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Editor's notes...



Hello and welcome to this month's edition of VISIONMaldonBurnham. As someone who values punctuality as a cornerstone of work and business, imagine my chagrin at arriving late to the office twice last week. What made it worse was that this timekeeping tardiness wasn't of my own doing - no late night, missed alarm or lost car keys to blame! Instead, it was a perplexing barrage of roadworks that doubled my journey time. These had started appearing at the start of March, and by the end of the month had resulted in miles of red cones across major local routes.

Nik Allen, Editor

We all know we have to endure and navigate the roadworks that appear

just as the end of the financial year approaches. Spend it or lose it', as the saying goes, and councils will spend away so they can protect against cuts to their budgets the following year.

I wouldn't mind so much, were it not for the number of times great swathes of roads have been put out of action where no discernible work is taking place. No diggers, no workmen, no resurfacing. Nothing.

At a time when council tax rates are going up, is it too much to ask that the money we pay is actually put towards something that makes life easier, not more difficult?!

Until next month, take care of yourself, each other, and those traffic cones!

Nik Allen

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THE RESURGEN CE OF POP ICONS A8BA - 50 YEARS SINCE THEIR EUROVISION WIN

ifty years ago this month, a Swedish pop group called ABBA wowed the Eurovision stage with their
 catchy hit, *Waterloo* – even though the UK gave them precisely 'nul points'. This victory launched the band into legendary status in the world of pop music. But what have they been up to since then?

WHO WAS IN ABBA?

ABBA was made up of two couples: Agnetha Fältskog and Björn Ulvaeus, and Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad. The group enjoyed worldwide success throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s with pop classics like *Dancing Queen, The Winner Takes it All*, and *Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight)*. They had nine UK chart-toppers and sold up to 385 million records worldwide.

THE BIG SPLIT

In 1982, the pop world was shocked when the group announced they were breaking up. Around the same time, each couple within the group also parted ways. But the band members kept busy. Agnetha and Anni-Frid both released solo albums, and Anni-Frid devoted herself to charitable work. Björn and Benny forged individual careers, but also continued working together on shows like the award-winning musical *Chess* and the *Mamma Mial* stage show.

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

Fast forward to 2016, and the group shocked the world once again with the announcement of their reunion. They were going to appear as virtual avatars in a groundbreaking entertainment experience called *ABBA Voyage*.

In a joint statement, the members expressed their joy at reuniting after more than three decades apart, saying: "We all four felt that, after some 35 years, it could be fun to join forces again and go into the recording studio. So we did. And it was like time had stood still and that we only had been away on a short holiday."

A RESOUNDING TRIUMPH

The show featured super-realistic avatars of the band, looking just like they did in the late 1970s. They played a mix of new and old hits, and the show was a massive hit. In May 2022, all four members attended the premiere in London and the newspapers had a field day.

In November 2021, ABBA released their ninth and final studio album, *Voyage* – their first release in 40 years. The reviews might have been mixed, but fans loved it. It soared to the top position in the UK charts, earned four Grammy nominations, and brought the group's music to a new generation of fans. And, of course, it will help to make sure the *Money, Money, Money* continues to roll in!

50 YEARS ON

This May, BBC One is showing a special documentary called *ABBA: Against The Odds*, commemorating the 50th anniversary of ABBA's Eurovision triumph. The programme will coincide with the 68th Eurovision Song Contest, where Years & Years singer Olly Alexander will be representing the UK. Coincidentally, this year's show is being held in ABBA's own country – in Malmö, Sweden, on Saturday, May 11. The documentary promises to unveil the untold story of the iconic supergroup, showcasing their remarkable journey to global fame.

WE ALL FOUR FELT THAT, AFTER SOME 35 YEARS, IT COULD BE FUN TO JOIN FORCES AGAIN

a new morning

WITH TV PRESENTERS BEN AND CAT TAKING OVER AS THE NEW HOSTS

ollowing a challenging few months for the - show, ITV bosses have pinned their hopes on Ben Shephard and Cat Deeley to take forward the continued renaissance of This Morning.

Having stepped in during a turbulent interim period, the charismatic pair are now the permanent hosts for the Monday to Thursday slots, succeeding Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby, who departed the show in May and October respectively.

Both new presenters are veterans of British TV. Deeley rose to prominence as the host of SMTV alongside Ant and Dec. She also gained recognition by earning an Emmy Award nomination for her role as the host of So You Think You Can Dance? in the United States.

As well as previously hosting ITV's Good Morning Britain, Shephard, who started his career on Channel 4's The Bigger Breakfast. has also held presenting gigs for T4, The Xtra Factor and Ninja Warrior UK. He also previously stood in for Schofield on This Morning several times, and currently fronts the

game show *Tipping Point*. The 49 year old said: "I get a bit longer in bed, so I am grateful for the opportunity!

"This Morning is such a prestigious show and it's a real honour to be taking my place on the sofa."

With such experience and long-time popularity with UK viewers, it is not surprising that the photogenic pair have been trusted to reinvigorate what is considered to be a British institution.

Also, given the show's failure to win at the audience-voted National Television Awards in September 2023 (for the first time in 13 years). Deeley and Shephard will have their eyes on a very specific prize in 2024!

In recent months, This Morning has featured an ever-rotating line-up of presenters, including Andi Peters, Sian Welby, Mollie King, Josie Gibson, Craig Doyle, Emma Willis, Christine Lampard and Rylan Clark. Alison Hammond and Dermot O'Leary, who have previously presented the show throughout the week, will continue to co-host the show on Fridays.

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Main Courses

Tagliatelle al Salmone - Pasta ribbons with salmon chunks,

white wine, cherry tomatoes

Penne alla Traviata - Penne pasta cooked with chicken and bacon

in a mushroom and tomato sauce with a touch of cream

Spaghetti Bolognese - Spaghetti cooked with homemade Bolognese sauce

Tortellini Ricotta & Spinaci (VG) - Tortellini filled with ricotta & spinach

with a cream & pesto sauce

Tagliatelle alla Carbonara – Egg pasta in a rich creamy sauce,

cheese & smoked pancetta

Risotto Vegetariano - Creamy risotto cooked with

garden peas; courgette & carrots finished off with Parmigiano Reggiano shaves Salmone alla Sorentina - Pan fried wild salmon fillet in white wine, garlic, cherry tomato & herbs, potatoes & vegetables Maiale alle Mele - Slowly cooked Burnham pork belly with apple & cider sauce & creamy mash and vegetable

Pollo ai Funahi – Breast of free-range chicken with a rich mushroom & cream sauce served with potatoes and vegetables

Torta Caprese (GF. lactose free) – Italian chocolate cake made

with olive oil and served with vegan/dairy ice cream

Chocolate and Caramel Cake (Vegan) – served with

vegan ice cream

Trio of Italian Sorbets - (Selection: lemon, mango, raspberry)

Trio of Italian Gelato - dairy ice creams -

(Selection: vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, coconut,

vegan ice cream)

Coffees, liqueurs & after dinner drinks available

Prices on request

with parmesan, mozzarella & tomato

Desserts

Sticky Toffee Pudding - Traditionally made sticky toffee coated with butterscotch sauce (contains dates) Panna Cotta (GF) - Italian homemade Panna Cotta Crostata di Mele & Gelato di Vaniglia – Shortcrust pastry with apple purée and slices of apple and vanilla ice cream Homemade Tiramisu - Traditional Tiramisu with savoiardi biscuits mascarpone, amaretto & espresso Torta Limone & Gelato di Vaniglia – Sweet shortcrust pastry filled with lemon egg custard, icing sugar and vanilla ice cream Cheesecake - White chocolate and Baileys fresh cream cheesecake (aluten free/veaan av)

G

One course £19.95 - Two Course £24.95 - Three Course £29.95

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MAKE YOUR OWN

ttomans are stylish, practical and perfect for storage, but there is no denying that they can be expensive to buy. But what if we told you that you could easily make your own with just a few basic supplies and a bit of DIY know-how?

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN OTTOMAN

You will need:

A wooden crate Castor wheels Dark wood wax Short wood screws Standard wood screws Plywood 2 x wood battens Upholstery foam A piece of fabric Spray adhesive Wadding A staple gun

How to make:

- Apply furniture wax to the crate to make it look more rustic and aged.
- 2. Fix the castor wheels to the base of the crate using short wood screws.
- 3. Measure the top of the crate and then cut a piece of plywood to these measurements.
- 4. Cut two battens of wood, one inch shorter than the width of the plywood lid.
- 5. Cut a piece of upholstery foam the same size as the lid.
- 6. Stick the foam to the back of the plywood lid using the spray adhesive.
- 7. Cut a piece of wadding that is large enough to wrap around the foam and then cover the lid with it, and secure it with the staple gun.
- 8. Cut your chosen fabric so that it is big enough to wrap around the lid.
- 9. Cover the lid with the fabric and use the staple gun to secure it to the underside.
- 10. Add the battens of wood to the underside of the lid using two standard wood screws. These will stop the ottoman lid from sliding around.



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BIT OF UCK

re you looking for a new indoor plant for your home? Lucky bamboo is easy to take care of, provides great visual appeal, and is said to bring luck, wealth and good health to its owners.

HOW TO CARE FOR LUCKY BAMBOO

Lucky bamboo is known for being virtually indestructible, making it a great indoor plant for beginners and those who don't have a lot of spare time.

HOME

Ø

Lucky bamboo thrives in bright but filtered sunlight. Avoid placing it in direct sunlight as this may scorch the leaves. It can also tolerate light shade but will grow larger when kept in a bright room.

Plant in well-drained, rich potting soil for best results. Also, lucky bamboo does well when housed in pebbles or a vase filled with water, as long as it has an inch of standing water at all times.

WATER

Lucky bamboo is sensitive to chlorine and other chemicals found in tap water. Therefore, it is better to use bottled or distilled water or tap water that has been allowed to sit for 24 hours to allow the chlorine to evaporate.

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

4 Lucky bamboo prefers warmer temperatures, so avoid placing your plant near any drafts or in front of an air conditioning unit. The average humidity in your home should be fine so you do not need to worry about this.

FERTILISER

Add a single drop of liquid fertiliser to your lucky bamboo once a month to keep it looking its best. You can also buy special fertilisers for lucky bamboo.

Over time, lucky bamboo can become top-heavy or lose its shape, so it can be a good idea to carry out trimming when this starts to occur. Do not cut the main stalk but instead focus on the offshoots.

INTERIOR DESIGN PROFILE **STUDIO IRO**

THE INTERIOR DESIGN STUDIO TEACHING US **TO EMBRACE IMPERFECTION...**

C tudio Iro is the design studio of founder Lucy Carrell, whose work is inspired by the Japanese practice of Wabi, where beauty is found in imperfection. Studio Iro's portfolio contains understated designs that have subtle details to create warm spaces that leave a lasting impression.

A CLOSER LOOK AT STUDIO IRO

Studio Iro creates styles that are eclectic and beautiful, bringing together a range of influences to create looks that are always unique. From antique furniture to colour blocks that add interest and style, you should expect the unexpected and watch it all come together perfectly.

Studio Iro uses textures and original features of properties to create looks that are unique to each space. Colour pops through art, textiles and accessories add fun elements to looks that are

easy to recreate in your own home.

CREATING THE LOOK IN YOUR HOME

Lucy describes her designs as "soulful and warm", and this is a theme you can easily recreate in your own space. Some Studio Iro-inspired tips include:

- > Imperfections should be embraced, such as bricked walls, adding their own beautiful touch to your project. Not everything needs to be flawless.
- > Keep an eye out for antique furniture, like a sideboard and armchair that can add some character to a more contemporary home.
- > Use abstract or fine art and decorative wallpaper to lift your spaces and bring in some patterns and textures.
- > Embrace florals and greenery to add further detail to your space and make it look more homely.







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GOING, THE D X S T A N C E

to thank for the world's most recognised long-distance running event (it's named after the 25-mile route from Marathon to Athens, embarked on by a Greek

messenger who announced victory over invading Persians in 490BC, then promptly collapsed and died), the modern incarnation of the challenge is a verv British creation.

Indeed, from a standardised 25-mile distance. the challenge was extended by a mile and 385 yards ahead of the 1908 Olympic Games in London, with Queen Alexandra requesting the race start on the Windsor Castle lawns and finish in front of the royal box at the Olympic Stadium.

The random boost in mileage stuck, and the marathon has evolved to become one of the toughest (yet at the same time perfectly achievable) endurance challenges.

Globally, there are thousands of official marathons that take place every year, yet of them all, no one has ever run one guicker than Kelvin Kiptum, who

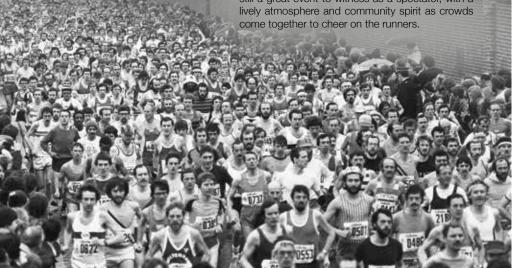
hile we have the Ancient Greeks was tragically killed in a car crash in his native Kenya on February 11 of this year. His time of two hours and 35 seconds (and a barely believable mile pace of four minutes and 36 seconds) at the 2023 Chicago Marathon is an incredible legacy to leave.

> The London Marathon is arguably the world's favourite. Conceived by Chris Brasher and John Disley in 1981, it has men's, women's and wheelchair variants. At the first event, there were 6,255 finishers, with Dick Beardsley and Inge Simonsen crossing the finish line first hand-in-hand.

> Kiptum holds the current London Marathon record (2:01:25), the fastest of more than one million entrants across the past four decades. More than £1 billion pounds of sponsorship has been raised for good causes during that time.

With nearly 580,000 applicants in 2024 - an almost fourfold increase compared to a decade ago - the London Marathon has never been more popular. Beginning in Greenwich Park, it finishes on The Mall, and almost 99 per cent of runners who start will finish.

If you feel inspired, entries will soon open for the 2025 event. And even if you decide not to run, it's still a great event to witness as a spectator, with a





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The stunning Elizabethan mansion – Hill Hall

Mong Essex's many notable buildings, one in particular offers visitors a glimpse into England's rich past.

Hill Hall was originally constructed for Sir Thomas Smith during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, covering approximately 50 hectares. Enveloped by an 18thcentury landscaped park providing dramatic vistas atop a high ridge, with grounds descending in every direction, it offers breathtaking views across the rolling landscape.

The gardens, designed by prominent architects Reginald Blomfield and Philip Tilden, retain features from the late 17th century and are nestled within the parkland for which Humphry Repton, a renowned landscape gardener, created a design in 1791.

Located southeast of Epping – near Junction 27 of the M25 – its approach is through a carriage drive lined with young lime trees, leading directly to the hall's gates. This path closely follows the original drive of the house, despite various modifications over the centuries.

The hall itself was built between 1569 and 1575.

Adorned with terracotta and cut-brick dressings, it features a north front with mullioned windows and central Elizabethan entrance arch under a Tuscan portico.

The garden to the south displays nine bays with outer three-storey towers, while the east front – remodelled in 1714 – boasts giant half-columns and a family coat of arms. Despite numerous alterations by the Smith family, the original Elizabethan layout remains largely intact.

A blend of historical and modern landscaping, surrounding gardens to the east, south and west of the hall feature a late 19th-century flagstone terrace, mature trees and remnants of 17th-century formal gardens.

Later, it briefly became a women's prison hosting, among others, Christine Keeler, the model involved in the Profumo affair, who was jailed for perjury.

Hill Hall has now been divided into private houses, but parts remain open to the public for pre-booked tours on Wednesday afternoons.



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Sports legend celebrates community links

hough not a native of Brentwood. legendary British boxer and former world champion Frank Bruno MBE's significant association with the area packs a punch.

During his 14-year boxing career, which started in the 1980s, Frank Bruno MBE was known for his exceptional punching power and dynamic

resilience. It led him on the path to becoming a national hero in Britain, as a nation celebrated not just his sporting achievements, but also his unique personality.

His connection to the Brentwood and Ongar area was also something that became greatly aligned with his professional journey. It began during the peak of his career after he moved to the area, as he found the environs a serene contrast to the intense and brutal arena of boxing.

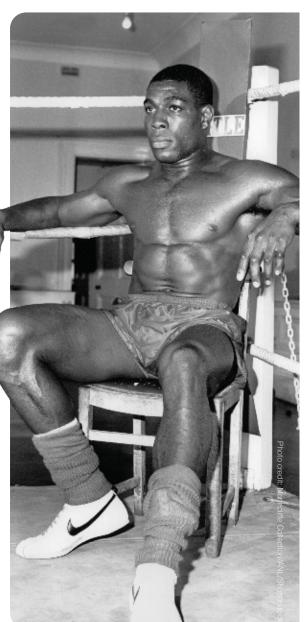
His presence also helped to raise the profile of the region, drawing attention to its community and cultural offerings, as he engaged with local events and charities and endeared himself to residents, becoming a beloved local figure.

It showed in his career as he eventually fought 45 times, winning 40 bouts - 38 of which were by knockout. His most notable victory came against Oliver McCall in 1995, when he won the WBC heavyweight title - a significant moment for both British boxing and Bruno's status as a UK icon.

After retiring, Bruno willingly discussed his own battles with mental health and wellbeing, becoming an advocate for raising awareness of such issues, particularly among men. His openness has been instrumental in helping to reduce stigma.

His autobiography, Frank: Fighting Back, chronicles his life, career and struggles, offering an intimate examination of the life of a sports legend. His ongoing association with the local area highlights the enduring bond between the public figure and the community he chose to call home.

Frankn Bruno's story is one of hardiness. community engagement and the power of sport to unite and uplift.







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Enjoy a relaxed and enjoyable evening painting springtime blossom under the expert instruction of workshop leader Emily. For just £29, the team will supply everything you need, including a quality stretched canvas, acrylic paints, brushes, an easel and an apron, as well as expert tuition. Your canvas will be pre-traced. No experience is needed. You can either follow the instructions or express yourself by adding your own personal touches.

Tickets cost £29 from www.bit.ly/3VUFXqz

A NIGHT OF MUSICAL THEATRE WITH ALEX JAMES ELLISON

The Canary Shed, Creeksea Place Farm, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8PJ Friday, April 26, doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start

Join the talented Alex and his piano in The Canary Shed for an evening of singalong musical theatre. The bar will serve cocktails alongside a full bar menu, with snacks also available.

Tickets cost $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{L}20}$ and can be bought from www.t.ly/ MOaUt

VINTAGE & ANTIQUE OPEN AIR MARKET

Museum of Power, Hatfield Road, Langford, Maldon, CM9 6QA Sunday, April 28, 8am Haddon Events, in conjunction with the Museum

of Power, present this spring outdoor vintage and antique market. Expect to find stalls selling antique and vintage items including jewellery, silver, coins, vintage fashion, handbags, furniture, sculpture, garden ornaments, household effects, curios, art, collectables, ceramics and much more.

Admission costs £3, and more information can be found at www.t.ly/YiEtA

SPRING AWAKENING HALF-DAY RETREAT

The Canary Shed, Creeksea Place Farm, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8PJ Sunday, April 28, 11am – 4pm

Explore the powerful symbolism of rebirth, renewal and joy this spring. Experienced practitioner Vicky will start the morning with a combination of gentle breathwork, yoga and sound to warm up the body, clear the mind and set the focus for the day. After lunch, Vicky will lead a playful yoga workshop. Then, join Chloe for a movement is medicine session, combining movement, music and nervous system regulation techniques to release stress, tension and emotion.

Tickets cost £75 from www.t.ly/dTGbb

POWER OF THE PAWS DOG SHOW

Museum of Power, Hatfield Road, Langford, Maldon, CM9 6QA Sunday, May 5, 9am

Enjoy a day dedicated to dogs, with a six-class dog show plus best in show, dog agility and dog displays. There will also be a selection of dog-based stalls, craft stalls and exhibits, food vendors, children's rides, activities and more. The miniature trains will be running and the Astaria model village will be open.

Entry costs \$9 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information, head to www.t.ly/a2D2q



AWARDS



She was the prim beauty who won our hearts on the doomed deck of the *Titanic*. Wind forward almost three decades and Kate Winslet CBE wows again as a ferocious female leader who makes grown men quake in their boots.

Once upon a time in Hollywood, there were two unspoken rules: first, glamorous film stars generally played the roles of glamorous women; and second, a jump to television often meant your career was in terminal decline!

Thankfully, like most things in Tinseltown, neither of these caveats remains true.

Take Kate Winslet in HBO's *Mare of Easttown*, for example a critically acclaimed 2021 miniseries in which her character Mare Sheehan – a detective sergeant and lifelong resident of Easttown – is tasked with investigating a local murder while also dealing with personal and professional challenges. The show was lauded for its gritty realism, encapsulated by Winslet's Mare, a downtrodden, frumpy and dishevelled woman who is a far cry from the actress's usual splendour.

"It's always been good to step outside who I really am," the *Titanic, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Hamlet* and *Avatar: The Way of Water* actress begins. "Some actors like the security of a certain type of characterisation, but for me that feels boring. My contentment actually comes in taking risks; and of course, some work, and some don't!"

Most for Winslet have worked, thankfully; so much so that rather than push her daughter away from the emotional perils of the entertainment industry, as so many parents do, she has encouraged her to carve out a niche. In 2022, the Reading-born beauty starred in *I Am Ruth*, a deeply moving film for Channel 4 which explores the ruptured relationship between Ruth (Winslet) and her teenage daughter, Freya, played by Winslet's own first-born child Mia Threapleton, whose mental health is becoming increasingly compromised by her mobile phone.

"I've always kept my children away from the media and that part of the industry. And in the case of Mia, not only has this protected her, but I think also kept the idea of acting and performing pure and wholesome, and that's really important."

Indeed, with her lookalike daughter embarking on her own acting career, 48-year-old Winslet could consider early retirement, especially considering she's already won an Oscar, two Emmy Awards and numerous BAFTAs, as well as being awarded a CBE by Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 for services to drama.

Instead, she has delivered one of her finest performances yet in six-part satire, *The Regime*.

Created by *Succession* alum and *The Menu* cowriter Will Tracy, the Sky Max series features Winslet as the manicured and manic dictator of an imagined European state.

Primarily filmed at the picturesque Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, Austria, with additional scenes shot in the baroque rooms of Wentworth Woodhouse, near Rotherham, *The Regime* is a fever dream that simultaneously terrifies, baffles and entertains viewers.

"You've got to keep pushing in this industry. As they say, standing still is going backwards!" Push she does, something aided by a happy private life and marriage with Edward Abel Smith. The couple contentedly exist in the rural confines of West Wittering on the Sussex coast, turning away from the red carpets and flashbulbs. "Of course I will do what I can when promoting projects, but outside that, I've never been too fussed about the scene. "I've never missed it, and I don't think it's ever missed me!"

V28

How to MANAGEyour EMAIL INBOX

TOP TIPS TO KEEP YOUR EMAIL INBOX UNDER CONTROL AND MORE ORGANISED

o you struggle to keep on top of your emails? If yes, then you are far from alone, with the average professional spending a whopping 4.1 hours each day responding to work messages. Furthermore, more than one-third of office workers state that 'email fatigue' has made them want to guit their jobs.

ONLY KEEP EMAILS THAT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IN YOUR INBOX

Although this may seem a little extreme, keeping only emails that require your immediate attention in your inbox can make this tedious task feel a lot more manageable. Move all non-urgent emails to relevant subfolders. Aim to have 25 emails or fewer in your inbox at the end of each day.

O CREATE A WAITING FOLDER FOR ACTION-PENDING EMAILS L-For any emails that require an action from

> someone else before you can respond, a waiting folder is a great idea. This way, they are not taking

up space in your inbox and you can simply take a look at the end of each day or once a week to remind yourself of any projects that are still pending.

MAKE SUBFOLDERS OR USE A LABEL SYSTEM

J_If you receive hundreds of emails a day, then subfolders are a must. These can be used to group together important email chains so that you can easily reference something when you need to.

USE YOUR CALENDAR TO TRACK EMAILS

For emails that require more than just a simple reply, we recommend that you add them to your email calendar with a reminder of when a follow-up email is required. You can also use an appropriately coloured follow-up flag to easily identify emails that require further attention.

CREATE TEMPLATES FOR GO-TO RESPONSES

D. Tailoring a reply for every email is timeprohibitive, so stock responses, can be a real life saver. Save a few different generic responses and tweak accordingly.



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Beuebells The Sweetest Flower

A sapril arrives, bluebells emerge in woodlands, parks and gardens across the country, reminding us that spring is most definitely here. For centuries, these delicate blue flowers have captured the hearts of poets, artists and nature lovers. But sadly, they're not in bloom for long – usually from mid-April to early May. So get out and enjoy their beauty before it

starts to fade. These are some of the best places to see dramatic displays of bluebells this spring. **Leigh Woods, Bristol:** Admire a sea of bluebells against the dramatic backdrop of the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

Bodnant Garden, Conwy: Spanning more than 80 acres, Bodnant Garden is especially beautiful when the bluebells take over the Old Park.

Blickling Estate, Norfolk: Visit the Great Wood and Temple Walk at the birthplace of Anne Boleyn to see one of the country's best bluebell displays.

Mount Stuart, Bute: Visit this Victorian gothic mansion to see bluebells take over the stunning woodland below thousands of mature trees.

There are also dazzling bluebell displays at: > Hatfield Park and Garden, Hatfield, Hertfordshire

> Whippendell Wood, Watford, Hertfordshire
 > Norsey Wood, Billericay, Essex
 > Blake's Wood, near Danbury, Essex

Fun Bluebell Facts

Leigh Woods, Bristol

Bodnant Garden, Conwy

Slickling Estate, Norfolk

Mount Stuart, Bute

> The UK is home to more than half of the world's bluebells.

The UK has two types of bluebells: the scented native English bluebell and the unscented, more upright Spanish bluebell. The Spanish bluebell was originally an ornamental plant and many see it as a threat to our cherished native species.

> It's a criminal offence to uproot wild bluebells.

>Other names for bluebells include cuckoo's boots, wood hyacinth, lady's nightcap and witches' thimbles.

Remember to tread gently when visiting bluebell woods so we can all help to preserve their beauty for future generations.



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BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO Pineapple lily

ucomis, aka pineapple lily, makes an impressive addition to any garden with its exotic-looking blooms and tufts of vibrant leaves. However, despite their show-stopping appearance, they are relatively easy to grow, making them perfect for beginners.

What are the different varieties of pineapple lily?

1 Eucomis comosa: A tall variety that grows up to 75cm, with large leaves that boast a slightly wavy edge.

C Eucomis autumnalis: Produces a long, thin flower spike that

is topped with a small rosette of leaves.

3 Eucomis bicolor: A two-tone variety that has pale green flowers with maroon edging.

Eucomis pallidiflora: Known as the giant pineapple lily, this variety can reach up to 2m when in flower.

Where to plant pineapple lilies

Pineapple lilies are tender plants that need plenty of sun to thrive. Choose the warmest and brightest spot in your garden and make sure the soil is well drained. You can plant pineapple lilies in either borders or containers.

How to plant pineapple lilies

If growing pineapple lilies in your garden, plant bulbs 15cm deep in fertile, well-drained soil. Keep the plants well watered during growing season (April to early October).

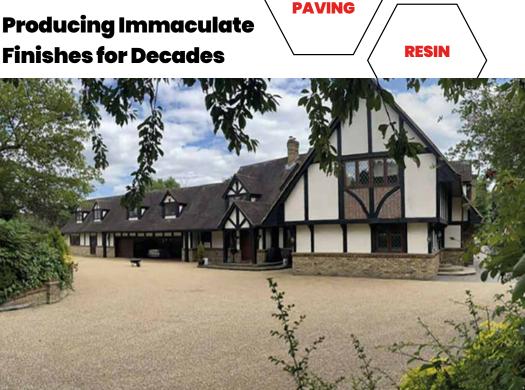
If growing in containers, plant bulbs in a wide, shallow pan, if possible, but a normal flower pot will do. Use a loam-based compost (a mixture of clay, sand and silt) with added sharp sand to improve drainage. Allow at least 7.5cm between bulbs and make sure the top of the bulb is just below the soil's surface. Just like plants in the garden, water well during growing season.

How to care for pineapple lilies

Keep pineapple lilies well watered during the summer but dry in the winter by either digging up the bulbs or moving pots indoors in autumn. Remove any dead leaves and spent flowers at the end of each growing season

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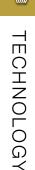
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> How are your eating habits? > Are you sleeping okay? > Do you get any physical exercise? If you are not happy with your answers, then it may be time to look at reducing your daily How screen time adds up over one year

1 hour	\rightarrow	15 DAYS a year
		30 DAYS a year
		45 DAYS a year
		61 DAYS a year
		76 DAYS a year
		91 DAYS a year
		106 DAYS a year
		TUU DA 15 a year

screen time.

SCREEN

o you know how many hours a day you spend

glued to your mobile phone? How about your

kids? Are they more likely to be seen staring

How much time are people spending on screens?

The average screen time for people aged 16-

64, across different platforms and devices, is

an estimated six hours and 37 minutes per day.

Mobile devices account for most of this, with users

spending an average of three hours and 46 minutes

on their smartphones, with desktop computers not

What problems are associated with too much

Too much screen time can cause a whole host of

Hyperactivity | Poor language development | Inferior social development | Low moods | Headaches/eve strain Light sensitivity Shorter attention span

How to know if you are spending too much time

If you are unsure whether or not you are spending an unhealthy amount of time in front of a screen,

> How often do leave your house and socialise?

problems for adults and children alike, including: Obesity Sleep disturbance Depression Anxiety

at a screen than playing with their toys?

far behind at two hours and 51 minutes.

Frustration and less impulse control

ask yourself the below questions:

screen time?

in front of a screen

How to manage and reduce screen time

- > Create tech-free zones, such as mealtimes and bedtime
- > Set and enforce daily/weekly screen time limits
- > Consider using an app that controls the length of time your child can use a device
- > Eliminate background TV from your home
- > Try to spend more time outdoors as a family > Set clear work boundaries.

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V36

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Sant-Tir

Balayage vs HIGHLIGHTS

Want to lighten your hair in time for summer? Find out the difference between balayage and highlights, plus how to choose the right lightening method for your hair.

What is balayage?

Balayage is a French word that means 'to sweep'. In the world of hairstyling, this phrase refers to a hair colouring technique in which highlights are hand-painted or swept onto the surface of random sections of the hair without the need for aluminium foil. Balayage offers a natural, sun-kissed glow to your hair.

Why choose balayage?

Ask your hairdresser for balayage if you want:

- Colour that blends seamlessly into your natural hair colour
- A sun-kissed glow
- A new colour that is just a few shades lighter than your natural colour
- Hair that gets lighter towards the ends

How long does balayage last?

Balayage lasts longer than regular highlights because of the seamless application. You can go many months without the need for a top-up if your hair is already naturally light.

What are highlights?

Traditional highlighting offers a more conventional way of lightening your hair colour and involves using aluminium foil to help saturate individual strands of hair from root to tip. This results in a more pronounced contrast between your base colour and the lightened hair.

Why choose highlights?

- Ask your hairdresser for highlights if you want:
- A stark contrast between your lighter
- highlights and darker, natural hair
- A more structured pattern of lightened hair Evenly coloured hair from root to tip

How long do highlights last? Highlights tend to last between one and two months before your root colour will start to show through. The greater the contrast in colour from your natural hair, the more frequently maintenance will be needed.

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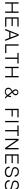
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V40

BEAUTY



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HOW TO REDUCE STRESS

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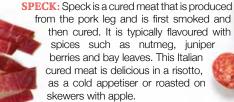




SALAMI: Salami is one of the oldest Italian cured meats and is made from ground pork and seasoned with garlic, salt and spices. It is stuffed into casings and then hung to cure, ferment and dry. Do not cook with salami but instead add it to a sandwich or charcuterie board with cheeses such as pecorino or provolone.



PROSCIUTTO: Prosciutto is made from the whole hind leg of a pig and is one of the most popular Italianstyle cured meats. Slice very thinly and add to salads or wrap around freshly sliced cantaloupe melon for a tasty snack or delicious canapé.



then cured. It is typically flavoured with spices such as nutmeg, juniper berries and bay leaves. This Italian cured meat is delicious in a risotto, as a cold appetiser or roasted on

BRESAOLA: Bresaola is a type of cured beef that is made from the leg of the cow and infused with spices



such as garlic, pepper and juniper during the drying process. It is rich in protein and low in fat, making it ideal for those watching their weight. Drizzle with olive oil and fresh lemon on an antipasto platter or enjoy with salty cheeses like parmesan.

MORTADELLA: Mortadella is instantly recognisable by its strong scent and pink colour. Mortadella is composed of cured pork and pistachios, and spiced with black pepper and myrtle berries. This cold cut works well with other meats, cheeses, bread and condiments such as mustard. Alternatively, add to cheese-based pasta dishes or stuff in ravioli.

to feeling stressed every single day and more than one-third feeling stressed at least once a week. WHAT CAUSES STRESS?

Sometimes stress is caused by one big event or situation in your life, or it might be an accumulation of lots of smaller things. People often feel stressed if they are under a lot of pressure, are facing big changes in their life or are worried about something. You may also feel stressed if you feel like you don't have control over a certain aspect of your life or you have responsibilities that you find overwhelming.

o you suffer with stress? If yes, then you are

far from alone, with one in 14 adults admitting

HOW DOES STRESS MAKE YOU FEEL?

Stress can affect your emotions, your body and how you behave in many different ways. Some of the ways stress can make you feel include: Feeling irritable, angry or impatient Feeling overwhelmed Feeling anxious or depressed Not being able to enjoy yourself Not having a sense of humour Feeling uninterested in life Feeling neglected or lonely Existing mental health problems getting worse

In severe cases of stress, some people may also experience suicidal thoughts.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS OF STRESS?

Difficulty breathing | Panic attacks | Trouble sleeping Muscle aches and headaches Fatique Chest pains and high blood pressure Sweating Changes to your menstrual cycle Existing physical conditions getting worse

V42

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MY WORLD

A GUIDE TO GROWING, STORING AND COOKING WITH THIS CLASSIC SALAD GREEN

sed in salads since Elizabethan times, rocket has a distinct peppery flavour that people tend to either love or hate. Easy to grow and prepare, find out everything there is to know about this leafy salad green right here.

How to grow rocket

Rocket can be sown either indoors in containers filled with multi-purpose compost or directly into the soil. A sunny spot is best for spring sowings, whereas mid-summer sowings are best in a cooler spot in light shade. There are two main types of rocket you can grow:

1. WILD ROCKET

This is a perennial plant that is robust and easy to grow even in poor soil. It produces long, deeply divided leaves that have a strong peppery flavour.

2. SALAD ROCKET

This is an annual plant that has a shorter life span and produces dark, delicate leaves that offer a milder taste.

How to store rocket

Rocket should be stored in the bottom part of your fridge, known as the salad drawer, in either a brown paper or perforated bag. Consume within two days for optimum freshness. If you would like to freeze rocket, make sure you chop up the leaves first and then place them in an airtight container as whole leaves do not thaw well.

How to use rocket in cooking

Rocket can be mixed with other salad leaves to add a hint of spice, scattered on a pizza or used to garnish pasta dishes. It can also be wilted directly into pasta or eggs; just make sure you add it at the last minute to retain its flavour. Some of our favourite rocket recipes include:

- Rocket pesto (see recipe below)
- Prawn, fennel and rocket risotto
- Ricotta and rocket lasagne rolls
- Slow-roasted tomatoes and rocket

How to make rocket pesto

- Combine 50g pine nuts, 100g rocket, 50g parmesan or vegan alternative, 150ml olive oil and 1 garlic glove in a blender.
- Season with salt and pepper and blend to a paste.
- Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to five days.

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Automakers are talented, skilled and enterprising across different types of technology, so it follows that, on occasion, their creations may go beyond simply four wheels.

LEXUS HOVERBOARD: Branded as Slide, Lexus's hoverboard embodies futuristic dreams with its spindle grille design and bamboo material. It's a functional hoverboard, representing a blend of imagination and Lexus's automotive style.

NISSAN PROPILOT CHAIR: This autonomous chair, following Nissan's Intelligent Parking Chair, offers a solution for those weary of standing in lines. It follows a pre-set path, mirroring semi-autonomous vehicle technology, and has been tested in Japanese restaurants for customer convenience.

HONDR UNI-CUB: The UNI-CUB, a personal mobility device, features a unique omni-directional driving wheel system and balance control technology.

RUDI RIB CHAIR: A collaboration with Clemens Weisshaar and Reed Kram, this stylish chair combines carbon composites and high-strength aluminium, and weighs just 4.9lb.

BMW BDBSLED: BMW's carbon fibre bobsled, developed for Team USA, contributed to an Olympic bronze in Sochi. It showcased BMW's expertise in weight distribution and sleek design, mirroring its automotive approach.

LAMBORGHINI IXODST ESAVOX: This speaker boasts authentic Lamborghini parts, including an exhaust, and stands out in the realm of lifestyle products. It features high-quality audio components and the brand's signature design elements – a fusion of luxury automotive style and sound.

TOYOTA KIROBO MINI-ROBOT: Priced around \$400, this robot offers portable companionship and conversation, reflecting Toyota's strides in AI, at the same time as catering to Japan's social needs.

ASTON MARTIN RESIDENCES: The manufacturer has ventured into real estate with its showpiece 66-storey building in Miami, a collaboration with Argentine developers, which features bespoke lobbies, fitness centres and a spa.







WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO AVOID LOOKING LIKE A TURKEY AT THE UPCOMING WORLD GRAVY WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

e all know the popularity of gravy up north, but for nearly two decades, a group of Lancashire locals have been intent on taking things a step further by hosting the World Gravy Wrestling Championships.

First held in 2007 in the small Lancashire village of Stacksteads, Rossendale, the championships take the form of two-minute bouts. Competitors, adorned in fancy dress, wade into a pool of the aromatic stuff, grappling and grabbing their opponent. They are scored on wrestling ability, fancy dress and the level of entertainment provided. Firefighters are in attendance ready to hose down competitors in between bouts.

Held on August bank holiday at the Rose 'N' Bowl pub, the event attracts large crowds and a bevy of soon-to-be drenched competitors. While the competitive wrestling features adults, younger gravy aficionados can have a go after the main event, and there's never a shortage of applicants, with numbers increasing each year.

In the early days, the key constituent was bona fide Lancashire Gravy. Yet after the event became besieged by wasps who found the unique recipe rather too irresistible, an alternative mixture of caramel and cornflour was devised.

The World Gravy Wrestling Championships also raises significant funds for local charities.

Having taken a short hiatus during COVID-19, the championships roared back to popularity after the lockdowns with the most successful contests yet. And while meat stock is very much the order of the day, the fact that the event is held at a pub means competitors can always knock back something afterwards that offers slightly more punch than a watery beef or chicken accompaniment!

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DOWN: 1. UNRECOVERABLE, 2. GIVER, 4. CHERUB, 5. UNEMPLOYMENT, 6. REVOKES, 7. DISGRACEFULLY, 8. INTERMITTENT, 14. PRAIRIE, 16. ADAGIO, 18. OCEAN

ACROSS: 1. URGE, 3. ACQUIRED, 9. REVENUE, 10. ELVES, 11. CAR, 12. POKER, 13. REBEL, 15. ITALY, 17. ROAST, 18. OFF, 19. BORNE, 20. GENTEEL, 21. EJECTION, 22. ONLY



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ACROSS

1. Spur on (4)

9. Income (7)

10. Sprites (5)

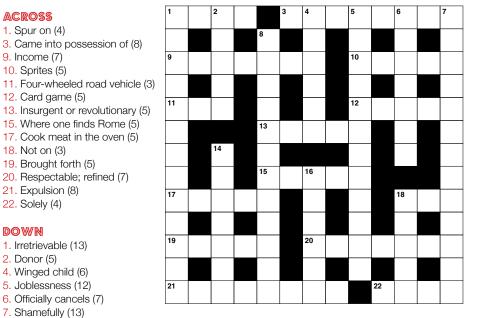
12. Card game (5)

3. Came into possession of (8)

- S VISION L
 - 15. Where one finds Rome (5) 17. Cook meat in the oven (5) 18. Not on (3) 19. Brought forth (5) 20. Respectable; refined (7) 21. Expulsion (8)
 - 22. Solely (4)

DOWN

- 1. Irretrievable (13) 2. Donor (5)
- 4. Winged child (6)
- 5. Joblessness (12)
- 6. Officially cancels (7)
- 7. Shamefully (13)
- 8. Sporadic (12)
- 14. Open area of grassland (7)



16. In slow tempo (of music) (6) 18. Large body of water (5)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Feng shui, meaning 'wind and water', is an ancient Chinese art of arranging spaces to achieve harmony and balance.
- The aim of feng shui is to balance the life force of chi. In the Taoist belief, chi is said to inhabit everything.
- ▶ To protect against negative chi, feng shui practices include making sure to always keep the bathroom door closed and to throw away wilted flowers immediately.
- ▶In feng shui, every colour has a meaning. For example, black signifies contemplation and wisdom, while purple is connected to power and prosperity.
- Feng shui has influenced the design of a number of landmarks around the world, including the glass pyramid at the Louvre Museum in Paris and the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

SUDOKU

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