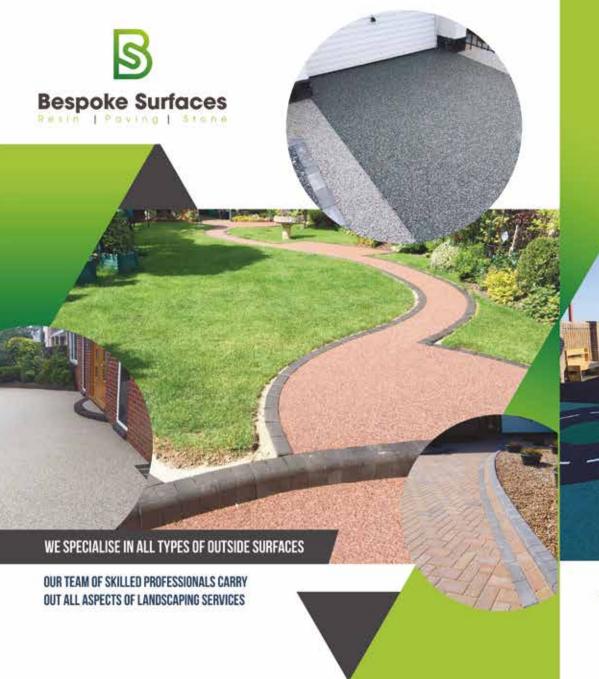


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JUNE \sim Ö

Editor's notes...

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

It's a beautiful day. Shops, pubs, restaurants, soft-play areas and endless others in the hospitality sector are open; we can mix, gather, hug and interact with more freedom than we've had in a long time.

We hope and pray we are in the final throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, yearning for a return to normality and a life that, by our own admission, a lot of us took for granted.

So what have we learned during the past year and a guarter? For me. I'm in awe of how we have all become such versatile creatures.

adaptable to new conditions - from how we work to how we socialise.

At the heart of it for me is resilience, and that is no better exemplified than by our local businesses. From the clever ways they interact with customers, new products and services, delivery initiatives and a stubbornness to make it through the mire, they deserve the good times that we hope are coming their way.

So, as readers, I implore you to channel this admiration by getting behind those shops, trades and services in our square mile. Please support hyperlocal and, in doing so, tighten even further the grip our community has gained. It may get be a year we cherish.

Mik Allen

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

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Vision Magazine Essex

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Nik Allen, Editor

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

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That her persistence was rewarded by stratospheric acclaim is undoubtedly a victory for belief more than anything else

CELL*mates

HOW THE SPECTRE OF COVID-19 COULD, EVENTUALLY, START TO SAVE LIVES

while in the short-term at least it feels as though the coronavirus pandemic has restricted and impacted the lives we for so long took for granted, scientists believe the messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology used to create the COVID-19 vaccine may have truly ground-breaking effects on our ability to fend off fatal diseases in the future.

At the heart of this theory is the way mRNA vaccines are being regarded as a breakthrough in modern medicine. This is because the mRNA works in a different way from traditional vaccines – namely that instead of implanting a tiny piece of the virus for our bodies to counter, it simply supplies information about what the virus looks like.

The body is told what the spike protein resembles, and it is this spike that provides the route for

COVID-19 to infect our cells.

The mRNA vaccine subsequently gives our body the information which teaches our cells how to make the protein that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. Extending the usefulness of this means personalised vaccines can, in theory, be developed so our immune systems can attack and kill off an illness that is specifically ours. So that could mean the potential to be able to cure everything from cancer to HIV to autoimmune diseases.

Scientists have been cautious not to overstate the theory, particularly because cancer, for instance, constantly mutates, and no two cancers are the same.

What is clear, however, is that this could be a major game-changer for the preservation of life... and we would have COVID-19 to thank for it.







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hatever style blinds you have, and in whichever material, discover how to banish dirt and dust without breaking a sweat.

FABRIC BLINDS

Start by dusting your fabric blinds from top to bottom. You can use a vacuum cleaner to save time. Next, spot clean your blinds using a mild detergent solution. If your fabric blinds are really grubby, you may prefer to take them down and soak in the bath with three tablespoons of washing-up liquid. Leave to soak for half an hour to an hour and then clean with a soft brush.

Suitable for vertical, roman, roller, panel and pleated-style blinds.

WOODEN BLINDS

Real wood blinds do not like moisture so you should focus on maintaining a consistent dusting routine above all else. If your wooden blinds do

require more than just a dust, use a very slightly moist cloth to remove any dirt or grime. Be sure not to rub the slats too aggressively as this can ruin the wood stain.

This method is suitable for both vertical and horizontal slats.

FAUX WOOD BLINDS

The good news is that faux wood blinds are made from plastic and are therefore not susceptible to water damage. This means that once you have dusted your blinds, you can wash them thoroughly with a bowl of warm, soapy water and a cloth. Blot dry with a soft cloth or kitchen roll.

METAL BLINDS

The easiest way to clean metal blinds is by taking them down and placing them in a bathtub filled with warm water, a few squirts of washing-up liquid and a cup of baking soda. Leave to soak for about an hour and then rinse with warm water.



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COOK WITH A SMART OVEN: Whether you love to cook or see it as more of a chore, a smart oven will revolutionise the way you feed your family, providing you with the means to control your cooking from your smartphone or tablet, whether you are in your home or not. Other great features can include: Voice control | Automatic setting selection | In-oven camera

ADD A SMART TAP: No kitchen is complete without a sink, and for times when your hands are either full or dirty but you need water, a smart tap offers the perfect solution. Choose from a touchless faucet that works by waving your hands in front of the sensor or a voice-enabled tap that can be customised with your preferred commands.



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Who is interior designer Luke Arthur Wells? Find out more about the interiors expert who's taken social media by storm - your new interiors inspiration.

most influential designers of 2021, following a vear when various lockdowns and being asked to 'stay at home' have really shone the spotlight on interior design. But who exactly is Luke Arthur Wells?

Based in the South West of England, Luke is an interior designer, stylist and writer, helping to style homes all over the world. He's a former Great Interior Design Challenge contestant, with a classic, timeless taste that's accessible and incredibly stylish.

With more than 70,000 followers on Instagram and a successful blog, Luke has amassed a dedicated following. He recently moved into a Victorian terrace in need of freshening up, and interiors enthusiasts have been following his incredible transformations over the past year. From the art of styling a room to creative DIY tutorials such as simple, custom radiator covers, Luke provides plenty of inspiration to those who seek it.

To bring Luke's classic style into your own home, here are some tips:

- > Incorporate neutral tones against beautiful textures and striking accessories.
- > Light tones don't need to be boring. Use them to flood light into the room, and bring in contrasting accent colours like black and charcoal to make your home's features pop.
- > Mix high-street items alongside upcycled pieces and the perfect finishing touches to create a look that's accessible, timeless and beautiful
- > Love accessories. From prints and floral displays to statement vases and plant pots, accessories add colour and character to your home.

Want to recreate Luke's incredible home styling? Covering everything from creating mood boards to on-trend DIY panelling, check out Luke's projects at www.lukearthurwells.com/blog for inspiration.



Are solar panels really the future for all homes?

here was a time when it seemed everyone was investing in solar technology. The premise was simple instal solar panels on your roof, often with the aid of a decent government subsidy. and within a few years you'd have saved on electricity costs to the extent that your investment would be paid off.

Thereafter, any energy pulled into the panels would be sold to the national grid and you'd be quids in.

Homeowners rushed in their hundreds of thousands to attach the cumbersome, shiny panels to their rooftops or across garden spaces, with many finding the initiative was true to its word, but has it worked out that way?

THE GOOD:

- Solar panels genuinely do make money, reducing bills by anything from £60 to £250
- As well as generating free electricity, they potentially raise the resale price of a house
- No planning permission required
- Low maintenance and rarely go wrong

- Easy-to-read devices that let you know how much electricity is being generated
- The Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) features a number of different tariffs, so homeowners can shop around in order to get the best price for their electricity

THE BAD:

- Unless you have a south-facing roof, you may find the rate at which you earn back your investment is highly impacted
- Similarly, better weather conditions in the south meant our northern cousins were less incentivised to take part
- Back to house sales, and some potential buyers have been known to be put off by the sight of solar panels on rooftops
- Some people have discovered it will take more than two decades for them to make their money back - those at home all day (and with higher electricity costs) will benefit more

As with most things, it's a case of doing your maths to see if the idea of solar panels shines brightly for you.



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SIX ALTERNATIVE USES FOR FABRIC SOFTENER AROUND THE HOME

Ithough its main purpose is to condition your clothes, fabric softener has the ability to facilitate many other household tasks. Check out our favourite ways to use this cheap and cheerful liquid below.

1. TO STRIP WALLPAPER

Once you have scoured your wallpaper, mix one cap full of fabric softener into 1/4 litre of water and apply with a sponge to the wall. Leave to sit for 20 minutes and then you should be able to scrape off the wallpaper with ease.

2. TO ELIMINATE HARD-WATER STAINS

If you struggle to remove hard-water stains from your glassware, apply undiluted fabric softener to the stain, leave for 10 minutes and wipe off with a cloth. Wash and rinse before use.

3. TO REMOVE BURNT FOOD

To remove burnt food without ruining your pots and pans, fill them with warm water and then add a few drops of fabric softener. Let them sit for an hour and any burnt food should wipe straight off. Wash and rinse before use.

4. TO CLEAN PAINT BRUSHES

Fabric softener is a surfactant, meaning it makes water wetter, and is therefore ideal for removing water-based paint from your brushes. Mix one cup of water and one teaspoon of fabric softener and dip your brushes in for up to 30 seconds.

5. TO MAKE HOME-MADE ROOM FRESHENER

Save money on room fresheners by mixing one part fabric softener and two parts water with two tablespoons of baking soda. Pour into a spray bottle and spray liberally around your home. This can also be used to repel insects.

6. TO BANISH DUST

Hard surfaces in your home are prone to dust. Minimise these pesky particles by creating a spray solution that is made from 1/4 cup of fabric softener and one cup of water. Spray onto the surface and wipe away with a dry cloth.

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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood





Resident named Citizen of the Year for volunteer work

The best and the brightest from across the Rochford District have been celebrated at an awards ceremony.

More than 29 community champions were nominated in the Citizen of the Year Awards.

Among the winners was Isabel Bottley, from Rayleigh, who won the Citizen of the Year award in recognition of her numerous volunteer roles with youth groups across the UK.

Chairman of Rochford District Council, councillor Robin Dray, said: "We're so lucky in the Rochford District to have such a strong sense of community. These awards are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that we have to offer and the community champions who make our district such a great place to live, work and visit.

"This year has been particularly difficult, and many people have gone above and beyond.

"I am delighted that we received such strong nominations this year and would like to thank all the entrants for demonstrating hard work, commitment and dedication."

Man rescued after falling asleep while cooking

Firefighters rescued a man in Rayleigh after he fell asleep while cooking and his flat filled with smoke.

Crews from Rayleigh Weir and Hawkwell were called to a first-floor flat on the High Street on April 28 after a neighbour heard a smoke alarm.

Watch manager, Wayne Davey, said: "The occupant had put a couple of pans on the cooker and fallen asleep, causing his flat to fill with smoke.

"Crews managed to rouse him and he let them in,

but he was suffering from smoke inhalation.

"They gave him first aid, made sure the fire was fully extinguished and used a fan to clear the smoke.

"The incident highlights how dangerous it is to cook if you are tired – it's too easy to fall asleep and put your life at risk.

"Thankfully, there was a working smoke alarm in the flat and a neighbour heard it sounding and called 999."

The man was left in the care of paramedics.

MARK FRANCOIS MP



Member of Parliament for Rayleigh and Wickford



In response to public concerns, several weeks ago, Rochford District Council announced it would review its plans to demolish the Mill Hall in Rayleigh, with a decision on the way forward being made by autumn 2021.

As the local MP, I certainly intend to make submissions to this review as well. However, it seems to me that there are broadly four options that the council could now consider, which might be summarised as follows:

Option 1: Continue with the council's plan as originally envisaged. The current proposal is to demolish the Mill Hall and build a smaller community centre to modern standards, by the Windmill. There would also be a housing development on a portion of the site.

Option 2: To refurbish the existing Mill Hall. I would like to know what the genuine cost and timings would be for refurbishing the existing facility to bring it up to modern standards and to make it a more attractive venue, which can be run at a profit, rather than an annual loss of Ω 00,000 or more.

Option 3: Demolish the existing Mill Hall and replace it with a 21st century alternative. This would obviously involve a capital cost upfront but, if the new building were more environmentally sustainable and had significantly lower annual running costs, it might well pay for itself over time, rather like paying off a mortgage.

Option 4: Abandon the project and leave the Mill Hall largely as it is. This obviously saves the cost of either refurbishment or demolition, but it doesn't address the problem of the ongoing losses.

As it stands, without detailed costings, I do not have a fixed view on what the exact answer to this problem should be, and I remain open-minded about the ultimate solution. However, going forward, I intend to ensure that this review is a genuine and thorough exercise, the result of which should be published in the autumn, so that the residents of Rayleigh can comment on them. I intend to ask for meetings with Rochford District Council, as the local MP, not least to try to ensure that the review process remains on schedule.



A disability charity in Rayleigh is taking on a project to help provide support and promote inclusion for those affected by lower limb differences.

The Head to Toe Clubfoot Charity has been working with local primary schools to create an art installation in the town and has been collecting feathers that have been designed and created by the schoolchildren.

The feathers will be displayed in and around Rayleigh's High Street and each feather will be unique, with some being perfect and others being perfectly imperfect.

Klaire Harvey, charity director at The Head to Toe Clubfoot Charity, told **VISION**RayleighWickford: "June 3 was World Clubfoot Day and I wanted to do something to mark the occasion. Last year we dressed in yellow, and this year I wanted to do something bigger.

"I also wanted to acknowledge the difficult year all children have had, so thought it would be a really nice thing to include them. I contacted all the primary schools in the town and have had an amazing response from four of them.

"I plan to hang the feathers off a few trees in the high street in the hope that this will put a smile on visitors' faces, while raising awareness of our charity."





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LOCAL NEWS

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The new Wickford Market, which will be open every Saturday between the hours of 8am and 4pm, launched last month.

In its new location on Wickford High Street, the market features up to 20 traders with a wide variety of stalls, including clothing, a fishmonger, and artisan bread bakery.

Despite the rainy weather, footfall in the opening two weekends was very promising, and it is hoped that the number of visitors will increase as the weather improves.

Caroline Saunders, acting head of regeneration at Basildon Borough Council, said: "The council has previously undertaken extensive surveying into the moving of the market and the pedestrianisation of the high street. In the 400 responses received, both

initiatives were overwhelmingly supported by both the businesses and the residents of Wickford.

"It is important that the high street is revitalised to ensure that Wickford is sustainable as a retail and leisure location.

"This new market, with the pedestrianisation, will hopefully generate additional footfall and create opportunities for local people."

Wickford Market operator, Trevor Day, added: "Wickford has been a market town for years and the market is a great opportunity for the whole community and shops to help revive the high street and bring people back to the town."

To enable Wickford Market to relocate to the high street, £54,240 has been allocated from the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund.



Free self-defence classes for women



Amartial arts school in Rayleigh and Wickford has offered free self-defence classes for women in response to the tragic death of Sarah Everard earlier this year.

Meridian Kung Fu announced on its Facebook page that it was reaching out to women to show support and help them feel safer on the streets.

Ben Richardson, who runs the Brentwood branch, told **VISION**RayleighWickford he was eager to give something back to the community.

He said: "We wanted to try and do something that would help women feel safer walking around in the streets, after the news of Sarah Everard really worried a lot of people.

"We're going to be running the sessions over three days, with trained instructors, to give an insight into what we teach and the importance of self-defence."

The offer received a tremendous response, with more than 3,000 people in Essex expressing an interest in taking part.

Ben added: "The response has been fantastic and we're really thankful that people want to come along and take us up on the offer. It's not just about kung fu. We want to teach people how to be safe and more streetwise."

For more information, visit www.meridianwickford.co.uk

Shoplifter banned from entering shops after thefts

Businesses in Wickford have been made safer after a shoplifter was banned thanks to work by the Business Crime Team.

Daniel Teelan, 46, from Wickford, was made the subject of a Criminal Behaviour Order at Basildon Magistrates' Court on Monday, May 10.

The order bans him from entering the following

shops for two years:

- >Co-op, 157-159 Nevendon Road, Wickford
- >Co-op, 44 High Road, Wickford
- >Tesco, 155 Southend Road, Wickford
- > BP Cranfield Park, Cranfield Park Road, Wickford
- > Deichmann, 56 Eastgate Centre, Basildon

The order was granted after Teelan was convicted of a number of thefts from shops in April.

PC Alex Plakhtienko, from the Business Crime Team, said: "Shoplifting and theft can have a big impact on shops and businesses.

"We continue to work hard with businesses to protect them from crime, and applying for Criminal Behaviour Orders is just one of the tools available to us."

New supermarket to open as part of town regeneration

Morrisons supermarket is set to replace the existing Co-op store in Wickford after Basildon Council, Heriot UK and the supermarket chain agreed a deal.

It is proposed that the new 40,000 sq ft store will form part of the regeneration of Wickford Town Centre and will be built near the Wickford Main Car Park.

The development will provide a new modern store and improved car park facilities and will create up to 140 new jobs. The development will also include links to the high street and residential areas.

Tomasz Kozlowski, director of growth at Basildon Council, said: "The regeneration of Wickford Town Centre remains a key priority for the council. It is important that the town centre is revitalised to encourage inward investment and to ensure that Wickford is sustainable as a retail and leisure location."

James Smith, Morrisons senior development manager, said: "We're delighted that Morrisons will be part of the town centre redevelopment. It's still early days in the process, but we look forward to completing the store, creating new jobs and welcoming shoppers to Morrisons Wickford."







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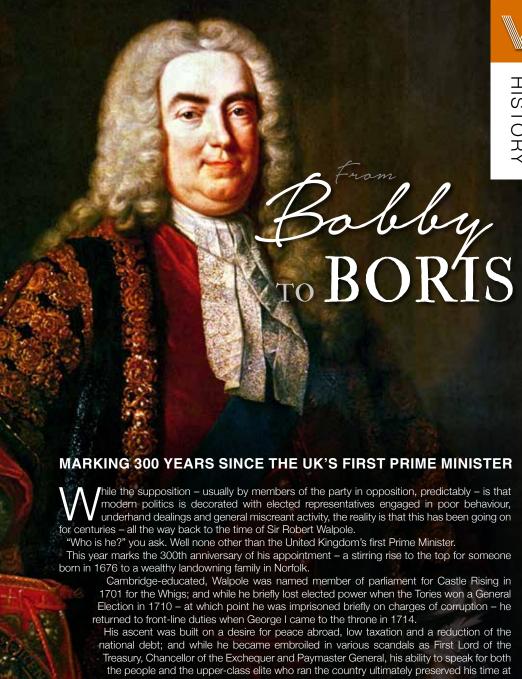


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modern politics is decorated with elected representatives engaged in poor behaviour, underhand dealings and general miscreant activity, the reality is that this has been going on

1701 for the Whigs; and while he briefly lost elected power when the Tories won a General Election in 1710 – at which point he was imprisoned briefly on charges of corruption – he

His ascent was built on a desire for peace abroad, low taxation and a reduction of the national debt; and while he became embroiled in various scandals as First Lord of the Treasury, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Paymaster General, his ability to speak for both the people and the upper-class elite who ran the country ultimately preserved his time at the top table. It also ensured a gift from George II of 10 Downing Street, where the current Prime Minister still resides today.

Walpole was comfortable in his role until the late 1730s, when pressure began to build from within his party. A poor election result in 1741 followed and he resigned from his post shortly afterwards. Within three years he was dead, though his political legacy lives on.



The spectre of suicide in young people is one that looms large over modern society. Not in 20 years have so many people in the UK felt so low as to want to take their own lives, with men accounting for three-quarters of those.

FROM THE HEART

Capital FM radio DJ Roman Kemp is not someone singer Shirlie Holliman, actually you would typically expect to want to talk about the subject. The son of Spandau Ballet icon Martin Kemp, the 28-year-old has grown up in the calm and comfort of a privileged life, has been afforded avenues into the entertainment world, and goes about his daily presenting duties with a breezy brand of optimistic irreverence that's fashionable and carefree.

Yet Kemp harbours a more solemn side, one that has driven him to campaign and champion mental health awareness. He brings an honesty and humility to his work that's been well-received, not least because of the struggles we have all encountered over the past year or so in light of COVID-19, lockdown, recession and the impact on our daily lives.

"At the heart of it is using a platform to do something worthwhile and meaningful," says Kemp, who has been at Capital FM for seven years and supplements his time on the airwaves with various entertainment shows, including Martin & Roman's Weekend Best! alongside his father.

One of the stars of I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! in 2019 - he finished third behind Andrew Whyment and Jacqueline Jossa - the talented presenter has drawn on profound personal upset in putting together a recent BBC3 documentary. Roman Kemp: Our Silent Emergency, which was released in March 2021, has been nominated for a National Television Award.

"I come at this from the perspective of having known someone who took his own life, and having lived through 13 years of on-andoff depression myself where, in my darkest hours. I have considered ending it."

Kemp said that his mum, famous saved his life. At his darkest moment, she made sure he wasn't alone and allowed him to confide in her about his suicidal thoughts. When he called her in crisis, she stayed on the phone with him as she travelled to London to be by his side.

Kemp was devastated by the loss

of his close friend and fellow Capital Breakfast colleague, Joe Lyons, in August 2020. Recognising when friends are in trouble and encouraging people to open up about their emotions is at the heart of Kemp's work across both TV and radio. championing a trend for people to be outspoken and honest about their feelings.

He said: "It shook me back then and it continues to now. I still have days where I can't believe he isn't here, and I didn't see the signs.

"I actually think we're in a much better place than we were 10 years ago when it comes to speaking out and having the confidence to say what's really on our minds, what's really troubling us.

"The problem, I feel, is that this is being counterbalanced by so many other pressures, and lots of those stem from social media. I don't think we can change how Twitter, Facebook and Instagram have altered our lives, yet we can teach people to approach and view those influences in different ways. Obviously, the strands run much deeper than just that, but it is a good place to start.

"We all need to play our part. It's an old cliché, but to save just one life makes it all worthwhile."





PUZZLES & TRIVIA

ACROSS

- 1. Succession; series (8)
- 5. Run at a moderate pace (4)
- 8. Sag (5)
- 9. Sour in taste (7)
- 10. Mountain in the Himalayas (7)
- 12. Contemplations (7)
- 14. Subdivision (7)
- 16. Part of a chair (7)
- 18. Increasing rapidly (7)
- **19**. Kingdom (5)
- 20. Japanese beverage (4)
- 21. Large metal pot (8)

DOWN

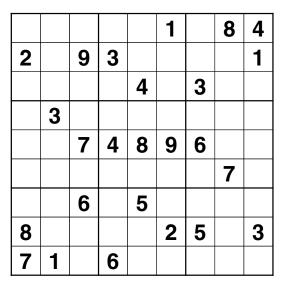
- 1. Soft drink (US) (4)
- 2. Cites (6)
- 3. Act of spying (9)
- 4. Stops (6)
- 6. Thief (6)
- 7. Not inclined to talk (8)
- 11. Let oracle (anag) (9)
- 12. Thick dark syrup (8)
- 13. Set out on a journey (6)
- 14. Mark of disgrace (6)

- 15. Make worse (6)
- 17. Word ending a prayer (4)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Pound cake got its name from its recipe one pound each of butter, eggs, sugar and flour
- ► Most wasabi in supermarkets is made from coloured horseradish with flavourings, as real wasabi is expensive to make
- ► Crackers often have holes in them to prevent air bubbles from forming when cooking
- ► Farm-raised salmon is naturally white or grey. A pink colour is added to mimic the natural colour of a wild salmon
- ▶ Russian president Dmitry Medvedev signed a bill in 2011 officially classifying beer as alcohol. Previously, anything containing less than 10 per cent alcohol in Russia was considered foodstuff
- ► A typical ear of corn has an even number of rows

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READY TO HOUSE HUNT?

Property is a passion of mine, there is nothing quite like matching a buyer with their perfect home. The best way to make this a success and ultimately as stress-free as you can is preparing. In the current climate you might find that you are making decisions much quicker than you expected so you need to be prepared to make sure you don't miss out on vour dream home.

Whether you are buying your first home or your forever home, here are a few things I would recommend you do before you start house hunting based on my 23 years working in property.

Get vour finances in order...

First things first you need to get your finances sorted, lenders borrowing criteria is ever evolving, don't guess, speak to a mortgage broker to find out exactly what you can borrow and get your decision in principle set up then when you make an offer on a property you are ready to go.

Know your must-haves..

Make a list of wants and needs moving forward with the next property. As you view properties that you dismiss, make notes of what it was that didn't suit you about the property so you can really narrow down what it is you are looking for. Consider if a property doesn't have something you are looking for at the moment, could it be amended or added in the future and consider the cost of that into your budget. Lastly, be realistic, most properties you view won't tick every box, unless you are building your own home.

Be the first to know...

Make sure you are the first to know about the latest properties coming to the market, by setting up property alerts on platforms like Rightmove and Zoopla this is simple to do and you will receive email alerts as soon as a property matching your criteria is listed for sale. Register with estate agents in the area you are looking for properties, being on their mailing list will make sure you will be first in line.



EXCITING TIMES AND LET'S NOT FORGET FUN VIEWING PROPERTIES BUT ARE YOU READY? I'LL EXPLAIN HOW GETTING PREPARED IS KEY TO SUCCEEDING IN THE CURRENT PROPERTY MADKET



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HOW TO SELL YOUR HOME FAST THIS SUMMER

If you are looking to sell your house this summer as quickly and lucratively as possible, then our property experts can help you. Plus, discover how to speed up the move into your new home.

SPRUCE UP YOUR GARDEN

Searches for properties with large outdoor spaces have soared during lockdown, but that doesn't mean homes with smaller gardens can't also be an attractive option for potential buyers. Make sure you mow your lawn, place the bins out of sight and, if possible, make your garden secluded with the use of fences or hedges.

FOCUS ON KERB APPEAL

You will be surprised at just how many homebuyers will dismiss a property purely on its exterior, with some not even venturing inside after a bad first impression. Prevent this from happening by keeping your windows clean, ensuring your house number is clearly visible and cutting back any overgrown trees or bushes.

STAGE YOUR HOME

Property developers know exactly how to stage a new home to sell it fast and there is no reason why you can't do this too. Ensure that your property is clean and tidy, with any clutter out of sight, lay the table for dinner, make up the beds, light some scented candles and keep the thermostat at a consistently pleasant temperature.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Estate agents live and breathe property sales, so it makes sense to ask their advice on how to sell your home as quickly as possible. Be sure to seek out local insights and pre-empt the questions buyers are likely to ask.

- > What is the position of the buyer/seller?
- > Should I use a mortgage broker?
- Has my buyer's mortgage application been submitted?
- > When is the target exchange date?
- What paperwork do I need to complete?



want a showstopping end result. PICK PATIO FLOORING TYPE WOOD - Timeless and extremely versatile, wood can be used to create a rustic or modern-styled patio area. You

protective wood oil for enhanced longevity. NATURAL STONE - For the epitome of luxury, natural stone

travertine, granite and marble. Avoid light-coloured natural

CERAMIC TILE - A classic flooring material, ceramic offers a durable and cost-effective way to create a patio area in your garden. Opt for unglazed tiles to reduce the risk of slipping and consider adding a sealant to protect from wear and tear.

BRICK - Low maintenance and slip resistant, brick gives off an old-world feel that is ideal for period properties. If cost is an issue, brick pavers make a cheaper alternative.

CONCRETE – Arguably the most versatile choice, concrete can be moulded to fit any shape, and you can personalise it with colouring, stamping, brushing, painting and patterning.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT SIZE

There are three steps involved in sizing your patio flooring:

- 1. Decide how big you want your patio to be
- 2. Determine the size of your chosen patio material
- 3. Work out how much flooring you need to cover your chosen area

PATIO STYLE IDEAS

- > Surround tiles with decorative stones for a more organic look
- > Swap grass for a paved patio and surround with raised flowerbeds
- > Select interior and exterior flooring in the same tone to create a seamless flow





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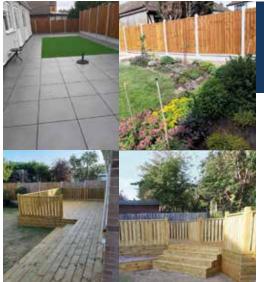
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OUTDOOR FEATURES THAT ADD VALUE TO YOUR PROPERTY

► OVID-19 and the associated stamp duty holiday have made a lot of us think about the saleability of our homes, and perhaps even consider a move. While countless television shows point us in the right direction as far as interior décor goes, what can we do to spruce things up on the

Natural landscaping: While for years we've obsessed over new kitchens, bathrooms, conservatories and more, it seems that landscaping garden spaces - from lawn care to water features and even planting small trees - will add more value to your property than any of the others listed. according to research undertaken last year.

In reality, it makes sense. In Britain we love the idea of reclining in peaceful, tranquil, stylish surroundings with a drink, a magazine, some music and the gentle breeze of summer... even if the season comes and goes in under a fortnight.

Wood you dare?: Wood effect adds a rustic, natural, earthy feel to any outside space, and the popularity of decking - and, to a lesser extent, patios - also makes a big difference when it comes to maximising property value. And the good news is that modern composites will give that 'indoor wood' finish and quality, even in exposed outdoor areas.

The paint saint: A paint job - the entire house, the front wall or perhaps just a new garden gate - will give a real sense of style and cleanness. Our outer walls and pathways take a real battering across the seasons, so brightening them up can make a big difference when it comes to adding value.

Light show: We're very much in the area of strings of bulbs lighting up entrance ways, trees and even whole gardens. For a relatively low cost, it's possible to give those dusky evenings a real glow of homely

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Mangesteen

n undeniably attractive fruit, the bright purple mangosteen is so much more than just a I pretty face. With a mouth-watering, fragrant flavour and a multitude of health benefits, this tropical fruit is definitely one you should try this summer.

Described as a delicious combination of lychee, peach, strawberry and pineapple, the mangosteen boasts a slightly sweet and sour flavour which is quite unlike any fruit vou have tasted before.

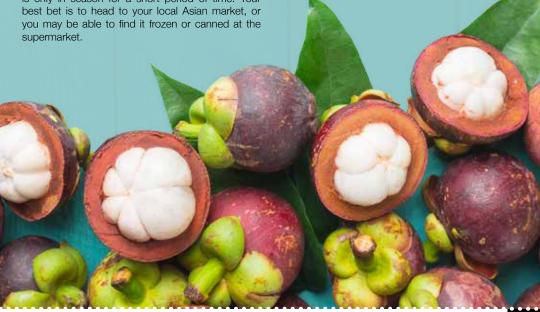
Offering a rich supply of nutrients, fibre and unique antioxidants, the mangosteen is low in calories and fat, making it a great snack for those who crave a sweet fix during the day.

Although this fruit is easy to eat and prepare, it can be a little bit more difficult to find, as mangosteen is only in season for a short period of time. Your best bet is to head to your local Asian market, or you may be able to find it frozen or canned at the supermarket.

DRINK To remove the fruit, cut a circle into the thick skin around the stalk and lift it off like a lid. This will reveal the segments of mangosteen, which resemble those of an orange, but are bright white in colour. The seeds are soft and edible so do not need to be taken out.

- > Eat fresh either on its own or combined with other fruits in a fruit salad
- > Juice them
- > Blend and make sorbet or ice cream
- > Add to a curry

Ripe, whole mangosteen will last a few days at room temperature, whereas unripe mangosteen can last 1-2 weeks. Store in the fridge for 3-4 weeks. Do not freeze as this will damage the flesh.



FOOD



June 15, we have gathered the top six beer and food pairings that are guaranteed to go down a treat either at your local pub or in the comfort of your own home.

Stout & Oysters

Although you may associate oysters with champagne, they actually go amazingly well with stout. In fact, the Oyster Festival has been sponsored by Guinness for the past 60 years.

Dark Ale & Steak Pie

More suited to the winter months, but a perfect pairing nonetheless. Braise your steak in beer and then enjoy your pie with a glass of dark ale for a rich and comforting dish.

British Bitter & a Ploughman's

If you love nothing better than sitting in a pub garden with a traditional ploughman's lunch, then you will be pleased to hear that this summertime dish can be made even better with the addition of a classic British bitter.

A & Curry

Who doesn't love a curry on a Friday night? And, of course, you can't have a curry without a nice cold beer. Opt for a lighter style of IPA and an aromatic but not too spicy curry for mouth-watering results.

Lager & Fish and Chips

A British classic, fish and chips is one of the nation's favourite dishes. As well as enjoying a refreshing pint of lager with your fish, why not add a dash of beer to your batter mixture for an even crisper and lighter texture.

Blonde Beer & Brie

You may be surprised to learn that beer can be a match made in heaven with cheese, and this is most certainly the case with a blonde beer and young brie. The combination of this nutty cheese and lightly acidic beer is, quite frankly, unbelievable.



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f not, don't worry, we've got you covered. Learn how to pick the perfect shape for your lifestyle here. Plus, the best shades for each shape.

A square nail is straight with sharp edges that are squared off at the tip. This nail shape suits those with a shorter nail. Although you may be told that shorter nails do not suit darker shades, this nail shape can actually accommodate all polish colours.

An oval nail is round in shape with corners that curve inwards. Ideal if you are growing a manicure out, this nail shape suits those with medium length nails and narrow nail beds. You can rock any shade with oval nails.

COFFIN

Similar to the square shape but slightly more angular, a coffin nail has a straight-edged tip that is tapered in. To achieve this shape, a long nail is needed. Dark shades can look harsh on coffin nails, so opt for liahter colours.

ROUND

A round nail has straight sides that round up with a flat-edged tip. Best if you need short nails for work, round nails are easy to get used to and lend themselves well to bright-coloured polish and nail art.

ALMOND

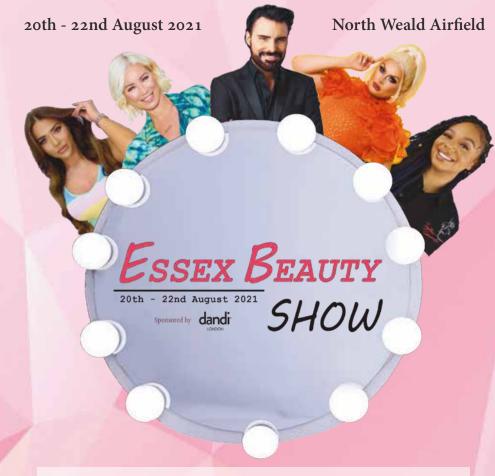
An almond nail is essentially an oval shape that comes to a soft point. Suited to medium nails, this shape helps to slenderise wide fingers and to give the appearance of slimmer hands. Pair with a neutral polish.

STILETTO

Definitely one of the most eye-catching nail shapes, a stiletto nail is long and spiky, with the point curving to the base like a triangle. You must have long nails to achieve this shape. Not suited to those who type for a living or carry out manual labour, red is definitely the couleur du jour for stiletto nails.



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t was back in 2017 that former Transport Secretary Chris Grayling MP announced that self-driving cars could be present on UK roads by the year 2021, a claim reinforced by the head of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders as being a realistic aim.

In reality, we won't be seeing fleets of driverless cars tearing down our A roads in 2021, but we can expect the first few to pop up later in the year. Perhaps this delay is a result of lockdown, perhaps the dramatic slowing of the motor industry as a whole in light of the global pandemic.

And yet, the idea of self-driving cars still holds firm, and it may not be long until we do see highend manufacturers fully embracing what will be the most dramatic motoring ever. The benefits include fewer incidents on the road (94 per cent of accidents are caused by human error), less congestion and improved transport connectivity, not to mention greater mobility options for elderly, disabled and

young users.

The UK wants to be regarded as a leader in this field, with the prediction being that by 2035 more than 40 per cent of new cars will have self-driving capabilities. Automated Vehicle (AV) technology could be worth more than £40billion, and will bring 40,000 jobs to the country.

More than £200million has been invested so far in start-ups looking to fuel this motoring revolution, with the advancement of Intelligent Roads helping to move ideas forward.

There is just one issue though – AVs work perfectly when surrounded by other AVs. It is only when these brilliant computers are asked to interact with human drivers that potential collisions occur. It seems the scientists will have to overcome this somewhat fundamental flaw before we can call on our trusty computerised four-wheeled motors to deposit us home safely.



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hile the COVID-19 pandemic has robbed many of us of the money to be able to venture off on holiday, it hasn't removed that passion to explore. Yet in the 'new normal', and having rediscovered a love of simpler things through lockdown, perhaps it doesn't have to cost the Earth in order to travel it.

HOUSE SWID: More than just the premise of endless reality shows, holiday house-swapping is a real thing, and is becoming more popular every year. After all, why not profit from someone house-sitting your abode by finding a holiday location that suits your needs perfectly, but is also free of charge? The website homelink.org.uk is one of those leading the way.

WORK THIS WILL: It's the age-old explorer's way, but working your way around the world on a backpacking mission is the extreme version, with many lower commitment job-based escapes closer to home. If you're young and without kids, consider fruit picking, event marshalling or even working in a bar as a way of putting in the hours to sustain that holiday vibe in a new place.

The Volunteer Vibe: In a similar way, pitching up somewhere willing to put the hours in for free can be a great way of securing accommodation, food and enough free time to explore the vicinity.

Big Up the Bothic: You know those secluded stone buildings synonymous with the Highland Clearances... you can stay in them, for free. Sure, they may not protect you from the elements as would a five-star hotel - although many have been sensitively restored - but websites such as mountainbothies.org.uk arrange short-term stays in these mystical, remote former homes.

Airmiles: Finally, a fad of the Nineties, airmiles these days are for much more than business users, and the miles can really stack up if you are a frequent flyer.



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t's arguably the most advanced piece of everyday technology ever invented, yet the demands we place on it mean our phones are always in use, always on the move and forever susceptible to damage.

Our humble devices endure a lot, and we often fail to give them the protection they deserve. Here are five sure-fire ways to preserve the usefulness (and cosmetic appearance) of your cherished mobile phone.

ONE: ON THE CASE

It's the simplest advice you'll ever receive, but adding a protective case to your phone will preserve its life like nothing else. A tempered glass screen will ensure you lose no performance from your device while saving on scratches and impacts on the front. It can also be replaced cheaply, quickly

Remember, though, bashes, knocks and drops on the sides and corners can travel across the outer shell to create cracks, so investing in an all-over protective case is smart.

TWO: POCKET ROCKET

What's in your pocket that may scratch or make other abrasions on your phone? Keys and coins are the biggest culprits, and scratches usually occur when we're in a hurry, or are distracted by friends (or alcohol). Keep pockets clear of debris if you want to preserve your mobile's aesthetics.

THREE: GRIPPING STUFF

Mobile phone holders and grips have grown in popularity over recent years. They prevent gadgets from slipping through fingers and aid functionality when we're using them. What's not to like?

FOUR: WATER AND TEMPERATURE

Phone malfunctions often have a lot to with water, heat and extreme cold. Exposing your device to any of these will speed up its deterioration.

FIVE: CURIOSITY KILLED THE... PHONE

The other enemy to mobile phone health is of course leaving it unattended. Small kids, toddlers and even pets can wreak massive damage, so keep it under a watchful eye at all times.



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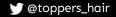
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CARE TIP: Machine washable and dryable, rayon should not require ironing.

4. Denim/Chambray: Denim is made from tightly woven cotton so it has many of the same benefits as this natural fabric. However, it can feel heavy, which is why some people prefer to wear chambray when the temperature rises. Often referred to as imitation denim, chambray is much lighter and comes in a high thread count which guarantees enhanced breathability.

CARE TIP: Preserve your denim/chambray by spot washing with cold water and use a mild soap.

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It shows you just how far cricket has come when you consider that when England played Australia in the first ever ODI - that is, a 'One Day International', comprising 40 overs per side - the concept was seen as being somewhat pointless. It was staged as a money-making exercise Down Under after the Third Ashes test of 1971 had fallen foul of the weather.

To think that a new format could come into play to disrupt the five-day sensibilities of 'traditional cricket', where batsmen and bowlers would toil endlessly in a match lasting almost three-quarters of a week (with a common outcome being a draw), was churlish.

Indeed, the ODI, from the outset, wasn't hugely popular. Australia won that first landmark game, predictably, and other nations around the world were nervous to throw caution to the wind in the same way as might a limitedover batsman tasked with both accelerated run-scoring and wicket preservation.

As time went on, the ODI setup found its popularity climb thanks to World Cup cricket, particularly during the 1980s; and, of course, as longsuffering England fans, we had to wait until 2019 when Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler and co snatched a stunning victory against New Zealand at Lord's to finally bring the trophy back to the shores where this great game was invented.

England have remained right up there with the world's best at the one-day format, despite minor aberrations in form of late.

Its future does appear somewhat cloudy, though, given the popularity of T20 cricket and the emergence of The Hundred - both shorter, punchier forms of the game. Though like a middledistance runner sneering at both sprinters and marathon runners alike as

he pursues a measured, masterful, classy approach to his craft, so too does the ODI package occupy a middle ground that now feels as much a part of our cricket heritage as leather, willow, pads, stumps and endless rain delays.



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