

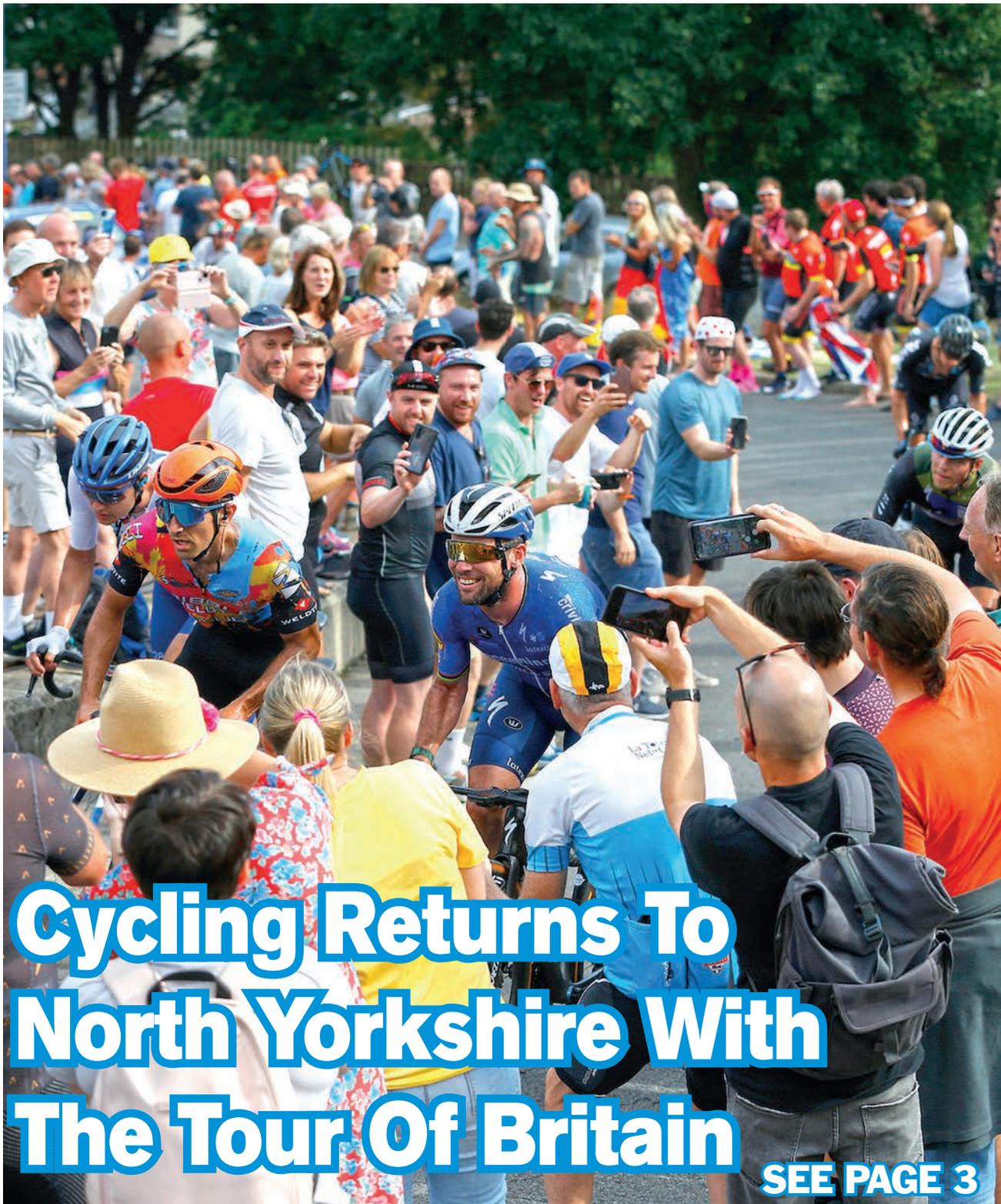
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Yorkshire Reporter

MARCH 2022

YORK & HARROGATE DISTRICT

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Linzi, Editor

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Cycling Returns To North Yorkshire With The Tour Of Britain



North Yorkshire is to host a stage of the 2022 Tour of Britain cycle race. Britain's leading cycle race will return to Yorkshire for stage four on Wednesday, 7 September. It was last in the area in 2009, when York welcomed the opening day's finish, and before that in 2008 when Dalby Forest hosted a stage finish.

North Yorkshire's communities are well known for their wholehearted embrace of major cycling events, from the Tour de France Grand Départ to the Tour de Yorkshire and UCI Road World Championships, so large crowds are anticipated for this stage, which will begin in Redcar and Cleveland and promises to be a must-watch.

County Council leader Cllr Carl Les said: "We are delighted to once again welcome major competitive cycling to North Yorkshire. The route the race will take within the county is currently being finalised to provide a thrilling ride while maximising opportunities for people to enjoy the race.

"As soon as the details are announced, I'm sure our communities will want to begin planning how they will welcome and celebrate the event and cycling fans across the county and beyond will be able to plan how they will watch.

"We will work closely with our partners and, with experience gathered through the management of major races over the best part of a decade, will play our part in ensuring the event runs smoothly to guarantee maximum enjoyment and minimum disruption to everyday life."

The host regions for this year's Tour of Britain, which will take place from 4 to 11 September, combine a return to areas familiar to the Tour with others that break new ground.

The Tour will visit the following regions:

- Stage one: Sunday 4 September, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire
- Stage two: Monday 5 September, South of Scotland

- Stage three: Tuesday 6 September, North East of England and Sunderland
- Stage four: Wednesday 7 September, Redcar & Cleveland and North Yorkshire
- Stage five: Thursday 8 September, Nottinghamshire
- Stage six: Friday 9 September, Gloucestershire
- Stage seven: Saturday 10 September, Dorset
- Stage eight: Sunday 11 September, Isle of Wight

Mick Bennett, Tour of Britain race director, said: "Announcing the locations of the Tour of Britain stages is always a day I look forward to greatly, as I know how much people want to watch the race from their own doorsteps!

"We are thrilled to be returning to North Yorkshire with the Tour of Britain and know what a warm welcome the race will receive. Together with our partners at North Yorkshire County Council, we are working to create a fantastic route and engage all of the communities along it, resulting in what will no doubt be a memorable stage of the Tour."

ITV4 will continue to broadcast live flag-to-flag coverage of every stage, as well as a nightly highlights show. The race will also be shown in more than 150 countries, in part thanks to the event's partnerships with Eurosport and the Global Cycling Network.

Last year's star-studded race was won by Belgian rider Wout van Aert (Team Jumbo – Visma), with reigning world road race champion Julian Alaphilippe finishing third overall.

A roadside crowd of more than one million spectators resulted in the Tour of Britain generating £29.96m of net economic benefit for the UK economy, according to research by Frontline.

While spectators can watch all the action by the roadside for free, race day hospitality packages offer guaranteed prime views of stage starts and finishes, complete with fine dining experiences.

Visit sportsbreaks.com/Cycling for more information.



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Yorkshire And The Humber The Fastest Regional Economy To Bounce Back From The Pandemic

Yorkshire and the Humber's economy was the least affected by the initial economic impact of the pandemic, according to EY's latest Regional Economic Forecast.

By the end of 2021, the region's economy, measured by Gross Value Added (GVA), had recovered to 98.8% of its 2019 size – the fastest regional recovery, followed by the North East (98.5%). By contrast, the UK's GVA had recovered to 97% of its pre-pandemic size.

The region's lead relative to other parts of the UK is forecast to shrink, however, with Yorkshire and the Humber's GVA set to grow 8.8% relative to its pre-pandemic size by 2025 – ahead of the UK average of 8.3% but behind the East Midlands (up 9.5%), the South West (9%) and London (8.9%).

On an annual basis, Yorkshire and the Humber will be the second slowest growing region over the 2022-25 period, expanding by 2.4% on average each year, ahead of the North East (2.3%). This is behind the average annual UK GVA growth of 2.8%.

Employment across Yorkshire and the Humber is forecast to rise by 0.8% each year between 2022-2025, the second lowest UK regional or national increase, in line with Wales (0.8%) and behind only the North East (0.7%). By contrast, London is forecast to see the largest employment increase (1.3%), followed by the South East and East of England (both 1.1%).

The report also highlights the growing gap between the UK's towns and cities. However, Yorkshire and the Humber has deviated from this trend with Leeds seeing its GVA fall by the equivalent of 0.8% per year from 2019-21 – while the region's towns saw their GVA fall by 0.5% per year over the same period.

Looking ahead though, Leeds is forecast to bounce back between 2022-25 with annual GVA growth of 2.7%, in line with Harrogate (2.7%) and followed by Barnsley and Sheffield (both 2.6%). Leeds' favourable outlook is underpinned by a supportive mix of sectors and gains in the administrative and support service and professional, scientific and technical sectors.

Meanwhile, Hull is likely to experience the region's lowest average annual GVA growth between 2022-25 at 2.1%, underperforming the regional average (2.4%) and behind Bradford and Rotherham (both 2.2%).

Across Yorkshire and the Humber, York is predicted to experience the highest employment growth to 2025 at 1.1% per year. This growth will come predominantly across the human health and social work and wholesale and retail trade sectors.

COVID-19 SQUEEZES REGIONAL INEQUALITY – BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY

The COVID-19 pandemic has helped to narrow the UK's regional economic divide, but the gap between London and the rest of the country is set to grow again during the post-pandemic recovery, the report finds.

When measured by Gross Value Added (GVA), London's economic activity dipped 3.6% from 2019 to 2021, compared to a slightly smaller 3% average decline for all UK regions. But, between 2021 and 2025, London's GVA is forecast to grow by 3.1% per year compared to annual average growth of 2.8% across the UK. Only the East Midlands and South West are currently expected to gain any ground on London over the next three years compared to their pre-pandemic performance – although the capital is on course to pull ahead again after 2025.

London's forecasted dominance is even more apparent in the labour market, with the capital one of just four UK regions (out of 12) expected to see its working age population grow – by 4.7% – between 2021 and 2025. London is predicted to regain or exceed its pre-pandemic share of UK employment (30.9%) and GVA (39.1%) in 2025 too.

First Rural Business Park Benefits From Ultrafast Speeds



■ L-R: Chris Durkan, Chairman SCD Group with Alastair Taylor, Chief Executive, NYnet Ltd and Cllr Don Mackenzie, North Yorkshire County Council Executive Member for Access

Businesses at Thirsk Industrial Park will soon be able to access ultrafast broadband speeds via full fibre provider NYnet Ltd.

For 14 years NYnet – a wholly owned company of North Yorkshire County Council – has worked solely within the public sector providing gigabit broadband to schools, hospitals, GP surgeries as well as local authorities where speed and reliability are essential.

NYnet will now extend its Local Full Fibre network to 12 rural business parks across North Yorkshire, which have historically struggled with poor connections, as part of the £3.6m investment which was awarded to North Yorkshire County Council by the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership as part of its allocation from the government's Getting Building Fund.

NYnet's Chief Executive Officer, Alastair Taylor, said: "We are delighted to be sharing the knowledge and expertise we have developed over more than a decade of working with the public sector to benefit local businesses.

"Our provision of gigabit broadband to schools has recently put the county in the top three in the country for school broadband and we hope that the expansion of our service into business parks will help put the region on the map for digital services and capabilities."

The programme will potentially benefit more than 1,000 businesses across the county, enabling them to stay competitive and enhance the economy and attractiveness of North Yorkshire as a place to invest.

North Yorkshire County Council Executive Member for Access Cllr Don Mackenzie said: "NYnet is well established and highly trusted by public sector services in our region and we are delighted that these benefits will now be available to business parks in rural parts of the county that have typically struggled with reliable connectivity.

"The move to expand into the private sector and support rural business is excellent news for our local economy and comes at a time when many organisations are looking to relocate away from big cities, with advances in technology such as this making that possible."

Helen Simpson OBE, Chair of the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "Our region has ambitions to become a greener, fairer, stronger economy and schemes like this will help us get there. Improved digital connectivity is absolutely vital for businesses so we're really pleased to see the continued progress of this work."

Councillors Approve

Minerals And Waste Plan For Next Decade

Years of painstaking work by North Yorkshire partners culminated in approval of a plan that will guide planning decisions about minerals and waste in the county until 2030.

At their meeting, North Yorkshire County Councillors agreed to adopt the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan, which sets out planning policies for minerals and waste developments as well as providing protection for residents, businesses and the environment.

The County Council, City of York Council and North York Moors National Park Authority have worked together since 2013 to prepare the plan. This has included extensive public consultation and a public examination of the plan by a government Planning Inspector. Modifications recommended by the Inspector were incorporated following further consultation.

The plan will give robust protection to residents and the environment as it guides future planning applications for developments such as new

or extended quarries and new waste management facilities, including recycling and treatment centres. Measures include an extended buffer zone to protect residential locations as well as environmentally important places, such as the National Park, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, nature conservation areas and important historic sites.

Cllr Derek Bastiman, Executive Member for growth, economic development and planning, said: "This painstakingly developed plan will guide decisions on applications for minerals and waste developments until 31 December 2030, replacing existing policies.

"It is a great example of joint working and has been developed thanks to a strong partnership between the three authorities. The result protects the world-class environment and landscape of our beautiful county and the health and wellbeing of our residents as well as the interests of our businesses. I thank all the officers involved for their hard work and dedication in producing this robust plan."

North Yorkshire Sets Budget That Draws On Cash Reserves

North Yorkshire faces having to draw on its cash reserves to meet service demand as members agreed a final budget before the new unitary council for the county comes into effect from 1 April 2023.

At its quarterly meeting North Yorkshire County Council agreed a council tax increase of 3.99%, consisting of 1.99% general council tax and 2.0% of adult social care precept.

This option results in a recurring shortfall of £18m and a need for reserves of £34.9m over the next three years.

The County Council consulted the public about its budget, including the level of council tax. Under Government rules, the authority can raise council tax by up to 1.99% from April, plus up to a further 2.49% for the adult social care precept.

County Councillor Carl Les, North Yorkshire's Leader said: "This is always a difficult choice, deciding what the council needs to do in its work in looking after our communities and residents, especially vulnerable ones, but also deciding what it is fair to ask the tax payer to pay, and what they can afford.

"This is especially true this year, with rising costs and inflation facing residents and council alike, and a huge demand for our essential services.

"We are facing an unprecedented range of risks – the continuing impact of Covid-19, harsh winters and climate change, the need for interventions to prop up social care, the escalating costs of transport for special educational needs students, to name but a few.

"These pressures are such that given the need to continue to deliver key services at a time of rising demand and the need to successfully transition to a new council, our final budget requires a higher degree of support from reserves than would otherwise be the case or is desirable."

The successful transition to the new unitary council arrangements will also be a significant feature of the forthcoming financial year.

The County Council also has to grapple with increasing volatility in the months ahead due to rising costs associated with high inflation and uncertainty in relation to Government funding.

"Increasing council tax is never an easy option for us," said Cllr Les. "We have always striven to be moderate in our increases. We need to understand and balance the hardship families face and the pressure a council tax rise might add with the need to fund essential services to support the most vulnerable in our communities and the services our communities and residents want to see delivered, none of which are without a cost."

Cllr Gareth Dadd, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance, said: "These continue to be turbulent times. We are responding to increased pressures that the pandemic has placed on our communities and the county's economy. At the same time, long-term challenges grow, for example the massive pressures in social care. This means we face further tough choices as we budget for the future."

Find Out About Becoming A Candidate In Crucial Elections

In spring, North Yorkshire residents will be able to vote in elections that will help to shape the way services in the county are run in a new era of local government.

The vote on Thursday, 5 May, will elect 90 councillors who will represent 89 divisions across the county for the final year of the County Council and then the first four years of a new North Yorkshire Council that will be created on 1 April, 2023.

The new council will replace the current county, district and borough councils and will deliver all local services to residents. Newly elected councillors will shape what public services will look like ahead of North Yorkshire Council's first day.

In July 2021, the Government announced that a new single council would be formed to deliver all services across North Yorkshire. A draft Structural Changes Order is now before Parliament and paves the way for elections on May 5.

Richard Flinton, chief executive of North Yorkshire County Council and county returning officer, said: "The councillors elected on 5 May will make decisions on services that affect individuals, families and communities, so we want to make sure that anyone who wants to consider

stepping forward as a candidate has all the information they need."

Prospective candidates and their agents were invited to a countywide online live event last month which can still be viewed at www.northyorks.gov.uk/candidates

The virtual session on Microsoft Teams covered the role of a councillor and community leader, what being a councillor in the county council from May 2022 and then the new unitary authority from April 2023 onwards will mean as well as the structure of the council and key aspects of the role.

Speakers included Richard Flinton as the county returning officer with Janet Waggott and Barry Khan as two of the deputy returning officers.

Each district within the county will also run local briefings for the division prospective candidates are interested in representing, covering the election process, timetable, nominations, appointment of agents and local arrangements.

North Yorkshire residents who are eligible to vote are being encouraged to make sure that they are registered to vote. If you 18 or over, find out how to register at www.northyorks.gov.uk/registering-vote-and-electoral-register

Residents Alerted To Bogus Home Energy Scheme Callers

Residents are being alerted to reports of bogus callers claiming to represent local councils or their contractor in providing energy efficiency schemes.

North Yorkshire County Council's Public Health team is working with district and borough councils in Hambleton, Richmondshire, Ryedale and Scarborough to offer government-funded energy efficiency schemes to targeted households.

County Councillor Andrew Lee, Executive Member for Public Health, said: "We have received reports of residents being contacted either by door knocking or telephone by people claiming to have been appointed to deliver schemes on behalf of the council.

"There have been reports of residents being asked for money in advance, which we and our contractor would never do.

"Some claim they are working with E.ON, who we have contracted to provide the Green Homes project.

"Our schemes require no financial contribution and neither we nor our contractor would make unsolicited calls or visits. Initial contact with householders would be by letter.

"We would remind people not to provide any personal details over the phone or at their door. Anyone who wants to check a caller's identity can call E.ON on 0333 202 4820."

Anyone who needs advice about a scheme they have signed up to or a green energy product they have bought, or who wants to report any suspicious cold calling at the door or by phone, should contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1144

Share Your Story Of How Walking Or Cycling Improves Your Life

Do you opt to walk or cycle rather than take the car for every trip? If so, you could be an Active Travel Champion.

North Yorkshire County Council's Sustainable Travel team wants to hear positive stories from people who are committed to walking or cycling – Active Travel Champions – so that their stories might inspire others.



It could be that you or your family cycle or walk to work, on the school run or any short journey.

Bob Houghton and family, from Scarborough, fit the bill, as they are already keen on promoting active travel.

Bob said: "We cycle locally as a family because it's cheap, better for the environment and often quicker than using the car. The travel is literally door-to-door, without the hassles of searching or paying for parking.

"It increases the amount of time we are in the fresh air. We would recommend everyone to increase the amount of time they spend outdoors, either walking or, like us, cycling."

Bob, wife Charlotte and daughter Molly use their bikes for shopping, commuting to work, visiting friends and relatives in and around Scarborough and holidaying home and abroad. They have been car-free for more than 10 years.

County Councillor Don Mackenzie, Executive Member for Access, added: "Walking and cycling have so many pluses for those who do them regularly. These include personal benefits, such as increased fitness and money saved on fuel and parking, as well as environmental benefits through reducing congestion and improving air quality."

Jackie Speakman from the Sustainable Travel team said: "We hope to change people's habits from driving on all short journeys and increase the number of people who opt to walk or cycle instead. By hearing other people's positive experiences of active travel, we hope others will be encouraged to do the same.



"If you recognise yourself as an active travel champion, we would love to hear your story about how cycling and walking work for you and your family."

Please email your story to Jackie Speakman at: opennorthyorkshire@northyorks.gov.uk

Active Travel Champion's stories will be shared on Open North Yorkshire social media pages and may be used in publicity campaigns. Find out more about Open North Yorkshire at opennorthyorkshire.co.uk

Openreach Creates 250 New Jobs In Yorkshire And The Humber After A Record Year For Hiring Women Engineers

Openreach announced it will create and fill more than 250 more jobs in Yorkshire and the Humber during 2022 – including around 200 apprenticeships – as it continues to invest billions of pounds into its UK broadband network, people and training.

The new recruits will be based across every county in the region working to build and connect customers to the company's ultrafast, ultra-reliable Full Fibre broadband network. The mammoth build is on track to reach 25 million UK homes and businesses by December 2026 including hundreds of thousands in Yorkshire and the Humber. The hiring spree - 4,000 new jobs are being created across the UK - is part of the largest recruitment drive in Openreach's history and will also help deliver further improvements in customer satisfaction, which is at a record high.

Openreach already employs the UK's largest team of telecoms engineers and professionals, and has committed to building a more diverse and inclusive team in an industry that's traditionally been very white, male dominated. Last year, the company attracted 600 women into trainee engineering roles – more than double the previous year. The boost was thanks partly to employing language experts to transform its job adverts and descriptions, making them gender neutral.

Katherine Ball, from Huddersfield recently joined Openreach having previously worked for the NHS specialising in dialysis, ophthalmology, and primary care. She said: "I never thought in a million years of becoming an engineer, but I knew I wanted a new challenge without getting myself into student debt. I saw Openreach were recruiting and that the wage was one I could actually live on, so I thought I'd just go for it. It's the best decision I've ever made – the training is brilliant, and my team are like an extended family. One major plus is that the company understands that we all have different commitments at home and makes really simple adjustments such as providing workwear for us curvier ladies which might seem like a small thing but is actually so important to wellbeing."

The new roles offer a very competitive starting salary and long-term career prospects, but candidates don't need any formal qualifications to apply. All you need is a driving license, a strong work ethic, great customer service skills and an enthusiasm to work outdoors – Openreach will give you all the equipment and training you need to do the rest.

Alongside its recruitment drive, Openreach has committed to represent ONS measured levels of ethnic diversity across the UK and is aiming for at least 20 percent of its trainee engineer recruits to be women this year, with 50 percent of its external hires into management also to be women by 2025.

Openreach also plans to retrain more than 3,000 of its existing engineers during the next year – changing their focus from fixing older, copper-based technologies to installing and maintaining faster, more reliable fibre connections.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Nadine Dorries, recently opened the company's newest training centre in Thornaby which is the latest of 11 regional training schools – including one in Bradford - it has built and upgraded across the country. Around 25,000 engineers pass through these centres every year across the UK, receiving a combined 180,000 days in training.

More than 2,800 Openreach people already live and work in Yorkshire and the Humber. Openreach's full fibre broadband rollout has already reached more than 486,000 local homes and businesses.

Housing Developer Chips In To Help Woodfield Millennium Green



■ L-R: Mike Craddock from Brierley Homes, John Hart, Chair of the Trustees of the Woodfield Millennium Green, and Eddie Ashworth from The HACS group, with the wood chipper

When it comes to supporting local communities, Brierley Homes and partner The HACS Group are always looking to chip in.

So when the opportunity arose to help out Woodfield Millennium Green in Harrogate, the companies knew they had the right tool for the job.

A space for "growing, sharing, meeting and playing", Woodfield Millennium Green was established as part of a government initiative in 2000 to provide areas of public open space across the UK close to people's homes.

The donation of a wood chipper will help the trustees of the green and their group of volunteers maintain hedgerows around the site, which is a short distance from Brierley Homes' new Woodfield Square development.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman, Executive Member for Growth and Economic Development, said: "Playing an active part in the communities where developments are located is at the heart of their ethos as a company. So, along with partners such as The HACS Group, Brierley Homes are always looking for opportunities to help out where they can."

Matt O'Neill, Brierley Homes Director, added: "The volunteers who help look after the Woodfield Millennium Green should be commended for the work they have done to establish and maintain this important resource. We hope we have been able to make their task a little easier with the donation of the wood chipper."

John Hart, chair of the Trustees of Woodfield Millennium Green, thanked both companies for the donation.

"The Millennium Greens were donated around the country to organisations so that they could partake in voluntary work in areas where perhaps some people don't have big gardens," he said. "This gives them an opportunity to get involved in the outdoors, to do some volunteering or do some gardening."

"We have had support from the local councillor, from a couple of shops and from Brierley Homes and HACS and we are really very appreciative of that."

He also thanked local shop Roots and Fruits, which has donated plants, as well as cake and biscuits for the volunteers.

Eddie Ashworth, HACS Group Commercial Director, said: "The trustees at the Millennium Green do great work for the people who live nearby and the wider community of Harrogate. We think it is important that this work is recognised and, as with the other projects we have assisted with, we are delighted to be able to help with the donation of the wood chipper."

Cllr Matt Scott, County Councillor for Harrogate Bilton and Nidd Gorge, said the Millennium Green was a fine example of residents taking pride in their local area.

"Thanks to the dedication of the volunteers, this Millennium Green can be enjoyed by young and old, families and individuals," he said. "I am delighted to have been able to support them in their endeavours and along with local businesses and now Brierley Homes and HACS, I hope it is around for generations to come."

The Woodfield Square development will comprise 19 two, three and four-bedroom homes.

Brierley Homes is part of the Brierley Group, which was established by the County Council in 2017 to bring together council-owned companies with the aim of improving front line services. The group offers services within North Yorkshire and beyond. Other companies in the group are NY Highways, Align Property Partners, First North Law, NYnet, Yorwaste, Veritau, North Yorkshire Education Services and NY Tech.

For more information about Brierley Homes, visit:

www.brierleyhomes.co.uk and follow them on LinkedIn.

Success At Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics For Mobile Data Specialist Cellhire

York-based mobile data specialist Cellhire plc provided 11,000 mobile data connections, with voice service activated on request, to the organisers, media, athletes and attendees at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in China.

The athletes, organisers and attendees benefited from secure, reliable, and affordable data bundles, enabling them to communicate securely not only in China but, importantly, with family and friends at home.

Global media including public and commercial tv, radio and online-streaming broadcasters utilised large data bundles on Cellhire SIM cards, mobile hotspots, smartphones, and other value-added telecoms services, to broadcast and report in real-time.

Cellhire will provide the same suite of services at the 2022 FIFA World Cup later this year in Qatar, where the company has established a direct relationship with the network provider and official sponsor Ooredoo.

Cellhire UK Managing Director, Matt Bennett, says, "Providing secure mobile data connections for use in China helped to protect user privacy and mitigate risk to personal data."

"We have an excellent track record in the global sports and entertainment fields for providing secure data connections and telecom solutions through the close relationships we have with network providers around the world. Cellhire is the preferred supplier of mobile data and M2M/IoT connectivity for clients involved in very large events around the world."

"In total, we have provided many tens of thousands of connections at major events, such as Olympic, Paralympic and Winter Olympic Games, FIFA World Cup, UEFA Euro Finals, Commonwealth Games and the Tour de France. Many of these connections enable the media to have reliable and secure data connections to live-broadcast to their audiences," Bennett adds.

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Rachael Maskell MP Opens New Academy For Military Preparation In York

Rachael Maskell, MP for York Central, has opened a new specialist Academy for Military Preparation in York, which prepares young people for a career in the armed forces.

The Academy for Military Preparation, run by Seetec Outsource, is a funded course for individuals aged 16-24 who aspire to join the Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force (RAF). The specialist facility is based at York's Fulford Road Army Reserve Centre, giving young people access to a working military base. This includes use of the site and fitness suite and access to specialist equipment.

The course will feature training and support from ex-forces personnel to provide young people with the most valuable knowledge, skills and disciplines needed to prepare them for the armed forces recruitment and selection process.

Speaking of her visit, Rachael Maskell MP, said: "It is so important that young people can receive the very best training and support before serving in our Armed Forces. The new training centre will be the making of many young people as they explore their career options and the skills needed for a life of service. The long association of our Armed Forces' relationship with York will continue through this training centre as it attracts those who have served at the highest levels to pass on their experience, knowledge and skills to a new generation.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my visit to our military base in Fulford this morning and learnt much about the training programme that is being taught there. Our Armed Forces offer a wide variety of opportunities for young people in our community, and throughout the careers of those who sign on. In an ever changing and challenging world, it is our men and women who are at the forefront of de-escalating risk, building stability and providing humanitarian support. It is good to know that such investment is being made to give young people the very best start to their careers."

Delivered within Army Reserve Centres in various locations across Yorkshire, Humber, and the North East, the academy offers accredited provision at level 2 in Preparation for the Military, with a varied curriculum including the values and standards of the British Military, fitness training, field craft, weapon handling and research into the job roles available in the armed forces.

The five-month course also focuses on support with CV writing, interview techniques and functional skills in English and maths to ensure recruits are fully prepared and confident about the selection process ahead.

One of the learners at the York Academy, Harry Tate, 17, said: "I wanted to join the Academy for Military Preparation so I'd have some idea of what I'll be doing in the military and which of the forces I'd like to join.



"I will learn about the Ranks in the Forces, the Values and Standards I will need to follow and the British Values. I want my fitness to go beyond what I am capable of now and beyond the Army entrance standards so I will not have anything to worry about when I am in. On the Course I will do drill, fitness, Fieldcraft, weapon handling and lots more that will get me beyond the standard needed to get in. This course will help me to reach my potential and I am really looking forward to seeing how good I can be!"

With over 35 years' experience, Seetec Outsource is one of the UK's leading national training providers, and will initially be launching three academies across the North East of England and Yorkshire, including Darlington and Middlesbrough. Four further academies will open in the region later this year.

Commenting, Sian Harrison, Regional Manager at Seetec Outsource, said: "We're excited to be opening this new Academy for Military Preparation here in York. There is already a demand for this training, and we hope to encourage more 16 to 24 year olds to join the course and move into a military career."

Jason Hurn, National Director for Education and Skills at Seetec Outsource, added: "This Academy will train young people in all of the essential skills required to be a part of the armed forces, providing a great start to their military career. The opening of this new service further demonstrates Seetec's desire to create opportunities and improve lives."

To find out more about the programme visit;

www.seetecoutsource.co.uk/academy-for-military-preparation

Denise Mina Named Chair Of The Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival 2022 Plus Special Guests Announced

Harrogate International Festivals is thrilled to reveal the Festival Chair and Special Guest line-up for the world's largest and most prestigious celebration of crime fiction, Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival.

Award-winning crime novelist Denise Mina will be acting as this year's Festival Chair, following in the footsteps of Ian Rankin, Val McDermid, and Lee Child. Mina is known for the Tartan Noir Garnethill trilogy, as well as her Alex Morrow and Paddy Meehan series, the latter of which was adapted into a BBC television drama. In addition to her fourteen novels, Mina writes short stories, plays and graphic novels, presents on TV and radio, and leads masterclasses on crime writing.

Special guests on this year's incredible line-up, curated by Mina, include crime fiction titans such as: Lynda La Plante, Paula Hawkins, Tess Gerritsen, Michael Connelly, Lucy Foley, Charlie Higson, John Connolly, CL Taylor and Kathy Reichs.

From 21 – 24 July 2022, Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival will return to Harrogate's Old Swan Hotel, bringing together some of the world's most popular crime and thriller writers to discuss all things crime fiction.

A key date in the literary calendar, the award-winning festival offers an international audience the opportunity to discover the next big names in crime fiction and hear giants of the genre discuss their work, as part of a programme made up of thrilling panels, inspiring creative workshops, and unique talks.

This year, Denise Mina will be speaking with Prime Suspect creator and Queen of Crime Lynda La Plante CBE; Paula Hawkins, the author behind global phenomenon *Girl on the Train*, will appear in conversation with crime writer and reviewer NJ Cooper; John Connolly will be discussing *The Furies*, the twenty-second book in his award-winning Charlie Parker series; Kathy Reichs will introduce *Cold, Cold Bones*, the latest installment in the acclaimed Temperance Brennan series; and crime fiction icon Val McDermid will once again be hosting her must-see New Blood panel, showcasing four debut crime writers to watch.

Michael Connelly, author of the international bestselling Harry Bosch series and *The Lincoln Lawyer*, will return to the festival to appear in conversation with festival stalwart Mark Billingham; author of the popular Rizzoli and Isles series Tess Gerritsen will be flying in from the US to discuss her remarkable writing career; Lucy Foley and CL Taylor, two of the most exciting names in British thrillers, will discuss their gripping new books; and Channel 4 journalist and broadcaster Steph McGovern will be speaking with actor and author Charlie Higson about his new crime novel *Whatever Gets You Through the Night*.

Denise Mina, bestselling author of the Garnethill trilogy and the Paddy Meehan novels, said: "The Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival is the greatest crime writing event of the year so it is a very real honour to be chairing it, to work with the programming committee and to have the chance to attend all the thrilling events. After the difficulties and hardships of the past two years we are all very much looking forward to all of the writers and readers coming together in Harrogate once more."

Chief Executive of Harrogate International Festivals, Sharon Canavar, commented: "Each year, Harrogate International Festivals aims to offer crime fiction fans the chance to listen to the very best writers in the genre speak at The Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival, and this year's line-up proves to be no exception. It has been wonderful to work with Denise, seeing the fantastic line-up she has curated for this year's Festival, featuring crime fiction legends alongside some of the most exciting new talent in the field. We look forward to announcing the full programme in the coming months, and sharing the exciting weekend we have planned for our attendees."

Simon Theakston, Executive Director of Theakston, added: "We are very proud to once again be headline sponsors of the world's best crime writing festival, bringing the genre's top talent together here in Harrogate. Crime fiction has never been more popular, and we can't wait to listen to world-class authors discussing all aspects of crime and thriller writing - over a glass of Old Peculier, of course."

The Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival forms part of the diverse year-round portfolio curated by the charitable organisation Harrogate International Festivals, delivered with the mission to bring immersive cultural experiences to as many people as possible.

Classic weekend break packages are on sale now. For more information and to book tickets, please call +44(0)1423 562 303 or email info@harrogate-festival.org.uk.

The full programme for this year's Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival will be announced soon.



Visfo Launches Enigma Scholarships At University Of York

VISFO – a global leader in the healthtech industry – has successfully launched its scholarship programme at the University of York to give students from a widening participation background greater access to higher education and an opportunity to embark on a ground-breaking project that will see the students come together to create a ‘social good’.

Dr Max Noble, founder and CEO of VISFO, attended the University of York to officially introduce the Enigma scholarships and meet the students set to embark on this fully funded three year programme.

Designed to benefit students from widening participation backgrounds, the scholarships provide monetary funding to help alleviate financial stress, enabling students to get the most out of their studies and wider enrichment activities.

During the programme, scholars will be given the opportunity to work

collaboratively on Hypergrad, a long-term philanthropic group project, designed to promote social good. It is hoped the Hypergrad concept will enhance the university experience by helping students to boost their employability, develop a personal brand, improve their general wellness and accelerate their career prospects after graduation.

Created to inspire entrepreneurship and emulate a start-up environment, Hypergrad will give the scholars the chance to take ownership of a business project and experience real-world scenarios as part of their learning path.

Launched this year, the first Enigma cohort consists of 18 undergraduate students studying a diverse range of subjects, including History, English Literature, Computer Science and Psychology.

Izzy is one of the students benefitting from the Enigma scholarship throughout her degree:

‘After finding out I had qualified for the scholarship I was elated. I felt safe knowing I will be able to procure housing for the rest of the year, and be able to continue to participate in university life. As a result of the scholarship I have elected to go on a PPE enrichment trip to Dublin, in order to deepen my understanding of Economics and Philosophy. I am extremely grateful to Max for enabling me to continue enriching myself in university, including societies, clubs and being able to support myself with housing and essentials.’

Joined by members of the VISFO team and representatives from ICD Executive Search talent consultancy, Max kicked off the scholarship launch with an informal presentation which outlined his vision for the future. The scholars were introduced to industry experts across the pharmaceutical space in fields such as software, medicine and marketing, who will be an accessible resource throughout the duration of the scholarship, providing regular mentoring and advice.

‘It’s really exciting to be able to kick-start the Enigma programme with the University of York. As a York alumni I am hugely proud to be able to give back to the institution that supported me and create something that will hopefully make a huge difference to each student,’ says Max.

‘At VISFO we have experts from across the pharmaceutical industry with years of experience under their belts. Through this completely unique scholarship I’m hoping to offer the students not only funding, but access to advice and support from established professionals that will fast track their careers to the next level’.

The scholarships are launching at a pivotal time for the University of York as they announce their mission to become a ‘no gaps’ university by 2030, levelling the playing field in higher education and providing equal opportunities for all.

Now officially launched, the Enigma scholars are set to meet monthly to receive mentoring and expand on the Hypergrad model. The project will be executed entirely by the student, from conception to delivery, with VISFO and ICD Executive Search providing support and guidance.



Selby College And Wakefield College Merge

Selby College and Wakefield College have officially merged to form the ‘Heart of Yorkshire Education Group’ – bringing significant benefits to the region.

The newly formed organisation aims to meet the education and skills needs across Yorkshire from its campuses in Castleford, Selby and Wakefield.

Combining the strengths of both Colleges, the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group will facilitate new and enhanced opportunities for students, apprentices and employer partners, by expanding its course offer, improving learning through the sharing of best practice, meeting local skills demands and creating more opportunities for professional growth of employees.

This will include the expansion of Post-16 provision, Apprenticeships, Higher Education, Distance Learning and Adult qualifications, to meet existing and future skills shortages.

Andrew McConnell OBE, the Chair of Governors at the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group, said:

“This marks a special time for our Colleges as we officially merge. Right from the start of the merger process, the benefits of becoming a combined, larger, more robust organisation have been clear.

“Together, we are strengthened by our expertise, shared vision, geographic location and commitment, effectively positioning our new Group to meet the education and skills needs of our local residents, the wider region and beyond.”

With a strong geographical coherence of its Colleges along the M62, West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and East Riding, the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group will be able to provide a seamless service to employers

in the region and effectively position the Group in priority sectors.

As part of its plans to meet local and regional skills demands, the new Group intends to work with employers on its course offering, planning its curriculum and delivery models to meet their requirements.

Sam Wright, Principal and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group, said: “I would like to thank colleagues for their continued hard work in making the merger a reality, and our stakeholders for their overwhelming support throughout the process. Since day one, our vision for the merger has been to create an organisation that will have a positive impact on all of the communities we serve. As a leading education group, we will have a greater ability and capacity to respond to government policy and regional strategies, as well as a stronger combined voice and influence – enabling us to bring enhanced benefits for our students, staff, partners and other stakeholders.”

Underneath the new Group, the names and identities of its existing individual colleges and campuses will continue, with local brands for Castleford College, Selby College and Wakefield College.

As part of the merger process, a key priority has been to minimise disruption to learners, with no changes to students’ or apprentices’ chosen place of study and no requirement for learners to travel between the different Colleges. There will also be no effect on applications to either of the Colleges for the academic year 2022-2023 – students will be able to attend the College they initially apply for.

Colleagues and teams within the Colleges are working closely and effectively together to outline the leadership structure of the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group, as well as develop the identity, strategic vision, mission and values and objectives of the new organisation.

Schoolchildren Rise To Drax’s Recycled Robots Challenge

Primary school pupils have built their own robots from recycled materials as part of an initiative developed by Drax to boost STEM education and skills.

The Visitor Centre Team at Drax Power Station has developed the STEM box project, an engaging activity for students to take part in relating to the subject areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Students aged between seven and eleven at Camblesforth Community Primary Academy and Selby Community Primary School, were provided with individual activity boxes containing a range of learning materials, games and resources they will need to build their robots, the focus of which is on recycling and forms part of their school curriculum.

The robots are made from recyclable materials that can be found around the house such as bottles, tin cans and cardboard and have been designed to carry out recycling tasks such as having magnetic hands to pick up metal, or built-in compartments to store paper.

To launch the project, students received a presentation from visitor centre guides on recycling and the role everyone plays ensuring the correct waste items enter recycling schemes.

Drax Director of Sustainability, Alan Knight, said: “By providing schools with these resources we hope to further students’ understanding of the importance of recycling and hopefully fire up their imaginations and inspire them to study STEM subjects by showing them the wide range of career options that are available.”

Drax has a long tradition of supporting education and helping to inspire the next generation of engineers by encouraging interest in STEM subjects. The renewable energy company offers a number of other initiatives to support STEM education and skills including virtual tours of Drax’s power stations, STEM workshops in schools, work experience and providing laptops with free internet access.

Don't Miss Out On Up To £2,000 Towards Childcare Costs



Thousands of working families in the UK could be missing out on an opportunity to get up to £2,000 a year to help with the cost of childcare, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding parents.

Tax-Free Childcare – the 20% childcare top-up – provides eligible working families with up to £500 every three months (or £1,000 if their child is disabled) towards the cost of holiday clubs, before and after-school clubs, childminders and nurseries, and other accredited childcare schemes.

Nearly 316,000 working families used Tax-Free Childcare across the UK in September 2021, receiving a share of £35 million in government top-up payments towards their childcare costs – an increase of about 90,000 families compared to September 2020.

Tax-Free Childcare is available for children aged up to 11, or 17 if the child has a disability. For every £8 deposited into an account, families will receive an additional £2 in government top-up.

This scheme is one of many ways the government is supporting households to raise their incomes and keep more of what they earn.

Parents and carers can check their eligibility and register for Tax-Free Childcare via GOV.UK.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, said:

"The 20% government top-up offers working families help to pay for childcare, whether it's nursery bills, after school clubs or holiday clubs. Search 'Tax-Free Childcare' on GOV.UK to find out more."

Helen Whately, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury said:

"Whether it's for holiday clubs, breakfast clubs, or childminders and nurseries, Tax-Free Childcare is a great offer that gives working parents a helping hand with their childcare costs.

"This Government is committed to supporting working families which is why it's fantastic that thousands more are saving money through the Tax-Free Childcare scheme. I urge as many parents as possible to take advantage of this support."

By depositing money into their accounts, families can benefit from the 20% top-up and use the money to pay for childcare costs when they need it. Accounts can be opened at any time of the year and can be used straight away.

For example, if parents and carers have school-aged children and use holiday clubs during school holidays, they could deposit money into their accounts throughout the year. This means they could spread the cost of childcare while also benefitting from the 20% government top-up.

Tax-Free Childcare is also available for pre-school aged children attending nurseries, childminders, or other childcare providers. Families with younger children will often have higher childcare costs than families with older children, so the tax-free savings can really make a difference.

Childcare providers can also sign up for a childcare provider account via GOV.UK to receive payments from parents and carers via the scheme.

Households Can Act Now To Prevent Water Bills From Adding To Money Worries

Households struggling to cope with a wave of rising living costs can take action now to dilute the impact of water bills, ahead of an increase in charges for millions of customers this April.

The Consumer Council for Water (CCW) says only 1 in 4 customers are aware water companies have schemes that can reduce the water bills of low-income customers. This is at a time when many households are being impacted by the cost of living crisis – compounded by yesterday's confirmation of another sharp rise in energy bills.

With Water UK announcing that the average household water and sewerage bill in England and Wales will rise by £7 to £419 from 1 April, CCW is urging customers to soak up its money-saving advice and seek support from their water company if they are worried about their bill.

Average bills do not tell the full story of what many customers will typically experience. Some households could see their bill fall but others may face an increase significantly above the average. That's because what people are charged depends on a range of factors including who supplies their services, whether they have a water meter and how much water they use – something that has become much harder to predict during the pandemic.

Emma Clancy, Chief Executive CCW – the voice for water consumers, said: "Any increase in water bills will be unwelcome for the millions of households already buckling under the pressure of other rising costs. Covid-19 has also made it even harder for people to anticipate how much water they will use at home – that's why it's vital customers take advantage of untapped support."

"Some households could potentially save hundreds of pounds by switching to a water meter, while others on a low income may be eligible for water companies' wide range of assistance schemes. Simple steps to reduce your hot water use could also take some of the heat out of rising energy costs."

Jess Cook, who leads the water poverty programme for National Energy Action (NEA), said: "With the rate of inflation rising, a rise in water bills was expected, but that doesn't make it any easier to take. Following the announcement of a 54% rise in the energy price cap, millions of households are worried about how they will cope in just a month's time, and this is just making the problem harder."

"We know from previous research that up to 41% of those struggling the most would bathe less, and almost a quarter would cut back on food or personal hygiene products, in order to reduce, or pay for, their water bill. With some water customers being hit harder than others, targeted intervention is vital to stop the otherwise inevitable spiral of people falling into destitution."

Cost Of Living Crisis Will Greatly Expand Consumer Vulnerability

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) warns that the cost of living crisis will greatly expand consumer vulnerability and that the UK urgently needs a more effective strategy to protect consumers.

Ofgem announced that the energy Default Tariff Cap will rise by 54% or £693 from April 1, while the Bank of England reported that UK inflation rose to 5.5% in January – the highest rate since March 1992. This challenging economic news combined with the long-term social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing changes brought about by the UK's exit from the European Union creates a perfect storm for consumers.

Trading standards experts are concerned that the cost of living crisis will lead to openings for fraudsters to immiserate a financially desperate public, especially the most vulnerable. Some of the likely consequences listed by consumer protection experts include an increase in loan shark activities and energy tariff mis-selling by doorstep sellers, alongside other questionable money-saving schemes.

CCW's research has shown 5 out of 6 customers who cannot afford their water bill are not getting the financial support they need.

Water is often overlooked when it comes to saving money but there are many ways to reduce your bill. These savings could help free up precious pounds to cover other rising costs, including energy, food and National Insurance contributions.

CCW's top three ways to save or seek support with water bills

- **Trial a water meter** – typical saving £200. If you're among the 40 per cent of households who still not do not have a meter, it's worth checking if you might be better off with one. Not everyone will save with a meter but most water companies will give you two years to trial one and switch back if you're unhappy. The CCW's water meter calculator can help you work out if you might save
- **Get smart at the art of saving water and energy** – savings vary. Much of the water we use in the home comes from the hot tap. That means if you have a water meter you can double up on water and energy savings too. If every person in a family of four halved their daily shower time from 10 minutes to 5 minutes they could save almost £600 a year (water and energy combined).
- **Reduce your bills with a low-income social tariff** – typical saving £148. All water companies offer reduced tariffs to low-income customers. Eligibility and the level of support varies from company to company but, in some cases, bills can be cut by as much as 90 per cent. CCW has a guide to these tariffs

CCW is also making promising progress in its campaign to end water poverty for 1.5 million customers across England and Wales through strengthening support. The UK and Welsh Governments are currently examining proposals – submitted by CCW last summer – to create a single social tariff that would ensure targeted financial support reaches those that need it most. This would end the 'postcode lottery' of help currently provided and ensure the help customers receive is based on their need – not where they live.

Some water companies are also actively working with CCW on a range of pilot schemes to break down existing barriers to help. These changes have the potential to make it easier for customers to access help on everything from making payments and clearing debt to reducing their water consumption.

In the meantime, water customers can access a wide range of tools and advice on how to save money or access help by visiting their water company website or www.ccwater.org.uk

CTSI Chief Executive, John Herriman, said: "The cost of living crisis risks a significant rise in consumer detriment that the UK has not seen for decades. The COVID-19 pandemic warned us about the depths some will sink to through the scams that emerged out of it. For the unscrupulous, crises are opportunities to make a dishonest profit from the most vulnerable.

"Local trading standards services, working in partnership with other agencies, have continually risen to the challenges of protecting consumers, but this has become increasingly difficult after funding cuts of 50% over the past decade. Gaps in consumer protection are emerging, and whilst trading standards professionals are doing their utmost to protect the public, we are worried about the potential for significantly increased levels of risk.

"CTSI is in an ongoing dialogue with the UK Government and other stakeholders about how best to protect consumers. These concerns illustrate the need for a consumer protection strategy that recognises these deep impacts and that will mitigate them as effectively as possible."



David Cartwright

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Pavilions Of Harrogate



Wins Yorkshire Wedding Venue Of The Year

Pavilions of Harrogate has been crowned Yorkshire Wedding Venue of the Year after beating off tough competition.

The win was announced at the English Wedding Awards 2022 at The Mercure Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester recently.

Pavilions of Harrogate had been shortlisted with nine other venues in Yorkshire.

Heather Parry Managing Director of Pavilions of Harrogate said: "I am so proud of the team who are passionate about every event that we host here at the Pavilions of Harrogate and this award is a true testament to their dedication and hard work. Thank you also to the wonderful public who voted for us to be shortlisted, we can't thank you enough."

Pavilions of Harrogate was up against The Normans (York); Woodstock Weddings and Events (York); The Sun Pavilion (Harrogate); Holdsworth House (Halifax); Wood Hall Hotel and Spa (Wetherby); Wharfedale Grange (Leeds); The Manor Rooms (Brough); The Orangery (Settington) and York Venues (York).

Creative Oceanic hosted the 5th English Wedding Awards 2022 to reward those within the wedding industry that make the special day one to remember, from the caterers providing delicious meals, decorators taking care of the wedding venues to the DJs and bands as well as hair and makeup artists.

Dorian Deathly's Deathly Dark Ghost Tour Walk Of York Announced As A Finalist For VisitEngland's Tourism Superstar 2022

Voting is now open for VisitEngland's Tourism Superstar, with York's very own Dorian Deathly in the Top 10 finalists for the national accolade.

The ten VisitEngland Tourism Superstar finalists were announced by the Daily Mirror. The public can now vote for their favourite finalist at:

www.mirror.co.uk/travel/uk-ireland/tourism-superstar-2022-meet-10-26203980

Voting is open until 22nd March. The winner with the most public votes will be announced by the Daily Mirror on 26th March.

Dorian Deathly had worked as a tour guide for over 7 years in York and always dreamed of starting his own ghost tour. When the pandemic hit, he lost his job and as a way to keep sane, began to livestream his walks around the city at night, telling ghost stories, onto his Facebook page. Due to demand, these became a regular occurrence - the free, virtual Ghost Tour of Haunted York. The tours attracted over 10,000 fans on Facebook alone.

The success of Dorian's virtual tours created a lot of interest in the city, so much so that in August 2020 he launched his own real life walking tour which now runs 4 nights a week.

The Deathly Dark Tours won three Gold awards and one silver, including the 'Lockdown Hero' award at Visit York's #LoveYork Awards and is nominated for 3 awards at this year's Visit York Tourism Awards.

The winner of VisitEngland's Tourism Superstar 2022 will be invited to attend and receive their award at the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2022 ceremony in June 2022. Nigel Thompson, Travel Editor at the

Mirror and Reach Plc, will present the award along with the reigning VisitEngland Tourism Superstar.

Dorian Deathly, Tourism Superstar finalist, said: "It's an honour to be nominated for Tourism Superstar. I take great pride in my spooky little tour, and considering that the business was launched amidst the pandemic I'm constantly staggered by the amount of guests who choose to join me, sharing an evening of weird and wonderful tales in the streets of York. To be shortlisted for an award on a national scale is absolutely incredible!"

Ashley Young, Senior Marketing and Communications Manager at Make It York, said: "We're incredibly proud that one of York's most highly regarded walking tours is one of the finalists for VisitEngland's Tourism Superstar. The Deathly Dark Tours has become a firm favourite with residents and visitors, with Dorian Deathly always going above and beyond to create an excellent (and often ghastly) experience on his tours. During the pandemic, he kept many of us entertained by streaming his walks online and it's no surprise that people rushed to sign up for the physical tours once restrictions lifted. Dorian Deathly thoroughly deserves to be this year's Tourism Superstar and we hope that the City of York and anyone who has been on Dorian's tour will give him their vote!"

Andrew Stokes, England Director at VisitEngland, said: "Tourism Superstar recognises those people who go above and beyond to make visitor experiences in England so special. Whether creating a memorable stay in a seaside hotel, adding a touch of showbiz to a tour or an attraction or making sure everyone's needs are catered for, these individuals truly go the extra mile in their role as tourism ambassadors."

NYMR Announces Completion Of £1.26 Million Bridge Work At Goathland Ready For 2022 Season

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway (NYMR) and contractors VolkerLaser have completed the £1.26 million construction and installation work of Bridges 24 and 25 at Goathland.

The two new 40 tonne steel structures, each spanning 50 feet, were lowered into place and will carry the railway over Eller Beck, replacing the old structures after 150 years of service.

VolkerLaser started work at the Goathland site in December, with the team dismantling and removing the old structure and preparing for the installation of the new structure. The NYMR's in-house Permanent Way team will relay the ballast and tracks ready for the 2022 season.

The bridge work forms part of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway's 'Yorkshire's Magnificent Journey' project, a £10 million project to ensure future generations can enjoy the 180-year-old line. It has been made possible thanks to generous funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the European Union, NYMR's Local Enterprise Partnership and kind donations from many supporters.

Tim Bruce, Director of Civil Engineering at NYMR, commented: "We've enjoyed a really good working relationship with VolkerLaser, who were able to step in following the collapse last summer of engineering firm Cleveland Bridge, which was originally scheduled to carry out the work. We are now able to press ahead on schedule to reopen on April 4th."

Jim Mawson, Operations Director for Steel at VolkerLaser, said:

"This work represents the culmination of many hours of planning and preparation, and it is fantastic to see the new bridges being installed on time for NYMR following the removal of the life-expired bridges in January.

"The new bridges will allow NYMR to operate continuously for many decades, and we at VolkerLaser are proud to be involved, and to be included in the Yorkshire's Magnificent Journey project."

This means everything is on track for an action-packed season, which runs from Monday 4th April when the heritage attraction opens its doors to visitors.

Tickets for the highly anticipated season are on sale now. This year, the NYMR is operating an end-to-end service between Pickering to Whitby, but can also accommodate shorter journeys from both Pickering and Whitby. Prices for a full line ticket start from £20.50 for children and £41 for adults and £84 for a family.

Passengers will hop on board and experience 24 miles of glorious heritage railway, taking in the breathtaking scenery of the North York Moors National Park, including Goathland railway station, known to millions as the filming location for the iconic Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Laura Strangeway, Director of Corporate Services, said: "After nearly two years of trials and tribulations we couldn't be more excited to once

again welcome visitors back for a season of special events, incredible journeys through the picturesque national park and memories that will last a lifetime.

"Over the upcoming months we are working behind the scenes and preparing for the 2022 season. Conversations with stakeholders including Pickering Town Council are taking place on how we can host a Railway in Wartime event in October.

"The impact of the pandemic has led to a substantial drop in volunteer resources. Additionally, we are nervous about any future restrictions and managing large-scale events. More details will be released on our website over the next few months."

"We still really encourage visitors to pre-book their tickets enabling them a guaranteed seat for both the outward and return journeys, and of course follow the latest government guidelines, but this year will be so exciting - events are back, some walk-ups tickets are available and, thanks to the hard work and endless support from our volunteers and staff, the engines, stations, shops and tea rooms at the railway have never looked better and been more prepared to welcome everyone back. See you all in April!"

For more information about the heritage railway, or to book, visit:
nymr.co.uk

Lake Of Ice: Frozen In Time, A Photograph Of An Icy Lake Dedicated To A Lost Friend Wins Wildlife Photographer Of The Year People's Choice Award



■ Lake of ice by Cristiano Vendramin, Italy. Image © Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, developed and produced by the Natural History Museum

An enchanting image of willow branches mirrored by the surface of a frozen Italian lake, submitted in dedication to a lost friend, has won Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award 2021.

Italian photographer Cristiano Vendramin's photograph touched the hearts of over 31,800 wildlife and nature enthusiasts who voted online for his breath-taking landscape to win from a shortlist of 25 images. The shortlist was chosen by the Natural History Museum, London, from a record breaking 50,000 images from 95 countries submitted to the fifty-seventh annual competition.

Whilst visiting Santa Croce Lake in northern Italy in 2019, Cristiano noticed the water was unusually high and the willow plants were partially submerged, creating a play of light and reflections on the surface of the water. Cristiano was reminded of a dear friend, who had loved this special place and is no longer here.

Cristiano Vendramin says:

'I hope that my photography will encourage people to understand that the beauty of nature can be found everywhere around us, and we can be pleasantly surprised by the many landscapes so close to home. I believe having a daily relationship with nature is increasingly more

necessary to have a serene and healthy life. Nature photography is therefore important to remind us of this bond, which we must preserve, and in whose memory, we can take refuge.'

Director of the Natural History Museum, Dr Douglas Gurr, says:

'Cristiano's poignant image symbolises the positive impact nature can have on our wellbeing and lives. It can provide solace and a space to reflect on the past and even spark hope for the future. These past two years have redefined what truly matters in life, the people and the environments that play a crucial role in our own personal ecosystems. I hope those who look at this landscape frozen in time, are reminded of the importance of connecting to the natural world and the steps we must all take to protect it.'

Cristiano's winning photograph and the top four 'Highly Commended' finalists will be displayed in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London.

The four 'Highly Commended' finalists that captured the fascination of nature enthusiasts across the globe include 'Shelter from the rain' by Ashleigh McCord, a tender moment between two male lions in the rain and Jo-Anne McArthur's striking portrait of a kangaroo and her joey emerging from the aftermath of the Australian bushfires, 'Hope in a burned plantation'. 'The eagle and the bear' by Jeroen Hoekendijk, is a dynamic photograph showing a surprising encounter between two unlikely subjects, and a truly magical depiction of two male golden pheasants is the subject of Qiang Guo's 'Dancing in the snow'.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year is developed and produced by the Natural History Museum and offers a truly global platform for amateur and professional photographers alike. Using photography's unique emotive power to engage and inspire audiences, the exhibition shines a light on stories and species around the world and supports the Museum in its mission of creating advocates for the planet. The fifty-eighth competition is currently being judged by an esteemed panel of experts, and the winners will be revealed in October 2022.

The Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition in London is sponsored by renewable energy company Ørsted and non-alcoholic beverage company Seedlip.



■ The eagle and the bear by Jeroen Hoekendijk, The Netherlands. Image © Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, developed and produced by the Natural History Museum

RECYCLING COMPETITION LAUNCHES IN YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS

Following its huge success in 2021, the UK's largest brand of sustainable composite decking and cladding, Composite Prime has launched its school recycling programme, 'Message in a Bottle Top'.

Yorkshire's schools are being called upon to highlight the significant impact plastic waste has on the environment by collecting and transforming plastic bottle tops into life-sized art murals and sculptures. The winning school will receive a playground makeover worth £5,000 plus eco-friendly Composite Prime decking.

Composite Prime director, Charles Taylor commented:

'With everything from giant jellyfish to a great white shark, the sculptures created by schools up and down the country were incredibly creative and showcased a huge amount of plastic waste. The response to the 2021 campaign was incredible, it saw 785 schools, 845 teachers, 110,432 children and 194,360 parents collect over 90,000 bottle tops.'

Built in line with the national curriculum and fulfilling learning objectives across art and design, science, maths and citizenship, the Message in a Bottle Top campaign also supports step 4 of the Ecoschools' seven step programme. The initiative provides teachers and support staff with associated learning resources; including lesson plans, presentations,

artist top tips and activity worksheets to complete in class and at home.

Charles continued: "Our Message in a Bottle Top campaign has been created specifically to target younger generations and Composite Prime is extremely proud to play a small part in educating the next generation about sustainability.

We can't wait to see the engagement with the campaign this year, and the incredible entries we're hoping to receive."

Working alongside We are Futures, who run The National Schools Partnership (NSP), the Message in a Bottle Top campaign is a cross curricular programme which inspires key stage one and two pupils to collect and repurpose their own bottle tops into thought-provoking art, showcasing the creatures they hope to protect from plastic pollution.

All competition entries submitted by schools, ahead of the deadline on 20 May 2022, will be independently judged by Composite Prime and the winning school will receive a playground makeover worth £5,000.

The top ten schools will have the opportunity to showcase their artwork in an online exhibition and two runners up will receive tablets worth more than £100.

Charles Taylor added: "We want to demonstrate to children that there are a variety of creative ways to approach environmental sustainability. In the same way these fantastic sculptures are produced from plastic bottle tops, our products are produced from recycled materials; reducing the amount of plastic entering natural ecosystems along the way. We hope that schools across the country feel that the programme shares a very important environmental message with young people about wildlife and the effects plastic waste has on it."

Composite Prime creates eco-friendly and socially responsible decking and cladding products, made using recycled plastic and FSC® certified oak wood flour.

Each square metre of composite decking contains the equivalent of more than 3,000 plastic bottle caps or 280 plastic bottles. In the seven years of operation the brand has saved the equivalent of 176 million plastic milk bottles from landfill and over 1.8 billion bottle top caps.

To find out more about how to get involved with Composite Prime's Message in a Bottle Top recycling programme, visit:

www.nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives

GARDENING

The Garden Lifts Its Sleepy Head, As I Gaze From In The Potting Shed



BY MARTIN S WALKER

March is an appropriate title for the month as everything in the garden starts to move, and move at pace, grass needs cutting seeds need sowing and plants need attention.



■ Dogwood

Over the winter months the colour in my garden has been provided by the vibrant stems of Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow), red, orange, burgundy and acid green arching stems catching the light of the winter sun. But it's that time of year when we need to prune these seasonal gems if we are to see the same this autumn and winter. The question is how far do you cut them back? They are generally very tough shrubs and will tolerate cutting back hard, down to about 7.5cm (3") from soil level, but they can also be what we call stooled, which involves cutting the stems to say 60cm (2ft) then in subsequent years prune to within 2.5cm (1") of this point. If you have an old shrub that is taking over or is too large it can be cut down to about 7.5cm (3") then pruned annually as described previously. It's a good idea to apply a general fertiliser in the spring as recovering from this type of pruning requires some energy.



■ Cold frame

If you want to increase your plants, cut the prunings into 23cm (9") lengths with a bud at the bottom and a bud at the top, you can either put around the edge of a pot of gritty compost spacing about 2.5cm (1") apart and place in a shady place in the house, a cold greenhouse or cold frame will do. Most members of the willow and dogwood family will root in a jar of water on the windowsill, in fact I have some on the kitchen windowsill that have rooted after only a couple of weeks. My partner Sue, makes woven rings out of the coloured stems, they keep well and can be enhanced with a small posy of flowers, great to decorate your front door for Easter.

I love to see fresh spring growth, buds bursting, leaves unfurling and the promise of a tapestry of greens to compliment summer

colour, but then on a morning stroll I notice, an invasion, yes a battalion of molluscs determined to turn my leaves into lace curtains. Slugs and snails must be the number one pest in most gardens with the ability to not only consume large amounts of green material but can reproduce at an alarming rate. If only we could train them to eat grass, they would overnight become a welcome helper but sadly that is not likely. I prefer to use organic solutions for pest control but for some reason many are either quite pungent (garlic sprays) or unpleasant to deal with (beer traps). I haven't found garlic too effective on slugs and snails but I have used beer traps to great effect, sink a deep waterproof dish in the border and half fill with beer, the slugs and snails are attracted to it and drown in the beer. The unpleasant bit is dealing with the contents of the trap, but I just throw it on the compost heap, it all rots down. Setting beer traps now is a great idea and catches the first wave of slugs and snails before they start to breed. Don't worry you won't kill all of them but reduce the population, it's a sort of respectful relationship, don't mind you eating a little but don't destroy my favourite plant.

The other issue that causes a sigh and a groan is weeds, where do they come from? How come despite pulling up buckets of weeds there always seem to be more waiting to emerge. A Head Gardener I worked for as an apprentice, coined the phrase 'one year's seed equals seven years of weeds'. Given the volume of seed they produce and in some cases seed several life cycles in a year it's no surprise, so the challenge initially is to remove weeds before they have chance to flower. The soil will have quite a build up of seed especially if weeds have been allowed to seed for years.



■ Dandelion

Annuals (those that flower seed and then die), are the easiest to control but generally produce the most seed. Perennial weeds are more of a challenge, dock, dandelion, have thick fleshy tap roots that tend to break leaving a small root to grow, nettles and couch grass have meandering thick roots that will send up shoots every few inches, quickly populating large areas. The key is to remove as much root as possible, be thorough rather than being in a rush to finish. Weeds can be composted but if you don't have a heap then send them to the municipal waste site, they use a 'hot' composting method that kills weed seed and roots too.

Next month, (growing plants from plugs, seeding bare patches in the lawn, and sowing hardy annuals.)

Happy gardening

Martin

Top Tip - Cosy Hanging Baskets



As our thoughts turn to summer displays its time to dig out all those containers and hanging baskets making sure they are clean and that all the hanging chains are untangled and in good order. I usually take them off the baskets when packing them away in the autumn, remove any tangled vegetation, spray them with a light oil such as 3 in 1 and hang them on a hook in the shed. That way I know they are ready for next year.

Growing up, my parents and grandparents always referred to a 'spring clean'. I don't think for one minute that anything was dirty, but more about taking the opportunity to move everything out of a given room clean it and the room and put it back, it's the same feeling as clean sheets on the bed I guess, a fresh new kind of feeling. During this process there was inevitably items identified for disposal, or moreover to be recycled. Reusing something was seen as a triumph and almost something for free, definitely an opportunity to reduce waste.

So why the ramble, well when you go through your wardrobe and clothes drawers, don't be in a hurry to throw things in the bin, especially those garments made of natural fibres such as wool. I have used old woollen jumpers to line hanging baskets. I guess the period when fair-isle jumpers and tank tops were in fashion the baskets were a little loud, and I wouldn't recommend using a Christmas jumper that lights up, although it would add a different dimension.

Simply line the basket with the jumper cutting off any excess, the waste can go on the compost heap, make a few slits in the lining to allow you to feed plants through, or cut the jumper into strips and overlap in the basket, its easy to squeeze a plant between the layers and hey presto a cosy hanging basket. Using wool also helps with water retention too so less watering. At the end of the season the whole thing can go on the compost heap. There is no reason why you shouldn't use synthetic fibres but these would have to be removed at the end of the season and the material put in the waste bin.



Daylight Saving Time Starts

Clocks go forward 1 hour at 1.00 am on Sunday 27th March

The World Of Birds

It's Spring Swap-Over Time

— BY LINDA JENKINSON —

We're approaching a time of change in the birding calendar. Not only are our resident birds preparing for their breeding season but it's also a time when our winter visitors begin to depart and we welcome our first spring migrants. Overwintering birds, such as large flocks of geese and waders, head to more northerly climes in eastern Canada, Greenland, Iceland, arctic Russia and Scandinavia while our spring migrants arrive from Africa and southern Spain.

Of course, they need to be sure that they will be able to find enough food at their breeding grounds so, as you can imagine, the weather plays a big part in the timing of their movement. Winter visitors begin to move towards their destination, but they may delay their departure from the UK until well into April. They'll wait for a southerly breeze to help them cross seas and oceans.

Meanwhile, also waiting for a southerly breeze are our spring migrants. Over the last few weeks they have been moving northwards, feeding on insects along the way. These birds have to migrate to warmer climes in the winter as they rely on insects as their main food source. They can only advance northwards when the weather is suitable for insects to thrive. The first sign of spring migration is the sound of a singing chiffchaff, around the second week of March. This little warbler has a thin, stuttering and metallic 'chiff-chaff, 'chiff-chaff' song and it likes to sing from tall trees as it looks for a territory.



■ Wheatear

Around this time, birdwatchers will also be out looking for other early migrants such as wheatear, ring ouzel and sand martin. Wheatears have a characteristic white rump and can be found on rough ground looking for insects. They are gradually making their way to grassy moorland habitat but could easily turn up in your local field or manure pile. Ring ouzels are mountain blackbirds. They have a white band around their chest, and scaly feathers, and are heading up to wooded ghylls on moorland habitat.

Many of you will know the sand martin. They traditionally nest in sandy riverbanks but they take very well to artificial nest sites placed near water. Many nature reserves have installed artificial

sand martin banks and these tend to be used in the first spring after installation as long as the right sand has been used. The sand needs to be able to withstand the burrowing action of the sand martins and not collapse into the tunnel.

Swallows, house martin and little ringed plover will also arrive early and stop to feed in suitable habitat. If you have a pond in your garden it's worth checking the skies above for swallows and martins feeding on the insects that have emerged from the water, taken up on thermals in warmer weather.

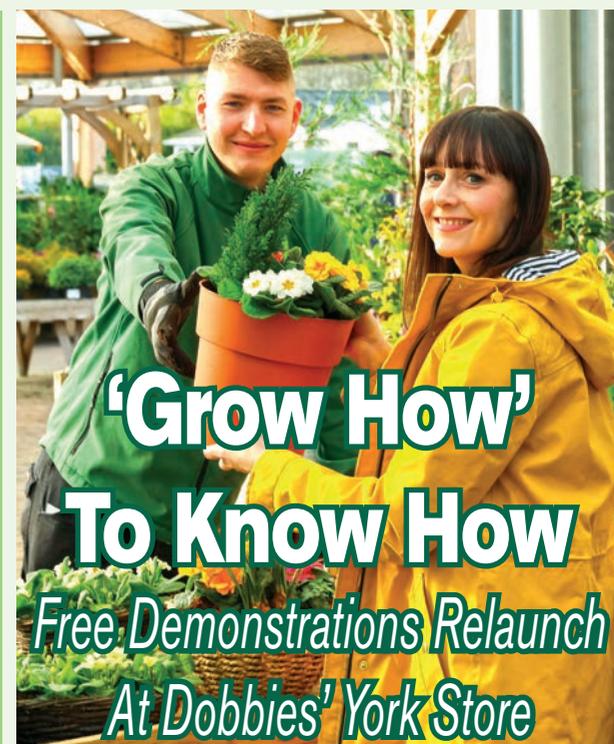
As we move towards April, the beautifully melodic sound of the willow warbler will become the sound of summer. This bird looks very similar to the chiffchaff but sounds very different. It prefers lower growing trees in more open habitat. Their song is also thin, but it is sweet, starts off high and gradually descends down the scale, like a musical waterfall.



■ Blackcap

Arriving about the same time as the willow warbler is the blackcap. This warbler is larger and likes dense shrubs. The male is grey with a black cap; the female has a ginger cap. Male blackcaps have a fast, fluty song which sounds like a blackbird played at high speed. Some of you may have had blackcaps overwintering in your garden but it is thought that these are not the same birds that bred here. It's a relatively recent behavioural change that some blackcaps that bred in western Europe (Germany, Belgium etc) are now making their way to the UK for the winter. This 'reverse migration' is proving successful for many blackcaps, now that our winters are warmer due to climate change, and they are able to take advantage of the food that many of us put out in our gardens. Perhaps, as winter temperatures rise, blackcaps will eventually become a resident species in the UK. Happy birdwatching!

Linda Jenkinson teaches people about birds in and around Leeds. For details of classes email linda@startbirding.co.uk or call 07778 768719. Visit www.startbirding.co.uk or Start Birding on Facebook and Twitter



The UK's leading garden centre retailer, Dobbies, has relaunched its highly requested free in-store 'Grow How' demonstrations, taking place on the first Saturday of every month in its York store.

Available in York, Grow How offers customers an interactive opportunity to learn from Dobbies' horticultural experts and finesse their gardening skills. Encouraging the nation to be more green, sessions will cover sustainability and growing your own, working with the seasons to maximise your outdoor space, no matter how big or small, and how to create sought-after landscapes.

Dobbies' Grow How educational sessions are built to be flexible, fun and interactive, taking around 10-15 minutes. Customers in York can look forward to a live demonstration with a Dobbies' horticulture expert and an ask the expert section, where the floor will open to relevant questions.

Sarah Murray, Dobbies' Partnership and Events Manager said: "We couldn't be more excited that Grow How has relaunched in our York store. We'd encourage customers to take advantage of our free expert advice in-store and hopefully learn something new about how to make their green space bloom."

Marcus Eyles, Dobbies' Horticultural Director said: "Our team of horticultural experts across the UK thoroughly enjoyed hosting these relaxed 'how to' sessions in previous years and we can't wait to get our gardening gloves back on for this interactive and popular experience. We would encourage anyone in York, no matter their gardening experience, to come along and give these sessions a go – we'll provide tips and recommendations to ensure you can make the most of your outside space, whether you have a window sill or sprawling lawn."

The demonstrations will take place in Dobbies' York store on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30am.

Topics for April-September are detailed below, but may be subject to change depending on customer feedback:

- April: create an Alpine garden
- May: sustainable gardening
- June: caring for roses
- July: instant summer colour and lawn care
- August: grow your Christmas dinner
- September: grow your own fruit bowl

MUSIC

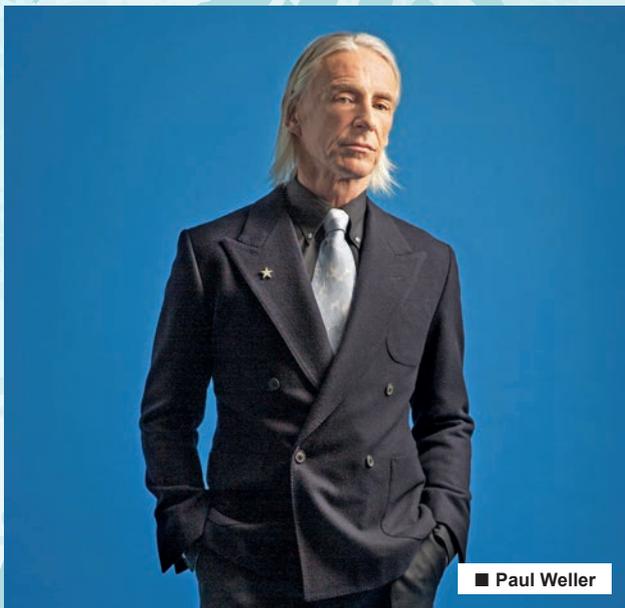


■ The Blue Stones

Great Selection Of Gigs Coming To York! By Stuart Glossop

A time for rescheduled dates in York in the next few months with some big artists – and some new ones to catch up with.

Alternative-rock duo THE BLUE STONES - known for their blistering live shows - head out on their highly anticipated "Hidden Gems" tour in 2022, their first journey over the Atlantic since 2019s sold out run. Their duo worked with famed producer Paul Meany (Mutemath, Twenty One Pilots, LANY) to create their critically acclaimed sophomore album "Hidden Gems". Their highly anticipated UK & European 2022 Tour, their first journey over the Atlantic since 2019s sold out run. "It's been far too long since we've seen the stage," says frontman Tarek Jafar, "We plan on hitting these European shows with every last drop of pent up energy we've had this year." They play the iconic Fulford Arms on 15th March.



■ Paul Weller

No bigger than PAUL WELLER who will be at The Barbican on 5th April. Paul Weller's long-lived solo career is fuelled by soul music after his time leading The Jam - one of Britain's most popular punk rock bands - and he shows no signs of slowing down. Following the success of his Polydor release "On Sunset" last year, 2021 saw Weller release his chart-topping album "Fat Pop (Volume 1)" ahead of his autumn tour. He released the first single from his from his hotly anticipated new album "FAT POP (Volume 1)" a year previous to the concert date. SHADES OF BLUE is a dramatic 3-minute pop symphony with a distinctive piano riff and soaring tune in the style with which Paul Weller has hooked in generation after generation of devotee. The single is a family affair as it was co-written by Paul's eldest daughter Leah Weller. Paul and Leah had a writing session whereby Paul wrote the verses and Leah added her input to the chorus. Leah is also the female vocalist featured on the track.



■ Joanne Shaw Taylor

Award-winning guitarist and singer-songwriter JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR has announced five UK concerts in April 2022. Dates include York Barbican (Sunday 24 April), Joanne will perform songs from her latest critically acclaimed album "The Blues Album" which topped Billboard Magazine's Official Blues Album Chart. The album was also voted #1 Most Played Blues Album of 2021 by the Independent Blues Broadcaster's Association. Joanne will also dig deep into her rich back catalogue where she will hand-pick songs from her albums "Reckless Heart", "Wild", "The Dirty Truth", "Almost Always Never", "Diamonds in the Dirt", and "White Sugar".

"The Blues Album" is the follow up to 2019's critically acclaimed "Reckless Heart" album, and features Josh Smith (guitar), Reese Wynans (keyboards), Greg Morrow (drums), Steve Mackey (bass), Steve Patrick (trumpet), Mark Douthit (sax), Barry Green (trombone). Joe Bonamassa plays guitar and sings on "Don't Go Away Mad".



■ Sophie Powers

Less than a year since the release of her debut single, 17 year old SOPHIE POWERS announces that her debut EP 'Red In Revenge' will be released via Set Records on 22 April 2022. The news comes alongside the release of Sophie's new single 'U Love it', which features alternative rapper Satori Zoom and is brimming with the spellbinding energy of Sophie Powers' unique hyper pop-punk hybrid. She continues to control her artistic vision by directing the accompanying music video for the track and designing her look for the clip (as has been the case for all her music videos).

Sophie Powers is the bold voice of a new generation. She understands the unique pressures of modern girlhood and uses her experience to write unfiltered, devil-may-care anthems about the ups and downs of being yourself. Combining the edge of punk with vibrant hip-hop and pop influences, Powers is the sound of the future. She has amassed 200,000 monthly listeners and surpassed 2.5M streams on Spotify alone since releasing her debut single 'Lonely Army' last April.

Having released a banger of a track ('Clearview') together at the tail-end of 2021, Sophie Powers will be touring the UK in support of NOAHFINNCE in September 2022.

THE GIG CARTEL, BIG BANG TALENT & INSIDE OUT TALENT PRESENT

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SHAUN WILLIAMSON

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WHERE THE OTHER STAR OF THE SHOW... IS YOU!

SATURDAY APRIL 16TH 2022
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WWW.THEGIGCARTEL.COM
BIG SCREENS - SING-ALONGS - GOOD TIMES

There are icons of silver screen, there are Oscar winners, Bafta winners and Golden Globe winners, but are there any of these global stars that you would rather sing with on stage than the coolest man of TV - Shaun Williamson.

The star of EastEnders, Extras, Life's Too Short and more recently a million viral videos, Shaun has now taken the music festival scene by storm, bringing BARRIOKE to thousands of music lovers at Truck and YNot Festivals. The time has come to unleash this phenomenon onto the world.

Shaun hosts the event with his usual trademark warmth and teasing banter, accompanying participants on stage, creating a riotous, joyous moment that people will never forget. This is the ultimate Insta moment, something people will talk about and want to be part of.

Barrioke is in partnership with SINGA Karaoke, organisers of the World Karaoke Championships and pioneers of the streamed Karaoke revolution.

Ticket information;

Website – <https://thegigcartel.seetickets.com/event/barrioke-ft-shaun-williamson/picturedrome/2153468>

Price – £20

Doors open – 7.30pm



WIN TICKETS

THE YORKSHIRE REPORTER HAS A PAIR OF TICKETS TO THE SHOW TO GIVEAWAY

To enter simply send 'BARRIOKE' along with your contact details including tel number, to competitions@yorkshirereporter.co.uk

Terms & Conditions – Entries must be in by the 23rd March 2022. The winner will be contacted by phone or email and may be required for a photoshoot of them receiving their prize. Yorkshire Reporter's decision is final and no cash alternative will be offered.



Northern Broadsides 30th anniversary production features a multi-cultural, gender diverse cast in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at York Theatre Royal from 23-26 March. This flamboyant and joyous 'play for our times' is the first full production for the company since the beginning of the pandemic.

Drawn from across the worlds of stage, TV and film, including award-winning productions, the 12 Northern actors include non-binary and disabled performers. The *As You Like It* cast are Bailey Brook (Silvius / Charles), Isobel Coward (Celia), Shaban Dar (Orlando), Gemma Dobson (Phoebe), Terri Jade Donovan (Audrey), Ali Gadema (Duke Ferdinand / Duke Senior), Claire Hackett (Adam/Corin), Reuben Johnson (Oliver), Adam Kashmiry (Jacques), Joe Morrow (Touchstone), Jo Patmore (Amiens) and EM Williams (Rosalind).

This bold, refreshing staging of *As You Like It* challenges us to imagine a new future. Capturing the sheer joy of live performance and the crazy power of love to change the world, this interpretation emboldens the timeless themes of love, gender, identity and power in Shakespeare's original. A visual spectacle, the high value production will be radiantly brought to life with an original set and high fashion costumes by E.M. Parry.

Set in a stylish but stifling court, where the Duke is all powerful and brute strength is championed over basic human decency, the high-spirited Rosalind and devoted cousin Celia are no longer welcome. When they escape into the forest in disguise, they bump into the recent object of Rosalind's affection, Orlando, leading to an elaborate game of fluid identity where all the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players.

As the seasons change in this magical place, normal roles dissolve and assumptions are turned on their head in this celebration of the transformative power of love and the natural world, featuring some of Shakespeare's most vivid characters and memorable poetry.

Laurie Sansom, Artistic Director of Northern Broadsides said: "Your 'if' is the only peacemaker; much virtue in 'if'. The Forest of Arden is a place where 'if' runs rampant. People adopt new names, new clothes and new lovers. They experience new feelings and dive into them willy-nilly, they play many parts and make many entrances and exits. It's as if everyone has stepped through the wardrobe into another world but not without taking a lot of fabulous clothes with them.

"This production takes us deep into the joyful possibilities of 'if' and asks if all the world's a stage, can all the men and women be whoever they want to be? Escaping from the toxic entertainment empire presided over by the explosive and ruthless Duke Ferdinand, where now even the drag queens aren't allowed to step out of line, Rosalind, Celia and Touchstone make a break for it.

"They find themselves in a forest where gender, class and sexual desire seem fluid and as changeable as the seasons as old hierarchies crumble away. Of all of Shakespeare's plays this feels the most restorative, opening up the possibility of making a new world based on open hearted acceptance of each other and living in harmony with the natural world. This feels like a play for our time, challenging us to imagine a new future that is more playful, accepting and connected".

As You Like It set and costume designer E.M Parry said: "For me, *As You Like It* is one of Shakespeare's queerest plays, but there's a universality and relatability to the play's exploration of the question of identity, how

it's constructed or imposed, and how it can shift and be remade. To an extent, all the people in *As You Like It* are trying on different identities, trying to figure out where they fit into the world, and the play explores different ways in which identity is experienced, and constructed – by people themselves, by the societies, situations, and relationships they find themselves in, by who they fall in and out of love and lust with....

"In our version of *Arden*, when the characters escape to the forest, they go through the wardrobe, Narnia-like, into a giant dressing-up box of queer possibility, a place where time, gender, sexuality, love, class, and all the hierarchies and binaries of identity and power can be questioned and turned upside down.

"Expect a world where a blizzard blows out of a hatbox, dresses change colour with the seasons, coatstands turn into trees and flowers grow up between the floorboards. Expect a world where a god turns up to a wedding, and who you are and who you fall in love with today can change as winter changes to spring, or a coat turns inside out."



Ticket information;

www.yorktheatroyal.co.uk/show/as-you-like-it/?book=true

Price - From £15

Evenings 7.30pm

Matinee Thurs 2pm & Sat 2.30pm

Box office 01904 623568

2 for 1 tickets are available for As You Like It as part of the UK Theatre/ National Lottery's Love your Local Theatre Campaign. More details on yorktheatroyal.co.uk

New Work To Be Commissioned From Local Artists For Green Shoots Show

York Theatre Royal is to commission new work from dozens of local professional artists from York and North Yorkshire across a variety of art forms in a new project called Green Shoots.

This is a follow-up to *Love Bites*, the hugely-successful show that reopened the theatre following the lifting of restrictions in May 2021. That featured 20 pieces of short work from local artists.



Now comes *Green Shoots*, featuring new work from local professional artists centred around rebooting post-pandemic and looking to the future of the planet.

York Theatre Royal will select 20 commissions, offering £1,000 per commission plus £150 each time they are performed.

The theatre's Creative Director Juliet Forster said: "*Love Bites* last year was a joyous event that will live long in my mind, not just because we were re-opening after 14 months of enforced closure, but also because our stage was filled to overflowing with the tremendous talent and ingenuity of local artists. It was moving, spectacular, surprising, thought-provoking and funny in equal measures.

"We have created this opportunity with *Green Shoots* because we are excited to see what they will do next."

The work celebrating local talent and live performance will be performed on the main stage on June 7 and 8 as part of the new *Rumours & Rebels* season.

More than 2,000 artists across a variety of art forms applied for *Love Bites*. They ranged from spoken word to circus.

The commissions should respond to the title *Green Shoots* in any way that can be interpreted – pieces might be about hope, recovery, new beginnings, revolution, new life, growth, the environment or anything else that can be imagined as a response.

The work should be able to be performed or shared both live and in a digital form, and have a duration of up to 5 minutes. Artists may apply as individuals and/or as part of a collective. The theatre is keen to incorporate as wide a mix of art forms and interpretations of the theme as possible, so welcomes submissions from artists working in any medium..

Interested artists are being asked to write a short proposal for their piece, how it might be performed live and how it would translate this into a digital form. Closing date for submissions to commissions@yorktheatroyal.co.uk is midday 24 March 2022.

For more information about *Green Shoots* and how to apply visit yorktheatroyal.co.uk



ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S ON TV & STREAMING

NETFLIX

prime video

Disney+

STARZPLAY

Apple TV+

sky

04 March - Joe vs Carole, Season Limited - Peacock

A scripted adaptation of the 2020 Wondery podcast 'Joe Exotic: Tiger King'.

04 March - Star Trek: Picard, Season 2 - Amazon Prime

Star Trek: The Next Generation's Jean-Luc Picard returns for more adventures.

04 March - Central Park, Season 2b - Apple TV+

Animated musical comedy series, which follows a family of caretakers, who live and work in Central Park. Josh Gad, Tituss Burgess, and Kristen Bell provide the voices.

06 March - Outlander, Season 6 - StarzPlay

Time-travel historical romantic drama from the makers of Spartacus and Battlestar Galactica.

06 March - Shining Vale, Season 1 - StarzPlay

A horror-comedy series starring Courteney Cox and Greg Kinnear.

07 March - The Great North, Season 2 - Disney+

Animated series about the Alaskan adventures of the Tobin family from the creators of 'Bob's Burgers'.

09 March - The Last Kingdom, Season 5 (Final) - Netflix

Wessex the eponymous last kingdom standing up to the Norse invaders.



11 March - Upload, Season 2 - Prime Video

Robbie Amell stars in new sci-fi comedy from Greg Daniels ('The Office', 'Parks and Recreation') where humans can choose to be "uploaded" into a virtual afterlife when they find themselves near-death.

11 March - The Rising, Season 1 - Sky Max

New supernatural crime thriller, based on Belgian series 'Hotel Beau Séjour'.

11 March - Last Days of Ptolemy Grey, Season Limited - Apple TV+

Miniseries based on the novel of the same name by Walter Mosley, starring Samuel L. Jackson.

18 March - Human Resources, Season 1 - Netflix

A workplace comedy set in the world of the monsters from the creators of 'Big Mouth'.

18 March - WeCrashed, Season Limited - Apple TV+

The story of the greed-filled rise and inevitable fall of WeWork, one of the world's most valuable startups, and the narcissists whose chaotic love made it all possible.

18 March - Top Boy, Season 4 - Netflix

Netflix brings us back to the tough East London estate where boys have to be drug-dealing men.

21 March - Sanditon, Season 2 - BritBox UK

Inspired by Jane Austen's unfinished final novel, Sanditon is a compelling depiction of a developing Regency seaside town at the forefront of the great social and economic changes of the age.

21 March - Riverdale, Season 6b - Netflix

Greg Berlanti's rather darker take on Archie Comics returns!

23 March - Raised by Wolves, Season 2 - Sky Atlantic

Epic sci-fi drama from executive producer Ridley Scott centring on two androids tasked with raising human children on a mysterious virgin planet. Begins with a triple bill, and all episodes will be available On Demand from 2am.

25 March - Bridgerton, Season 2 - Netflix

Shonda Rhimes's Shondaland does Regency London. Bridgerton is a romantic, scandalous, and quick-witted series that celebrates the timelessness of enduring friendships, families finding their way, and the search for a love that conquers all.

30 March - Moon Knight, Season 1 - Disney+

The latest Marvel comic to get a tv adaptation.

MOVIES



04 March - The Batman - 15

When the Riddler, a sadistic serial killer, begins murdering key political figures in Gotham, Batman is forced to investigate the city's hidden corruption and question his family's involvement.

Stars: Robert Pattinson, Zoë Kravitz, Barry Keoghan & Paul Dano

18 March - Operation Fortune: Ruse de guerre - R

Special agent Orson Fortune and his team of operatives recruit one of Hollywood's biggest movie stars to help them on an undercover mission when the sale of a deadly new weapons technology threatens to disrupt the world order.

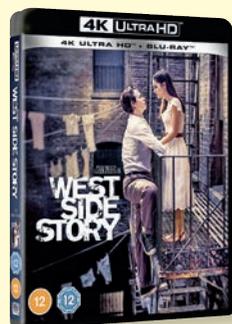
Stars: Jason Statham, Josh Hartnett & Aubrey Plaza

25 March - Ambulance - R

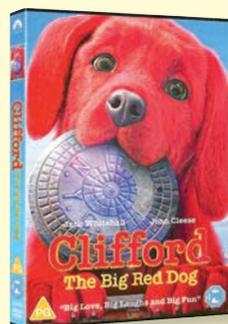
Two robbers steal an ambulance after their heist goes awry.

Stars: Jake Gyllenhaal, Eiza González, Devan Chandler Long & Yahya Abdul-Mateen II

DVD, Blu-Ray & 4K DVD



07 March - West Side Story - DVD, Blu-Ray & 4K DVD



14 March - Clifford The Big Red Dog - DVD & Blu-Ray



21 March - Nightmare Alley - DVD & Blu-Ray



07 March - Dear Evan Hansen - DVD, Blu-Ray & 4K DVD



14 March - Vikings: Season 6, Volume 2 - DVD & Blu-Ray



21 March - RoboCop [Limited Edition] - 4K DVD

GAMES



04 March - Gran Turismo 7 - PS4 & PS5



11 March - WWE 2K22 - PS4, PS5 & Xbox



18 March - Stranger Of Paradise: Final Fantasy Origin - PS4, PS5 & Xbox



25 March - Rune Factory 5 - Nintendo Switch



25 March - The A500 Mini



31 March - Evercade Renovation Cartridge 1

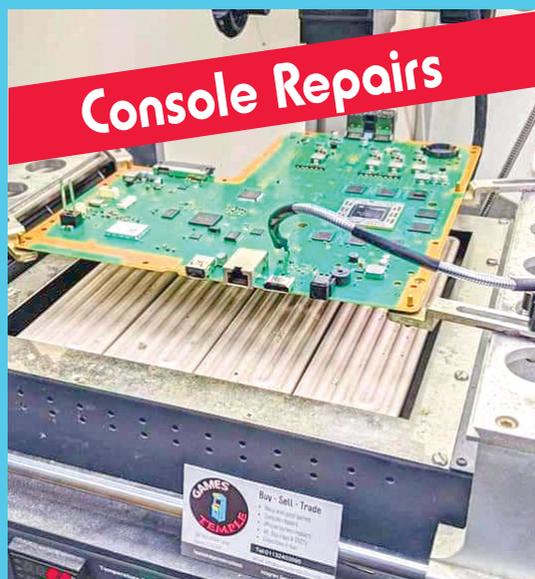
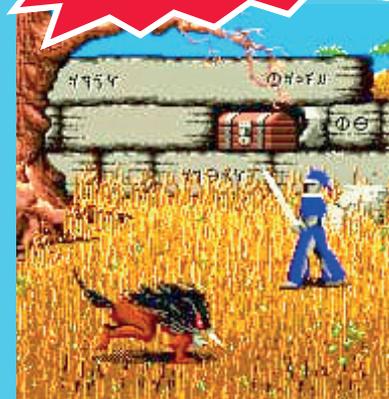
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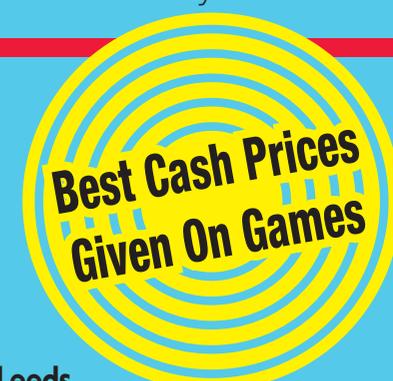
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— BY LINZI DAVIES —

Sunday 27th March marks this year's Mother's Day in the UK. On this day, mums across the country will receive bunches of flowers, boxes of chocolates and cards from their children as a way of saying thank you for all that they do. Mother's Day has been a staple of the British calendar for as long as I can remember, but where did the tradition come from, and when?

The reality is that the modern Mother's Day as we know it is a sort of hybrid between the Christian Mothering Sunday celebration in this country, and the more commercialised Mother's Day celebrated in the USA. This month's feature looks at the two differing traditions and how they have merged into the day we celebrate in the UK today.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent in the Christian faith. Originally, it had nothing to do with actual mothers, but rather the 'mother church'. On Sundays, churchgoers worship at their local church. Hundreds of years ago it was considered important to return to the home or 'mother' church annually. So, in the middle of Lent people would worship at their mother church which was the main church or cathedral of the area. With children as young as 10 often leaving the family home to work in service as domestic servants, or to become apprentices, families would be apart for long periods of time. This yearly visit to the 'mother' church became an ideal time for families to get together as workers were given the day off.

Historians think that the tradition of giving flowers arose as children walking home down country lanes from their place of work would gather wild flowers on-route to take to church or give as a small gift to their mother.

By the early 20th century the custom of keeping Mothering Sunday had declined.

Mother's Day In The USA

The roots of the modern American Mother's Day can be found in the 19th century. Ann Reeves Jarvis from West Virginia started 'Mother's Day Work Clubs' in the years before the Civil War to teach women how to care for their children. As the Civil War raged, these clubs became a unifying force in a divided region. In 1868 she organised 'Mothers Friendship Day' which was an effort to promote reconciliation between former Union and Confederate Soldiers.



Ann Reeves Jarvis died in 1905. To commemorate all the work that she had done, her daughter Anna Jarvis thought of having a 'Mother's Day' to honour the sacrifices that mothers made for their children each and every day. Philadelphia department store owner John Wanamaker supplied financial backing to Anna's idea and the very first Mother's Day celebration took place in May 1908 at a Methodist church, and at one of Wanamaker's stores.

Following this success, Anna became determined to see the day added to the national calendar as a holiday. She began a campaign of letter writing to the press and politicians urging them for support. Her persistence paid off when, in 1914, President Wilson officially established the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis, who remained unmarried and childless her entire life, was not jubilant for long however. Her original idea of a personal celebration between families involved visiting your mother, wearing a white carnation and possibly attending church. Once the day became a national holiday, it was seized upon by entrepreneurial florists and card makers with pre-printed cards becoming readily available. Jarvis hated the fact that the day was now very commercialised and denouncing the transformation, urged people to stop buying the goods.

Mother's Day



A Traditional Of Many Years



She said ‘A printed card means nothing except that you are too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone in the world. And candy! You take a box to Mother, and then eat most of it yourself. A pretty sentiment.’

Anna Jarvis spent much of the rest of her life openly campaigning against Mother’s Day profiteers and launching lawsuits, spending most of her wealth in legal fees.

The Revival of Mothering Sunday

The efforts of Anna Jarvis in the USA to get Mother’s Day recognised as a national holiday inspired people here in the UK. In 1914 Constance Penswick-Smith, a vicar’s daughter from Coddington, Nottinghamshire, created the Mothering Sunday Movement and by 1921 had written a book asking for the revival of the festival. Constance realised that Mother’s Day in America had little to do with the Christian values of Mothering Sunday despite sounding similar, and worked to re-establish it as a true Christian celebration. The revival did gradually happen, but the traditions of Mothering Sunday practised by the Church of England became merged with the newly imported American traditions brought over by serving US and Canadian soldiers during World War II. English companies saw the same opportunities that the American ones had in commercialising the day and relentlessly promoted it as a result. By the 1950’s, Mother’s Day as we know it today was being celebrated across the UK. The two differing celebrations divided by the Atlantic Ocean are now so mixed up that many people think they are the same thing.

Simnel Cake



As Mothering Sunday in the UK has Christianity at its roots, Simnel cake is often enjoyed as part of the celebrations, as well as at Easter. Traditionally, the middle Sunday in Lent is when the fasting would be relaxed, and many girls working in service would make one to take home on their Mothering Sunday visit. Originally, Simnel cakes would be decorated with preserved fruits and flowers but in the late Victorian era, people began decorating them with the eleven marzipan balls that we are familiar with today – one for each of Jesus’ apostles minus Judas. This classic cake is full of all the delights normally abstained from during Lent, lots of dried fruits, mixed peel, sugar and of course the almond or marzipan – delicious!

Gifts

Most mums I speak to love nothing more than a homemade card and a cup of tea in bed from their children on Mother’s Day. The most popular gift of choice though must be a bunch of flowers and at this time of year there are beautiful spring flowers around such as daffodils and tulips. Another popular choice is a box of chocolates, and most mums love a chocolate or two with a cuppa during a short break from all their chores! Other ideas include jewellery, such as a nice pair of earrings or bracelet, perhaps a ‘mum’ charm to add to their collection. Perfume, a colourful scarf or some bath bombs are all great ideas too, and for an exceptional treat possibly a spa day will help mum to relax completely for a few hours.

Despite all the lovely gifts out there for mums, with something for all budgets, all mums really want is a word of thanks and their abundant love to be reciprocated!

It is important to remember all that our mums do for us and to show our appreciation be it with a gift or simply showing it with our actions. Remember, mum is the person who brought you up, cared for you, wiped your tears when you were sad and made you smile again. Families are diverse and for some, mum might actually be your dad, your grandparent or somebody else. Whoever mum is to you, be thankful to them! And for those whose mum is sadly no longer with us, take the day to cherish all those happy memories.

We used the Yorkshire Reporter for a change to a license in regards to a club premises of which I am a committee member-Garforth Country Club.

The process was slick, the staff were helpful and the cost of the application was extremely reasonable when looked at against other outlets offering a similar service.

This is a service I would personally recommend and thank you to the Yorkshire Reporter for their very professional assistance.

Councillor Mark Dobson

Leader, Garforth and Swillington Independents

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I have used the services of the Yorkshire Reporter several times in recent years for public notices.

I have found their professionalism to be second to none, and they are now my first port of call for this and other services in connection with my business.

Suffice to say, I heartily recommend them.

Martyn J Lee

Transport Consultant

BOOKS

Revie Legacy Hot Topic For Hit Leeds Book

To this day Don Revie remains a decisive figure in the realms of English football.

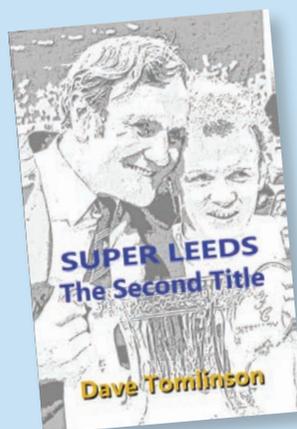
And nowhere is his legacy more fiercely debated than in the city of Leeds.

Now historian and lifelong United fan Dave Tomlinson has taken a closer look at the charismatic manager and the Elland Road he left behind in his new book, *Super Leeds: The Second Title*.

Revie's appointment as player-manager of Leeds was met with a mixed response by fans in 1961 – but it began a twelve season rise in the club's fortunes.

His departure for the Wembley hot seat, though, and then a further move to the Middle East took away much of the shine for many.

Dave explained: "Revie left for the England job in 1974 and Leeds would never be the same again, though they almost won the European Cup under Jimmy Armfield.



"Eight years after Revie left Elland Road, the money had gone, Leeds were in the Second Division and Revie was consigned to history as the man who betrayed English football.

"That was the popular version of events but for those who love Leeds there is another version, the tale of a man and a club that were cheated of glory again and again and again, and a legacy squandered.

"But there were also good times, very, very good times and nothing can destroy those memories."

Ask anyone to list greatest English league managers of all time and you'll likely hear the names Ferguson, Clough, Wenger, Shankly and Busby.

And it has become less and less likely the name Revie will be uttered in the same breath.

But for Dave, who has already penned six books on the history of his beloved Leeds United, one manager still stands above all others.

He added: "1972 was the year when it all came together for Don Revie and Leeds United, when the legend of Super Leeds was born and for a while blotted out the memory of Dirty Leeds.

"During the spring, Revie's Leeds played some truly remarkable football.

"It was fitting that they should commemorate the period by winning the FA Cup for the only time in the club's history.

"It was just as fitting that Leeds chose the Centenary Cup final to finally lift the trophy.

"It would have been even better if they could have got the draw they needed a couple of days later to have added the league title.

"But he returned the next season to lead United to their second league title and more plaudits."

Since the publication of *Super Leeds: The Second Title* it has reached number one in Amazon's football charts, as well as number three in the UK history chart.

And Dave's latest book has also been met with a string of five-star reviews from captivated readers.

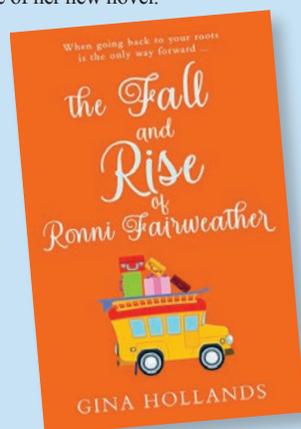
When not researching and writing about Leeds United, the NHS director of finance from Birmingham produces videos for his Leeds United YouTube channel and produces copy for his Super Leeds fan website.

For more information visit Amazon and search for Dave Tomlinson, where the Kindle and paperback versions of *Super Leeds: The Second Title* are available.

Starting Afresh: The Theme Of New Novel By Local Author

New starts are something many of us have experienced recently. Whether chosen or imposed, post lockdown, lots of us are living lives very different from those we led a few years ago.

It is often said that art reflects life, and it may therefore come as no surprise that Gina Hollands, an author with local links, has chosen fresh starts as the theme of her new novel.



The Fall and Rise of Ronni Fairweather, is described as 'an uplifting and inspirational story'. Set across the South East and Leeds (Gina originates from Leeds and now lives in Sussex), the book tells the story of a woman who thinks she has it all, until one day her life changes forever and she is forced to start again.

"The heroine, Ronni, has plenty of flaws, which I think make her more relatable, given that none of us are perfect," says Gina. "Despite this, she realises the only person she can rely on to secure her future is herself, and is forced to make some difficult decisions. Ultimately, *The Fall and Rise of Ronni Fairweather* is about discovering what truly matters to us in life — a question many of us have pondered after what we've been through recently. We've all only got one life, after all, so making the most of it really matters!"



Gina, who has written four other novels and several novellas, wrote the book two years ago when she was meant to be on holiday. "I broke my wrist two days before we set off for a skiing holiday!" she says. "I wasn't the only hotel guest in plaster, but I was the only one to arrive that way. I wasn't able to ski, so instead I sat inside and wrote the best part of a novel."

The Fall and Rise of Ronni Fairweather published by Ruby Fiction is available on Amazon as an ebook (£2.99) or in paperback (£9.99).

For more information and to see Gina's other books, visit: www.ginahollands.com

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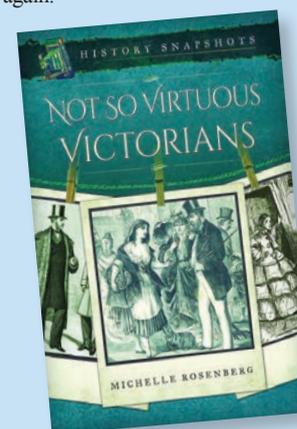
To enter simply send 'BOOKS' along with your contact details including tel number, stating which book you would like to be entered for to competitions@yorkshirereporter.co.uk

Terms & Conditions – Entries must be in by the 23rd March 2022. The winner will be contacted by phone or email and may be required for a photoshoot of them receiving their prize. Yorkshire Reporter's decision is final and no cash alternative will be offered.

The Shocking Liabilities Of Victorians

What springs to mind when you think of British Victorian men and women? – manners, manners and more manners. Behaviour that was as rigid and constricted as the corsets women wore. From iron-knicker sexual prudery to men so uptight they furtively released their pent up emotions in opium dens and prostitute hot spots. All, of course, exaggerated cliches worthy of a Victorian melodrama.

Each generation loves to think it is better than the last and loves to look aghast at the horrifying trends of their ancestors. But are we really any different? This glimpse at life for Victorian men and women might make millennials think again.



Men and women were expected to live very differently from one another with clearly defined roles regardless of class. However, lift the skirts a little and not only will you see that they didn't wear knickers but they were far less repressed than the persistent stereotypes would have us believe. The Victorians were as weird and wonderful as we are today.

From fatal beauty tips to truly hysterical cures for hysteria to grave robbers playing skittles with human bones, we have cherry picked some of the more entertaining glimpses into the lives led by our Victorian brothers and sisters.

About the Author

Michelle Rosenberg is a writer and passionate women's historian with a great fondness for her two daughters, bawdy humour and inappropriate language (in that order). She is on the Advisory Board of the East End Women's Museum.

Not So Virtuous Victorians. Author: Michelle Rosenberg. Publisher: Pen and Sword. Available from amazon and www.pen-and-sword.co.uk. Priced £8.19.



Laura Stafford

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Antiques With Gary Don



Dear readers,
We recently came across this low marble coffee table in a house clearance. Although in poor condition and fairly modern,

it had a designer name on it and we thought we would give it a go at auction. It appears that these tables are back in fashion now and we were delighted to take a bid of £520 for it.

Dear Gary,
I have a figure by Royal Dux which belonged to my late aunt. It measures 14” high and is a figure of a girl with ducks.
Is it worth anything?
Thank you,
Joanne.



Hi Joanne,
Royal Dux porcelain has been produced since 1853 in Bohemia (now Czech Republic).

It has one of the most distinctive marks ever placed on porcelain, a raised triangle of pink clay which looks a bit like a piece of ‘Bazooka Joe’ chewing gum (for those that remember that!).

They produced lots of figures, often with pale green or pink colours. We come across these figures very regularly as they were very popular in West Yorkshire. Your figure is a particularly nice one and should sell for around £100 – 150.

Hi Gary,
We have a Royal Worcester ‘Shire Stallion’ Modelled By Doris Lindner on a stand which we bought many years ago for £80. Is it still collectable and has it gone up in value?

Thanks,
Mr. & Mrs. Harrison



Dear Mr. & Mrs. Harrison,
Thank you for your email. The collector’s market for model horses has declined over the last few years, particularly with Beswick horses as there are so many on the market. However certain models are still quite collectable, especially for top quality items such as the Royal Worcester horses. We recently sold one by Doris Lindner for £420. Well done with your buy!

Hello Gary,
My wife and I are moving out some unused items – a substantial sidecupboard and a glazed display cabinet.
We are intending to offer them to St. Georges Crypt in Leeds.
We would like to know if they are of any significant value.
The glass cabinet has a label on the back.
Many thanks,
Steve Rhodes



Dear Steve,
Thank you for your email.
Unfortunately these items are of low value and difficult to sell in the current market. The desk/display cabinet is known as a ‘larkin desk’ and used to be popular with the American market. Sadly today this dark wood furniture is out of fashion. Many charities do take furniture to upcycle and repaint and we are sure St. Georges Crypt will appreciate any contributions.

Dear Gary,
I recently found this fox tie pin in an old jewellery box. It’s only a small piece, would it be worth anything?
Mary



Dear Mary,
There are many collectors of tie pins and tie clips and one of most popular subjects has always been foxes. It will be almost certainly made of gold. The gold content may only be worth £30 – 40 but the article value makes it worth much more. We would expect to sell a fox head tie clip like this for £130 – 150 at auction. Quite a price for such a small piece of gold!

You may be sat on a treasure trove!
It is often the items that you think are worthless that can turn out to be the most valuable. Not sure?
Then send an email to;
antiques@yorkshirereporter.co.uk
I will answer everyone
Look forward to valuing for you *Gary Don*

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Five Things You Never Knew About Rolex...

Inflation seems to be the buzz word of 2022. It's all we hear about with fuel and electricity prices driving the curve and we seem to have no choice but to pay the price!

There are some choices you can make though that could give you an inflation proof investment you can enjoy as well as own.

Now is the time to invest in Rolex watches, gold and pre-owned diamonds!

They may seem like luxury items but all three of these are seeing consistent world price rises this year – more so than ever and there is no better value in the gold and diamond market than pre-owned.

Gold and Rolex watches have stood the test of time for as long as I have can remember. Back in December 2014, I wrote in one of the first editions of the Yorkshire Reporter and advised that Rolex watches were a good place to invest your money. I wish I had just filled my safe with them at the time because we were selling a stainless steel Rolex Daytona for just £7500 -second hand in immaculate condition with box and papers. The exact same watch today now sells for £30,000!

The same has been true across most of the sports Rolex models and it spirals out of control when Rolex decide to discontinue a model. The Submariner Hulk with the green bezel and face was discontinued in 2020. At the time it had a UK list price of just £7550. We have two in stock at time of writing and the newer of the two with box and papers is currently selling at £26,950. What's even more shocking is that you could have bought it for less than £18,500 three months ago! I bet the gentleman from London who bought it from our website before Christmas for that price and then returned it after he changed his mind might regret that decision.

Here Are 5 Facts You May Not Know About This Amazing Brand:

- Rolex was started in London not Switzerland – the company moved to Switzerland after the 1st World War as it was a good tax haven compared to the recovering post war Britain.
- Rolex is a charity and not individually owned. They are owned by the Hans Wildorf Foundation and use their profits to fund the largest scholarship foundation in Europe.



- The name ROLEX was dreamt up by the owners in London while riding on a bus. Davis wanted a 5-letter word that sounded expensive, could be pronounced in any language and looked good on the face of a watch!
- Rolex invented the first waterproof wristwatch in 1926 with its screw down case back and rubber sealed crown. They gave one to be tested by Mercedes Gleitze who attempted to swim the channel in 1927, Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953 for his ascent up Mount Everest and attached one to a US sub which dove in the Mariana Trench -the deepest part of the South Pacific ocean – none of them lost a second.
- Every Rolex is hand made and can take upto a year to make and test. No wonder the demand outstrips the supply.

Want To Own A Rolex?

Even if you just store it in your safe, it is a sound investment that you can wear and enjoy and still potentially sell in a few years time for more than you paid for it. The waiting time for a new watch is currently 24 months and even then the list is so long with most Rolex dealerships that it is unlikely you will ever make the top of it.

A pre-owned Rolex from Christopher Brown Jewellers carries a 2 year warranty, is fully refurbished and most importantly comes with the comfort that you are buying from a trusted retailer who can guarantee the authenticity of every watch.

Christopher Brown Jewellers in York, Seacroft, Shipley and Pontefract all carry an extensive stock of pre-owned Rolex and other luxury watches. We also have branches in Batley, Stockport, Prescott and Toxteth.

Visit our website www.christopherbrownjewellers.co.uk to see the ever changing list of what we have in stock.

Raising Funds.....

If you are looking to raise some much needed funds or need a temporary loan why not bring your Rolex in for an instant assessment and you could be surprised what your timepiece will fetch.



With increasing inflation pressures on us all over the coming year you may wish to use it for a temporary loan. We will lend money against your watch (or gold and diamonds), and you can collect it back anytime within seven months or even extend the loan until you are ready to collect it. With a pawnbroking loan, you remain the owner of your goods and we simply hold it as security while the loan is in place. For further details visit one of our branches or our visit our pawnbroking website www.christopherbrownjewellers.co.uk/pawnbroking and walk away with cash in minutes!

If you are looking for some inflation busting bargains, visit Christopher Brown Jewellers in York, Seacroft, Shipley, Pontefract or Stockport or Brown and Gold in Batley, Prescott and Toxteth and see what bargains you can find to stop inflation eating your savings.

Chris Brown

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MOTORS

Vital Equipment Helps Slash Time Taken To Move Stranded Vehicles To Safety

New gadgets have been introduced to help slash the time taken to move a stranded vehicle out of a live lane to safety on motorways or major A roads.

National Highways has invested £200,000 in new equipment and training for all Traffic Officers to help speed up the time it takes to move “non-rolling” broken down vehicles – including electric vehicles – to a safe place and keep traffic moving.

As part of the change, all 262 National Highways traffic officer vehicles have been equipped with plastic skates, with training also provided to all Traffic Officers across the country in how to use them. The skates, also known as “Slippery Jims”, work by being hammered under each tyre. This helps to reduce the surface friction between tyre and road, allowing it to be towed to a place of safety by a National Highways Traffic Officer vehicle.

They can be used to safely move depleted electric vehicles (EVs). Towing an EV can greatly damage the vehicle due to how the motors are attached to the wheels and their lack of a true neutral gear. Where previously traffic officers had to wait for a recovery vehicle to avoid damaging the vehicle further, EVs can now be moved right away with the use of this new equipment.

Additionally, Traffic Officer vehicles have also been fitted with “battery boosters” – an effective tool to combat a battery failure on a combustion engine vehicle. The booster will help recharge and jump start the battery of any vehicle (up to 8 litre petrol and 6 litre diesel) immediately, allowing it to be moved to a safer area.

The announcement of the new kit was made as National Highways launched the latest phase of its “Go Left” campaign to advise drivers who experience a problem with their vehicle.

This is one of a number of measures being introduced to support the shift to zero emissions journeys to meet the governments’ 2050 net zero carbon target.

The kit was rolled out nationwide following a successful trial in the East of England. The trial proved that the plastic skates were 100% successful in towing a non-rolling vehicle to safety, while the battery boosters were 99% effective in providing power.

In 2021 there were almost 205,663 reported breakdowns across the

NEW NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE PROTECTS DRIVERS BY CRACKING DOWN ON ROGUE PRIVATE PARKING OPERATORS

The RAC welcomes the launch of a new code of practice for the private parking sector, following years of campaigning for a fairer system for drivers.

The Private Parking Code of Practice outlines minimum standards expected by private parking operators and should root out the more dubious practices that have been prevalent by some operators in the sector. Alongside this, a new national appeals system will be introduced to make it simpler for drivers to fight charges they believe are unfair.

The range of measures announced will:

- Reduce the maximum parking charge notice to £50 in most cases outside of London, with a 50% discount for early payment. The upper £100 limit for more serious breaches will be kept
- Ban parking debt collectors from charging additional fees when parking charge notices are not paid
- Introduce a compulsory 10-minute grace period before firms can issue a late fine and a compulsory five-minute cooling-off period in which a motorist can consider the terms and conditions and change their mind about parking

National Highways network including around 183,453 on motorways.

Before the introduction of the new skates and battery boosters, it could be the case that where a non-rolling electric vehicle was concerned a Traffic Officer would need to wait for vehicle recovery. During this time the stranded vehicle can cause delays to other drivers. It’s expected that removing incidents from live lanes more quickly will equate to a minimum boost of £29.8m per year to the UK economy.

As part of the “Go Left” campaign, motorists in difficulty are recommended to leave the motorway if possible and if this is not possible:

GO LEFT

Put your left indicator on and move into an emergency area, onto a hard shoulder, motorway service area, left-hand verge or A-road lay-by.

Switch your hazard warning lights on, even during the day. If it’s dark, use side lights and in poor visibility use fog lights as well.

On a motorway without a hard shoulder, it should be possible for most vehicles experiencing a problem to reach an emergency area. These are regularly spaced and are marked by a clearly visible orange road surface and blue signs featuring an orange SOS telephone symbol.

GET SAFE

If it is safe to do so, and you can get out with any passengers, exit your vehicle on the side furthest from traffic. If it is not safe to do so, stay in your vehicle and wait for help.

Keep well away from moving traffic and your own vehicle. Get behind a safety barrier where there is one, and where it is safe to do so. If you’re on a verge, be aware of any unseen hazards such as uneven ground or debris.

GET HELP

Contact National Highways on 0300 123 5000 and then a breakdown recovery provider.

If you are unable to exit your vehicle and get to a safe place, have stopped in a live traffic lane or feel your life is in danger, stay in your vehicle with your seatbelts and hazard lights on and call 999 immediately.

For more advice about what to do in a breakdown visit:

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/breakdowns

- Improve standards on signage, conditions of parking and make it clearer on how to appeal a charge
- Implement a crackdown on parking firms using aggressive or pseudo-legal language to intimidate motorists into paying fines

The RAC called on the Government and MPs to act after being contacted by drivers who felt the actions of private parking companies were entirely unreasonable. For instance, the RAC heard of how parking charge notices were issued for, at best, very minor breaches of car park terms and conditions, and, at worst, for reasons that were simply inexplicable. This ranged from minor keying errors at payment machines to people receiving a charge for overstaying by seconds. In addition to this, some operators were incentivising third parties by offering them financial incentives for issuing parking charge notices.

In 2017, Sir Greg Knight MP introduced the Parking (Code of Practice) Bill which received Royal Assent in 2019 with cross-party backing and Government support.

All-Electric Ford E-Transit Collects Gold Award From Euro NCAP

The all-electric Ford E-Transit's comprehensive suite of driver assistance systems has earned the commercial vehicle a Gold Award from independent vehicle safety authority Euro NCAP.

The award follows analysis of technologies including autonomous emergency braking when approaching vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians, as well as lane keeping technology, traffic sign recognition and occupant monitoring systems.

E-Transit's Gold Award means Ford now offers the only two vehicles in the 2-tonne segment with Euro NCAP's Gold Award for driver assistance.

E-Transit offers driver assistance technologies including Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection, Intelligent Adaptive Cruise Control with Traffic Sign Recognition, Blind Spot Information System with Lane Change Warning & Aid, Junction Assist, a 360-degree camera and Reverse Brake Assist.

Euro NCAP's simulations tested driver warning and active safety

technology actions when approaching parked vehicles or slower traffic, as well as when a vehicle in front brakes sharply. Testing also included responses to a child running into the road, and cyclists and pedestrians walking in or crossing the road – potentially likely scenarios in the urban environments where Ford anticipates the majority of E-Transits will be operated.

E-Transit's Gold Award extends Ford's leadership in van safety technology. Transit Custom is also a Gold Award winner, making Ford the only manufacturer with Gold-rated vans in the 1-tonne, 2-tonne and EV segments.



The company is already piloting E-Transits in typical daily operation with selected customers across Europe, and customer deliveries are scheduled to begin.



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Ducati Unica:



Build A One-Of-A-Kind Ducati Of Your Dreams

Ducati announces the creation of Ducati Unica, the new customisation programme dedicated to those who want to design and build their own exclusive and unique motorcycle.

With Ducati Unica, the Centro Stile Ducati opens its doors to Ducatisti and accompanies them in the realisation of their dream: to collaborate directly with designers and technicians to create a motorcycle that will be a unique piece in the world.

Ducatisti who join the programme will be able to enter the Ducati Centro Stile atelier in person, describe their desires to the designers and follow, during periodical visits, the progress of their motorcycles, experiencing first-hand the level of dedication and attention to detail that Ducati reserves for each customisation project.

With the support of the professionals of the Ducati Unica team, the customisation process will be outlined, defining every detail: precious materials, dedicated finishes, special colours and Ducati Performance accessories. All in compliance with the stylistic criteria that identify a real Ducati.

Each stage of the creation of the bike will be documented and will see the involvement of enthusiasts, from the first sketches to the delivery ceremony.

Andrea Ferraresi, Centro Stile Ducati Director: "Design is a distinctive element of our creations. We wanted to give Ducatisti the chance to identify themselves even more with their own bike, making it a direct expression of each person's individual style. Therefore, we created Ducati Unica, an exclusive programme that testifies to the excellence of Made in Italy of which Ducati is a representative in the world. An exciting and unforgettable experience of customisation to be experienced directly within our Centro Stile. The moment in which Ducatisti finally see their bike is very exciting for us at the Centro Stile and a source of great pride."

Each Ducati Unica is delivered to its owner accompanied by a certificate of uniqueness, which attests its originality and ensures its non-replicability.

The level of uniqueness and the obsessive attention to detail of each Ducati Unica project mean that the company can only accept an extremely limited number of requests each year, and only those considered to be in line with the values of the brand.

Ducati dealers are an integral part of the project. By contacting them, you will be able to obtain the information necessary to request access to the programme, which is extended worldwide and applicable to the Ducati and Scrambler Ducati range.

Squires Cafe

What's on @ Squires, March 2022;

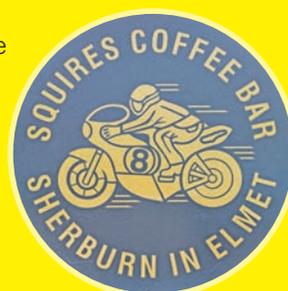
Sat 5th - Yorkshire Blacksmith meeting

The Yorkshire Blacksmith group meet at Squires each month between 11am and 3pm. If you are interested please come down and join in

Sat 26th (AM) - Autojumble

Our monthly autojumble. Pitches are £5 each for sellers

Visit www.squires-cafe.co.uk for more details



WAGGING TALES!

How To Keep Your Dog Safe And Happy During A Storm



In recent weeks storms have caused devastation and according to some meteorologists a couple more are forecast.

UK's largest dog welfare charity, Dogs Trust, provides top tips and advice on how to keep our four-legged friends happy and safe during a storm.

Charlotte Huggins, Canine Behaviour Officer at Dogs Trust, says:

"Extreme weather can be distressing for dogs. Signs to look out for include pacing around the home, excessive barking, or trying to run and hide.

"There are steps owners can take to comfort their dog and help them cope if their dogs are becoming anxious. If you're worried about the weather, keep your dog indoors as much as possible."

Top Tips

- Make sure your dog has enjoyable things to do indoors to keep them stimulated, such as a toy filled with food or a long-lasting chew
- Play games or practise reward-based training with your dog
- Close the curtains, turn lights on and turn up the volume on your TV or radio
- Make sure your house and garden are secure, in case your dog tries to run away if they are scared
- Provide a safe hiding place – for example, a comfy bed under a table with blankets which will make it cosy and help with soundproofing.
- If your dog wants to hide, allow them to stay where they feel safe
- If you can head out safely, always keep your dog on a lead
- Stay out of flood water as it may contain raw sewage and toxins and other hazards that could injure your dog.

For more information and advice visit,

www.dogstrust.org.uk/advice



■ Warrant Officer Jonathan Tanner congratulates RAF Police Dog Hertz on his PDSA Dickin Medal

Pioneering RAF Police Dog Receives Animals' Victoria Cross

A retired RAF Police Dog received the prestigious PDSA Dickin Medal – the animals' Victoria Cross – for his life-saving devotion to duty, protecting British and Allied troops while serving in Afghanistan, in 2013.

A pioneer in his field, Hertz is the first dog in British military history to detect electronic communications equipment such as mobile phones, voice recorders, SIM cards and GPS devices.

Throughout his time in Afghanistan, Hertz was responsible for finding more than 100 items of contraband, including drugs and Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs), all of which posed a significant threat to the lives of servicemen, women and civilians.

The ten-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer, Hertz, was formally presented with his PDSA Dickin Medal – the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross – by veterinary charity PDSA's Director General at a special ceremony at the Royal Air Force Club in Mayfair, London. Hertz is the 74th recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal; joining a prestigious line-up of brave dogs, pigeons, horses and a cat.

Discussing the award, PDSA Director General, Jan McLoughlin, said: "Hertz is a truly remarkable animal hero and a trailblazer in his field. His exceptional skills undoubtedly protected troops from the ever-evolving advances in digital intelligence. His actions changed the course of countless missions, saving the lives of military personnel and civilians.

"For this bravery and devotion to duty, we are honoured to welcome him as the latest recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal."

Hertz's Story

Originally bred in Croatia, Hertz joined the Royal Air Force Police as a one-year-old puppy after showing exceptional skills in drug detection. His natural talent saw that he was selected as the first-ever Military Working Dog to be trained to detect the presence of Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs).

Having never trained a dog to find such items within the British military before, advice and effective training methods were sought from the Prison Service, where sniffer dogs are used frequently to detect electronic contraband. After weeks of intense specialist training, Hertz quickly showed signs of exceptional skill and it wasn't long before Hertz and his handler, Warrant Officer Jonathan Tanner, were deployed to Afghanistan.

The duo worked together daily within numerous military and local civilian compounds within Camp Bastion and on his very first search, Hertz discovered a find that comprised of both drugs and electronic devices, and the latter was successful in supporting intelligence purposes. In doing so Hertz secured and protected Camp Bastion against the threat of both an intruder and insider attacks. These threats had previously claimed the lives of UK and US servicemen and women.

News of Hertz' success spread fast, and he was deployed to locations throughout Helmand and Kabul, where his role was the same: to ensure that areas were free of PED's and drugs to secure the safety of military personnel and local people.

At the end of Warrant Officer Tanner's deployment, Hertz was assigned to work with Corporal Simon Dack and despite the change of handler, Hertz continued to work with pinpoint accuracy.

Many of the items he found led directly to the gathering of intelligence about potential threats and attacks on British and Allied personnel. Hertz's impact was without parallel – his ability to remove potentially dangerous items undoubtedly saved many lives.

During the 13 months of Hertz's tour, there was not a single rocket attack on Camp Bastion. His work was vital to ensure the safety of all the personnel working there, both military and civilian.

Hertz's unique set of skills had never been seen before in military theatre. His specialist training prevented attacks and uncovered intelligence and in the ever-changing environment of military conflict, Hertz was at the cutting edge of defending troops from the ever-evolving advances in digital intelligence. His work undoubtedly saved many lives, making him a worthy recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal.

Watch Hertz's incredible story: www.pdsa.org.uk/hertz

Award Reaction

Commenting on Hertz's PDSA Dickin Medal, the veterinary charity's Director General, Jan McLoughlin, said: "Hertz's exceptional abilities were apparent to all who served alongside him, and he was clearly a vital part of the team whose work helped to save many lives. His bravery and devotion make him a thoroughly deserving recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal."

Reacting to the award, Provost Marshal (RAF) Group Captain Russ Foster-Jones, said: "We are honoured that Hertz has been awarded the prestigious PDSA Dickin Medal. He is a one-of-a-kind and his story demonstrates just how important animals are to our armed forces, and the key life-saving roles that they play. Hertz richly deserves this honour and I think I can say from all of those that worked alongside him that we are incredibly proud that PDSA has recognised such a remarkable dog."

Instituted in 1943, the PDSA Dickin Medal is a large, bronze medallion bearing the words "For Gallantry" and "We Also Serve" all within a laurel wreath. The ribbon is striped green, dark brown and sky blue representing water, earth and air to symbolise the naval, land and air forces. Hertz is the 74th recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal. Other recipients of the PDSA Dickin Medal include 37 dogs (including Hertz), 32 World War II messenger pigeons, four horses and one cat.

Has Covid-19 Continued To Impact People's Decision-Making When It Comes To Buying Puppies?

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is once again calling on puppy owners to take part in a national online survey to understand the pre-purchase motivations and behaviours of owners of puppies purchased during 2021. Data from the survey, known as "Pandemic Puppies – The Next Generation", will be used as a comparison to previous years (2019 and 2020), to determine whether the changes in puppy buying in the UK seen during the COVID-19 pandemic have returned to their pre-pandemic baseline or persisted into 2021.

Following the major success of the RVC's first study in 2020, this follow-up study will investigate the legacy of this period and the future of UK puppy buying culture, particularly given pandemic restrictions have lifted within the UK.

While many owners were likely making well-intentioned purchases, the demand has inevitably increased the risk to puppy health and welfare. Vets are concerned that the pandemic puppy boom is persisting, consequently adding pressure to veterinary services in the UK. Therefore, the findings of this study will be used to help support owners regarding their dogs' future welfare as well as informing the approach that key players within the veterinary and animal welfare sectors should take when sharing educational messaging with prospective owners to better promote canine welfare.

Dr Rowena Packer, Lecturer in Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare Science at the RVC said:

"The COVID-19 pandemic led to changes in the way many of us bought our household goods, with online ordering and delivery a common feature of lockdown life. The pandemic also led to changes in the way the UK bought puppies during 2020, due to the many restrictions to travel and social contact during this period. Many of these so-called 'Pandemic Puppies' became much-cherished



companions, helping households cope with lockdown life; however, there are concerns that some owners were duped into buying from unscrupulous breeders. We are interested in whether pandemic-related changes in puppy buying persisted into 2021, so we can best support owners of puppies bought during this period going forward. We would love to hear from anyone who purchased a puppy during 2021 to share their experiences."

Results from the Winter 2020 survey – which involved more than 7,500 respondents – uncovered several changes in buying habits. Owners were more likely to buy a younger puppy, pay a deposit without seeing their puppy, be first-time dog owners with children in their household, and pay more than £2,000. Other factors included owners being more likely to see their puppy without their littermates and collecting their puppy from outside their breeders' property or having it delivered.

These pandemic-related changes, such as viewing and purchasing puppies online, and having them delivered directly to owners may be perceived as 'convenient' by some but in fact, threaten canine welfare. Posing harms to both puppies and breeding dogs, understanding whether this online culture is preferred by consumers, and if so, how to change it to protect canine welfare will be key.

"Pandemic Puppies – The Next Generation" is now open for responses, with findings expected by the summer. Respondents to the online survey must be over 18 years of age, residents in the UK, have brought home a puppy (any breed or cross breed) aged under 16 weeks during 2021, and to have purchased their puppy from a private seller rather than rehomed or bred the puppy themselves.

If you would like more information, please visit;

www.rvc.uk.com/Pandemic-Puppies-of-2021-research or to take part in the survey, visit: www.rvc.uk.com/Puppy2021-survey

Blood Transfusion Helps Save Tilly After Ten-Day Battle For Life

A grateful dog owner has thanked a Yorkshire veterinary centre and national animal charity for saving the life of her precious pet.

Emma Harrison's Border Terrier Tilly was struck down by a life-threatening attack of immune mediated haemolytic anaemia (IMHA), where a dog's body destroys its own red blood cells.

It's often a death sentence but ten days of intensive care at award-winning Paragon Veterinary Referrals, in Wakefield, and a blood transfusion, courtesy of charity Pet Blood Bank UK, earned ten-year-old Tilly a reprieve.

A relieved Emma, from Huddersfield, said: "I honestly thought I was going to lose her because she was so very, very poorly.

"I was devastated. Tilly was so weak, lifeless and wouldn't eat so I really thought it was the end.

"She was in intensive care at Paragon for ten days fighting for her life and I can't thank them enough for bringing her through it all safely."

Emma singled out Paragon's internal medicine specialist Andrea Holmes, who led Tilly's diagnosis and treatment, for particular praise.

Emma added: "This was a really complicated case as Tilly already had other health issues and didn't present with classic IMHA symptoms but Andrea was fantastic.

"She carried out lots of tests to confirm it was IMHA and promptly arranged for Tilly to have a blood transfusion, which I'm sure saved her life.

"She was in touch all the time during Tilly's ten days in ICU and I had 100 per cent confidence in Andrea throughout this whole traumatic episode. We couldn't have better care than from Andrea and Paragon.

"It was still an uphill battle, though. When I visited Tilly after she'd been in ICU for five days, she was so ill she didn't even wag her tail.

"It was awful. She was just lying there, being fed through a tube, and looked to be going downhill very rapidly.

"When I got home, though, I got a call from Andrea, saying that Tilly had eaten a tiny bit of tuna and I was elated. A few days later Andrea called to say I could even take Tilly home for the weekend to see how she coped.

"It was a wonderful weekend. Tilly did a lot of sleeping but gradually she started to pick up and it wasn't long before she was home for good."

Emma is now using Tilly's troubles to highlight the work of Pet Blood Bank UK, the charity which provided the blood for her pet's life-saving transfusion.

She's urging more owners of healthy dogs to consider registering them as blood donors which will help save the lives of other sick and injured dogs.

Emma said: "There is no doubt the blood transfusion she received on her first day in hospital saved her life, for which we will be forever grateful.

"That's why the work of Pet Blood Bank UK is so important. Dogs like Tilly need other healthy dogs to donate blood so it's always there in an emergency like this.

"So please, if your dog is aged between one and eight, over 25kg in weight, and fit and healthy, they could donate blood themselves and become a lifesaver too."

Pet Blood Bank runs donation sessions across the UK. All would-be donors receive a full health check from a vet before donating approximately 450ml of blood. Every donation a dog gives can help to save the lives of up to four other dogs.

For more information on Paragon Veterinary Referrals, visit;

www.paragonreferrals.co.uk

For more information about Pet Blood Bank, visit;

www.petbloodbankuk.org



■ Tilly with owner Emma Harrison

HEALTH

Become A Life-Saver By Signing Up For Restart A Heart Day 2022!

Secondary schools are being urged to sign up for a free life-saving lesson from Yorkshire Ambulance Service to mark Restart a Heart Day 2022.

Staff and volunteers will visit secondary schools across Yorkshire to teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to around 40,000 students on Friday 14 October.

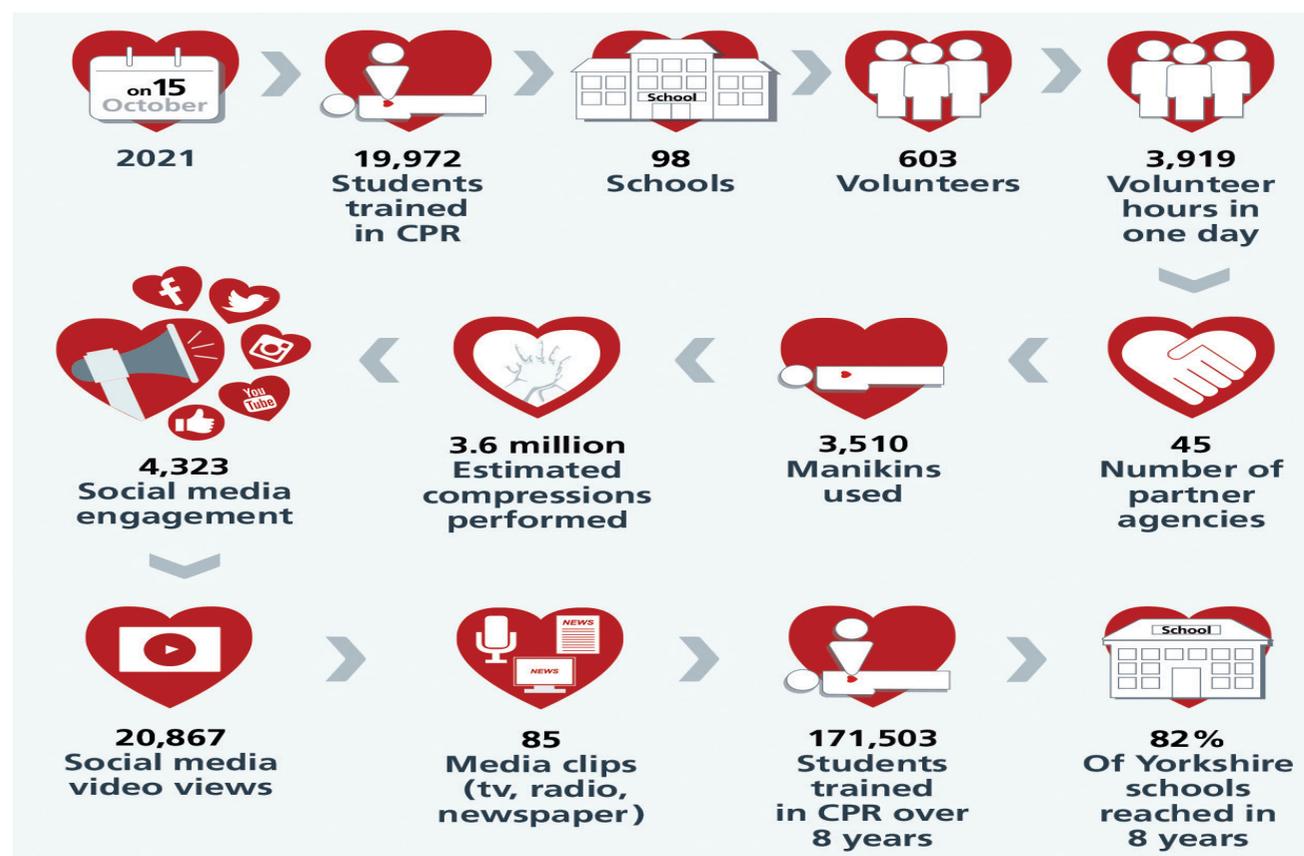
Specialist Paramedic Jon Thordarson emphasised the importance of learning CPR after he was reunited with a stranger whose life he saved while travelling home from a holiday in Gran Canaria.

Jon, who is based in Hull, was on the plane waiting for take-off when a fellow passenger, Terry Porter, collapsed in cardiac arrest nearby.

With no other medics on the plane, Jon started CPR and gave six shocks with the plane's defibrillator before the 50-year-old started showing signs of life. Terry was well enough to return to England six days later.

Jon said: "I've spent the last seven years volunteering as part of Restart a Heart Day, teaching people how to do CPR and what to do if someone has a cardiac arrest. Despite attending and managing out-of-hospital cardiac arrests on a regular basis for Yorkshire Ambulance Service, this is the first time it has happened while I've been off duty... and in a different country! Cardiac arrests can happen to anyone at any time and by knowing CPR, you can give that person the best possible chance of survival."

Recently, Jon travelled to London and was reunited with Terry, who said: "It's really difficult to sum up the experience. I am of course forever grateful to Jon for being there and not only giving me a second chance at life but also restoring my faith in people. There are indeed angels and heroes in this world. I wouldn't be here today if he hadn't stepped in and taken control. I now have first-hand experience of how CPR knowledge and expertise can save lives."



The campaign launch comes as research confirms the effectiveness of the Restart a Heart Day training on people's confidence and competence to step in and save the life of someone in cardiac arrest.

Results of a study among students who took part in last year's event revealed that the life-saving lesson led to:

- 90% being able to identify someone in cardiac arrest (48% increase from pre to post training)
- 93% being confident to perform chest compressions (51% increase from pre to post training)
- 58% being confident to use a defibrillator if there was one nearby (55% increase from pre to post training)
- 93% being willing to perform CPR on a family member (33% increase from pre to post training)
- 86% being willing to perform CPR on a stranger (42% increase from pre to post training).

Jason Carlyon, Community Engagement Manager for Yorkshire Ambulance Service, said: "We were delighted with the results of the research which emphasise the importance of the CPR training on

student's knowledge, attitude and willingness to help in the event of a cardiac arrest. By making CPR training more accessible to all, we will be able to improve cardiac arrest survival rates."

Secondary schools can register for Restart a Heart Day 2022 by completing the form at <https://survey.yas.nhs.uk/s/RAH-School-Registration/> before the closing date on Friday 1 April.

Over 30,000 people suffer a cardiac arrest out of hospital in the UK every year. The earlier a patient can receive CPR and a shock from a defibrillator, the greater their chance of survival.

Currently in the UK, less than one (8.6%) in ten people survive a cardiac arrest. If we achieved the same survival rates of countries like Norway (25%), where CPR is taught in schools, an additional 100 lives could be saved each week - the equivalent of approximately 5,000 every year.

Restart a Heart Day, which is supported by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service Charity, is again being organised in conjunction with the Resuscitation Council (UK), the British Heart Foundation, which provides training equipment to eligible schools free of charge as part of its Nation of Lifesavers campaign, and St John Ambulance.

For more information visit www.restartaheart.yas.nhs.uk

National Campaign Launched As Urological Cancer Referrals Drop By 5,800 In Yorkshire

Prostate Cancer UK and the NHS have joined forces to launch a campaign to find more than 14,000 men in the UK who need treatment for prostate cancer but have not yet come forward.

Latest statistics released by NHS England show that urological cancer referrals in Yorkshire have dropped by 5,800 (16%) since the start of the pandemic.

The campaign encourages men to use Prostate Cancer UK's 30-second online risk checker to learn more about their level of risk and what action they can take, including getting checked by their GP if they are at higher risk.

Prostate cancer is very treatable if caught early, so men are being urged to check their risk "without delay" so it can be found before the cancer spreads.

New figures show that prostate cancer accounts for a third of those not treated for cancer compared to before the pandemic.

Previous NHS research found that half of people would delay coming forward to their GP during the height of the pandemic because they didn't want to burden the health service.

More than 58,000 men in England have begun treatment for prostate cancer since April 2020, but that's 14,000 fewer than would have been expected compared with pre-pandemic numbers.

NHS bosses and Prostate Cancer UK are now urging men to come forward and use NHS services, which remain open – as

they have been throughout the pandemic – for anyone concerned about cancer.

Although urological cancer referral rates in England were back at usual levels by the end of 2021, with overall levels of cancer referrals at record levels since March 2021, the health service and charity are warning that they need more men to come forward to find the 14,000 men across the UK who have not yet started treatment for prostate cancer.

One in eight men will get prostate cancer in their lifetime.

Men over 50, black men, or those whose father or brother had the disease are at even greater risk.

Although men shouldn't wait for symptoms, anyone who does experience symptoms such as problems urinating or needing to pee more often, should speak to their doctor to get checked.

Nicola Tallett, Acting Chief Executive at Prostate Cancer UK said:

"Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, but the pandemic has meant thousands of men have not come forward for diagnosis and could be missing out on life-saving treatment.

"Although thousands of men are still being treated each month, if things don't change soon, the number of men missing out will continue to grow.

"Men have been telling us they haven't wanted to "bother" their GP during the pandemic – particularly if they don't have any

symptoms, which is the case for most men with early prostate cancer. This means men at higher risk of the disease are not having those vital conversations about their risk that can lead to a diagnosis.

"That's why we're working with NHS England to raise awareness and encourage men to take our risk checker to find out more about their risk and what they can do about it."

Professor Peter Johnson, National Clinical Director for Cancer for the NHS in England, said:

"I urge you to use the Prostate Cancer UK risk checker today – it is a quick and easy way to understand your risk of prostate cancer and how you can take further action if you are at risk.

"The prognosis for the people we're yet to see will be much better the earlier we see them but we do need to see them as soon as possible.

"It's important men understand prostate cancer often doesn't show any symptoms at an early stage, so don't delay – check your risk now. The simple check could be lifesaving."

Check your risk using Prostate Cancer UK's online risk checker at prostatecanceruk.org/riskcheck #MenWeAreWithYou

Anyone with concerns about prostate cancer can also contact Prostate Cancer UK's Specialist Nurses on weekdays on 0800 074 8383 or online at www.prostatecanceruk.org



Roost Students In York Helped Raise £200,000 For Charity

University students from all four corners of the UK have raised over £200,000 for the British Heart Foundation without even leaving their accommodation, by donating preloved belongings they no longer needed.

Residents and team members at Student Roost, which provides accommodation for over 20,000 students across the UK, took part in the British Heart Foundation's 'Pack for Good' campaign by donating clothing, electrical items, books, and kitchenware that they didn't need any more. The campaign was launched in 2012, in collaboration with universities across the UK, encourages students who have finished their studies, or who may be moving to different accommodation, to donate any unwanted items to help raise much needed funds for the charity, and avoid tonnes of clothing and other items being sent to landfill.

Student Roost properties in the 2020/21 academic year alone, Student Roost residents and team members donated 22 tonnes of good quality unwanted items, equivalent to the weight of 3.6 African male elephants.

After being sold in British Heart Foundation stores across the country, these donated items have already raised an incredible £38,355 for the charity.

Student Roost properties have been supporting the charity since 2015, with the company becoming a national partner in 2021.

The donations in 2020/21 have brought the Student Roost fundraising total to £209,090, with 119 tonnes of waste diverted away from landfill (or the equivalent weight of 20 African male elephants!)

Packing bags and donation boxes were provided to residents at over 50 Student Roost properties as far and wide as Aberdeen, Swansea, London, and Belfast

Around 7.6 million people in the UK live with heart and circulatory disease, and the Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant effect on those who require lifesaving treatment. With the money raised by Student Roost and universities across the UK for the 'Pack for Good' campaign, the British Heart Foundation are able to fund a heart attack research project for one month, laboratory equipment for a two-year project, new developments and scientists in a heart failure research lab, and support the studies of a PhD student.

Jason Andrews, Director of Operations at Student Roost, said:

"We've partnered with the British Heart Foundation to promote their Pack for Good campaign since 2015, and we were proud to become a national partner in 2021. Each year I'm amazed by the dedication of our team members and residents to help raise funds for this incredible charity and divert unwanted items from ending up in landfill sites that are already at capacity.

"I'm so proud of our teams across the UK who have helped Student Roost raise over £200,000 for the British Heart Foundation to date, and we are determined to increase this amount through our continuing support."

Tim Reeves, University Account Executive at British Heart Foundation, said:

"Each year we are blown away by the amount of donations Student Roost receive from students and universities across the UK. Through the reuse and recycling of donated items, this helps prevent 135,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions being released into the atmosphere. By donating their items to the British Heart Foundation, students are helping the BHF save 71,000 tonnes of goods going to waste this year alone. Every item we sell in our shops, homes stores and online via our eBay and Depop shops will help us to continue to fund our vital research and support the 7.6 million people living with heart and circulatory diseases in the UK."

Meningitis Now Urges Young People To Take Up Lifesaving Vaccine

Charity meningitis now are urging young people to take up a potentially lifesaving vaccination to protect against the disease.

The latest Government figures on the uptake of the routine school-based MenACWY teenage vaccination show an increase from 58.3% of those eligible to receive it in 2019-20 to 76.5% last year.

Whilst the charity has welcomed the increase in take up the figure is still not back up to the pre-COVID levels of around 88% and it is concerned that many young people are leaving themselves at risk.

Meningitis Now chief executive, Dr Tom Nutt, said: "It's good to see these figures moving in the right direction and more of our young people getting protected against MenACWY through the programme.

"Although coverage has improved significantly since last year it is still not back up to pre-pandemic levels and there will be many who are not taking up these potentially lifesaving vaccinations.

"I would urge everybody to take advantage of the MenACWY vaccination when it is offered – as we know vaccination is the best way to protect yourself against the devastation that meningitis can bring.

"Of course, school attendance rates were lower than normal last year due to the pandemic, which will have had an impact on these figures. As we hopefully start to emerge from this pandemic I'm hopeful we can see further improvement in these rates and in the protection of our young people."

The latest data, contained in the UK Health Security Agency's Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine coverage for the NHS adolescent vaccination programme in England, academic year 2020 to 2021, also shows uptake varying between different areas – from 34.8% in Hillingdon to 98.2% in West Berkshire and Herefordshire.

Dr Tom Nutt, added: "Research has shown that up to a quarter of 15 to 24-year-olds carry the bacteria that cause meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia in the back of their throats compared to one in 10 of the general population.

"Overall we estimate that up to half a million under-25s may have missed this important vaccination. If that's you – contact your GP and see if you can get up to date.

"And very few young people will have been vaccinated against MenB, which is the strain that causes the most cases of bacterial meningitis in the UK.

The early signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia can be similar to 'flu, tummy bug or a hangover and include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, muscle pain, stomach cramps and fever with cold hands and feet. More specific signs and symptoms include fever with cold hands and feet, drowsiness, confusion, pale blotchy skin, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights and a rash which doesn't fade under pressure.

If meningitis is suspected seek urgent medical attention.

Meningitis Now has free information for parents and young people and lifesaving Signs and Symptoms cards.

Find out more at www.MeningitisNow.org



Letter To The Editor From NSPCC Community Fundraising Manager For Yorkshire and the Humber

The Childline service, which delivers an average of 17,000 counselling sessions every month, is in its 35th anniversary year.

Founded by Dame Esther Rantzen in 1986, Childline merged with the NSPCC in 2006. This unique service is there to give young people a voice when no one else is listening. Whatever problems or dangers they're facing, Childline provides a place for children and young people to turn to for support – every day of the week.

Here in Yorkshire and the Humber, we're aiming to mark this wonderful milestone by ensuring Childline can continue to be there for future generations.

To do this, we want to set up new groups in Yorkshire and the Humber, who can help raise vital funds which can help Childline's specially-trained counsellors be there for children and young people across the region when they need it most.

It costs £30,000 per day to run Childline, and it's a service that has become increasingly important during the pandemic. Between April 2020 to January 2021, Childline delivered 170,000 counselling sessions to children and young people, and during the first spring lockdown 50 children a day turned to Childline to talk about abuse or neglect.

Before the pandemic, a child contacted Childline on average every 20 seconds. As a charity we rely on fundraising and donations for the majority of our funding, and £400 could pay for our counsellors to answer 100 calls from children, £1,250 could run Childline for an hour, and £2,000 could pay to train a volunteer and answer 100 calls to Childline.

We would love to hear from any person, business or community group who can help us celebrate Childline's 35th anniversary, and to ensure the service can continue to support children and young people in Yorkshire and the Humber and across the UK.

If you want to find out how you can help, please email;

jackie.dawson@nspcc.org.uk to find out more.

MSE Reveals More Than One Million Overpaid For Prescriptions When They Could Have Saved With An NHS Season Ticket

MoneySavingExpert.com (MSE) can reveal that more than one million people in England missed out on average savings of £40 in the 12 months to April 2021 because they did not use an NHS prescription 'season ticket' – a certificate that typically saves money for those who pay for more than one prescription a month.

Figures from the NHS Business Services Authority, disclosed to the UK's biggest consumer website via a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, show 1,063,648 people paid for at least 12 prescriptions in the 2020/21 financial year, with 16 being purchased on average.

At the time, an annual 'season ticket' – called a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC), which covers the cost of all pharmacy-dispensed medication for one year – cost £106, while a single prescription cost £9.15. This meant patients in England who paid each time overspent by £40 on average over the year – a total of £43 million.

MSE founder Martin Lewis is urging those who typically pay for 12 or more prescriptions a year to consider getting one of these 'season tickets', and it's worth checking now as prescription and PPC prices tend to rise each April (though the costs for the 2022/23 financial year haven't been announced yet).

Patients can purchase a PPC by card or direct debit on the NHS Business Services Authority website or by calling 0300 330 1341. A PPC can also be purchased in person at many pharmacies.

Each Year More People Are Missing Out On Savings

The number of people who could have saved buying an annual PPC has risen steadily for each of the past six years. It's the third year running that more than one million patients could have saved money using one.

MSE's FOI data also revealed that there were 2,456,160 PPCs purchased in total in the 2020/21 financial year, including both annual and three-month applications.

Martin Lewis, founder of MoneySavingExpert.com, said: "England is the only one of the four UK nations that charges for prescriptions, and so it's frustrating to hear that many people are still paying more than they need to.

"We need to spread the word to anyone who regularly gets prescriptions – including some with chronic illnesses – to check out prepayment certificates. These season tickets cap what you need to pay, as for a one-off payment, you get unlimited prescriptions for either three months or a year. My simple rule of thumb is if you get more than one prescription a month on average – these are the cheapest way. And someone getting, say, two prescriptions a month would save over £100 a year."

In April 2021, prescription costs rose to £9.35 and annual PPC costs rose to £108.10, which would save a patient who buys 12 or more prescriptions in a year money (for example, more than one per month). Alternatively, a three-month season ticket currently costs £30.25, which could save someone cash if they buy four or more prescriptions in that time.

Patients should always check first if they qualify for an exemption to avoid paying entirely. The NHS has an online tool to check entitlement, including those who receive tax credits or are pregnant.

For more information on PPCs, including exemptions and other medicine MoneySavers, see MSE's *Cheap and free prescriptions guide*;

www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cheap-prescriptions

MoneySavingExpert
Cutting your costs, fighting your corner

Additional Mental Health Support Available In GP Practices Across The Vale Of York For 2022

Three primary care networks within the Vale of York are prioritising the need for continued dedicated mental health provision within their primary care teams and supporting patients via Mental Health Practitioners.

Selby Town, Tadcaster and Rural Selby, and South Hambleton and Ryedale are primary care networks within the NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and were the first in North Yorkshire to trailblaze the mental health practitioner roles from April 2021.

These additional roles in primary care focus on the mental health needs of patients and provide rapid assessment to those with either a diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health concern, offering 1:1 support and access to a range of local services.

Patients wanting to talk about their mental health can speak to a mental health practitioner without judgement and in confidence – without the need for an appointment with their GP first.

Dr Ruth Walker a GP from Scott Road said: "Someone who contacts the surgery looking for support with their mental health struggles will be triaged into the mental health practitioner, who is the best person to identify how their needs can be met and supported. Being able to offer this dedicated service has helped many of our patients and will continue to do so in 2022."

The additional staff capacity in GP practices is also helping to relieve pressure from doctors.

Dr Helena Ebbs a GP from Pickering said: "When on call earlier this week I would normally have received up to 5 telephone calls from patients struggling with their mental health and in need of some support - but I received none, as these were instead taken by our experienced and specialised mental health practitioner with a 0 day wait. Sometimes a GP isn't always the most appropriate

person to speak to and having this additional role within our practice will increase our capacity to support more patients."

Mental Health Practitioners in the Vale of York are 50% funded by the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme available to Primary Care Networks (PCNs) across the country.

Dr Nick Jackson, Clinical Director for the Selby Town PCN said: "Our primary care network, like those neighbouring in the Vale of York, has chosen to use this new funding to pay for mental health practitioners since 2021 because they will help us to meet the needs of our local population and contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of patients."

The remaining 50% is funded by the local mental health provider Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust (TEWV) and comes out of additional money granted from the Community Mental Health Transformation Programme.

David Kerr, Community Mental Health Transformation Programme and Delivery Lead for North Yorkshire and York said: "We recognise that not everyone will need specialist mental health services, so we want to make sure that people get the support that's right for them in the fastest possible time. The new first contact mental health workers can use their skills and expertise to assess whether a person needs specialist support, or whether alternative options such as self-help resources or support groups would be beneficial. They can also liaise with and signpost people to partner agencies who can help with wider social and environmental needs, such as housing, employment or money problems, all of which can impact a person's mental health if not addressed."

More information for patients can be found at;

www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/mentalhealthpractitioner

Share Your Views About Pharmacy Services

People across North Yorkshire and York are being encouraged to share their experience of pharmacies in the county to help to shape future services.

Public Health teams from North Yorkshire and York are asking residents, partner organisations and pharmacies to share their views and experiences of pharmacy services.

They want to know whether people think existing services are in the right place; open at the right time and provide the services needed. Information gathered in the consultation will be used to complete a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for each area.

NHS England uses the PNA to help to make commissioning decisions about pharmacies in North Yorkshire and York. The PNA looks at the health needs of the population of the county, the level and accessibility of pharmacy services and how these are maintained and developed. It informs decisions about where to site pharmacies, their opening hours and what services are provided. The assessment is renewed every three years.

"Pharmacy services play a vital role in supporting health and wellbeing, with pharmacies themselves often found in the heart of our communities," said Cllr Andrew Lee, North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Public Health. "Good access to the right services at the right time is so important in helping to address health inequalities."

Councillor Carol Runciman, Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care at City of York Council, said: "We have seen the vital importance of pharmacy services at the heart of our communities over the last year or so. Making sure they are in the right places; open at the right times and providing the right services is going to be critical as we learn to live with Covid, and seek to meet other community health needs. I encourage all residents of York to take part in this important exercise, so we can

try to ensure services are based on what people think, and what people need."

There are two online surveys:

Residents at;

www.northyorks.gov.uk/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-residents

Pharmacies and providers of health and social care services at; www.northyorks.gov.uk/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-pharmacies-and-stakeholders

For further information and the survey in alternative formats, email;

HASBusinessSupportCH@northyorks.gov.uk

The consultation will close on 28 March 2022. The PNA will be completed by October. The current PNA is available at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/pna



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Life Story Project Sees Care Home Residents Turn Paperback Writers



■ Phyllis Mayhew 96 and Matthew Bannerman, carer

A Nether Poppleton care home is helping each of its 53 residents to publish their own life story book.

Susie Carman, lifestyle manager at Ebor Court has made it her mission to assist everyone living at the home to publish their biography. The books will be professionally produced at York's oldest printers.

The project has lots of benefits according to staff at the luxury residential and dementia care home, which is operated by Ideal Carehomes.

Susie has spent many hours interviewing residents and their friends and families, and gathering images from throughout their lives. She says that working together on the books has helped to maintain connections between families throughout the lockdowns and has allowed staff to really understand about the people they care for.

One of the first residents to receive his finished publication is John Boorman, aged 85, who grew up in south London. In John's book, he tells the tale of his school playground being bombed by a German warplane and later on in his life, meeting his wife Rose in Stafford whilst on national service.

John said: "Putting this book together has made me remember my wife, and all of the happy times we shared together. I love the book. It means a lot to me that someone has taken the trouble to write about my life."

Another resident who is waiting with baited breath for her book to come back from the printers is Iris Bowers, aged 90. Iris's story reveals she was evacuated from London to Devon aged eight at the start of WWII and had a happy time living with her uncle, aunt and cousin. The book also tells the story of Iris's grandmother who passed away from a heart attack during the bombing raids.

Later on in Iris's life, she worked on the switchboard of the General Electric Company in central London and married her husband Frank aged 21. The book features many pictures of Iris from her younger years.

Each of the books runs to 18 pages and features chapters exploring early childhood,

working life, relationships, travel and holidays, significant life events and interests. Lifestyle manager Susie began work on the books as part of Ideal Carehomes' nationwide #thisisr project, which supports team members to connect more deeply with residents, matching them into a 'buddy' system based on similar interests.

Based on a template created by Dementia UK, the charity says that life story work encourages the sharing of memories with friends and family, which helps to strengthen relationships.

The books are being printed at Quacks The Printer, one of York's oldest businesses, which was established in 1703. One copy of each will be on display in the reception area of Ebor Court, which is on Great North Way.

Susie said: "We are learning so much about our residents through this project and it has proved to be a real eye opener for staff.

"Finding out that one lady was a Rod Stewart superfan started a chain of events that ended in her receiving a crate load of signed memorabilia from the man himself.

"Another resident turned out to be one of the first people ever to holiday on party island Ibiza, having to travel there over several days on boats and trains.

"We also learned that a fair few of our residents hold more than one degree from a number of prestigious universities, including Oxbridge.

Home manager Shane Talbot said: "Creating life story books has helped everyone at Ebor Court to understand more about our residents at every stage of their lives and to see the child, teenager and young adult behind every resident.

"We have all had a lovely time making these books and it is such a good way to get to know all of our residents as individuals."

Ebor Court is a purpose built luxury care home operated by Ideal Carehomes. With 64 ensuite bedrooms, it has secure, landscaped gardens and a full and varied activities programme. It is rated good by the Care Quality Commission.

For more information, call 01904 782 708, email ebor.court@idealcarehomes.co.uk or visit www.idealcarehomes.co.uk

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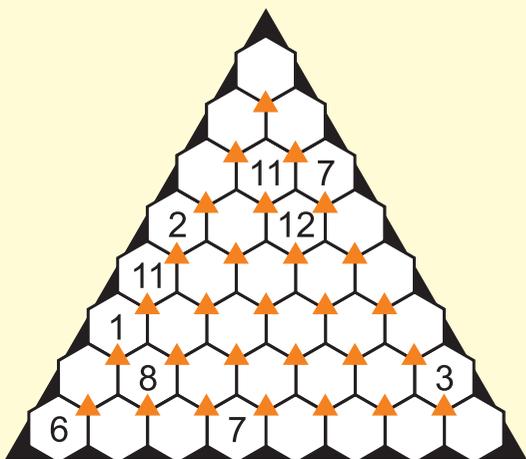
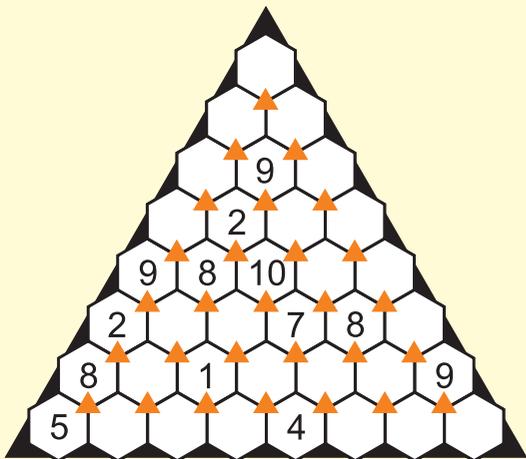
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FREE PARKING

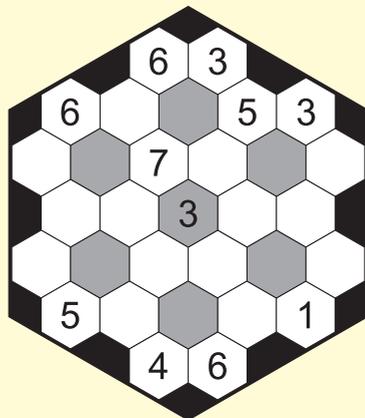
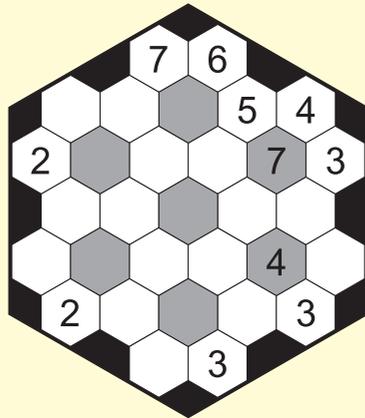
Subaddo 3D

Each orange triangle connects a set of three numbers. Two numbers must add or subtract to equal the third. All numbers must be between 1 and 12 and no number can be repeated in a horizontal row or diagonal row.



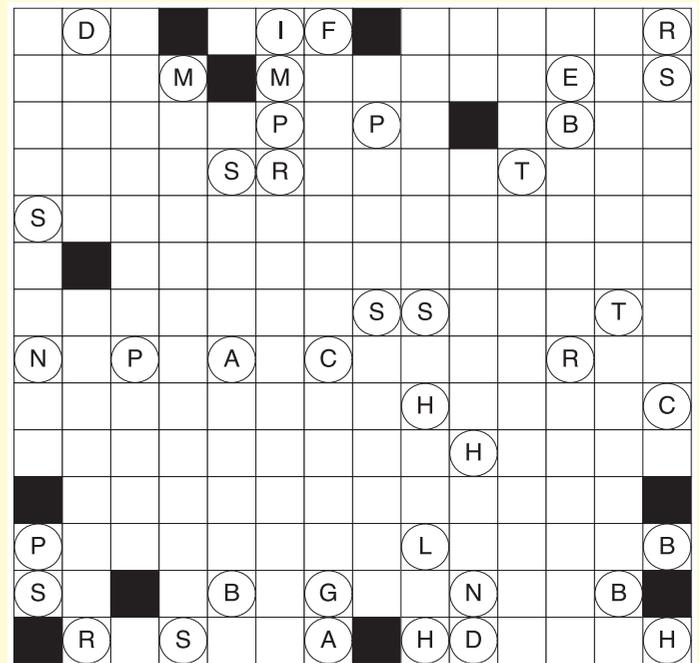
Rosetta

Fill in all 7 Rosettas with each number between 1 and 7 in no particular order while also ensuring that no number is repeated in a horizontal row and each number from 1 to 7 are represented in the 7 grey colored hexagon cells



Reverse Wordsearch

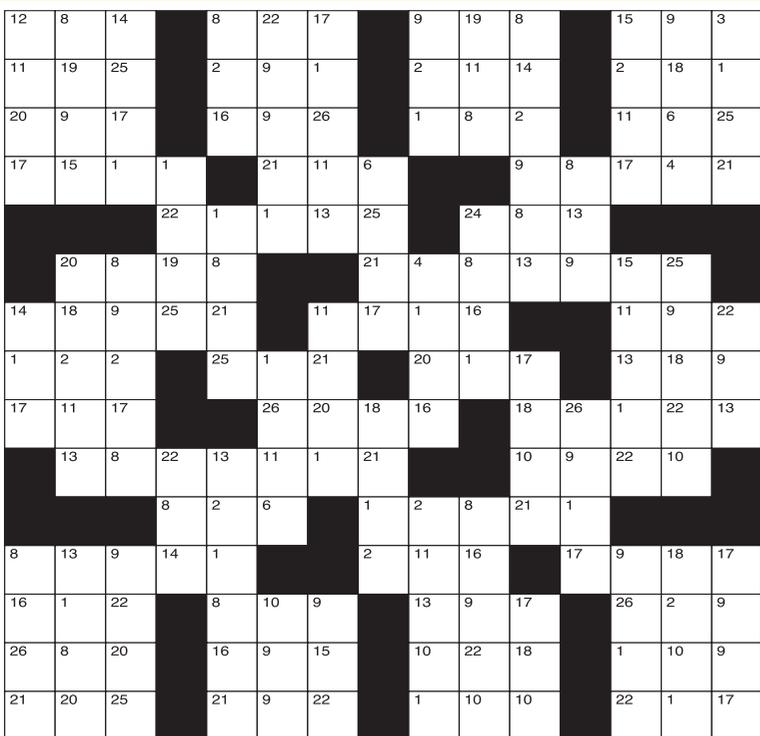
A bit more challenging than a regular word search puzzle. Build the grid up until every single empty square is filled, and all words are placed. The first letter of every word is given and circled to get you started. Note that more than one word might start on the same exact letter! Good luck!



- | | | | |
|---------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Abuser | Goopy | Pales | Slurs |
| Areas | Haste | Papaya | Stain |
| Beaming | Hilly | Petty | Steamed |
| Befit | Hired | Planking | Taker |
| Broils | Hypothesis | Reality | Traffics |
| Bunny | Improvisation | Recapture | Twirls |
| Classed | Livid | Rookie | |
| Cooing | Mileages | Rouged | |
| Dairy | Mistletoe | Safer | |
| Deals | Morals | Scene | |
| Expel | Nightly | Seeped | |
| Firearm | Nutshell | Slims | |

Clueless Crossword

Think of a Clueless Crossword as a mix between a regular crossword puzzle and a cryptogram. Unlike many crossword puzzles, this grid is filled only with common, everyday English-language words - no abbreviations or other special "crossword" spellings are allowed. Each square in the grid is numbered 1 through 26, and each number corresponds to one (and only one) letter in the alphabet. Your goal is to completely fill in the crossword grid by gradually uncovering the letter that belongs to each number. We've given you three "giveaway" combinations - fill those into the solution grid and into any corresponding boxes in the crossword grid to get started. It helps to cross out each letter in alphabet as you use it in the grid, since no letter can be used more than once. Note that not all letters of the alphabet may be used in any given puzzle. If a number isn't used in the puzzle, it is greyed out in the solution grid.



SOLUTION GRID

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				N/A		N/A
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26		
	N/A					

GIVEAWAYS

- #1 = E
- #19 = V
- #25 = Y

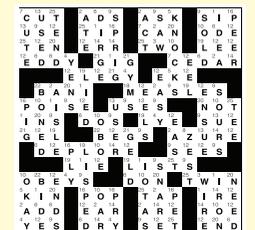
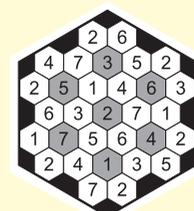
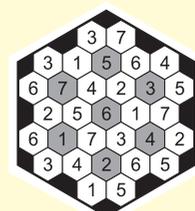
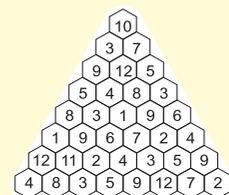
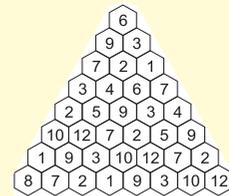
A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

Word Scramble

Can you solve these word scrambles?
Each word is taken from this month's edition.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 - B P R A O T E S R C V E I E | 6 - E L E M H C I G O B E E S R N R |
| 2 - M I P O C E S T O P I M E R | 7 - O D I R S N R E D I N L |
| 3 - L I D T Y G H A A N I S G V T M E I | 8 - N G A A P O R N V A T I R Y E E R A E E F S R S R L |
| 4 - E R O G T R I N D B | 9 - C E A L R P T U S A C A R W E Y E E |
| 5 - E S I N M L E K C A | 10 - A O L A T I N N E D B M N H T O |

February edition answers



- Word Scramble;
1. Splotch 2. Tailor Made
3. Herbaceous Perennials
4. Mike Davies
5. Merchant Navy
6. The Sherlocks
7. Disenchantment
8. Yorks Chocolate Story
9. Michelin 10. Pet Blood Bank



Monthly Horoscopes By Russell Grant

ARIES March 21st - April 20th

Although you love the idea of starting new projects, it's difficult to stick with them when your mind wanders to other possibilities. People want to see that you finish what you started. You may need to remind yourself how positive you felt during planning, journeys or joint ventures in order to fulfil a promise. It will be wonderful to reunite with your amour when the month starts. Are you single? When you tell your friends you are single, you won't be laughing. You can find a way out of your madness. You may have noticed a pattern in your relationship with someone you just separated from. Therefore, you want to get rid of it.

TAURUS April 21st - May 21st

Taking part in club and group activities can bring you so many benefits. Although you may be a shy person, it is important to socialise with others. Your current goals will be greatly helped by a new friend. You can make your wildest dreams come true if you have a passion for something and will work hard. A new friend will inspire you to do something different. You will be more attractive if you have more confidence. This will help if you're not getting along with your housemate, as they will probably admit that you are more approachable. This allows you to discuss your differences and come up with compromises. You are now ready to spice up your love life.

GEMINI May 22nd - June 21st

Once March begins, the pattern of events should make a significant improvement on trends you've seen in the past. While this year has been full of fun moments, these are nothing compared to what spring holds. All relationships should be happy and harmonious in March. Spending more time with friends, old and new, will improve your social life. You might feel like you're always thinking about the person you have been falling in love with. This might be the right time to make this relationship more romantic. You can take the initiative to suggest it and they will feel the same. Your partner, a friend or close relative will introduce you to a new hobby after the month is over.

CANCER June 22nd - July 23rd

Travel plans made with a friend or partner can give you something to look forward to. This exciting journey will not be complete without you imagining the fun times you'll have together. A journey will inspire and lift you but you won't travel on an impulse. The fun part of planning a trip is the preparation. It will make you feel like a child at Christmas Eve. You will enjoy the anticipation, waiting and hoping for the future. Are you single? Travelling could lead to a special relationship. The attraction you have for one another will last a lifetime. Romance is fun, exciting and wonderful. It's not the time to spend a lot on extravagant items.

LEO July 24th - August 23rd

Your top priority should be to achieve a goal you love. You won't take it lightly if you do nothing by the book. During the first few days your entire attention will be focused on one goal. The good news is that you have the talent and determination to accomplish it. While you are serious about your social and professional responsibilities you can still enjoy life and take risks. While your friends will be pleased with you burning the midnight oil at both ends, an older relative won't be so happy. While you might think you are old enough to take care of yourself, you should not neglect your health. The cause of your symptoms will be obvious if you feel irritable, anxious or tense.

VIRGO August 24th - Sept 23rd

As March starts, friendships, sports and competitive events will keep your mind busy. A new outdoor activity will interest you. Travel will work well together and romance is possible if you're single. Your relationship will be successful if you are honest, respectful and open to communication at work and home. A friend will be happy to help you work in an area in their life that is badly neglected. Your advice will make a difference to a neighbour. You have plenty of things going on that will keep your life exciting and vibrant. You can do something right now if you feel like you don't have enough time to enjoy a new friendship or relationship.

LIBRA Sept 24th - Oct 23rd

It's not your job to help your neighbours, friends and colleagues with their problems. Politely decline to help the next person in need. It's too much work for others, but not enough for you. Take care of your health. Start with yourself if you have to care for someone this month. You are beginning to see the truth about yourself. As much as you try to please everyone, you can't please them all. Celebrate your achievements and talents. Spend time with friends who value your friendship and use the 11th to indulge your sensual side. Are you single? Take a massage. Get a massage or a new fragrance. It's amazing what you can do for others. When you have enough energy, it's easier to help others. Are you in a relationship that is committed?

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd

Life will move quickly if you are enthusiastic, energetic and able to use your initiative. You will probably get the green light for long-term plans and creative ideas. You are sure to have a great month, both romantically and socially. You have great ideas about making life more fun. You will be a hit with your family and friends. Your enthusiasm and willingness to change is infectious, so you can discuss ideas with your partner. It will help you achieve romantic happiness by sharing the same goals. You will be inspired to plan a holiday after receiving some good news from overseas in March. Share your joy with the people you love.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st

You would like more freedom to pursue your interests. Your partner or friends may not share all of your plans but that won't stop you. They don't know you well enough if they find it annoying. It is not fun to do everything together. No matter how close your relationships are, you need to be independent. Sometimes it may take some time for a partner to accept your adventurous ideas. While a new partner may not be able to understand your passion for exploring new places, a long-term partner will encourage you to do so. It might be a good idea to reduce your suggestions if you feel someone is overwhelmed by your enthusiasm for changing.

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th

You'll be entertained by exciting emails, texts messages and phone calls. As March begins, you will be pleasantly surprised by a variety of exciting events that will brighten up your day. This month's events will make you rethink your life and help you see the importance of setting new goals. You may need to take a different route or change your direction. No matter what choice you make you will know that the changes you are making now were the right ones. Your friends want to be with you and are eager to have more fun. To keep up with your positive outlook and great sense of humour would be a waste. You and your friends should plan something new.

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th

You need stimulation and change. You are looking for something new to focus on. Your March stars will encourage you to put your imaginative ideas into practice. You may find it necessary to combine business and pleasure at times during the month. You will be happy with anything that gives you hope and anticipation. You need more excitement and this is what you're about to receive. Accept an invitation to take part in a group event or community project. You will learn more about your local community by participating in these events. Even if this activity is not for you, someone can point you in the right direction to other activities that might be of interest.

PISCES Feb 20th - March 20th

These are exciting times and they will have long-lasting consequences. Your life is about to change. You have the power to make choices, and you can empower yourself. Keep moving forward with plans that you believe in. You may have to abandon your best friend or partner if they refuse to accept the fact that you have your own needs and have to take responsibility for them. You would be happier if your loved ones were more supportive. However, it is important that you are able to forge your own path now. Are you single? You may be able to move out of your family home and have more freedom to do what is best for you, with whom you want, and when you want.



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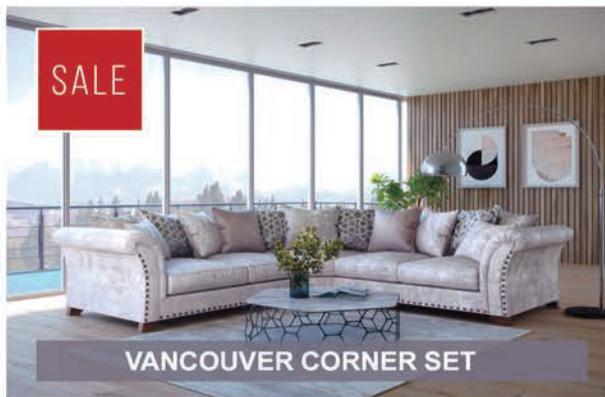
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