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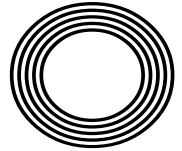
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Editor's notes...

APRIL 2022



Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION** Manningtree Mistley. The last month has been one of great upheaval on the international stage, and with that has come an increasing cost of living crisis that is affecting many of us and looks to get worse in the coming months.

Our history is punctuated with periods of adversity and economic difficulty, and some believe that this is the natural cycle of things. Whether that is true or not is hard to say, but just like during the last few years, our communities are developing a resilience that is humbling and inspiring in equal measure. I never fail to be impressed at how generous and kind-spirited people can be, no matter how tough their own personal circumstances.

Here at **VISION** magazine, we will continue to highlight great acts of kindness on our social media pages throughout the coming months to help celebrate those who are working hard to make the lives of people here and abroad that little bit better.

While we cannot change what is going on at the macro level, we aim to continue to give you some respite from the tough news out there with our usual mix of local stories and articles of use and interest, so grab a drink, settle in and enjoy this month's edition of the magazine.

Have a great month in life and business.

Sean Purcell

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

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CONTRIBUTORS | Tabatha Fabray, Christina Pantelly, Ruby Ward

At the time of print all content in **VISION** was relevant and up to date according to COVID-19 government guidelines All pages are recyclable

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Our signing choir is open to children across the school so they can sign too!



A Total Communication approach is used, meaning we use speech, sign, gesture and other visual ways of communicating according to the needs of the individual child. Children have access to regular BSL instruction and Speech and Language Therapy as required.

We can offer support to parents in dealing with any issues that arise in raising a deaf child.

Children wear radio aids in class to give them the best access to the teacher's voice and all mainstream classrooms have sound field systems which enhance the quality of sound.

Children have opportunities to work with a Teacher of the Deaf on a daily basis.

What OFSTED says:

"For pupils in the hearing impaired unit, individual needs are precisely met. Adults provide a language rich environment so pupils build their vocabulary and reading skills. Work demonstrates good progress and pride in their learning." (2018 report)

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uhi@lexden.essex.sch.uk



SEWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS



Photo credit: BBC and Comic Relief



FROM NOSE CLIPS TO KNITTING NEEDLES, TOM DALEY OBE'S DIVE FOR DELIGHT GOES ON

There is a perennial youth about Tom Daley OBE that sets him apart from so many of our other stars of the pool.

Sure, he possesses all the boyish good looks and charm he had when first making waves – although, as a diver, preferably not too many – back in 2008 with his first of four Olympic appearances.

The shelf life for a competitive diver is usually preciously short, particularly when combined with constant invitations to engage in media duties, campaign work and promotional activity.

Yet Daley has maintained focus, kept an eye on the prize and, in what may well be regarded as the heyday of his career, is arguably more successful than ever, having scooped gold in the Tokyo Olympics last year on the 10m board.

"I love what I do, and while it's great to have a

career in the media, that's never what I set out to achieve," he says. "What I wanted, from day one, was to be successful, and I'm not going to give that up until my body tells me it's time to."

It has been a whirlwind 12 months for Daley, who was named Best Male Diver at the LEN Awards this year and came second in BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Yet it was in partnering Matty Lee on the 10m board at the 2020 Tokyo Games last year – the event being delayed by a year because of COVID-19 – that Daley recounts as his greatest Olympic performance of them all.

He says: "It was a case of eighth time lucky, you might say. It was one of those events where you start well, hold your momentum, then it suddenly comes into focus that you might have a real chance of doing something special.

"It validates everything I have put into the sport."

And while Daley is a public figure with a hugely marketable profile – "I don't really think of myself as anything other than a diver... fashion photoshoots always involve me wearing more clothes than I do for my day job" – much of his desire to keep achieving in the sport he loves has been at the expense of other professional opportunities, as well as a proper home life. He wed American screenwriter, director and producer Dustin Lance Black in 2017, and a year later the couple had a son together, named Robbie.

"There is a huge toll on your private life in a sport such as this, but I try my best to balance things," says the double world and six-time British champion.

Daley, who recently launched knitting website Made With Love, is a passionate philanthropist. Recently,

he completed a gruelling four-day challenge in which he rowed, cycled, ran and, of course, swam the distance between the Olympic Park in Stratford and his home town of Plymouth, to raise money for Comic Relief.

When Tom finally reached the finish line, he said: "If you can, please donate what you can to Red Nose Day because it would make a world of difference to so many families all across the country.

"To come home and see all my family here, as well as so many people, is pretty special, so thank you. I don't really know what else to say other than I just need to go and sleep for about six years. Thank you all so much and love you.

"It was one of my toughest challenges yet, but epitomises how I just want to keep pushing myself forward."



STORM CHAOS

STORM EUNICE MAY HAVE BLOWN ITSELF OUT, BUT THE AFTER-EFFECTS ARE LONGER LASTING

Storm Eunice came, saw and conquered. She may have taken the name of someone your grandmother used to bump into at the local jumble sales, but there was nothing charitable about this confrontational weather system that wreaked havoc over the course of a three-day period, causing damage estimated at more than £350million.

Eunice was one of the most powerful to hit the south coast of England since the Great Storm of 1987. A top wind speed of 122mph whipped round The Needles of the Isle of Wight, while inland trees were felled, roofs damaged – including that of The O2 arena – transport routes closed, and major incident warnings issued by the emergency services.

More than a million homes were left without power at various points across a 72-hour period, beginning on February 17.

Ultimately, Eunice blew herself out, and gradually things have got back to normal; although for the

families of the three fatalities of the UK storm, things will never be the same again.

The naming of storms has always provoked interest, although the practice is relatively new and only dates back to November 2015, when Abigail was the first to be named. The Met Office decided labelling them would do more to alert people to how dangerous they could be, as well as making the reporting and following of them an easier task. There is real science behind the theory too – the human brain attaches a stronger emotional tie to a name than it does to a concept.

What we shouldn't do is confuse a relatively gentle title for something that, at its worst, can be fatal. Dudley, Gladys and Ruby may sound sweet and unassuming, but they're anything but at 3am as tiles are ripped from your roof.

The best news is that the Met Office invites people to send in their own suggestions of names – email nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk with your own cute (or totally terrifying) choice.

Photo credit: Dimitris Legakis/Ahrena Pictures/Shutterstock

WALK-IN SHOWER vs



WET ROOM



Walk-in showers and wet rooms have never been more popular, with families, professional couples and people with mobility issues all taking advantage of their stylish and practical designs.

However, what exactly is the difference between a walk-in shower and a wet room? And which one is right for your home?

WHAT IS A WALK-IN SHOWER?

Walk-in showers typically exist on a shower tray that has been installed directly onto the floor. They are not an extension of a bath and instead have their own cubicle. They are built as low to the main surface of the bathroom as possible so that you can enjoy a seamless transition from one space to the next.

WHAT IS A WET ROOM?

A wet room is a completely waterproof bathroom space that features a shower area that is flush with the rest of the floor. Water drains through a drain that is usually located in the shower section, and the room can include a shower screen to reduce spray in the bathroom.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIFFERENCES?

While a wet room is an open-plan space in which the floor has been altered to allow water to drain from it, a walk-in shower features a low-profile shower tray that has either one or two glass screens. Both options provide easy access and style. Often, homeowners opt for a walk-in shower if they do not have the budget for a wet room.

WHY CHOOSE A WALK-IN SHOWER?

- > Ideal for smaller bathrooms or en suites
- > Perfect for people with limited mobility due to the low shower tray
- > Offers a minimalist design
- > More affordable than a wet room
- > Low maintenance

WHY CHOOSE A WET ROOM?

- > Easy access for the elderly and disabled
- > Incredibly luxurious
- > Suitable for small and large bathrooms
- > Easy to clean
- > Can add value to your home.

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NICK OF TIME

NICK KNOWLES CELEBRATES 30 YEARS ON OUR SCREENS

When Nick Knowles said an emotional farewell to his *DIY SOS* show at the end of 2021, it brought the curtain down on an impressive period of renovating, refreshing and reviving people's living spaces.

It's a shame the 59 year old's tenure ended in such acrimonious fashion – the presenter was unceremoniously binned after appearing in an advert for Shreddies. In mimicking his role in *DIY SOS*, he had broken a BBC contract rule, and the axe fell. Comedian Rhod Gilbert replaced Knowles, who has since not been short of offers for new work. So it appears that life – and home improvements – continue.

Knowles got his break in television back in the early 1990s as a reporter on nightly news show *Coast to Coast*, which aired on TVS, the precursor to ITV Meridian.

From 1994, he presented a motorcycle programme called *Ridge Riders* for eight years, before the BBC saw Knowles' potential and

matched him up with Lowri Turner for a new-launch DIY show that would ride on the coattails of the hugely successful *Changing Rooms*.

The format of *DIY SOS* was fast-paced and usually leant on solving property issues for those in need of help, rather than people simply wanting a change of decor.

The success of *DIY SOS* led Knowles into daytime shows such as *Real Rescues*, *Wildest Dreams* and *Last Choir Standing*. However, it was becoming a game show host, notably through the lottery programme, that shaped the charismatic Southall-born frontman. *Who Dares Wins*, *Secret Fortune*, *Perfection* and *Break the Safe* guided him to star presenter status, and the inevitable *I'm A Celebrity* invitation. He subsequently finished sixth in the 2018 show, which was won by Harty Redknapp.

As for what comes next, Knowles's *Heritage Rescue* show on Quest looks at historic buildings in need of restoration – proof that there's always another DIY project lurking just around the corner.

Photo credit: Jake Morley/BAPTA/Shutterstock



HOME & DIY



BERBER BASICS



Are you looking to install some new carpet in your home? While some consider it to be outdated, Berber carpet is experiencing something of a revival owing to its durability and the development of new patterns and designs. Traditionally, Berber carpet is lightly coloured and features dark flecks that are either brown or grey. Essentially, Berber is a looped-style carpet that is designed for use in high-traffic areas of the home, such as the hallway and stairs.



REASONS TO CHOOSE BERBER CARPET

- > **Durability:** Berber carpet is one of the most durable types of carpet on the market and should not become torn, even when exposed to heavy footfall. In fact, if installed properly, a Berber carpet should easily last you a decade.
- > **Resistant to spills:** One of the main reasons why people choose not to lay carpet in their homes is because this type of flooring is known for absorbing water. However, Berber carpet is considered to be spill-resistant, making it a good option for those with young families.
- > **Affordable:** Another big plus point, Berber carpet comes in a variety of different types, with options to suit all budgets. If you don't have much to spend, opt for olefin or polyester Berber carpets, or, for those who don't mind splashing the cash, wool offers a touch of luxury.

REASONS TO AVOID BERBER CARPET

- > **Prone to snagging:** Although designed to last, Berber carpets are prone to snagging owing to their looped nature. Even if only one loop becomes snagged, you need to repair this immediately or risk the whole carpet coming apart.
- > **Not good for pets:** As Berber carpets are easily snagged, pets can cause havoc with this style of carpet. Cats, in particular, are attracted to the roughness of this carpet and may use it as their new scratching post.

Photo credit: Carpetright.co.uk, buycarpet.co.uk, dolphincarpet.com



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5 USES FOR

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Cheap and versatile, soda crystals can be used for so much more than just softening water or cleaning your washing machine. A powerhouse of a product, soda crystals will fast become your go-to cleaner for many common household tasks.

1. TO UNBLOCK THE SINK – If your plugholes become clogged with food waste, debris and grease, you are likely to experience unpleasant odours and slow-draining water. Rectify this by pouring one cup of soda crystals directly down the plughole, followed by a kettle of boiled water.

2. TO CLEAN YOUR EXTRACTOR FILTER FAN – If your extractor fan is covered in grease, this can be easily remedied with soda crystals. Create a strong solution using one cup of soda crystals and one pint of water, pour into a bowl, and let your filter soak for 10-15 minutes. Scrub any leftover residue using a sponge and then rinse.

3. TO REMOVE ALGAE FROM PATIO OR DECKING – Over the winter, your outdoor patio or decking may have succumbed to algae and moss. To get it looking new again, create a regular solution of soda crystals using ½ cup of crystals and one pint of water and pour over the surface. Leave to sit for an hour, scrub with a firm bristle brush and rinse with a hose.

4. TO RESTORE CARPETS AND RUGS – Soda crystals are the perfect cleaning solution for dull and faded carpets or rugs. All you need to do is sprinkle an even layer of soda crystals over the area and leave for a few minutes. Then apply your normal carpet cleaner to finish.

5. TO SOFTEN TOWELS – Crunchy towels are the worst, but fortunately, this problem can be easily solved by soaking them in a regular solution of soda crystals – mix ½ cup of soda crystals and one pint of warm water. Leave for one hour then rinse.



PAINT BY NUMBERS



HOW TO CALCULATE HOW MUCH PAINT YOU NEED WHEN DECORATING

Painting is one of the easiest DIY jobs you can do around the house. There's not much skill involved, materials are cheap, and it's easy to do once you get the time.

But one thing that frustrates DIY painters is not knowing how much paint is enough for their project. This leads to repeat visits to the decorating supplier, delays to your job, and frustration.

We're here to help you work out how much paint you need for your next project. Take a look at this simple guide for our top tips.

MEASURE YOUR SPACE: Knowing your figures will make the process of buying paint much simpler. Multiply the height and width of your walls to give you a square metre measurement to work with.

CONSIDER HOW MANY COATS YOU NEED: The number of coats you will need will depend on the type of paint you use. Some paints may only need one coat, but the majority will need two or three coats to achieve the desired look.

MAKE YOUR CALCULATION: Your paint tin should tell you how much coverage per square

metre it provides. Divide the square metre number for your space by the suggested coverage amount on the tin, to work out how many tins you'll need.

For example: If you're painting a wall that's 10mx2m (20m²), and a 5-litre tin of paint covers 10m², you'll need two tins of paint. Et voilà, it's that simple.

SOME QUICK AND HANDY TIPS: These tips can provide you with a rough guide for calculating paint for different spaces:

- > 1 litre of paint will cover a feature wall (approx 2.5m²)
 - > 2.5 litres of paint will paint an entire small room (approx 2mx2m)
 - > 5 litres of paint will paint an entire medium room (approx 4mx4m)
- This is for two coats of paint, for a standard wall height of 2.4m.

Knowing how much paint you need will help you get started on your projects, help you save money, and avoid the frustration of having too little or too much paint.



3 REMOVAL REMEDIES FOR

BLACK MOULD

Black mould is a common, yet nasty, household problem that no homeowner likes to face. However, there are remedies that promise to eradicate all signs of this troublesome tarnish.

BAKING SODA: If you want a natural remedy to remove black mould from your home, then a little baking soda is all you need. Used for generations to banish black mould, baking soda has a pH level of around 8-8.1, which is too high to allow mould to thrive.

HOW TO MAKE AND APPLY A BAKING SODA SOLUTION:

Add ¼ tsp of baking soda to 2 cups of water | Pour into a spray bottle | Liberally spray the affected area and scrub thoroughly with a brush | Rinse with cold water | Treat again to prevent the mould from returning.

VINEGAR: Another natural remedy, vinegar is acidic, with a pH of around 2.5, which means it can attack the structure of mould and actively break it down.

HOW TO APPLY VINEGAR:

Pour undiluted vinegar into a spray bottle | Spray directly onto the affected area | Leave for 15 minutes | Spray again and wait a further 15 minutes | Wipe clean with a damp rag.

BLEACH: Known for its ability to kill practically everything in its path, bleach is a powerful cleaner that can effectively get rid of black mould on non-porous surfaces such as tiles and sinks. The only problem with using bleach is that you need to be aware of the bleach fumes. Make sure you wear rubber gloves and a faceguard before you start cleaning.

HOW TO MAKE AND APPLY A BLEACH SOLUTION:

Mix one part bleach with four parts water | Pour onto the affected area and gently scrub with a damp cloth | Once finished, dry the area with a soft cloth.

OUR TOP TIPS FOR PREVENTING BLACK MOULD: Invest in a dehumidifier | Keep kitchens and bathrooms well ventilated | Tackle leaks as soon as they appear | Spread out towels and shower curtains to dry.



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BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS...

THE GREAT *Dame*

Each month, we look at one of the most significant events in British sporting history. This month, it's Dame Kelly Holmes DBE and her double Olympic gold

SPORT



It's possible to strive for so long for something that you imagine it may never arrive, and that's certainly true in the case of Dame Kelly Holmes DBE.

An athlete who turned professional in 1993, she initially enjoyed a number of successes, including winning the 1,500m title at the Commonwealth Games in 1994.

Injuries – notably stress fractures – marred the years that followed, and while interspersing her time on the sidelines with silver and bronze medals, Holmes believed she may never return to gold medal contention.

“It was always silvers and bronzes,” she says. “I was proud to be picking up World Championship medals, and of course my first Olympic medal – the 800m bronze in Sydney in 2000 – was wonderful. But I was never close enough to think I could move myself up.”

At the Athens Olympics in 2004, Holmes, by then 34, was in the heyday of her career. Her form

going into the 800m and 1,500m events had been good – she'd scored her first major gold in five years at the Commonwealth Games in 2002, with three silvers the following year.

And, sure enough, everything clicked in Athens. For once injury-free, she powered past rival Maria de Lurdes Mutola on the final bend in the 800m to take a gold medal in a victory celebrated up and down the country. She had only decided to enter the race five days previously.

Her specialist event, the 1,500m, proved another dream race. She ran from the back of the field, advanced, and this time held off World Champion Tatyana Tomashova of Russia on the home straight, setting a new British record in the process.

Holmes had become only the third woman in Olympic history to do 'the double', and, to prove it was no fluke, won gold at the IAAF World Athletics Final later in the year, before hanging up her spikes.

A true people's champion, Dame Kelly now undertakes fantastic work as an athletics and mental health ambassador.

Photo credit: sipax/Shutterstock

LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood

LOCAL NEWS MANNINGTREE



Photo credit: Google Maps

Family pays tribute to man who died in collision

Tributes have been paid to a Manningtree man who died following a road collision.

At around 1.47pm on February 14, a blue Transit van, travelling on Harwich Road, was involved in a collision with a Volvo V40 at the junction of Primrose Lane.

Emergency services attended but, despite their efforts, the Volvo driver died at the scene.

Police have now identified the driver as David Edmunds, 82, of Wrabness, Manningtree.

His family has paid tribute to David, who was married to his wife, Jenny, for 40 years. Together, they had three children, Hannah, Rebecca and John.

David was also a beloved grandfather and leaves behind five grandchildren.

He was an enthusiastic gardener, chess player and, more recently, loved playing croquet at Mistley.

Witnesses and anyone with dashcam footage is asked to contact Essex Police's Serious Collision Unit quoting incident 591 of 14 February.

Bookkeeper denies committing fraud charges

A woman has denied defrauding two Manningtree businesses out of nearly £80,000. Lydia Forrester, 56, of London, is accused of committing the fraud between 2014 and 2019.

According to the accusations, she abused her position as a bookmaker at Rutland Haulage in Manningtree to acquire £75,000 by dishonesty.

She is also accused of defrauding Manningtree-based All In Waste Ltd of £4,621.

On March 8, Forrester appeared at Colchester Magistrates' Court to deny two charges of fraud by abuse of position.

Forrester was given unconditional bail until a hearing on April 5 at Chelmsford Crown Court. At the hearing she plead not guilty and was given a warned list date of January 9, 2023, for trial and her bail conditions remain the same.



Photo credit: Ruby Ward @theartofphotomn



Photo credit: Sandmanskiphire.co.uk

Skip hire company closes its doors after 38 years

It's the end of an era for a Manningtree-based skip hire company as the family-run business permanently closes its doors. Andy and Amanda made the difficult decision to shut down Sandman Skip Hire on March 31, after 38 years of serving the local community. Amanda said: "We would both like to take this

opportunity to thank all of our customers for their loyalty and continued support. "But most of all we would like to thank all the wonderful staff, from our first-ever employee, Martin, and Darren, our longest-serving driver, to Richard who could be directed by every pub, and to Sharon in the office."

Volunteers organise fundraiser for refugees

Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Manningtree Stour Valley collected money in aid of Ukrainian refugees last month. The volunteers collected more than £1,500 during their bucket collection at Manningtree Co-op, which, together with money from other fundraisers, will be donated to help those affected by the current crisis in Ukraine. A spokesperson for the Rotary Club said: "Thank you to those who have already donated so generously." To donate to the Ukraine appeal, please visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/rotarymanningtree



Photo credit: RotaryManningtree Facebook



BOWLED out

A SPORTING ICON LIKE NO OTHER LEAVES US ALL TOO SOON

There are some deaths that confound logic, sense and, in many ways, fairness. The passing of Shane Warne, one of cricket's all-time icons, surely falls into that category.

The 52 year old's contribution to the game was almost immeasurable. There were the Ashes triumphs, the World Cup wins, the record wicket hauls and the exemplary media career that saw him transition from Aussie baddy to one of the game's truly loved characters.

Warne had been misunderstood at times during that golden era of the 90s, which began in earnest in 1993 at Old Trafford when he bowled what became known as the 'ball of the century', in taking the wicket of Mike Gatting.

For the years that followed, Warne was every bit the posturing, scheming, bleached-blond Aussie who toiled, tricked and turned over English batsmen with alarming regularity. He almost singlehandedly made spin bowling cool, and sparked a generation of others looking to perfect the art.

And as partisan as he was, this was someone respectful to the game, as ready to praise rival sides as he was happy to bemoan the failings of his own. He never concealed his love affair with the UK, and as a result we took his passion and honesty into our hearts.

It made the shock of his death, owing to a suspected heart attack, so much more devastating. There was also a dreadful irony at play where Warne's final tweet, from March 4, gave tribute to the death of another Aussie cricketing great, Rod Marsh, who died just hours before Warne.

That Warne was about to join him on the magnificent wicket in the sky represented the same unexpected turn akin to one of his bewildering leg-spinners.

In his death, we have lost not just an Australian sporting great, but also someone whose craft, passion, enthusiasm and humility made the game of cricket what it is today.

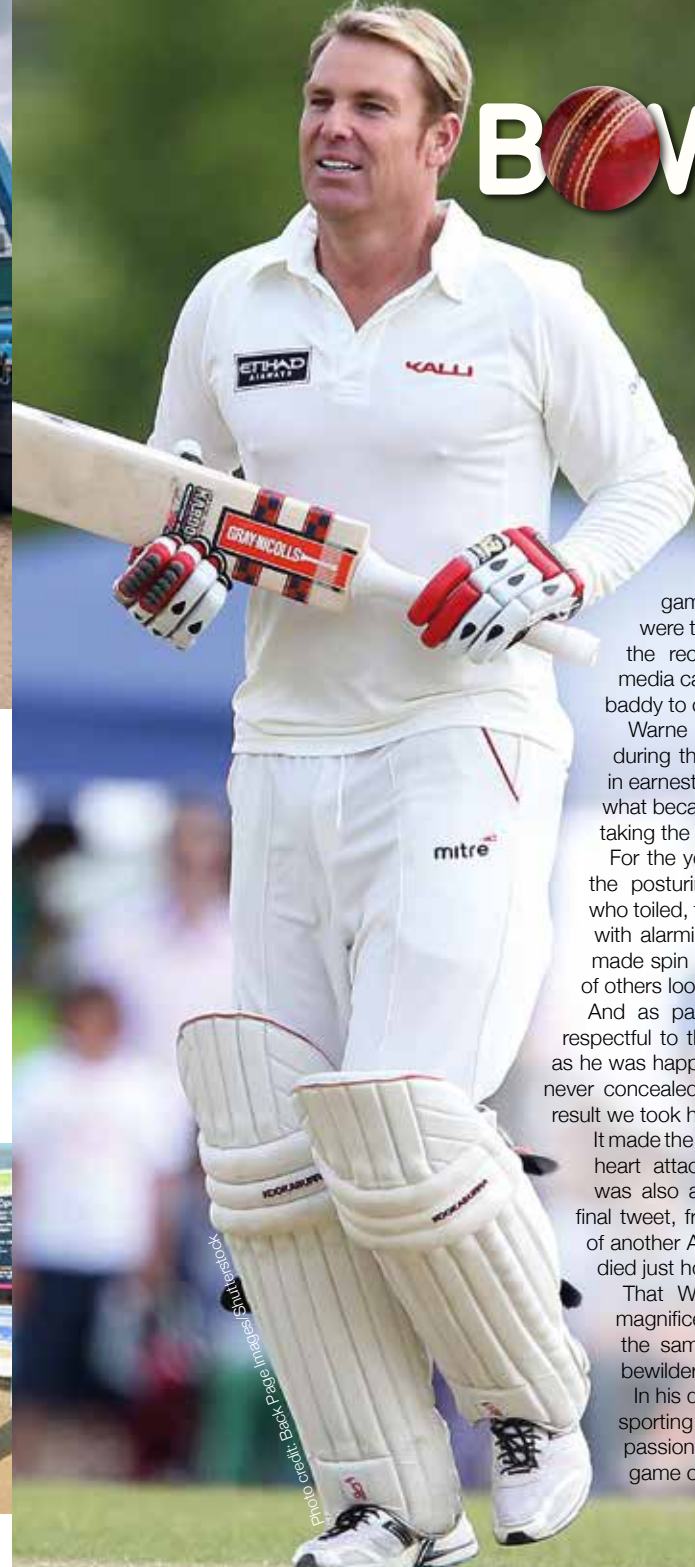
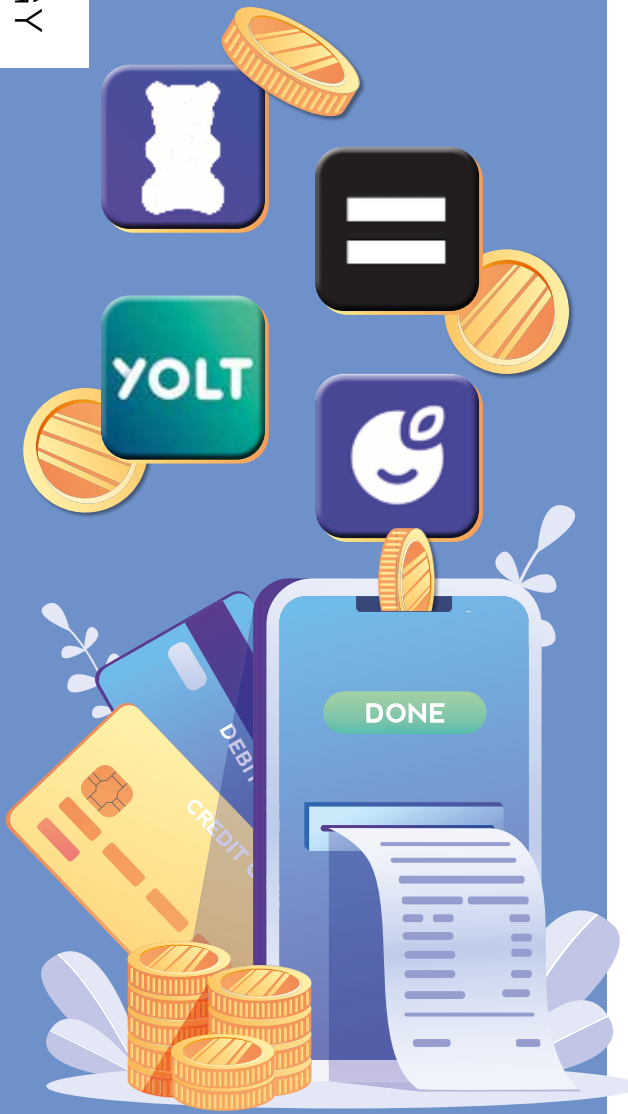


Photo credit: Shane Warne in a Bag Back Etc etc



CASH WISE



We're living in an uncertain era prompted by a pandemic, lockdowns and insecurity for the future. The result of all this is, more than ever before, a desire in people to take greater responsibility for their own actions – across health, employment and, of course, finances.

So while we can't be totally sure of what's to come, we can at least organise our money and budget according to what's laid out in front of us, and that has made cash management apps really popular. Here is a selection of some of the best on the market:

EMMA (free or £59.99 for enhanced annual subscription)

Emma assesses all spending, including loan and credit card repayments, and works out a full schedule of income and expenditure so that you can restrict or extend depending on where you are at certain points of the month.

Handily, it integrates with the likes of Boots, B&Q and Gousto to offer cashback initiatives. However, the constant pushing to upgrade to the paid product can become annoying.

MONEY DASHBOARD (free)

This app operates in much the same way as Emma, but plots graphical representations to take a deeper dive into personal finances.

YOLT (free)

This app comes with a prepaid debit card as well as a set of money management tools. This gives greater control and enables a 360-degree solution for consumer spending that is reported directly back into the app, meaning no money will mysteriously go missing.

PLUM (free or up to £3 per month for premium)

An app for savers, this tool is great for those who want to know, on a month-by-month basis, how much they can afford to put to one side.

Premium options even offer opportunities by which money can be invested directly from the app.



LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



Photo credit: Ruby Ward @heartoflondon

Man sentenced after serious assault incident

A man who abandoned his victim in Mistley after beating him so badly that he spent three weeks in hospital has been jailed.

Danny Blueyes (pictured), 43, was sentenced at Chelmsford Crown Court on March 31 after previously pleading guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent.

He has been sentenced to seven years in prison and an additional four years on licence for his role in the attack. He must serve two-thirds of his sentence before he is eligible for parole.

His victim was abandoned in a layby on the B1035 in Mistley in freezing temperatures on the evening of January 2, 2021.

A passing motorist noticed him and stopped to come to his aid.

The victim was then taken to hospital for treatment, having suffered fractures to his face and arm, broken ribs and a broken leg. He now suffers from permanent disability and has said he has had "trouble adapting" and "struggled to cope" with life after the attack.

The court heard that Blueyes had willingly joined the

attack after his two co-defendants, Paul Joseph and Joseph Bennett, had arrived at his house on Second Avenue on Walton-on-the-Naze earlier that afternoon.

The court was told Blueyes was assisting in a revenge attack over an allegation of theft. The victim had been staying at a property in Clacton when the home was burgled and, during the burglary, a number of model lorries belonging to Paul Joseph were stolen.

On January 2 last year, the victim was walking home from Clacton town centre when he was grabbed by Joseph and another unidentified male and pulled inside a nearby property.

He was subjected to an attack, which continued over multiple locations.

Blueyes was picked up from his home a short time later and joined in with the attack on the victim, who had been bundled in the back of the van, while Bennett drove and Joseph enacted his revenge.

The court was told both 46-year-old Paul Joseph, of Austin Avenue, Jaywick, and co-accused Joseph Bennett, 55, of Yarmouth Road, Norwich, died before their cases could be heard.



Photo credit: Norrie3699/Shutterstock

Funding to help train jobseekers as HGV drivers

Funding is being provided by the council to support jobseekers in Mistley to train as lorry drivers.

Tendring District Council (TDC) is providing £15,000 to pay for heavy goods vehicle (HGV) training for at least five residents, and is working with both the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to identify people for the training, and lorry firms in terms of recruitment.

The scheme, being delivered in partnership with Essex County Council, means training provision is in place locally where national initiatives are not active.

Mary Newton, TDC cabinet member for business and economic growth, said: "Not only will this training

help some of our residents into work by giving them additional skills – reducing reliance on the benefits system – but it will also do our bit to help tackle a national shortage of HGV drivers.

"Lorry drivers are so important to our economy, both here in Tendring and nationally – whether it is as part of food supply chains, driving recycling lorries and much more besides – so this is a key sector for us to support."

The funding will be available for those in receipt of Universal Credit, with candidates identified by the DWP as part of its ongoing work supporting claimants into employment.

Free the Quay action group continues its fight

An action group is continuing its fight to remove a fence at the public quay in Mistley.

The fence was put up to block access to and from the River Stour.

TW Logistics erected a 1.8-metre-high metal fence around Mistley Quay in 2008, amid scenes of public protest, after the Health and Safety Executive expressed worry that people might fall into the water.

Free the Quay was set up to support open access to Mistley Quay and to campaign to have the fence legally removed.

According to the Free the Quay website, landowner Michael Parker of Trent Wharfage "wilfully disregarded" the public's recognised rights to use the quay to moor



Photo credit: Mistley Parish Council

boats, swim, fish, and feed the swans. TW Logistics and Free the Quay have been contacted for comment.

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Photo credit: Ken McKay/ITV/Shutterstock

OUT OF THE BROOM CUPBOARD... *and onto centre stage*

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF PHILLIP SCHOFIELD

The title 'first in-vision continuity presenter for Children's BBC' perhaps isn't one he'll want as his epitaph, and yet the role that set Phillip Schofield on the path to becoming one of daytime and primetime TV's true modern icons is perhaps one of his most significant.

It's September 1985 and a 23-year-old Schofield has just returned to the UK after four years in New Zealand. Having already worked at the BBC as a bookings clerk and teaboy when he was a teenager, the charismatic, charming, chipper broadcaster was thrust into the not-so-glamorous surrounds of *The Broom Cupboard*, on Children's BBC.

Sitting at a cramped, squalid, cluttered desk, he was accompanied by Gordon the Gopher, and was a kids' TV first as the dull lead-in screens between programmes were replaced by a chatty, sociable presenter who offered personality and no small amount of humour.

The formula was an instant hit and set Schofield on the way to broadcasting brilliance. *Going Live!*, in which he appeared opposite Sarah Greene, came along two years later.

Adult programming followed – from four years hosting the *Smash Hits Poll Winners Party* to *Talking Telephone Numbers* and *Test the Nation*, Schofield's versatility bridged genres of entertainment as effortlessly as it did the range of demographics who would marvel at his calm and charisma.

No better has that been seen than when in full flow with sidekick Holly Willoughby on ITV's leading daytime show, *This Morning*. When the duo first worked together back in 2009, few would have expected such natural chemistry to emerge. From endless innuendos to heartfelt and touching interviews and reports on all manner of issues, the pair have been at the epicentre of *This Morning's* steely grip on the National Television Award for Best Daytime/Live Show, which it has won every year under their stewardship.

Of course, for someone who has been in front of the camera for so long, controversies will ultimately come along – from an ill-conceived set-up of then-Prime Minister David Cameron live on air, to a more light-hearted revelation from Schofield that he had been dyeing his hair since the age of 16 to ward off grey, something he now embraces.

Then, in February 2020, the personal revelation that the married father-of-two was coming out as gay proved a sensational storyline. In true *This Morning* style, the presenter and Willoughby conducted what amounted to an open counselling session – his heartfelt admission only serving to endear us to him further.

Away from the show, Schofield, who turns 60 this month, continues to pick the prime slots in ITV's entertainment programming, with quiz and challenge shows such as *Dancing on Ice*, *All Star Mr & Mrs*, *5 Gold Rings* and *The Cube*. There has also been a raft of factual programming, including coverage of royal events – The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the weddings of Princes William and Harry, and a tribute to Prince Philip.

And in February, daytime doyenne Lorraine Kelly dedicated her show to Schofield's 40 years in the business.

In a rapidly changing television industry where personalities come and go, Phillip Schofield has proved himself a man for every occasion. He is someone who can put an arm round a guest one day and laugh at his own failings the next, as well as being arguably the greatest thing to ever emerge from a broom cupboard.



CONTAIN YOURSELF

Five ways to master container gardening, for maximum effect

Container gardening is pretty much what it sounds like – the display of plants, flowers and herbs in containers.

Gardening this way offers variety, flexibility and a great deal more control than placing plants in flowerbeds or around borders. To get it right, you need to abide by a few simple rules.

ONE:
Location location location

The ability for your plants to flourish will almost certainly depend on location. Around six hours of sunlight a day and a south-facing position will offer them the best chance to make something of themselves.

TWO:
Choose your container wisely

While containers come in all shapes and sizes and cater for various budgets, the golden rule is to allow adequate room for your plants to grow, and to ensure there is adequate drainage in the bottom.

THREE:
Heavily soiled

You can pick up a bag of high-nutrient, moisture-retaining, airy soil at the garden centre for less than the price of a glass of wine, and it will be considerably better for your plants than standard garden soil.

FOUR:
Water lovely plant

Try to water plants every morning to allow them to flourish during the day. Watering in strong sunlight runs the risk of leaves being singed. Positioning containers next to a natural water source will help as well.

FIVE:
Feed greed

Adding nutrients, slow-release fertilisers and liquid feed to your watering can – or even directly to the container – will give your soil and your plant a perfect boost each day, as well as helping it to fend off any nasties.



Photo credit: idealhome.co.uk



Create your own OUTDOOR KITCHEN

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that many of us turned our attention to our gardens to create the perfect outdoor living space. Great for entertaining, hosting in the garden has become the ideal way to entertain family and friends.

Creating an outdoor kitchen gives you a stylish space to cook outside so you can make the most of the warmer weather with your family and friends.

Learn how to create an outdoor kitchen on any budget, ready for summer entertaining.

MEASURE YOUR SPACE: You can design an outdoor kitchen to suit all kinds of spaces. Measure your designated area to establish what you have to work with. A basic kitchen will need space for an appliance, like a barbecue, and some workspace. The larger your space, the more you'll be able to add.

FIND THE RIGHT APPLIANCES: Find cooking appliances that will suit your budget. Pizza ovens are bang on trend and can be used for all cooking. However, if that doesn't take your fancy, barbecues and grills are available in different sizes according to your needs. Some people even add fridges and microwaves to their outdoor spaces.

GET YOUR CONNECTIONS IN PLACE: You may need to bring in professionals to provide electricity, lighting and plumbing to your space. Keep everything secured away for safety and to make sure the space looks neat and organised.

BUILD A SHELTER TO COVER ALL WEATHER: A shelter is a must if you're dealing with electrical equipment, but it will also help you make the most of your space. Having shelter will let you use your outdoor kitchen in any weather, for year-round entertainment.

MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH STORAGE: Storage is a must for your outdoor kitchen. Shelving, trolleys and cupboards can keep your utensils, tableware and other supplies safe and clean, ready for when you need them.

An outdoor kitchen is a must if you like entertaining at home. Start now to get yours ready in time for summer.

Photo credit: Gifilo via housetobesbeautiful.com, Morsol andiform Consultants/istock via idealhome.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK



2022 FOOD festivals in the UK

Do you consider yourself a bit of a foodie? Or perhaps you just love to spend a lazy weekend milling around a market and sampling the local cuisine? Either way, you will be pleased to hear that the UK has some of the best food festivals in the world.

PUB IN THE PARK
All over the UK, May 12-September 18
Created by Tom Kerridge, Pub in the Park tours all over the UK and boasts a top line-up of chefs and music artists. Attracting more than 130,000 visitors in 2021, this popular festival celebrates everything there is to love about the British pub, including delicious food, great music and time spent with family and friends. More information can be found at pubintheparkuk.com

BIGFOOT
Buckinghamshire, June 17-19
A relatively new festival on the foodie scene, Bigfoot is the UK's first-ever craft beer music festival. Taking place in the stunning Claydon Estate, the headliners this year are Caribou and Happy Mondays. Tantalise your tastebuds with beers including Gipsy Hill,

Howling Hops and Signature Brew, and soak up all the booze with fabulous food from Patty & Bun and Club Mexicana. More information can be found at bigfootfestival.co.uk

THE BIG FESTIVAL
The Cotswolds, August 26-28
Taking place on Alex James' farm in the Cotswolds over the August bank holiday weekend, The Big Festival brings together some of the UK's biggest music artists and Michelin-starred chefs. Enjoy an exciting array of street food while rocking out to the likes of The Human League, Stereophonics and the Sugababes. More information can be found at thebigfestival.com

MEATOPIA
Tobacco Dock, London, September 2-4
One of the most popular and well-known London food festivals, Meatopia is a legendary event for fire-cooking enthusiasts. Offering a winning combination of amazing food, thirst-quenching beverages, roaring fire-pits and live music, Meatopia describes itself as the ultimate Bacchanalian party. More information can be found at meatopia.co.uk

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Photo credit: Cranger/Shutterstock

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HOW TO COOK PERFECT ROAST



Does your roast beef always end up dry and overcooked? If so, don't despair. Here's how to cook the perfect roast beef.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- > 1.5kg topside of beef
- > Selection of vegetables such as carrots, garlic cloves, onions, celery, etc
- > Olive oil

HOW TO MAKE:

- > Preheat the oven to 240°C/475°F/gas 9 and take your topside of beef out of the fridge and let it come to room temperature.
- > Chop your chosen vegetables and layer on the bottom of your roasting tray, drizzled in oil.
- > Oil and season the beef, before placing it on top of the vegetables.
- > Place the tray in the oven, then turn the heat down immediately to 200°C/400°F/gas 6 and cook for an hour for medium beef. If you prefer it medium-rare, take it out 5 to 10 minutes earlier. For well done, leave it in for another 10 to 15 minutes.
- > Baste the joint halfway through and add water to the veg as necessary.
- > When cooked, place your joint on a chopping board to rest for 15 minutes.
- > Use the juices and vegetables to make gravy.



TAME THE CURLS

Does your curly hair drive you to distraction? Does the mere hint of heat or humidity turn your luscious locks into a frizzy frenzy?

As one of the most precarious months of the year, April can bring sun, rain and wind, all of which can wreak havoc with your curly hair.

Find out how to manage your mane below.

Layer up products

If the forecast is rain, then you need to be prepared by applying the right products for your type of hair before you leave the house. For medium-textured curls, opt for a water-based mousse, or if your hair is fine, an alcohol-based one is better. Once dry, spray your hair liberally with an anti-humidity product.

Avoid hair-styling tools

Although you may be tempted to use your trusty straighteners, blow dryers and hot combs even more when the heat and humidity are ruining your usually sleek curls, this is the worst thing you can do. Instead, let your curly hair dry naturally or use a diffuser and invest in a good air-dry styling cream.

Deep condition frequently

When the weather can't make its mind up, now is the time to embrace conditioning treatments, as these will help your hair to stay in optimal condition. If you usually deep condition once a week, change this to every other day when the weather starts to heat up.

Try the pineapple trick

If the heat and humidity tend to attack your curls while you are sleeping, then the pineapple trick is just what you need. All you need to do is loosely gather your curls at the highest point of your head and secure them with a band. This will guard against frizz.





GETTING Shirty!

THE HISTORY OF THE SLOGAN T-SHIRT

Since the first slogan t-shirts were worn in the 1950s, our desire to shout messages – without the use of a megaphone – has never relented.

Across political statements, pop culture (think Frankie Says Relax), Fila and Champion leisurewear, the slogan t-shirt has become a fashion icon that goes beyond visual appeal. It is used to express opinion, reference popular culture, and has accelerated campaigns, initiatives and product sales for its ability to unite people with similar perspectives.

The popularity of the casual t-shirt came to prominence some 70 years ago, prompted by a young Marlon Brando in the film *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

In the years that followed, innovations in print technology saw everyone from Disney to Andy Warhol decorate the fronts of our chests with a desire to make statements.

By the 1970s, and led by designer Katherine Hamnett, the slogan t-shirt was being adapted for more political purposes.

She said: “It seemed as if democracy was slipping through our fingers. The slogan t-shirt was something to give you a voice... something to believe in that you could wear on your chest that could be read from 200 yards away.”

In recent years, the visual t-shirt has become as much a reference to being fashionable as it is an indicator towards a political or social movement. From Nike to Hugo Boss, French Connection to Fortnite, the signifier of a brand or product is a nod to our own preferences.

And yet, in these challenging social times, the expectation is of a return to stronger statements around gender, Brexit, diversity and general politics.

Whatever the message, the slogan t-shirt is here to stay.



Photo credit: ASOS.com



Laughter THERAPY IS A MUST-DO

They say that laughter is the best medicine, but is there any truth to this classic saying? The answer is yes.

Get ready to bring laughter therapy into your life to boost your health and wellbeing.

THE LAUGHTER CLUB

Laughing helps to boost your endorphins, which are your body's feel-good hormones. Back in the 1990s, Dr Madan Kataria conducted research into the health benefits of laughter by forming a Laughter Club that brought people together in Mumbai parks to share funny jokes and stories. The club grew and soon they ran out of stories, so instead they tested the theory of laughing alone, which provided the same uplifting benefits. Now, people all over the world practise laughter yoga, a laughter therapy designed to boost your mood.

HOW LAUGHTER THERAPY WORKS

In a laughter therapy session, you'll do stretches

and breathing exercises to help you relax. Your instructor will then guide you through various exercises to encourage different types of laughter, such as prompting you to think of funny memories and interacting with others.

Even forced laughter can eventually turn into real laughter so that you can enjoy the benefits.

THE BENEFITS FOR YOUR HEALTH

Laughter can provide a lot of health benefits. It can help you reduce stress and anxiety, elevate your mood and reduce tension. It could even help to boost your immune system and help you sleep better, owing to better oxygen levels in the blood.

Researchers continue to look at the benefits of laughing, and it's generally accepted as a good way to improve your overall health. Why not make laughter therapy a key part of your self-care routine so that you can experience all the amazing health benefits of laughter?





TRADITIONAL DEADLIFTS

When it comes to strength exercises, the deadlift is one of the most versatile and effective. Deadlifts require core strength and stability, help to improve your range of motion, and target multiple muscle groups.

There are different types of deadlift, but two of the most popular are the traditional deadlift and the Romanian deadlift. But what's the difference, and which exercise is better?

The key difference between a traditional deadlift and a Romanian deadlift (also known as an RDL), is the starting position. The traditional deadlift starts from the bottom position to target the quads and mid-back area, while an RDL starts from a standing position to target the glutes and hamstrings. A traditional deadlift typically allows for a heavier lift than an RDL, which can also be performed using dumbbells.

THE TRADITIONAL DEADLIFT

1. Place your feet shoulder-width apart, with your barbell placed at your feet.
2. Hinge at your hips and keep your chest wide to allow you to bend and take the barbell.
3. Grip the floor with your feet while dropping your hips back.
4. Move your hips forward so that you arrive at a

- standing position.
5. Bring the bar to just below your hips, with your knees, legs and back all remaining straight.
6. Push your hips back and bend your knees to squat down and return the bar to the floor. Complete 1-6 reps and repeat for 5 sets.

THE ROMANIAN DEADLIFT

1. Use an overhand grip to hold the bar at hip level. You can also use dumbbells in each hand instead of a bar.
2. Keeping your back straight, draw your shoulders back.
3. Send your hips back while lowering the bar towards your feet.
4. Complete the move by pressing your hips forward until you are back to standing. Complete 5-10 reps and repeat for 3-5 sets.

WHICH IS BETTER?

One type of deadlift isn't superior to the other; they both target different muscle groups and can form an effective part of your exercise routine. They can boost your strength, help to tone your muscles, and improve your posture.

It's important that any kind of deadlift is performed correctly to avoid injury, and you may want to ask someone to watch your form.



...VS ROMANIAN DEADLIFTS



Natural MENOPAUSE MANAGEMENT



A NATURAL APPROACH TO MANAGING THE MENOPAUSE

Whether you don't want to take hormone replacement therapy (HRT), you can't for medical reasons or you want to supplement this prescription treatment, there are natural ways that can help you to manage the menopause.

EAT A HEALTHY DIET

Women's bone density reduces during menopause so it is essential that you eat a diet rich in calcium to keep your bones healthy and strong. Reducing your sugar intake and eating low GI foods can help to reduce mood swings, while eating healthy fats can help increase the healthy bacteria in your gut which can diminish after menopause.

REDUCE ALCOHOL INTAKE

Some women find that alcohol exacerbates their symptoms, especially hot flushes. Alcohol can also increase your risk of developing osteoporosis, heart disease and some types of cancer. Plus, it is high in calories, which is not ideal if you are experiencing weight gain as a result of the menopause.

PARTAKE IN REGULAR EXERCISE

Important for both your cardiovascular and bone

health, as well as reducing feelings of stress and anxiety, it is more beneficial to exercise gently and regularly than it is to go all out once in a while. Both yoga and swimming are great options for women undergoing the menopause.

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY (CBT)

If you are suffering with low moods and/or anxiety as a result of the menopause, CBT can help you work through these emotions. There is also some evidence that suggests CBT can help to control hot flushes.

TRY HERBS AND SUPPLEMENTS

There are several herbs and supplements that are said to help manage menopause symptoms, including:

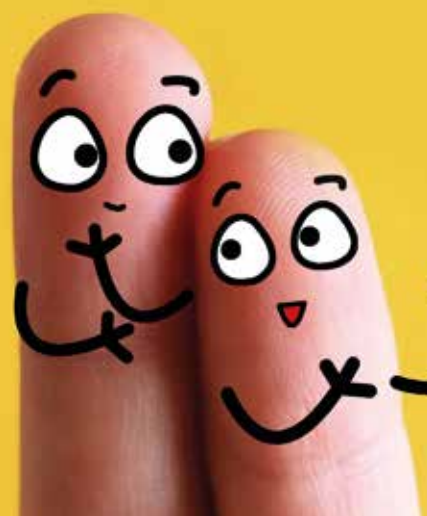
- > Black cohosh – to alleviate night sweats and hot flushes
- > Red clover – to slow down bone loss and alleviate hot flushes
- > Dong quai tea – to ease pelvic pain and regulate oestrogen levels
- > Valerian root – to treat joint pain, aid sleep and reduce hot flushes.





BRUCE KING

on why people buy



What shall we buy?

In his final column, sales mentor and personal growth coach, Bruce King, discusses why people buy and how to stop yourself buying things you don't need.

We all buy for emotional, not logical, reasons, although we'll create logical reasons to justify our decisions.

For example, did you buy or were you sold a new pair of shoes when you had plenty already and your favourite pair just needed a good polish? You bought a new pair because you love new shoes and they make you feel good, or the salesperson said you looked great in them.

Maybe you justified your decision with logic on the basis that if someone saw your expensive new shoes, you would create a better impression.

Ever bought a new car when there was nothing wrong with your current model, but the look, feel and smell of a new car makes you feel wonderful, and the salesperson said you looked so impressive in the driving seat?

Perhaps you justified your decision on the basis

that a new, more expensive car would impress your customers and make them more likely to do business with you.

Why do we do this? The answer lies in how the brain works – it has an emotional part and a logical part. All decisions we make start in the emotional part – that's how our brains work.

If the emotion is strong enough, we'll usually ignore the logical part. Love and want are both strong emotional reasons for buying something.

To stop ourselves being sold to, switch on the logical part by asking a question – something as simple as, 'Do I really need this new car or these new shoes?' your brain will probably respond with a resounding 'NO!' and save you a lot of money.

More information:

Bruce King is recognised internationally as a leading sales, marketing and personal growth strategist, addressing audiences and coaching sales teams and managers in 23 countries. For more information, visit bruceking.co.uk

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Clare Garrod, Stonewall Security



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Bar chart showing growth with an upward arrow.

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BUSINESS & PROPERTY



How to choose an ESTATE AGENT

If you are looking to sell your home, the right estate agent is worth their weight in gold. However, how do you weed out the weak from the wonderful?

- > What would they do if your property was not selling as quickly as you would like or at the price you expected?
- > Do they carry out viewings at weekends?

COMPILE A SHORTLIST

Don't just decide upon the first estate agent that you see or the one that puts the most leaflets through your door. Instead, compile a shortlist using recommendations from family and friends, online reviews and testimonials. You should also look for an estate agent that has experience selling properties similar to yours.

CHECK THEIR PERFORMANCE

Once you have your shortlist, invite each estate agent round to your home to discuss their offerings and to conduct a valuation. This is the perfect opportunity to find out more about how they operate. You may want to ask:

- > How quickly do they sell homes?
- > Are they a member of an accredited independent ombudsman service?

FIND OUT THE FEE

You need to know what percentage of the sale price each estate agent would take upon completion. Currently, the average estate agent fee in the UK is 1.18 per cent for a sole agency agreement. Going with a sole agency usually means a lower fee, but this does mean that you only have one agency marketing your property. Remember these fees are negotiable.

HIGH STREET VS ONLINE-ONLY AGENT

Online-only estate agents such as Purplebricks make up only five per cent of the overall property market, yet they are increasing in popularity. These typically have a fixed fee that needs to be paid up front, rather than the 'no sale no fee' commission charged by high-street companies.

Photo credit: Neil Lang/Shutterstock.com

LEARN

how to say NO

STRUGGLING TO UTTER THAT TWO-LETTER WORD TO YOUR BELOVED YOUNGSTER? HERE'S HOW TO MASTER IT AND WHY YOU NEED TO TAKE BACK CONTROL

Constructive, confident and considered parenting means not always bending to your child's wants and desires. Sometimes the simple action of saying 'no' can seem obstructive and unkind, but when coaching our kids, the logic and reasoning behind our decision is vital.

Turning down some of our youngsters' requests is a key part of their development, but only if done in the right way.

ONE:**WHAT'S IN A WORD?**

An obstructive 'no' is rarely going to garner a positive response. As well as being blunt, it leaves a child with little explanation as to the decision reached. Instead, parents are reminded of the benefits of using positive and negative wording. So instead of saying "Stop hitting", say "Keep your hands to yourself". Or replace "No, you can't have that" for "Why don't we look at these?"

TWO:**THE EXPLAIN GAME**

No, if accompanied by an explanation that uses

emotion, empathy, consequences and alternatives will steer your child into a place where they not only go along with the response, but also agree with the sentiments behind it.

THREE:**WHAT WE HEAR**

Furthermore, as humans listening to a sentence, we listen to some of the first part, all of the last part and very little of the middle. Consider this when outlining something to your child that they perhaps don't want to hear.

FOUR:**ACTION STATIONS**

Accompanying rejection with a hug, or holding a hand, will soften the action and reduce the sense of loss a child may feel.

FIVE:**BALANCE**

Finally, perhaps the true art of saying 'no' is to ensure you practise saying 'yes' as well. Children will be more understanding of the things they don't have if they know there are many other things that they have received, or will over time.

Reaching for
REPTILESTHE REPTILES THAT MAKE GREAT PETS...
AND THOSE THAT DON'T

The lure of sharing time and space with reptiles links us back to a rugged and prehistoric past – after all, these creatures date right the way back to when dinosaurs were roaming the planet.

An acquired taste, certainly, reptiles can be great pets, are largely self-sufficient, and act as a constant source of wonder for kids and adults alike.

Bearded dragons

A dragon by name, but in truth more of a lizard, this gentle creature isn't the most sociable of its kind, but enjoys being handled nonetheless. They have a varied diet, including vegetables, crickets and worms, and can live for more than a decade.

Leopard geckos

Leopard geckos can live twice as long as the bearded dragon and are nocturnal, so will stress if not allowed time to relax in dark spaces. You'll need to ensure they have cover in their terrarium, and keeping two males together is a strict no-no as they are known to fight.

Box turtles

Box turtles may look cute, but they are a lifelong commitment and can live for more than 40 years. This pet is not suitable for kids – despite their sluggish demeanour, the turtle has complex care requirements, can suffer from anxiety, and requires cleaning out each week.

Chameleons

We know chameleons are ever-changing, ever-evolving creatures, and that extends right the way through to liking different temperatures at different times of the day, so as maintenance goes, they require more than most.

Factor in a need for good ventilation and natural sunlight, and a preference for living in trees, and it all points to this being a tricky reptile to maintain unless you can ensure plenty of foliage and a clean, non-toxic surrounding.





MAGNIFICENT MOTORS

THE MODIFICATIONS BEING MADE AHEAD OF THE 2022 FORMULA 1 CHAMPIONSHIP

The evolving entity that is Formula 1 is undergoing perhaps its most rapid change ever in 2022, with a blueprint for the future (and the new season which began in Bahrain on March 20) based on two principles – greener and more competitive racing.

On the eco side, the fact that the world's exemplars of motoring excess have signed up to increasing bio-components within the fuel system is impressive. The new season has seen this increase from 5.75 per cent of fuel load to 10 per cent, via the new E10 fuel. The E stands for ethanol, which has a near-zero carbon footprint, and sets a precedent for even cleaner fuel in the future. F1 experts are already working hard to formulate a fully sustainable product in the near future.

Combining this eco drive with more competitive, exciting racing – the like of which we saw at the conclusion of the 2021 championship when Lewis Hamilton had an eighth world title snatched from his

grasp – is a win/win for F1. To aid this, the new cars set to be launched are rounder, slicker and more stunning to look at.

Included in their structure are moves to make them more equipped for closer racing (with the removal of excessive downforce), notably through over-wheel winglets and wheel covers. They also have 18-inch low-profile tyres, reducing overheating when they slide, plus entirely new front wings and noses so as to generate consistent downforce when close to a car in front.

Finally, rolled tips on the rear wing will allow clean air for chasing cars to drive through.

Further good news for F1 fans is that the existing power units – the 1.6l turbo-hybrid – remain. These are the most advanced engines on the planet, and are designed so that the unit will separate from the chassis without exposing the fuel tank. This also makes it the safest racing car ever made.

All we need now are the drivers...

Photo credit: Alessio De Marco/Shutterstock.com



TITANIC'S WATERY

Grave Remains

SOME 110 YEARS ON FROM THE SINKING OF THE MOST FAMOUS SHIP IN HISTORY, TITANIC'S WATERY REMAINS ARE STILL VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHED

April 15, 1912, will be a date forever etched in the annals of maritime disaster as, at 2.20am, the RMS Titanic sank into the icy depths on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

It is a ship made famous by its demise, and as another anniversary passes, the sinking of this 'unsinkable' vessel continues to fascinate, terrify and, dare we say it, even entertain the world in every bit the same way as it always has.

This year marks the 110th anniversary since the ship sank to the bottom of the North Atlantic, taking 1,517 poor souls with it.

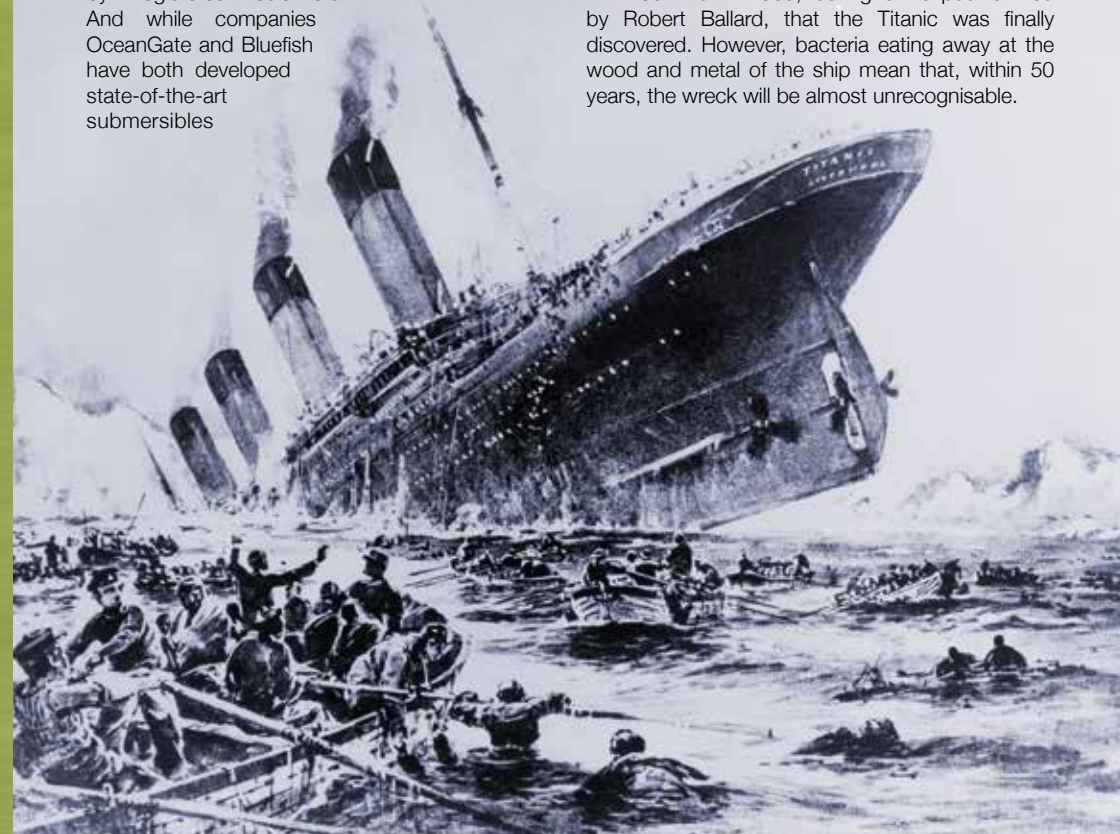
The ship remains 13,000ft beneath the surface, as any attempt to retrieve it would see it break up, while diving to the wreck can only be performed by registered scientists.

And while companies OceanGate and Bluefish have both developed state-of-the-art submersibles

that can take explorers on the 90-minute descent, the price tag of £100,000 per person means this is one disaster best viewed through the eyes of documentary-makers and film directors.

The Titanic sank when it struck an iceberg. Spotted at the last minute, First Officer William Murdoch attempted to turn the ship to avoid it – experts believe if it had hit the iceberg head on, it probably would have survived. Instead, while it could reportedly stay afloat with as many as four of its 16 compartments filled with water, five were breached, with the dipping of the bow causing water from the ruptured spaces to spill over into forward compartments.

It wasn't until 1985, during an expedition led by Robert Ballard, that the Titanic was finally discovered. However, bacteria eating away at the wood and metal of the ship mean that, within 50 years, the wreck will be almost unrecognisable.





PUZZLES & TRIVIA

PUZZLES

Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

ACROSS

- 1. Creative act (6)
- 4. Pertaining to vinegar (6)
- 9. Nerve impulses (7)
- 10. Not solid or liquid (7)
- 11. Send money in payment (5)
- 12. Country in North East Africa (5)
- 14. Loathe (5)
- 15. Sense of seeing (5)
- 17. Wrong (5)
- 18. Light shoes (7)
- 20. Prior (7)
- 21. Enjoy greatly (6)
- 22. Large eel (6)

DOWN

- 1. Wish for (6)
- 2. Propelling the body through water (8)
- 3. Haggard (5)
- 5. Small mat (7)
- 6. A group of three (4)
- 7. Form-fitting garment (6)
- 8. Sea beacons (11)
- 13. Giving way under pressure (8)

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- 14. Reaches (7)
- 15. Female sibling (6)
- 16. Listener (6)
- 17. Refrain from (5)
- 19. Invalid (4)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ The heart of the average blue whale is approximately the size of a car
- ▶ The Chrysopelea snake can leap from trees and 'fly' distances of around 300 feet
- ▶ Dogs can sense human emotion, knowing when people are feeling sad, happy or something else
- ▶ The platypus is one of the few living mammals to produce venom
- ▶ Some spider species try to eat their partners after mating
- ▶ The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland
- ▶ Every tiger and zebra has a unique stripe pattern
- ▶ A flamingo's head has to be upside down when it eats

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OUR Queen

This year, Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II, will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service on the throne and cementing her as Britain's longest-serving monarch. After reigning for so long, the Queen has had a wonderful and interesting life. But how much do you know about the Queen? Here are some facts you may not have heard before.

THE QUEEN HAS TWO BIRTHDAYS

I'm sure we'd all love two birthdays, especially if only one adds another year to our age. The Queen has two birthdays: April 21 – the day she was born – and her 'official' birthday, which takes place on the second Saturday in June with a celebration known as Trooping the Colour. This is so that her birthday can be celebrated when the weather is better.

THE QUEEN SUPPORTS ARSENAL

Whoever knew Her Majesty is a Gunner?

THE QUEEN DOESN'T NEED A PASSPORT...

British passports might be issued in her name, but the Queen herself doesn't need a passport. She's never needed a passport to travel, but has visited more than 100 countries.

...OR A DRIVING LICENCE

The Queen is the only person in the UK who doesn't

need a licence to drive. She continues to drive at 95 years old.

THE QUEEN LIVES AT WINDSOR CASTLE

Windsor Castle is one of 26 royal residences and also has the title of being the largest castle in Britain.

THE QUEEN OWNS STRANGE PETS

The Queen is famous for owning corgis, but she also owns an elephant, two giant turtles, a jaguar and some sloths. They were all gifts from overseas and live at London Zoo.

THE QUEEN'S NICKNAME IS 'LILIBET'

Which is the name Prince Harry and Meghan Markle chose for their first daughter – Lilibet Diana Mountbatten-Windsor.

And there you have it. Now you know a bit more about Her Majesty ahead of her Platinum Jubilee.

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