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OCTOBER 2022

Editor's notes...



Nik Allen, Editor

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

My own platitudes towards the Queen are not unique, and I'm certain no one related to our sadly departed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is going to be hanging on my every word.

Yet none of that matters, because what Her Majesty stirred in us all was our own individual image of her, as an icon, as a symbol of strength and resilience, as someone who, despite living through decades of the most dramatic change, ended her days as significant and relevant as ever.

You will all have your own memories and anecdotes of the Queen. And to reflect in these weeks after her passing feels so therapeutic and so important. For me personally, as a royalist, the Queen was a reassuring constant in a world of incredible and often terrifying change.

Of course, we will cope, regroup and evolve, just as HM Queen Elizabeth II did throughout her life. She even pre-empted this in her festive message three years ago when she said: "It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring the most lasting change."

Thank you, Your Majesty, for everything, and rest in peace. God Save the King.

Nik Allen

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HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Farewell

While the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (London Bridge is down) was unexpected, it was of course true that a plan of action for this sad event had been in place for decades. As such, a strict code of practice and protocol kicked into place as soon as Her Majesty left us – this was called Operation Unicorn as she passed away in Scotland.

September 8: Prime Minister Liz Truss was informed of the Queen's passing at Balmoral Estate at 4.30pm, and the news was announced publicly at 6.30pm. All official flags were set to half-mast. Her Majesty's coffin was laid to rest in the drawing room at Balmoral Castle.

September 10: King Charles III was formally proclaimed as the new Monarch and 21-gun salutes were fired around the country.

September 11: Her Majesty's coffin was draped in the Royal Standard of Scotland and a wreath of flowers from the Balmoral Estate was placed on the coffin before it was taken on the Balmoral Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, the monarch's official residence in Scotland.

September 12: A procession took Her Majesty's coffin from Holyroodhouse down the Royal Mile to St Giles' Cathedral. Members of the Royal Family attended a service followed by the chance for the public to pay their respects as the coffin Lay in State for 24 hours. Her Majesty's children held a vigil at 7.20pm.

September 13: The Queen's coffin, accompanied by Princess Anne, was flown from Edinburgh at 6pm, arriving at RAF Northolt at 6.55pm. During this journey, the Royal Standard of Scotland was changed to the Royal Standard. Her Majesty was then driven to Buckingham Palace in a customised state hearse which she helped design. It was beautifully lit with a glass roof, so the public had a clear view of Her Majesty's coffin. The Royal Family paid their respects in private.

September 14: The Imperial State Crown was placed on the coffin before it was taken on the Gun Carriage of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall via Queen's Gardens, The Mall, Horse Guards and Horse Guards Arch, Whitehall, Parliament Street, Parliament Square and New Palace Yard to Lie in State for four days.

September 16: Her Majesty's four children held a vigil at Westminster Hall at 7.30pm.

September 17: Her Majesty's eight grandchildren held a vigil at Westminster Hall at 6pm.

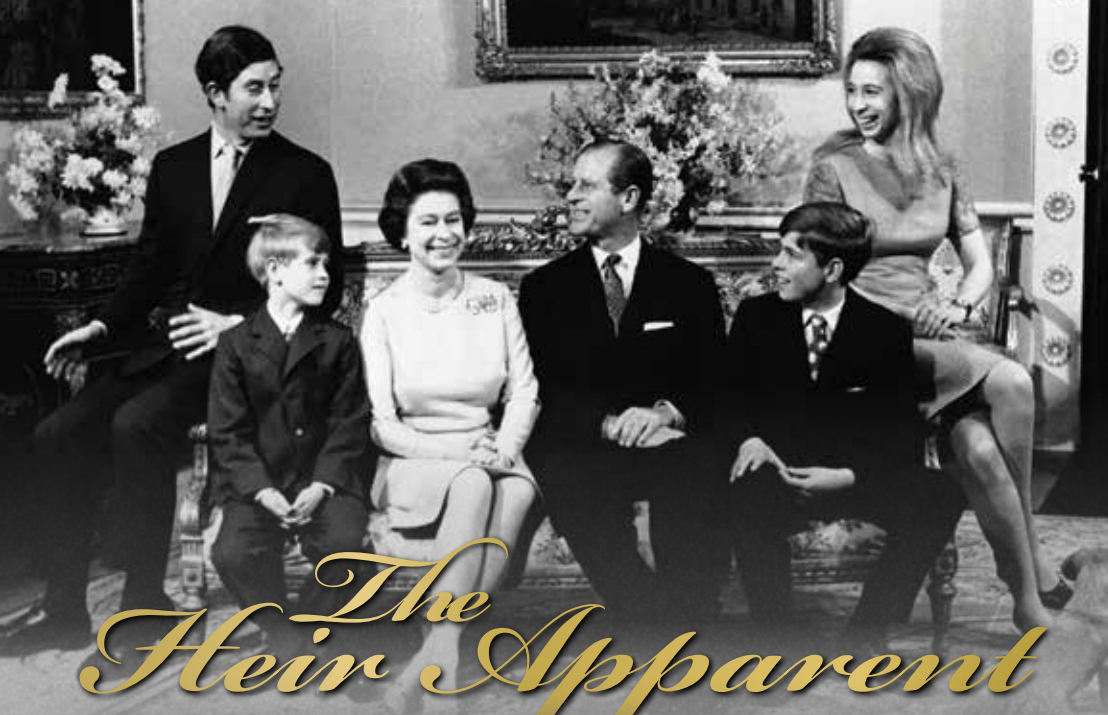
September 19: The Lying-in-State ended at 6.30am. This day was confirmed as a bank holiday in the form of a Day of National Mourning by King Charles III.

10.44am: Her Majesty's coffin was placed on a 123-year-old, 5,600-pound Royal Navy State Funeral Gun Carriage, followed by the King and members of the Royal Family, which travelled from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey for the State Funeral. The Gun Carriage was drawn by 142 Royal Navy service personnel.

11am: The State funeral began, and ended with a two-minute silence. A procession then took place where Her Majesty's coffin was taken to Wellington Arch and transferred to the state hearse, which was then driven to Windsor.

4pm: The committal service took place where the Imperial State Crown, the Orb and the Sceptre were removed from Her Majesty's coffin and placed on the altar. King Charles III placed the Queen's Company Camp Colour of the Grenadier Guards, and The Lord Chamberlain 'broke' his Wand of Office and also placed it on the coffin. The Queen's coffin then descended into the Royal Vault, and the congregation sang 'God Save the King'.

7.30pm: The King and members of the Royal Family attended a private burial service. Her Majesty's final resting place is in the King George VI Memorial Chapel, where her mother and father are buried, along with her sisters' ashes. The coffin of her late husband, Prince Philip, has been moved from the Royal Vault to the Memorial Chapel to join her.



The Heir Apparent

BRILLIANT AND BEAUTIFUL, HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II MAY HAVE BECOME A MONARCH SOONER THAN EXPECTED, BUT IT WAS THE ROLE SHE WAS BORN TO PLAY

When Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born on April 21, 1926, she was third in line to the British throne.

Her Uncle Edward, Prince of Wales, was the eldest son of King George V, but with no children of his own it was expected that on his death the crown would be passed either to his younger brother Albert, Duke of York, or, should he no longer be with us, Albert's eldest daughter, Elizabeth.

In other words, Elizabeth was always expected to become Queen at some point in her life, but in 1936, after the death of King George V, the process was accelerated when her uncle's love for American divorcee Wallis Simpson proved stronger than his love for the crown.

With her father now the reluctant King, the young princess fully embraced her new role as heir apparent. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service during the war – where she learnt to fix engines and drive military vehicles – and on her first overseas visit to South Africa in 1947, gave a speech dedicating herself to the Commonwealth. It turned out to be a promise Her Majesty kept to the very end.

In these early years before she became Queen, Elizabeth was also busy cultivating her private life. On November 20, 1947, she wed her sweetheart, Lt Philip Mountbatten (also her third cousin), in a lavish ceremony at Westminster Abbey. The following year, Prince Charles was born, followed

by Anne in 1950, with the young family settling into a quiet life in Malta where Philip was stationed as a naval commander. But the plans to put her husband's career first until her inevitable accession to the throne were thwarted by the King's faltering health and his untimely death in 1952.

She may have been a young Queen, aged just 25, but she was devoted from the start and wasted no time in winning over the hearts and minds of everyone she encountered. Her coronation at Westminster Abbey was the first to be televised, and on her gruelling first tour of the Commonwealth, alongside Prince Philip, Her Majesty's warm spirit and ceaseless enthusiasm made even the most reluctant among her audiences fall helplessly in love with her. She also became the first reigning monarch to visit Australia on her maiden tour as Queen.

Despite her tender age, Queen Elizabeth II was natural in her role as Head of State. No task was too formidable as she effortlessly won over her fiercest critics, including Prime Minister at the time, Winston Churchill, who declared her to be "only a child". However, the pair soon became fast friends, and remained so until Churchill's death in 1965.

Now, 70 years after those early days of her reign, the legacy of HM Queen Elizabeth II seems even more extraordinary. So devoted, so beloved and so effortlessly full of grace and kindness; Her Majesty was truly one of a kind.

Photo credit AP/Shutterstock

Records bought and sold

The allure of vinyl continues to capture an ever wider audience even in this small East Anglian village.



Internet trawlers, holiday makers as well as local regulars across the generations, have united in finding that elusive vinyl at this tiny packed store.

If you are looking to expand your record collection, or maybe you are a first time buyer, perhaps you are returning to The Black Stuff after years of collecting CD's and downloads, whatever the reason Chris Edgcombe's enviable stock of vintage vinyl will help you rediscover many 12 inch wonders!

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GUY OLIVER'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE

WHY MATERIAL POSSESSIONS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO DESIGNER GUY OLIVER

In his twenties, designer Guy Oliver spent a large amount of time in Soviet Russia with the British Navy. His perception of the country was enforced as one of suspicion and mistrust, but when the whole state opened up at the end of the Cold War, the now Kensington-based designer discovered a style and beauty in the possessions and memorabilia he picked up.

It was that initial investment in objects and items that had real provenance in a specific era, and with personality attached, that has led Oliver into building a landscape that focuses completely on the items we use to make our houses feel like homes.

Across a background tone of whites, beiges and occasional blues, Oliver incorporates cherished possessions, statement antiques and "familiar things" into his living space.

"I believe we can only really be comfortable when we're living and existing around things that give us place and purpose," he says. "We fill our homes with

items that represent places we have loved, people we have admired, time we have spent."

On this point, Oliver zooms in on what truly makes a living space feel perfect and the importance of how the things that fill our homes make us feel. In the designer's case, that's everything from a portrait of an 18th-century Levantine merchant, a Japanese temple model purchased from Harajuku market in Tokyo, or even a set of sketch caricatures dating back 100 years that sit perfectly within the windowpanes of a door.

He adds: "My parents taught me to appreciate antiques and fine craftsmanship – the importance of the provenance of an object and if it can be authenticated.

"We can't take anything with us when we go, so let's surround ourselves with life memories while we're here. The seemingly commonplace can have enormous value in our own minds."

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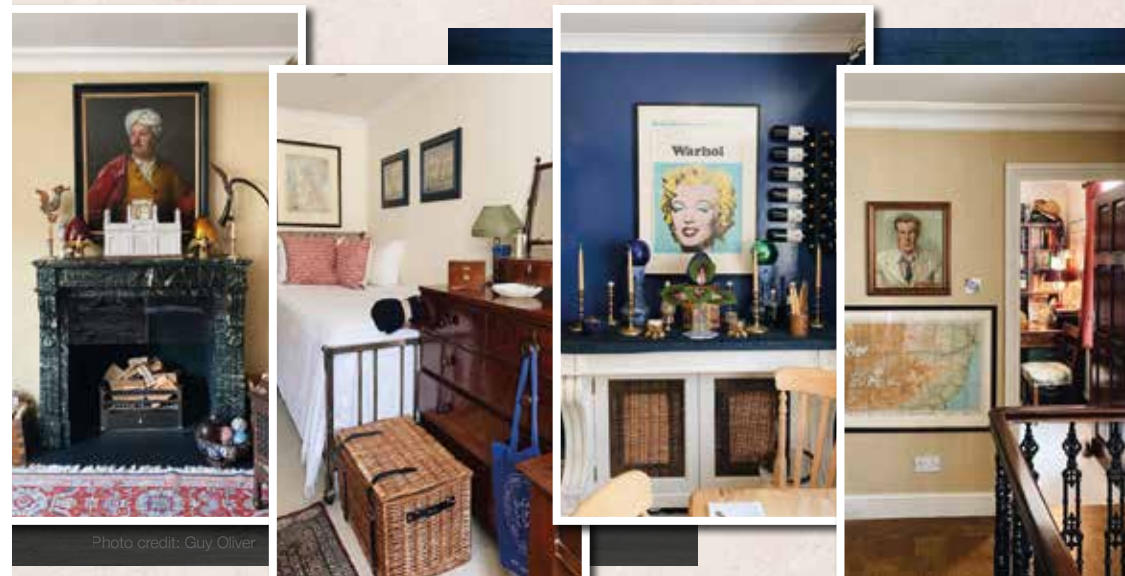


Photo credit: Guy Oliver



HOME & DIY



Spruce up YOUR HOME

If you're after some wallet-friendly home decoration this autumn, get out to your local park or woodland and gather some pine cones.

All conifers produce cones to protect their seeds. But the best ones for autumn decorations are standard pine cones – the ones with thick, woody scales.

Collect your pine cones on a dry day, while they're still fresh. If the scales are closed, don't worry. They'll open in a couple of days.

When you get home, give the cones a quick soak in warm water with a splash of washing-up liquid. Leave them to dry naturally or pop them in an oven at 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4 for half an hour.

Cones look great piled into a bowl, or add some mini fairy lights for a festive look. For scented cones, leave them in a sealed polythene bag for a few days with 10-20 drops each of cinnamon and orange essential oil. You can also make a simple wreath.

YOU WILL NEED

- > Pine cones
- > A glue gun and glue sticks
- > A packet of brown pony beads
- > 1m of thick wire – 12 gauge/2mm diameter aluminium wire is ideal (a wire coat hanger will do but is harder to work with)
- > Jute string or ribbon for hanging
- > Wire cutters
- > Decorations (optional)
- > All extra materials you need can be found at craft stores or online.

INSTRUCTIONS

- > Trim off any stalks at the base of the cones.
- > Glue the side of a pony bead to the base of each cone to form an eyelet.
- > Thread the wire through the eyelets till you can form a circle the size you want. You may need to jiggle the cones to make sure they're tightly packed and stay in place. To secure, twist the wire ends together.
- > Tie on your string or ribbon to form a hanging loop.
- > If you like, add a few decorations.

Photo credit: www.wikihow.com

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HOME & DIY

mood- boosting HOUSE PLANTS

Do you suffer with low mood in the winter months? Then a few well-placed plants could be just what you need to lift your spirits and put a smile back on your face.

PEACE LILY: As the name suggests, the peace lily brings an aura of calm and tranquillity to your home. It is also highly effective at improving air quality, which can make you feel better both physically and mentally. Place in a warm room but away from direct sunlight.

LAVENDER: Lavender is known for its soothing properties and is the perfect plant for relieving stress. Place in your bedroom or in a home office and see all your worries wash away. Lavender loves the light and requires regular watering.

SNAKE PLANT: Not only does this plant look great, but it can also help to boost your mood owing to its ability to pump oxygen into your home. Easy to care for, the snake plant is ideal for people who suffer with allergies as it can help to lessen the impact of airborne allergens like dust and dander. Place on a sunny windowsill.

ENGLISH IVY: If you struggle to fall asleep at night, then this is the house plant for you. English ivy contains properties that can help to prevent restlessness and help you drift off to sleep more easily. It also absorbs mould in the air. Place in a sunny spot in your home and make sure its soil remains slightly dry.

ALOE VERA: Aloe vera has multiple health benefits, including the ability to treat acne, soothe inflammation and hydrate dry skin. On a spiritual level, this plant is known to ward off negative energy and cleanse space. Position in bright but indirect sunlight for best results.



Photo credit: monagot style via Pinterest





BREADY... SET... *go!*

THE CLEVER BREAD BIN HACK TO CREATE A STYLISH BEDSIDE TABLE

It's the trend that's been a viral hit on TikTok, and now it could be making its way to a bedroom near you... It's the DIY wooden bread bin into bedside table hack. That's right, with just two wooden bread bins and some wood glue, you could soon have a new wooden bedside table that's not only stylish, but looks incredibly expensive too. And the good news is, it's super easy to put together.

YOU WILL NEED

- > 2 x wooden bread bins
- > Strong wood glue
- > Table legs – optional
- > Paint/wood stain – optional

HOW TO MAKE

1. Take one of your bread bins and apply some wood glue to the base.
2. Place the second bread bin on top of the glued section and align them together.
3. Use a damp cloth to wipe away excess glue before it starts to dry.
4. Paint or stain your bread bin (optional) or leave as it is for a natural wood look.
5. Apply legs to the corners of your new table for height (optional) or leave it as it is. Legs are available cheaply from DIY stores or online.
6. For an extra upgrade, change the handles. You can also find these at DIY stores or online.
7. Et voilà, your new table is ready to be placed by your bedside and topped with a lamp or other decorative items.

As far as home and DIY hacks go, this has to be one of our favourites, saving a lot of money compared to a real bedside table. Give it a try and enjoy your revamped bedroom interior.

Photo credit: ikea.com, @extra.ordinary.instagram, amazon.co.uk

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LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood

River read its rights during celebration event



Photo credit: Charmian Berry

More than 300 residents signed a declaration in support of the Save the Deben campaign at an event celebrating Woodbridge's beloved river.

The event, which took place at Whisstocks Quay on September 24, also saw co-founder of Lawyers for Nature Paul Powlesland (pictured third from front) read out the rights of the river, including the right to be free from pollution.

The Save the Deben campaign, founded by councillor Caroline Page (pictured second from front) and Ruth Leach, is campaigning for the river to become a designated bathing water site after recent studies showed levels of E. coli in the river were above government guidelines.

Ms Leach said that, should the river be granted designated bathing water status, it would increase the pressure on water companies to improve water quality owing to government monitoring.

She added: "We tried to angle it as a celebration of a river. We had a protest earlier this year with around 200 people marching through the town, but I wanted to do something more collaborative."

To find out more, search 'Save the Deben' on Facebook.

Concerns over impact of level crossings closure

Plans to close several level crossings in Woodbridge will be "devastating", according to nearby businesses which rely on them for customer access.

The works to replace the railway tracks will take place between December and February when the crossings will be shut for a total of four weekends.

Network Rail has said that a temporary footbridge will be installed as a solution. However, some people are concerned about accessibility.

Staff at The Boathouse restaurant, located near the crossing, are worried they won't be able to get in any stock as it is transported across the railway, and have also expressed concerns about how the closures will

affect customers.

Waitress Amara Cole said: "Elderly customers may find it hard [to cross]. It's out of the way for them to go over a bridge and then walk 15 minutes to get here."

The Tea House café will also be affected by the works and will close while the crossings are shut.

Co-owner Brian Wolf said: "The footbridge is not accessible for wheelchairs, pushchairs and anyone with a walking disability. The impact will be devastating."

The new track will reduce noise as trains pass by and even out the level crossings, according to Network Rail.

A Network Rail spokesperson said: "We are carrying out work to replace the track in the Woodbridge area, which is essential for the safe and reliable running of train services. Some of the track on this line was laid nearly 100 years ago. I understand that this work will impact businesses in the area and we have been meeting with owners to discuss how we can minimise this. If anyone has any further concerns, then please contact us via www.nationalrail.co.uk/Contact-Us.aspx"

Litter picker nicked from station within a day

A litter picker installed in a Woodbridge park in the hopes that the public would use it to help keep the area clear of litter was stolen within a day.

The installation of the litter picking station in Elmhurst Park – equipped with a litter picker, reusable bags made from recycled tents, and hand sanitiser – was announced by Woodbridge Town Council (WTC) on its Facebook page at midday. Within three hours, comments on the post reported that the litter picker had already gone missing.

WTC later replaced the litter picker.

A post on WTC's Facebook page said: "It didn't even last a day! We've put another one in there now and have a small stash at the office."

"We hoped it would be okay as the Transition Woodbridge buckets around the town have not had theft issues."



Photo credit: Woodbridge Town Council



Photo credit: Andreea Castellan



Ambient festival brings community together

An ambient music festival held in Woodbridge attracted hundreds of spectators who enjoyed live music, poetry and more.

Jan Pulsford, a musician from Woodbridge, organised the three-day event featuring Brian Eno (pictured top left), Clare O'Connell (pictured top right), DJ Tallulah, Talvin Singh (pictured bottom left), Tom Rogerson (pictured top second from right), and international guests.

Jan said: "Ambient music, for me, is music that doesn't get in the way. It's music of the ambience of the river, the skies, the feeling of the place – which was how Brian Eno [one of the creators of ambient music] came up with it. He was born in Woodbridge."

"It's really good music for mental health and

wellbeing; the NHS has recognised that and recommends various apps and ways of wellbeing and meditation incorporating ambient music."

Eno has previously worked alongside David Bowie and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2019.

Jan said: "This was a community festival, for the community, by the community. People really jumped on it and wanted to be a part of it. There were many people that couldn't fit in, which shows me there is a hunger for it and that we should do it again."

For more information, visit the Woodbridge Ambient Music Festival Facebook page, or go to WoodbridgeAmbientMusicFestival.com for future updates.

SPORT TECH:

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF SPORT

As a sport-watching nation, we have become much more accepting of the role of technology. The early days of video assistant referees (VAR) were awkward and unsatisfying, and many football fans felt a sense that they were losing the raw wholesomeness of the sport amidst a blur of replays, lines on screens and toenail-width decisions.

While the calm that's followed has proved that, conducted in the right way, the technology does work, it has altered our investment in key moments.

WE HOLD BACK ON SUCCESSES

When a goal is scored, a wicket is taken or a forearm smash tickles the baseline, sports fans have acquired a unique hesitation. We fear a decision review, and only when action restarts can we fully relax.

IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER

Sports tech reviewing has added extra hope and drama into the equation; even bad news comes with the hope of a reprieve.

WE OBSESS OVER TECH

In days gone by, the precision of sport was a fingertip save or a catch in the slips. Nowadays, we over-scrutinise computer graphics and millions of pixels on a screen with all the same elegance of a Usain Bolt dip over the finish line.

SPORTING CONTESTS LAST LONGER

Delays brought about by review decisions have extended the duration of sport. Ultimately, this gives fans more 'live game' time, but also extends the length of televised sport, with greater post-match analysis and therefore more opportunities for advertisers to pepper us with their messages.

OUR KNOWLEDGE INCREASES

One big advantage of VAR, Decision Review System, Hawkeye and all manner of other innovations is that they enhance our understanding of the legalities and rules of sport, which can be no bad thing.



Operatic society to perform comedy



Photo credit: The Mikado

A popular comic opera will be performed in Woodbridge later this month.

The Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society (IGSS) will perform *The Mikado* at Seckford Theatre from October 25 to 29.

The Mikado, first performed in 1885, is a story about a comedic love triangle and is one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operas.

The cast of 20 to 25 actors rehearse together twice a week, and the show will feature Ruth Ellis (pictured front centre) as leading lady Yum-Yum. The show features several of the same cast members acclaimed by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association at IGSS's most recent show, *Ruddigore*.

Angela Randall, chair of IGSS, said: "It's not your usual *Mikado*. The typical *Mikado* is yellowface and full Japanese outfits and we didn't want it to be anything like that; we wanted it to be acceptable to modern standards and bring it to life in a different way."

James Hayward, the show's director, said: "I hope we have avoided any controversy and you will enjoy *The Mikado* for what it is – a brilliantly witty musical comedy, blessed with Gilbert's hilarious lyrics and Sullivan's sparkling tunes."

Tickets can be purchased by calling 01473 295900 or visiting www.wolseytheatre.co.uk/shows/the-mikado-2

Mother and daughter last to see Queen Lying-in-State

A mother and daughter from Woodbridge were the final two people allowed to see Her Majesty the Queen Lying-in-State in Westminster Hall last month.

Christine Rogers and her daughter Sarah received their wristbands late on Sunday, September 18, after having already queued for two hours.

A volunteer who handed Christine the wristbands said: "You are the last person to join the queue, so well done."

The queue shut at 10.41pm on September 18 to ensure that Westminster Hall would be clear by 6.30am ahead of HM the Queen's State Funeral on September 19.

While many stood behind Christine and Sarah hoping to gain entry, they were sadly left disappointed.

Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan MP said that around a quarter of a million people are believed to have gone through Westminster Hall to see HM the Queen Lying-in-State.

Macramé company opens pop-up shop

A macramé business founded following the COVID-19 pandemic will be hosting pop-up shops and workshops in Woodbridge.

Gemma Gilbert, the artist behind GemMacrame, got into macramé during the 2020 lockdown and has since completed several training courses.

Throughout October, Gemma is offering Halloween coaster workshops at The Pod, Jetty Lane, where attendees will be provided with full instructions and equipment.

Talking about her creations, Gemma said they are: "The perfect cosy home decor, perfect as a treat for yourself or to give as a gift. I pride myself on using the best materials, and handmaking every single wall hanging from start to finish."

As well as offering drink coasters, Gemma makes plant hangers, wall hangings styled to look like dresses, and mini floral decorations.

More information, including the dates and times of when Gemma will host her pop-up shops, can be found on her website at www.gemmacrame.co.uk



A Lady TO THE LAST

REFLECTING ON HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II IN HER LATER YEARS AS A SERVANT TO THE PEOPLE

“This is our country’s saddest day. In the hearts of every one of us, there is an ache at the passing of our Queen, a deep and personal sense of loss – far more intense, perhaps, than we expected,” began former Prime Minister Boris Johnson in his moving tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. And while he may not have quite lived up to his expectations as Prime Minister – Her Majesty made sure to ‘see him off’ two days before her passing – his ability to transpose feelings into words remains second to none.

For many of us in Great Britain, life without our Queen is something we have never known, and it is only in her passing that we truly appreciate how extraordinary her feat of 70 years on the throne was. Even her twilight years were spent cementing her legacy through continued work and devotion, and over seven decades she travelled to 117 countries and hosted countless high-profile guests and heads of state, including Robert Mugabe, Nelson Mandela and Donald Trump.

Upholding to the very last one of the cornerstones of the British Constitution – that the monarch ought to always stay out of politics – Her Majesty saw 15 Prime Ministers come and go. No matter how turbulent the political seas became, she always stood steady and calm; a constant port in the storm for the British people to depend on.

As is to be expected, Her Majesty saw her fair share of good and bad times. The year 1992 was particularly dire, with revelations of lusty phone calls between Camilla and Charles, the separation of Andrew and Fergie, and the blaze that almost destroyed Windsor Castle. Her ability to play out such tragedies in the public space was forced upon her, in many ways, yet she took the hits and moved forward.

While she later admitted to being desperately sad at the demise of so many great things around her that she believed were so strong, the humanity displayed during that period – and more recently with the scandal involving Prince Andrew and the Harry/Meghan storm – has served to align the Royal Family with our own families.

Rather than their being regarded as a group of people immune to the disturbances and disappointments that come to us all, the Queen has readily admitted the Windsors’ fallibility.

And while the passing of Prince Philip, just 17 months before her own, may have struck another blow to a lady we believed would always be with us, at least her own departure means the two can be reunited again, wherever that place is.

Certainly, it’s fair to say the truest echoes that remain from Queen Elizabeth’s life are the laughs, the pleasure, the playfulness, and the reinvention of how we view our monarchy.

A job well done, Ma’am.





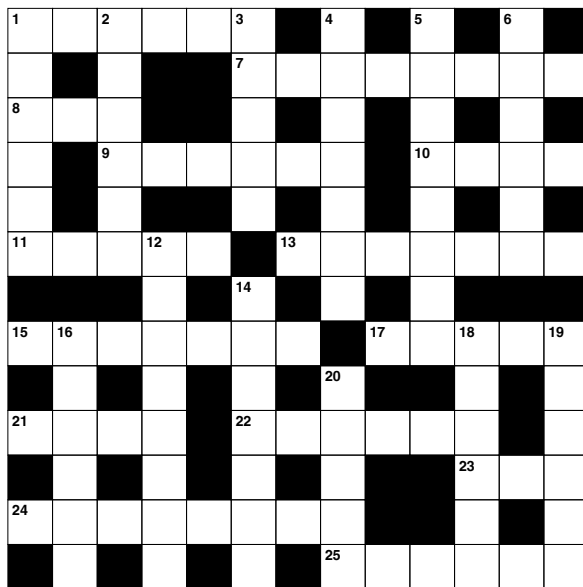
PUZZLES & TRIVIA

ACROSS

1. Stitching (6)
7. Restored (8)
8. Legume (3)
9. Lunatic (6)
10. Release; give out (4)
11. Purchaser (5)
13. Cowboy hat (7)
15. Majestic (7)
17. Foam (5)
21. Ruminant mammal (4)
22. Slender (6)
23. And not (3)
24. Stalemate (5-3)
25. Moved back and forth (6)

DOWN

1. Majestic; wonderful (6)
2. Devastating blow (6)
3. Small particle (5)
4. Cloudiness (7)
5. E.g. Steven Spielberg (8)
6. Sheep known for its wool (6)
12. Going inside (8)
14. Omission of a sound when speaking (7)
16. Special rewards (6)
18. Frankly (6)
19. Intense dislike (6)
20. Submerged ridges of rock (5)



DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Bananas contain high levels of tryptophan, which converts to serotonin, helping to improve our moods.
- ▶ Frank Epperson is believed to have discovered ice lollies by accidentally leaving a glass of soda water with a mixing stick in it outside during a cold night.
- ▶ Chilli peppers contain capsaicin. This tricks your sensory nerves into feeling like your mouth is being burnt.
- ▶ If you put lemons and limes in water, the lemons would float and the limes would sink. Lemons have around the same density as water, whereas limes are denser than water.
- ▶ In 1974, at a supermarket in Ohio, Wrigleys chewing gum became the first-ever product to have its bar code scanned.

SUDOKU

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LOOKING *beneath the wreath*

Flowers are perennially at the heart of the way we offer our tributes to the departed, and few presentations have been as beautiful, perfect or significant as the floral wreath that adorned the Queen's coffin as she made her final journey on September 19.

The choice of flowers on the wreath is not done by luck – it represents a carefully selected process that uses beautiful sprays of colour to celebrate and commemorate so many of the things that enlightened, amazed and enchanted Queen Elizabeth II during her life.

First, the provenance of the flowers is important – they were picked from the gardens of Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and Highgrove House. It was touching to see the use of the myrtle flower, grown from a sprig of the Queen's wedding bouquet when she married her late husband, Prince Philip, in November 1947.

Also present was English oak, a foliage that represents the strength of love, plus pelargoniums, garden roses, autumnal hydrangea, sedum, dahlias

and scabious. All flowers were sustainable, on King Charles' request.

This was a different wreath from the one that accompanied Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on her journey south from Scotland. Using flowers picked from her Balmoral Estate, the wreath featured sweet peas – one of her favourites – dahlias, phlox, white heather and pine fir.

While the wreath flowers have garnered much attention, the large quantity left at Green Park and by the gates at Buckingham Palace represented a huge challenge for the authorities.

There is a set process for the disposal of these flowers, which began seven days after the funeral. Gradually, those flowers wilting first would be removed and taken to Hyde Park nursery for composting. This compost will be used on the flowerbeds at Kensington Gardens.

Cards and labels are put into boxes – some will make it into museums; most will remain stored away forever and are unlikely to see daylight again for decades.

Photo credit: Daniel Leal/AP/Shutterstock

AN apple A day

In the UK, you could eat a different variety of apple every day for more than six years. Well, that's the theory, at least – because more than 2,500 types of apples are grown here.

Apple Day, which falls on October 21 every year, celebrates the eponymous fruit and all the ways we use them to create desserts, drinks and even savoury foods. But more than that, the day helps people appreciate where food comes from and live better with nature.

There are hundreds of Apple Day activities taking place throughout the country. To find out what's happening in your neck of the woods, type 'Apple Day events near me' into a search engine.

BEST EVER APPLE CRUMBLE: Serves 4-6

INGREDIENTS:

For the filling: 575g cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced | 2 tbsp caster sugar

For the crumble: 175g plain flour | 110g caster sugar | 110g cold butter | Pinch of salt

HOW TO MAKE:

Heat the oven to 190°C/170°C fan/gas 5 | Toss the apple slices in 2 tbsp sugar and press into a 23cm round baking dish | Mix the flour with the sugar and salt | Grate the butter into the mixture and rub it in till the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs | Spread the mixture over the apples and press it down slightly | Bake for 35-40 minutes till golden.

HOT SPICED APPLE CIDER: Serves 8

INGREDIENTS:

6 apples | 2 oranges | 2 cinnamon sticks | 10 cloves | A nutmeg | 2 star anise | 50g brown sugar | 2.5 litres cold water

HOW TO MAKE:


Wash and chop the fruit into 2cm pieces (don't remove seeds or skin) and put in a large saucepan | Add the whole spices, sugar and water | Bring to the boil, cover, then simmer gently for 45 minutes | Remove the whole spices | Mash the mixture with a potato masher | Strain the cider through a fine sieve | Serve warm.



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A dish fit for our Queen's coronation

There are a multitude of food dishes that carry with them a certain historical significance that's evident in the name – from beef wellington to eggs benedict. Some point to the person we expect; others are a little more misleading (the Caesar salad is named after an American restaurateur, not the Roman emperor).

In the case of the subtly curried coronation chicken, it's satisfying that the dish was indeed invented in order to mark the Queen's coronation in 1953, even if its origins actually point to a similar chicken recipe conceived for George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935.

The recipe was published as the nation prepared for street parties, although in those post-war years, some ingredients may have been deemed extravagant as it was previously more complex, and

only recently has it evolved into something more sultana-heavy.

The recipe took more than four weeks to create, and was perfected by Angela Wood, now 88, a student at Winkfield Place College, which was preparing the menu for a banquet at nearby Westminster School for more than 350 dignitaries after the coronation.

She said in an interview: "The brief was 'something that had a bit of flavour, but not too much', to appeal to the banquet guests. For a month or more, I was cooking a chicken a day and we had to alter the balance of the spices in the sauce to get it right."

The dish has now gone down in national folklore, used in sandwiches, salads and jacket potatoes.



Coronation chicken recipe

INGREDIENTS: 6 tbsp mayonnaise | 2-3 tsp mild curry powder, to taste | ½ tsp ground cinnamon | 500g shredded cooked chicken | Black pepper | Optionals which can be added are 2 tbsp mango chutney and 1-3 tbsp sultanas, or to taste

STEP ONE: Mix the mayo, curry powder and cinnamon (add the chutney and sultanas if using) together and season with black pepper.

STEP TWO: Add the shredded chicken and stir to coat in the sauce. Stir in 2 tbsp water to loosen if needed, then season and serve as desired.

YOUR GUIDE TO visiting Antarctica

Looking for your next travel destination? Why not make it Antarctica? Here's what you need to know about visiting the world's southernmost continent.

WHY VISIT?

Antarctica is one of the world's last untouched destinations. With its beautiful wilderness, it's a place unlike any other, a real trip of a lifetime.

Away from the tourist traps, busy cities and constant connectivity, it's the perfect getaway from reality.

WHEN TO VISIT

The best time to visit Antarctica is from November to March – the Antarctic summer. You'll get to enjoy 24-hour sunshine, giving you the best chance of seeing the continent's incredible wildlife.

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

Besides the stunning landscapes, Antarctica is home to some of the world's most fascinating

creatures. See penguins, albatrosses, whales and more in their natural habitat – a truly spectacular experience.

WHAT TO PACK

Brace yourself for some cold temperatures on your adventure. Take plenty of thermals and layer up your clothing to help you stay warm.

Remember to take your camera. You won't want to miss out on those amazing photo opportunities.

WHAT TO DO

A trip to Antarctica will give you the chance to discover the history of famous explorers, including Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Edmund Hillary.

While these explorers might have had to survive in difficult conditions, you could enjoy your Antarctic adventure on board a luxury cruise, with all of their modern comforts.

Could a visit to Antarctica be on the cards for you in 2022 or 2023?



Photo credit: antarcexpeditions.co.uk | redsarahmah.com

Whipping up a STORM

THE NAME GAME BEHIND OUR TURBULENT WEATHER SYSTEMS

The naming of storms in the United Kingdom is a relatively new phenomenon, with the first, Abigail, being credited on November 10, 2015.

New names have recently been announced for 2022/23. As usual, a cross section is being chosen to reflect the country's diversity, although many of the names never actually get used – the Met Office resets in autumn, meaning the chances of a late-alphabet letter being used are slim.

In addition, Q, U, X, Y and Z are not assigned in the international storm-naming conventions. However, those that are used are assigned by the Dutch weather forecasting service KNMI, the Irish forecaster Met Éireann and the UK Met Office.

The reason for naming storms is so that the public are aware of the possibility of severe weather conditions. The individual process of naming also prevents confusion over other inclement weather systems in different parts of the country or even on the continent.

However, personifying a storm, in a psychological sense, makes it a more real incident to prepare for.

The system clearly works – 98 per cent of people inside a red warning area were aware of the intense Storm Eunice, which hit Europe in February 2022, with 91 per cent of that figure making sure to protect their business, property or themselves.

As for 2023, Met Éireann has picked out the names Cillian, Fleur, Ide and Nelly as its selections; with KNMI choosing Antoni, Hendrika, Johanna and Loes (named after famous scientists in the Netherlands).

Met Office names put forward were Betty, Daisy, Elliott, Glen, Khalid, Mark, Owain, Priya, Ruadhan, Sam, Tobias, Val and Wouter. Of those, Daisy, Glen, Khalid and Owain were suggestions by the public, submitted via email. Betty won out during a public vote on Twitter.

The 2022/23 storm names alphabetically are Antoni, Betty, Cillian, Daisy, Elliot, Fleur, Glen, Hendrika, Ide, Johanna, Khalid, Loes, Mark, Nelly, Owain, Priya, Ruadhan, Sam, Tobias, Val and Wouter.



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ON THE MOVE



HERE'S A CHECKLIST OF QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK WHEN VIEWING A HOUSE

Buying a house is one of the biggest purchases you'll ever make. And, as with any big purchase, you'll want to do a lot of research before you make an offer.

As you view different properties, be prepared to be nosey. A house may seem perfect on the outside, but asking the right questions will help you decide if it's the right house for you. Keep this checklist of questions in mind when going to viewings.

✓ HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN ON THE MARKET?

If a house has been on the market for a while, there could be a reason why buyers haven't snapped it up. It could also be a sign that the house is overpriced, putting you in a good position to come in with a lower offer.

✓ WHY ARE THE SELLERS SELLING?

There are a lot of reasons why someone might sell their house. If someone has only lived in the property for a short while, it could be a red flag that something isn't right with the home or the area.

On the other hand, someone who's been in the house for many years might be more interested in selling to a family or someone who will enjoy the house, rather than someone who's looking for an investment or development opportunity.

✓ IS THE PROPERTY FREEHOLD OR A LEASEHOLD?

Buying a freehold property means buying the property and the land it is built on. When you buy a leasehold property, you own the property but

not the land – which is retained by the freeholder. Understanding which one applies to the property could impact your decision to buy.

✓ IS THERE A CHAIN?

Being stuck in a chain could mean you have to wait a long time before you can move into your house. Find out what the buyer's situation is to help you decide whether to go for the property or to keep searching.

✓ WHAT IS THE AREA LIKE?

It's important to research the area you're buying in. Feel free to ask about the neighbourhood, shops, pubs, schools and so on.

✓ WHAT DO THE UTILITIES COST?

With living costs on the rise, it's wise to ask about the property's running costs. Find out what the utilities and council tax are and don't forget to ask for the property's Energy Performance Certificate.

✓ WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE SALE?

Some sellers include items like furniture and white goods as part of the sale. Ask what is included – there may be room for some negotiation to keep some of the property's existing items and save yourself some money.

When you're checking out a property, feel free to ask as many questions as you want to help you feel confident in your decision. You'll be glad you thought of everything when you sign on the dotted line.

Purrfect PETS



LOOKING BACK AT THE HISTORY OF DOMESTICATED CATS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL CAT DAY

Around one in four UK households owns at least one cat. If you're one of them, you'll no doubt want to mark National Cat Day on Saturday, October 29.

The day's mostly about celebrating all things feline. But it also helps raise awareness about all those cats that need a new home. But where did cats come from?

The most popular theory is that domestic cats are the distant offspring of Middle Eastern wildcats. Some 12,000 years ago, farmers started working the land in an area known as the Fertile Crescent. This is a boomerang-shaped area that runs from north-east Egypt, along the Mediterranean coast and down to the Persian Gulf.

The soil was good here and the crops grew well. But when it came to storing grain, the farmers were plagued with mice. So it was only natural for farmers to invite in the local wildcats. The animals were thrilled with all the tasty morsels on offer. And

the farmers were delighted with their easy pest control system.

Gradually, as people came to prefer those cats with milder temperaments, the animals adapted to their new environment. And they eventually evolved into the hundred or so cat breeds we're familiar with today.

Cats probably didn't arrive in Britain until the Romans invaded, bringing their mice-gobbling moggies with them. But when the Romans were driven out of the country a few hundred years later, their cats' descendants remained behind.

Somehow, during the Middle Ages in Europe, cats became linked to witchcraft, and hundreds of thousands of cats were killed. Some scholars believe that this led to an explosion in the rat population which helped spread the plague.

Thankfully, by the 17th century, the reputation of cats improved. And they're now the most popular pet in the world.



Control your CHOLESTEROL

Although it gets a bad rap, cholesterol is actually an essential molecule in the body that produces vital hormones such as progesterone, testosterone and cortisol.

However, around 40 per cent of people in the UK have high or borderline high levels of bad cholesterol, which can have a detrimental effect on health.

as atherosclerosis and can cause complications such as chest pain, heart attacks and strokes.

HOW TO PREVENT HIGH CHOLESTEROL THROUGH DIET

Foods to eat: Oats | Wholegrains | Beans | Nuts | Soy | Oily fish

Foods to avoid: Fatty and processed meats | Animal fats such as butter, ghee and margarine | Full-fat dairy products

WHAT CAUSES HIGH CHOLESTEROL?

There are several factors that increase your risk of having unhealthy cholesterol levels, including: A poor diet which is high in saturated and trans fats | A high body mass index | Lack of exercise | Being a smoker | Drinking too much alcohol | Being over 40

Certain medical conditions such as chronic kidney disease, diabetes, lupus and hypothyroidism can also lead to high cholesterol. If you are aged 40-74, you can get your cholesterol checked as part of an NHS Health Check.

WHAT HEALTH COMPLICATIONS CAN OCCUR FROM HIGH CHOLESTEROL?

High cholesterol can lead to a dangerous accumulation of cholesterol on the walls of your arteries. This is known

HOW TO FIND OUT YOUR CHOLESTEROL LEVELS

As high cholesterol does not cause symptoms, you can only find out if you have it by requesting a blood test from your GP.

A cholesterol test can measure your total cholesterol levels, both good and bad, including low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and high-density lipoprotein (HDL), and your level of triglycerides.

Healthy cholesterol levels for each are as follows:

- Total cholesterol = 5 or below
- Good cholesterol = 1 or above
- Bad cholesterol (LDL) = 3 or below
- Bad cholesterol (non-HDL) = 4 or below
- Triglycerides = 2.3 or below





SIX HAIRSTYLES TO BRING MORE VOLUME TO YOUR HAIR

Do you suffer with fine, limp or thin hair? Then these volume-boosting hairstyles are just what you need to add a little oomph to your locks.

Asymmetrical bob

If you are looking for a shorter style that promises to add volume, then the asymmetrical bob is the hairstyle for you. Adding both volume to your hair and definition to your face, this ultra-sleek style suits women of all ages.

Messy lob

For those with shoulder-length fine hair, a messy lob is a great choice. Ask your hairdresser to add choppy layers to your locks and you will instantly see more movement and volume.

Tousled loose waves

Long hair can be prone to looking flat, so why not add some tousled waves to give the appearance of more volume? Simply wash your hair with a volumising shampoo, put in braids and leave overnight. Let your hair down in the morning for gorgeous waves.

Textured pixie

For those who dare to go super-short, the textured pixie is the ideal cut for people with thin hair. This versatile style works with any texture of hair, from curly to straight. To style this look, use a water-based pomade or a matte wax.

Heavy fringe

A full fringe can make your entire head of hair appear thicker and more voluminous. Adding both density and fullness to your locks, this hairstyle works best with no parting. Opt for either a blunt or textured style but be sure to keep it heavy.

Vintage pompadour

The pompadour is making a huge comeback this year and is another short style that is perfect for adding volume and height. Pair short, edgy sides with a curly texture on top for a modern look that demands to be noticed.



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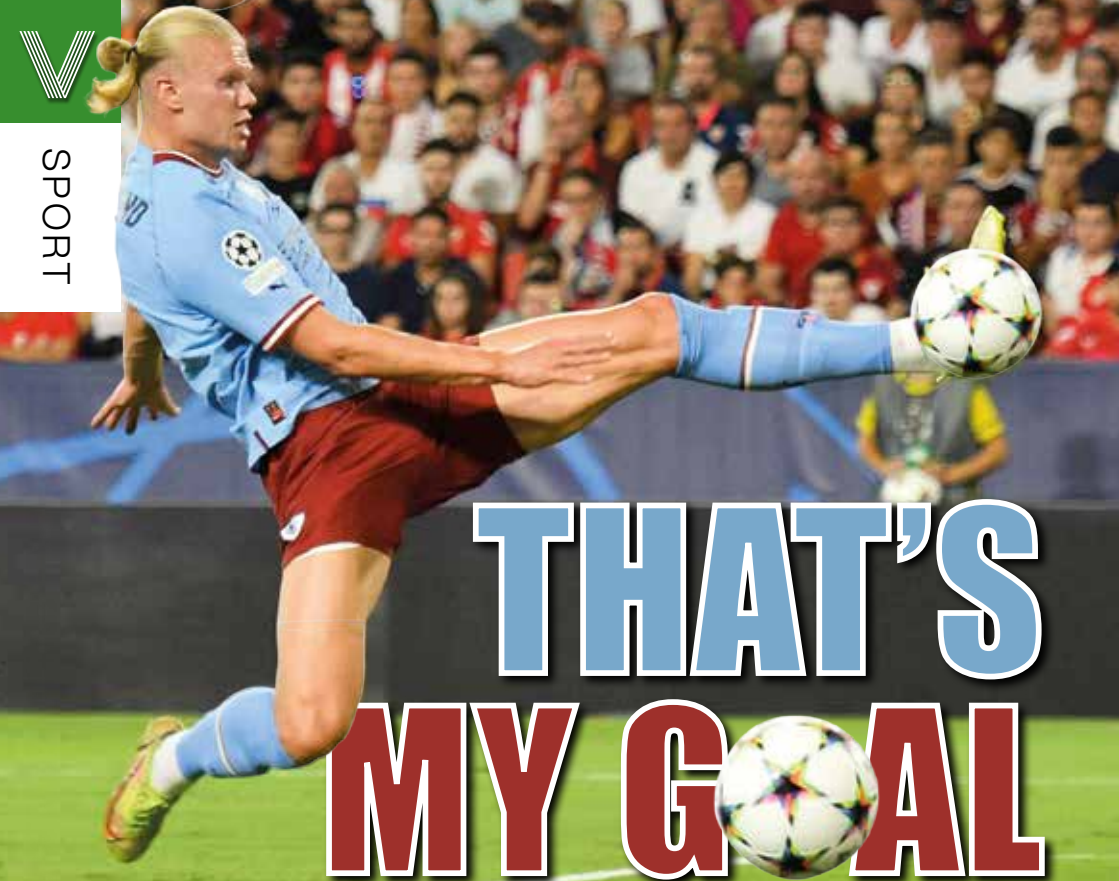


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THAT'S MY GOAL

THERE'S A NEW GUNSLINGER IN TOWN, AND WHEN HE SHOOTS, HE RARELY MISSES

When Manchester City became aware of a release clause in the contract of one of the most highly sought-after goalscorers in world football, they just had to act. Their efficiency and persuasiveness in getting a deal over the line for the former Borussia Dortmund man has secured for them a star who has all the armoury to emulate generational greats such as Ronaldo and Messi.

The future has arrived, and he's a sharp shooter. Erling Braut Haaland was born on July 21, 2000, in Leeds, England; yet instead of representing the country of his birth, he chose Norway, the nation of his parents, both of whom were world-class athletes in their own right.

Alfie, Erling's father, is a former Premier League player, while his mother is Gry Marita Braut, a national heptathlon champion in her homeland.

It sounds impossible that Erling could set the bar higher, yet he has.

His goalscoring exploits have been well documented and, in 2019, he became the first

teenager to score in five consecutive Champions League games, for Austrian club Red Bull Salzburg. It earned him a move to German giants Dortmund.

In between, he scored nine goals in a FIFA Under-19 World Cup group match against Honduras, subsequently securing the Golden Boot. Haaland went straight into the full Norway side and is still averaging a goal a game for The Lions.

Yet his club exploits have been just as impressive. At the beginning of October, he became the first player in Premier League history to score hat-tricks in three successive home games, and also now holds the record of being the quickest player to have scored three hat-tricks in the Premier League.

Hitting the ground running for City in the Premier League and Champions League, he appears on course to break yet more records.

What City boss Pep Guardiola ultimately recruited him for, though, was to give the club's Abu Dhabi owners what they crave – the Champions League trophy. Watch this space.

Photo credit: Julio Munoz/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock



BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTING MOMENTS:

DROP-KICK JONNY

Each month, we look at one of the most significant events in British sporting history. This month, it's England's dramatic Rugby World Cup win against Australia in 2003.

The fact that England came into the 2003 World Cup as tournament favourites didn't for one second lead to any sensible suggestion that the Three Lions might actually take the Webb Ellis Cup back to Blighty with them.

Never had a Northern Hemisphere team won the ultimate prize in rugby, and with the formidable force of co-hosts New Zealand and Australia ready to greet them – the latter as defending champions – only the staunchest England fan imagined Clive Woodward OBE's side could emerge victorious.

Yet in captain Martin Johnson CBE, fly-half Jonny Wilkinson CBE, speedster Jason Robinson OBE (fresh from switching codes having grown up playing rugby league) and a batch of other stars coming into their prime, such as Matt Dawson MBE, Mike Tindall MBE, Ben Cohen MBE, Will Greenwood MBE and Steve Thompson MBE, the feeling that we might be witnessing something special heightened as England sauntered through the group stages.

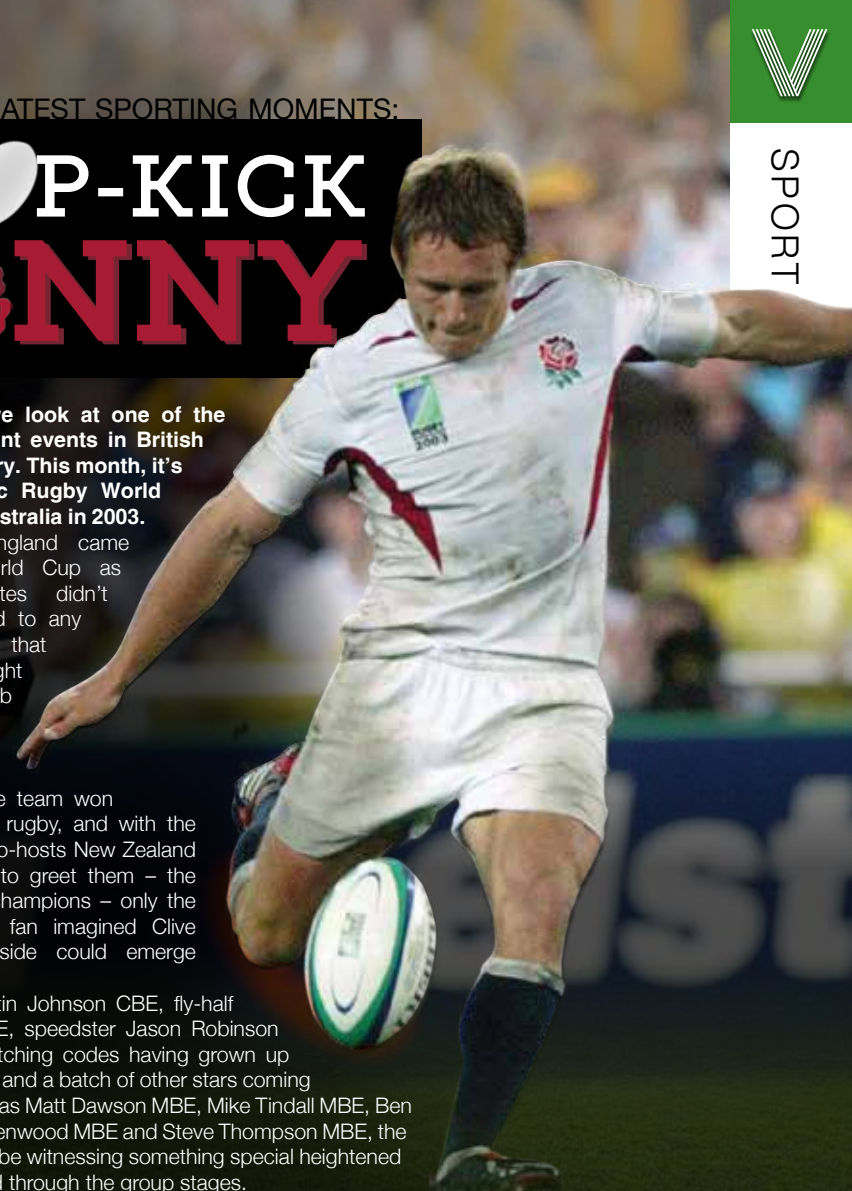
They accumulated more than 250 points in their opening four matches, seeing off Georgia, South Africa, Samoa and Uruguay with little fuss.

In the quarter-final, Wales scored two tries to England's one, but the kicking of Jonny Wilkinson saw the team home 28-17.

And eight three-pointers in the semi-final against France paved the way for a showdown final with Australia. In a match screened live in the UK as rugby fans were tucking into a liquid breakfast, Lote Tuqiri scored the opening try for the hosts at Stadium Australia in Sydney, before three Wilkinson kicks and a try gave England a 14-5 lead. Gradually pegged back in the second half, Elton Flatley's last-gasp penalty brought Australia level.

In extra time, Flatley again restored parity at 17-17 with only three minutes to spare, but just as sudden death loomed, Wilkinson received Dawson's pull-back and drilled over the winning drop goal that won the trophy and changed English rugby forever.

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