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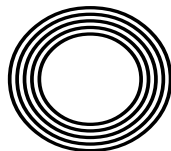
TOP 5
tech-free
holidays

Why we celebrate
ST PATRICK'S DAY

VIVA MAGENTA:
Pantone Colour of the Year

PETER JONES CBE

How this dragon proved he's impossible to slay



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MARCH 2023

Editor's notes...



Brett Shohet, Editor

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

I've always stressed the importance in business of going out and meeting new people. It's vital to make connections and be seen, because in this fast-paced world, if you're not putting yourself out there, you run the risk of being left behind.

Recently, my visits to local businesses have taken on a different tone. Our county is a mixed community of cultures and many of the people here are from or have connections in Turkey. Following the devastating earthquakes, some of them are having to continue with their daily lives and run their businesses, while fearing for the safety of family and friends overseas.

We are very resilient people here in Essex, and it's been wonderful to see how people have been pulling together to donate to charities and offer help in whatever way they can. My message to you is to be kind and caring, and to remember to be compassionate to what others might be going through.

With Mother's Day coming up on Sunday, March 19, it's a good opportunity to support our local businesses. Whether it's booking lunch at a local restaurant or buying flowers from a local florist, they are sure to appreciate your support.

Brett Shohet

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

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The story of ST PATRICK

In the USA, some people celebrate St Patrick's Day not just by wearing green clothes, but also by drinking green beer or milkshakes and eating green bagels and grits. Chicago even dyes its river bright green. If you think all this sounds more American than Irish, you're spot on. People join in the parades and celebrations whatever their heritage, but about one in every 10 citizens in the USA claims to have Irish ancestors. So what's the real story behind St Patrick's Day on March 17?

St Patrick was born in Britain around 386 AD into a well-to-do Roman family. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, and he grew up on the west coast, probably in Wales. At age 16, he was kidnapped by pirates and taken to Ireland, where he was sold as a slave. His job was to look after sheep for his master, a Druid high priest.

During his time as a slave, Maewyn devoted himself to Christianity, his parents' faith, and became determined to convert pagan Ireland.

After six years in captivity, Maewyn persuaded some local sailors to let him board their ship. After landing in France, he made his way back to his family in Britain. And from there, he travelled back to France to train as a priest in Auxerre.

When he was ordained, Maewyn changed his name to Patricius – or Patrick – which comes from the Latin for 'father figure'. Then, Pope St Celestine sent him to Ireland to spread the Christian message.

At first, the Irish people weren't keen. Patrick was threatened, robbed and beaten. But his strategy of persuading the most influential people first, including his former slavemaster, eventually paid off. He also had the good sense to incorporate pagan rituals into church practices to make them more appealing. Over the years, Patrick and his fellow missionaries spread their teachings across the country and set

up churches, monasteries and schools.

It's believed that Patrick died on or around March 17, 461 AD, when he would have been in his mid-70s. He died in Saul in County Down, Northern Ireland, and he's said to be buried in Downpatrick.

The Catholic church never formally declared him a saint, because the system for creating saints didn't start until the 12th century. But the Irish people and their leaders recognised him as one because of the decades he'd spent spreading the gospel.

The Irish have celebrated St Patrick's Day for more than 1,000 years. Traditionally, it involved donning a shamrock, going to church and tucking into a traditional meal of cabbage and bacon. But over the years, some St Patrick's Day fun from the USA has caught on back home. You won't find green beer – and certainly not green rivers. But there are plenty of lively parades, particularly in Dublin, with traditional singing, dancing and colourful floats.

Photo credit: TZIDO SUN/Shutterstock.com

Holi

THE FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

If you're lucky enough to experience the Hindu festival of Holi in India, it's an experience you'll never forget. People put aside their differences and come together to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring, based on the Hindu lunar calendar.

This year's festival takes place on March 7 and 8 in India and among Hindu communities across the world. But what really happens at Holi, and how did it come about?

On Holi day itself, people take to the streets, singing and dancing and throwing powdered dyes and coloured water at each other – so it's no surprise that everyone ends up drenched in a rainbow of colours.

The colours of the dyes are significant. Red is associated with purity, green with vitality, blue with calm, and yellow with piety.

In the evening, when everyone's had a chance to freshen up and put on clean clothes, people visit their friends and exchange sweets.

In some places, people start celebrating the evening before Holi by lighting a bonfire. As a token of gratitude for the harvest, people throw coconuts, wheat sheaves and green chickpeas into the flames.

The bonfire tradition is based on the tale of a witch called Holika. She was burned to death in a fire by the Hindu god Lord Vishnu for trying to kill her devout nephew. To this day, some people burn an effigy of her on their bonfire.

The origin of the coloured dyes may lie with another Hindu deity, Lord Krishna. When he was a boy, he loved practical jokes, including throwing coloured water over his playmates.

But others say the custom comes down to Holi falling at a time of year when people are most at risk of catching diseases. Before the tradition of flinging around colourful dyes started, people threw herbs to keep ailments at bay.

Whatever the reason, Holi is definitely a time to celebrate life – and long may it last.

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FASHION

AN ICON departed

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FASHION
FIGURE HILARY ALEXANDER OBE

In an era where there's so much that's nonsensical about fashion, Hilary Alexander OBE brought ingenuity and intelligence to the runway.

The former *The Daily Telegraph* fashion director passed away on her birthday – February 5 – aged 77, leaving behind a legacy of fashion that saw her decorate the industry with colour, charisma and humility.

Perhaps now more than ever before, we rely on commentators, journalists and designers who can knit the whole crazy operation together, and Hilary was undoubtedly one such person.

From working with the British Fashion Council, to the Council of Fashion Designers of America; from being heaped with praise by the likes of Michael Kors, Claudia Schiffer and Sir Philip Green; right through to appearances on TV, across *Style*

Challenge, *The Weakest Link* and *Britain's Next Top Model*, there was nothing either beneath or above Hilary Alexander.

Born in New Zealand, Hilary moved to the UK as an adult and soon ascended to the role of fashion editor with *The Daily Telegraph* in 1985. As visiting professor at the University of the Arts London, she offered great influence over Central Saint Martins and the London College of Fashion at the turn of the millennium.

While malleable and respectful, Hilary was also someone willing to speak out. Her praising of Margaret Thatcher in 2013 as a "global style icon" was an expression of her desire to be honest and topical, more than it was a salutary piece of prose designed to create conjecture in the wake of the former Prime Minister's death.

Hilary's infectious influence reached every style, design and demographic – someone the industry truly celebrated and admired. And she will continue to do so, even after her passing.



LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Do you want younger-looking skin? Then you need to know about LED light therapy. Originally used to treat wounds, LED – which stands for light-emitting diode – is now used by aestheticians to help regenerate ageing skin and treat other skin problems.

WHAT IS LED LIGHT THERAPY?

LED light therapy is a skincare technique that uses varying LED wavelengths to help treat a whole host of different skin complaints, including acne, inflammation and ageing skin. Unlike other types of light therapy, LEDs do not contain ultraviolet rays, which means they are safe for regular use.

HOW DOES LED LIGHT THERAPY WORK?

You can choose to have LED light therapy carried out by a trained professional or you can buy LED devices that you can use at home. There are two main types of light frequencies: red and blue. The former is used primarily for ageing and the latter to treat acne. Typically, each LED light therapy session lasts around 20 minutes, and, for best results, you need up to 10 treatments.

ARE THERE ANY DRAWBACKS TO LED LIGHT THERAPY?

Some of the potential downsides to LED light therapy include:

- > It can be expensive
- > The results are not guaranteed
- > It is not safe if you have an active skin disorder or take certain medications
- > Side effects are rare but may include redness, rashes and inflammation of the skin

BEST LED FACE MASKS

If you want to try LED light therapy at home, check out the below top-rated LED face masks:

- > CurrentBody Skin LED Light Therapy Mask – Best for all skin types
- > No7 Laboratories Age-Defying LED Mask – Best for budget buy
- > Project E Beauty Skin Rejuvenation Photon Mask – Best for acne-prone skin
- > Dr Dennis Gross Skincare DRX Spectralite Faceware Pro – Best for ageing skin.



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PACK IT IN

IN HONOUR OF NATIONAL NO SMOKING DAY ON MARCH 8, HERE ARE SEVEN TIPS ON HOW TO QUIT SMOKING FOR GOOD

BE PREPARED

It's unlikely you'll simply wake up one morning and decide to never smoke again.

Smoking is an addiction, so take time to come up with a plan that gives you the best chance of quitting for good.

SEEK ALTERNATIVES

Though they may be tempting, e-cigarettes are not the ideal way to quit, as they still contain nicotine. However, they are less harmful than tobacco cigarettes.

Nicotine replacement therapy, on the other hand – in the form of gum, lozenges and patches – can help with withdrawal side effects.

BE TRIGGER AWARE

If you crave a cigarette every time you have a few drinks at the pub, it may be best to stay home or, even better, hit the gym. Knowing what makes you want to smoke and then doing the opposite is a useful technique to help you avoid temptation.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Not only is it reassuring to have some enthusiastic cheerleaders on your side, but your buddies can also help you on your way.

KNOW YOUR REASONS

Whether you want to run a marathon or are motivated to quit for the sake of your young children, having a clear purpose – from

health to finance to the feeling of having achieved something important – will help you stop smoking.

DON'T GIVE UP

Quitting is hard. Know that and give yourself a break should you fail. Each day is a new day, and it is never too late to stop.

REWARD YOURSELF

Put away those pounds you would have spent on cigarettes and you'll soon see the benefits. Treating yourself to something special is the least you deserve for persevering with such a difficult task.



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15 OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS TO HELP CHILDREN THINK

Help develop your child's curiosity, reasoning ability, creativity, critical thinking and independence by asking open-ended questions.

① Tell me about what you built, made, created.

② Can you describe what happened?

③ What do you like best about it?

④ Tell me about what you saw.

⑤ How did you feel when you finished it?

⑥ What did you learn?

⑦ How might you do it differently?

⑧ Tell me about how you worked together.

⑨ What did you see happening?

⑩ How do you know that is the right answer?

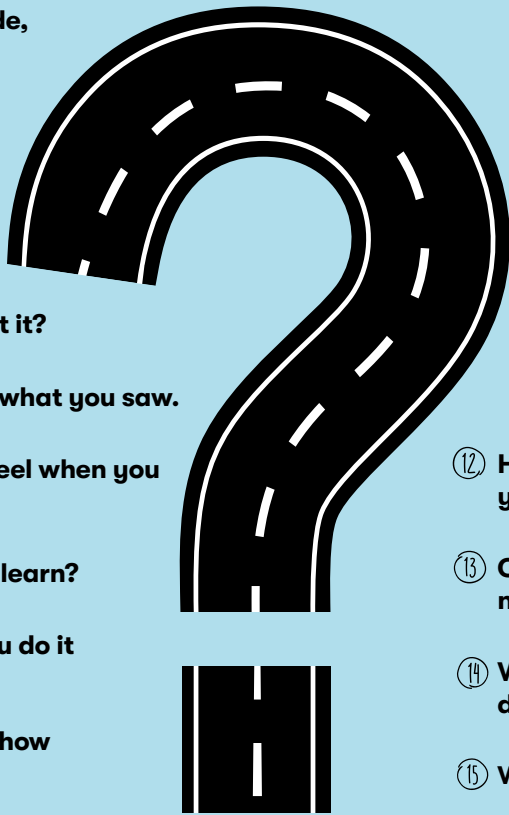
⑪ What do you think will happen next?

⑫ How did you work it out?

⑬ Can you think of a new way to do it?

⑭ What would you do different next time?

⑮ Why did you choose ____ over ____?



DIY Mother's Day BEAUTY GIFTS

Do you want to help your child make a handmade gift for their mum, grandmother or mother figure this Mother's Day? Beauty gifts are always welcomed and provide the perfect opportunity for mums to enjoy a little me-time.

Microdermabrasion scrub

Combat the signs of ageing with this super simple microdermabrasion scrub.

How to make:

Mix 6 tbsp of sugar with 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil | Add 3-5 drops of lemon juice | Add ½ tbsp baking soda and 3 drops of lavender oil | Mix thoroughly | Spoon into a small pot and add a handwritten label

Rose whipped body butter

Give the gift of super-soft skin with this luxurious body butter.

How to make:

Melt 1 cup of coconut oil and 1 cup of shea butter in a small bowl | Leave the oils to cool slightly | Mix the oils using a whisk or standing mixer until you have

a whipped cream-like consistency | Add 8 drops of rose absolute and whip for a further 1-2 minutes | Spoon into a mason jar and add a pretty bow

Lemon peppermint bath salts

Add an element of fizz to bath time with this aromatic bath salt.

How to make:

Mix ½ cup of fine sea salt and 1 cup of Epsom salt in a medium-sized bowl | Stir in 15 drops of lemon essential oil and 5 drops of peppermint oil | Scoop the bath salts into a mason jar and tie on a small measuring spoon with some ribbon

Honey facial mask

Soothe sensitive skin with this natural facial mask.

How to make:

Mix together 1 cup of honey, 1 tbsp of cinnamon and ½ tbsp nutmeg | Stir until the spices are fully incorporated with the honey | Pour into a bottle that has been sterilised with boiling water | Cover the bottle with some pretty parchment paper or fabric.



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CAMERA JARGON Explained!

Want to improve your photography skills? Then spending time with a camera is a good place to start. While mobile phones are great for point-and-shoot, for the best photos a camera is required. At first glance, a camera can seem confusing with all its buttons and settings. Fortunately, we've got you covered with our simple guide to some basic camera terms.

Exposure: One of the most important terms to learn in photography. Getting the exposure right will help you take great photos with all of the elements in balance. Put simply, exposure is the amount of light that reaches your camera. Too much or too little exposure can affect the quality of your photo. The 'exposure triangle' is the combination of aperture, shutter speed and ISO that will help you capture the perfect photo.

Aperture: The hole that allows light into the lens, represented by the f-number. The lower the f-number, the more light is allowed into the lens. It's the aperture that helps you determine which elements of the shot are in focus, allowing you to play with your depth of field.

Depth of field: The distance between the closest and furthest subjects in a photo. A shallow depth of field will put your main subject in focus, creating a blurred backdrop for your subject to sit against. A deep depth of field helps to put the backdrop or landscape in focus, blurring the nearest object.

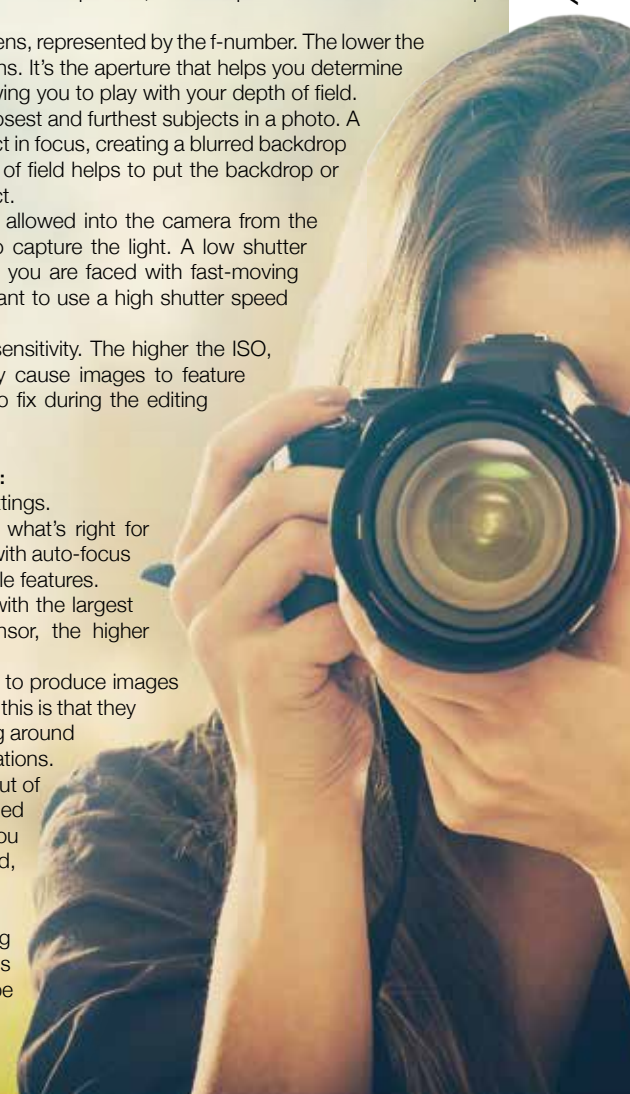
Shutter speed: Controls how much light is allowed into the camera from the lens. It signals how long the lens is open to capture the light. A low shutter speed is ideal for most situations, but when you are faced with fast-moving subjects (such as animals or sports) you'll want to use a high shutter speed to prevent blurring.

ISO: The ISO settings determine the light sensitivity. The higher the ISO, the brighter your images. A higher ISO may cause images to feature noise or grain, which can be more difficult to fix during the editing process than an underexposed shot.

Points to consider when purchasing a camera:

- Rent or borrow a camera first to trial the settings.
- Consider the size and weight to discover what's right for you. Mirrorless cameras are more portable with auto-focus features, while a DSLR has more changeable features.
- For high-quality photos, look for cameras with the largest sensor size. Generally, the larger the sensor, the higher quality your photos will be.
- A high number of megapixels (MP) will help to produce images that are highly detailed, but the downside to this is that they don't perform as well in low light. Something around the 20MP mark performs well for most situations.
- Invest in a range of lenses to get the most out of your camera. A macro lens is ideal for detailed close-up shots, while a long lens will help you capture high-quality shots from further afield, such as landscapes or wildlife.

Capturing the perfect shot means finding the balance between the three key settings (aperture, shutter speed and ISO). Don't be afraid to experiment and get creative.





CELEBRATE BRITISH PIE WEEK, STARTING MARCH 6, WITH SOME TASTY TREATS

INGREDIENTS: 1 onion, thickly sliced | 50g small broccoli florets | 2 red peppers, cut into chunks | 350g courgettes (2 medium), thickly sliced | 2 tsp cumin seeds | 1 tbsp avocado oil | 200g low-fat houmous | 50g coriander (chopped) | Zest of one lemon | A pinch of chilli flakes | 375g packet of ready-rolled puff pastry (dairy free) | 225g sweet potato, peeled and thinly sliced | Non-dairy milk

HOW TO MAKE:

- > Heat the oven to 220°C/fan 200°C/gas 7.
- > In a roasting tin, mix all the vegetables (except

the sweet potato) with the oil and cumin. Roast for 25 minutes then mix in the houmous, coriander, lemon zest and chilli flakes.

- > Turn the oven down to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas 6.
- > Cut the pastry into two rectangles and lay one on a baking tray. Layer the sweet potatoes on top, leaving a 2cm border, then top with the vegetable mixture.
- > Drape the remaining pastry over the filling and press the edges to seal.
- > Brush with milk and bake for 25-30 minutes till golden brown.

INGREDIENTS: 150g granulated sugar | 4½ tsp cornflour | 225g rhubarb, cut into 1.5cm slices | 1 orange (juice and zest) | A pinch of cinnamon | 4 sheets of filo pastry (each approx. 48cm x 25.5cm) | 2 tbsp melted butter | 2 tsp icing sugar

HOW TO MAKE:

- > In a medium saucepan, mix the sugar and cornflour together, then add the rhubarb, 4 tbsp of orange juice and a teaspoon of zest. Cook gently till it's thickened. Add the cinnamon and cook for 10 minutes, then leave to cool.
- > Heat the oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas 6.
- > Lay the filo sheets on top of each other, brushing with melted butter between layers.
- > Spread the filling along one of the longer sides and roll it up, folding in the ends as you go.
- > Make a few cuts in the top, then bake for 15-20 minutes till golden.
- > Cool, then sprinkle with icing sugar.



Photo credit: www.visionmag.co.uk

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HOME & DIY

Pantone Colour of the Year 2023:

Viva MAGENTA

A bold and brave shade, Pantone's Colour of the Year for 2023 is Viva Magenta. Perfect for anyone who wants to start the spring feeling empowered and unstoppable, there are lots of ways that you can incorporate this colour into your home.

What is Viva Magenta?

According to the colour experts at Pantone, Viva Magenta is "a pulsating colour whose exuberance promotes a joyous and optimistic celebration, writing a new narrative". A hybrid shade of red, pink and purple that provides the perfect balance between warm and cool tones, Viva Magenta is an inclusive colour that is easy to add to your home.

What does Viva Magenta represent?

The story behind Viva Magenta is all about the balance between our digital and physical lives. In recent years, people have become drawn to nature in their homes and Viva Magenta has been chosen to reflect our pull towards natural colours. Furthermore, it reflects the movement surrounding climate change, sustainability and land protection.

How can you use Viva Magenta in your home?

Incorporating Viva Magenta is an easy way to add a touch of fun to your home. Some of the best ways to incorporate this shade into your existing interior design include:

- Paint a magenta feature wall in your bedroom or living room
- Invest in an eye-catching magenta sofa
- Add pops of colour through rugs, curtains, pillows and other soft furnishings
- Paint your kitchen cabinets a rich pink or invest in a magenta splashback
- Try magenta dinnerware to create a sense of opulence in your dining room

What colours go well with Viva Magenta?

Viva Magenta pairs well with both yellow and turquoise, as well as being a good match for most dominant colour categories.

Photo credit: zen-living.ca, snugsofa.com





TILE- *tastic!*



If you're looking for an affordable and highly effective way to update your kitchen, then installing new kitchen tiles is the way to go.

With so many different styles and designs to choose from, you are guaranteed to find something you love from our list below.

TONAL SHADES: Neutrals, greys and creamy whites remain a safe but sophisticated choice for your kitchen and promise to make this pivotal space look both fresh and clean. However, rather than sticking to just one colour, why not combine several

tonal shades? Choose tiles with a naturalistic finish for a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



COLOUR BLOCKING: If you're not a fan of patterned tiles but you still want to make an impact, colour blocking is a great solution. Put a spin on your standard brick tiles by arranging them in horizontal, vertical or even diagonal stripes of colour. Alternatively, play around with different widths of coloured tiles on the floor to see what looks best.



EXPOSED BRICK: Add character to your kitchen with exposed brick-style tiles that are perfect for both feature walls and splashbacks. Much more affordable than using actual bricks, brick slips, which are tiles that are made to look like bricks, allow you to achieve the same look without breaking the bank.

HEXAGON TILES: If bright colours in your kitchen aren't your thing, then why not add an extra dimension by filling the space with different shapes? For example, white hexagon tiles can be used to create a sleek and contemporary look in a modern kitchen.

3D TILES: 3D tiles have seen a surge in popularity in recent years owing to their ability to add the wow factor to any style of kitchen. Choose from sharp geometric shapes, undulating wave patterns or more subtle textured tiles.



Photo credit: fireclaytile.com, Future PLC/Mark Scott via idealhome.co.uk, tiles360.co.uk, loveproperty.com



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PETER JONES

AND A HOST OF TALL TALES

At 6ft 6", formidable *Dragons' Den* mainstay Peter Jones CBE has a lofty view over more than just his business landscape.

His is a stature that has evolved over four decades of being at the cut and thrust of business, on the way amassing a personal fortune of more than £1.2billion.

The idea of standing up to one of the formidable commercial minds in *Dragons' Den* is, ultimately, a thing few entrepreneurs relish. The hit BBC reality business show puts pitchers through their paces en route to a prospective investment offer, yet few who duel with telecoms wizard Peter Jones ever emerge victorious.

The 56 year old has been the only Dragon to appear in every season of the hit show, the 20th series of which is currently airing on BBC One.

He has mastered the art of pulling off a devastating look of utter incredulity, although the element of surprise is part of what makes the show so entertaining.

"Over so many years in business, there should

be few things that surprise me," he begins, "and by now I thought I might have exhausted the ability to be surprised or shocked by some of the ideas or investment valuations that come my way.

"In truth, though, people will always surprise you, and that's what makes the show so entertaining. You can expect the unexpected, because it will always arrive."

That line perfectly encapsulates Jones's climb to becoming one of the country's most successful and best recognised entrepreneurs. Growing up in Langley, Berkshire, before moving to Maidenhead at the age of seven, his first business was in the production of personal computers, a venture he began at the age of just 16.

While the business excelled at first, the evolution of home computing in the 90s saw Jones lose ground. A series of bad decisions led to the collapse of his enterprise, and with it went his millionaire status. At 28, he was forced to sell the remnants of the company to IBM and start again.

Subsequently joining Siemens, he was soon branching out again by himself, launching Phones International Group in 1998, a business that garnered more than £14million in sales in its first year alone.

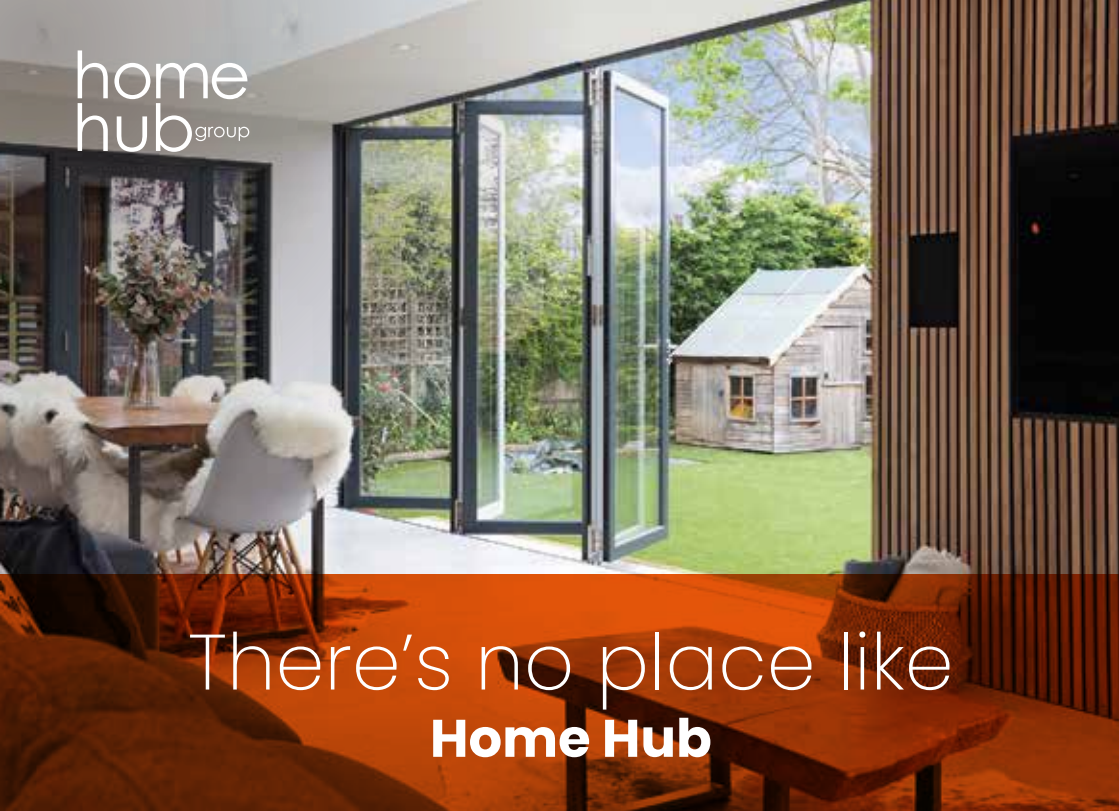
Further personal ventures in TV, retail and lifestyle projects have been supplemented with more than 60 investments via *Dragons' Den* – where Jones is regarded as the most plain-speaking and shrewdest on the panel.

"I think when it comes to business, it's important to be polite and engaging, but ultimately you can't hang about," he says. "If something needs to be said, it needs to be said, and tiptoeing around the issue has been the death of many a good idea."

As well as gaining a CBE in 2009, he runs The Peter Jones Enterprise Academy and The Peter Jones Foundation – both committed to driving and promoting the next generation of business minds, no matter what barriers exist in someone's life.

As for the most salient business lesson of them all – Jones insists there is nothing more defining than starting again from scratch. "Failure is arguably the best route to success," he says. "Most entrepreneurs have been at the point where the hopelessness seems profound. I've been there myself, and to be that low, only to rise back up, is one of the most fulfilling things you can do. Ultimately, never give up."

Photo credit: BBC Studios



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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



LOCAL NEWS

Photo credit: Sid & Evie's Facebook, Google maps



Clothes shop owner warns of 'faceless' high streets

A South Woodford business owner has shared her fears over the future of the high street after announcing her shop would be closing on March 18.

Suzanne Bennett, 54, said that her children's clothing store Sid & Evie's, on George Lane, would be closing after 13 years owing to rising rents, supply problems caused by Brexit, and other economic issues.

In a post on its Facebook page, Sid & Evie's wrote: "It is with a heavy heart that we will be closing our doors for the last time in early spring. We would like to say a big thank you to all our customers over the years.

"It's been a pleasure watching families grow up and serve our lovely community. We will miss everyone."

The post was met with an outpouring of sadness from customers who had been regular visitors of the store since it first opened.

Suzanne also warned that if nothing is done about rising rents, high streets will become identical as "only big companies and corporations" will be able to afford premises.

She said: "Unless there's some step up, rent reduction or support for these high streets, they will just become all the same because it will only be corporates that can go into them; how else can you survive? Every high street will start mirroring each other and we're going to get a lot of faceless high streets."



Photo credit: Iain Duncan Smith MP

Conservative Party activists protest against ULEZ

Conservative Party activists took to the streets of Woodford Green last month to protest against the planned expansion of London's Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).

From August 29, drivers of cars that fail to meet emission and safety standards set by Transport for London will have to pay a £12.50 fee per day to enter the Greater London Authority boundary.

The issue has proven to be divisive, and on February 25, local supporters of the Conservative Party walked through the streets of Woodford Green and Chingford to protest the decision and convince residents that the plans are a mistake. They were joined by Sir Iain Duncan Smith, MP for Chingford and Woodford Green (pictured fourth from left).

Redbridge councillor Andrew Goldie said: "Local Conservatives are out across Chingford and Woodford Green talking to residents about the Mayor's plans to expand the ULEZ."

"ULEZ is a £12.50 tax on drivers – and you may have to pay every time you drive your car."

A spokesperson for the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said: "The Mayor has been clear that the decision to expand ULEZ London-wide was not easy but necessary to reduce the capital's toxic air pollution, tackle the climate emergency and cut congestion in our city."

"Eighty-five per cent of vehicles seen driving in the expanded ULEZ are already compliant and will not have to pay the charge."

MP praises Scout group following recent visit

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, MP for Chingford and Woodford Green (pictured left), visited the 52nd Epping Forest South (EFS) Scout hut in South Woodford last month. Mr Smith MP met Scout leaders Stephanie (pictured centre) and Allen (pictured right), and praised the group for bringing the community together.

In a Facebook post, he said: "Scouting is a remarkable movement that brings amazing benefits and enjoyment to everyone involved – children, leaders, parents and everyone involved with the running of the group."

"The 52nd EFS Redbridge Scouts group is under Allen's leadership, who stepped in to prevent the group folding a few years ago."

"We discussed a number of challenges the group is dealing with at the moment with the Scout hut building, and I'll be writing to Redbridge Council to see if we can try and get some of these resolved."



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Woodford and District National Trust



LOCAL NEWS

Whether you are a National Trust member or not, everyone is welcome to join us at our series of local talks, outings and even holidays.

Meetings take place throughout the autumn, winter and spring months at Memorial Hall, South Woodford, and All Saints Church Hall, Woodford Green. Good company, interesting topics and the chance to socialise with local people with interest in the work of the National Trust.

Do come along; everyone is welcome. Please contact Richard Speller on 07774 164407 for details.

In March, our guest is Louise Cooling, the curator of collections and interiors at Kenwood House, Hampstead. She is coming to speak to us about the listed building at 2.30pm on Wednesday, March 15, at All Saints Church Hall, Woodford Green.

The house is a former stately home that was donated to the nation in 1927. In 2019, more than 130,000 people visited the house, which is full of countless historic paintings and other pieces of artwork, including 63 Old Master pieces.



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

New book based on asylum

An Essex-based author has shared with **VISION** SouthWoodford how the Chigwell Asylum in Woodford inspired her latest book.

Sam Scott, 56 (pictured left), took up writing at age 40 when she decided to try new things, including running a marathon.

Her newest book, *House of a Hundred Doors*, is her first novel for young adults and was released in January. Following its release, Sam will be visiting schools across Essex and performing readings.

She said: "The inspiration for the book came from several aspects. First, my love of the horror genre. I was 12 when I saw the original *The Omen* film and fell in love. Then, as a teenager, I discovered the English horror writer James Herbert and I was hooked.

"Second, I grew up in Chigwell, very close to the Victorian asylum grounds where I used to walk my dogs. The building had the most haunting, desolate,

eerie feel about it, and I always wondered what it must have been like to be an inmate in such a place.

"That, along with watching many ghost-hunting programmes that took place in derelict Pennsylvanian asylums, meant the whole thing came together quite easily."

Though she started writing for adults, she has now switched to the young adult and children's genres, saying: "Children see the world differently to adults. To them, the world is inspiring and full of colour, which offers a writer plenty of variety, and perhaps I have never really fully grown up."

Sam has previously written four novels and aims to combine fiction with real-life subjects, people and places.

To find out more about Sam or to purchase a copy of the book, visit bookguild.co.uk/authors/author-detail/1777



If you're visiting Sheffield this year, the multi-award-winning Winter Garden offers the chance to take a step away from the bustle of Britain's fourth-biggest city. It's wheelchair and buggy friendly, open every day except Christmas Day, and entry is free.

WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?

It's an exotic landscaped garden housed in a vast greenhouse with soaring arches and a glass roof. It houses around 2,500 plants, all originating from temperate climates in the Southern Hemisphere. There are also bedding plants, which are changed five times a year – so there's always something new to admire.

The Winter Garden is 75m long, 23m wide and 21m high – that's big enough to house 5,000 average domestic greenhouses.

And it's not just about plants – there's also an art gallery, a café and shops at the garden. So allow plenty of time for your visit.

The greenhouse was opened in May 2003 by the late Queen Elizabeth II, and was designed by London

architects Pringle Richards Sharratt and Bath-based construction consultants Buro Happold.

WHAT TYPES OF EXOTIC PLANTS ARE THERE?

As well as a stunning bamboo curtain, lush tree ferns and elegant grasses, you can also feast your eyes on some of these:

- > Thorny acacia trees, which in their native habitat are an important food source for animals, including giraffes and elephants
- > Pines from the araucaria family, including monkey puzzle trees
- > Palm-like cordylines, often grown as houseplants in the UK
- > Desert plants like cacti, agave and aloe vera
- > Eucalyptus trees, mostly found in Australia and prized for their timber, the oil in their leaves and providing food for koalas
- > Low-growing phormiums, which are native to New Zealand and have elegant, sword-like leaves
- > Trachycarpus palm trees, known for their chunky trunks.

Photo credit: travellight/Shutterstock.com

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TECH-free TRIPS

Do you and your family need a break from technology? Are screens taking over your lives? Then these phone-free holiday destinations are just the antidote you need.

QUIRPON ISLAND, NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA

If you can think of nothing better than spending your next getaway marvelling at the wonders of Arctic life such as polar bears, puffins and icebergs, then this is the holiday destination for you. Located in the far reaches of the North Atlantic, there is virtually no phone service and definitely no wi-fi.

PARRANO, ITALY

If you're looking for a remote destination in Europe, then the Eremito retreat in Parrano, Italy, is just what the doctor ordered. Boasting 21 rooms and only a 90-minute drive from Rome, there is no internet, wi-fi or television, so you're guaranteed a tranquil and restorative stay.

DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE, ALASKA

Denali National Park is home to the Sheldon Chalet, a luxury five-bedroom lodge that is only accessible by plane or helicopter. Perfect for those who want to experience nature in the extreme, the panoramic views of snow stretch for miles. Plus, with no mobile phone coverage or internet, you can enjoy the peaceful silence with zero distractions.

BADEN-BADEN, GERMANY

If you love a spa break, the Villa Stéphanie mansion and spa is just the digital detox destination for you. Located in the famous spa town of Baden-Baden, this decadent five-star hotel boasts a sauna, plunge pool, thermal suite and private gym. And, of course, no technology in sight.

TOP END, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

As you would expect, there is no wi-fi deep in bush country, so you can kick back and relax or enjoy the local wildlife, including blue-winged kookaburras, magpie geese, wallabies and crocodiles. Book into the Bamurru Plains safari lodge for a restful night's sleep and five-star dining.

Photo credit: wehretalians.com, theluxuryadventurecompany.com, theluxuryspedi.com, kuoni.co.uk



TRAVEL



How to get A PATENT

Thinking about applying for a patent to stop others from copying or selling your invention without your permission? Find out everything you need to know about how to get a patent in the UK below.

WHAT CAN YOU PATENT IN THE UK?

To patent an invention in the UK, it must be:

- ✓ New – it must not have been made publicly available anywhere in the world
- ✓ Inventive – it cannot be an obvious change to something that already exists
- ✓ Something that can be made and used, a technical process or a method of doing something

WHAT CAN YOU NOT PATENT?

There are some things that you are not allowed to patent, including:

- ✗ Literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works
- ✗ A way of doing business, playing a game or thinking
- ✗ A method of medical treatment or diagnosis
- ✗ A discovery, scientific theory or mathematical method
- ✗ The way information is presented

- ✗ Essentially biological processes such as crossbreeding animals or plants
- ✗ Software that has a non-technical purpose

HOW MUCH DOES A PATENT COST?

When you apply for a patent, you must pay fees to the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) when you file your application and also for processing your application after you file. This costs at least £310 if you complete the process. You may also want to hire a patent attorney for help and advice.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PATENT IN THE UK

Getting a patent in the UK is a fairly complicated process and it can take several years, even with professional help. Therefore, you should only start the application process if you are confident that your invention is new and that a patent meets your needs. If you decide to go ahead, then you need to:

- Prepare detailed documents that describe your invention
- File these documents with the IPO

Typically, around 18 months after you apply, the IPO will publish your application in full. You may then have to amend your application based on its recommendations.

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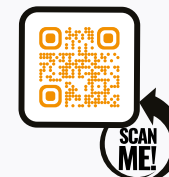
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THE HOT DRINKS

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MEET THE MAN BEHIND THE INVENTION FOR HOT (AND COLD) DRINK LOVERS EVERYWHERE

The next time you unscrew your flask to pour a coffee, spare a thought for Scottish scientist Sir James Dewar. He was the man who made it happen – even though keeping your drinks hot wasn't what he had in mind.

Dewar, who died 100 years ago this month, was best known for his work on the liquefaction of gases. It's not the right place for a chemistry lesson, but when gases are in liquid form, they're much easier to store, so it was important work.

The problem was that Dewar couldn't keep the liquid gases cold enough for long enough to study them. And when they got too hot, they turned into gas again.

To solve the problem, he put his glass flask of liquid gas into a bigger flask. Then he created a vacuum between them and mirrored their outside walls. So the inside flask was almost perfectly insulated, and heat couldn't reach the liquid inside.

Dewar exhibited his creation at London's Royal Institution on Christmas Day 1892. The principle behind his flask is the same one behind the vacuum flasks manufactured today.

Dewar's invention could have made him a wealthy man. The problem was he didn't take out a patent. But the German glassblower who made Dewar's flask had an idea: he realised that the flask could keep liquids warm as well as cold and spotted a gap in the market. He created a flask in a protective metal casing and set up a company called Thermos – Greek for 'hot'. He successfully applied for a patent in 1904 – and the Thermos flask was born.

Dewar sued Thermos for using his invention. Sadly for Dewar, he lost the case. But, refusing to retire, he carried on working as a professor at the Royal Institution until his death at the age of 80 in 1923.



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MOTORING

**DOUBLES, SINGLES AND MORE... ROAD
MARKINGS AND HOW TO WORK THEM IN
YOUR FAVOUR**

We're all familiar with the sight of single and double yellow lines – yet where many of us have fallen foul of road markings, it's because we may not understand what they mean.

This guide to road markings may not make it any easier to find a parking space in your local area, but at least you'll know the risk you're taking when you apply the handbrake.

SINGLE LINES

Single yellow lines are an indication that waiting restrictions are in place, albeit only at certain times of the day. The intention is to eliminate congestion at busy times.

Always look for the accompanying signs, which will state the times when parking is prohibited. However, you may stop there.

If you see a single red line, stopping is also prohibited at certain times.

DOUBLE LINES

Parking on double yellow lines is prohibited at all times, unless there is accompanying signage which may indicate an ability to park there on rare or seasonal occasions.

With both single and double yellows, the good news is you get five minutes' grace, and a traffic warden must observe your car for the full duration of those five minutes before writing out a ticket.

If you see a double red line, the message is simple – no stopping (or parking) at any time.

ZIGZAG LINES

White or yellow zigzag lines offer the same instruction as double red lines, except they are placed near places of high public footfall, such as on level crossings or outside schools and places where emergency services may operate, such as hospitals.

LOADING OR UNLOADING

To confuse matters, loading and unloading is permitted on double and single yellow lines, but only if it's continuous. You'll get between 20 and 40 minutes, depending on your vehicle.

However, if two yellow stripes are seen emerging from the road and up the curb, even loading and unloading is prohibited. For one yellow stripe, stopping is permitted based on the times shown.

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A lump of dairy, a hill, an ambulance on standby – it's the Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling Championship

We've all heard of cheese rolling. Indeed, many of us have seen the frankly terrifying sight of grown men and women hurtling down Cooper's Hill in Gloucestershire on a balmy spring bank holiday in pursuit not just of a 9lb lump of Double Gloucester cheese, but also of the respect of the local community.

The annual event, which takes place on a slightly terrifying 200-yard slope in the town of Brockworth, has become iconic as the go-to cheese rolling event in the UK, yet it attracts competitors from all corners of the world.

While the perception is that anyone who catches the cheese takes the title, in truth this is a 'race to the bottom', with the first person across the finish line claiming the delightful dairy.

Now classed as an extreme sport, there is a series of individual races for have-a-go heroes to compete and contort in, with local legend Chris Anderson the most successful participant in the event's near 200-year history, having won a record 23 races. Ironically, the ex-1st Battalion light infantryman doesn't even like the cheese on offer, insisting on a passion for cheddar instead.

Injuries are commonplace – not just to participants, either. On many occasions, spectators have been struck by the tumbling cheese, which can reach speeds of up to 70mph as it tumbles downhill.

While COVID-19 halted the 2020 and 2021 events, the festival returned in 2022, complete with all manner of sprains, bashes, aches and breaks. Perennial champ Anderson has since announced his retirement, clearing the decks for a new era of southwestern sadist when the event returns this year on Monday, May 29.

While Brockworth hosts the country's most famous competition, there are other cheese rolling events across the UK with their own take on the concept, albeit none quite as flavoursome.



SPORT

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PUZZLES

Answers: see end of The VISION Listings

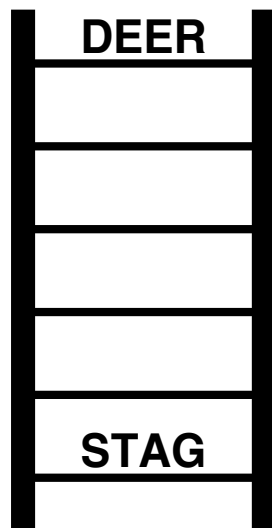
- ▶ BUFFALO
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D	P	O	R	D	Z	A	E	V	O	M	K	A	Z	O
H	R	C	R	D	E	U	S	H	A	N	Z	E	S	H
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B	N	I	D	W	C	R	R	D	L	C	S	E	I	G
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A	P	T	S	U	T	R	S	H	A	T	E	E	H	C

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ There are 63 million pairs of chopsticks manufactured in China every year – that's 126 million single sticks.
- ▶ In Pakistan, a small city called Sialkot is where 40 per cent of the world's footballs are produced.
- ▶ Covering 2,653 miles, Chile is the world's longest country from north to south.
- ▶ There are more than 2,100 castles stand in Germany.
- ▶ Canada has more lakes than every other country in the world put together.
- ▶ Iceland has no army and is recognised as the world's most peaceful country.
- ▶ Disneyland Paris is the most visited place in Europe.

WORD LADDER



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

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

DO NOT rearrange the order of the letters.

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

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