

## SUSANNA REID

Breakfast TV presenter celebrates 20 years on screen

### As any expecting mother knows, pregnancy can be both a beautiful and challenging experience.

As your body changes and adapts to accommodate your growing baby, it's essential to ensure that you're taking care of yourself in the best way possible. One fantastic option that more and more expecting mothers are turning to is chiropractic care.

Chiropractic care is a non-invasive. drug-free approach to healthcare that focuses on the musculoskeletal system, particularly the spine. It can help relieve pain, reduce inflammation, and improve mobility, all of which can be especially beneficial for pregnant women.

Before birth, chiropractic care can help align the pelvis, which can make for a smoother delivery. It can also help alleviate common pregnancy symptoms such as back pain. During pregnancy, chiropractic care can also help regulate hormones and improve overall wellness.

After birth, chiropractic care can help new mothers recover from childbirth faster. It can help reduce inflammation, restore proper alignment, and relieve pain associated with the postpartum period. Chiropractic can also help new mothers with issues such as breastfeeding difficulties, postpartum depression, and fatigue.

Chiropractic care is a safe and effective way to support your body through the unique challenges of pregnancy and childbirth.

By addressing musculoskeletal issues, it can help ensure a healthier and more comfortable pregnancy, a smoother delivery, and a faster recovery. If you're an expecting mother or a new mum, consider adding chiropractic care to your self-care routine. Your body (and your baby) will thank you for it.



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## Editor's notes...

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of VISIONRayleighWickford. As our communities continue to face the challenges imposed by the pandemic, it's more important than ever to support our local businesses.

On our local high streets, we are fortunate to have a wealth of independent shops and small businesses that offer a personal touch, excellent customer service and a range of unique products that you won't find in big chain stores. By choosing to shop with these businesses, you are investing in the community and supporting the growth of our local economy. So, whether you're in need of groceries, gifts or home essentials, be sure

to check out your nearest independent shop or local high street store. Not only will you

be supporting the community, but you'll also benefit from the personalised service of small business owners. It's also worth noting that many of the businesses featured in this magazine are independently owned and operated. When you call to make a purchase or enquiry, be sure to mention that you saw their advert in our publication. It's this kind of support and feedback that allows us to keep producing high-quality magazines that celebrate and promote our local businesses and communities.

In short, shopping local is crucial to ensuring the prosperity of our businesses and communities.

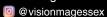


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At the time of print all content in VISION was relevant and up to date according to COVID-19 government guidelines





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## VOICE OF FOOTBALL JOHN MOTSON OBE

n occasion, sports commentators can be more famous than the very stars they report on. John Motson OBE ascended to such a level – larger than life in the best sense, instantly recognisable by sight or voice, and arguably the most iconic football reporter the country has ever produced. His death in February may have saddened the nation, but his legacy lives on.

"Oh, what a goal! What a goal! Radford the scorer. Ronnie Radford! And the crowd... the crowd are invading the pitch..."

These are the magical words that John Motson uttered as Hereford United legend Ronnie Radford – who himself passed away just three months before Motty – thundered an equaliser into the top corner, on a quagmire of a pitch, in an FA Cup third round reply against Newcastle United in February 1972.

The Salford-born Motson has since described this as the moment he put himself on the map at the BBC, as those in power quickly pushed a three-year contract his way and promoted him to their commentary team for high-profile matches.

Motty's contribution to English and international football folklore past that point is mesmerising. He covered 29 FA Cup finals, 10 FIFA World Cups, 10 UEFA European Championships, and more than 200 England national team matches.

Motson's first work with the BBC was as a sports presenter on Radio 2, in 1968. He stepped up for his first radio commentary game a year later, in December 1969, as World Cup winner Alan Ball scored the only goal in Everton's victory over Derby County at Goodison Park.

"It felt like the start of something big for me," Motty said in a recent interview, "and really it was my absolute dream to be commentating on football.

#### 'He covered 29 FA Cup finals, 10 FIFA World Cups, 10 UEFA European Championships, and over 200 England national team matches'

"Whether it was Wembley in front of 90,000 or a non-league game in front of a few hundred, the pleasure was in covering every shot, every run, every pass. I do believe I have been so, so lucky."

While fans can reel off Motty's commentary to accompany special moments for their respective sides, there were darker moments in the broadcaster's career too. Indeed, on April 15, 1989, during an FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, Motson had to draw upon professionalism and humanitarianism, while keeping his emotions intact, as the horrific events of Hillsborough unfolded in front of him. He later appeared as a witness at the Hillsborough inquiry.

While his own club allegiances were kept secret for much of his professional career – which also branched out into radio commentary for BBC 5 Live and talkSPORT – Motty actually revealed in his book that he was a Chelsea fan.

"When I got to *Match of the Day* in 1971, Chelsea was my first commentary. Somehow, my Chelsea loyalties were pushed into the background, as I always wanted to be unbiased and neutral.

"I deliberately avoided answering honestly when someone enquired who I supported. 'Barnet' was my usual response!"

Motson, who was famous for his sheepskin coat, had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the game, and always carried with him his own self-penned book of statistics relating to the clubs he was covering.

He passed away peacefully on February 23, 2023, aged 77 years old, thus concluding more than half a decade of exemplary service.

The influence he had over the modern game has been immense, and will continue to be even after his passing.

# MEET THE MIGHTY TITANOSAUR

magine coming face-to-face with a creature four times as long as a London bus and weighing as much as 15 African elephants.

Sadly, the colossal titanosaur that meets this description, probably the largest-ever land creature, died out about 66 million years ago. But from March 31, the Patagotitan mayorum will be displayed in Europe for the first time at London's Natural History Museum.

So what can you expect to see? For starters, you can walk beneath the spectacular titanosaur cast, moulded from the most complete fossil specimen ever discovered. But there's so much more to this interactive exhibition than that.

While you're gawping in awe at the Patagotitan, you can also check out the plants and animals that were around at the time by admiring the surrounding illustrations. And you can follow the life history of a titanosaur on film, from its birth from a football-sized egg to a fully grown adult.

You can also handle fossil specimens, stare into the creature's giant skull, measure yourself against its massive thigh bone, and even smell its poo.

The original Patagotitan fossil consists of bones from seven creatures, found in the same area just nine years ago. It all began when an Argentinian farmer spotted his lost sheep on an odd-looking rocky ledge. Dinosaur finds in the area aren't rare, so he called the scientists in to get their thoughts. The rocky ridge turned out to be a thigh bone of a new species – the biggest dinosaur ever.

Life as the Biggest Dinosaur is open from March 31, 2023, till January 7, 2024, at the Waterhouse Gallery, National History Museum, South Kensington. The exhibition is suitable for children aged five and over. Tickets cost £16 for adults and £9 for children. Concessions and family tickets are available.

For more information, visit www.nhm.ac.uk



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orget weird little pompom creatures with googly eyes.; these fuzzy balls of fun have just got a whole lot cooler.

Pompoms have been decorating the tops of hats for centuries; even Vikings wore them. More recently, they've been spotted on the hats of soldiers, sailors, priests, and all manner of berets and beanies.

#### How to make.

Traditionally, pompoms are made using two cardboard circles.

- For a 6cm diameter pompom, draw and cut out two cardboard circles, each 5.5cm diameter.
- Then draw and cut a section out of the circles and cut a 2cm hole in the
- Place the two circles together.
- Using long lengths of yarn, feed your yarn through the centre hole and wrap all the way around the edges of the circles and back up. Continue till the hole is nearly full.
  - Break the yarn, then push your scissors between the two circles from the outside edge and cut through the yarn all the way around.
    - Tie a length of yarn very tightly around the middle then remove the
    - To finish, just give your pompom a neat haircut. To speed things up, get hold of some pompom makers from your local craft shop or online; they only cost a few pounds.

#### Pompom ideas:

- Use your pompoms to create furry animal decorations add googly eyes and even little ears and tails cut out of card
- Hang them on a key to make a keyring
- Make a pair of dangly earrings
- Thread them on a long piece of yarn to make a garland
- Sew a large pompom or three smaller ones onto the corners of a plain cushion
  - Attach them around the top of a plain basket
    - For some simple wall art, hang a few lengths of varn from a piece of dowel and thread a few pompoms on each.





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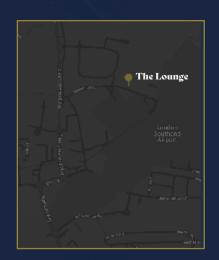
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28th April **John Martin** 



29th April Rose Windross

# Morning.

Pringing design influences from both sides of the Atlantic, nune is a collaboration between British designer Sheena Murphy and Canadian Tor Sauder, who run studios in London and New York respectively and create dreamy designs all over the world.

Known for subtle, clean designs that are full of light, their projects have a Scandinavian influence that is popular in many contemporary homes.

The designers state their work is "driven by the simple belief that thoughtful design contributes to wellbeing; we work to create comfortable, approachable spaces". Their style has a calming, pleasing aesthetic, and uses a lot of light colours paired with wooden accents and dashes of colour for a look that's modern but timeless.

Their style works in contemporary apartments and Victorian period properties, highlighting nune's talent for transforming spaces into liveable works of art.

#### How to get the nune look

The great thing about the nune aesthetic is that it can be simple to create in your own home. Some great tips to refresh your space and embrace the nune style include:

- Keep spaces light and airy by choosing lighter colours for your walls and flooring, like white, cream, beige and grey, and bring in black, grey and wooden accents to add some contrast.
- Take a minimal approach. Add storage to hide clutter for spaces that are easy to maintain. This will also help to create a more calming environment.
- Use abstract art to add touches of personality to your space. Finding artwork that complements your colour scheme can help keep the look simple but coordinated.
- Use soft textures like fluffy or knitted cushions and throws to add cosy vibes, ideal for making a home feel warmer during the colder months.

The nune style is an easy one to recreate in your own home and can be budget-friendly.













Photo credit: nunenune.con

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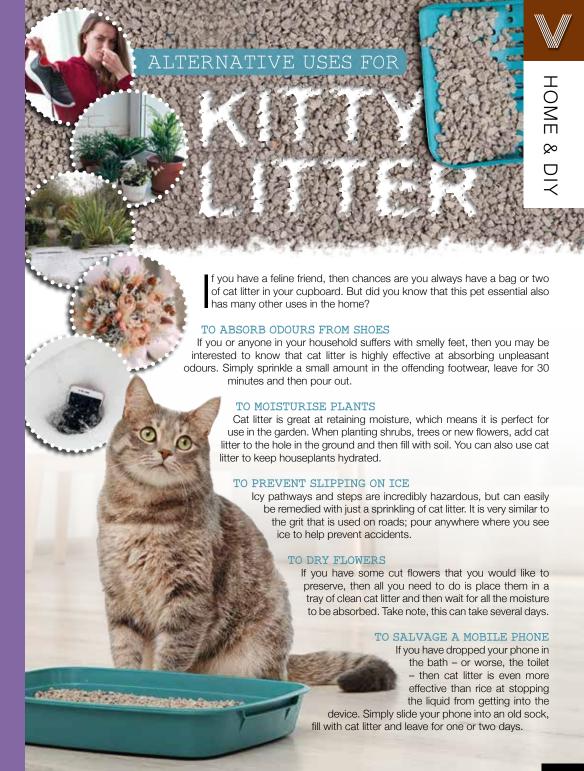
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# SPR NG REBOOT

pring cleaning is all very well. But sometimes you might feel the need to do something more. So why not bring in the new and throw out – or better still, recycle – some of the old? You'll feel energised and refreshed, all ready for the

brighter days ahead.

ADD A SPLASH OF COLOUR: The terracotta and dark greens we all loved in winter can look a bit dowdy in spring, so perk things up with something brighter. Yellow, bright green and pink can all liven up a home. You don't need to redecorate completely; painting a piece of furniture in a new colour can help to put a fresh spin on things. And if you don't want to go that far, add a few cushions, lightweight throws or an art print. Floral designs are perfect and look great with stripes or gingham.

BRING IN THE GREEN: Not the colour this time, but foliage. Think fresh flowers, potted plants and

terrariums. If you want to be super-thrifty, a bunch of wildflowers from the garden can look great when arranged in a big glass jar. Have a hunt for some unusual containers – galvanised watering cans, terracotta pots and woven baskets can all work well.

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE: You won't have to draw your curtains or blinds so early with the longer evenings. This is often enough to make your room look bigger and brighter, but don't forget to wash the windows. If you like, add some inexpensive sheer curtains. You could also choose some spring-scented candles – though remember to follow safety guidelines.

GET MOVING: Rearranging existing decorations costs nothing and can give a room a new lease of life. Try moving mirrors, lamps and furniture to see how it makes you feel.

Above all, have fun!



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FROM YOUR AREA



## Choir's surprise performance raises funds for Comic Relief



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undreds of choir singers took over a Rayleigh supermarket last month as part of their epic fundraising mission.

Two hundred members of Buskerteers Choir took over Sainsbury's in Rayleigh Weir on March 11, surprising those going about their shopping with an impromptu performance of Dolly Parton's 9 to 5.

The choir succeeded in raising more than £8,000 for Comic Relief and the performance went viral on social media platform TikTok, being viewed more than 175,000 times. It also featured on BBC News.

Andrew Small (pictured centre), who led the fun dressed as Dolly, said: "Our campaign for Comic Relief started off as an idea in my head that was brought to life by talented people, raising thousands of pounds for charity and making it all the way to national television. We are an absolutely outstanding team. To everyone who watched, shared, liked and donated, thank you."

The Buskerteers Choir has set its total fundraising goal at £1million, and in the last few weeks has also raised money for the British Red Cross and The Brain Tumour Charity. The choir currently has 16 divisions across various locations in Essex. To find out more, visit www.buskerteerschoir.com

## Man charged with assault and sexual assault

An arrest has been made following an incident of assault and sexual assault in Rayleigh.

Police were called to Rayleigh High Street shortly after 3am on Sunday, March 12, following reports of a woman being sexually assaulted.

Attending officers found that five males were also assaulted during the incident. A 23-year-old man was arrested on the scene.

An Essex Police spokesperson said: "Cody Hurren, of Danbury Down, Basildon, has since been charged with one count of sexual assault and five counts of assault."

Hurren was due to appear at Southend Magistrates' Court on April 11, as **VISION**RayleighWickford went to print.

## Pub allays fears it had closed its doors for good

AWickford pub which is nearly a century old is set to remain open after concerns were raised that it was closing its doors for good.

Fears that The Swan would close were sparked when the pub was seen boarded up in January. However, at the end of March, a new Facebook account revealed that the pub is undergoing a series of renovations.

The pub, which has stood in the town since 1925, is set to return to its original name of The White Swan and the original stone sign will be restored.

A spokesperson said: "It's very close to the pub's 100th anniversary; we think that means party time at The White Swan to celebrate this huge milestone."





## LOCAL

### **MARK FRANCOIS MP**

Rayleigh and Wickford





I know from the emails I receive and going out canvassing that my Rayleigh and Wickford constituents are heartily sick and tired of the amount of roadworks they have had to endure in recent years. There is also some sense of urgency about this, as CityFibre UK is due to start digging up the roads in our constituency this spring as part of its plan to lay gigabit-capable broadband across the area. I suspect my constituents will eventually welcome the much faster internet connectivity, but not the potential disruption while it is being installed.

Following a recent meeting with Roads Minister Richard Holden MP in Westminster (pictured far left), he has issued a public statement in support of my campaign to 'can the cones', aimed at reducing overrunning roadworks.

Subsequent to the meeting, in which I was strongly supported by my Parliamentary colleagues, Anna Firth, MP for Southend West (pictured far right), and Vicky Ford, MP for Chelmsford (pictured second from right), as well as Essex county councillor Andrew Sheldon (pictured top right), the minister issued the following public statement: "Delays to roadworks and

the disruption they cause are unacceptable. I welcome the proposals contained in Mark's Roadworks Bill to increase fines on roadworks that run over time and for greater cooperation between authorities."

Realistically, my Roadworks (Regulation) Bill is unlikely to make it onto the Statute Book (for lack of Parliamentary time). Nevertheless, I am trying to persuade Department for Transport ministers to adopt some of the ideas it contains, in order to speed up roadworks and increase the fines (including up to 10 per cent of their annual turnover for persistent offenders) for companies that overrun their allocated time to complete the job, thus causing a lot more disruption than is strictly necessary.

I will continue to press ministers for at least some progress on the subject of roadworks, not just locally but hopefully further afield as well.

Finally, on the subject of roads, I am also making representations to Essex County Council Highways about the number of potholes across the constituency. The government has recently given Essex County Council an extra £5million to address this problem, but I would like to see it spent as effectively as possible.

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## YOUR LOCAL EVENTS



#### CRIME AND MYSTERY WRITING TRAIN

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Saturday, April 22, 9.45am - 12pm

This creative writing event for adults aged 14 and over will begin at Wickford Library and will see attendees catch the train to Burnham-on-Crouch.

Taking inspiration from the journey and surroundings, the event will conclude with a workshop session at Burnham Library, bringing together everyone's creative ideas and insights. Bring with you a pen, paper and a drink.

The event will be led by Syd Moore, Essex author-inresidence and bestselling novelist.

Tickets are £5 and include return train travel and the workshop. Purchase tickets from www.bit.ly/3ZDbETv

#### **FOLK AND BESPOKE ARTISAN CRAFT FAIR**

The Mill Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh, SS6 7ED

Saturday, April 22, 10am – 3pm

Residents will have the chance to peruse a market featuring more than 40 stalls which will showcase a number of local artists, makers and creatives in one place.

#### **BACK AT THE MILL**

The Mill Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh, SS6 7ED

Saturday, April 22, 7pm - 9pm



Rayleigh Brass will return to the Mill Arts and Events Centre with an eclectic selection of favourites curated by members. From marches to love stories, Disney to *The Sound of Music*, and *Blue Moon* to *Bohemian*  Rhapsody, there will be something for everyone in this concert.

Purchase tickets from www.bit.ly/3nqr1RC

#### **CORONATION PICNIC**

King George V Playing Field, Rayleigh, SS6 8JD

Saturday, May 6, all day



Rayleigh Town Council has hired a large screen to broadcast the coronation of King Charles III, giving residents the chance to watch the ceremony while enjoying a picnic with family and friends. The pavilion snack bar will be open and there will be a selection of cinema-style food and drink stalls on site.

#### THE JIVE ACES

Rettendon Lodge, Burnham Road, Battlesbridge, Wickford, SS11 7QT

Thursday, May 11, 7.45pm

Fresh off an American tour, the six-piece jazz and jive band will be performing their repertoire of high-energy vintage-style entertainment.

Residents may recognise The Jive Aces from *Britain's Got Talent*, where they made the semi-finals in 2012

Purchase tickets from www.bit.ly/3TNEG1I

#### **RAILWAY ROCK 'N' ROLL**

Wickford Railway Social Club, Wickford, SS12 0AD Saturday, May 13, 8.30pm

Rockin' Appellos will be performing at Wickford Railway Club with a train-load of classic rock 'n' roll tracks ideal for dancing. Come along and blow off some steam. Free entry.

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## **An ancient forest with** sinister secrets

pping Forest's history is as celebrated \_as it is sinister – a place of great natural and agricultural beauty, yet also a place renowned as a hiding spot for the county's gangster fraternity.

At first glance, Epping Forest's beauty is rather simple - an ancient woodland of some 6,000 acres that straddles the border between the counties of Essex and Greater London, and one that serves as a thriving oasis of natural beauty and biodiversity.

It rates as the largest public open space in the London area, providing a vital green lung for millions of people who seek solace in its verdant embrace.

The forest dates back thousands of years, when it was part of a vast, continuous woodland that stretched across England. In the 12th century, it became a designated royal hunting ground, and in 1878, Queen Victoria bestowed it upon the people for their enjoyment and recreation. Since then, the City of London Corporation has managed the forest, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

It contains more than 50,000 ancient trees majestic beech, oak and hornbeam - many of which are more than 1,000 years old, with traditional and fiercely protected woodland management practices that reflect its ecological past.

Subsequently, Epping Forest provides a critical habitat for various wildlife species, including the rare and elusive fallow deer, as well as a host of other mammals, birds, insects, and a rich variety of fungi. It's also thought to be a hotspot for truffles.

The forest contains a vast network of footpaths, bridleways and cycling trails, inviting visitors to explore its enchanting beauty.

These routes have also, in the past, offered an elaborate map for local criminal entities to dispose of contraband, weaponry and bodies, In addition, the much-vaunted Epping Forest Country Club, a collection of three nightclubs, endured a controversial existence before final closure in 2002.

In 2023, Epping Forest has largely been returned to a place that captivates and inspires visitors with its breath-taking landscapes, vibrant ecosystems, and profound historical significance.















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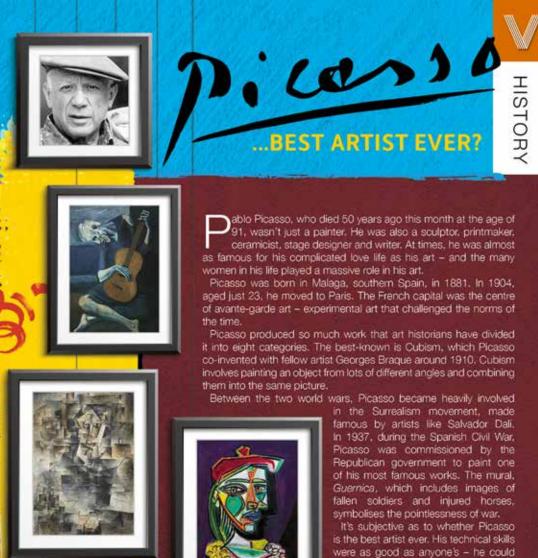
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#### **ENGLEMAN WILLS**

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produce paintings like old masters while still in his teens. But what's certain is that no one in the 20th century influenced art quite like he did.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Picasso's iconic striped t-shirt was designed by Coco
- His full name is actually 23 words long: Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno Maria de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santisima Trinidad Martyr Patricio Clito Ruiz y Picasso
- He produced 47,800 works of art in his 78-year career.
- His father was an art professor
- In 2005, his painting Le Rêve sold for \$155million.

# Don't worry

If you are feeling a little down, this may not be because of something happening (or not happening) in your life, but may be owing to where you live.

According to an annual survey carried out by property experts Rightmove, there are 10 places in the UK where residents feel the happiest.

- St Ives, Cornwall: Coming in at number one is St Ives in Cornwall, which scored highly for community spirit, safety and a sense of belonging.
- Galashiels, Scotland: One of the most affordable areas in the top 10. Galashiels scored highly for friendliness and politeness of the locals.
- Woodbridge, Suffolk: The market town of Woodbridge came in third overall and first in the East of England.
- Hexham, Northumberland: Well known for its stunning floral gardens and parks, the market

town of Hexham came in fourth on the list.

- Perth, Scotland: The vibrant riverside city of Perth, which was once the capital of Scotland, came second in Scotland and fifth overall owing to its sense of belonging.
- Harrogate, Yorkshire: Harrogate is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and scored highly on access to nature and green spaces.
- Anglesey, Wales: Hitting the top spot in Wales, Anglesey gained the highest score for its local green spaces and abundance of nature.
- Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: A historic market and cathedral town, Bury St Edmunds is surrounded by countryside and boasts a rich history.
- Stirling, Scotland: Coming in third out of all locations in Scotland and ninth overall, the historic city of Stirling is known for its friendly local community.
- Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Cirencester sadly could not beat St Ives in the South West but still made it into the top 10 owing to its beautiful countryside and picturesque Cotswold villages.

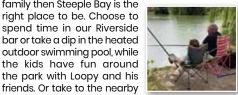




wonderful, waterside retreat with beautiful views of the estuary. Situated on the coast near Southminster,

the park is the hidden treasure of the South East of England, with ready access to the Mayland Creek.

If you're looking for a relaxing getaway for all the family then Steeple Bay is the right place to be. Choose to spend time in our Riverside bar or take a dip in the heated outdoor swimming pool, while the kids have fun around the park with Loopy and his



relax and watch the boats and yachts go by.

The park boasts great facilities including a wellstocked fishing lake, an adventure playground and an amusement arcade. Along with our leisure pool, there is also a paddling pool for our very youngest quests.

A visit to the clubhouse will round off a perfect day with tasty food and drink available, along with live music and top shows during busier periods.





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DOES YOUR DOG HAVE A SKINCARE ROUTINE? HERE'S WHY SKINCARE IS SO IMPORTANT FOR YOUR DOG'S OVERALL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

#### WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF SKINCARE ISSUES IN DOGS?

Dogs are susceptible to many of the same skin problems as humans, and these are typically caused by the following: Poor nutrition | External allergies or bites | Parasite infections Skin conditions such as seborrhoea | Food allergies | Bacterial infections

#### **HOW TO BUILD A SKINCARE ROUTINE FOR YOUR DOG**

#### Wash them regularly

On average, you should wash your dog once a week to preserve their skin and coat. However, this can vary depending on breed, with very active dogs requiring more frequent bathing. Always use two applications of shampoo: one to cleanse the coat and skin of dirt and old skin cells, and one that should be left on for 10-15 minutes, to penetrate the skin.

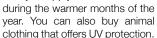
#### **Protect them from pests**

Flea control is a must if you want to keep your dog's skin in optimal condition. Use flea prevention treatments all year round and visit your vet regularly for check-ups.

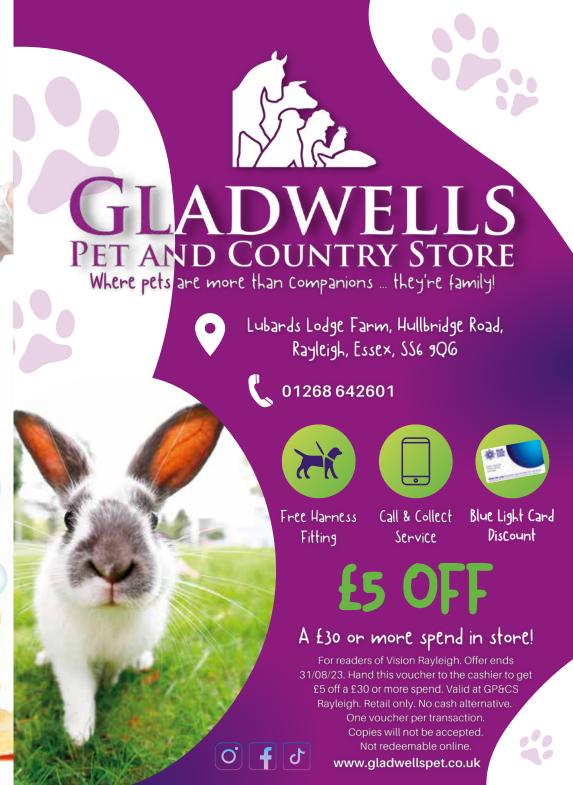
#### Focus on good nutrition

The foundation of healthy skin is nutrition, so you need to make sure that your dog is getting a complete and well-balanced diet. You don't need to buy the most expensive dog food on the market: you only need to ensure that their diet fits their needs.

especially those with short hair or light skin. Therefore, it is vital









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I <sup>st</sup> Austria - 9 Days	£885.00	16th May - RSPB Minsm
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	£190.00	26th May - Chelsea Flow
A SAMPLE OF FUTURE DAY TI	RIPS	28th May - Leeds Castle
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> – An afternoon at the	e Oscars	2 <sup>nd</sup> June - Harry Potter
E46.50		8th June - Aint too Prou
22 <sup>nd</sup> April - Detling Antiques	£25.00	(story of the T
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Too Good To Go OLIO Karmo nosh



THE BEST APPS TO CUT DOWN ON FOOD WASTE

The UK was responsible for 9.52 million tons of food waste in 2018 alone. If you are currently wasting a lot of food, then don't worry, it is never too late to turn things around.

Check out these top four apps that promise to help you cut down on food waste and save money in the process.

One of the biggest causes of food waste is uneaten leftovers and unsold items in restaurant kitchens, fridges and cupboards. The Too Good To Go app looks to reduce this by inviting people to take advantage of unsold food at a highly reduced cost. Shops and restaurants sign up to the app and then sell bags of food based on what they have left at closing time. App users can then go and collect the food.

Olio allows you to access surplus food from other households in your local area. You can choose to either take a photo of any unwanted food that you have for your neighbours to collect, or you can search for surplus food for your own family. You can also become a Food Waste Hero by collecting unsold food from local businesses and listing it on the app.

#### KARMA

The Karma app works in a similar way to Too Good To Go and allows you to purchase takeaway food at a highly discounted price. Once you are signed up, you can earn loyalty bonuses every time you place an order.

Nosh is an Al-based app that helps you to track the food you have in your own home. Users can view expiry and use-by dates all on one screen, and prioritise what items they need to eat first. You can also receive recipe recommendations and a suggested weekly shopping list based on your buying and wasting habits.

Many more excursions to come. Please visit our website. New trips added daily. Correct at time of printing.

## A SLICE OF HISTORY, Simhel Cace

here are some stories you wish were true – and the myth behind Simnel cake, the marzipan-covered fruitcake popular at Easter, is one of these.

Back in the mists of time, a certain Simon and Nelly apparently fell out while making a fruitcake. One said it should be boiled;

the other wanted to bake it. After a squabble, they settled on using both cooking methods. The resulting cake was named after both of them.

Simnel cake dates back to the 17th century when live-in staff returned to their families around Lent, often bringing food with them. By the 19th century, Simnel cakes looked like the cakes we know today, complete with 11 balls of marzipan to represent Jesus' apostles – minus Judas, the traitor.

#### **INGREDIENTS**

FOR THE CAKE: 175g light brown soft sugar | 175g soft butter (plus extra for greasing) | 175g self-raising flour | 3 large eggs | 50g ground almonds | 3 tbsp milk | 200g mixed dried fruit | 100g glacé cherries, quartered | 2 tsp mixed spice powder

FOR THE TOPPING: 450g golden marzipan | 3 tbsp apricot jam | 1 egg, beaten

#### **HOW TO MAKE:**

- > Preheat the oven to 160°C/Fan 140°C/Gas 3.
- > Grease a deep 20cm/8in cake tin and line it with baking paper.
- > Put all the cake ingredients into a large bowl and beat well.



o you reach for your trusty bottle of Calpol whenever your child shows the first signs of illness? If yes, you should know that there are alternatives to this popular painkiller.

#### **CHAMOMILE TEA**

If your child is suffering with a headache, then a cup of chamomile tea can help to relieve pain and soothe them to sleep. Encourage them to take small sips and add a natural sweetener such as honey if they don't like the taste.

#### COOL LAVENDER COMPRESS

For children with a temperature, a cool lavender compress can work wonders. Simply dip a cloth in cool (not cold) water with a few drops of lavender oil and then place on their head, chest or legs.

#### WITCH HAZEL COMPRESS

Another effective natural remedy for headaches, a cold compress with a bit of witch hazel can be placed directly on the forehead for instant relief.

#### **TEA TREE OIL SPRAY**

Tea tree oil has been proven to help the body fight off infections as it contains active bacteria-fighting chemicals known as terpenes. Fill a spray bottle with water, add a few drops of tea tree oil and spray around the room or directly onto their body to soothe any inflammation and reduce a high temperature.

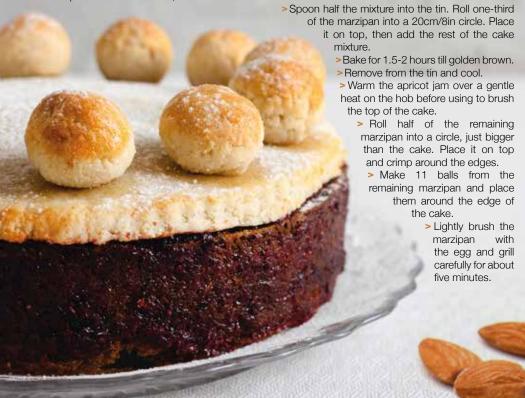
#### **PLENTY OF REST**

When your child is unwell, the most important thing to do is ensure that they have sufficient rest. Don't be afraid to let routine go out the window and allow your child to nap as and when they want to. If they have a headache, a dark and quiet room is a must.

#### WHEN TO CALL YOUR GP:

- ✓ If your child is under three months old and has a temperature of 38°C or higher
   ✓ If your child is between three and six months old and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
  - √ If your child has other signs
    of illness, such as a rash
  - If your child has a high temperature that has lasted for more than five days
  - ✓ If your child is dehydrated.

**V**45





## PUZZLES & TRIVIA

#### ACROSS

- 1. Liability (4)
- 3. Heated exchange of views (8)
- 9. Free a ship from her moorings
- 10. Opposite of below (5)
- 11. Device used to connect to the internet (5)
- 12. Pulls back from (7)
- 13. Bird with yellow and black plumage (6)
- 15. Seem (6)
- 17. In the place of (7)
- 18. Head monk of an abbey (5)
- 20. Embed; type of filling (5)
- 21. West Indian musical style (7)
- 22. Gibberish (8)
- 23. Verge (4)

#### DOWN

- 1. Decay (13)
- 2. Beads (anag) (5)
- 4. Implement change (6)

▶One million Earths could fit inside the Sun

- and the Sun is considered an average-

- 5. Intolerable (12)
- 6. Passionate (7)

DID YOU KNOW?

7. Hidden store of valuables (8.5)

20

- 8. Preservative chemical (12)
- 14. Pancreatic hormone (7)
- 16. Official proclamations (6)
  - 19. Animal that uses two legs for walking (5)

sized star.			_
The sunset on Mars appears blue.		2	
Space is completely silent. There is no atmosphere in space, which means that	6	5	
sound has no medium or way to travel to be heard.	7	3	
There are more trees on earth than stars in the Milky Way. There are about three trillion			

Saturn is the only planet in our solar system that is less dense than water. It could float in a bathtub - if anybody could build a bathtub big enough.

trees on Earth, and between 100 to 400 billion stars, approximately, in the galaxy.

►One day on Venus is longer than one year on Earth.

#### SUDOKU

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	8				7		9





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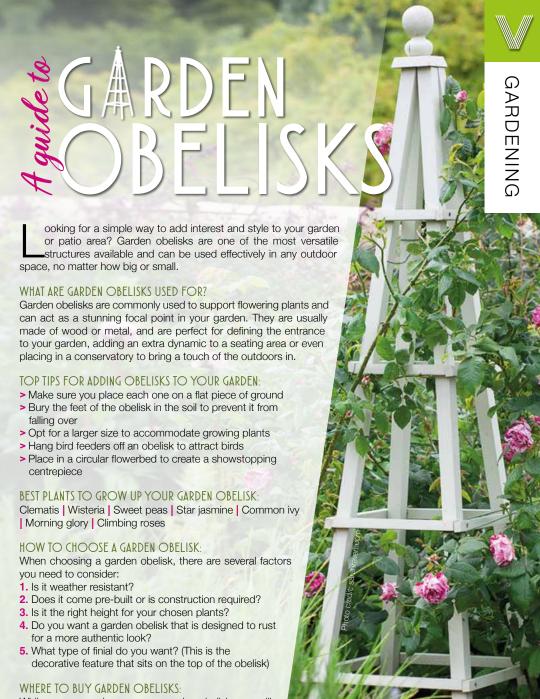
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While you can make your own garden obelisk, you will need a certain amount of DIY expertise and a number of tools to do so. Therefore, you may prefer to purchase one either online or in a store. Most garden centres offer a range of obelisks to choose from.

## HANGEHOG HEDGEHOG

edgehog numbers are in decline in the UK, so it has never been more important for us to take care of our prickly pals. Here's how you can look after the hedgehogs in your garden and keep them happy throughout the year.

them a boost after hibernation, while in summer and autumn, it will help them to build up fat reserves to survive the winter. During periods of hot and dry weather when natural resources are scarce, fresh water and food is even more important.

#### WHAT DO HEDGEHOGS EAT?

If you want to encourage hedgehogs to visit your garden, then you can supplement their natural diet of worms, beetles, earwigs and caterpillars by leaving out food and fresh water. Some foods that hedgehogs enjoy are:

- >Tinned cat or dog food
- > Crushed dog or cat biscuits
- > Meat-based hedgehog food

If you notice very young hedgehogs in your garden (roughly apple-sized), then you need to soak any biscuits in water before leaving them out.

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU NEVER FEED HEDGEHOGS?

You should never leave out milk or bread for hedgehogs as the former can cause diarrhoea and the latter is not very nutritious for these small mammals. Mealworms can also cause health problems when consumed in large quantities.

#### WHEN TO FEED HEDGEHOGS IN YOUR GARDEN

It is a good idea to put food and water out for hedgehogs all year round. In spring, this will give

#### **HOW TO FEED HEDGEHOGS SAFELY**

- > Place food in a shallow dish and place this in a sheltered area of your garden
- > Remove any uneaten food each day and refill with fresh water and food
- Clean the dishes daily using hot, soapy water and then rinse well to reduce the risk of spreading diseases between different hedgehogs.



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very vear, on the last Sunday in March or the first Sunday in April, two of Britain's most prestigious universities battle it out in a gruelling 4.2-mile Boat Race along the Thames.

On March 26 this year, the eight Cambridge men plus a coxswain were first across the finishing line and now have 85 victories compared with Oxford's 81. Only once has there been a dead heat – back in 1877.

WHY ALL THE FUSS? The Boat Race is a symbol of fierce academic and sporting rivalry between the two universities. It's also a tough test of strength, endurance and strategy. Rowers spend months ensuring they're at peak mental and physical fitness on race day.

The Boat Race is also steeped in history and tradition. The first event was held in 1829 and has been held almost every year since, except during the First and Second World Wars and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Watching the race live makes an exciting and lowcost day out, and every year thousands of people line the riverbank and stand on the bridges to watch the event.

WHAT'S THE ROUTE? The race starts at Putnev Bridge and the teams navigate several bridges. including Hammersmith Bridge and Barnes Bridge, before reaching the finish line at Chiswick Bridge.

One of the most challenging parts of the course is the stretch of the river known as the Tideway, near the Houses of Parliament and the London Eve. This part of the river is subject to strong currents and tidal changes, making rowing difficult.

IS IT JUST FOR MEN? Not anymore. The first women's race was held in 1964, and since 2015 the women's course has been identical to the men's. That said, the men's race is still the one that makes the headlines. This year saw the Cambridge women win the Boat Race, marking their sixth straight win.



## BIRPUR

They say your holiday begins as soon as you arrive at the airport, which makes getting it right, pre-flight, all the more important.

Here's our list of departure lounge dos and don'ts.

Finally, your break from work and from the stresses of everyday life can begin. It's important to take time to relax - you deserve it!

#### DON'T stress about time

While it's important to be on time at the airport, it's also worth remembering you have plenty of time. Most pre-flight stresses come about because people panic they will miss their flight, but keeping a clear head is important, even if the departure gate seems like it's in a different postcode!

#### DO refresh

Although it's easy to grab a snack once in the air, buying a sensible meal and drinks after you pass through security is a good idea before a long flight.

#### **NAN'T** he excessive

Many people celebrate going on holiday by having a tipple or two before the flight. While it might seem like a good idea at the time, arriving at the airport early or filling time if your flight is delayed, means it's easy to drink too much. If that happens, you run the risk of being turned away at the gate.

#### 00 organise hand luggage

Keep a close check on luggage allowance, and remember that the items you carry on board need to be scrutinised. Liquids of no more than 100ml should be kept in a single, transparent, resealable plastic bag which holds no more than a litre and measures approximately 20cm by 20cm. This should be placed at the top of your hand luggage, together with any electrical items.

However, restrictions on liquids and electrical items are on their way out. Airports in the UK have until June 2024 to install new security technology, which will mean passengers can carry up to two litres of liquids and large electrical items in cabin luggage as they go through security. London City Airport has already put this new technology in place, thereby reducing hassle for passengers.

#### DON'T overdo the shopping

While it's tempting to pick up booze, fragrances and all manner of other discounted items in the departure lounge, it's much smarter to do this on your return journey. Anything you buy in the airport before your outbound flight will contribute to your baggage allowance on your return flight. Whereas if you save your airport shopping for before your inbound flight, anything you buy can go in your hand luggage.







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ideal for those who do not want to apply a full strip of lashes. These can be strategically applied to create a number of different looks and are often used on the outside corners of the eyes to create a cat-eyed effect.

STRIPS are the most common type of false evelashes and come as a horizontal band that you apply across your entire upper lash. With the ability

to add drama and volume, full lash strips are typically applied with lash adhesive and tweezers.



MAGNETIC lashes are a relatively new addition to the world of false eyelashes, and are perfect for anyone who struggles with the

gluing stage of the application process. Gentler on the skin and on your natural lashes, magnetic lashes can be easily applied with just magnetic eyeliner and a pair of tweezers.

EXTENSIONS are for if you want a fuller look all the time; they offer an effective and highly aesthetically pleasing solution. However, it is worth noting that eyelash extensions do not come cheap, and that regular maintenance is needed to keep them looking their best.

**TOPPERS** 

HAIR STUDIO

**SEAUTY** 

**(**)

FASHION

een on catwalks in Paris, Milan, New York and London, cobalt blue is big news for spring 2023. A bold and beautiful colour that demands to be seen, here's how you can wear this stunning shade in five different ways.

#### COLOUR CLASH

Cobalt blue has the unique ability to work well with almost all colours, including black, navy, white, beige, red, orange and green. Try adding an element of cobalt blue to a grey suit for . understated elegance or grab attention by teaming it with yellow.

#### TRY TONAL

If you love to layer, then rocking various shades of blue is the perfect look for you. Cobalt blue and pastel blue work wonderfully together, with the lighter shade softening your look and the cobalt blue acting as the highlight of your outfit.

#### MAKE IT MONOCHROME

Alternatively, for a bold vibe, wear head to toe cobalt blue in the form of a trouser suit, jumpsuit or dress with matching shoes. This is a very slimming look, and you could even add some cobalt blue accessories.

#### DENIM DELIGHT

Cobalt blue and denim are a match made in heaven, and there are so many stylish ways to mix these two trends together. Whether you pair a cobalt blue shirt with your favourite jeans or rock a denim skirt and cobalt blue boots, you can't go wrong with this perfect combination.

#### ACCENT WITH ACCESSORIES

If cobalt blue is a little too in-your-face for you, then why not opt for a more understated look with some cobalt accessories? Look for a cobalt blue clutch or a pair of cobalt blue earrings and matching bracelet to give a plain outfit just the lift it needs.



# Baranas about

s well as being delicious, bananas are also one of the healthiest foods around. And what better time to celebrate them than National Banana Day on April 19?

#### LOOK AFTER YOUR HEART

Bananas are rich in potassium, which can help lower your blood pressure and prevent your arteries from becoming stiff.

#### TAKE CARE OF YOUR DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

The starch in bananas breaks down and becomes food for the beneficial bacteria in your gut. The pectin, meanwhile, can help keep you regular. Because bananas are relatively low in calories but also filling, they can also play a part in maintaining a healthy weight.

#### **AVOID TYPE 2 DIABETES**

The vitamin B6 and fibre in bananas may reduce your risk of type 2 diabetes. But if you already have this condition, ask your health professional before eating more bananas because they contain a lot of sugar.

#### MPROVE YOUR WELLBEING

The vitamin B6 in bananas can help you sleep, while the magnesium can help your muscles relax. What's more, tryptophan, which converts into serotonin, together with the antioxidants also contained in this popular fruit, could help improve your mood.

#### // BOOST YOUR ENERGY

The sugar and fibre in bananas will give you an instant energy boost. At the same time, potassium may reduce the risk of muscle cramps. This makes them a good snack both before and during exercise.

#### **NOT JUST FOR EATING**

Try these unusual uses for bananas:

- Use banana skins as a garden fertiliser chop them up and mix them in the soil around your plants
- Tape a small piece of the inside of a banana skin to a wart or verruca to help remove it
- Mash up a banana and use it as a face mask it will hydrate your skin and help reduce blemishes
- Use the inside of a banana skin to give dull houseplant leaves a shiny new finish.



Hospitals | Fitness | Physio | Mental Health

# Are you suffering from a painful hernia?



At Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital our experienced general surgeons can treat all types of hernias through a range of non-invasive treatments.

### Why choose Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital for your hernia repair surgery?

There are a range of different hernias which can form in different parts of the body, luckily every hernia can be removed, however some removal procedures are traditionally more invasive than others.

#### What types of hernias can you repair?

There are two common types of hernias that we can repair, hernia bilateral and hernia unilateral.

#### Hernia bilateral

This form of hernia presents itself on both sides of the groin area or lower abdomen at the same time.

#### Hernia unilateral

- This type of hernia occurs on one side of the body.
- In men, an inguinal hernia happens at the inguinal canal. This is a narrow passage in which blood vessels supplying the testicle pass through the abdominal wall
- More common in women, a femoral hernia appears in the groin
- Femoral hernias happen at the hole in the wall of the abdomen where the femoral artery and vein pass from the abdomen into the leg
- These hernias tend to occur following childbirth.

#### What happens during hernia repair surgery?

We can perform two types of surgery, both with quick recovery times, open surgery and Laparoscopic

(keyhole) surgery. You may not even need to stay in hospital overnight.

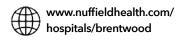
#### How quick is the recovery?

- Recovery from hernia repair surgery is usually very quick.
- You'll be mobile very soon after the procedure and will be encouraged to increase how much you walk around over the first few days post surgery
- Most patients return to normal daily activities within a week
- Your consultant at Brentwood Hospital will inform you of any specific "dos and don'ts", depending on your type of hernia and the chosen surgery.

#### Are there any risks with hernia repair?

As with all operations, hernia repair surgery has a risk of complications. Be sure to discuss any concerns you might have about these risks with your surgeon.

For any enquiries, to book an initial consultation or to request more information, please contact our dedicated hospital enquiry team at Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital on 01268 955035







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#### Knee pain, injury or surgery

Friday 21 April 2023 at 18:30pm with Mr A Ali, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

#### Haemorrhoids

Wednesday 26 April 2023 from 18:30pm with Mr V Shatkar, Consultant General Surgeon

#### Hip pain, surgery

Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 18:30pm with Mr A Waheed, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

#### Shoulder pain, injuries or surgery

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 18:30 with Mr J Edwin, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

#### Varicose veins

Thursday 15th June 2023 from 18:30pm with Mr V Gadhvi, Consultant Vascular Surgeon

NEW free hernia clinic with Mr Sabu Jacob, Consultant General and Vascular Surgeon, at Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital from 18:30 to 20:00 every Thursday.



Find out more about our free events and book your space today, visit nuffieldhealth.com/hospitals/brentwood/events or call 01268 955035



Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital Shenfield Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 8EH

## ring Cleaning IS GOOD FOR YOU

It sounds like a line to make us splash out on new dusters and mops, or perhaps a government message to promote hygienic homes. But according to psychologists, cleaning our homes in spring really can boost our mental health.

First of all, most of us feel our energy levels increase as the days become brighter and longer. We want to pack away our winter clothes, get outdoors, and clean and reorganise our homes.

Many people find that cleaning their home makes them feel good and gives them a sense of mastery over the world around them. While many of us profess to hate housework, regularly cleaning your home is known to have positive effects.

"A lot of people do find cleaning to be very satisfying, but also to be a very good way of managing stress or anxiety,"

clinical psychologist from Cleveland, USA.

When people are facing problems they can't solve or feel overwhelmed, she continues, cleaning can help restore a sense of control and calm.

Whether vacuuming your carpet wiping or your kitchen counter, household chores are also easyto-achieve acts of mindfulness. While you're doing them, you naturally concentrate on the task and your worries take a back seat, at least for a while.

There are also more obvious benefits to keeping your home clean and tidy. Who doesn't want to wake up somewhere clean and bright - and return home to it at the end of the day? If you work from home, this is even more important.

On the flip side, if your home environment is a mess, it can make you lose confidence and feel unorganised.

So now you have no excuses. Roll up your sleeves, grab your Marigolds and get stuck in this spring.





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hile most of us assume the classic car arena is reserved exclusively for those whose sense of nostalgia is matched with astoundingly deep pockets, think again.

There are a number of iconic motors that, with a bit of research and a customary forecourt or driveway haggle, can be yours for much less than you may imagine.

#### MGB GT/ROADSTER

Iconic in shape, and dating back to the 1960s, the Roadster comes in a hard- and soft-top. It was the motor that generations of future Ferraris were modelled on.

Incredibly, you can pick up a GT for a little more than £5,000.

When Land Rover ceased production of the Defender back in 2016, the price of those remaining was expected to rocket, but it hasn't happened.

Instead, you can pick up this classic rural runaround for well under £10,000. The only warning will be that many may have lived a life of being slung around country roads and farms, and the repair bills can be punchy.

#### **FORD CAPRI**

The Capri is a car whose shape was as cool and laidback as the person behind the wheel. Its influence was the Ford Mustang, and you can sense the muscle car behind this classic 1980s motor, which can be yours for a smidge over £10,000.

#### PORSCHE 924

A Porsche for under £5,000? It's possible. While the 924 hasn't gone down in the motor annals as one for the purists, this mid-80s master still looks incredible, and the pop-up headlamps are a thing of beauty.

#### SAAB 900 TURBO

They say you don't know a Saab until you've driven a Saab, and this classic model, the 900, can find its way onto your driveway for as little as £4,000.

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Fitted furniture may not be the first option that springs to mind when you're thinking of updating your home, but for many, it's the best option to maximise space, increase storage and create a look that feels true to you.

Here are a few reasons why it might just be right for you, from Sliderobes - the fitted furniture experts.

#### ✓ Extra storage

Inside a fitted wardrobe, you can add however many shelves, drawers and rails you need to hold your belongings - whereas with standard wardrobes, you're limited to the one rail or shelf that it comes



with. Sliderobes fitted solutions typically go from floor to ceiling, making the most of the height in your room, as well as the depth. Fitted options also don't have to have a back panel that creates a gap between the wardrobe and the wall, wasting space.

#### It's designed specifically for you, your L taste and your lifestyle

People often don't realise just how bespoke their fitted furniture can be. Sliderobes has a collection of colours, materials and finishes to choose from. How the wardrobe looks is your decision, right down to the door handles. Sliderobes designers learn about your preferences and use their knowledge of trends and styles to help you make the right design choices.

**3** Well made and is long lasting With forty years of experience, Sliderobes knows a thing or two about quality to ensure your furniture stands the test of time and we're so confident in that, that we offer a 10 year quarantee. And, instead of you sitting down with an instruction manual and screwdriver, with Sliderobes, your piece will be installed by a professional fitter.

#### Suitable for every room in your home and 4 any awkward spaces

Fitted furniture works in any room in the home, from built-in media units in the living room to integrated home office shelving. It can also be designed around features like slopes, alcoves, chimney breasts or beams in our homes that create pockets of wasted

### **5** It's an investment that can add value to your home

Fitted furniture is an investment but one that is so worth it, as you won't have to replace it as frequently. And if you're planning to sell your property, your fitted furniture can be an attraction, as storage space is a premium that prospective homebuyers are willing to pay for.





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