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## Editor's notes...

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

As we turn the page to a new month, I find muself looking at my own life as chapters in a book. Just as characters in a book evolve through the challenges they face, so too are we continually changing in response to everything happening around us.

Currently, my wife is embarking on a new chapter as she returns to the workforce full-time. This shift brings its own set of challenges, as the balance between work and family takes on new dimensions.

Our little ones are stepping into their own new chapters as they begin

school. I look forward to seeing them mature and grow as they make new friends, encounter challenges and learn invaluable life lessons.

Let us remember that the narrative of our lives is never stagnant. Each chapter brings with it an opportunity to learn, to grow and to deepen our understanding of ourselves and those around us.

Just like the most engrossing novels, our lives are full of anticipation for what lies ahead, reminding us that while change can be scary, it's often one of the most exciting parts of life.

I look forward to these next few months as we head into autumn, and hope you enjoy this September edition.



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

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**If** Vision Magazine Essex

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Nik Allen, Editor

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





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Are you looking to pursue further education but don't want to choose the same course as everyone else? In that case, these quirky university programmes may grab your attention.

### VITICULTURE AND OENOLOGY

Do you love a tipple or two, or want to know more about the science of winemaking? Discover the wonderful world of viticulture and oenology. These courses provide all the skills and knowledge needed to become a vineyard manager, winemaker or winetaster.

### HOROLOGY

If you are fascinated by time, then horology could be the course for you. Focusing on the art and science of time management, this is the perfect course for budding entrepreneurs who understand that time is money!

#### ETHICAL HACKING

Offering a surprisingly high graduate employment rate, ethical hacking focuses on the study of cybersecurity in order to protect businesses from computer hacking. Ideal for computer whizzes.

#### FTHNOROTING

If you have embraced the recent trend for greenery in your home, then you may be interested in a course that looks at how humans respond to and benefit from plants. A great choice for those who want to pursue a career in the field of botany.

#### CIRCUS PERFORMANCE

Yes, you read that correctly, you can pursue a university degree in circus performance. One of the most exciting courses we found, you can learn a whole host of skills and receive top physical training. Because who didn't dream of running away to join the circus at some point?

#### SURF SCIENCE

Another degree course that sounds like great fun, surf science, as you may have already guessed, involves the study of surfing. Whether you want to set up your own business or work for one of the big names in surfing, this is one degree course that promises not to be boring!



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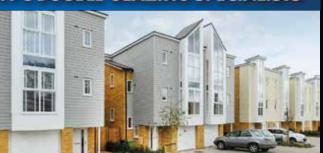
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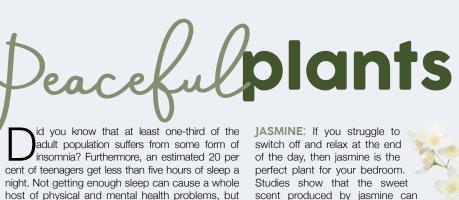
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help to reduce anxiety and improve your overall quality of sleep.

VALERIAN: Boasting small pink and white flowers, a valerian plant is as pretty as it is practical. Used for centuries to cure sleep problems, valerian can help you to drift off more easily and enjoy better-quality sleep.

LAVENDER: Lavender is known for its sleep-inducing qualities, with the ability to lower your heart rate, blood pressure and stress levels. If you have a baby or young child who struggles to get to sleep, the scent of lavender in their bedroom can make all the difference.



there are ways to help you drift off naturally.

### How can plants help you to sleep?

If you suffer from insomnia but you don't want to start taking prescribed medications, then indoor plants offer a more natural way to aid sleep. Fragrant plants have been shown to calm nerves and reduce anxiety, whereas other types of plants act as air purifiers and absorb toxins.

### The best indoor plants for insomnia

GOLDEN POTHOS: Golden pothos, also known as devil's ivy, is great for purifying the air, which can help to aid sleep. This plant looks best when placed in a hanging basket, making it a good choice for homes with children or pets.

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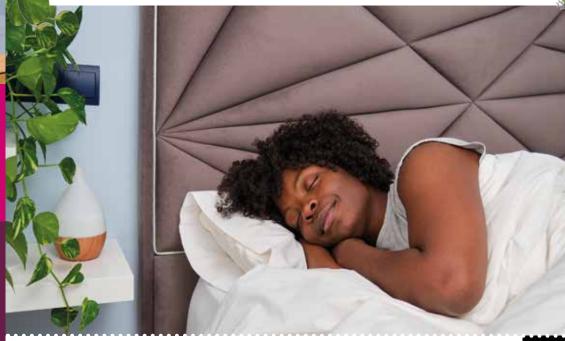
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### THE FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO DO NOW TO ENSURE YOUR HOME DOESN'T LET YOU DOWN THIS WINTER

Inter is nearly upon us, and it's the time of year when the prospect of something going awry in our homes can spell disaster. It might be more than just the cold shower resulting from a broken boiler that leaves you shuddering – wait until you see the call-out fee to get it fixed!

That's why giving some essential parts of your home a health check now may save you from some wintry wails of terror.

### **BRILLIANT BOILER**

Ensuring that your boiler is serviced by a registered gas engineer should be a must ahead of the cold season. The good news is a full service is usually affordable and can cost as little as  $\mathfrak{L}60$ , and it's something you should be performing annually.

### REMARKABLE RADIATORS

Bleeding radiators is essential to efficient central heating. Not only will it save you money, but it'll help to keep your house warmer too.

The process of bleeding is simple and doesn't require specialist help. By easing out air trapped in the system, you'll return your radiators to their natural efficiency.

### PERFECT PIPES

It can also be a good idea to insulate exposed pipes before the winter months. This will reduce heating loss and also help prevent them from freezing and bursting during cold spells.

### EXTERIOR EXCELLENCE

Debris such as leaves and twigs can accumulate in gutters, pipes and drains throughout the autumn. It pays to check and clear out these areas if necessary to ensure you don't have any lingering blockages that are going to

cause problems when the rainy season really hits.

### WICKED WINDOWS AND DOORS

Be sure to go round the house, checking all windows and doors close properly. Now is the time to make small repairs to gaps and draughty grooves where cold air will whistle through.



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in popularity.

Here's our advice on how to use it in your home for maximum impact.

### What is track lighting?

When you think about track lighting, you are likely to imagine a series of individual lamps, known as heads, that slide along a metal track. While this is the case for some track lighting systems, there are now many other styles to choose from. Typically, track lighting is hardwired and connected to a wall switch. The heads can be focused spotlights, radiant spotlights or pendants.

### What are the benefits of track lighting?

There are many benefits to track lighting, including: It is easy to install It is customisable and can be effective It is simple to reconfigure

### How to use track lighting in your home:

As track lighting is so customisable, it can be used in nearly every area of your home, but it is particularly useful in the kitchen, hallway, living room and in a home office.

Some of our top ideas for where to place track lighting in your home are:

- Run a track along your hallway ceiling and aim fixtures at any artwork or directly at the wall.
- Customise a track to fit your kitchen space such as over an island or onto the countertops.
- Install a track system in a dark wardrobe and position several heads where you need light.
- Use in rooms with high ceilings and opt for white fixture heads which will blend in more effectively.



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HOME ∞ DIY

'licyon was founded by designer Charu Gandhi, whose love of crafting has served as the inspiration for many of her designs.

The studio was founded in 2014 and has gone on to transform interiors all over the world. Gandhi claims her main influences come from "art deco, mid-century and Biedermeier", although other global influences serve as inspiration from time to time.

### ABOUT ELICYON

Elicyon's style is distinctive, pairing neutral shades with darker brown accents to create a rich contrast that adds an elegant touch to the space. Designs are kept simple, working with the space to make the most of different features, while adding detail through furnishings, artwork and accessories.

Each project is carefully considered, creating a space that is practical and well orientated, while still providing a beautiful and pleasing aesthetic.

### TOP TIPS FOR EMULATING THE ELICYON STYLE

With some simple touches, you too can emulate the Elicyon style, creating a look that works across different home types. Some top tips include:

- Keep spaces light and airy by using shades of white and light brown in your home. This can make spaces feel larger, while also helping to keep them serene.
- · Elicyon uses darker accents across furniture, shelving and accessories to add some contrast. Think rich browns such as walnut to create a luxury space.
- Add shelving with carefully selected and placed accessories to add detail and bring personality into the room.
- A subtle pop of colour through greenery or a colourful vase can add interest and help break up some of the neutral

Elicyon's style is subtle but warm, and can help transform a neutral space in your home to add depth and personality.

CAL

## FROM YOUR AREA

### Residents offered costof-living advice



Rayleigh residents are invited to attend Rochford Council's By Your Side Cost-of-Living Community Event later this month.

Taking place at the Mill Arts & Events Centre in Rayleigh from 11am to 3pm on Saturday, September 30, residents can grab a free goodie bag, get advice on the cost-of-living crisis and visit stalls run by partners such as Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor Julie Gooding, lead member for leisure, tourism and wellbeing, said: "The cost-of-living crisis is affecting us all, and to have an event to showcase the support our district has to offer our communities will be really helpful."

Visit www.rochford.gov.uk/costofliving to book your free ticket.

## Teacher jailed for 12 years for child abuse

Ateacher from Wickford has been jailed after being found guilty of sexual offences against children.

Derek Turner, 66, of The Oaks, Wickford, was sentenced to 12 years in prison at Basildon Crown Court on Wednesday, August 16.

In July 2020, two victims contacted Essex Police to report that they had been sexually assaulted by Turner multiple times between 1992 and 2007.

Turner was working as a music teacher at the time, but the offences did not take place within a school.

When interviewed. Turner denied all offences.

Following an investigation by Essex Police's Child Abuse Investigation Team, Turner was charged with four counts of indecent assault on a boy under the age of 14 years, two counts of indecent assault on a girl under the age of 14, sexual assault on a child, and attempted sexual assault on a child.

After a two-week trial, Turner was found guilty of all offences and sentenced to 12 years in prison. He was also put on the Sexual Offenders Register for life, issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for life and barred from teaching for life.

## Popular market finds new temporary home

Wickford Market has found a new temporary home on Woodlands Road after fears were raised over its future.

As reported in **VISION**RayleighWickford July 2023, the market had been operating on the pedestrianised High Street, with a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in place to prevent vehicles from using the street.

However, owing to objections received during a consultation, the TRO could not be made permanent.

With more than 1,000 people signing a petition to reopen the market, Basildon Council identified a new location on Woodlands Road.

Councillor Craig Rimmer, cabinet member for economic stimulus and tourism, said: "We are absolutely committed to ensuring Wickford Market continues to operate. It's a huge part of the town's history and I am really grateful to Wickford residents and the market traders for their patience while works were being completed on the Woodlands Road site.

"Teams have done a fantastic job resurfacing and securing the site to make it accessible. I encourage everyone to visit the market in its new home."

The market will operate from Woodlands Road until a more permanent solution is found.



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In recent years, as part of my constituency casework, I have been approached by an increasing number of parents who have been experiencing real practical difficulties in finding suitable school places for their children who have special needs.

In essence, we already have a number of very good special needs schools in Essex, but these are now, almost without exception, heavily oversubscribed. We simply do not have enough special needs places, particularly in the south of the county, to deal with everincreasing demand.

Consequently, we end up with many parents having to go through long appeal processes, desperately trying to get their children into appropriate schools. For those who are unsuccessful, their children are shoehorned into mainstream education, which sometimes then leads to behavioural problems and even schools themselves getting bad OFSTED reports as a result.

Put simply, we need to cut through this 'Gordian knot' and expand capacity. Thus, at Education Questions in the House of Commons in July, I formally launched a campaign to try to create a new special needs school

I have also spoken to councillor Tony Ball, the cabinet member for education and lifelong learning at Essex County Council, plus ministers at the Department for Education, and indeed a couple of local multiacademy trusts to see whether or not we can find a suitable option to open a new school.

More recently, I attended a meeting with Clare Kershaw, director of education at Essex County Council (ECC); Ralph Holloway, head of SEND Strategy and Innovation at ECC; and cllr Ball. We discussed several options to establish a special needs school in Essex (ideally in the south of the county).

In summary, we are now planning to reconvene in the autumn once we have all done our respective 'homework'. However, one way or the other, I pledge to do whatever I can, on behalf of all the parents struggling to find suitable special needs places for their children that really need them, to try to establish a suitable new special needs school in south Essex, as soon as we practically can.

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## **Iconic annual carnival** brings community together

The Burnham-on-Crouch Carnival is many things to many different people. Undoubtedly perfectly picturesque, and most certainly brimming with Britishness, it welcomes in thousands of tourists to this attractive part of Essex.

The carnival, which takes place on the last weekend in September, is the culmination of a number of events that decorate the rich community vibe of this special town.

In the preceding month, Quay Day on the bank holiday Monday in August sees the waterfront feature an eclectic mix of music, art, demonstrations and water-based activities, with the successful food and drink festival having appeared earlier in the year.

As for the carnival itself, it is a festival of community life whose origins go back to the early 20th century. Founded as a modest gathering of local musicians and artists, it aimed to showcase the unique blend of talent that flourished in this part of the UK.

The first editions saw poets reciting against

the backdrop of the estuary's waters. with streets lined with performers who drew inspiration from Burnham's idvllic ambiance.

These days, the carnival is the centrepiece of a four-day explosion of energy, with the town's age-old High Street transformed into a magical place of discovery, with stalls, rides, music, history and art.

What makes this such an ideal location is its placement - far enough away from the nearest major conurbation (Chelmsford) to have its own personality and style, it's inland from the bluster of the Essex coast, yet served by the River Crouch. The town itself dates back more than 1,000 years and is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

And when darkness descends, the charm of Burnham-on-Crouch only increases, as one of the largest night-time processions in the land is lit up in all its alory.



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## YOUR LOCAL EVENTS

### THE MEADOW CROFT GERMAN MARKET

Meadow Croft Garden Centre. Woodham Road, Wickford, SS11 7QU Every day between Thursday, September 14, and Saturday, December 23, various times



This German-style market will feature seasonal treats and unique vuletide gifts and decorations.

The market has more than 30 stalls, each handcrafted by owner Roland Smith. Every stall is adorned with handpicked artisan products including wooden decorations, glassware, cuckoo clocks and more.

For more information and details on opening times visit www.bitly.ws/Tghx

### LIVE WRESTLING

Wickford Community Association, Nevendon Centre, Nevendon Road, Wickford, SS12 0QG Saturday, September 16, 7pm - 9pm

The superstars of WrestleForce are returning to the Nevendon Centre for another professional wrestling extravaganza the whole family can enjoy.

Purchase tickets from www.wrestleforce.com/allevents/wrestling-events/live-wrestling-in-wickford-5

### **FISHERY LAKE PAINT PARTY**

The Paul Pry, 14 High Road, Rayleigh, SS6 7AA Tuesday, September 19, 7pm - 10pm

Residents are invited to this relaxed and enjoyable evening painting Fishery Lake under the expert instruction of workshop leader Sophie.

Everything you need to paint will be supplied, including a canvas, acrylic paints, brushes, easel and apron as well as expert tuition. At the end of the evening, you get to keep your painting to treasure.

No experience is needed. You can either follow the instructions or 'express yourself' by putting your own personal touches on it as much as you feel comfortable to do so.

Purchase tickets from www.expressvourselfessex. co.uk/events/fishery-lake-rayleigh

### SHOTGATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Shotgate Park, Southend Road, Shotgate, Wickford, SS11 8QS

Saturday, September 23, 5pm - 10.30pm

Organised by the parish council, Shotgate's very own music festival returns. Abba Stars, The Start, lan Geast and Rock Project will be performing live. A bar and food will be available.

Purchase your ticket from www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ shotgate-music-festival-tickets-687449699557

### **WICKFORD ROCK CHOIR**

The Bromfords School, Grange Avenue, Wickford, SS12 0LZ

Tuesday, October 3, 8pm

The Wickford Rock Choir is hosting a free taster session on October 3.

The choir is led by Essex-based musician and teacher Chris Burgess. The Wickford branch is part of the unique national singing family that is Rock Choir.

While retaining their focus on Wickford community causes and events, Rock Choir groups come together in regional and even national groups for bigger events, such as performing en masse at the O2 Arena, achieving album sales that enter the charts, television appearances, Guinness World Records and helping to raise millions for charity.

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Approved Referral Partner - Age Partnership Equity Release \*\*
Qualified Member of the Institute of Professional Will Writers



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For more detailed information, go to the two Equity Release pages at

www.businessadvisoressex.co.uk

## CHEAPEST CITIES

Are you looking to get on the property ladder but are struggling to find anything within your budget? Discover the top five most affordable cities for first-time buyers in the UK – as well as the most expensive cities! The average monthly mortgage payments listed below are based on a 10 per cent deposit.

**BRADFORD:** Bradford in West Yorkshire is officially the cheapest city for first-time buyers to purchase a home. Named as the upcoming City of Culture in 2025, the current average asking price for a two-bedroom property in Bradford is £104,643.

Average monthly mortgage payment: £521

**2 CARLISLE:** If you don't mind moving a bit further north, then the city of Carlisle is the second cheapest city for first-time buyers. With an average asking price of £104,784 for a two-bedroom house, there are some beautiful semi-detached properties on offer in this part of the UK.

Average monthly mortgage payment: £522

ABERDEEN: The third most populated city in Scotland, Aberdeen is known for its stunning architecture and closeness to Cairngorms National Park. The average asking price for a two-bed property currently sits at £106,088.

Average monthly mortgage payment: £528

HULL: Although this city does not have the best reputation, you can get a lot more for your money if you relocate to Hull. The average asking price for a two-bedroom property currently stands at £106,939.

Average monthly mortgage payment: £532

**5 DUNDEE:** A vibrant, modern and affordable city, the average asking price for a property with two bedrooms or fewer in Dundee is £111,415.

Average monthly mortgage payment: £532

And, on the other end of the scale, the five most expensive cities for first-time buyers in the UK are:

LONDON • ST ALBANS • BATH • CAMBRIDGE • OXFORD

To put this all into perspective, the average house price for a first-time buyer in the UK is  $\Sigma$ 245,958. This is  $\Sigma$ 55,500 higher than five years ago. According to the Financial Conduct Authority, two-thirds of first-time buyer mortgages have terms that go beyond 25 years.





### **A WILL WRITER'S WORDS OF WISDOM**

### **WORRYING PROBLEMS**

If a married couple dies together, and where there is no Will, the eldest is deemed to have died first, so only the family members of the surviving spouse will inherit

Unless it has a Contemplation of Marriage clause. marriage or re-marriage invalidates a Will, requiring a new arrangement

Without a Will, spouses and civil partners are NOT automatically entitled to all of the estate assets on death, and the Government could inherit your estate if you die with no surviving traceable relatives

Without a Will, even grandparents have NO automatic Legal Guardianship of their orphaned grandchildren

A beneficiary or their spouse should not be a witness to a Will, or they will disinherit themselves

If you have no surviving parents, siblings, grandparents, uncles or aunts, then under the Intestacy Rules, the whole estate goes to the Crown or the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duke of Cornwall

### **PEACE OF MIND SOLUTIONS**

avoid your estate being claimed by the Government

ensure that if you pre-decease and your spouse remarries and has more children, your own children benefit from your share of your home, and not the new spouse. BUT if Probate is not completed, the Trust Deed will not be set up and notified at the Land Registry

A Grant of Probate confirms to Executors that they have the authority to act and carry out the wishes of the deceased

If a Named Beneficiary, Executor, Trustee or Legal Guardian changes their name, e.g., on marriage or by Deed Poll, it is not necessary to amend the Will:

Always appoint charities as your final beneficiaries, to documentary evidence, eg Decree Absolute, is sufficient

The estates of current or retired members of the By the use of a Property Protection Trust, you can Armed Forces, fire police and ambulance services, and most rescue organisations are entitled to exemption from Inheritance Tax if they die on active service, or if their later death was caused by an injury or disease that was received or aggravated while they were on active

> A properly worded Will could ensure that half the value of your home is potentially protected against Local Authority care home fees

> There is no Inheritance Tax liability if the deceased spouse has left their entire estate to their surviving spouse or registered civil partner

## **HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL?**



My professional services for arranging personally-tailored Wills. Powers of Attorney. Probate and expert guidance on Inheritance Tax and Care Home Fees, are offered to applicants on a fixed fee basis, regardless of consultation time and number of meetings.

Please note that weekend meetings are offered at no extra cost



### **MARTIN ENGLEMAN AIPW AFPC**

**Qualified Member of the Institute of Professional** Will Writers ~ Certificate in Mortgage Practice & Equity Release, Chartered Insurance Institute ~ **Diploma. Personal Finance Society** 

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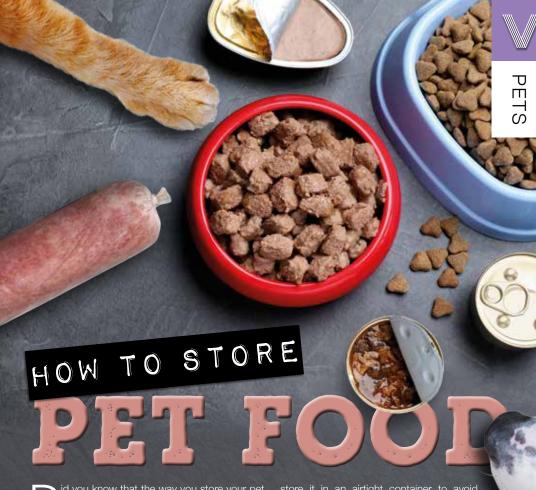
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id you know that the way you store your pet food can make a big difference in both its quality and its freshness? Discover the best practices for pet food storage below and keep your pet happy and healthy.

### HOW TO STORE UNOPENED PET FOOD

If you buy your pet food in bulk, then you need to make sure you store any food you are not using in the right way. As a general rule, both unopened dry and wet pet food should be kept in a dark and moisture-free place such as a kitchen cupboard or pantry. It is not a good idea to store pet food in your garage as humidity and temperatures can fluctuate.

### HOW TO STORE OPENED DRY PET FOOD

Once opened, dry pet food should be kept in its original packaging where possible, as these are typically designed to keep the contents fresher for longer. If you do not have its original packaging,

store it in an airtight container to avoid contamination. All opened dry pet food should be kept in a dark and cool place.

### HOW TO STORE OPENED WET PET FOOD

Once opened, wet pet food should be consumed right away or any leftovers kept in the fridge, where they will stay fresh for two to three days. Always make sure you cover any unconsumed wet pet food so that it does not dry out. Allow any refrigerated wet pet food to return to room temperature before giving it to your pet, especially for cats who prefer their food slightly warmer.

### HOW TO STORE RAW PET FOOD

Store-bought raw pet food usually comes frozen so you will naturally choose to store these in your freezer until you are ready to thaw for eating. If not frozen, raw pet food can be stored in the fridge for up to four days. Ideally, raw pet food should be consumed in a single sitting.

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ome to more than 100 toxic, intoxicating and narcotic plants, the Poison Garden at The Alnwick Garden in Northumberland is not for the faint-hearted. With a sign on the black iron gate emblazoned with the message, 'These plants can kill', do you dare to enter?

See some of the deadliest plants in the garden...



### THE GYMPIE-GYMPIE

A fairly new addition to the Poison Garden, gympie-gympie is known as the world's most venomous plant and is said to deliver a sting similar to being burnt with hot acid and electrocuted simultaneously.



### **LABURNUM TREE**

The second most poisonous tree in the UK, the laburnum tree contains a poison called cytisine. In fact, this tree is so poisonous that if one of its branches fell to the floor, lav for several months and then was picked up by your dog, it is unlikely your dog would survive the hour.



### **HELLEBORES**

The root of this deadly plant contains a cardiotoxin that will stop your heart in an instant. Its sap can also irritate the skin, so this plant should only be handled when wearing gloves.

### **CHERRY LAUREL**

Cherry laurel, also known as English laurel, can kill you even if all you're doing is trimming its leaves. This plant contains cyanogenic glycosides and cyanide ions; when these two components are combined, they create cyanide gas which can be deadly in a confined space.



As the name suggests, deadly nightshade is a poisonous plant that can cause a whole host of nasty symptoms including blurred vision, a skin rash, headaches, slurred speech, hallucinations and eventually death. In fact, eating just two to four berries can



Other deadly plants on show include:

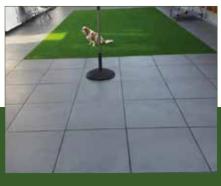
- THE KHAT PLANT contains a carcinogen that causes mouth cancer.
- > YEW TREE eating a small number of its leaves can be fatal for livestock and humans.
- SHOGWEED contains toxins that are activated by light, causing pain and skin lesions.

If you dare to enter...

The Poison Garden is open to the general public and entrance is included with a day ticket to The Alnwick Garden. Remember to follow all the quidelines to stay safe.







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s getting your child to go to school a constant battle? While a little reluctance to return to school after the summer holidays is to be expected, if your child is becoming severely distressed at the prospect of going to school, then you need to take action.

### TALK TO YOUR CHILD

There are many reasons why your child may be refusing to go to school, such as bullying, anxiety, learning differences or emotional issues, so it is important that you try to get to the root of the problem. Sit down with your child and try to find out what it is that is making them not want to go to school and then take appropriate action.

### HAVE A GOOD MORNING ROUTINE

If you do not have a calm and consistent morning routine, then this can make the process of getting ready for school a lot more stressful for you and your child. Make sure they get up at the same time

every day and that they know what they need to do and by what times, i.e. get dressed, brush their teeth, etc. Remember to provide plenty of praise.

### INVOLVE THE SCHOOL

If your child is flat-out refusing to go to school, then the sooner you talk to the school about this problem, the better. Arrange a meeting to talk to their teacher or headteacher and see what advice they have. For example, they may suggest a buddy system or bringing in your child slightly earlier to avoid the crowds in the playground.

### STAY CALM BUT BE FIRM

Although this can be hard, try to stay as calm as possible when trying to get your child to go to school, as getting angry or upset will only make the situation worse. That being said, you do need to be firm and don't give them the chance to say no. For example, say "Put on your uniform" rather than "Are you going to put on your uniform?".



## PUZZLES & TRIVIA

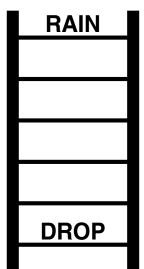
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- BORAGE
- CARAWAY
- CATNIP
- CHERVIL
- CINNAMON
- DILL
- FENNEL
- **FENUGREEK**
- **GINGER**
- MACE
- MARJORAM
- MINT
- NUTMEG
- OREGANO
- PARSLEY
- ROSEMARY
- SAFFRON
- **TARRAGON**
- THYME

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### DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶In 1921, women were banned by the FA from playing in Football League grounds. The ban would not be lifted for 50 years.
- ▶The first women's FA Cup final took place in 1971 and saw Southampton win 4-1 to Stewarton Thistle (now Kilmarnock FC).
- The England women's team is fourth in the FIFA world rankings. Sweden is in third place, Germany in second place and the USA in first place.
- ▶ Jamaica's women's team was able to compete in the 2019 Women's World Cup thanks to a fundraising initiative spearheaded by Cedella Marley, daughter of Bob Marlev.
- ► Chelsea FC player Sam Kerr is reportedly the highest-paid women's football player. earning just under £400.000 a vear.

### 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, vou 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.

## NE NIGHT AT THE DISCO

## Lost In Music Concert Show Takes Music Fans Back to The Seventies

Disco's roots are firmly founded in the early Seventies, says James Taylor, producer of the hit touring concert show Lost in Music... which comes to the Cliffs' Pavilion, Soutnend, on Saturday, October 21.

"It was a time when Motown Records' biggest stars began to get funky," he says. "Philadelphia Records became a hit song conveyor belt with its distinctive combination of soulful vocals and lush arrangements. And, soundtracks of movies - from Shaft to Car Wash - lifted the world to its dancing feet."

By 1977, says James, disco was in full

"Lost in Music fondly remembers the height of the disco era," he says, "faithfully recreating the biggest hits of Donna Summer, Earth Wind and Fire, Gloria Gaynor, Chaka Khan, Chic, Diana Ross, Harold Melvin and the Bluenotes, Sister Sledge and more.

"Our company Entertainers produces scores of hit touring shows including the Magic of Motown, Fastlove, The Rocket Man and Thank You for the Music," he says. "But, Lost in Music is by far our liveliest production. It's non-stop dance anthems from curtain up."

In fact, James admits a couple of mid-tempo tunes

have had to be added to the 32-song set list to 'give the audience a breather'.

"From worldwide ladies' anthems like I'm Every Woman and I Will Survive," says James, "to the Nile Rogers/Bernard Edwards-produced Everybody Dance, We Are Family, I'm Coming Out, I Want Your Love and - of course - Lost in Music; plus the greatest hits from New York's legendary Studio 54 Discotheque: You Make Me Feel Mighty Real,

> More than a Woman and Disco Inferno; and soul anthems Ain't No Stopping us Now and Boogie Wonderland - it's disco wrapped up into two hours of non-stop hits."

Backed by a talented live band, Lost in Music stars a cast boasting stunning vocals which combines this with the extravagant dance moves and fabulous fashion of the era, to bring the best the late Seventies had to offer to life, live on stage.

"Audiences are taken on a musical journey straight to the heart of disco by a band that just wants to play in front of crazy fans," promises James. "Concertgoers are encouraged to come dressed to impress and to get involved.

"It's the feel-good show of the year - come and get lost in music..."

TO BUY TICKETS CONTACT THE BOX OFFICE: 0343 310 0030 / www.southendtheatres.org.uk

### **WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO SEE LOST IN MUSIC**

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS - ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

Lost in Music features 32 number one disco hits including:

a. Never Can Say Goodbye b. Never Say Never c. Goodbye Yellow Brick Road Send your answer by email to: rayleigh@visionmag.co.uk, with Lost in Music Competition, Cliffs Pavillions, Southend-on-Sea in the subject line.

The winner will be drawn at random. Editor's decision is final and there is no cash alternative

Lost in Music is a tribute show and is in no way affiliated with any original artists/estates/management companies or similar shows. Promoter reserves the right to alter the programme.





### WAY BACK WHEN

mysteries for yourself.

The origins of these tunnels date back to the medieval era. They were first constructed after the 1216/17 civil war to connect various parts of the castle, making it difficult for attackers to reach the main gate.

Fast forward to the early 19th century, when the threat of Napoleon invading had everyone on edge. The castle's engineer-in-chief, the brilliant William Twiss, stepped in and turned the existing tunnels into an impressive stronghold that even Napoleon would think twice about attempting to break into.

### WAR STORIES

During the Second World War, Dover's tunnels housed a military command centre, where strategists and commanders made crucial decisions for defending the nation.

The tunnels also doubled as an air raid shelter, providing refuge for thousands of locals seeking safety from the relentless bombings. As the air raid sirens wailed, families huddled together, filled with a mix of fear, resilience and hope for a brighter

In addition, a new tunnel complex was built to provide a hospital safe from air attacks and shelling, where the Royal Army Medical Corps, including surgeons, nurses, orderlies and cooks, cared for those injured in the conflict.

### SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

If you visit the castle today, you can walk through the secret wartime tunnels and parts of the medieval and Georgian sections. You can also visit the wartime hospital.

Tunnel visits are limited, and access is not suitable for everyone. Please get in touch with Dover Castle before making your visit or go to www.english-heritage. org.uk/visit/places/dover-castle to find out more.

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- 7th Oxford
- 7th Saffron Walden
- 8th Kensington Palace
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- 14th Clean & Tidy Home Show
- 14th Winchester
- 15th Columbia Road Flower Market
- 17th Clacton
- 17th Walton on the Naze
- 18th Faversham
- 18th Whitstable
- 19th Broadstairs 19th - Eastbourne
- 19th Margate
- 20th Poppy Factory
- 21st Great Yarmnouth
- 21st Rushden Lakes Shopping Centre

- 22nd Antiques at Brighton Racecourse
- 22nd Bury St Edmunds
- 24th London Zoo
- 25th Leeds Castle Halloween
- 26th Colchester Town or Zoo
- 27th Maldon Promenade
- 28th Legoland
- 28th Windsor
- 28th Norwich
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was the UK's first luxury hotel, and it has lost none of its charm or opulence in attracting the world's richest and most powerful guests.

Hollywood power couple Sir Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh met there, while quests have included The Beatles, John Wayne and Marilyn Monroe.

Chateau Marmont, Los Angeles: Los Angeles began to acquire its celebrity popularity in the 60s when the LA Times felt obliged to tell its readers that the Chateau Marmont was for those in show business. Its appeal was its combination of 63 rooms, suites, cottages and bungalows, not to mention the fact that it overlooks

Sunset Boulevard.

The Plaza

Belmond Copacabana Palace

Raffles

When John Belushi died at the hotel of a drug overdose in 1982, its fame only escalated. Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Britney Spears, Lindsey Lohan are all regular guests. The Plaza, New York: If you've seen Home Alone 2 or The Great Gatsby (the

author of which, F. Scott Fitzgerald, lived at this famous hotel), you've seen The Plaza. Overlooking the vast greenery of Central Park and located on the corner of Fifth Avenue, this hotel is iconic and instantly recognisable.

Royalty and state leaders have all stayed at the legendary Manhattan hotel.

Belmond Copacabana Palace, Rio de Janeiro: Located as the crown jewel of the most famous beach in the world, the Belmond is a masterpiece of art deco architecture and has welcomed everyone from Walt Disney to

Built over a period of four years at the turn of the 1920s and designed by French architect Joseph Gire, it remains a staple place to visit for the affluent.

Raffles, Singapore: This Singapore hotel has been around since 1887, when it was established by a pair of Armenian brothers, the Sarkies. Its colonial style of architecture has led it to become a national monument for the country, as well as being the birthplace of the Singapore sling cocktail!



TRAVE







What is the best way to treat period cramps? Over-the-counter 4 ■ pain relief such as ibuprofen offers one of the most effective ways to treat period cramps. A warm bath and a hot water bottle can also work

> Can I get pregnant on my period? Although 5 can I get pregnant on my pour unlikely, it is possible to get pregnant on your interval between each period. If you have a short interval between each period, meaning you ovulate early in your cycle, you can fall pregnant.

> 6 can I have sex on my period? Yes, you can. Although some couples prefer not to have sex at this time, it is perfectly safe to have sex when you are on your period.

Why does my vagina smell? Everyone's vagina has its own unique scent, and it is important to know your own so that you can easily notice any changes. A healthy vagina should have a mild, musky scent that is not unpleasant. If you notice an unpleasant odour, this may be a sign of an infection, and you should see your GP or visit your local sexual health clinic.



### SCREENING FOR CERVICAL CANCER

Our experienced and professional Consultant Gynaecologists in Brentwood are here to help with a wide range of services including screening for cervical cancer.

It is sensible to be screened regularly as spotting any changes in cells early on can often prevent cervical cancer. A cervical screening test (or smear test) looks at the health of your cervix and for any abnormal cells. Early detection and treatment of any abnormal cells cancer developing. You can ask us any questions you like during screening. Our experienced staff are always on hand to comfort and reassure you.

### WHO SHOULD HAVE A CERVICAL SMEAR?

Women aged between 25 and 50 should be screened every three years. If you are a woman aged between 50 and 65, it's best to be screened every five years.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN A CERVICAL SMEAR?

A speculum is inserted into the vagina, which can be uncomfortable, but shouldn't be painful. A small brush is used to take a sample of cells from the lining of the cervix and deposited either on a slide (sometimes called a 'smear' test), or in a preserving fluid. It is then sent to the laboratory to be examined. Any early changes in the cells of the cervix can be seen.

### HOW WE CAN HELP IF WE FIND ABNORMAL CELLS

Treatment for abnormal cells can vary. It's likely you'll go and see a gynaecologist for treatment, which may include:

**Colposcopy** - a microscope is used to examine the cells on the cervix in more detail, and further treatments can be performed to remove or destroy the abnormal cells. You generally don't stay overnight for this procedure but are seen as an outpatient (day case).

LLETZ (large loop excision of the transformation zone), sometimes called LEEP (loop electrosurgical excision procedure) - this procedure removed the abnormal cells with a thin wire loop. This is usually done under a local anaesthetic. The removed tissue may then be sent to the laboratory for examination.

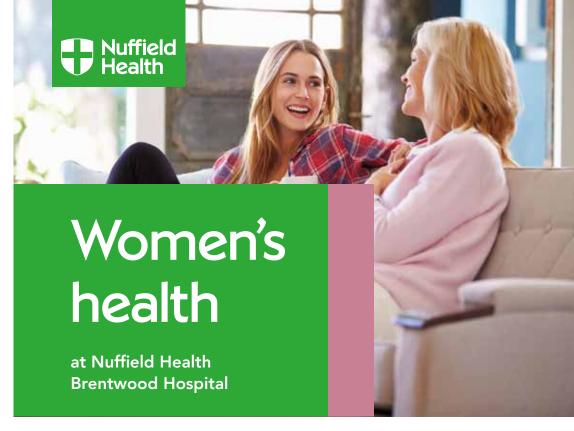
**Laser therapy (or laser ablation)** - this treatment destroys abnormal cells by vaporising them with a hot beam of light.

 $\mbox{\sc Cryotherapy}$  - a cold probe is used to freeze away the abnormal cells

**Cone biopsy** - a minor operation to remove a cone of tissue from your cervix where the abnormal cells are located. This biopsy is usually done under general anaesthetic as a day case or overnight stay. The tissue is then sent to the laboratory for examination.

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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# MOVIE

They say the car is the star, and with these cherished vehicles from the big screen, that's certainly the case.

ASTON MARTIN DB5: Four units of the DB5 were used for the 1964 James Bond classic Goldfinger - two during filming and a further two promotional vehicles. The now iconic car was modified by special effects expert John Stears to include a number of spy-worthy gadgets. Although stolen in 1997 from Boca Raton Airport in Florida, the car has since been spotted in a 'private setting' in the Middle East.

DELOREAN DMC-12: The DeLorean is one of the most recognisable cars in the world owing to Steven Spielberg's Back to the Future trilogy, yet what should have been a marketer's dream turned out to be anything but.

Despite futuristic 'gull wing' doors and stainless steel body panels, the DMC-12 didn't sell well owing to its impracticability and lack of balance, being a rear-engine car.

BATMOBILE: Batman/Bruce Wayne was known to highpowdered supercars since he first appeared in comics in 1939. but it wasn't until 1941 that the title 'Batmobile' was first used. The first on-screen Batmobile appeared in the 1943 serial Batman movies and was a 1939 Cadillac Series 75. Since then, the Batmobile has gone through several iterations - from the first completely black version in the 1989 Tim Burton film, to the Christopher Nolan version which was described as a cross between a Lamborghini and a tank.

**ECTOMOBILE**: Ecto-1 from the *Ghostbusters* movies was an original 1959 Cadillac Miller Meteor, and the two models converted for screen use are still owned by Sony Pictures. The film provoked a number of copycat models, one of which sold in 2021 for more than £200,000.

FERRARI MODENA GT: While three Modena GTs were used in the iconic 1980s film Ferris Bueller's Day Off starring Matthew Broderick, all were replicas. The one that flies out the window in the movie didn't even run properly - it was a fibreglass shell version built specially for that scene. Though one of the replicas was seriously damaged in the jump scene, it was successfully repaired and sold for £122,000 at auction.



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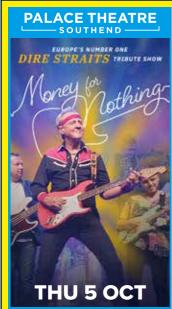
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