

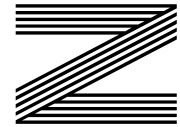
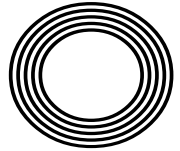
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IDRIS
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The actor's rise to the big screen as he turns 50



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Editor's notes...

SEPTEMBER 2022



Nik Allen, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION**ManningtreeMistley. I hope you have had a fantastic summer and have been able to spend quality time with Friends and Family.

My name is Nik Allen and I am the new editor of **VISION**ManningtreeMistley magazine. I already run another eight **VISION** titles in Essex so I'm certainly not new to this, but you won't have heard from me before.

I am very excited to be overseeing the **VISION**ManningtreeMistley title and would love to engage with readers and with the local communities in Manningtree and Mistley.

I like to get out and about whenever I can to meet with businesses in the area and readers at local events.

Please feel free to get in touch if you are interested in the ways **VISION** can help raise awareness of your business or perhaps a local event you are organising.

My contact details are below and I look forward to hearing from you soon. I hope you enjoy this month's edition of **VISION**ManningtreeMistley.

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

Nik Allen

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

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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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STAR QUALITY

One of the most enduring television programmes in broadcast history has certainly lived up to its famous quote – “Live long and prosper”.

And if the legacy of the iconic sci-fi series wasn't reason enough to don the Starfleet uniform, the so-called Star Trek Day – September 8 to you and me – surely is.

Legendary actor Leonard Nimoy committed almost 50 years of his life to playing the Vulcan character Spock, dating right the way back to the first *Star Trek* pilot episode in 1964. And until his death in 2015, the actor presided over a franchise that never lost its edge or appeal.

In fact, it's because the series is as admired today as it was on its original run back in 1966 that director J.J. Abrams has been tempted back for a third reimagination, expected to air sometime in 2023.

Before then, Trekkies have a special date in the calendar upon which they can hang their USS Enterprise hat. That's thanks to the growing popularity of September 8 on the sci-fi calendar, a date affectionately known as Star Trek Day.

The date mirrors when Trekkies got their first glimpse of the crew in 1966 – the result of Gene Roddenberry's vision of a drama inspired by *Forbidden Planet*, *Horatio Hornblower*, and *Gulliver's Travels*.

To say that *Star Trek* has blown apart pop culture over the course of its existence is something of an understatement – with revenue approaching £10billion, it's certainly one of the highest-grossing media productions on record.

The 2009 *Star Trek* reboot movie by Abrams saw a new alternate timeline so as to continue with the original characters, albeit portrayed by a new cast. Indeed, the franchise has so far managed to swerve some of the prequel/sequel criticism levelled at its distant sci-fi relation, *Star Wars*.

Perhaps the reason for that is because *Star Trek* has always succeeded in showing a strong regard for humanity because it's the universe – our own shared universe – they're all fighting for. Maybe that's why it has stood the test of time for seven decades. It's certainly what fans the world over will embrace on September 8, with thousands of meet-ups celebrating characters, friendships, memories and just a bit of old-fashioned sci-fi sorcery.

Strangely, it's possible Roddenberry, the show's creator, had the Second World War to thank for his vision of space warfare; he was a brave bomber pilot for the US Army Air Force, during the conflict, and was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross, before becoming a police officer in Los Angeles.

He got his big television break soon afterwards, and so too did the likes of James T. Kirk, Dr Leonard McCoy, Montgomery Scott and others.



STAR TREK



OLD SPICE?

IT'S 26 YEARS SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE SPICE GIRLS' DEBUT SINGLE, *WANNABE*, BUT MEL C IS STILL GOING STRONG

Melanie Chisholm has stuck close to her roots – following the phenomenal success of her stint as Sporty Spice with the Spice Girls, her solo career has sparked eight albums and produced three number-one singles, and will see embarking on a UK-wide book tour.

For those of us old enough to remember it, the summer of 1996 was a golden one. Britpop had given the country a unique swagger, the Euros were here, the sun was out and beer was cheap. And riding on the coat-tails was a new thing called 'girl power', pushed by a spectacular PR machine and fronted by the Spice Girls.

The legacy of the band that followed, both musically and in inspiring a generation of girls to stand tall and be heard, is well known; though perhaps the greatest accolade you can give to Simon Fuller's creation was that each member went on to achieve great things – and Mel C is no exception.

Visually, she's a world away from the tracksuit-clad kung-fu kicking star who pirouetted around stages and *Top of the Pops* studios – these days

the singer, at 48, is stylish and motherly; yet can still mix romantic anthems with dancefloor anthems.

"For me, music has always been about evolving with the things around you," she says. "You need to follow trends, while still keeping your own sense of originality and creativity over the music you make."

Away from the bright lights, Mel C has encountered her own fair share of challenges. She's battled depression, eating disorders, and admits that up until the birth of her only child, Scarlett, in 2009, she never fully had a sense of responsibility to herself.

2022 is an exciting year for the singer, as not only has she got a number of upcoming performances, but she is also publishing her first-ever autobiography, which promises to tell all about her time with the Spice Girls as well as the years that followed. It will take readers behind the scenes of her showbiz lifestyle, as well as revealing the darker side of fame, and finally gives Mel C the chance to tell her story in her own words.

Who I Am: My Story is available to purchase from September 15.

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SUBSTANCE TO THE *style*



Through a heritage that includes a maternal family descending from a nomadic Rajasthani clan that migrated across Arabia and Persia over centuries, a passion for global art and the experiences of travel have permeated Bethan Gray's appreciation for a design look that crosses from India to the Middle East, North Africa to South America.

How this translates itself back to the somewhat more structured surrounds of lounges, bedrooms and workspaces in the UK is the challenge that was taken on when Bethan Gray Design was established in 2008. The agency, based in London, is run by Bethan and CEO husband Massimo, and follows a decade she spent as Habitat's design director – a role that connected her with craftspeople all around the world.

Now, using a combination of client stories and experiences, plus the expertise of master craftspeople – with styling partnerships that are based on mutual trust and respect – she has created contemporary design and home accessories. The result has been four ELLE Decoration British Design Awards for her statement pieces. From contemporary deco-like chests of drawers that echo Arabic shimmers and desert landscapes to elegant cabinets, bold coffee tables and velvet sofas, the translation of stories and heritage into stunning furniture is complete.

While the price tags in stores such as Harrods and Liberty's may push some away, Bethan focuses on styling that can be replicated by anyone.

"My modus operandi is elegant lines, both in the edging of furniture and the detail within it. Set against browns, greens, creams and statement shades, it's possible to create a palette that transports the mind to far-off places and a desire to travel.

"For me, it's about the practicality of a room or a piece of furniture, combined with the journey that piece can take you on, and that combination feels very special."



Bethan Gray

Photo credit: Bethangray.com



pretty pumpkin



Who says pumpkins are only for Halloween? And they're not just for eating, either. Find out how to make a pumpkin spice candle at home.

MAKE A PUMPKIN SPICE CANDLE

YOU WILL NEED:

- > A wide-necked 370g jar with lid (a Mason jar or old jam jar is perfect)
- > 370g soy wax pellets
- > A candle wick (15cm)
- > A candle wick holder
- > Glue dot (heat resistant)
- > 1 tsp (5ml) pumpkin spice essential oil
- > Pumpkin spice (ground) plus a few whole spices, such as cinnamon, star anise, cardamom, clove or allspice, for decoration (optional)

HOW TO MAKE:

- > Thread the wick through the holder and apply the wick tab to the inside bottom of the jar.
- > Warm the jar in the oven at 30°C.
- > Gently melt the wax in a microwave or double boiler.
- > Cool for a few minutes then stir in the essential oil, mixing thoroughly.
- > Fill the jar to 1cm below the rim and make sure the wick is still in the centre.
- > When the wax gets cloudy, sprinkle a pinch of pumpkin spice on the top and scatter the whole spices.
- > Cool at room temperature then trim the wick.

Add a homemade label or check out Etsy for something really stylish. Remember to remove the whole spices before lighting your candle.



There are loads of other ways to decorate your home with pumpkins this autumn. Why not try one of the below ideas?

> Arrange a group of pumpkins and decorate them by painting, drawing or spraying them in metallic colours – and add a few chunky faux candles. Remember, odd numbers of items work best.

> Hollow out a pumpkin, fill with water and add seasonal flowers – or pop in a pot filled with small succulents.

> Fill a hollowed-out pumpkin with a glass jar. Twist a small bendy branch with berries around the top and add a candle (a faux candle is safest).



Photo credit: countryhillcottage.com

Sanctuary Home Decor: thefeatherandree.com

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LIMESCALE *elimination!*

NATURAL REMEDIES FOR LIMESCALE THAT YOU CAN FIND IN YOUR KITCHEN CUPBOARD

Over the past year, one in three Brits claims that hard water in their home has worsened, with limescale becoming an increasingly common problem in many UK households.

If you are looking to eliminate limescale without the use of harsh chemicals, the below home remedies are just what you need.

VINEGAR

Have you noticed a build-up of limescale on your taps and showerheads? If so then you need to act fast as this can cause dullness, chipping and peeling. One of the most effective methods for removing this is to fill a plastic bag with white vinegar and then attach it to the affected area. Leave for 15 minutes to soak, or overnight for stubborn limescale build-up.

BAKING SODA

Limescale on the glass of your shower can be tricky to shift, especially if it has been allowed to build up. To remedy this, create a cleaning spray using 1 tsp baking powder, 1 tbsp white vinegar and ½ cup warm water. Spray onto the glass, leave for 3-4 minutes and then wipe with a clean cloth. You do not need to rinse the glass.

LEMON JUICE

Lemon juice is one the most versatile natural cleaning remedies available, having the ability to dissolve dirt, remove grease, deodorise and tackle limescale. Simply pour pure lemon juice into a spray bottle, spritz on the affected area, leave for 30 minutes and then clean off with water and a soft cloth.

CITRIC ACID

If you do not like the strong smell of vinegar, then citric acid is a good choice for descaling your kettle. Simply boil a half-full kettle, turn it off and unplug it. Next, add 2 tbsp of citric acid and leave for 20 minutes. Pour out the water and rinse twice before using.

LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



Photo credit: Essex Police

Police offer crime prevention advice during tour

Officers recently visited Manningtree to speak to local people about the issues that matter to them. District Commander Chief Inspector Rob Bell (pictured fourth from left) and Tendring Community Policing Team (CPT) Inspector Martin Richards visited Manningtree and other towns in the district as part of the Inspectors' Tour, talking to local councillors, businesspeople and residents about their concerns and giving crime prevention advice where appropriate. Chief Inspector Bell and Tendring CPT Sergeant

Clare Bailey (pictured right) met Mayor of Manningtree councillor Michelle Taylor (pictured third from left) and Deputy Mayor councillor Ruth Stocks (pictured left) during the tour. Inspector Richards said: "It's so important for us to listen to community concerns and then work with those communities to solve the issues they raise. Making and renewing personal connections is key to this partnership working, which is what we have been doing this week with the Inspectors' Tour."

New 'rotating' store supports small businesses

An entrepreneur has opened a new 'rotating' store in the former NatWest premises in Manningtree after taking inspiration from the pop-up shops that traded during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Rowan Hunter, 34 (pictured right), has launched The Stour Store in Manningtree High Street, which he said will be like "a mini department store", selling an ever-changing range of lifestyle and homeware goods and gifts. Mr Hunter said: "We will have 25 concessions and businesses involved in the project, which we will rotate every six to eight weeks." The store will donate £50 to charity every month.



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Member of Parliament for Harwich and North Essex



LOCAL NEWS MANNINGTREE

At the time of writing, we are about to have a new Prime Minister. The leadership debates encouraged a frank discussion about the terrible challenges facing the country right now – recovery from COVID-19, Russian aggression in Ukraine, the consequent energy crisis, and rampant inflation, all against the background of shattered post-COVID public finances.

The spiralling costs of gas and electricity are causing massive concern for households and businesses. The new government must ensure that the most vulnerable in our community, public services and businesses are shielded from the ongoing crisis. The next Prime Minister must introduce support for pensioners, low-income households, and those who receive disability benefits.

In April of this year, I pressed the government to introduce a fiscally responsible cost-of-living package. Rishi Sunak MP introduced a variety of one-off payments. At the time, the Resolution Foundation, a think tank, estimated that policy measures announced between February and May would cover more than 90 per cent of the cost increases for households in the bottom two deciles. But the May package is no longer adequate.

The wider economic context limits the options available to the government. The inflationary climate creates new short-term fiscal constraints. Options like freezing energy prices risk contributing to the inflationary climate, worsening the impact on everyone in the longer term instead of targeting support at those who need it most. This is a very difficult balancing act, but it is clear that more support must be provided, until we have weaned the West off Russian energy dependence.

The cross-party consensus in support of the government's policy towards Ukraine is a major achievement, and the West's resolve must hold through what will be a difficult winter. Putin must face up to the consequences of invading a sovereign independent country. The alternative would be to give the green light for more invasions and more wars, but the cost of standing up to Russia should not be understated. Higher energy prices mean the UK is significantly poorer than it was before the crisis. The government cannot help every household, but it can and should help those most in need, and I will be making this case to the new Prime Minister.

Sunscreen dispenser installed

Manningtree Town Council's (MTC) decision to install a sunscreen dispenser on the town's beach has proved a hit with residents.

The dispenser aims to help those who forget to put on sun protection before leaving the house. It provides visitors with factor 30 hypoallergenic sunscreen, and members of the public are asked to notify the beach clerk if the supply begins to run low.

Residents have reacted to the new addition with overwhelming positivity, with one commenting: "What a fabulous idea. Thank you to whoever was involved in putting this in place."

Another resident said: "This is brilliant. Thank you MTC and whoever else was involved in sorting this."

"With the rapid increase in UK skin cancer cases, general awareness and education is key for prevention. This really helps."

Though the temperature continues to dip as autumn approaches, it is recommended to use sunscreen all year round, even in cold and cloudy weather.



Photo credit: Manningtree Town Council



LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



Photo credit: James Mace

Men's walking support group is popular with residents

A new support group held its first walk in Mistley last month.

James Mace (pictured front left), who recently moved to the Tendring area, suffered a breakdown after two bereavements and subsequently set up a support group for men who may be suffering from depression.

Walkandtalk4men is an initiative that allows men to talk about their problems while out on a walk.

The first Mistley walk took place in August and was held in memory of local resident Richard Welch, who took his own life in 1993.

Mr Mace says there was "a solid turnout" and that he

is planning more walks.

In 2013, Mr Mace lost his mother and 10-year-old nephew in the space of six months.

He said: "I found it hard to accept my grief, which turned into anxiety and depression."

Mr Mace was aided in his recovery by his doctor and a grief counsellor, who helped him talk about his problems.

He added: "This made me want to help others who were struggling, and nothing is easier than a walk in the park, so that's when I came up with the idea."

For more information, visit walkandtalk4men.com

Man gets 12-week curfew for harassing woman

A Mistley man has been given 30 days' rehabilitation and a 12-week curfew with an electronic tag for harassing his ex-partner's sister.

Robert Daisley, 45, pleaded guilty to harassment without violence at Colchester Magistrates' Court.

The court heard how Daisley bombarded his former girlfriend's sister with calls and texts and left her greatly concerned at the "sheer amount of messages".

Daisley's defence solicitor Andrew Clowser said that

Daisley's behaviour was intended "as a means to wind up his ex-partner" and that Daisley felt remorse and could "be trusted to get over this".

However, District Judge Andrew King said he had "difficulty accepting [this] explanation" and described Daisley's behaviour as "some sort of infatuation".

District Judge King imposed a restraining order forbidding Daisley from contacting the sister and ordered him to pay a £105 government surcharge.



Take a look inside the world's most EXCLUSIVE ADDRESS

Where do you think the world's most exclusive address is? Beverley Hills? Mayfair? It turns out the answer isn't on dry land.

That's right, the world's most exclusive property is actually on the water – the superyacht Somnio. Due to launch in 2024, Somnio has 39 on-board apartments, which are fully tailored to the owner's wishes.

What makes these apartments so special? Let's take a closer look.

THE LARGEST YACHT IN THE WORLD

Somnio is set to become the largest superyacht in the world, measuring 33,500 gross register tonnage and almost 222 metres long. Replacing cabins with luxury apartments, it will bring a whole new meaning to the phrase 'travel in style'.

A collaboration between three design firms, Tillberg Design of Sweden, Winch Design and Luttenberger Design, the superyacht is being built by Norwegian shipbuilders VARD.

REINVENTING THE LUXURY LINER

Each apartment will feature a bespoke design, with owners able to choose everything from the number of bedrooms to additional features such as gyms and private kitchens. Each apartment will also have its own outdoor area, the perfect space for seeing some of the most incredible sights the world has to offer.

On board, guests will be able to enjoy a spacious deck area, spas, two restaurants, a cinema, 10,000-bottle wine cellar and much more.

Co-founder and captain Erik Bredhe, who oversaw the €500million project, says: "Beauty may be found as much on the inside of Somnio as on the outside. As the only residential superyacht in the world, we are delighted to work with designers that complement our exacting standards. Our owners will experience only the best, as befits a yacht of this nature."

With prices starting at €15million, Somnio's actual route is a closely guarded secret, making the superyacht not only exclusive, but elusive too.

Photo credit: VARD, WINCH DESIGN, LUTTENBERGER DESIGNS, TILLBERG DESIGN OF SWEDEN



HOW TO HACK-PROOF YOUR PASSWORD

There is a hacker attack every 39 seconds, with 300,000 new malware created every day.

One of the easiest ways to protect your data is by using strong passwords.

1. USE EIGHT CHARACTERS MINIMUM

Each character you add to your password makes it harder to crack. Your passwords should contain a minimum of eight characters and up to 20 if you can remember them.

2. AVOID WORDS IN THE DICTIONARY

Using words that are correctly spelt from the dictionary is not a good idea as these are much easier to hack. This is particularly true if you use a word that is related to either your personal life or your business.

3. DO NOT USE FAMILY NAMES

This may seem obvious, but you will be surprised at how many people use the names of their children, spouse or pets in their passwords. This information is easy to guess and can be readily found on your

social media profiles.

4. INCLUDE SPECIAL CHARACTERS

A good trick is to replace certain letters in your passwords with special characters. For example, rather than using the password 'Edward1', you could use '3dw4rd!'. By replacing letters with characters that look similar, you are also less likely to forget your password.

5. USE PASSPHRASES, NOT PASSWORDS

A phrase such as the title of a book or a line in a film is much more difficult to crack than just a word. Plus, once you start replacing some of the letters with special characters, you are even closer to creating an unhackable password.

6. TRY A PASSWORD GENERATOR

There are many free apps that you can download which will generate passwords for you. These passwords are designed to be completely random, which does make them harder to remember, but means they are nearly impossible to hack.



LONDON CALLING

OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL LONDON – SEPTEMBER 8 TO 21



Are you itching to nose around London buildings usually closed to the public? If so, the Open House London Festival is a must. It's a two-week celebration of the city's architecture, homes and outside spaces that runs from September 8-21. And it's back this year, after a two-year break, to celebrate its 30th birthday.

There's something going on in every borough. This includes not just open buildings but also special events, guided tours, walks and family activities. The great news is that all visits and events are free – but book early to avoid disappointment. You'll need tickets for most visits and some get snapped up very quickly.

The organisers stress that the festival is not just about grand buildings; it's about celebrating every aspect of London's urban landscape in all its shapes and sizes. As well as award-winning modern offices and historical buildings, you could have the chance to step inside a

suburban semi, a studio flat or even a houseboat.

In past years, around 800 buildings have flung their doors open for the event. They include 10 Downing Street, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Gherkin and several private clubs. There have also been windmills, train stations, tunnels and even cabbies' shelters. So there really is something to suit all tastes.

Each year, around 250,000 visitors attend an Open House event in London, making it the biggest festival of its kind in the world. The festival is organised by a charity called Open House, and the aim is to encourage people to learn more about their environment and each other, to help make their city a better place for everyone who lives or works there.

As we go to press, the full list of 2022 events isn't yet available, so please check the festival website at openhouselondon.org.uk/2022 for the latest information.

Photo credit: open-ohj.org.uk



IDRIS ELBA

OFF SCRIPT?

WHEN YOU'RE A DJ SUPERSTAR, A FASHION DESIGNER, MOVIE DIRECTOR, HOLLYWOOD A-LISTER, AND ALL-ROUND LOVEABLE MOGUL, ATTENTION TO DETAIL IS EVERYTHING – JUST ASK IDRIS ELBA OBE

“I’m probably a perfectionist,” admits Idris Elba OBE, who turns 50 this month. “With what I do, I need to be, whether it comes from film, music, whatever. You’re putting a piece of art out there, and you need to be confident with it because once it’s out there, it’s out.”

For a perfectionist, however, Elba is chilled and agreeable in conversation. He offers cool, considered responses with ease.

The man radiates so much energy and intensity that you can’t escape it, and that permeates through an increasingly diverse slew of roles, embodying the likes of DCI John Luther, Heimdall in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *The Wire*’s Stringer Bell and Charlie Jaffey in *Molly’s Game*.

And yet those iconic characters only represent half of what the Londoner is all about.

His style, swagger, gruff exterior and devastating charm mean he is a man who can flit between so many different worlds; and yet he pulls off the look with respect and humility.

“I think a lot of that comes from the fact I had to struggle to get to this point,” he says. “For many years, I was a nobody who couldn’t catch a break and just blended into the crowd.”

“There were very few directors who wanted to take a chance on me, and as time went on, so too did I begin thinking that I should just focus on my music, or my art, or perhaps just get a real job.”

The relief is that Elba didn’t. In 2022, he has George Miller’s epic fantasy adventure *Three Thousand Years of Longing* opposite Tilda Swinton, and *Thor: Love and Thunder*, plus the film version of *Luther*, which will screen on Netflix.

“*Luther* returning as a film is a really big new thing, and I think for it to work it needed to be different.

“You are elongating what you have to play with, yet at the same time shortening the whole story into two hours, so the very fabric is altered.

“I think for that reason you can regard it as original and very exciting.”

Asked whether he actually affords himself the ability to stop and take stock, the father-of-two notes: “I don’t have much time to rest, and I don’t really like long sleeps. They don’t put me in a place of urgency and that’s where I want to be, certainly in terms of work and productivity and happiness. That’s not to say I don’t try to get as many hours of good sleep as I can – I’m just not very good at it,” he laughs.

“It’s a real balancing act and it’s safe to say I’m not there yet.”

Elba’s laid-back approach is a factor that will win him a bounty of script offers moving forward. He is someone who, in these troubled times of panic, indecision and hysteria, emits an effortless sense of cool. “I think it’s easy to confuse being laid-back with being laissez-faire about things,” he says. “I think you can be calm and charged at the same time.

“Your actions don’t always reflect your emotions – hey, I’m an actor, after all.”

And one of our finest...





MOTORING



TOUR DE FORCE



Photo credit: Magio Car Pics/Shutterstock

A streamlined dream straight out of the future, the Ford Sierra was first unveiled in 1982, and the world sat up to take note.

When Ford revealed its Sierra model at the British International Motor Show at the NEC in Birmingham near the end of September 1982, it knew the reaction would be huge.

The company was in the throes of investing more than \$1.2 billion into the design, production and manufacture of this sleek, slick piece of automotive engineering, and the industry immediately knew it had something big on its hands.

For Ford, the reaction was just what the doctor ordered. The pressure had been on to find a successor to the Cortina, a stylish car that was, nonetheless, constructed around convenience and practicality.

Industry experts guessed that the manufacturer's next move would be to push those ideals further forward, but instead Ford went into overdrive with a design that rivalled the comfort of Audi, the

sleekness of Citroën and Porsche (indeed, the inspiration for Sierra's quarter glass came from the Porsche 928), and as for dashboard technology, the manufacturer had taken the very best elements from the likes of Saab and BMW.

Sure enough, after a slow initial take-up (mostly because of a punchy purchase price and an excess of Cortinas still sat on forecourts, now with much-reduced process), drivers gradually fell in love with the Sierra.

The Sapphire and, of course, sporty Cosworth models nicely tweaked the Sierra proposition, and it wasn't until the Mondeo arrived in 1993 that sales began to fall.

Looking at the Ford Sierra now, some may label it cumbersome and clumsy by today's aerodynamic standards, but in the 1980s, it was the very height of motor chic, and its legacy lives on today.

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Happier hibernating

Most animals go into hibernation in autumn as it is the most efficient way to survive the cold winter months. Find out how to recognise hibernating wildlife in your garden and how to help them survive until spring.

Signs of hibernating wildlife

Leaf pile

A pile of leaves in a corner of the garden, in the compost bin or behind the shed can mean you have a hibernating hedgehog or two. Hedgehogs can also hibernate in bonfire piles, so be sure to check before you light.

Movement in a pond

If you have a pond in your garden and you notice movement or shadows at the bottom, this could mean that frogs are hibernating there. These are typically male frogs as they favour hibernating in water rather than in mud or under leaves.

Mounds of soil

Small mounds of soil can indicate that mining bees are nesting in your lawn or in your borders. If this is the case, it is likely that their offspring will be hibernating there until spring.

Long grass

Although long grass is not a sign of hibernation, it is highly likely that wildlife will be seeking shelter there. In particular, caterpillars and moths hibernate in long grass, as well as beetles and other grubs.

Leaves on a wall

If you notice leaves on a wall in your garden, these may not actually be leaves but clusters of butterflies who often hibernate in groups.

How to protect hibernating wildlife

- * Create leaf and log piles
- * Have plants that offer winter nectar, such as mahonia and hellebores
- * Move any bug houses to a sheltered spot
- * Put up a nest box for birds
- * Avoid late tidying of any potential hibernation spots
- * Leave out a supply of nuts to support squirrels as they collect food.



Gorgeous GARDEN GREENS

Does your garden boast beautiful blooms during spring and summer but look a little bleak and bare the rest of the year? If yes, then check out these flowering evergreen plants that promise to provide colour all year round.

Heather: Heathers are compact, evergreen shrubs that boast tiny bell-shaped flowers in an array of stunning shades including white, pink, red and mauve. You can find varieties that flower in summer and autumn, and even ones that bloom during the coldest months of the year.

Creeping myrtle: Creeping myrtle, aka Vinca minor, is a blue-flowering vine that boasts shiny evergreen leaves on long, arching stems. With the ability to provide ground cover for shade, creeping myrtle can grow up to six inches tall, with a spread of 18 inches. Ideal for those who want an attractive and hardy evergreen plant in their garden.

Azaleas: If you have a shady spot in your garden that needs brightening up, then azaleas are the ideal choice. A small evergreen shrub that showcases bright flowers in spring and vibrant greenery all year round, plant azaleas in the ground or opt for dwarf varieties in pots if you are short on space.

Camellias: Camellia sinensis is a welcome sight in late winter and early spring, offering an abundance of colour when most other plants are not in bloom. With glossy evergreen leaves that promise to look good throughout the year, camellias thrive in shady spots and acidic soil.

Choisya: Choisya, also known as Mexican orange blossom, is a low-maintenance evergreen shrub that proudly displays white star-shaped flowers and glossy green leaves. Plant in a sunny and sheltered spot and enjoy the delicious smell of orange blossom in late spring/early summer.





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If you know your licks-wishy from your snoozberry, chances are you're a fan of author Roald Dahl. September 13 – the author's birthday – marks Roald Dahl Day, and schools around the world will be celebrating the occasion with a host of fun activities.

Dahl was born in Wales in 1916 to Norwegian parents. He was just four years old when his father died. His mother decided against moving the family back to Norway, as she knew her husband wanted their children to have a British education, which he regarded as the best in the world.

Dahl's schooldays inspired many of his children's books. For instance, at his boarding school, children were asked to taste test Cadbury's chocolate bars, which inspired *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. But there were more sinister influences too, such as scary adults. In his books at least, the children always got their revenge.

After leaving school, Dahl worked in East Africa and was a spy and an ace fighter pilot during the Second World War.

In 1953, Dahl married American actress Patricia Neal and together they had five children. The couple divorced after 30 years and Dahl later married film producer Felicity Crosland.

From 1953 until his death in 1990, Dahl lived in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, in a house with a specially built writing hut in the garden. This was where he wrote all 20 of his famous children's books, from *James and the Giant Peach* in 1961 to *The Minpins*, published after his death.

In 2012, the interior of the hut was carefully removed and installed in its new home, the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, also in Great Missenden.

He is buried at St Peter's Church, Great Missenden, along with his snooker cues, some good burgundy, chocolates, HB pencils and a power saw.

For more information, visit roalddahl.com/create-and-learn/join-in/roald-dahl-day

Photo credit: roalddahl.com





PUZZLES & TRIVIA

PUZZLES

Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

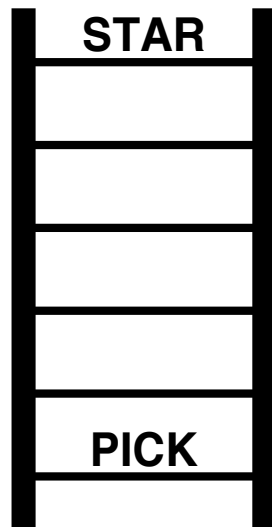
- ▶ ARABIAN
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- ▶ GREAT BASIN
- ▶ GREAT SANDY
- ▶ GREAT VICTORIA
- ▶ KALAHARI
- ▶ KAVIR
- ▶ KYZYLKUM
- ▶ MOJAVE
- ▶ NAMIB
- ▶ ORDOS
- ▶ PATAGONIAN
- ▶ SAHARA
- ▶ SIMPSON
- ▶ SONORAN
- ▶ SYRIAN
- ▶ TAKLAMAKAN

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L	P	O	S	N	A	M	I	B	O	Y	G	O	T	R
Q	N	O	S	P	M	I	S	X	G	M	K	K	V	G

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Trees contain quite a lot of water. When lightning strikes, most of the water reaches boiling point, turning it to steam and increasing pressure. This can cause the tree to explode.
- ▶ The average blue whale has a heart approximately the size of a car.
- ▶ Around 90 per cent of humans live in the Northern Hemisphere.
- ▶ Blue whales are able to hear each other from around 500 miles away.
- ▶ Platypuses can produce their own venom which is injected through barbs on the male's back legs.
- ▶ When threatened, ostriches run, although their powerful kick is capable of killing a human or even a lion.

WORD LADDER



THE AIM: Change the word at the top of the ladder one letter at a time to make the word at the bottom.

HOW TO: Change one letter on each step to make a new word. By the time you reach the end, you should have created the new word.

DO NOT rearrange the order of the letters.

TIP: There is usually more than one way to solve this puzzle.

SLOE & STEADY

wins the race

There's something magical about turning a humble hedgerow berry into something to tease the tastebuds, like sloe gin. And better still, it's really simple to make.

Sloes grow on blackthorn bushes, which are found all over the UK. The bushes blossom in early spring with clouds of pretty white flowers, and the deep purple berries start forming in August.

For sloe gin, people often recommend that you don't pick them until after the first frost. Apparently, this makes the berries sweeter and softer. The only problem is that birds love sloes, too, and they might get there before you do.

So the Woodland Trust recommends that you pick sloes from late September. After washing and drying them, just pop them in the freezer. This creates an artificial frost – and the berries will keep in the freezer for several months.

When you're out picking sloes, it's a good idea to wear gloves and a long-sleeved top as their branches are prickly and covered with thorns. And remember, sloes don't taste good raw. And while eating them in this state won't harm adults, never give them to children.

How to make sloe gin

Ingredients:

500g sloes (rinsed and dried) | 250g caster sugar | 1 litre gin

Method:

- Prick the sloes with a cocktail stick and tip into a 2-litre glass jar.
- Add the sugar and gin, seal the jar and shake well.
- Once a day for a week, give the jar a good shake.
- Store the jar in a cool, dark place and leave for 2-3 months.
- Line a plastic sieve with a square of muslin, strain the liquid into a bowl and decant it into clean, dry bottles.
- Your sloe gin is now ready to drink.
- Drink it neat or top it up with prosecco for a sparkling aperitif.



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The Blackberry Day

They look good, they taste good, and they do you good too. What more could you ask of a fruit you can gather for free?

Blackberries have been eaten in Britain since Neolithic times. And there are plenty of places to pick them throughout most of September. You'll find them in straggly clumps, in woods, hedges, heaths, roadside verges, and perhaps in your own garden.

Blackberries are a great source of vitamin C, potassium, manganese and antioxidants. Research indicates they may help prevent heart disease, certain cancers and inflammatory conditions such as arthritis.

You'll need to pick the berries when they're ripe – when their colour changes from red to purplish black. Once you're home, wash them in cold water. Add a little salt and leave them to soak for 5-10 minutes. This will get rid of any bugs, which should float to the surface.

Remember, fresh blackberries don't last long. So make sure to use them within a day or two or freeze them for later.

There are loads of delicious blackberry recipes – both sweet and savoury. This one's a twist on an old favourite.

Blackberry fruit crumble squares

INGREDIENTS:

250g sugar | 375g plain flour | 1 tsp baking powder | 200g butter (soft) | 1 egg | 450g blackberries (washed) | 1 tbsp cornflour

HOW TO MAKE:

- > Preheat the oven to 190°C/170°C fan/gas mark 5 and grease a 20x30cm tin.
- > Stir together 200g sugar, flour and baking powder. Using a fork, blend in the butter and egg. The dough will be crumbly.
- > Pat half the dough mixture into the tin.
- > Mix together the fruit, the remaining 50g sugar and cornflour. Mix gently (it doesn't matter if the mixture is a bit squishy).
- > Spread the blackberry mixture evenly over the dough.
- > Crumble the remaining dough mixture on top.
- > Bake for 35-40 minutes, till the top is golden.
- > Cool, then cut into squares. Enjoy!



Wave goodbye to SUGAR

Are you struggling to find snacks for your kids that aren't loaded with sugar? Check out these sugar-free snacks that are easy to prepare, cost-effective to make and help to support healthy teeth and gums.

Roasted chickpeas

Although chickpeas are most commonly associated with houmous, they can also be roasted to create a healthy sugar-free snack. Simply place on a baking tray, drizzle with olive oil and then add whatever spices your children like.

Vegetable pikelets

Perfect for little ones who are averse to eating vegetables when they can see them, vegetable pikelets are a great savoury after-school snack. Make a batter by mixing 2 cups wholemeal flour, 3 tsp baking powder, 2 eggs and 1.5 cups of milk. Add 2 cups of your chosen vegetables and 1 cup cheese. Mix and then fry like little pancakes.

Peanut butter dip

Although some peanut butters contain sugar, you can get natural ones that are sugar-free at most supermarkets. To make a delicious kid-friendly dip, whip together equal parts cream cheese and peanut butter until light and creamy. Serve with apples or celery.

Boiled eggs

Super-simple, filling and nutritious, boiled eggs are a great snack for kids who come home from school starving. You can hard boil eggs in advance, peel and store in the fridge. Serve just as they are, sprinkle with spices or make some devilled eggs.

Guacamole

Avocado is full of healthy fats and makes a great snack for babies, toddlers and older children alike. To make a delicious guacamole, smash up or blend a ripe avocado and then squeeze in some lime juice. Stir in a little Greek yogurt until you get the desired consistency. Serve with veggie sticks or pitta.





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HOW TO MAKE EYELINER USING ACTIVATED CHARCOAL

- > Break a few capsules of activated charcoal into a small dish.
- > Dip your eyeliner brush directly into the charcoal and apply.
- > You do not need to add any other ingredients as the charcoal will naturally mix with the oil on your skin and stay in place once applied.

HOW TO MAKE EYELINER USING ALMONDS

- > Use a pair of tweezers to hold an almond while you burn it with a lighter. Make sure you wear heatproof gloves to protect your hands.
- > Continue to burn the almond until half of it has turned to soot.
- > Scrape the soot into a dish using a butter knife.
- > Try to avoid scraping any large chunks of unburned almond into the dish.
- > Dip your eyeliner brush into the soot and apply it in your preferred style.
- > If you prefer a more gel-like consistency, you can add a few drops of jojoba, almond or coconut oil.

HOW TO MAKE DIFFERENT COLOURED EYELINER

1. Cocoa to make brown eyeliner: Mix unsweetened cocoa powder with a few drops of water or jojoba oil and apply.

2. Spirulina to make green eyeliner: Pour spirulina powder into a dish and apply directly or mix with water or oil for a gel effect.

3. Beetroot to make red eyeliner: Add beetroot powder to either activated charcoal or cocoa powder to create a reddish hue.

4. Mica powder to make a rainbow of colours: Mica powder can be bought online and comes in every colour of the rainbow. Use this powder the same way you'd use activated charcoal.

EYELINER HACKS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- > Draw small dots on the top of your lash line with a pencil and then join with liquid liner
- > Use a magnifying mirror
- > Always start with the eye you find the most difficult.



It's all about Balance



Balance Awareness Week takes place from September 18-24 and aims to broaden the understanding of inner ear disorders and how they can affect someone's daily life.

Most people take balance for granted, yet without it, you can suffer a whole host of health problems.

Why is balance important?

Balance is needed to perform everyday activities, including walking, going up and down the stairs, and even just standing upright. It is particularly important in older adults, as good balance can help to prevent falls. Some of the main benefits of improving your balance include:

- > Preventing injuries
- > Improving posture
- > Strengthening muscles
- > Improving coordination
- > Improving cognitive function

How to improve your balance

There are several exercises you can do at home to improve your balance, and you don't need a single piece of equipment to do them.

Single leg lift

Stand upright with your feet close together. Keep your head straight, take a deep breath and slowly lift your right leg off the floor. As you gain confidence, bring your leg higher so that your knee is as close to your chest as you can comfortably manage. Repeat with your left leg.



Single leg lift side version

Stand upright with your feet close together. Keep your head straight and your eyes forward, then slowly lift your right leg to the side. Make sure you keep your body upright as you do this. Do not lean to the side. Repeat with your left leg.



Balance walk

Find a straight line or place a piece of tape on the floor. Extend both arms to your side, keep your feet straight and place your right heel at the tip of your left toes. Next, place your left heel at the tip of your right toes. Continue placing one foot in front of the other without straying from the line.



Photo credit: Christophe Ena/AP/Shutterstock

BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS... VICTORIA PENDLETON CBE *cycling to gold*

By the time she retired in 2012, Victoria Pendleton CBE had risen to become

Britain's most successful female Olympian of all time. Her list of accolades includes two Olympic gold medals, a record nine World Championships, two European Championships and a Commonwealth gold.

It's incredible to think this approachable star of cycling has now been away from competitive action for almost a decade. Going out in style, she won Keirin gold at the London Olympics in 2012.

The Keirin event is one of the more peculiar, with five-and-a-half laps behind a motorised bike – the speed of which increases from 30km/hr to 50km/hr – followed by a two-and-a-half lap sprint finish.

Pendleton progressed comfortably through both heats to make it to the final. There, Australia's Anna Meares attempted to edge in front once the pacemaker had moved aside, but Pendleton's extraordinary burst of pace put her back in first place at the bell.

Around the back straight it was China's Guo Shuang who looked the biggest threat, and despite taking a wider line on the final corner, she was closing in.

With all the drama befitting an Olympic final, Pendleton crossed the line with an advantage no more than half a wheel's width, and the gold medal was hers.

The London Games came at the start of a golden period for British cycling. Bedfordshire-born Pendleton, meanwhile, continued her legacy on two wheels with the launch of a range of ladies' bikes, matching a surge in popularity in cycling – for both sport and leisure – that continues today.

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