SAAB 900 TURBO

They say you don't know a Saab until you've driven a Saab, and this classic model, the 900, can find its way onto your driveway for as little as £4,000.

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very year, on the last Sunday in March or the first Sunday in April, two of Britain's most prestigious universities battle it out in a gruelling 4.2-mile Boat Race along the Thames.

On March 26 this year, the eight Cambridge men plus a coxswain were first across the finishing line and now have 85 victories compared with Oxford's 81. Only once has there been a dead heat – back in 1877.

WHY ALL THE FUSS? The Boat Race is a symbol of fierce academic and sporting rivalry between the two universities. It's also a tough test of strength, endurance and strategy. Rowers spend months ensuring they're at peak mental and physical fitness on race day.

The Boat Race is also steeped in history and tradition. The first event was held in 1829 and has been held almost every year since, except during the First and Second World Wars and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Watching the race live makes an exciting and lowcost day out, and every year thousands of people line the riverbank and stand on the bridges to watch the event.

WHAT'S THE ROUTE? The race starts at Putney Bridge and the teams navigate several bridges, including Hammersmith Bridge and Barnes Bridge, before reaching the finish line at Chiswick Bridge.

One of the most challenging parts of the course is the stretch of the river known as the Tideway, near the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye. This part of the river is subject to strong currents and tidal changes, making rowing difficult.

IS IT JUST FOR MEN? Not anymore. The first women's race was held in 1964, and since 2015 the women's course has been identical to the men's. That said, the men's race is still the one that makes the headlines. This year saw the Cambridge women win the Boat Race, marking their sixth straight win.



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- 13. Bird with yellow and black plumage (6)
- 15. Seem (6)
- 17. In the place of (7)
- 18. Head monk of an abbey (5)
- 20. Embed; type of filling (5)
- 21. West Indian musical style (7)
- 22. Gibberish (8)
- 23. Verge (4)

DOWN

- 1. Decay (13)
- 2. Beads (anag) (5)
- 4. Implement change (6)
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- 7. Hidden store of valuables (8,5)
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13

20

22

- 16. Official proclamations (6)
- 19. Animal that uses two legs for
 - walking (5)

SUDOKU

- ▶One million Earths could fit inside the Sun - and the Sun is considered an averagesized star.
- The sunset on Mars appears blue.
- Space is completely silent. There is no atmosphere in space, which means that sound has no medium or way to travel to be heard.
- There are more trees on earth than stars in the Milky Way. There are about three trillion trees on Earth, and between 100 to 400 billion stars, approximately, in the galaxy.
- Saturn is the only planet in our solar system that is less dense than water. It could float in a bathtub - if anybody could build a bathtub big enough.
- ▶One day on Venus is longer than one year on Earth.

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