

Natural limescale removal

LIVE LONG & PROSPER this Star Trek Day

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

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Editor's notes...



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Hello and welcome to this month's edition of VISIONRayleighWickford. As they say, time really does fly. Often in our publishing world, it feels like the months just whizz by, largely owing to the fact we are always planning months ahead when it comes to content, advertisers' campaigns and editorial. My son is going into pre-school in September and my daughter is going into the big kid part of the nursery - this blows my mind. My wife and I are always in awe of how quickly the kids develop, how they communicate with one another and, of course, their ever-improving tantrums. I remember those wise words: "Enjoy the younger years; they won't last forever." And

they really don't. It's all about savouring those little moments as they do go guicker than I ever could have imagined.

The moral of the story is to enjoy the present, be present and enjoy the sleepless nights. It's hard sometimes, but just remember that you will miss these days one day.

I heard a quote recently that summed it up perfectly when they are this age: "The days are long, but the years are short." This really hit home for me.

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

Nik Allen

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





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BTAR QUALITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STAR TREK



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

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

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

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

Visually, she's a world away from the tracksuitclad kung-fu kicking star who pirouetted around stages and Top of the Pops studios – these days the singer, at 48, is stylish and motherly; yet can still mix romantic anthems with dancefloor anthems.

"For me, music has always been about evolving with the things around you," she says. "You need to follow trends, while still keeping your own sense of originality and creativity over the music you make." Away from the bright lights, Mel C has encountered her own fair share of challenges. She's battled depression, eating disorders, and admits that up until the birth of her only child,

Scarlett, in 2009, she never fully had a sense of responsibility to herself. 2022 is an exciting year for the singer, as

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

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







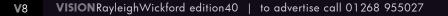
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Iain McCoo Branch Director





Are you suffering with Back Pain or Lower Back Related Pain? Even doctors are now getting frustrated!

Ten's of thousands have now found an effective and natural solution. We're here to help, Chiropractic Treatment can help with your Back Pain.

Many people these days are suffering from chronic conditions causing spinal pain that affects their quality of life and day to day activities. In many cases doctors are investing in testing and treating symptoms however, the condition keeps reoccurring and that creates frustration with the patients (and the also Doctors). It's time to consider an alternative... the accurate diagnosis and natural treatment offered by Life Chiropractic, which has helped thousands of people put their back problems behind them.

Back pain, stiffness, pain in your legs, pain in your shoulders, neck pain. If these symptoms sound familiar to you, you are one of the thousands of people in the UK who suffers from chronic back problems. Apart from the physical symptoms of back or neck pain there are social and mental effects – due to the continued pain and uncomfortable feeling many back pain sufferers avoid work and social activities which in time can lead to depression.

Treatment options if you're suffering from back pain.

Often the treatment options concentrate on reducing or managing the symptoms and may have its own side effects. As the doctors get more frustrated with trying to resolve spinal complaints following long waiting times, many people give up hope and stop searching for a solution, accepting sadly, the physical, social and mental effects as their destiny.

For those who are still searching for a solution aiming to leave the pain and the discomfort behind I would like to introduce the diagnostic and treatment modalities used by us here at Life Chiropractic Clinics. With more than twenty years experience and over thirty Chiropractors, Massage therapists and rehabilitation specialists, the team here at Life Chiropractic support our patients from initial consultation throughout treatment with face to face appointments. We are always happy to answer questions and monitor progress to ensure treatment is actually achieving what we set out to do which is to get you better. We can confidently say that the secret for the success of our treatment is the close contact and the continued support that our patients receive.

"So if your body and quality of life is important to you then you will want to come and see what we do" says Tom.

We say to all the people who suffer from back problems – don't give up, we have a solution for you. It's better to treat it now than let it get worse!

G

Judy Pritchard

I first went to the Chicopractor with a very painful back and having pain running down my right leg. I was unable to climb stairs without being in pain. I contacted Life Chicopractic Clinic and was assigned a chicopractor. They sat with me to take a history and to ascertain the possible reasons for my pain. After x-rays were done a plan of action was set and my treatment becan.

From the very first treatment my relief was phenomenal. They manipulated my back and neck and the relief I felt was amazing! I left the clinic that night with teats in my eyes because I could walk down the stairs without the excluding pain I was in at the beginning.

I cant express how much taking that first step has changed my life!

If there is anything that you should pay attention to in reading this, it would be to say that if you are hwing pain with your back, your nock, your joints, issues with waiking, range of motion, things affecting your mobility, contact the team at Life Chiropractic Clinics. You owe it to yourself and the ones you love to feel better! They will do there very best for you! Definitely give them a try, you won't regret it!

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ALLEPAPER ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DECORATE

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DECORATE WITH WALLPAPER

Allpaper is one of the easiest ways to decorate your home. It adds colour and style, helping to bring your spaces to life. But why should wallpaper stop at the wall? There are lots of home projects you can do with wallpaper to bring a unique twist to your interiors.

Bring some colour to your next DIY project with these creative wallpaper ideas.

ADD PATTERN TO A CHEST OF DRAWERS

Wallpaper is an easy way to brighten up the plainest chest of drawers. It's an easy hack that is perfect for upcycling a dated piece of furniture. Why not invest in new decorative knobs or handles to complete the transformation?

BRING COLOUR TO YOUR WALL PANELLING

Wall panelling has been a huge trend in recent years, but if you want to do something different with yours, wallpaper could be just the trick. Cut wallpaper to size and place it inside the panels to create a striking feature wall.

FRESHEN UP KITCHEN CABINETS

Wallpaper can transform your basic kitchen cabinets and give them a new lease of life. Add a simple pattern to create some interest that could make a nice contrast against the items on display.

FRAME IT

V12

Art can be expensive, so why not turn your wallpaper into a work of art instead? Framing pieces of wallpaper can help you create feature walls and add decorative touches to coffee tables, sideboards and more. You can do this affordable DIY using wallpaper samples from stores, making it a quick and affordable way to update your decor.

Getting creative with your wallpaper is a great way to embrace the trend, without committing to covering your walls. Try using different colours and textures to create an impression in your home.









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

MAKE A PUMPKIN SPICE CANDLE

- YOU WILL NEED:
- > A wide-necked 370g jar with lid (a Mason jar or
- old jam jar is perfect)

etty pumpkin

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

HOW TO MAKE

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

> Cool at room temperature then trim the wick.

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

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

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

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

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

elimination!

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

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

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

VINFGAR

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

BAKING SODA

Limescale on the glass of your shower can be tricky to shift, especially if it has been allowed to build up. To remedy this, create a cleaning spray using 1 tsp baking powder, 1 tbsp white vinegar and 1/2 cup warm water. Spray onto the glass, leave for 3-4 minutes and then wipe with a clean cloth. You do not need to rinse the glass.

LEMON JUICE

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

CITRIC ACID

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

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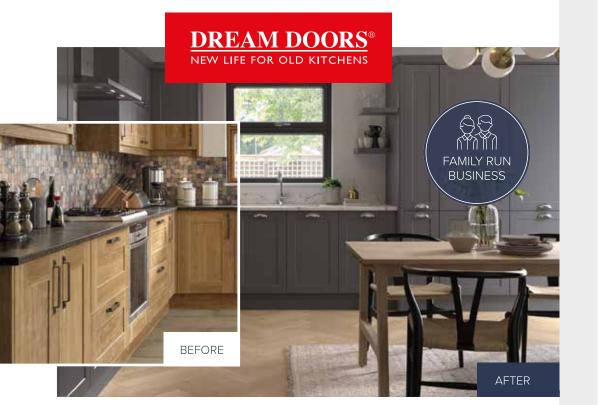


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Appeal after man suffers knife injuries in town

LOCAL NEWS from your neighbourhood

Police are appealing for information from the public after a man suffered knife injuries during an incident outside a Rayleigh shop.

The 19-year-old victim sustained injuries to his arm, hand and chest during the incident outside the Tesco Express store in London Road on Saturday, August 6. A spokesperson for Essex Police said officers

responded to reports of a fight involving two men at the store at around 2.25pm.

They said: "This incident took place in the middle of the day on a busy road, and we believe there will be a significant number of people who will have seen what happened.

"If you have any information, CCTV, dashcam or other footage in relation to this incident, then please get in contact with us." Police have confirmed that a 20-year-old man from Rayleigh was arrested in connection with an incident where another man was injured with a knife. He was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm with intent. At the time **VISION**RayleighWickford went to print, he had been released on bail pending further notice.

Anyone with any information about the incident can submit a report at www.essex.police.uk/digital101 or use the online live chat service, which is available Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) between 10am and 9pm. Please quote the crime reference number 42/207018/22.

Alternatively, you can also call 101.

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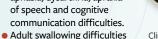
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MARK FRANCOIS MP



Member of Parliament for Rayleigh and Wickford

Cince it was announced that the Home Office Oblanned to house cross-Channel asylum seekers at The Chichester Hotel, near Rawreth, I have received a considerable number of emails about these proposals from very concerned constituents.

I would like to reassure my constituents that I very much share these strong concerns. I have attempted to contact the management of The Chichester Hotel on multiple occasions to seek urgent answers. Yet they continue to ignore requests for clarity from me and from the local and national press.

As a result, I have now met with the Immigration Minister, Kevin Foster MP, to outline to him and his officials face to face my continued strong opposition to these proposals. I explained to the Minister some of the financial issues at The Chichester and also how my constituents had been treated by the current hotel management. He has promised to come back to me with his conclusions.

In addition, having had weeks of being effectively 'stonewalled' bv the hotel managers, I have now written to the chief executive of HMRC, Mr Jim Harra, and asked him to commence a formal investigation into the financial issues at The Chichester Hotel.

I can confirm that I subsequently received a letter from the Immigration Minister on August 9. which states: "I have asked my officials to prioritise withdrawal from The Chichester as soon as our contractual obligations allow certainly within three months." In other words, the hotel should be discontinued for this purpose by around the end of October at the latest and hopefully sooner than that.



A special event is being held to mark the reopening Aof The Mill Arts & Events Centre in Rayleigh.

The public will be welcomed back to the centre with a special open day on Sunday, September 11, and the centre will then be taking bookings for events and community groups from the next day onwards.

Councillor Mike Webb, Rochford District Council's portfolio holder for housing, assets and leisure, told VISIONRayleighWickford: "We have listened to our residents and reopened The Mill.

"I hope that everyone will come down to our open day, celebrate its return and support and enjoy this valuable community hub to the full.

"The open day will run from 11am to 3pm and include a host of fun free events, live performances and surprises, with something for everyone. It's going to be a brilliant day for the community and a great day for Rayleigh."

For booking enquiries and to find out more, please email leisure@rochford.gov.uk or call 01702 963328.

V22



Family awarded for supporting abuse victims

elatives of a Wickford woman who was murdered Mwhile backpacking in New Zealand have been given an award for their work supporting victims of domestic abuse.

The Love Grace x appeal – which provides handbags filled with essential and luxury items to domestic abuse refuges - was set up by the family of 22-yearold Grace Millane, who was killed in 2018.

Grace's mother. Gillian Millane (pictured second from left), and her cousin, Hannah O'Callaghan (pictured left), were recently invited to 10 Downing Street to receive a Point of Light Award from Prime Minister Boris Johnson. These awards recognise volunteers who are working to make a change in their community.

Hannah told VISIONRayleighWickford: "We never expected to visit Downing Street or meet the Prime Minister, and it was such a humbling experience. As my aunt has said, this was all for Grace.

"We wanted to create a legacy in Grace's memory and help women who have been affected by domestic abuse, to turn our negative into a positive, and if we help just one woman, then we have achieved that."

Hannah and Gillian have been "overwhelmed" by the public's generosity in donating handbags and toiletries and are determined to continue their efforts to raise awareness of male violence towards women.

To find out more about the appeal and to donate, please visit www.lovegrace.co.uk



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WICKVISION22



Conservationist's fears over suspected river pollution



Awildlife campaigner fears it is just a matter of time before there is a repeat of the suspected pollution that killed thousands of fish in the River Crouch in Wickford.

Peter Steward, of The River Crouch Conservation Trust, believes the fish were affected by sewage that was dumped into the Nevendon Brook, which feeds into the River Crouch, during the incident last month. He said: "I have my suspicions, but I can't prove

anything.

"It's not the first time there's been pollution. It's guite a small river so anything that gets in there has a drastic effect, especially during the summer when the water flow is reduced.

"It's happening too often and is heartbreaking to see. We need people to be responsible and think about what they're doing, but I fear it's just a question of time before something like this happens again."

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency confirmed that officers were carrying out a full investigation into the cause of the incident.

The River Crouch Conservation Trust plans to stage one of its occasional work parties to clear rubbish from the river later this month. If you would like to join in, please call Peter on 07709 947279 or Roy Hart on 01268 768282.

Beloved carnival returns for first time in years

Wickford Town Carnival is set to return this month after a three-year hiatus.

In 2019, the event celebrated its 100th anniversary. with enormous crowds packing the streets of Wickford.

The carnival returns this year on Saturday, September 10. It will leave Runwell Park at 12pm and make its way to Wickford High Street, dispersing outside Nevendon Park where various stalls, rides, food, bars, displays and music will be on offer.

Sean Ellis, chairman of the Wickford Town Carnival Team, said: "It's all good fun. Carnivals in Essex certainly contain a sense of community belonging, togetherness and wellbeing.

"As an organiser and a first-time chairman of Wickford Town Carnival, it's the help and support we get here that makes volunteering so worthwhile. We have a great team of volunteers here at the carnival and we urge everyone to get along and see the parade this year, then into Nevendon Park where the party will continue.

"I think we deserve a good party; we've certainly missed you all."

Five arrested and drugs and cash seized

ive people have been arrested and a significant amount of drugs, cash and weapons have been seized after warrants were carried out in Wickford.

Police carried out warrants at four addresses on Thursday, August 11, as part of their work to tackle the sale of drugs in the south of the county.

A 59-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply a controlled drug. Two 21-year-old men and a 24-year-old woman have been arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply a class A drug, and a 55-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of possession of criminal property.

Officers also seized 1kg of suspected class A drugs. around £50,000 in cash and a number of firearms.

Detective Inspector Yoni Adler said: "These were a successful set of warrants and are part of our ongoing work to tackle the sale of drugs in the county.

"Drugs ruin lives and destroy communities and we're working every day to stop their sale. If you have any information about the sale of drugs, we need you to contact us on the non-emergency number 101."



OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL LONDON - SEPTEMBER 8 TO 21

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

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

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

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

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

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





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IDRIS ELBA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It's a real balancing act and it's safe to say I'm not there yet."

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

"Your actions don't always reflect your emotions – hey, I'm an actor, after all." And one of our finest...

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

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

Dahl's schooldays inspired many of his children's books. For instance, at his boarding school, children were asked to taste test Cadbury's chocolate bars, which inspired *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. But there were more sinister influences too, such as scary adults. In his books at least, the children always got their revenge. After leaving school, Dahl worked in East Africa and was a spy and an ace fighter pilot during the Second World War. In 1953, Dahl married American actress Patricia Neal and together they had five children. The couple divorced after 30 years and Dahl later married film producer Felicity Crosland.

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

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

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

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



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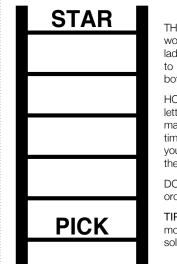
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- Trees contain quite a lot of water. When lightning strikes, most of the water reaches boiling point, turning it to steam and increasing pressure. This can cause the tree to explode.
- The average blue whale has a heart approximately the size of a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

V36

WORD LADDER



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

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

DO NOT rearrange the order of the letters.

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



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

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

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

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

Industry experts guessed that the manufacturer's next move would be to push those ideals further forward, but instead Ford went into overdrive with a design that rivalled the comfort of Audi, the sleekness of Citroën and Porsche (indeed, the inspiration for Sierra's quarter glass came from the Porsche 928), and as for dashboard technology, the manufacturer had taken the very best elements from the likes of Saab and BMW.

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

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

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

Ford's

TOUR DE FORCE

V38



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

Sloes grow on blackthorn bushes, which are found all over the UK. The bushes blossom in early spring with clouds of pretty white flowers, and the deep purple berries start forming in August. For sloe gin, people often recommend that you don't pick them until after the first frost. Apparently, this makes the barries sweeter and softer. The only problem is that birds love sloes too.

this makes the berries sweeter and softer. The only problem is that birds love sloes, too, and they might get there before you do.

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

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

How to make sloe gin

Ingredients:

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

Method:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Blackberry fruit crumble squares

INGREDIENTS:

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

HOW TO MAKE:

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

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1. USE EIGHT CHARACTERS MINIMUM

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

2. AVOID WORDS IN THE DICTIONARY

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

3. DO NOT USE FAMILY NAMES

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

social media profiles.

4. INCLUDE SPECIAL CHARACTERS

letters in your passwords with special characters. For example, rather than using the password 'Edward1', you Each character you add to your could use '3dw4rd!'. By replacing letters with characters that look similar, you are also less likely to forget your password.

5. USE PASSPHRASES. NOT PASSWORDS

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

6. TRY A PASSWORD GENERATOR

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



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echnology has put us more in touch with our bodies than ever before. It all began with the advent of the internet, whereby we could quickly and effectively research ailments by typing symptoms into Google.

TN A

HEARTBEAT^V

Of course, seeing as we've all wrongly self-diagnosed a worst-case scenario, it might be said that the technology lets us down, and that concept is at the core of why a growing number of doctors are expressing fear at the breadth of heartrate monitors that now follow our every move.

From the simple Fitbit to the Apple Watch, right through to medical-grade vests

measuring every throb and pulse, the data we accumulate can often be used in real-time to warn us of a possible problem, because when someone's heart skips a beat, tech companies want to let that person know about it.

Yet cardiologists say the information these devices produce isn't always useful. After all, notifications from the devices aren't definitive diagnoses, and in our pursuit of health we are now more likely to respond in a manner that leans on the healthcare system, when what we are receiving is often a false alarm.

"The technology has outpaced us," says Rod Passman, a cardiologist at Northwestern University who's assisting with a study examining the Apple Watch's ability to screen for heart rhythm conditions. "Industry came out with these things because they could. Now we're playing catchup and trying to figure out what to do with this information."

So while some products will call for help if the wearer has been in a car crash or had a bad fall, others are fully making patients the protagonists in maintaining their health, and that's dangerous. Rod adds: "The fact is that these devices are

lifestyle, not healthcare, devices, and the hundreds of millions of users need to enjoy their exercise without the anxiety of the unknown."



GARDEN GREENS

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

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

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

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

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

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







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

Signs of hibernating wildlife

Leaf pile

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

Movement in a pond

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

Mounds of soil

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

Long grass

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

Leaves on a wall

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

How to protect hibernating wildlife

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



September is the perfect month for planting spring bulbs, and these can be placed directly into borders or in pots for patios and smaller gardens.

Discover our top picks for a blooming beautiful spring garden below.

Suburdicopt: Snowdrops are the first bulbs to flower, usually in February, and are often hailed as the first sign of spring. With the ability to flower whatever the weather, even in snow, these delicate flowers thrive in moist, well-drained soil and in partial shade. Grow in borders or pots.

Vises: Iris reticulata is ideal for small pots, window boxes and raised beds. Bringing some muchneeded colour to your garden as early as February, irises like the sun and free-draining spots.

Crocuses: Crocuses provide a carpet of colour in the garden from late winter onwards and are very easy to grow. They are well suited to both borders and pots; place them in a sunny spot for best results.

Tulips: Tulips come in almost every colour, from pastels to rich shades. They are perfect for adding vibrancy to spring borders in April and May but can also be grown in pots. Tulips favour full or afternoon sun and the soil must be well drained.

Hyacintles: Highly fragrant and available in a wide range of colours, hyacinths look amazing in borders in the front garden or in pots for a splash of colour. Hyacinths thrive in most soils as long as they are not too wet. Plant in full sun or partial shade.

Daffodils: Daffodils are synonymous with spring and there are many different varieties for you to choose from. Ranging in height from 10cm to 45cm, daffodils can be yellow, white, cream or lemoncoloured. They grow very well in pots but also make a great addition to borders.







When the are a nation of animal lovers, with 59 per cent of UK households owning a pet. However, that doesn't mean that we always get everything right with their care. Read our list of the most common pet parenting mistakes below to see if you're guilty.

X NOT TRAINING YOUR PET

Did you forgo puppy training? If yes, then you are putting your pooch at a distinct disadvantage. When done correctly, training can help to provide guidance, support and structure, all of which your puppy needs in the early stages of their development.

X OVERFEEDING YOUR PET

Overfeeding is an extremely common pet parenting mistake which can lead to a whole host of health problems. Whether you don't know the correct portion sizes or you are guilty of handing out too many treats, it is vital that you help your pet maintain a healthy weight.

X AVOIDING THE VET

Vet bills can be extortionate, which can lead to pet parents avoiding essential check-ups. That being said, it is actually more cost-effective to take your pet to the vet regularly rather than wait until they require treatment. Remember, prevention is always better than cure.

PETS

X FORGETTING DENTAL HEALTH

Oral health problems such as sore gums, tooth decay and bad breath can all affect pets in the same way that they do humans. Therefore, it is essential that you care for your dog's or cat's teeth. Daily brushing is the most effective way to prevent periodontal disease and only takes a few minutes of your day.

X NOT GIVING ENOUGH ATTENTION

While you may have showered your new puppy or kitten with love, it can become all too easy to fall into the habit of not paying your pet enough attention. However, the more you observe your pet, the more likely you are to spot any behavioural changes or health issues.



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

It's a

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

Why is balance important?

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

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

How to improve your balance

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

Single leg lift

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

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

Balance walk

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

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away from competitive action for almost a decade. Going out in style, she won Keirin gold at the London Olympics in 2012.

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

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

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

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

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

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