

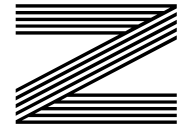
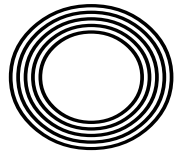
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Soaring demand for local homes is outstripping supply. This means homes are selling fast and often for over the asking price.

### 3 The Wrong Move Can Cost You ££££

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# Editor's notes...

NOVEMBER 2021



Nik Allen, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION**RayleighWickFord. I am writing this after the recent death of Sir David Amess MP. Sir David was a monthly contributor to our **VISION**LeighThorpeBay edition. Over the past few days, I have read many articles and seen local people talk about their admiration of Sir David. For certain, he was a great person and a family man who cared greatly for the soon-to-be city of Southend, and his commitment to his role has been reinforced by the Prime Minister and the Queen in their recent speeches. For more than 40 years, he worked tirelessly for the area of Southend.

My thoughts and prayers are with Sir David's family and close friends.

If ever we needed a reminder to hold our loved ones close, this is it. Spread love, not anger. In a world full of hate and cruelty, it's moments like this, when honouring a true gent in Sir David, that remind us life is short and you never know what's next. His legacy lives on through the lives he's touched over the years and his mark in Essex and in politics. RIP Sir David Amess MP.

In this month's edition, we look back on Romesh Ranganathan's career and his new venture as host of *The Weakest Link*. We also discover Prince Charles's latest attempt to reduce his carbon footprint.

*Nik Allen*

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# ASTON *marvelling*

**HOW HRH PRINCE CHARLES, SOME LEFTOVER WINE AND A CONSTITUENT OF CHEESE ARE HELPING THE PURSUIT OF ECO TRAVEL**

It's a fine line between innovation and eccentricity, but HRH Prince Charles appears to have landed the right side of it... just.

The Prince of Wales, who turned 73 in November and is first in line to the throne, has converted his cherished Aston Martin DB6 so that it can run on cheese waste and surplus white wine. His move to decarbonise fits perfectly with a modern revolution in motoring, where electric cars, the future ban of the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles, and various road taxes designed to keep gas-guzzlers out of our city centre spaces are giving our roads a green makeover.

Charles revealed in a recent interview that he was offered the conversion some time ago and did not hesitate to accept.

"I think when opportunities and ideas come your

way, you need to judge them on their own merits," he says.

"Certainly, where classic cars are concerned, there is the temptation to leave them as they are and not tinker with them, but if we all thought like that, we wouldn't make the strides we have, and the strides we need to."

It was Gloucestershire-based firm Green Fuels – the company has since earned a Royal Warrant of Appointment – which suggested it could supply bioethanol produced from a combination of wine and cheese (whey).

Blending the fuel then adding 15 per cent unleaded petrol meant the car was more powerful than before, yet significantly greener.

Of course, this isn't

the first time Prince Charles has taken the lead where green and eco matters are concerned. He established The Prince's Trust and The Prince's Rainforests Project and has always been a passionate advocate for initiatives that put the planet's needs first. He became the first member of the royal family to adopt electric cars for official duties in 2018, and has rallied behind his son William's successful efforts with The Earthshot Prize, with its £1million bounty awarded to fund solutions to help tackle climate change.

However, Charles believes there is much still to be done. He says the world's leaders are big on environmental talk, but rarely take the actions required to back up the platitudes.

"It is time for a lot of

people, influential people, to stand up and make real decisions," he says. "They have the expertise, they have the wherewithal and they have the resources, so there is no reason why we can't be moving forward much quicker than we are."

"Green initiatives in the past always seemed to come with some sort of cost or inconvenience. A lot of those I see today have no such thing – look at my DB6, it is a better vehicle than it was before."

The classic Aston Martin emerged in 1969 and has been one of Charles's true joys. He even enlisted the services of two-time Formula One world champion, Graham Hill, to teach him how to drive the car to its maximum potential.

He added: "It gives me great pleasure every time I drive it – and to know I can do that while limiting harm to the environment is a wonderful feeling."



Photo credit: David Hartley/Shutterstock

# SUPER subscriptions

## THE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

A gift isn't just for Christmas, so treat your loved ones to a subscription box this festive season and leave it to the postman to deliver the perfect package to your friend or family member's doorstep each month.

**Flower and plant subscription service** – If you have a green-fingered friend, what better gift than a new potted plant or bunch of flowers each month? Also suited to remote workers who could do with freshening up their home working environment. You can even find sustainable providers who only work with Fairtrade growers.

**Cocktail subscription service** – For your boozy bestie or a mum who loves a mojito, a cocktail subscription service makes the perfect gift. Depending on the service you select, the recipient can expect to receive ingredients and instructions to make a new cocktail each month.

**Food subscription service** – Whether you know someone who is a real foodie or your loved one could do with a helping hand in the kitchen, a weekly delivery of high-quality, fresh ingredients is just what they need. Choose the size of the box depending on how many people they cook for. Subscriptions are available to cater for all dietary requirements.

**Gadget subscription service** – Being a tech enthusiast can be expensive, but what if you could enable your gadget-loving friend to try out a new device every month? Pick between health and fitness gadgets, entertainment devices and even relationship tech.

**Craft subscription service** – If you are looking for a subscription service for children, then a monthly craft box is a great idea. With subscriptions available for all ages, you can find boxes that contain a range of fun science, technology, engineering, art and maths activities.

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KIDS

# TIME TO APPLY *for schools*

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE

Applying for a school place can be a stressful time for parents, filled with worry and apprehension. While the criteria will be different depending on whether you're looking for a primary or a secondary school, what should remain the same are the checks and investigations you undertake before cementing your choices.

**CHECK OFSTED RATINGS:** Ofsted ratings exist to help schools to improve, while also enabling parents a full view of what level an institution is at. Although inspections are irregular, reports are always full and detailed and often provide a good read, so check them out.

**CHECK YOUR SCHOOL RUN:** Have a look at the distance and route your child will be taking to school each day – is it practical, are there any hazards, does it fit in with your other morning commitments? Remember, for primary school children, proximity is the lead criteria.

**CHECK NUMBERS:** Being realistic about getting a place also means knowing the school's capacity, so have a look at last year's intake figures in order to give you a better idea of success rates.

**SPEAK TO PARENTS:** There's nothing quite like the experience of others, so chat to people locally whose kids already attend and gain a first-hand picture of what the school is really like.

**CONSIDER SECOND CHOICES:** If the worst thing happens and, for whatever reason, you don't land your first choice, look at and imagine your child attending an alternative school. Consider the positives, embrace the opportunity to go somewhere different and convey any optimism you have to your child – it will be vital should things not go to plan.

**DO NOT BE LATE:** Applying for a school place is essential parenting, so when the process opens, don't delay – get your application in well before the deadline.



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HOME & DIY

**B**rake cleaner isn't just for vehicle maintenance. It can also be used in several household applications, with unbelievable results.

### How to use brake cleaner

If you have used brake cleaner on your car, then you won't have any problems using brake cleaner in your home as the application process is the same. However, if you haven't used brake cleaner before, simply follow the below steps:

- > Shake the can thoroughly to activate the formula.
- > Hold the can about 30cm away from the surface and apply.
- > Allow the brake cleaner to soak in and evaporate.
- > Reapply to stubborn areas and wipe away any excess dirt with a clean cloth before it evaporates.

Always wear gloves and use in well-ventilated areas. Do not allow brake cleaner to come into contact with plastic or rubber, and keep away from any open flames.

**To clean windows:** With the ability to cut through grease without leaving any residue, apply sparingly when using brake cleaner to achieve streak-free

windows. Wipe with a microfibre cloth for optimum results.

**To remove stains from a driveway:** Unsightly oil stains can ruin the look of your concrete driveway, but can be easily removed by throwing down some cat litter or sawdust to get rid of the worst of the spill and then applying brake cleaner.

**To remove ink and paint:** Brake cleaner can effectively remove stains made by permanent markers, paint and nail polish on surfaces such as walls, tables and countertops.

**To remove stains from fabrics such as tablecloths:** Perchloroethylene, a chemical that is commonly used in chlorinated brake cleaners, is also used by professional dry cleaners to remove food and oil stains. Always test in a non-conspicuous spot first and wash the fabric as usual after application.

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DULUX COLOUR OF THE YEAR

# Bright Skies

OPEN YOUR EYES TO BRIGHT SKIES



It's perhaps peculiar that Dulux waits for the time of year when the summer skies begin to seep away, and the radiant, elegant blueness of those warm months is dissipating, to name its much-heralded Colour of the Year... as blue.

The reveal of Bright Skies as a shade that is set to transform our homes for the next 12 months coincides with an autumnal browning and greying of life outside our windows. Yet the paint expert's choice has been met with approval for its ability to extend our elevated, enlightened view on the year for just a little bit longer, as winter gradually approaches.

Dulux's choice has much to do with the brightness and optimism that is being felt in the wake of the end of lockdown. The brand speaks of uplift and progression, with the colour working as an alternative to the mass of light grey shades that have

been so prevalent in offices.

The ability of Bright Skies to blend with all manner of other tones makes it stand up to scrutiny. Its pastel essence draws in other colours instead of repelling them, so use it in living spaces, against light or medium woods, and even on ceilings. Alternatively, pick out the colour on cushions or fabrics.

In the kitchen, a Blue Skies splashback can offer incredible contrast to silver or copper pots and pans; while in the bathroom, ditching formal white for this breathless, brilliant blue will give 'big sky' thinking to every groggy winter morning.

Where, in the past, light blue could feel cold and frosty, particularly when temperatures begin to drop in the winter months, Dulux is asking us to view it from a new angle, accompanying it with textures and tones to help us decorate even the gloomiest of days with bright, sunny, uplifting moments.

Photo credit: dulux.co.uk



HOME & DIY





# How to clean a COOKER HOOD FILTER

Can you remember the last time you checked underneath your cooker's hood to see if the exhaust fan filter needed a good clean? If it's been a while, we warn you, this is not going to be a pretty sight.

Fortunately, you can get your filter looking squeaky clean and grease-free in just eight simple steps.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Boiling water | Washing-up liquid | Baking soda | A non-abrasive scrubbing brush | Paper towels or a tea towel

### HOW TO CLEAN:

- > **Step 1. REMOVE THE FILTER FROM THE HOOD**  
The filter should easily slide or pop out from underneath the hood.
- > **Step 2. FILL A BUCKET WITH BOILING WATER**  
You can use hot water from the tap, but boiling water is more effective.
- > **Step 3. ADD BAKING SODA AND WASHING-UP LIQUID**  
Pour ¼ cup of baking soda and a good squirt

of washing up liquid into your bucket of boiling water and swirl around with a brush. Be careful not to place your hands directly into the water, to prevent burns.

- > **Step 4. SUBMERGE YOUR FILTER IN THE WATER**  
Make sure the filter is completely covered by the boiling water.
- > **Step 5. LEAVE IT TO SOAK**  
Allow the filter to soak for a minimum of 10 minutes, longer if possible.
- > **Step 6. SCRUB THE FILTER**  
Once the filter has finished soaking, take it out of the water and scrub with a non-abrasive brush. Add more washing-up liquid to your brush if needed.
- > **Step 7. RINSE AND DRY YOUR FILTER**  
Rinse the filter in hot water and dry with paper towels or a tea towel.
- > **Step 8. REPLACE THE FILTER**  
Put the clean filter back into the hood and repeat as and when needed. It is recommended to clean your hood filter once a month to keep it working properly.

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# LITTLE BIG BELL

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A COLOUR BOOST IN YOUR INTERIORS? LOOK TO BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL BLOG **LITTLE BIG BELL**

The world can be a little bleak sometimes; the last year has shown us that. Therefore, it's refreshing when a ray of sunshine comes into our lives that lifts our spirits and puts a smile on our faces. And that ray of sunshine is Little Big Bell.

Little Big Bell is the interiors blog of Dr Geraldine Tan, whose passion for design is clear to see. Little Big Bell is where Geraldine shares her incredible style, but by day, she's an NHS doctor based in London.

So what makes Little Big Bell's style so popular, and how can you get the look in your own home? Some of the most popular interiors trends at the moment favour muted colours and neutrals – a classic choice, but not everyone's cup of tea. So it's exciting to stumble across a style like Geraldine's. It's fresh, colourful and full of beautiful ideas. Her style is like pop art brought to life, and it's impossible not to smile when you browse through her incredible photos.

### HOW TO STYLE YOUR HOME THE LITTLE BIG BELL WAY

- Don't be afraid of colour. Geraldine uses all the colours of the rainbow for her interiors, creating a look that's light, energetic and so much fun.
- Use bold prints to brighten up your walls. Even if you're not confident enough to go for full-on colour, prints can be a subtle way to add colour to the most neutral of spaces.
- Go for the mix and match approach. Not everything has to be matchy-matchy – mix up your accessories to create a more interesting look. Geraldine's kitchen is the perfect example of how different types of vases and dinnerware can complement each other, even when they're all different. Using display cabinets can add colour and interest in your kitchen.
- Geraldine uses accessories such as cushions and rugs to inject some colour while bringing looks together. She uses cushions of the same shape and size in different colour and pattern variations, as well as rugs with complementary colours and patterns, to create a look that is cute and colourful but doesn't look over-the-top or gauche.
- In the bedrooms, Geraldine mixes muted colours with bolder hues that keep the room looking airy and spacious. A colour block wall is all you need as a starting point, and you can add furniture and accessories in different colours to create a similar look.
- Many people shy away from colour in the bathroom, but Geraldine's style provides the perfect inspiration for how pastel shades can make your bathroom look fun and interesting – a space that makes getting ready for the day all the more enjoyable.



Photo credit: littlebigbell.com



HOME & DIY





# LOCAL NEWS

*from your neighbourhood*



Photo credit: Google Maps

## Two men have been fined more than £7,000

Two men have appeared in court and received fines in connection with the unauthorised use of a Rayleigh garden centre.

Rochford District Council (RDC) secured convictions against the two defendants, who appeared at Basildon Crown Court on October 12 charged with the unauthorised use of a garden centre for the operation of a paving company and for the stationing of caravans for residential use.

Joseph Bibby, 57, earned £126,997.36 through the operations at Fairways Garden Centre, in Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh, and was sentenced to a 24-month conditional discharge and told to pay £4,088.58 in costs within a year.

Simon Ellis, 56, was also sentenced to a year's conditional discharge and told to pay £3,045.18 in costs within one year.

The sentencing for a third defendant was adjourned to April 2022.

The defendants ignored notices concerning unlawful use of the garden centre for paving and residential trailers. After numerous attempts by authority officials, RDC issued enforcement warnings in 2010 and 2017.

All defendants had appeared before Southend Magistrates' Courts on November 17, 2020, and had pleaded guilty to the same charge, but the case was postponed to allow Basildon Crown Court to deal with the confiscation of criminal proceeds.

Councillor Ian Ward, portfolio holder for strategic planning at RDC, said: "This is a great result for the council and shows that non-compliance with enforcement notices in respect of planning permission across the district will not be tolerated.

"The planning enforcement process may seem lengthy, but it's essential to protect our district from unauthorised development and take appropriate action. The council does not condone breaches of planning control."

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# MARK FRANCOIS MP



Member of Parliament for Rayleigh and Wickford

I have recently submitted a detailed, nine-page response to Rochford District Council's consultation exercise about its new Local Plan.

The bottom line of my reply is that I believe there should be no further major house building in the Rochford district unless new supporting infrastructure is provided first. For example, I have argued that unless the government is seriously prepared to finance a major upgrade of the A127 to a largely three-lane M127 standard, which would likely require upwards of £1 billion, then major house building in the Rochford district should be strongly constrained. Likewise, this should include increases in educational capacity and expanded medical facilities.

The new Local Plan is likely to take a couple more years to complete. It should then govern development in the area to at least 2040. It is important to have a plan to regulate housing growth, rather than leave the district at the mercy of often highly aggressive property developers.

As this can be a detailed subject, I have deliberately included a copy of my admittedly rather long letter on both my Facebook page and my website, so that my constituents can read it in full for themselves, if they so wish.

From experience, I already appreciate that not all of my constituents will agree with every word I have written, but I hope this proves that I have taken the subject seriously.



Photo credit: Rayleigh Town Council Facebook

## Switch-on event cancelled

Rayleigh Town Council (RTC) has taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's Christmas lights switch-on event, which was scheduled for Thursday, November 25.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, RTC has said the risk in planning and organising a large public event is too great in the winter months.

The event relies on organisations, schools, market traders and volunteers, and their health and safety, along with the residents that attend, are a priority.

Councillor Cheryl Roe, chairman of the Christmas

lights subcommittee, said: "Our Christmas lights switch-on event had grown and become more spectacular each year.

"More and more people attend, but for me, the duty of care to everyone is paramount, given that COVID-19 rates are up and down.

"The cancellation of this event was agreed unanimously at the full council meeting."

The Christmas lights will be installed and on display as usual. RTC is hopeful that all events, including the Christmas lights switch-on and Trinity Fair, can return in 2022.

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# LOCAL NEWS

*from your neighbourhood*



Photo credit: Ruby Ward @heartoflondon, Essex Police

## Sleepy drug dealer snoozes through police raid

A man who slept through a police raid has been jailed for 37 months.

Officers from Essex Police's Operation Raptor South team raided a house in Arundel Road, Wickford, in August following reports that a vulnerable person's home had been taken over by drug dealers.

Inside, they found Tommy Aldridge (pictured inset), 21, sleeping in an armchair. Two mobile phones, knives, a sock with golf balls inside, scales and other drug paraphernalia were on a table directly in front of Aldridge.

Both the Nokia and Motorola phones were revealed to be active drug lines supplying crack cocaine and heroin in Basildon.

The Nokia had contacted drug users only three-and-a-half hours before officers arrived.

On October 8, Aldridge was sentenced to 37 months

in prison at Basildon Crown Court after pleading guilty to two charges of being concerned about the supply of class A drugs.

Aldridge was sentenced to 31 months in jail on each count, to run concurrently. A suspended sentence was also activated, adding a further six months to his sentence.

PC Dan Onley, of Operation Raptor South, said: "Unbeknown to Aldridge, we had all the information we needed to convict him before we even arrested him in Wickford in August.

"The case we had against him was so overwhelming, he had no option but to admit his guilt.

"Aldridge is still young; he has time to turn his life around and he will be given the support to do that.

"I hope he uses his time in prison to reassess his life plans. Drug dealing in Essex simply does not pay."

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## Firefighters rescue man trapped by floodwater



Photo credit: Phil Stalham Photography

Firefighters rescued a pensioner who was trapped in his car by floodwater last month.

On-call firefighters from Wickford Fire Station rescued the man, who had become trapped in his car in two feet of floodwater on Southend Road, Wickford, at 11.20pm on Wednesday, October 20.

Control team and crews dealt with more than 100 weather-related incidents during Storm Aurore last month, following the Met Office's amber weather warning.

Delivery command manager at Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, James Taylor, said: "Our control team was inundated with calls from around 10.30pm, and has worked tirelessly through the night to offer advice to the local community. Crews have been deployed to numerous incidents and have worked hard under challenging circumstances – not only the nature of the incidents they've attended, but also just getting to the scenes in adverse weather conditions has been a challenge."

The service is urging people to follow their safety advice when flooding occurs.

They said: "If you come across a flooded road on your journey, please do not risk driving through. Instead, turn around and find another route."

## Christmas fayre to kick off festive season in town

The Christmas season is approaching, and to get you in the holiday spirit, a street fayre and lights switch-on will take place in Wickford.

The Wickford festive fayre and Christmas lights switch-on will take place on Sunday, November 28,

on Wickford High Street.

The Santa parade will start at 12pm and the lights switch-on will take place at 4pm. There will also be food and drink stalls, face painting, children's rides, live entertainment, and much more.

Event organisers have teamed up with Essex Air Ambulance's fundraising team, who will be leading the parade through the High Street.

The Wickford at Christmas volunteer group said: "Lots of hard work, stress and time has gone in to trying to give you all the best day.

"Save the date in your diary and come along on November 28.

"We cannot wait to bring Christmas back to Wickford."

To find out more, search 'Wickford at Christmas' on Facebook.

## Mystery filming at tech shop for Channel 4 programme

A Wickford tech repair shop has been used as a filming location for a new Channel 4 TV series.

Kyle Weinberg, director at Console Clinic Ltd, completed a 22-hour shoot for a Channel 4 series in October.

The filming in and around the repair shop was supposed to be complete in 12 hours on October 11, but they "didn't get everything they needed" and filmed for a further 12 hours on October 12.

The Wickford branch apologised for any inconvenience caused by the closure of the shop, but promised locals will enjoy watching the programme.

A spokesperson for Console Clinic Ltd said: "Just wanted to say thank you to all our customers and the local community of our Wickford branch for their support, patience and understanding.

"We successfully completed a 22-hour shoot for Channel 4/E4 new TV series. Keep an eye out on your adverts."



Photo credit: Phil Stalham Photography



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MOTORING



Photo credit: Chris Lawrence Travel/Shutterstock.com

# Electric dream

## LEGISLATION ANNOUNCED TO HAVE CHARGING POINTS IN ALL NEW BUILDS

The UK government recently cemented legislation that will make our rapid adoption of electric and hybrid cars all the more attractive, with new builds now bound by law to provide electric charging points for vehicles.

While the charging of a car by use of a lead from a ground-floor home or office is straightforward, the government realises access is more complicated for those living in flats or working in office blocks with no private charging point access. As a result, it is moving forward with the Department of Transport's guidance that states any new work or residential construction projects must have built-in charging points. These directives could come into force as early as 2022.

As it stands, there are almost 26,000 electric charging points in the UK. Yet the number of electric and hybrid cars on our roads is doubling every six

months and an estimated 10 times the number of current charging points will be required by 2030, the target date for when petrol and diesel cars will stop being sold in the UK.

In the UK, the cost of charging an electric car from flat battery to full is around £7 (depending on your supplier). For an average vehicle, this would produce a range of around 180 miles. The equivalent petrol or diesel cost would be around two and a half times that amount.

Despite the challenges ahead, the UK is still one of the countries leading the way in the adoption of electric cars. As well as a rapid increase in charger provision, it is investigating moves to make night-time charging a preferred option for cars – this will ensure users don't overload the grid, and also means they can take advantage of cheaper electricity prices.

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# ROMESH RANGANATHAN

CELEBRATES 10 YEARS ON THE COMEDY CIRCUIT

Romesh Ranganathan is evidence personified that it's never too late to change direction in life. The 43 year old is a regular on the live circuit, on chat and panel shows and, from the end of this year, will take on the role of host of *The Weakest Link*. He is vastly experienced, wholly respected and has within his armoury the poise and potential to become one of this generation's stars of modern entertainment.

And yet, little more than 10 years ago, the Crawley-born-and-raised comedian was still a maths teacher. While his stock on the stand-up circuit was rising all the time, Ranganathan was another year away from turning professional. Instead, he was teaching at The Beacon School in Banbury and Hazelwick School in his home town, where he was once a student.

Indeed, Romesh – real name Jonathan – owes a lot to the West Sussex town. Rarely has Crawley found itself so namechecked in popular culture, yet Ranganathan has a peculiar affinity with it.

"I've just never seen the point in leaving," he says. "It's where I grew up, it's where my family are, it has a League Two football team. What more can you really ask for?"

The dad-of-three also launched a career as a rapper, under the name Ranga, and made it all the way to the finals of a UK freestyle competition.

The double BAFTA-winning star of his own series *The Ranganation*, *The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan* and *The Reluctant Landlord*, to name but three, Romesh's appeal is in his irreverent, somewhat sneering take on the world. In a world of increasing wokery, he's unafraid to examine and celebrate racial and societal differences, always with an undercurrent of self-deprecation.

Yet this is nothing new, nor an act. At school, he was the same, happy to deliver put-downs (or "slap downs" as he would call them), yet just as willing to accept them back from classmates.

"We've got to be able to take the mickey out of ourselves first and foremost," he says. "I think when you meet people who do that, you realise that the conversation is only ever going to be good."

"I often tell people who are easily offended not to come to my gigs. I don't set out to insult people, but I will highlight our failings as human beings – all of us."

"We need to get away from this veil of perfection, or the insinuation that if anyone pokes fun at us they must be racist or sexist or mentally damaged."

"I want us all to get back to having a laugh at ourselves and each other – I'm like a schizophrenic, Asian Jerry Springer. We should all have a set of put-downs ready to fire off at any moment."

There appears little danger that Romesh's refreshing brand of comedy is going to fall by the wayside. As he prepares to celebrate a decade in his entertainment career, his first move into quiz show hosting is an interesting diversion, with *The Weakest Link* returning to our screens after a 10-year absence.

"Obviously I've done stuff like *8 out of 10 Cats* and a couple of one-off projects such as *Have I Got News for You*, but this is the big one," he says. "I'm watching old shows with Anne Robinson wondering how I can possibly emulate this institution of TV."

"She's certainly much better than me at put-downs."

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HAVING  
A  
LAUGH?





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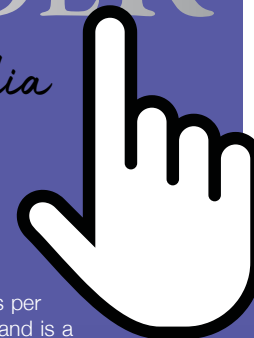
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# WIKI-WONDER

*Celebrating 20 years of Wikipedia*



In theory, it just shouldn't work. A global online encyclopaedia created by people who voluntarily update and moderate on every subject imaginable, and in many cases in real time. It is a network for information that's almost unmanageable in its size, and roundly open to the publishing of errors, be they accidental or on the part of pranksters.

And yet, somehow, Wikipedia works. The site has 18 billion web views per month, sees almost 400,000 new topics and articles added each year, and is a resource so drenched in information on, seemingly, every topic imaginable, that many of us automatically make it a first choice for research.

The site's ubiquitous popularity across different generations, different demographics and the most extreme geographical expanses the world over has even given rise to the 'wiki' prefix becoming embedded in everyday language. The exact definition of 'wiki' is a database for creating, browsing and searching through information, but its usage goes well beyond that.

Wikipedia launched on January 15, 2001, and over the past two decades has worked to deflect countless rumours that the site is dying. After all, it is a non-profit-making entity that relies on the word of its users for factual accuracy and, in a lot of cases, it does get things wrong. Yet it has never been more popular, and in an online world where nothing can truly be regulated, its worth is impossible to calculate.

Perhaps it seems perverse that the site's founder, Jimmy Wales, is rumoured to have a net worth that doesn't even make him a millionaire; or perhaps, across 20 years and almost half a trillion web impressions, he has fulfilled perfectly the idea of a website updated for the people, by the people.



TECHNOLOGY

Photo credit: iB Photography/Shutterstock.com



# PUZZLES & TRIVIA

PUZZLES

Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

- ▶ ALMOND
- ▶ BACON
- ▶ BANANA
- ▶ BLUEBERRY
- ▶ CARAMEL
- ▶ CHEESE
- ▶ CHOCOLATE
- ▶ CINNAMON
- ▶ CREAM
- ▶ HONEY
- ▶ LEMON
- ▶ MUSHROOM
- ▶ PEANUT BUTTER
- ▶ RASPBERRY
- ▶ SPINACH
- ▶ STRAWBERRY
- ▶ SUGAR
- ▶ SYRUP
- ▶ THYME
- ▶ TOMATO

R	B	L	U	E	B	E	R	R	Y	E	D	O	Q	A
X	Q	C	A	A	T	P	D	N	T	F	P	L	G	H
Z	B	R	P	A	K	P	C	A	O	T	A	M	O	T
M	V	E	U	D	P	H	L	E	K	U	E	F	R	A
R	S	A	R	K	E	O	R	T	M	J	E	V	D	R
A	P	M	Y	E	C	C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	R
S	I	R	S	O	T	M	O	O	R	H	S	U	M	E
P	N	E	H	B	G	C	Z	R	H	M	Q	R	K	T
B	A	C	Z	E	A	C	S	N	O	M	E	L	H	S
E	C	Y	Y	B	A	U	Q	U	N	E	J	Y	K	N
R	H	S	S	U	G	R	T	T	E	T	M	T	O	W
R	L	E	M	A	R	A	C	T	Y	E	C	Q	R	V
Y	Z	A	R	P	Y	R	R	E	B	W	A	R	T	S
P	E	A	N	U	T	B	U	T	T	E	R	A	L	O
Z	A	L	M	O	N	D	A	N	A	N	A	B	J	R

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ The acronym ISS stands for International Space Station
- ▶ Before applying to be an astronaut, a pilot must have completed 1,000 hours of flying time in a jet aircraft
- ▶ Neil Armstrong was the first human to walk on the surface of the moon
- ▶ According to NASA, the Space Shuttle travels around 17,600 miles per hour when orbiting the earth
- ▶ Most of the elements found in the human body originated in stars that have gone supernova
- ▶ The Space Shuttle makes one complete orbit around the earth approximately every 90 minutes
- ▶ Alan Shepard hit a golf ball on the moon during the Apollo 14 mission

## WORD LADDER

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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.

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# 30 years since the death of the icon FREDDIE MERCURY



HISTORY

It's somewhat peculiar that Freddie Mercury's only solo UK number one hit was in 1993, two years after his death – a remix of his track, *Living on My Own*, originally recorded eight years previously.

And yet, in many ways, with its choral line, "I don't have no time for no monkey business", it provided the perfect posthumous legacy for a man who lived, created and inspired like every day was his last.

Naturally, solo work wasn't ever at the crux of what made Freddie Mercury great. As a founding member of rock bastion Queen, he was a singer, songwriter and producer with a four-octave range, a breathless flamboyance and a creative lilt that put him in the same bracket as David Bowie, Sir Elton

John, Sir Paul McCartney and others.

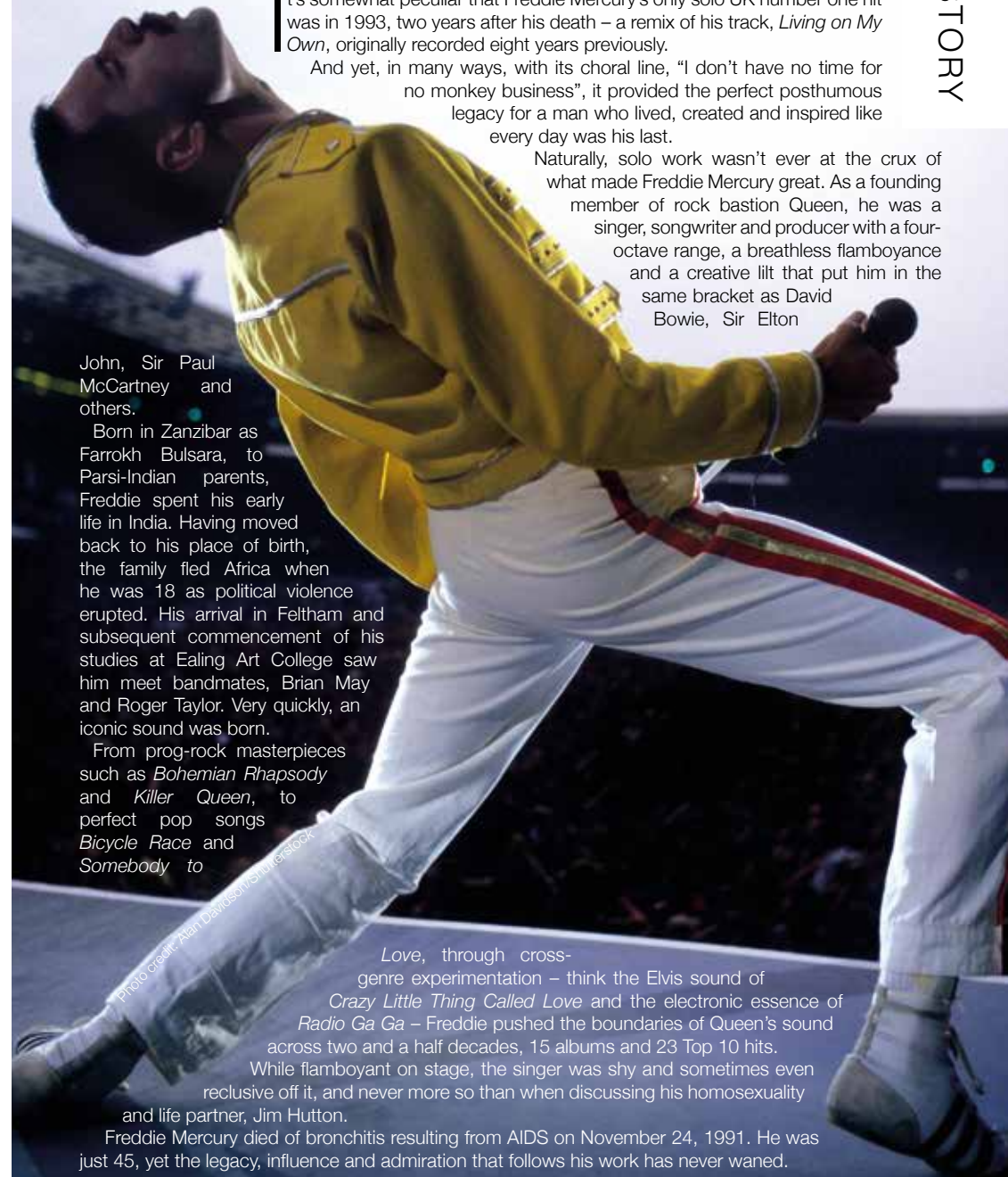
Born in Zanzibar as Farrokh Bulsara, to Parsi-Indian parents, Freddie spent his early life in India. Having moved back to his place of birth, the family fled Africa when he was 18 as political violence erupted. His arrival in Feltham and subsequent commencement of his studies at Ealing Art College saw him meet bandmates, Brian May and Roger Taylor. Very quickly, an iconic sound was born.

From prog-rock masterpieces such as *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Killer Queen*, to perfect pop songs *Bicycle Race* and *Somebody to*

*Love*, through cross-genre experimentation – think the Elvis sound of *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* and the electronic essence of *Radio Ga Ga* – Freddie pushed the boundaries of Queen's sound across two and a half decades, 15 albums and 23 Top 10 hits.

While flamboyant on stage, the singer was shy and sometimes even reclusive off it, and never more so than when discussing his homosexuality and life partner, Jim Hutton.

Freddie Mercury died of bronchitis resulting from AIDS on November 24, 1991. He was just 45, yet the legacy, influence and admiration that follows his work has never waned.





PETS

# Peculiar PET LAWS



We are a nation of pet lovers, so we think you need to know about the following pet laws in the UK. Some are common sense, some are a bit weird, and others are just plain hilarious.

### 1. NOT HAVING POO BAGS

In Daventry, Northamptonshire, you can be issued a £100 fine for not having a spare poo bag, regardless of whether your dog has fouled or not.

### 2. BURYING YOUR PET IN THE WRONG PLACE

It is illegal to bury your pet anywhere other than the grounds of the home that they lived in. You need to own your home, not just rent it. If you plan to sell, it is not a legal requirement to tell buyers about the burial, but you may want to mention it as a courtesy.

### 3. NOT SECURING YOUR PET WHEN DRIVING

You can be fined up to £5,000 and have your insurance invalidated if you fail to buckle up your pet when driving. This law applies to all pets, as not only can they act as a distraction, but their wellbeing is also at risk without suitable restraint.

### 4. RIDING A HORSE OR CATTLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Everyone knows it's illegal to drink and drive, but did you know that this law extends to horses? Yes, under the Licensing Act 1872, it is illegal to be drunk and in charge on any highway or other public place of any carriage, horse or cattle.

### 5. MATING WITH A ROYAL DOG

Although we admit this scenario is unlikely, if you do stumble upon one of Her Majesty's corgis while walking your dog, it is illegal for your pet to mate with it without seeking permission first.

### OTHER UNUSUAL PET LAWS IN THE UK:

- > You are not allowed a pigsty in front of your house unless it is appropriately hidden
- > It is illegal to run cows through the street during the daytime, although after 7pm is fine
- > In the Lancashire coast area, it is illegal to encourage your dog to bark.

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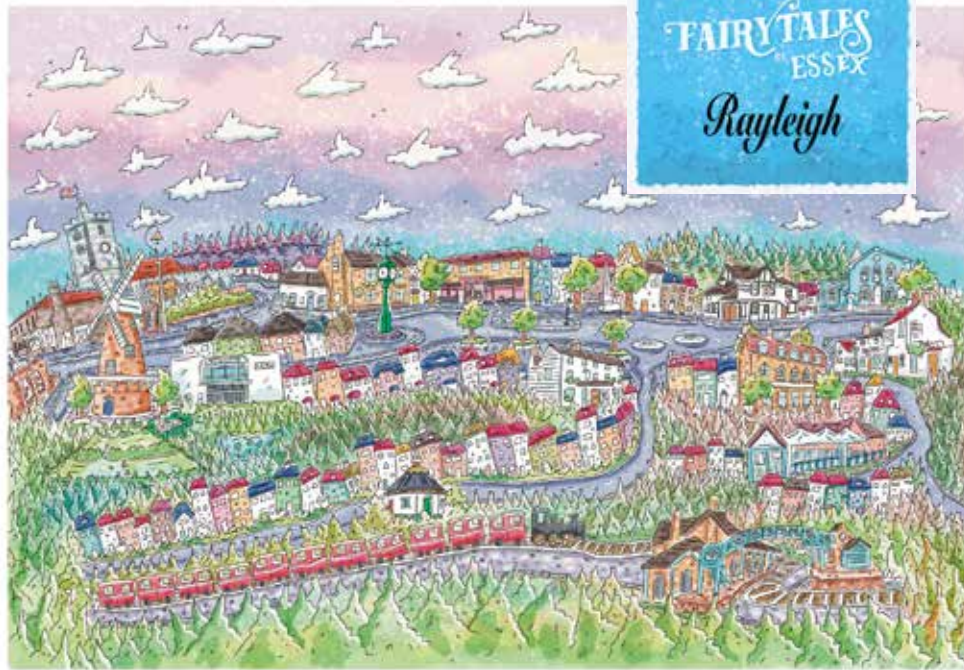
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*Hi Vision Reader,*

I'm a local artist and illustrator and for Christmas 2021, I decided to create a "Fairytale of Essex" Art Collection. Above is the artwork I created for Rayleigh.

I was overjoyed at the wonderful support and keen embrace of this project by the local residents. So many people reached out with suggestions and ideas of what could be included in this fairytale. I have learned so much about the history and community and it has really enriched my appreciation of Rayleigh. I really hope that the local community enjoys the artwork I have created.

The Fairytale includes: Rayleigh Windmill & The Mill, Rayleigh Mount, Holy Trinity Church, Dutch Cottage, Rayleigh Post Office, Rayleigh Train Station, The Pink Toothbrush, Rayleigh Primary School, War Memorial, Royal British Legion and various pubs and other buildings & details from around the town – all wrapped up in a fairytale setting.

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*Thanks & Merry Christmas,*

*Mike Young*

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**BETTER?**

**I**f you are thinking about buying a new build, you may be excited at the prospect of moving into a never-been-lived-in blank canvas that you can style into your perfect home. However, these types of properties are not without their pitfalls. Here are things to consider before committing to a new build.

**SNAGGING:** Snagging refers to teething problems in a new build, such as cracks appearing in the walls or loose guttering. Eighty-seven per cent of new build homeowners in the UK have reported snagging issues. Therefore, conduct a snagging survey to ensure everything is fixed ahead of moving in.

**LEASEHOLD OR FREEHOLD:** Many new build properties are sold as leasehold rather than freehold, although the government is planning to ban the sale of these types of houses (not flats). Leaseholders face maintenance fees, ground rent, annual service charges, a share of the building's insurance and restrictions on renovations.

**NEGATIVE EQUITY:** Make sure you do not pay over the odds for your new build. Although you may have seen the price of your preferred property plastered on hoardings around the development site, this is only the asking price, and you can and should negotiate before signing on the dotted line, because your extra costs will not be included.

**DELAYS AND EXTRA COSTS:** New build properties are often not completed on time, and if there is a hold-up during the construction of your future home, your mortgage offer could expire. You may also have to pay for essentials such as carpets, garden fences and even grass.

**SIZE:** New build homes are known for having smaller rooms than those in older properties, so you need to make sure that all your furniture and belongings will fit into your new space. Look out for (and avoid) 'micro homes', which have a total area of less than 37 square metres.



# BRUCE KING

*on how to sell yourself and what you do*



**S**ales mentor and personal growth coach, Bruce King, begins an exclusive monthly column designed to help you organise, improve and maximise everyday life.

It's often said that people do business with people they like and trust, and that's most certainly true.

Let's face it, if you look scruffy and unprofessional, have poor body language, won't make eye contact and look suspicious, it's unlikely anyone will want to talk about doing business with you.

But if you do exhibit any of those characteristics and you want to sell something to somebody, those are fairly easy to fix.

From there on, successful selling is nothing about you personally. In fact, most people have no interest in you whatsoever. The only thing they really care about is what the product or service you are selling can do for them.

Let's focus on what you sell and how to sell it. Here's a definition of selling I wrote many years ago: selling is the process of identifying problems

individuals and companies are suffering from – some of which they may not have known existed – and opportunities they could exploit, and showing them how your product or service can help them solve the problems and take advantage of the opportunities.

Therefore, we need to ask as many questions as possible to identify those problems and opportunities before presenting our products and services.

Even if they come to you with a problem and ask you to solve it, still question them further. It's likely you can discover other problems and be of even greater benefit to them.

This is called consultative selling. It's the best and easiest way to sell.

### *More information:*

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

## DO YOU SECOND VIEW?

Your first viewing is to view with your heart, how does the property make you feel? Can you see yourself living here? Could you call this house your home? If you answer yes to these questions, you are probably already thinking about what you would like to offer, but the reality is you are planning to spend hundreds of thousands of pound and/or get yourself into mortgage debt to pay for this property that you may have only spent 15 minutes in...you would actually spend longer trying on a pair a jeans that cost £30!

It's important to go back with a clear head and think strategically, go back with a neutral friend or family member or 2 to see the property objectively through fresh eyes. Think about your wants and needs does it really tick enough boxes for you or does it just have a pretty kitchen? How long are you planning to live at the property will it always meet your needs in this time, or will you quickly outgrow the property? If so, what is the potential to expand? If you are looking at make improvements what are the logistics of the work you want to do? Is it possible and what are the costs involved?

In a competitive market you could be scared of missing out by being too slow, so communicate with the estate agent, explain you are interested and calculating making an offer could you go for a second viewing as soon as possible. Ask the agent to notify you if any offers are made in the meantime, their job is to get the best possible offer so within reason if you get the second viewing booked in and an offer made within a reasonable timeframe there is no reason why they won't be happy to do this, particularly if you are in a good position and have everything in place and ready to go when making your offer.



**IF YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT HOME FOR A WHILE AND KEEP GETTING DIPPED TO THE POST WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING IN WITH AN OFFER, IT CAN BE TEMPTING TO JUMP IN WITHOUT A SECOND A VIEWING.**



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BEAUTY

# Hairband HEROES



Does your hair always fall out when you tie it up? Or perhaps you spend more time detangling your locks than enjoying your updo?

If the answer is yes, you could be using the wrong hairband for your hair type.

### For thin hair

Thin hair that is prone to breakage needs a hairband that is gentle on your delicate locks. Opt for a silk hairband that will protect your hair and help to keep flyaway strands in check. When removing a silk hairband, you should notice significantly less pulling on the roots.

### For thick hair

If you have thick hair, you are likely to experience both tangles and a struggle to keep your voluminous hair contained. Look for spiral plastic hairbands that are specifically designed for thick heads of hair, as these are easy to use and remove without your hair becoming tangled in the tie.

### For wavy hair

Do you feel like no hairband can hold back your big mane of wavy hair? Forget elastic bands and scrunchies and, instead, invest in a hair bungee. Boasting a hook on each end, a hair bungee can be easily wrapped around your hair to keep it in place all day.

### For short hair

People with short hairstyles are always going to struggle to pulling their hair back into a ponytail. However, there is a solution. Polybands are great at gripping short hair and staying in place. Small and often clear, they will simply disappear into your hairstyle.

### For straightened hair

Bringing back a blast from the past, if you want to tie your straightened hair back without causing kinks, you need a scrunchie. These hairbands work best directly after a blow-dry to help maintain a smooth and straight look. However, they are also effective at keeping your hair in place while you sleep.



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# VICKS VapoRub

7 ALTERNATIVE USES

Known for its ability to effectively manage cold symptoms, most households have a tub or two of this mentholated ointment in their medicine cupboard.

However, you may be surprised to discover what else you can use Vicks VapoRub for.

**1. TO BANISH HEADACHES:** When applied to the base of the skull, Vicks VapoRub has proved highly effective at relieving headaches, especially sinus headaches.

**2. TO SOOTHE SORE MUSCLES:** Two key ingredients in Vicks, camphor and menthol, are topical analgesics, which means they can be used to relieve pain when rubbed on to the skin. Creating a powerful cooling sensation – although the pain relief will be temporary – it can help you to get on with your day.

**3. TO HEAL YOUR FEET:** Vicks VapoRub is a popular home remedy for several foot conditions, including athlete's foot and fungal nail infections. The combination of its antimicrobial ingredients and the inclusion of petroleum jelly helps fight bacteria and lock in moisture.

**4. TO TREAT SKIN CONDITIONS:** If you suffer with either acne or eczema, Vicks VapoRub can be used to calm the skin and clear up your complexion. This is owing to its ingredients like camphor and eucalyptus.

**5. TO FADE BRUISES:** For minor bruises, Vicks can be used to reduce inflammation and cool the skin. The menthol can also help to reduce any pain you are experiencing.

**6. TO HEAL SCRAPES AND BURNS:** When applied twice a day, the petroleum in Vicks VapoRub can help to create a thick barrier on your skin so that any cuts or burns can heal. Its anti-inflammatory properties can also promote healing.

**7. TO EASE EARACHE:** If you are suffering with a mild earache, rub a small amount of VapoRub onto a cotton ball and gently place in your ear. This can help to reduce any pain, but will not clear up an infection.



HEALTH & FITNESS

Photo credit: piximoo/Shutterstock.com, ashik/istock/Shutterstock.com



Whether you want to give the gift of gin this Christmas or your motives are a little more self-focused, making your own flavoured gin is simple to do – and it can save you money.

*How to make flavoured gin*

**Step 1: Choose your gin**

If you want to create a high-quality flavoured gin, you need to pick one that is both clean-tasting and uncomplicated. Any gin that already has a flavour will not mix well, so try to stick with a classic London dry variety.

**Step 2: Pick your flavours**

As Christmas is fast approaching, you may want to choose a seasonal flavour such as cinnamon, nutmeg or cloves. However, you can pick pretty much any fruit, vegetable or herb that takes your fancy, such as strawberries, damsons, rhubarb, chilli, mint or elderflower.

**Step 3: Bottle your gin**

Pour your gin into a sterile sealable container, such as a Kilner jar, and then add your chosen infusing ingredient. You can sterilise your glass container either on a hot rinse cycle in the dishwasher or in the oven for 15 minutes at 160°C. Use around 300g of produce per litre of gin.

**Step 4: Leave to infuse**

Depending on the potency of the fruit or herb you choose to add, you can leave your infusing ingredient in for anywhere from one day to one month.

- > Strong flavours such as chilli, vanilla and citrus = less than one day
- > Hardy herbs and strong-flavoured fruit such as rhubarb and lavender = five to seven days
- > Berries and other potent fruits = three to four weeks
- > Milder ingredients like apple or pear = up to one month

**Step 5: Strain and store your gin**

Once you are happy with the intensity of your gin, strain it through a filter or muslin cloth. Pour into a well-sealed bottle and store for up to one year in a cool, dark place.



Don't go out **STAY IN!**

**A NEW COOKING EXPERIENCE ON THE BLOCK!**



I'm Simeen the face behind Naseem's Kitchen, a home based cookery school in Essex which is named after my mum. Indian mums are notorious for being feeders and I've inherited the trait. I must admit I didn't fully appreciate the amazing food I grew up with until I left home and it dawned on me that the regular food packages from my mum wouldn't always be there! It made me realise I simply couldn't live without daa! I'm now on a mission to share the knowledge handed down from my family and passion of traditional home-style North Indian cooking. Here's my pakora recipe for you to enjoy!



**ONION PAKORAS**

Recipe for 4.

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 medium onions          | 2 tsp garam masala             |
| 100g gram flour          | 1 green finger chilli, chopped |
| 3 cloves garlic, crushed | 2 tbsp chopped fresh coriander |
| Olive oil for frying     | 2 1/2 tsp salt                 |
| 1 tsp turmeric           | black pepper                   |
| 2 tsp cumin seeds        | 100ml water                    |
| 3 tsp coriander seeds    |                                |

1. Finely slice the onions.
2. In a pestle and mortar, crush the cumin and coriander seeds (or use the end of a rolling pin in a bowl).
3. Add crushed garlic, chilli, fresh coriander and all spices, mix together well.
4. Add the gram flour and combine thoroughly.
5. Add water slowly to create a very thick batter.
6. Heat the oil in a deep pan.
7. Using a tablespoon, lower a spoonful of the pakora mixture into the oil and repeat but don't overcrowd the pan. Cook for a few minutes, turn and cook the other side. The pakora should be a dark golden brown.
8. Using a slotted spoon, lift out the pakora and place on a plate with kitchen towel to absorb excess oil.
9. Serve while hot with a green chutney or my favourite, ketchup!

**LOVE INDIAN FOOD?**

Always wanted to learn how to cook Indian dishes?

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HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR

# Christmas shop

While you may have had the best intentions to save all year for Christmas, unfortunately, real life often scuppers our plans. If you haven't yet managed to put aside some extra cash for your Christmas food shop, the below tips will help you to save big on all those tasty festive treats.

### STOCK UP EARLY

Rather than leaving everything to the last minute, why not start stocking up on items such as chocolates, savoury snacks and Christmas liqueurs from now and spread the cost of your food shop over two months rather than one?

### GET SOCIAL

If you have a few favourite food brands, now is the perfect time to start following them on social media so that you can pounce on any early Christmas offers as soon as they become available. Don't forget to also sign up to their email newsletters for possible discounts.

### MAKE YOUR OWN

While some items are cheaper to buy in store – such as a Christmas pudding, which can be purchased for as little as 99p – there are some foods that are cheaper to make yourself. These include canapés, side dishes such as pigs in blankets, and even mince pies.

### SHARE THE BURDEN

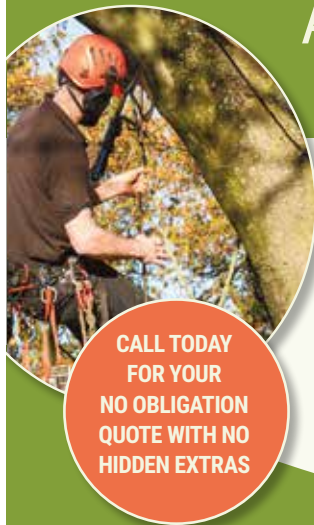
If you are hosting Christmas dinner this year and are concerned about the cost, there is no reason why you shouldn't ask family members to help out. Rather than demand cash, ask each person to bring a different dish or drink.

### USE COMPARISON SITES

Simply type into Google 'cheapest supermarket for your Christmas food shop' and you will be met with a whole host of sources that can save you money. Compare turkey costs, Christmas pudding prices, and so much more. Plus, find out about home delivery and click-and-collect slots.



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**F**ollowing last month's article on "How to build a raised bed garden", in this edition we are going to show you how to turn your raised bed into a cold frame. Ideal for hardening off seedlings, growing cool-weather crops and protecting tender perennials, a cold frame can extend your gardening season well into the winter months.

#### WHAT IS A COLD FRAME?

Essentially, a cold frame is a removable glass or plastic-covered frame that fits over the ground or over a raised bed garden. It is predominantly used to protect plants from the elements by keeping them warm using natural heat sources.

#### HOW TO ADD A COLD FRAME TO A RAISED BED

- > **Step 1:** Find a salvaged window frame that is roughly the same size as your raised bed. If it is slightly bigger, this is fine, but it cannot be smaller. Wooden frames work best as these provide ample space to affix the hinges.
- > **Step 2:** Drill holes into the window frame and the edge of the raised bed to match the holes on the hinge. Affix either one large hinge or two smaller hinges to the edge.

- > **Step 3:** Affix a handle to the opposite edge so that you can easily open and close the frame. You can find handles for this in your local kitchen design department.

#### TOP TIPS:

- > Choose a salvaged window that has small panes rather than one large pane if possible, as these are less likely to break.
- > Regularly check your cold frame over winter. If it snows, remove any build-up of snow straight away.
- > Keep a brick or stick nearby for hot days so that you can prop the lid open and prevent your plants from becoming overheated.
- > Remember to water your plants as they will not receive any rainwater.

BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS...

# DENNIS TAYLOR

We celebrate 50 years of the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield by remembering one of world snooker's greatest ever matches. To many, he was the quirky, pint-sized Irishman with glasses you'd more readily expect to see on Dame Edna Everage or Sir Elton John, yet Dennis Taylor's doubters were to be silenced on the night of April 28, 1985, when he completed one of the most dramatic fightbacks in sport to defeat Steve Davis and win the Embassy World Snooker Championship.

With a final stretched out over two days and four sessions, Englishman Davis strode into a commanding lead in the "best of 35 frames" match. The defending champion, who was looking for his fourth world title in five years, found himself 8-0 up and coasting.

Taylor fought back in the second session to trail 9-7 overnight.

The following day's play saw a cat and mouse battle, with Taylor level at 11-11 and 15-15, but never ahead. When

Davis won the next two frames, he required only one more to win the match, but Taylor again responded to level matters, and in the final frame was left needing to pot the black to win. After Davis's thin cut missed, Taylor seized the advantage to clinch the title.

A colossal audience of 18.5 million viewers watched the drama unfold on BBC Two, with the match finally finishing at 12.23am.

Taylor's achievement was made all the more remarkable after his mother's death the previous year had left him unable to muster up the enthusiasm to play.

The Crucible Theatre has hosted championship snooker since 1977 and celebrates its half-century in 2021. Its unique acoustics give even the most hushed matches a tension that other venues cannot replicate, although few kept quiet as Taylor grabbed the most sensational finish in snooker history.



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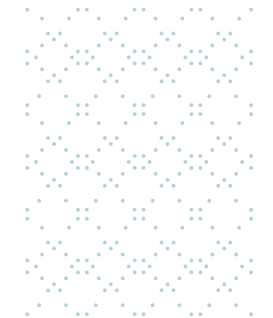
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# THE BOXING

# King



SPORT



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## TYSON FURY TAKES ANOTHER MAJOR STEP TOWARDS THE ULTIMATE PRIZE

Many judge Tyson Fury as the best British fighter we have, even as the tormentingly long wait for him to prove that – when he steps into the ring with Anthony Joshua – goes on.

And yet, across two weekends, the armchair experts who decreed the Gypsy King as the ultimate number one added considerable weight to their argument.

First, on September 25, at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Anthony Joshua lost his multiple heavyweight belts to Ukrainian Oleksandr Usyk. The manner of the defeat had echoes of Andy Ruiz Jr all over again, with Joshua looking unthreatening, hesitant and stuck in first gear. Subsequently, he lost to a unanimous points decision to take a major step back.

Then, just 14 days later, Tyson Fury stepped up once more against Deontay Wilder. After a draw in the first epic against the brazen American and a comprehensive victory in the first rematch, the

33-year-old Brit was looking to cement his reputation as the leader of the pack. And while, by his own admission, he was “rusty”, Fury again showed power, guile, craft and the ability to pick himself up off the canvas as he despatched Wilder, finally seeing off his opponent in the 11th round with a devastating blow.

So over the course of a couple of weekends, we learned a bit more about how the heavyweight division would play out. We also have a new champion in Usyk, although many will speculate his victory had as much to do with the poor performance of Anthony Joshua.

As far as the prospect of a Fury v Joshua fight goes, we still seem some distance away. The most anticipated British heavyweight boxing bout of all time slipped through the promoters' fingers against Usyk.

Joshua will need to get past his dogged, clever and unrelenting opponent in the rematch for serious talk of the all-British showdown to restart.

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