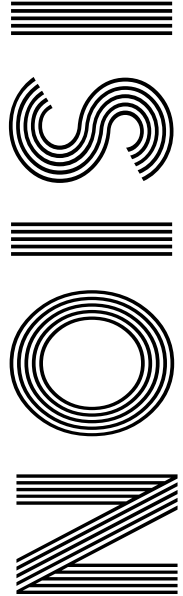


2020
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August 2020

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Editor's notes...



Brett Shohet, Editor

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of **VISION** SouthWoodFord.

As always, I hope everyone is safe and well in these unusual times.

After months of tedium during lockdown, things are finally

starting to feel new and

refreshing on both a professional and a personal note. Last month saw **VISION** expand into new areas, while I moved into a new home with my girlfriend Kirstie. I'm excited to be starting this new chapter, though I must admit the work that goes into changing homes could put anyone off the idea of moving at all.

Organisation has been one of my strong points; however, the wearying tasks that come with moving were hardly a walk in the park. In fact, actual walks in the park with our dog Buddy have about been the only thing getting me through all the stress.

Though I was admittedly trepidatious about decorating our new home, I've quite enjoyed the challenge of acquiring trendy wallpaper and various ornaments from local stores. It's been a great reminder of why we do what we do at **VISION**, so that we can continue to support local businesses, who in turn provide much-needed services and goods to our communities.

I hope you enjoy this August edition. If you have any queries or contributions you'd like to share with us, please get in touch. Stay safe.

Brett



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Kate's RETURN

How the UK has rallied behind Kate Garraway and stricken husband Derek Draper

Kate Garraway has lived a very public life – she has been on our screens for more than three decades having first appeared on regional ITV news back in 1989. Being such a recognisable face means that when tragedy strikes, that same, visible presence is played out to the gaze of tens of millions of people.

Yet while such intrusion is often unwelcome, by the broadcaster and journalist's recent admission, the empathy, warmth and support that has come her way in light of husband Derek Draper's illness has helped her through the very toughest of life experiences.

Derek was struck down with coronavirus at the end of March. He was admitted to intensive care and spent a concerted period battling the illness. While many overcome symptoms quickly, in the first week in July, Kate revealed her husband had been close to death on six separate occasions owing to his organs failing. She also said that a doctor in charge of Derek said the former political advisor was as ill as anyone he had treated in more than 35 years on the front line of medicine.

At the start of June, Derek was deemed COVID-free but remained in intensive care. While many overcome the disease in a couple of weeks before entering a gradual phase of recovery, for others the intensity of the illness is much more profound and can go on for months, as has been the case with Derek.

'One of the wonderful things is that they've changed medical practices. they have changed pathways because of Derek'

Regardless, the positive news of his slow improvement encouraged Kate to return to *Good Morning Britain* on Monday, July 13. At the end of an emotional few hours in front of the cameras, during which she was admirably supported by co-host Ben Shephard, she tweeted: "Thank you for all the messages – much like you I thoroughly enjoyed it, especially the hair chat. And I'm looking forward to tomorrow. #katesback"

Kate and Derek married in September 2005. They have two children together – Darcey, 14, and Billy, 10. None of the family has been able to visit him in hospital, so weak was he, and so great was the risk of further infection.

"His lungs are starting to recover – his kidneys are doing better, his liver, but they don't know how much better he can get," Kate said, adding that although her husband was slightly overweight when he contracted the illness, they were unsure as to why he was so badly affected by it.

"I think what's happened is at every stage they've been learning," she told viewers. "One of the wonderful things is that they've changed medical practices, they have changed pathways because of Derek. I keep telling him on Facetime he should be very pleased about that."

Kate's willingness to open up about her own experiences is certain to have elevated further the love and affection she already holds from a nation also still battling the fallout from the pandemic. "This isn't about me, or Derek," she said. "This is about all of us getting through these times together, and we will..."



Plenty of TWENTIES

HOW THE OLD £20 NOTE WILL BE RECYCLED

The new £20 polymer note is gradually creeping its way into our pockets, and it says a lot that for a society edging its way towards cashless operations that we're still thrilled to see the shiny, shimmering beauty of these works of art... even if the time they spend in our hands is all too brief.

As the old £20 notes are worked out of circulation, it's interesting to see what becomes of them.

Firstly, the bad news – anyone hoping to dive head first into a pool of cash in a back room at the Bank of England is to be disappointed.

That said, prior to 1990, all notes were incinerated at the building itself, with the heat being used to warm its corridors. By 1995, operations went off-site, though again the energy created went to good use as homes felt the benefit of perhaps the most expensive heating system ever.

At the turn of the millennium, and with the process of seeing currency going up in smoke starting to be frowned upon given society's desire to push forward with rather more eco-friendly approaches, the Bank of England started to explore alternative methods.

As a result, notes began to be recycled using a soil composting treatment. The technique adopts a similar process to the way food waste is handled, with the resulting mix being used in agriculture operations, such as on farms.

So the next time you find yourself in the country, gazing across freshly ploughed fields, consider just how rich that soil may be.

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Pleats

FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Pleats are officially back in style for summer/autumn 2020 and we couldn't be any more excited about this surprising resurgence. Flattering, versatile and offering a sexy yet understated vibe, you can wear a pleated skirt anywhere, as long as you know how.

How to wear the pleated skirt:

Whether you are invited to a party, are heading for a picnic in the park or have an important meeting at work, you can find the perfect pleated skirt outfit combo for you.

Daytime chic – Team a pastel-coloured midi pleated skirt with a striped blazer and ankle boots for a smart yet effortless look that will work just as well for lunch with the ladies as it will for a presentation with the boss.

Evening glam – Opt for a black satin pleated skirt that cinches you in at the waste and gives you killer curves and team it with a cropped top and a pair of stiletto heels for an instant vampish vibe.

Casual cool – Who says you can't wear a skirt for a stroll in the woods? The trick to toning down the pleated skirt is to add a simple fitted tee, an oversized denim jacket and a pair of fresh white trainers.

Choosing the right pleat for your shape:

Regular pleat – Depending on where the skirt is pleated, you can choose to emphasise your hips, waistline or bottom, making this pleat ideal for most body types.

Box pleat – Best for those with narrow hips and slender waists.

Kick pleat – Normally found on shorter skirts, this style is ideal for apple body shapes.

Inverted pleat – Most often worn at knee length, the inverted pleat is best suited to pear-shaped women.

Knife pleat – Another mini style; if you don't mind showing off your legs.

Accordion pleat – Full and feminine, this style suits everyone.



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How to .ZIT. .ZAP.

THE WAY TO DEAL WITH SPOTS LIKE A SKINCARE PRO

When it comes to skincare problems, there is no one-size-fits-all method for tackling them as the causes can be anything from hormones to our diets, and even the weather.

A stubborn reality of angry pustules is that picking or popping them will go against every natural instinct you have, while reaching for your foundation risks irritating them further.

There is also the assumption that the way to tackle oily skin is to dry it out by bombarding it with all manner of potions and harsh exfoliators. However, when irritated, your epidermis will only put up more barriers to defend itself, leading to further blocked pores and more spots. Instead, see your acne as something more aligned with eczema and take a gentler approach.

Not surprisingly, a cleansing routine is very important, but it should only be twice a day and with products that are soothing but which also contain salicylic acid to gently remove dead skin and excess sebum. Once or twice a week you may want to treat your skin to a good-quality charcoal mask to deep clean your pores, or even a very gentle scrub.

Occasionally, you might find yourself dealing with sebaceous cysts which are hard, sore bumps buried deep under your skin. A good daily routine will help keep these at bay, but you can also apply a warm compress to help open the pore.

Moisturising is actually a vital part of rebuilding your skin's natural barrier, so invest in a lotion designed for oily skin and use it religiously. The same goes for sunscreen, which should be worn daily to protect against UV damage and further irritation.

While there is no quick fix, good habits will help you control your complexion, rather than your complexion controlling you.



CHECK OUT THIS

chic CHIGNON

HOW TO CREATE THE
PERFECT CHIGNON BUN

If you need an updo for a formal occasion, then the chic chignon should be your go-to hairstyle. It's classic, elegant and even has a bit of a vintage feel to it; just perfect for oozing glamour and sophistication.

HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS LOOK

- Step 1:** Part your hair and then section off the front portion.
- Step 2:** Create a firm ponytail with the rest of your hair.
- Step 3:** Tighten the ponytail and check that the strands above it lie flat and smooth.
- Step 4:** Backcomb the ponytail, strand by strand, for added volume.
- Step 5:** Spritz with a light- to medium-hold hairspray.
- Step 6:** Lightly comb the top of your hair to smooth any flyaway strands.
- Step 7:** Make a simple loop out of your ponytail, using a clear elastic band to hold in place.
- Step 8:** Loosely wrap the free-hanging end of hair around the base of your ponytail.
- Step 9:** Fan out the end of the wrap and arrange it to cover the base of the looped ponytail.

Step 10: Pin in place securely.

Step 11: Divide your front section of hair into two sections.

Step 12: Tease the hair from the roots and lightly comb through to smooth.

Step 13: Bring one section to the chignon and cover its base with it. Pin to secure.

Step 14: Wrap the hanging strands loosely around the chignon a few times and pin.

Step 15: Repeat with the other section.

Step 16: Optional – gently loosen the hair above the chignon for a slightly messier look.

TOPTIP: Remember that a chignon should always be low, sitting at the nape of the neck or at the back of your head.



Don't fear KEFIR

You'll have seen kefir in and around those uber-healthy supermarket aisles, you'll have heard it mentioned on fitness videos, you'll have seen it lauded on Twitter and Instagram... and all this for a bit of cultured milk?

Kefir originates from the mountainous region that divides Asia and Europe. The raw kefir grains are added to milk, where they set about consuming the lactose present. The result is a fermented drink loaded with yeast and healthy bacteria.

As a fermented milk liquid it probably sits closer to yoghurt than anything else, though its thin consistency makes it perfect to swig. The result is a tart, slightly sour but not unpleasant taste that features a lingering fizz on the tongue (thanks to the carbon dioxide present).

Traditional kefir (the word comes from 'keif', the Turkish word for happiness) uses grains mixed with whole cow's milk, but the evolution of our dairy products means it is now found combined with goat's, sheep's, coconut, rice and soy milk.

As for the health benefits, well, where do you want to begin? It is a great source of protein, calcium and probiotics (friendly bacteria), so the effect on our guts is huge, with better digestion and reductions in IBS symptoms.

Add in a lowering of blood pressure, better cholesterol balance and blood sugar management, and it's little wonder this 'whole grain solution' has revolutionised the health and well-being market.

And yet, perhaps the best thing of all is that you can make it yourself at home. You'll need to ensure correct temperatures and sterile equipment, as well as keeping a close eye on fermentation times, and while the grains are expensive at first, they'll keep feeding, meaning you can use them over and over again.





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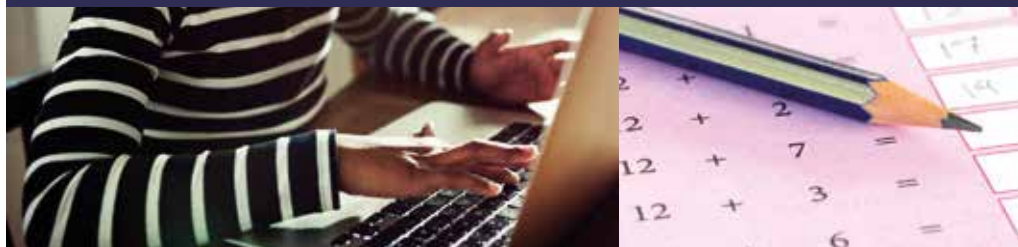
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ME, myself AND I



Whether you are a stay-at-home parent, a working professional or a combination of the two, finding time for yourself before lockdown was hard. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become almost impossible; from trying to work from home, to attempting home schooling, to being on top of your partner 24/7.

However, taking the time to focus on yourself and your individual needs is crucial for maintaining good mental health.

WHY IS "ME TIME" SO IMPORTANT?

If you are the kind of person who is used to always putting others first, then even the concept of making time for yourself may seem strange. However, failing to adequately care for your own personal needs can lead to a lack of concentration, reduced stamina, feelings of anger and resentment and even total burnout.

HOW TO TAKE "ME TIME"

It's all well and good us saying that "me time" is important, but if you have a spouse, two kids,

a dog and a boss who rely on you every single day, the logistics can be a challenge. That being said, once you start taking, rather than asking for, a minimum of 30 minutes alone time, you will soon find that it becomes a seamless part of your daily routine.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF "ME TIME"?

Taking the time to be kind to yourself can result in you feeling more energised and refreshed and can help to improve your overall self-esteem. It can also allow you to think more clearly and to make better life decisions both for yourself and for your family.

POSITIVE "ME TIME" ACTIVITIES:

- > A relaxing bubble bath
- > A workout or yoga session
- > Cooking
- > Listening to an audiobook or your favourite podcast
- > Taking a walk in the park
- > Gardening and DIY
- > Getting crafty



HEALTH & FITNESS

BACK TO SCHOOL

after lockdown

If your children have been at home since lockdown began, the thought of sending them back to school in September will most likely bring about feelings of anxiety, fear and, let's be honest, a little bit of relief.

You have all been in your own little family bubble for so long that adjusting to a school routine will be a challenge for everyone involved.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to help your kids mentally prepare for this big step.

Openly discuss concerns

Taking the time to talk to your child, in an age-appropriate way, about any worries or concerns they have about going back to school can help to alleviate their fears and reduce any stress that they may be struggling with.

Share your own feelings

It can be a good idea to let your child know that they are not alone when it comes to worries about the "new normal". Be open and honest about your emotions and encourage your child to share theirs.

Ask the school for help

Do not be scared to ask your child's school for help if you are concerned that your child will struggle on their first day, or even during their first few weeks back. They may be able to offer additional support during the initial transition period and be able to check on your child throughout the day.

Get back into a bedtime routine

The importance of ensuring your child is getting enough sleep should never be underestimated, both physically and mentally. In the weeks ahead of their first day back, gradually start getting your child to bed earlier each night so that they wake up fresh and rested on the big day.



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Tuesday 6 October



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Thursday 8 October
Friday 9 October - Early Years



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AS A CUCUMBER

FIVE FOODS TO DEFEAT THE HEAT THIS SUMMER...

Most of us seem to spend the whole winter yearning for the summer, but when it arrives we are always poorly equipped to deal with the sudden increase in temperature. Not any more. Keep reading to discover five not-so-obvious food choices that will help you beat the heat.

1. CHILLI PEPPERS

No, we are not completely crazy. Eating a meal that contains chilli peppers will trick your body into thinking that it is hotter than it actually is, resulting in immediate sweating. And when you sweat, your body starts to cool down.

2. SPINACH

Fresh spinach is available all year round and has the unique ability to be able to balance out your blood pressure which in turn will help you to feel cooler.

3. A BOWL OF SOUP

In the same way that chilli peppers work, a bowl of hot soup will force your body into cooling itself down. A great option if you are not a fan of spicy food but need a quick way to relieve the heat.

4. FENUGREEK TEA

Fenugreek is a natural detoxifier and will help your body to get rid of any excess fluid. For best results drink it hot, but if you cannot manage this, simply chill in the fridge for an hour before consuming.

5. TURMERIC

Turmeric has a number of health benefits including boosting your immunity and being a great source of antioxidants. However, not many people know that it can also naturally cool the body. If you don't fancy a curry, add this spice to a couscous salad or enjoy a glass of "golden milk".

FOODS TO AVOID:

- > Carb-rich foods such as rice or grains
- > Foods that are high in protein, such as meat



3 BOOZY

Ice lolly

RECIPES

There is nothing quite like a cool and refreshing ice lolly on a hot summer's day, and what could be better than indulging in a home-made one that comes with a bit of a kick?

Why not give these three boozy ice lolly recipes a try and enjoy your favourite tippie in frozen form?

Mango & Tequila Spice

YOU WILL NEED: 50ml tequila ■ 3-4 small ripe mangoes ■ juice and zest of 2 limes ■ 140g sugar ■ ¼ tsp chilli powder

HOW TO MAKE: Blend the mango until smooth ■ Pour the puree through a fine mesh strainer ■ Add the lime juice, sugar, chilli and tequila and mix well ■ Pour the mixture into 10 ice lolly moulds, leaving ½ cm at top for expansion ■ Put in freezer for 45 minutes and then add lolly sticks ■ Freeze for a further 4 hours

Cider & Black

YOU WILL NEED: 1litre dry cider ■ 100ml apple juice ■ 150g blackberries ■ 1 tbsp crème de cassis ■ 2 tsp lemon juice ■ 4 tbsp sugar

HOW TO MAKE: Simmer the blackberries in a pan with 1 tbsp sugar and 50ml water until soft ■ Pour through a sieve and stir in the crème de cassis ■ Pour the syrup into your moulds and put in freezer ■ Reduce cider in pan for 10 minutes, add 2 tbsp sugar and dissolve ■ Add apple

juice and lemon juice and leave to cool ■ Pour into lolly moulds, leaving ½ cm at top for expansion ■ Freeze for a further hour before adding lolly sticks ■ Freeze for 6-8 hours until solid

Strawberry Fizz

YOU WILL NEED: 400g strawberries ■ 2 tbsp sugar ■ 2 tsp lemon juice ■ 4 tsp elderflower cordial ■ 200ml Prosecco

HOW TO MAKE: Whizz strawberries in a processor with sugar, elderflower cordial and lemon juice ■ Pass through a sieve and add Prosecco ■ Pour into lolly moulds, leaving ½ cm at top for expansion ■ Freeze for an hour before adding lolly sticks ■ Freeze for a further 6-8 hours

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Yet wind back 120 years when Coca-Cola hit UK shores for the first time, and uptake of the famously fizzy drink was, shall we say, rather flat.

The fact Coca-Cola came to the UK was down to Charles Candler, the son of founder Asa Candler. Upon a trip to London in the year 1900, he brought with him five gallons of syrup. It was the first time this American staple had made it here, and it was something never before experienced by Londoners.

The initial limited quantities were lapped up by those who tried it in specialist outlets, but then more than two decades passed without any particular Coca-Cola revolution.

That was, until 1920, when the corporation arranged a deal that would see the soft drink go on sale at Selfridges, the London Coliseum and a few other high-ranking stores. Suddenly, with a bigger platform, with bottling plants in Paris and Bordeaux, and the buzz of the capital in the early post World War I years where renewed freedoms and new tastes were all the rage, the UK public found a new flavour to savour.

Sales rose gradually, although it wasn't until the 1970s that the first canning plant was opened in Milton Keynes. This facility was at the forefront of technology, capable of filling 1,500 cans a minute.

A drink that appealed to young people as well as acting as a mixer for adults was always going to have a sustainable shelf life, but the expansion of the key product (into diet versions as well as flavour additions, such as cherry) ensured our interest held.

The brand, as a whole, is now responsible for the likes of Fanta, Dr Pepper, Sprite, Lilt, Oasis, Smartwater, Schweppes, Powerade and even tinned Costa Coffee products, and the evolution continues into vegan drinks and zero-sugar products.

And of course, these days, Coca-Cola in the UK is more than just a drink. The marketing whizzes have turned it into a byword for sustainability, the environment, leisure and societal values.

When Charles Candler stepped off his ship in 1900 he couldn't possibly have imagined that the modest five gallons he carried with him would have such a

galvanising effect on our lives, our lifestyles and our passions, permeating everything from simple hydration to the most recognisable brand colours of them all, right the way through to the way Santa Claus is dressed.

Coca-Cola's start to life in the UK may have been slow, but its elevation in the last 100 years has been nothing short of thirst-quenching.

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BACK TO *nature?*

FOUR TOURIST SPOTS YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T
VISIT IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD

Our passion for exploring, adventuring and seeing the world has never been so great, which makes the travel limitations of the coronavirus all the more frustrating.

On the plus side, though, our lack of movement this year will undoubtedly aid the green shoots of recovery – or at least halt the destruction – for a host of popular destinations gradually being destroyed by our wanderlust.

Fjaðrárgljúfur Canyon, Iceland

Made famous by a Justin Bieber pop video and ranging, panoramic shots in *Game of Thrones*, the spectacular canyon has become a hotspot, with tourists desperate to trace the steps of their high-profile heroes. However, with an estimated 750,000 people visiting in 2019, pathways and access routes have deteriorated fast, leading local authorities to impose temporary bans.

Komodo Islands, Indonesia

Curiosity about the Komodo dragon, the largest living lizard, has attracted tourists and poachers alike to the island, which in 2019 led to it being shut to tourists. Still home to 1,800 of the reptiles, numbers had started to fall alarmingly, leading to desperate measures having to be implemented.

Machu Picchu, Peru

The world-renowned village had a 2,500/day limit set by UNESCO around a decade ago, but tourist numbers are expected to be treble that. With pathways and walls under threat, tourists run the risk, literally, of eroding the very history under their feet.

Galapagos Islands

Perhaps the go-to destination for over-tourism, the Ecuadorian government has recently taken strict measures to limit visitor numbers for fear that the habitats of the estimated 9,000 species present on the island and in surrounding waters are severely under threat.

While Sir David Attenborough's intentions were to celebrate a place that inspired Darwin's theory of evolution, no less, ease of travel (COVID-19 notwithstanding) has actually threatened the very species he was celebrating.



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AUGUST BIRTH FLOWER OF THE MONTH:

Gladiolus

If you were born in August, your birth flower is the bold and beautiful gladiolus. Instantly recognisable by its long, skinny shape and vivid colours, this flower symbolises strength of character. Easy to grow and wonderful to cut, gladiolus should be a go-to flower for beginner and expert gardeners alike.

WHAT DOES THE GLADIOLUS SYMBOLISE?

Gladiolus is the Latin word for "little sword". Greek warriors would wear this flower in battle to protect themselves from harm and death. The flower has long been associated with strength of character, remembrance and sincerity, as well as infatuation. Nowadays, the gladiolus is commonly given on fortieth wedding anniversaries.

WHAT DOES THIS BIRTH FLOWER SAY ABOUT YOUR PERSONALITY?

If you were born in August, you are said to be an intellectual who will do whatever it takes to succeed in life. You thrive in leadership roles at work and, like your flower, you are known for your strength and integrity.

HOW DO I GROW GLADIOLI IN MY GARDEN?

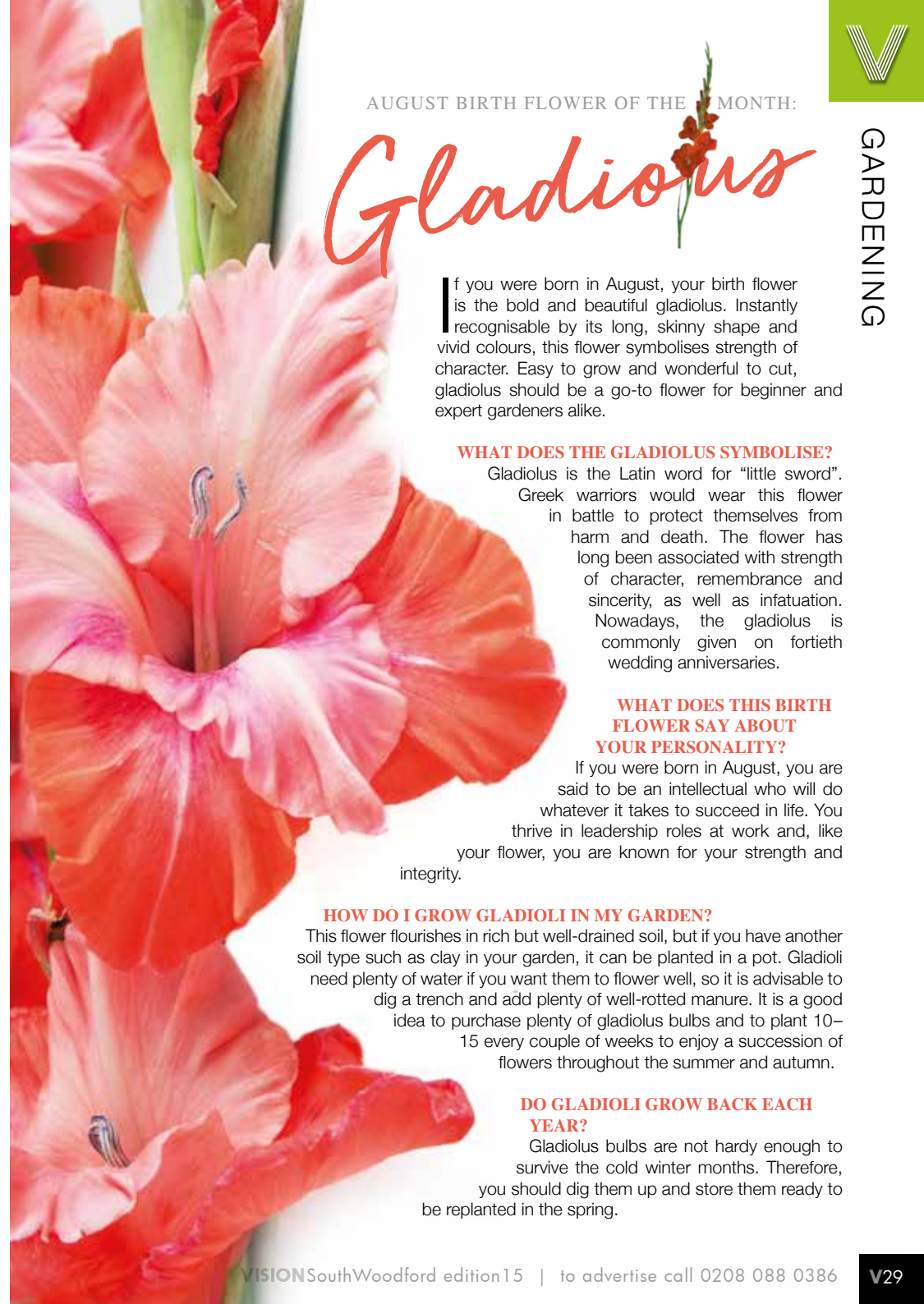
This flower flourishes in rich but well-drained soil, but if you have another soil type such as clay in your garden, it can be planted in a pot. Gladioli need plenty of water if you want them to flower well, so it is advisable to dig a trench and add plenty of well-rotted manure. It is a good idea to purchase plenty of gladiolus bulbs and to plant 10–15 every couple of weeks to enjoy a succession of flowers throughout the summer and autumn.

DO GLADIOLI GROW BACK EACH YEAR?

Gladiolus bulbs are not hardy enough to survive the cold winter months. Therefore, you should dig them up and store them ready to be replanted in the spring.



GARDENING





CREATE YOUR OWN

With many of us spending a lot more time in the garden than usual, what better time to decide to produce your own compost?

Did you know that composting is the most environmentally friendly way to deal with kitchen and garden waste? Plus, it will dramatically improve the quality of your soil, so what are you waiting for?

WHERE SHOULD I START COMPOSTING?

You have two options when it comes to composting: you can use a compost bin, or you can choose an open compost heap. A bin will allow you to make compost more quickly, but both options will result in compost eventually.

When choosing the site for your compost, you need to ensure that it is not subjected to extreme temperatures or excessive moisture. Opt for a shady area of the garden that provides good drainage.

HOW TO CHOOSE COMPOSTING MATERIALS

As a general rule, your compost should be made up of a 50/50 mix of green and brown materials.

Green materials include:

Vegetable peelings | Used teabags | Dead flowers and houseplants | Grass cuttings | Nettles

Brown materials include:

Eggshells | Newspapers (not glossy magazines) | Toilet roll tubes | Shredded plain paper | Dry leaves and small twigs | Young wood garden prunings

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING?

Composting enriches your soil, suppresses plant diseases and pests, reduces the need for chemical fertilisers, encourages the production of good bacteria and fungi and helps to lower your carbon footprint.

ARE THERE ANY DRAWBACKS TO COMPOSTING?

There are a few downsides to home composting, namely that it requires quite a lot of effort on your part to see the right results. You also need to commit to creating quite a lot of compost if you want to fertilise your entire garden.



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HORTICULTURE HEROES:

Carol Klein

Carol Klein is a true gardener of the soil – a presenter, author, columnist and former teacher still going strong at 75 but who could comfortably pass as someone two decades younger... it must be all that fresh air.

A tour de force in gardener terms, Carol has lived and worked through various horticultural revolutions, presented for 20 years on *Gardener's World*, as well as fronted a number of other BBC series such as *Life in a Cottage Garden*.

The Manchester-born gardener simply loves being outdoors.

"It's always such a breath of fresh air," she says, "and I'm just lucky I've had a career that's afforded me that privilege."

Colour is a big part of what stimulates the horticulturalist, with the plant or flower guiding ideas, rather than her shaping it to what she wants.

"I think we have to let everything flourish in the way that is most natural," she says. "Sure, you're going to have to cut back and tidy up, but for the most part you have to let your garden express itself; so if that means a few rough edges or loose beds, then let the garden have that... let it breathe. It will be all the better for it in the long run."

Klein is also a big advocate of growing your own produce, something that feeds into the ethos of the garden having its own life and its own bounty.

"The fact that the garden can produce so much beauty, yet something that fuels and nourishes us too, is incredible," she says. "It is such a versatile thing that we always need to appreciate and respect."

Her advice for converting your gardening space into something that might fill gaps in your weekly supermarket shop is to only grow what you like eating.

"We sometimes end up sowing a vast array of seeds out of curiosity. While that can be fun, there is ultimately most satisfaction in growing something that's simple, but done well. Who'd have thought a small carrot could be so satisfying?"

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Maya Jama MAKING WAVES

WHY MAYA JAMA NO LONGER HAS A FACE FOR RADIO

When Maya Jama announced at the end of last summer that her four-year romance with rapper Stormzy had come to an end, it brought to a conclusion a relationship during which the careers and statuses of both stars had elevated to levels previously unimaginable.

She, the model, fashion designer and presenter whose opportunities now encompass both broadcasting and retail in equal measures; he, the urban musician whose impact on the charts was, if anything, topped by his accidental appointment as a political campaigner, notably for the rights and career opportunities of black youngsters in inner-city areas.

When the announcement came that the pair had separated so as to “focus on their careers”, there were the usual Twitter-led sniggers and sneers, declaring that this much overused excuse was just a front for troubled termination of a previously happy partnership. However, on this occasion, and considering the professional pathways both have taken since, we may well take the statement at face value.

Certainly, from Maya's perspective, she is someone who has cultivated a clutch of positive headlines throughout her time in the spotlight, during which she rarely passes up an opportunity to extend her reach. While she's sexy, confident and unafraid of controversy, the bigger part of who she is involves taking risks – her breakthrough came soon after she moved to London from Bristol aged just 16 in order to set up her own YouTube channel alongside landing a gig as a presenter for JumpOff.TV.

MTV spotted her talent and she became host of MTV Base show *The Wrap-Up*, before moving on to *MTV Essentials* and *MTV News*.

Next, finding herself in the gaze of sports directors, she fronted Copa90's 2014 World Cup coverage, before being invited to host Radio 1's weekend morning shows.

TV projects for Channel 4 and Channel 5 have followed, but her status has been elevated mainly by her engagement across social media – not least her 1.6 million Instagram followers. She regularly opens up to her wealth of supporters about topics including mental health, fitness, relationships and minority rights.

Yet fans of her Radio 1 shows were stunned in June this year when she chose not to renew her DJing contract – instead she can be found co-presenting the Saturday night BBC1 show *Peter Crouch: Save Our Summer*.

And from wowing admirers with a revealing Brit Awards dress to Kurt Geiger fashion campaigns that leave even less to the imagination, it seems Maya's future is certainly being mapped out with style in mind.

“For me it's always been about grabbing as many opportunities as I can,” she says. “I don't want people to get bored of my face but, at the same time, I do want to challenge myself, and have fun along the way.”

Sure enough, Maya's appeal is widespread and showing little sign of abating. “I want to do this for myself, but I want to do it for all the other teenagers sat at home dreaming of big things. That was me... and if I can do it, then anyone else can too.”

“
For me it's always
been about grabbing
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”

LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



Plans for 15-metre mobile phone mast rejected by councillors

Plans for a 15-metre 5G mast in South Woodford were thrown out by Redbridge Council planners at a meeting last month.

More than 400 people had objected to the plans, which would have seen the mast installed on a grass verge in South View Drive.

Labour councillor Beverley Brewer was among the objectors and said she was pleased with the result.

She commented: "I am delighted that the Planning Committee rejected the plan for the 15-metre mast on South View Drive in front of Holy Trinity Church. All credit must go to the local residents who mounted such an impressive campaign. It was a nervous

moment when the Conservative planning spokesman proposed an arrangement that would have allowed the mast to go ahead, so I was glad that he agreed to withdraw his suggestion.

"It has been a difficult process, with national rules imposed by central government in 2016 that seriously limit the scope for objections to mobile masts. But the location really is unacceptable – just 10 metres from residential accommodation and right in front of a locally listed 19th-century building.

"We now expect that the developer will make an appeal to the government's Planning Inspectorate. I sincerely hope that our decision will not be overturned."

Student nurses step forward in pandemic



Children's hospice in Woodford Green has had some extra help throughout the pandemic thanks to a partnership with Barts Health NHS Trust.

Five student nurses at the trust who have just entered their third year are carrying out extended six-month placements at Haven House.

Eileen White, director of care at Haven House, said: "Having this extra resource will strengthen our team, raise awareness of the work of children's hospices and reinforce our ties with the NHS. As our students qualify, we hope that these placements are a springboard to a happy and successful career within children's palliative care."

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Ellie collaborates with dance world champion



Man pleads guilty to making indecent images of children

A man has appeared in court after he was found to have downloaded more than 200 indecent images of children – despite being subject to a suspended sentence for the same offence.

Martin Sparks, 47, of Woodford Green, pleaded guilty at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Friday, June 26, to five counts of breaching a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO), and two counts of making indecent images of children.

He will be sentenced at the same court on Wednesday, August 26.

On Thursday, June 18, officers searched Sparks' home address following intelligence that indecent images of children had been downloaded.

Sparks was convicted on June 26, 2018, of making indecent images of children. He received two years' imprisonment, suspended for two years, and was made subject of a SHPO.

Sparks initially denied any knowledge of illegal online activity, but when he was questioned further he admitted breaches of his SHPO and having downloaded and viewed child abuse images.

During the search of his address, officers seized a computer tower, which Sparks had used to download the illegal images.

Sparks was taken to an east London police station. When searched in custody, two USB digital storage devices were found in his shoes.

A total of 233 Category A child abuse videos and 17 Category B ones were found on the USBs.

Sparks admitted all the offences during his interview and he was charged on Friday, June 19.

Detective constable James Cavenham said: "Sparks is now facing time behind bars after committing the same hideous offence once again. The evidence we had gathered against him meant he had no option but to plead guilty."



A student at an Irish dance school with classes in Woodford Green may not have been able to attend regular classes during lockdown, but she still found time to collaborate with a dancing world champion.

Ellie-Mae Wheeler, 19, attends Claddagh Academy of Irish Dance, which holds classes at St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Woodford Green. She danced online with five-times world champion David Geaney over Zoom last month.

The collaboration seems to be another step in Ellie-Mae's meteoric rise to fame. She joined Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games Tour* in February before lockdown started and she is also the cover girl of *Irish Dancing Magazine* for this month.

Ellie said life before lockdown was something of a whirlwind.

She explained: "I joined Michael Flatley's troupe in February before the tour got cancelled. I was at a competition when I received an email asking about my availability. I flew home from the All Ireland Championship on Friday then left to join the tour in Austria the day after. It didn't seem real, but it was amazing to be part of it."

Ellie has been training at home during lockdown over Zoom with her dance teacher. She started dancing at the age of just 11 and is consistently placed in the top five at major competitions all around the world.

She said: "One day I hope to perform the lead role in a tour and also have my own dance school. If you have a dream and you're willing to work for it, you can have anything in the world."



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Haven House Children's Hospice is looking for participants to take on its latest virtual event – the 24/7 Challenge.

The idea is to encourage the public to complete a challenge by creatively using the numbers 2, 4 or 7 and then fundraising or donating to the charity.

Events fundraising manager at Haven House, Sophie Bragg, said: "The 24/7 Challenge is directly linked to the vital care provided by Haven House – the hospice provides 24 hours of care, seven days a week, all year round. Families often say that caring for a seriously ill child with complex needs is 24/7 and can be exhausting and that Haven House is essential in relieving the pressures they face. We are a lifeline for these families.

"The coronavirus epidemic means that our fundraising events for the foreseeable future remain cancelled – events that would normally raise such important funds for the services provided by Haven House. We need the help of our local community now more than ever so that we can continue to be here for families."

The conventional ways of taking on a challenge and fundraising may not be possible right now, meaning



the community can be even more creative with the 24/7 Challenge and how they fundraise.

Sophie added: "People of all ages can take on the 24/7 Challenge with a host of activities. The ideas and options are endless – and we know our fantastic supporters will come up with lots of glorious ways to complete the challenge and support Haven House."

Participants can complete the challenge at a time that suits them. To get involved, visit www.havenhouse.org.uk/Event/247-challenge



The Bosch Summer Sale.

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Burglar starts spell behind bars



A prolific burglar who targeted homes across London and Essex, including in Woodford Green, before stealing cars and then using the owners' bank cards, has been jailed for nine years.

James Hearne, 29, of no fixed address, appeared by video link at Chelmsford Crown Court on Thursday, July 16.

He received eight years for six counts of burglary and six months for two counts of theft. He also received concurrent sentences for a further three counts of theft and for four counts of fraud.

Police linked Hearne to burglaries in Brentwood, Harlow, Chigwell, Woodford Green, Wickford and Witham between November 2019 and March 2020.

The first incident was reported in Brentwood, where several watches were stolen. Hearne went on to burgle a house in Harlow overnight on January 17 before targeting properties in Chigwell and Woodford Green, taking two cars and using bank cards at a petrol station and at a McDonald's.

He went on to burgle an address in Wickford on March 16 and used a bank card at a shop before burgling a home in Witham on March 17.

Hearne stole vehicles during these burglaries and was then arrested in Romford on March 31.

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BEFORE



AFTER

Woodford and District National Trust



It is unknown when the Woodford and District branch of the National Trust will be able to restart its meetings. Clive Boon, who submits the National Trust column for **VISION**SouthWoodford, says there are not expected to be any meetings over the coming months. He revealed: "Both venues, Memorial Hall and

All Saints Hall, have no plans to reopen for meetings like ours for the coming few months, it seems.

"We do hope to have a communal get together like those we all enjoyed before this dreadful virus came upon us."



Independent schools group announces leadership team changes

The Oak Tree Group of Schools, a privately owned group of independent schools in Essex, has recently announced some exciting developments to its leadership teams.

Claire Osborn, outgoing headteacher of Normanhurst School, group education principal and current chair of the Independent Schools Association, will take on her group education principal role full-time from September.

In September, Mrs Osborn will hand over the Normanhurst headship to Mrs Jacqueline Job. Jacqueline comes to the school with a wealth of leadership experience gained from her five years as deputy head of North Bridge House Prep, a mixed 450-pupil school in Camden.

Jacqueline commented: "Normanhurst is a small school with a big vision. It's a school where pupils of all abilities, aptitudes and social backgrounds thrive and achieve. I'm honoured to be able to lead the school from September."

Further developments are taking place at Coopersale Hall School in Epping where, after nearly 10 years as headmistress, Kaye Lovejoy retired at the end of last term. The school has appointed Moreen Barnard as the next head from September.

Moreen said: "I am delighted to be joining Coopersale Hall in September and I am excited to be leading the school to the next stage of its development as we look to extend the school and the excellent education we offer."



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HOME & DIY

MOOD for thought

Creating a physical mood board may seem a little old-fashioned when you have the likes of Pinterest allowing you to collate all of your interior design inspirations at the touch of a button. That being said, there is nothing quite like the feel of fabric and the touch of textures to get your creative juices flowing.

WHAT IS A MOOD BOARD?

A mood board is a collection of items that offer you inspiration for your next design project within your home. The purpose of the board is to help you choose which specific items and styles you want included in your design.

STEP ONE: CONSTRUCT YOUR MOOD BOARD

Although you can make a mood board from any material, your best bet is to use reusable cork or foam board as you can then easily pin your samples on to it.

STEP TWO: COLLECT IMAGES

Look through interior design magazines to help cement your vision for your design and to gain insights into trending interior design styles.

STEP THREE: GATHER ACTUAL SAMPLES

Collecting samples of your preferred materials is vital if you want to really get an idea of how the space will look and feel. Look for fabric swatches, carpet samples, tile samples and paint colours, all of which will act as a guide for both the texture and colour of your newly decorated space.

STEP FOUR: ARRANGE YOUR BOARD

You want to arrange your mood board so it is simple to see the correlation between colours, styles and textures. It can also be useful to sort samples in relation to each other, such as a carpet sample next to a sofa fabric sample.

TOP TIP: Only include items you truly love to avoid an overcrowded board that pulls you in different design directions.



DESK DESIGNS FOR SMALL SPACES

Working from home is not without its challenges, with distractions seemingly coming from everywhere and the work/life line becoming severely blurred. Fortunately, we have your desk space covered, thanks to the super space savers below, so that's one less thing you have to worry about.

TRANSFORM A CORNER

If you have an open-plan kitchen or living room, you are in the advantageous position of being able to convert a spare corner into a secluded and compact home office space. Focus on creating an area that complements your existing interior design and make sure you add as much storage space as possible.

OPT FOR AN ALCOVE

Alcoves in the home are very seldom used, and even though they are small, with a bit of imagination you can convert this wasted space into your own working retreat. If you can't fit in a

desk, why not instead mount a work surface and a light fitting to the wall?

GO TEMPORARY

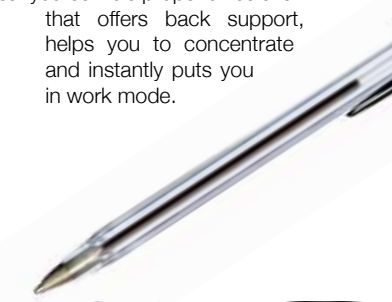
If you really do not have any spare space that can be purely dedicated to working from home, you can still create a designated working area. Simply choose a room that offers you some solitude and add a fold-down workspace. An ottoman is a great investment, doubling up as seating and storage.

CONVERT YOUR SHED

If you are planning to work from home in the long term, you may want to consider converting your shed or perhaps even your loft into a spacious working area. Think of this as an investment and remind yourself of all the money you are saving on commuting.

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HOME & DIY

Whether you favour a dry white, a robust red or a fruity rosé, as a wine lover you will no doubt have one or two, or five, empty bottles taking up valuable space in your recycling bin each week.

So why not use these bottles to create something beautiful?

ART DECO VASES

All you need for this super-quick craft is a few bottles, white spray paint and three different colours of acrylic craft or chalk paint.

- Start by spray painting the bottles white; you will need to do this three times for full coverage.
- Next paint the top of each bottle in one of your chosen colours, adding vertical brush strokes around the neck.
- Finally paint around the base, adding vertical strokes up the sides.
- Leave to dry.

BIRD FEEDER

What could be better than sitting in your garden listening to the sweet song of the surrounding birds?

All you need is an empty wine bottle, a few pieces of wood, a hose clamp and some acrylic paint in your preferred colour to create this stunning garden feature.

MINIATURE PLANTER

Unfortunately, you can't use a regular wine bottle for this project, but it is so impressive that we decided to include it anyway.

- Purchase a wine bottle planter.
- Fill the planter with soil.
- Arrange a selection of succulents.
- Leave for 2-3 days without water to allow roots to heal.

CHEESE BOARD

To make this craft, you will first need to flatten your wine bottle. This involves using a kiln – you can find a simple tutorial for this online.

You can then add your preferred decorative touches.

Photo credit: greenhouseglassworks via giffenspace.com, Belle Vous via amazon.com, guidepatterns.com, thecrazycraftlady.com





HOME & DIY

ABSTRACT INTERIORS



TAKE YOUR CUES FROM THE ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISTS FOR A LOOK THAT IS BOTH CHEERY AND MODERN

There are a multitude of reasons to invite abstract art into your living space – after all, you'll be hard pushed to tour London's art galleries with all the freedom of old.

Where art is concerned, colour, texture and design are known to lift spirits, provoke creativity and stir interaction, so with that in mind you may as well surrender and let a little weirdness into your home.

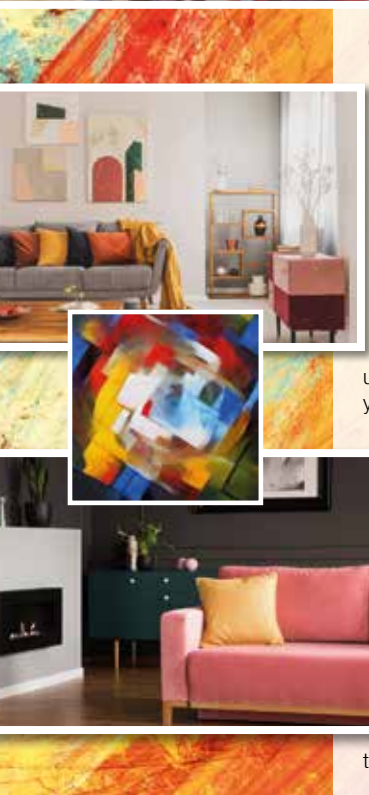
For the likes of Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko, abstract expressionism was a way to defy the confines of post-war life in 1940s New York through an art form which was deeply personal, spiritual and often unfathomable to anyone but the artist. Similarly, getting a little abstract with your décor can be a great form of escapism and personal expression, and, of course, to your guests you will come across as profoundly arty and cool.

If your current colour scheme feels a little neutral, adding a bold print – be it a throw, cushion or framed picture – is a great way to apply a little abstract flair.

If patterns aren't your thing, consider livening up your lounge with block colours – perhaps a Rothko-inspired wall of two shades or a brightly coloured velvet sofa (citrus hues are particularly hot right now).

The beauty of this trend is that it requires no ambitious makeovers, and can be achieved with the addition of a few key pieces. Let a simple geometric print or a statement piece of furniture become the star of an otherwise forgettable room. Alternatively, dedicate an entire space to retro hues, bold designs and metallic highlights.

Either way, the invigorating energy of the abstract movement is bound to fill your heart and your home with joy.



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HOME & DIY

Four CLEANFLUENCERS to follow on Instagram

While some people have used lockdown as an excuse to completely transform their homes, clearing out cupboards and casting out clutter, others might need a little bit more encouragement before donning their yellow gloves and starting to scrub.

LYNSEY QUEEN OF CLEAN @lynsey_queenofclean

If you favour a more natural way of cleaning your home then this is the Instagrammer for you. Educating her 192k followers on how to use store cupboard staples to remove stubborn stains and eliminate odours, Lynsey also tests out cleaning products, so you don't have to. Don't miss "Cleaning Tip Tuesday".

THE ORGANISED MUM @the_organised_mum

For those who hate housework and want to get it done as quickly as possible, Gemma Bray, aka The Organised Mum, is the ideal Instagrammer. Coining the phrase TOMM (The Organised Mum Method), this lady believes that life is for living, not for housework. She splits household tasks into three groups – daily jobs, daily specific tasks and Friday focus – and each chunk of chores is never more than 30 minutes long.

STYLE SISTERS @stylesisters

If you are wanting to inject a little bit of glamour into your home, then the Style Sisters can help you. Most famous for overhauling the wardrobes of the likes of Amanda Holden and Millie Mackintosh, sisters Gemma and Charlotte have now turned their attention to helping their followers detox, organise and restyle their homes and wardrobes. Be sure to check out their space-saving tips.

CLEAN MAMA @cleanmama

Clean Mama, aka Becky, has been keeping a little corner of the internet clean since 2009 with her simple routines that promise to eliminate working-week household chaos. With tips on organising and decluttering your home, as well as her signature cleaning schedule, you will never again have to dedicate your entire weekend to housework.

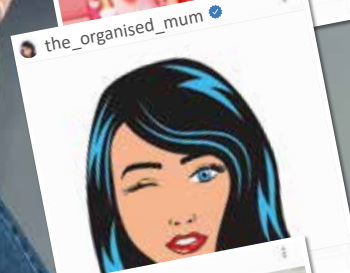


Photo credit: Facebook

ANOTHER BIG BITE

The latest Apple innovations were unveiled at the start of the summer, and in light of a global trend to eliminate infection, there was good news for handwashers...

In launching 13 exciting technological innovations across iPhone, Mac, iPad and Watch, Apple has proved itself capable of upping the ante again, even when its boffins have been locked down. Here are some of our favourites:

macOS Big Sur

A big update that powers Safari like never before, with customisable start page and backgrounds, faster speeds and better extensions.

iOS14

The new operating system brings a raft of improvements, including grouping of apps in folder categories and the ability to open a small part of an app to fulfil a specific task, such as purchasing a coffee or paying for your Deliveroo delivery.

Apple Pencil

This neat tool means a message written on your iPad can be converted automatically into typed text.

Cycling directions

Getting from A to B on your bike has been made

easier with an enhanced map tool that takes into account road traffic and other obstacles not conducive to an efficient cycling experience, such as steps. Your Deliveroo man will be grateful.

Handwashing wonder

An upgrade to Apple Watch means it can detect when a user is washing his or her hands and will start a 20-second countdown timer. Stop scrubbing early and you'll be prompted to keep washing – patronising, but useful.

Sleep tracking

The Watch also provides better sleep tracking after many called into question the accuracy of this being done on the iPhone. It does, however, mean you need to sleep with your watch on.

TvOS

HomeKit-enabled video cameras can now broadcast alongside video programmes you are watching. That means you can still watch Gordon Ramsay on screen while an image appears of Gordon Ramsay at your front, presumably delivering your Deliveroo dinner.



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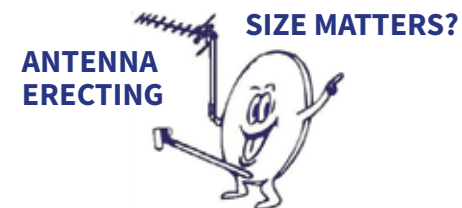
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BRITAIN'S BREXIT BOOM

BUSINESS & PROPERTY

While it's too early to gauge the effects Brexit has had on the country, experts believe our departure from the EU will soon show a positive impact on a number of business types:

- 1. TURNING TO TECH**
The tech sector has always been particularly strong in this country, and with freer conditions, the retention of skilled entrepreneurs plus the bouncebackability of the UK from what might be a COVID-19 global economic downturn, our digital boffins are expected to flourish in making up ground on global heavyweights China and the US.
- 2. MEDICAL MASTERY**
The EU has frequently held back medical advancements and new technologies amid a flurry of admin and red tape. Its slow-moving approach has meant non-member countries have been able to steal a march on new medical developments, but this is expected to change now the UK has matters back under its own control. Combined with the world's finest health service, companies here in the 'life sciences' sector are expected to boom.
- 3. FISHING**
UK fishermen have long bemoaned the EU's Common Fisheries Policy for the restrictions it has caused, even around our own shores. While the complexities of the industry are plentiful and the protecting of fish stocks is important, our hardworking seafarers appear certain to profit from Brexit as Brussels' stranglehold on how our coasts operate is removed.
- 4. AGRICULTURE**
While our binning of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) – which has been in place since 1973 – has so far produced more questions than answers for our farmers, the government is optimistic that substantial improvements can be made for land workers who currently see 70 per cent of the UK geography under agricultural management. Shedding the 'direct payment' aspect of the CAP where land prices were pushed up, causing a barrier for young farmers to get into the industry, could stimulate innovative and inventive UK farming, the like of which we've not seen in centuries.

Living ON THE CANAL

Most of us at some point have imagined the simple pleasures of taking a canal boat holiday, but what about stepping it up a few knots and actually living on one?

Here are a few pros and cons to life on the water:

PROS

✓ **COST:** Mooring costs and a waterways licence can pinch, but once you've paid for your vessel, it's an extremely affordable way to live, with a generator providing all your power.

✓ **FREEDOM:** The world, or rather the canal, is your oyster. Follow the water to take you to any place in the UK, with not a toll road in sight.

✓ **RELAXATION:** Although there is manual work to do, many people love narrowboats for the opportunity to kick back and relax.

✓ **MOD CONS:** Life on the canal is rather rustic. However, nowadays boats can come with pretty much all the facilities you expect in a home.

CONS

✗ **SPACE:** Clearly the area you have to live in on a boat is at a premium, though clever design and minimalist living means you can maximise what's around you.

✗ **CONVENIENCE:** You may find yourself a fair distance from local amenities. While canals and rivers traditionally provided a route into the centre of towns and cities, the majority of waterways are remote and don't have a convenience store on each bend.

✗ **LONELINESS:** Solitude is nice, but some water folk struggle with the lack of others around. Even if living with a partner, adapting to few settled people in the vicinity can be tricky, with canal boat guidelines stating you should move every two weeks at a minimum to fill the water tank and get the toilet pumped.

✗ **SAFETY:** Living next to a towpath isn't the safest of places, particularly late at night.

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...but not as we know it

HOW COVID-19 HAS CHANGED OUR CONSUMPTION OF SPORT

The elation many of us felt at the restart of Premier League football was soon replaced by a sort of bewilderment at a peculiar, slightly perverse, reconstructed version of the game.

Turn on the television to catch a Premier League game and, in many ways, it feels as if we are watching our favourite stars operate in something of a parallel universe – a contact sport played with social distancing (at least as far as goal celebrations are meant to go), drinks breaks, countless subs (all huge distances from one another) and, most crucially of all, zero fans in attendance.

Our broadcasters' move to dub in fake crowd sound has largely been deemed a success, and with studio-based expert summarisers every bit as pointed and punchy as before, this 'new normal' is at least watchable... but it's still very strange.

Of course, as a first phase of life post-COVID-19, it is the best we can do, and other sports

are following suit to get seasons finished and tournaments played.

As reported cases continue to decrease, the expectation is that full-contact sport (for us mere mortals as well as for the Premier League millionaires who, let's face it, are only back playing because of sponsor revenue) may return around September. The government knows it needs to stimulate grassroots and amateur sport, as well as open up the pathways to people attending events again – thousands of businesses, clubs and societies rely on it, and for those who do survive, it may take up to five years to fully recover from the effects of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

Yet as far as seeing capacity crowds at our sports arenas goes, we still appear some distance away, with few confident enough to stick their necks out in stating we may see everyday folk back in stadiums before Christmas.



Bid farewell TO THE COVID MOT

THE CORONAVIRUS MOT HOLIDAY'S FINAL DAYS... OR ARE THEY?

August 1 has never been a particularly notable date in the diaries of car mechanics, though COVID-19's six-month MOT extension made it significant in 2020 like in no past year.

Depending on when you are reading this, you may well consider the moment to have passed. That 'moment' was essentially a six-month extension to the date of your car's MOT throughout the time the pandemic caused complete shutdown in the UK.

The logic when this unusual measure was announced back in April, when COVID-19 was really taking hold in the UK, was that the public should not be encouraged to venture out in their motors, neither for servicing nor for leisurely drives. Now, with coronavirus under control and various social restrictions eased, it's the right time

to lift these measures, as well as stimulating the economy again... car mechanics included.

The criteria was that any car due to have an MOT after March 31 would automatically have an additional six months added to its certificate. Naturally, in coming out of lockdown, that concession has been relaxed, so any cars with MOTs in August or thereafter will have to play by the old rules – get it MOT'd or stay off the roads.

That seems cut and dried, but perhaps it's not. For those of us not quite as up to speed as we should be with mechanical matters, it could be you've accidentally missed the date of your MOT. If this is the case, and it was actually due between April and the end of July, you will now have an additional six months from the listed date to get things checked, but this time, make sure you do.

CAPTAIN SLOW

James May stated he'd be proud to own a Peel P50 (even if it was Jeremy Clarkson who got to test drive one on *Top Gear*); after all, the so-called 'Captain Slow' would be right at home in a car recently dubbed the slowest ever.

The P50 was recently listed at an eye-watering £90,000, although previously it has sold well into six figures. Already the smallest production car in history at just 54 inches long, the car, manufactured on the west coast of the Isle of Man at the start of the 1960s, is distinguishable by its single-seat capacity.

Operated off one cylinder and balancing somewhat precariously on three wheels, it offers virtually no luggage space and has a top speed of around 35mph (depending on the model).

Yet for all its impracticalities, the Peel P50, with its Standard, Touring and beefed-up 125GT



versions, is breathlessly iconic. It represents an era of motoring versatility, freedom and innovation, and you only have to look at the recent spate of smart car models to realise its creators were not so far off track when they sketched out the blueprint... perhaps in a 1960s design era of cars increasing in size, they just went a bit too far in the other direction.

Being marketed as a car that cost the same as a moped (£199 when new) stretched as far as the performance – even a 50cc motorbike has more oomph compared to the basic model – but while only 50 were made across a three-year period, its iconic legacy has lasted more than half a century. Even Aston Martin and Jaguar have toyed with their own versions of a car that sways between novelty and intelligent innovation, not least in an era of overcrowded roads.

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ACROSS

- Make fun of (4)
- Consecrate (8)
- Behave well (7)
- Of the nose (5)
- Contradictory (12)
- Consent to receive (6)
- Person to whom a lease is granted (6)
- Showing total commitment (12)
- Ancient measure of length (5)
- Waterproof fabric (7)
- Stretched out (8)
- Solely (4)

DOWN

- State of the USA (8)
- Comedian (5)
- Real (6)
- Significant (12)
- Disparaging remarks (7)
- Ivy League university (4)
- Worldly (12)
- Inclination (8)
- Live together (7)

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9							10				
11											
											12
13		14				15					
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19											
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22							23				

- Royal chair (6)
- Pinnacle (4)
- Spoken for (5)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Sound travels around four and a half times faster in water than it does in the air
- ▶ In winter, bowhead whales sing for almost 24 hours a day to attract mates
- ▶ Walrus mothers and calves recognise each other by their voices
- ▶ The underwater noise from ships is doubling every decade
- ▶ Common dolphins are usually seen in large groups of up to 1,000
- ▶ A basking shark can be up to 11 metres long
- ▶ Jellyfish have been around longer than dinosaurs and have survived five mass extinctions
- ▶ Dolphins sleep with one eye open

SUDOKU

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