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The Electoral Commission
Find out more at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID
No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

You need photo ID to vote at a polling station

Important Information Issued Ahead Of Local Leeds And Regional Elections

SEE INSIDE: Page 6

MUSIC

The Music Scene

SEE INSIDE: Page 14

MOTORS

GET A YEAR OF MOTORING FOR LESS THAN £130 WITH OHME

SEE INSIDE: Page 18

NEWS

- £25M ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME DELIVERS RESULTS FOR RESIDENTS
SEE INSIDE: Page 4
- RARE BREEDING BIRDS ARRIVE BACK AT ST AIDAN'S AFTER RECORD YEAR
SEE INSIDE: Page 9
- AWARD WINNING AUTHOR URGES SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS TO PLANT FREE WOODLAND TRUST TREES
SEE INSIDE: Page 11
- 'COMPLACENCY KILLS' AS DOG ATTACKS ON LIVESTOCK INCREASES
SEE INSIDE: Page 20
- GET YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED
SEE INSIDE: Page 24

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Launch Of The Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II Provides £660m Boost For Yorkshire And The Humber Small Businesses



The British Business Bank has launched its new Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II (NPIF II), a £660m fund set to cover the entire North of England.

Since the launch of the first Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund in 2017, it has delivered over £445m of direct and private co-sector investment into 552 businesses, helping to create nearly 4,300 jobs across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Aiming to build on the success of the initial fund, Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II will also drive sustainable economic growth by supporting innovation and creating local opportunity for new and growing businesses across the North.

It will increase the supply and diversity of early-stage finance for Northern smaller businesses, providing funds to firms that might otherwise not receive investment and help to break down barriers in access to finance.

Providing loans from £25k to £2m and equity investment up to £5m, the Fund will continue investing into companies operating within the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and Tees Valley. It is now expanded to include the whole of the North East enabling businesses across the whole of the North to access the Fund to start up, scale up or continue on their growth journey.

In Yorkshire and the Humber, Mercia will deliver debt finance (£100,000 to £2 million), as well as equity finance (up to £5 million) to smaller businesses with Business Enterprise Fund (BEF) delivering smaller loans between £25,000 and £100,000.

Yorkshire businesses that have benefitted from the first Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund include Castings Technology International (CTI), a world leading casting manufacturer based in Rotherham. Providing manufacturing expertise to the cast metals sector and global supply chain, it

created the largest ever titanium part poured into a ceramic mould. Its novel casting techniques has placed Rotherham and CTI on the map for cast metal innovation.

Richard Cook, managing director at CTI, said: "Thanks to the support of the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund, we have been able to push forward with our growth plans. We are innovators by nature, and since the Fund's involvement, we have been able to fulfil orders and deliver on contracts for some of the biggest brands."

Tinsley Bridge, a historic Sheffield engineering firm, also benefitted from NPIF funding. As a major supplier of suspension parts to the European truck industry, the business has used the investment to keep up with record demand it has experienced post-pandemic.

Louis Taylor, Chief Executive of the British Business Bank, said: "The success of the first Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund has proven the instrumental change that access to finance can have for small businesses. From creating hundreds of jobs to developing ground-breaking products, we have seen companies that previously lacked funding options accelerate forward in their growth journeys, which has ultimately benefitted the whole of the Northern economy."

"This is why it was important to continue the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund into its next phase. With further funding available, and a greater geographical reach in the North East, the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II will engage more stakeholders across the regions, bringing the business community closer together to create more opportunities for entrepreneurs everywhere."

Following the official launch in Leeds, the British Business Bank will be holding a roadshow of events for small business finance intermediaries across the region to provide more information about the Fund. Destinations include Newcastle (18th April); Manchester (24th April), Sheffield (30th April).

Further dates for roadshow events in Liverpool, Hull, Lancashire, Tees Valley, York, Cheshire, Durham, Cumbria and Northumberland will be announced shortly.

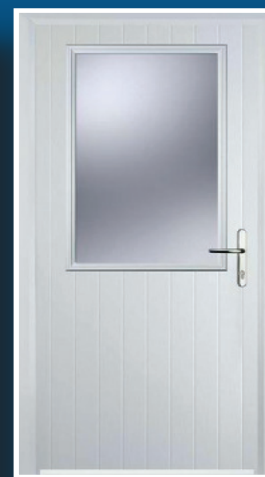
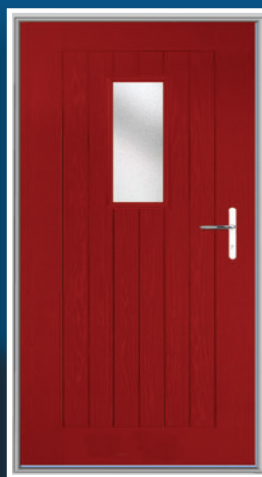
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The redevelopment of Leeds Media Centre in Chapeltown has taken a major step towards final completion after Unity Enterprise secured funds to support the establishment of a hi-tech business hub to develop the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Leeds City Council, which owns the building, has provided £80,000 from the Innovation@Leeds capital fund to equip the dedicated space with new furniture, video conferencing facilities and computer hardware.

Leeds Media Centre reopened its doors in September following a £1.8 million refurbishment which included the installation of a new roof and windows, and the remodelling of two floors to create 12 new business units.

The scheme was delivered by Unity Enterprise – a not-for-profit subsidiary of housing association Unity Homes and Enterprise – in partnership with Leeds City Council and the European Regional Development Fund.

Leeds Media Centre is one of three business locations operated by Unity Enterprise close to the city centre, together with Chapeltown Enterprise Centre and Unity Business Centre.

Collectively, they provide 142 managed workspaces for more than 90 local businesses employing over 900 people.

The new business hub is set to launch in the spring with a week-long series of events themed on entrepreneurship. More details will be announced shortly.

Adrian Green, Unity Enterprise manager, said:

“We are immensely grateful to Leeds City Council for their continued backing for aspiring entrepreneurs by enabling us to kit out the business hub with the best equipment available.

“Our mission is to support local people to launch and grow a business and create life opportunities in an inner-city part area with so much potential.

“The redeveloped Leeds Media Centre is already making its mark on the city’s business landscape. I have no doubt that the new hub will propel the site to even greater heights.”

Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Leeds City Council deputy leader and executive member for economy, culture and education, said:

“This is another brilliant step forward for Leeds Media Centre and further reinforces our commitment to inclusive innovation within the city.

“We’re continuing to build and support an ecosystem where entrepreneurs from every background have the tools, quality workspaces and accommodation close to where they live to help them reach their full potential.

“It is particularly important that we look at access points outside the city centre for people to access business and innovation support programmes and continue on our bold ambition to stimulate innovation which drives and delivers measurable impact towards a healthier, greener and inclusive future.”

Cedric Boston, Unity Homes and Enterprise chief executive, said:

“Each new business generated by the hub can transform life chances by boosting career development, generating jobs and increasing local prosperity.

“With Unity Enterprise preparing to celebrate its 25th anniversary next year, the opportunities for people of all ages to build a sustainable business in Chapeltown are growing rapidly.

“Working closely with Leeds City Council and other valued partners, we intend to remain at the forefront of this crusade.”



■ Councillor Mohammed Rafique (Leeds City Council’s executive member for climate, energy, environment and green space) and Andrew Brier (design manager at Equans) at Parkway Towers

Hundreds of council flats in Leeds are set for a carbon-cutting, money-saving future thanks to a £25m energy efficiency improvements scheme.

Energy and regeneration specialist Equans began work in late 2022 on the transformation of seven tower blocks as part of Leeds City Council’s drive to deliver high-quality homes while also tackling fuel poverty and the climate emergency.

Residents are now benefiting from the improvements, which have been completed at six of the blocks – Parkway Court, Parkway Grange and Parkway Towers in Seacroft and Lovell Park Grange, Lovell Park Heights and Lovell Park Towers in Little London.

The work – which has included the reroofing of buildings and the installation of new external wall insulation and ventilation systems – will reduce the amount of energy needed to heat individual flats.

This in turn will allow residents in the 600-plus flats across the seven blocks to enjoy cheaper fuel bills while also cutting the city’s carbon emissions.

The average annual energy costs for each flat are expected to halve, while the amount of CO2 being produced by the average property is predicted to drop by around a third.

The external appearance of the tower blocks has also been enhanced with the addition of new rendering and fittings.

And, during a recent visit to one of the completed Seacroft blocks, a senior councillor was able to hear all about the difference the scheme is already making to people’s lives.

Councillor Mohammed Rafique spoke to residents and members of the project team as he saw the changes that have been put in place at Parkway Towers.

Work at the seventh block, Moor Grange Court in West Park, is due to finish in the next few months.

The scheme as a whole received £9.6m from central government’s Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, with the rest of the cost being met by the council.

It forms part of a wider £100m programme of council-led work across Leeds, with large numbers of buildings having already received or due to receive energy-saving upgrades to reduce the city’s carbon footprint and combat fuel poverty.

Councillor Mohammed Rafique, Leeds City Council’s executive member for climate, energy, environment and green space, said:

Northern Powergrid Foundation Grant Funding Open For Applications To Support Community Energy Resilience Projects

The Northern Powergrid Foundation, a registered charity established by Northern Powergrid, which has supported 60 projects in its first year, has launched its latest funding round to empower local communities across the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire to become energy resilient.

Managed by a dedicated team, and overseen by a Board of Trustees, The Foundation provides grant funding up to £20,000, per project, to address energy-related challenges.

Projects can include funding programmes producing free energy efficiency measures, to supporting fuel poor households, to installing solar panels and battery storage at community hubs to improve resilience during planned or unplanned power cuts, or power related emergency events.

Supporting community organisations to deliver unique and exciting projects that will be self-sufficient for people today, and

“Reducing Leeds’s carbon footprint is a priority for the council, but it’s important that this is done in a fair way that also helps improve standards of living in all our local communities.

“The benefits of such an approach are perfectly demonstrated by the changes at these flats in Seacroft, Little London and West Park, where emissions and energy bills are both set to be significantly reduced.

“The scheme is also testament to the power of partnership working, with Equans playing a vital role alongside the council in bringing about a bright new era for the properties and everyone living there.”

Councillor Jess Lennox, Leeds City Council’s executive member for housing, said:

“We are determined to do everything we can to give communities in Leeds the kind of safe, warm and affordable social housing that can transform lives for the better.

“The work that has been taking place across these seven sites shows how we are delivering on that ambition.

“The scheme has been a real success story and, with many Leeds households currently experiencing fuel poverty, it’s particularly pleasing that it should help cut people’s energy bills.”

Sean Corcoran, regional director at Equans, said:

“The transformation of these flats will have a long-lasting positive impact on residents’ lives by making their homes more comfortable and reducing energy bills at a time when living costs are so high.

“Housing is one of the biggest contributors to the UK’s carbon emissions, so projects like this play a crucial role in improving the environment. We’re proud to be supporting the council in its ambitions to make Leeds a more sustainable place to live.”

In a further boost for residents in Lovell Park Grange, Lovell Park Heights and Lovell Park Towers, the council recently announced that all three blocks are set to be connected to the flagship Leeds PIPES district heating network.

Leeds PIPES uses heat and energy recovered from non-recyclable waste to provide warmth and hot water to a range of residential and commercial buildings.

Delivered in partnership with Vital Energi, the network was expected to help existing customers collectively save nearly half a million pounds in reduced energy costs last year alone.

in the future, the Foundation’s funding can help with the creation or the expansion of community hubs within community halls and parish halls, across the region – helping them to play a vital role in keeping communities safe and warm.

Securing funding in the Foundation’s first year, Dipton Jubilee Centre in County Durham installed solar panels and storage batteries. The innovative technology helps generate clean and efficient power, while keeping their bills low. The storage batteries also allow the centre to operate as a warm hub to support local residents.

Funding applications are open now and accepted until May 13, 2024. Visit northernpowergridfoundation.com for more information, which includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), eligibility criteria, grant making policy and instructions to start your application.



Plans For New Leeds Kirkgate Market Food Village Are Stacking Up Nicely

Plans for a new food village at Leeds Kirkgate Market have taken a significant step forward with the confirmation of a preferred operator for the 'container-style' venue.

Leeds City Council invited initial expressions of interest in April last year from private operators keen to develop and run the attraction proposed for part of the market's outdoor trading area.

Now, following a robust selection process conducted over the course of 10 months, the council has announced STACK as its preferred operator.

STACK specialises in creating sustainable leisure destinations that offer a mix of street food and beverage outlets as well as events and entertainment.

More than 2.5 million people have flocked to STACK Seaburn – constructed from repurposed shipping containers – since it opened on the North East coast in 2020.

Work is now under way on two new STACK venues in Newcastle city centre, one of which will be a 'fan zone' next to Newcastle United's St James' Park ground.

STACK also has sites at various stages of development in Lincoln, Bishop Auckland, Middlesbrough, Whitley Bay, Durham, Carlisle, Northampton, Manchester, Wigan and Sheffield.

STACK was one of three private operators that submitted formal bids to the council in relation to the Leeds site.

Its selection as the preferred operator was based on both its rental offer and detailed proposals showing how the project would complement the market and generate new custom for existing traders.

The start of any work is subject to the scheme securing the necessary planning and licensing approvals.

The cost of building the food, beverage and entertainment venue would be met by the operator, with rental payments generating a new income stream for the council.

The development would, it is hoped, boost footfall across the whole market site and help attract a new customer base to this historic jewel in the city's retail crown.

It would also create jobs and deliver increased opportunities for independent traders thanks to a seven-days-a-week operation that would extend into the evenings.

The outdoor market currently has room for a total of 185 stalls, with around 85 of those being filled on its busiest days.

Under plans first announced by the council in late 2022, the number of outdoor pitches would be reduced and the freed-up space used as the location for the new container village.

The reconfigured area would still be able to

comfortably accommodate all existing traders – as well as new arrivals – and would also remain one of the largest sites of its kind in the region.

Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Leeds City Council's deputy leader and executive member for economy, culture and education, said:

"We are delighted to be able to confirm STACK as our preferred operator for what will be, subject to the necessary planning and licensing approvals, a really exciting addition to Leeds Kirkgate Market.

"STACK's track record and proposals make it an ideal fit for a scheme that would complement other major improvements at the market – improvements that recently helped push monthly visitor numbers past 500,000.

"Our ongoing investment in this important and historic retail destination means it is now well placed to play its part in powering the further regeneration of the eastern side of the city centre.

"The council is also committed to continuing to work with the market's existing traders to ensure they can reap the maximum benefit from the proposed food village."

Neill Winch, STACK's chief executive officer, said:

"We at STACK are thrilled to be selected as the preferred operator for the new food village at Leeds Kirkgate Market. Our passion for creating vibrant, community-focused destinations aligns perfectly with the council's vision for regeneration and cultural enrichment.

"STACK's approach is all about sustainability and synergy with local businesses. We're excited to bring our unique blend of street food, beverage offerings and entertainment to Leeds and to integrate with the historic and bustling market environment. This opportunity not only allows us to contribute to the city's dynamic growth but also to create a space where the community and visitors can enjoy a diverse and engaging experience.

"We're committed to ensuring that the new container village will be a place where both existing and new traders can thrive, enhancing the overall market and ensuring it remains a key attraction in Leeds. We look forward to working closely with the council and local stakeholders to make this vision a reality."

Recent improvements at the market include an ongoing £10m project to repair, conserve and enhance the 1875 'blockshops', the oldest surviving structures on the site. Phase one of this scheme was completed in August last year, with the second and final stage now under way.

The blockshops work followed the creation of the popular Market Kitchen street food hall and event space as part of a £14m refurbishment.

The council has also secured planning permission for a new hotel and gym on the George Street side of the Grade I listed market building.



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New Council Scheme To Help Leeds Residents Avoid Illegal Waste Removers



A new scheme has been launched to help Leeds residents dodge the rogue traders dumping their waste illegally and landing them with hefty fines.

As shock figures reveal up to 60% of waste carriers could be operating illegally, Leeds City Council has announced the Leeds Accredited Waste Carrier Scheme (LAWCS), to help Leeds residents find someone local, legal and responsible to take away their waste away.

Fly tipping is a national problem that has been reducing in Leeds year on year, but residents have been warned they could still be taking a risk when choosing a provider.

More than half of those offering the service could be operating illegally according to a study by Material Focus, dumping waste in country roads, back alleys and car parks around the city creating an eyesore as well as attracting rats and antisocial behaviour.

Choosing a non-licensed waste carrier could also lead to a hefty fine for those hiring an illegal firm, as everyone has a duty of care to dispose of their waste responsibly. In the last 12 months, 12 people in Leeds were prosecuted for not choosing a licensed carrier.

One of these was a Farnley resident who paid a waste collector found on Facebook £150 to remove waste from their property. When the Serious Environmental Crime Team found the waste dumped illegally, the resident couldn't provide details of who had removed the waste and hadn't checked if they held a licence.

Hit with a £200 fine which they failed to pay, they were prosecuted and had to pay over £1,000 including costs and victim surcharges.

The Council also crushed 10 vans used for fly tipping in the last 12 months.

With the new LAWCS, residents can easily find a list of accredited waste carriers, where the council has undertaken additional background checks and vetting, including intelligence shared from the police and other local authorities before the waste carrier is given the 'accredited' status.

Councillor Mohammed Rafique, Leeds City Council's executive member for climate, energy, environment and green space, said: "We're thrilled to be launching this new scheme to support everyone in Leeds to easily find a trustworthy and legal business to remove their waste and not fall foul of the law.

"I'm proud of the work we're doing to combat fly tipping in Leeds, showing a zero-tolerance approach to all environmental crime.

"With the LAWCS, we hope to shrink the marketplace for illegal waste carriers that contribute to fly tipping and make it easy for people to fulfil the duty of care to dispose of their waste correctly.

"Please think twice about just hiring anyone from social media to take away your home or garden waste. If you see a local business offering services, check to see if they've got the accredited waste carrier logo and check their details at www.leedsdirectory.org/lawcs.

"If you're a responsible waste carrier, we'd be glad to have you join this free scheme that puts your checked and vetted business in-contact with local customers."

Find out more about LAWCS and sign up at:
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Important Information Issued Ahead Of Local Leeds And Regional Elections

Key details and dates ahead of Leeds City Council and Mayor of West Yorkshire elections taking place on Thursday 2 May

Leeds City Council has issued important information and reminders for all voters to be aware of ahead of this year's local and regional elections in May.

Voting for seats on Leeds City Council and for the regional Mayor of West Yorkshire takes place on Thursday 2 May. Voters are advised that for those wishing to vote in these elections in person at a polling station on election day will need to show a valid form of Voter ID, as the system introduced at last year's local elections continues.

Guidance on what forms of identification will be accepted and how to apply for a new free Voter ID can be seen at Voter photo ID (leeds.gov.uk). As with last year, all community hubs and libraries in Leeds will be able to help voters complete the application form including having a photo taken. The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (free voter ID) is 5pm on Wednesday 24 April.

The need to show Voter ID only applies to those who wish to vote in person at a polling station or through a proxy in person, it does not affect those who vote by post.

The first step in the voting process is being registered to vote. The deadline to do so is midnight on Tuesday 16 April. This includes anyone who has moved home and needs to register at their new address. Registration takes just five minutes and can be completed online at Register to vote - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The next step is choosing which method to use to vote, either in person, by post, or by appointing someone trusted to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote.

To vote in person, an accepted form of Voter ID will be needed and shown at the polling station.

Poll cards for everyone currently registered to vote in Leeds will be posted. Residents are being asked to check the details on their poll cards when they arrive to ensure they are correct, and also to note the

location of their polling station which may have changed.

Postal poll cards will also be sent to anyone currently registered to vote by post, followed by postal ballot packs which will be issued from around 18 April. Anyone wishing to vote this way can apply to do so via <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/your-council/elections/postal-voting>. The deadline for applications for postal voting is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April, and the next reminder is for postal voters to send their completed postal vote back as early as possible to help manage demand.

Another option available is to vote by proxy, which can be applied for via www.leeds.gov.uk/elections. The deadline for applications to vote by proxy is 5pm on Wednesday 17 April.

All voters are advised to read the information sent through to them carefully when it arrives, as there are numerous changes being introduced at these elections which are explained in full, especially for anyone looking to hand in completed votes on behalf of other people.

Elections Returning Officer and chief executive of Leeds City Council Tom Riordan said:

"As we get ready to head into another pre-election period, it is important everyone who wishes to vote is registered to do and has chosen their method of voting. There are some important changes this year voters will need to read the guidance when it arrives to be fully aware of, and also we wish to remind everyone wanting to vote in person on election day they will need to have an accepted form of ID with them to show at the polling station or they will be turned away.

"We encourage everyone who can vote to exercise their democratic right to do so and have their say."

For more information on the changes in place for this year's elections visit the Electoral Commission's website at www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

Nominations Open For The 2024 Cllr Awards

Do you know a councillor whose unwavering dedication deserves national recognition? Nominations are now open for the 2024 Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) and CCLA Cllr Awards - the only ceremony that celebrates the outstanding contributions of councillors across England, Wales, and Scotland.

The Cllr Awards shine a light on the achievements of local elected representatives who have made a tangible impact in their communities. Winners in England & Wales will be announced at the illustrious Guildhall in London while winners in Scotland will be revealed at the esteemed City Chambers in Edinburgh this winter.

The 2024 Cllr Awards feature five categories: Community Champion, Leader of the Year, Young Councillor of the Year, Innovator of the Year and Lifetime Legend.

Nominations are open to anyone - whether you're a member of the public, a fellow councillor, or a council officer - who wishes to acknowledge a councillor's exceptional commitment to improving their community and achieving remarkable results over the past year.

Submitting a nomination is free and takes just seven minutes. Applicants must provide details about the nominated councillor, outlining why they deserve recognition and how their initiatives have positively impacted the community.

Nominations close on Friday 13 September 2024, and the shortlisted candidates will be announced in the autumn.

Once again this year, the awards will also shine a spotlight on the remarkable contributions of councillors from around the world through the Global Local Cllr Showcase. This special presentation celebrates councillors worldwide whose projects, engagement, and representation have made a significant difference in the communities they serve.

Jonathan Carr-West, Chief Executive, LGIU, said: "The LGIU is proud to once again host the annual Cllr Awards, paying tribute to our locally elected representatives and sharing examples of the innovation and dedication our councillors demonstrate day in day out. Local communities rely on councillors, whose positive contributions impact our daily lives in many ways, from maintaining streets to funding community projects, shaping the character of our towns.

Often working tirelessly behind the scenes, elected members frequently go unnoticed by many, making the Cllr Awards essential in highlighting their invaluable work in 2024. We eagerly anticipate a wave of nominations this year and look forward to hearing the remarkable stories behind them. These awards are made possible through the generous support of founding partners, CCLA."

For more information and to submit your nomination, please visit:
www.lgiu.org/events/cllr-awards



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World Peace Flame Unveiled In City Centre Park

The Lord Mayor of Leeds has unveiled the UK's first city centre-based World Peace Flame in Park Square, Leeds.

The Park Square World Peace Flame, which symbolises peace, unity, and freedom, is contained within a specially designed and locally handcrafted replica miners' lamp. The city centre project was made possible through a crowdfunding campaign run by volunteers from the Garforth Peace Project.

The first World Peace Flames were lit in 1999 and have become increasingly popular worldwide as a secular symbol of peace creation. Communities wishing to have a World Peace Flame work together to design, fund, and build each monument. While funded by the Garforth Peace Project, the Park Square Peace Flame will be maintained by Leeds City Council's parks and countryside service.

Organisers say that any flame lit from a peace flame becomes another peace flame. Members of the public will be able to collect free tealight candles from Central Library, together with further information on the initiative.

The Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Al Garthwaite, said: "Leeds is a culturally diverse city that actively uses city diplomacy to promote peace and unity, thrives as a City of Sanctuary, and I'm proud to say, is a member of Mayors for Peace.

"Therefore, I was thrilled to unveil the first World Peace Flame to be hosted in a UK city centre. This locally crafted and thought-provoking monument will be a fabulous addition to an already beautiful part of the city and complement the existing peace trail well.

"I look forward to people learning more about peace and to taking energy from the flame to work towards a better, more peaceful world."

The World Peace Flame in Park Square becomes the fourth such flame in the UK. Two of the three other UK flames are in the wider Leeds area, with a third located at Snowdonia in Wales. The first Leeds Peace Flame, located in Garforth's Diamond Jubilee Gardens, was lit in 2017, followed by a second, placed in the Scholes Peace Garden in 2018.

The Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Al Garthwaite was joined at the ceremony to unveil the World Peace Flame by several distinguished guests, including Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Dr Kuldeep Kaur Bharj, OBE DL, Sue Owen and Fi Murray of the Garforth Peace Project, Maggie Brizzi and Mona Fairholme from the World Peace Flame Foundation, and Councillor David Blackburn, chair of Peacelink Leeds, along with staff and children of several primary schools. Music for the event was provided by the Garforth Community Choir and Garforth Ukulele Players.

Photography Competition Celebrates The Yorkshire Dales In All Its Glory

Entries are now open for the popular Yorkshire Dales photography competition – which celebrates the beauty and character of the Dales landscape.

The competition, run by charity Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and The Garden Rooms at Tennants in Leyburn, hopes to inspire amateur photographers of all abilities to get out into the Dales and capture its unique landscapes and wildlife.

Photographers have until 28th April 2024 to enter, with 35 finalists to be included in a gallery exhibition at The Garden Rooms in June. Twelve of the shortlisted images will also be featured in a Yorkshire Dales 2025 charity calendar.

This year's competition is also open to under 18's, whose work will be included in the gallery exhibition.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Lindsay Wallace said, "The Yorkshire Dales is an

inspiration to so many people and every year we're blown away by the standard of photography that people are producing for the competition. We're excited this year to see entries from younger photographers and discover their unique perspectives of the Dales."

Alison Tennant, Director, The Garden Rooms at Tennants added, "We are delighted to be once again working with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to celebrate the incredible landscape and life in the Dales through photography. Adding a new dimension this year will be the new children's competition, and we hope the younger entrants will love getting out into the countryside and getting creative"

The competition will run until 28th April 2024.

To enter please visit www.tennantsgardenrooms.com/what-s-on/events/yorkshire-dales-photography-competition

or email info@tennantsgardenrooms.com

■ Black necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*, adult swimming on lake, RSPB St Aidan's Nature Park. Image © Ben Andrew (rsps-images.com)



Rare Breeding Birds Arrive Back At St Aidan's After Record Year

A rare breeding bird has arrived back in Yorkshire after spending the winter months predominantly further south and around the coast. Black-necked Grebes have begun arriving back at RSPB St Aidan's, where the nature park is home to around 30% of the UK population of this rare and vulnerable species.

Black-necked Grebes are one of the rarest breeding birds in the UK and RSPB St Aidan's in Leeds is one of just a few places where they nest regularly and in significant numbers. This small grebe has beautiful golden tufts of feathers behind the eye, contrasting with its black head and neck and bright red eyes. Its steep forehead makes its head look 'peaked', making it easily identifiable for even the most novice of bird watchers or nature lovers.

Their arrival comes on the back of news that in 2023 St Aidan's Nature Park had its best year ever with 18 breeding pairs of this rare and vulnerable species.

A numerous bird throughout North America, Europe and Asia, the UK is right on the edge of the Black-necked Grebe's breeding range, and so the UK population is very small in number. Over the last five years, the population has averaged at around 54 pairs, meaning the species is listed on the amber list of conservation concern in the UK.

The news that this Yorkshire nature park has increasing numbers of breeding pairs marks a significant conservation coup for Yorkshire and the Aire Valley and RSPB St Aidan's now holds approximately one third of the UK breeding population of this species.

Habitat works carried out by the RSPB's expert conservation team have been crucial in their breeding success. Carefully managing water levels in the reedbeds and wet grassland, installing a predator exclusion fence in 2018 and creating new areas of flooded fen with shallow water and tussocky rush and reed rich in food sources have all played their part. This work in turn attracted Black-headed gulls to nest in these habitats thus providing added protection for the grebes; after mating the grebes build floating platforms of reeds as nests and, if a predator arrives, the gulls act as an alarm system for the grebes and their chicks and mob the predator to drive it away.

Added to this, around 20 local volunteers from the Leeds area and beyond worked hard throughout the winter to control encroaching scrub on the reedbeds and provide nesting platforms for the gulls. John Ingham, Warden at RSPB St Aidan's, said,

"Black-necked Grebes aren't just one of the rarest breeding birds in

the UK – they are also one of the most beautiful. They are unmistakable with that piercing red eye, and golden ear tufts. At a distance they may be quite unassuming with their diminutive size, but up close they are simply stunning.

"We work hard to maintain perfect habitat conditions for these birds and it's a real privilege to be able to share them with thousands of visitors here in Yorkshire.

"Unusually for such rare birds, they can be seen close-up from the network of paths throughout the wetlands without causing disturbance. And this is one of the things that makes visiting RSPB St Aidan's Nature Park so very special."

Hundreds of wading birds pass through the Aire Valley every year on their migration route, such as Ringed Plovers, Green Sandpipers, and Black-tailed Godwits. And large numbers of Starlings for example will gather in the Autumn. The Aire Valley is an important east-west flyway across the Pennines with many species following the river and valley.

Black-necked Grebes will continue arriving at RSPB St Aidan's and numbers are expected to peak in mid-April by which time they should mostly be paired up and start disappearing into the vegetation to nest.

Tom Harman, Senior Site Manager at RSPB St Aidan's, added, "We absolutely should be making a song and dance about what a special place Leeds and the wider Yorkshire region are for nature and wildlife. If you hadn't been here, you'd never know all this fantastic nature was on the outskirts of such a vibrant city.

"Based on the successful breeding season last year and mild winter, we would hope for good numbers of black-necked Grebe again this spring. But as with all wildlife, they are up against many challenges such as loss of wetland habitats, extreme weather events caused by climate change, declines in small fish and invertebrates they rely on for feeding, predation by non-native American Mink and potentially, increased incidences of diseases such as avian influenza. And so, we always have bated breath at this time of year when we're waiting for them to return."

Launching this month are a series of Yorkshire Black-necked Grebe events to introduce visitors to this captivating bird in its natural habitat, as well as learn more about its history and breeding data with the expert warden team. To witness the grace and beauty of these elusive creatures, visit www.rspb.org.uk.

For tips on where to spot the Black-necked Grebes, visitors can ask at the welcome point on arrival at the nature park and are asked to always stay on the paths to avoid any disturbance to the birds.



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GARDENING

Make The Most Of Sunny Days, Wash Your Pots And Clean Your Trays



BY MARTIN S WALKER

Apparently we are in the second month of spring here in the United Kingdom, but in Australia they are approaching their autumn, although there are days when it still feels autumnal here. With the ever changing weather patterns and climate change, I guess we can't rely on the seasons being predictable anymore.



There is no doubt that we have to continually adapt our approaches to growing flowers and vegetables, keeping on top of all the new advice can be a challenge but thankfully most gardening magazines and internet sites are packed with the latest guidance and advice on plant choices and gardening techniques.

Although we have had a miserable start to the year weather wise I can see that temperatures are on the rise and plants that have been keeping their head down are now springing up. Fresh spring growth is all around, and especially the herbaceous perennials that seem to erupt like leafy volcanoes which is why we need to get out there and put plant supports in place. It is especially important to put frames, stakes, twigs or whatever you use in place before too much growth develops otherwise we risk damaging young shoots or worse still, wrestling with spindly flopping stems.



We use a number of different supports and where we have been pruning and cutting back shrubs we often keep the longer branches and twigs to provide support for herbaceous perennials. As the plants develop, the support is often hidden and using twigs and branches gives a natural feel. Having said that, taller plants and climbers such as sweet peas, need a taller frame or obelisk. These can be easily 'home made' using willow, hazel, birch or bamboo canes which is often cheaper than metal or wooden 'shop bought' supports, although they may not last as long. I have in the past used upturned wire hanging baskets which many plants will grow through, ideal for plants that grow to about 50cm (18 inches).

Garden centres and nurseries are brimming with summer bedding plants encouraging you to create vibrant floral displays for those long summer days relaxing in the garden. It is by far the best way of instantly creating a vibrant display especially if you have limited space or no growing facilities. A heated greenhouse is a must if you plan to grow tender or half hardy summer bedding as they need to be sown in warm conditions and grown on in a frost free place until planting out late May to early June. There is so much choice it can be a little daunting trying to choosing the right combination so a little tip is to walk around with your shopping trolley and imagine it is the container on your patio, pick up and arrange plants in your trolley and you will get an idea of how the colour and leaf texture will go together. As

a general rule you need a taller plant as a centre piece with several shorter plants around it finishing with something a little trailing to tumble over the edge of the pot. Colour combination is a personal thing but is no different to how you like to decorate your house, choose the colours you like after all it's your display.

Bear in mind though that if you are tempted to buy this month you will have to keep them protected in a frost free place with plenty of light, a conservatory is fine, a windowsill not so good. If you have a sheltered spot near the house you may be able to keep them outside on the patio covering them with garden fleece if a frost is forecast, but this relies on you remembering and of course having the time to spare. It may be better to wait until next month to buy your plants and instead concentrate on sorting out what patio containers you need, spreading the cost over a couple of months.



The most important space in your garden is the place you can sit and relax, and, just like planning your kitchen, bathroom or indeed any other room of the house the patio should be seen as simply an extension of your living space, albeit reserved for those times when the weather is behaving itself. Whether it is relaxing in a lounge sipping your favourite drink with an engaging read, or a chance to catch up with close friends leaving the rest of the world to get on with itself, the restful part of the garden plays an important part in our wellbeing.



A few carefully chosen planters filled with colourful herbs and salad leaves can make for an inviting and productive place, if you mix edible flowering plants amongst pots of salad vegetables you can create just as colourful displays as those comprising of blousy summer bedding plants, with the bonus of all those tasty treats.

Happy Gardening, Martin.

Next month, Chelsea chop or Hampton hack?, vegetables to sow now, plants vs seed?

Top Tip - Growing Supermarket Herbs



I am often asked if you can grow on herbs sold in pots in supermarkets, (usually offered in the vegetable sales area) and the answer is yes of course. If you look closely they are most often a clump of seedlings sown directly into compost and grown on in greenhouses which can then survive on a house windowsill for a few days, allowing you to harvest small quantities yet still keep fresh herbs growing.

There is absolutely no reason why you can't divide these clumps of seedlings and re-pot, growing them on to become larger plants.

To give you the best chance of success look for pots that are strong and healthy and are the freshest possible. There is usually a sell by date so as with most things the longest date is usually an indication of the healthiest. If you are visiting a particular store regularly keep an eye on when new stocks of herbs come in and time your purchase to coincide with these dates. The less time they spend on the shelf the better as low light and lack of watering are two of the most common stresses for young seedlings resulting in them struggling to recover.

They have been grown in commercial greenhouses with high temperatures and more than likely grow lights, so taking them out of that environment can be quite a shock for them, but with a little care and protection they can develop into strong plants that with care can provide fresh leaves and shoots for several months.

They will need a place that is frost free with good light, but not direct sunlight, a house windowsill is fine but a heated greenhouse or conservatory is even better.

When you get the plant home take off the plastic wrapper and stand it on the windowsill in a plant saucer for a day or two in order that it can acclimatise to the environment. Any general purpose potting compost will do, add either potting grit or perlite at the ratio of four parts compost to one part grit or perlite. A pot full of basil seedlings for example will fill five or six 7.5cm (3 inch) pots, take the whole plant out of the pot and gently tease apart small clumps of seedlings aiming for 5 or 6 clumps (about three or four seedlings in each clump), fill the pot with your mix and push your finger in the centre to make a hole, gently lower the seedlings into the pot just up to the original soil level they were planted at, tap the pot to settle the compost and water in carefully. Don't water again for five to seven days as this encourages the roots to start to search for moisture. Once established they should grow away and then watering every few days should be sufficient.

Once the danger of frost is passed these plants should be quite happy on your patio or planted in your herb garden continuing to provide fresh leaves throughout summer.



Harrogate Spring Flower Show

Welcoming up to 50,000 visitors across the four days, the Harrogate Spring Flower Show is one of the most highly anticipated events in the gardening calendar and this year's show promises to be even more special than ever before.

Set in the Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, the show will take place on 25 – 28 April 2024 and will feature spectacular horticultural displays by expert plant nurseries and societies.

The unique Floral Arts Pavilion will proudly host the largest exhibition by florists and flower arrangers in the country with stunning displays across a wide range of classes and themes. The show will also offer a wealth of garden inspiration, with the Show Gardens and Creative Borders competitions showcasing innovative garden designs for all spaces.

Visitors to the show will be treated to a packed programme of live talks and demos across four stages,

featuring tips on growing your own produce and creating delicious dishes in the Gardener's Kitchen. The Create! stage will include inspiring demonstrations from celebrity floral designer Jonathan Moseley. The GROW! Live stage welcomes back BBC Radio York's Martin Fish, plant expert Helen Bainbridge and North Yorkshire plantswoman Sarah Hopps to share their expert garden advice. Finally, there will be a range of experts and ambassadors from across the horticultural spectrum who will share their passion for gardens, nature and wellbeing on the Human Gardener stage.

Find all the inspiration needed to plan and plant the perfect outdoor space and take advantage of the wide range of garden shopping on offer. There will be something for every plot, from garden furniture and pots to plants, bulbs and seeds.

For more information and tickets visit www.flowershow.org.uk

Award Winning Author Urges Schools And Community Groups to Plant Free Woodland Trust Trees

Much-loved children's author Lauren Child urges schools and community groups across the UK to take advantage of the Woodland Trust's "brilliant" free trees scheme and bring hope to the fight against climate change.

The creator of iconic characters Charlie and Lola and Clarice Bean, whose latest book Clarice Bean Smile shines a light on children's anxiety over the environment, was prompted to back the scheme because she wanted to bring "hope" and "joy" and show how "little things can make a difference".

The former Children's Laureate, Lauren, explained her own climate anxiety and talked of the conversations she has had with children about their worries concerning the environment. Lauren, who grew up in rural Wiltshire, has always featured trees in her work.

And in Clarice Bean Smile, published by Harper Collins Children's Books, they are central to the story. She encourages schools and community groups to make the most of the Trust's ever-popular free trees initiative.

"You have to find joy where you can," Lauren explained. "Then by searching out joy, I think you begin to rediscover hope. And so, I thought I would look at my climate anxiety through the eyes of a child.

"And the child I chose was Clarice Bean. I've written many stories about this character, the first book 25 years ago!

"I wondered what trees might tell us if they could talk. Perhaps they would explain that they are like no other and tell us about the insects, the birds, the nature they support. They joy they give us and the history they have seen."

Schools, scout and guide groups, sports clubs and a host of other community groups have taken delivery of more than 14 million free saplings from the UK's largest woodland conservation charity since the scheme began – an average of more than one million every year.

Trees are one of our best defences in the fight against the effects of climate change. They absorb carbon, cool cities, prevent floods, clean air and protect wildlife. Planting more trees isn't just about giving wildlife a home, it's about safeguarding our health, homes and future.

The Woodland Trust's tree packs have been generously funded by lead partners Sainsbury's, Lloyds Bank, OVO, Bank of Scotland and Sofology.

The Woodland Trust is giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree. To apply, or see terms and conditions, visit: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees



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Antiques And Collectables

With David Oddy

well, it thrived and I kept it for about 2 months until it escaped my bedroom and flew away. I have since learned not to pick up young birds or animals because they have seldom been abandoned and the chick's parents were probably close at hand, although there was a happy ending that time.



Spring is well underway and this always leads to a build up of trade. It's grand to see people walking about and calling into the shop. Our shop is a bit off the beaten track and it has taken a number of years for people to find us but thankfully we do get a lot of return visits.

Spring time reminds me of my younger days on the farm and all the new life with the sheep lambing and all the wild birds nesting. Me and my brothers used to spend hours looking for bird's nests and watching the baby birds fledging. I once found a baby jackdaw which appeared to have been abandoned. I took it home and fed it

Spring time is a good time for us to replenish our stock as people often have a clear out at this time of year and we are always looking for new stock. So, before you go to the tip or the charity shop, bring your old items for me to look at – we give really good prices for your unwanted collectables. We recently paid over £500 for a tea set which was solid silver, the lady thought it was just silver plate so she was pleasantly surprised! At this moment in time the most valuable items are gold jewellery. It doesn't matter if it is broken or damaged, the price of gold is at a 20 year high. Broken chains, odd earrings, rings with stones missing can be worth hundreds of pounds for a small handful.

Currently I am very short of stock in old coins. I have lots of collectors wanting old coins, medals, postcards, banknotes, old pocket and wrist watches working or not, old dinky toys and train sets. The collector's market is much stronger than furniture and larger items, gone are the days when everyone had a china cabinet full of knickknacks as the younger generation don't want ornaments or clutter. Another very saleable item at this time of year is garden stuff. Old galvanised tubs and buckets, garden statues, anything that can be turned into a planter including old chimney pots. Definitely off the menu though is cut glass, brass and china unless of really good makers or very unusual.

Please feel free to bring your items into the shop or call me out for a no obligation valuation.

Please see advert below for contact details and opening times.

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Diary Of A Pawnbroker



Is It Time To GOLDCYCLE?

Gold prices have hit a fresh record high. They have been strong for the last 12 months, originally driven by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and then the Israel / Hamas war but the latest spike is said to be due to the economic uncertainty in world markets and the US Federal Bank's suggestion of falling interest rates. However, at the end of the day and no matter how many opinions you research, the honest answer is that no one really knows except for the fact that it is as high as it's ever been since the yellow metal was first traded and is currently 38% higher than its last low point in 2022.

Good As Gold.....



Gold has always been the fall-back position at times of economic uncertainty and there is no surprise to see the yellow metal being bought and sold in volume as the markets fluctuate and people want to put their cash into a safe haven.

What Makes Gold So Rare And Valuable?

Did you know that there are no naturally occurring processes that produce new gold... at least on Earth anyway. The process by which gold is created takes place in outer space! Gold is formed when stars explode or collide, only then are the necessary energy and conditions right to create gold. Therefore, all of the gold found on earth today has originated from meteorites that have crashed through the atmosphere over billions of years and it is believed that over \$770 trillion of gold still lies hidden in the ocean.

Those who are fans of Aussi Gold Hunters on TV will be very familiar with the excitement of metal detectorists when they get a 'signal'. You can get just as lucky in your own house going through those drawers where you deposit the things you never wanted to throw away and find a small fortune in old or scrap gold that you probably forgot you even had.



An average wedding ring weighs around 3.5 grams, the weight of a 1 pence piece, and if it's made of 22ct gold then its worth over £180 in metal value alone at today's prices.

It's therefore a good time to buy gold if you want to speculate on the price going higher or invest as a store of cash and an equally good time to sell your gold and scrap or broken and unwanted jewellery if you want to cash in while the price is so high and raise some funds.

Diamonds However Are A Different Story Altogether.....

In 2020 Russia produced 30% of the world's diamonds. They mined 19 million carats of diamonds followed only by Australia who mined 40% less at 12 million.

Only 20% of all production makes it to the status of valuable polished gemstones as almost half of the world's mined diamonds are used for industrial purposes as 'rough' diamonds used in cutting, drilling and polishing.

Natural diamonds spiked in value by over 15% up to the middle of 2022

however prices have since re-corrected and fallen back to more normal levels partly due to the emergence of their man-made equivalents – Laboratory Grown Diamonds.

Lab grown diamonds are almost identical to natural diamonds in every way, physically, chemically and optically except that they are literally 'grown' in a laboratory. There are however two ways to tell them apart. One way is using a specific testing machine which, while still relatively expensive, will identify nearly 99% of lab grown stones through the type of carbon atoms they contain which differ from those in natural stones.

The other way is price. A lab grown diamond can be over 10 times less expensive than a natural stone and the price continues to weaken as more and more suppliers enter the market.



Will this make a lab grown stone eventually as low in price as a cubic zirconia? After all these also started life being many times more valuable than they are now. Only time will tell but the answer perhaps lies in the definition of a gemstone as adopted by the industry.

A gemstone is rare, durable and beautiful. While a lab grown diamond may tick two of those boxes, it is no longer rare and that may become the most defining difference between a natural unique diamond and its man-made equivalent.

Second Hand - Not Second Best.....

If you are looking to buy good value gold and diamond jewellery then the pre-owned market is where to shop. Second hand jewellery is a bargain right now compared to its new equivalent as its price is more likely to be linked to the original buying-in price when gold was weaker so you can expect to pay almost half the price for second hand jewellery compared to the new equivalent piece. Therefore do not miss the opportunity to get shopping at Christopher Brown Jewellers and you will find some amazing bargains in our 9 stores.

Pawnbroking Loans.....

While gold price is going bonkers, the bills still need paying. Why leave your gold or diamond jewellery sat in a box when they could be helping you with your cash-flow instead?

Recycling is a regular part of our everyday culture and more and more people are beginning to apply the practice to their jewellery.



Gold-cycling has become a popular theme of recent years and many of our customers use their items for instant loans, not wanting to part with their precious goods. Others have sold their jewellery and watches outright and used the money for summer holidays, to pay off bills or simply to buy something new. You will be pleasantly surprised with how much you can raise and if you use our pawnbroking service, you remain the owner of the goods and you can simply collect your jewellery or watches when you repay your loan and interest, which can be at any point during the term of the 7-month loan contract.

Christopher Brown Jewellers have branches at York, Seacroft, Shipley, Pontefract, Goole, Stockport and Prescot and have Brown and Gold stores at Batley, and Toxteth.

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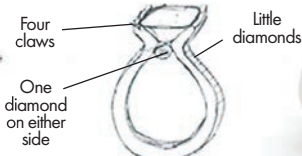
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The Music Scene

With Stuart Glossop

Along comes the summer festival music diary and Leeds, Temple Newsam is the place to be for indie-lovers, new music heads, punk rockers and the like as Live At Leeds: In The Park and Slam Dunk take place on the 25th and 26th May. Here is our guide to who you should make a point of seeing over that weekend.



■ Corinne Bailey Rae

The LAL is an impressive lineup of unforgettable highlights, indie legends, and potential new favourites, Sea Girls fall into the latter category. Even though they were formed in 2015, Sea Girls ascended to fame with dynamic live performances and a distinctive mix of fan-rousing anthems and personal lyricism. The perfect festival day simply can't exist without UK rockers Circa Waves, a driving force in the indie music scene, promising an electrifying set. Presenting 'Black Rainbows' to Temple Newsam, Leeds own Corinne Bailey Rae is bound to be special. She told us "I'm thrilled to be performing in my hometown for Live at Leeds. The live show will be a wild ride through punk, indie, soul and funk. I'm telling stories that I encountered while exploring The Stoney Island Arts Bank in Chicago. Can't wait! See you there."

In terms of the new names to watch are Hotwax, the South Coast's new rock heroes, seamlessly blending effortless coolness with a razor-sharp edge. Equally blazing a trail as a talked-about favourite are Lucia & the Best Boys. Hailing from Glasgow's post-punk hotbed in 2018, the Scottish powerhouse has evolved into a musical force that effortlessly combines elemental power with stylish electro-pop swagger. Prepare to be captivated as they breathe life into the enchanting sounds of 'Burning Castles' at Live at Leeds 2024, promising a performance that transcends musical boundaries and captivates the festival audience.

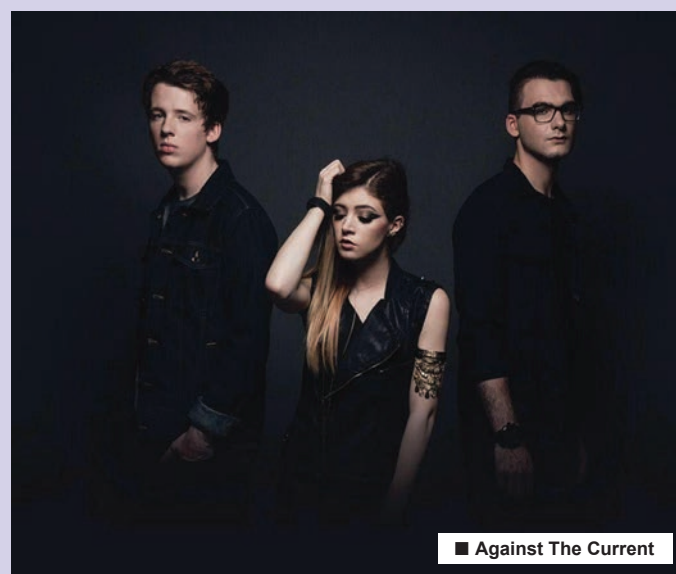
Tom Ball 'Curtain Call' - Spring 2024 UK Tour Comes To Settle - Victoria Hall On Thursday 25th April

Britain's Got Talent and America's Got Talent superstar Tom Ball has embarked on his first headline 'Curtain Call' Spring 2024 UK Tour.

Tom has truly transformed from the humble teacher who first appeared on our TV screens to the global performer he is becoming. His eagerly awaited debut album 'Curtain Call' is scheduled for release next month. The album promises a fantastic mix of self-penned songs and classic covers, showcasing Tom's powerful vocals.

Tom's most recent single 'Winter Song', was co-written by six-time Ivor Novello Award winner Gary Barlow OBE (Take That). The beautiful and timeless single was released in December 2023 and showed off Tom's extraordinary voice. "Winter Song is such a beautiful song and having it lovingly written and very kindly given to me by Gary Barlow and Eliot Kennedy is a dream. I was so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to sing it and have it on my debut album."

Co-writer of 'Winter Song', Grammy Award winning producer Eliot Kennedy, who has written and produced hit songs for The



■ Against The Current

The following day The UK's biggest independent rock festival returns to Temple Newsam and it's shaping up to be one for the ages with You Me At Six, The All American Rejects and Funeral For A Friend may be the ones that make Slam Dunk a must-attend on the UK festival circuit, But watch out for others too. Following their 2023 Nightmares And Daydreams world tour, it'll be straight to Slam Dunk for Against The Current, along with the blazingly-good The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus who've thrilled crowds the world-over for more than 20 years, and get ready for "contagious, air-punching rock" as described by Alt Press, as we await their sophomore album it's As December Falls. Two-piece pop punkers Honey Revenge were born out of the LA scene and have countless sold out shows under their belt. Made up of Devin Papadol and Donovan Lloyd, they've been hotly tipped for some time now, with a captivating debut album Retrovision described as an "explosion of colour", plus Nashville native and alt-pop-punk TikTok megastar Taylor Acorn who dropped her EP Certified Depressant in September this year and has been racking up millions on millions of views and followers on social media.

And you could now win your bar tab for the festivals!

Yorkshire promoters Futuresound have launched a huge competition to give thousands of pounds in bar tabs away to fans attending a number of their outdoor shows this summer. Bringing names like Sugababes, Madness, The Kooks, Katherine Ryan, Ross Noble, You Me At Six, The All American Rejects and more to sites including Kirkstall Abbey, Temple Newsam and York Museum Gardens, the independent Leeds promoters have got something planned for everyone this festival season.

To be in with a chance of winning, gig-goers simply need to buy a ticket for any of the following events: Live at Leeds: In The Park, Slam Dunk, Live At Kirkstall Abbey, Live At York Museum Gardens and Kirkstall Abbey Comedy Festival with a ticket buyer chosen at random each week. Having worked on incredible concerts and festivals around Yorkshire for decades, Futuresound are the team behind events including Live At Leeds, Slam Dunk Festival and Ed Sheeran's unforgettable performances at Roundhay Park. Alongside hundreds of shows a year in venues from Oporto bar to the First Direct Arena, Futuresound are taking over historic locations across the country this summer with shows taking place at York Museum Gardens, Kirkstall Abbey and Ludlow Castle.

Spice Girls, Celine Dion, and Boyzone, added: "Tom is a wonderful talent, and I was thrilled to hear him sing this song written by Gary Barlow and myself."

Tickets for all of the 'Curtain Call' Spring 2024 UK Tour are available from www.officialtomball.com/tour

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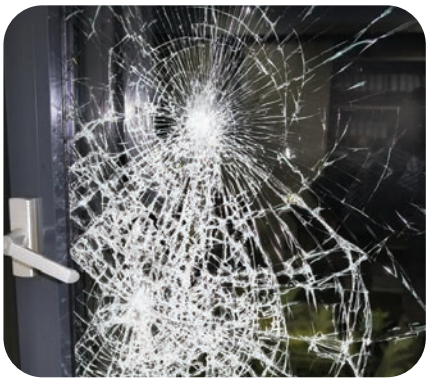
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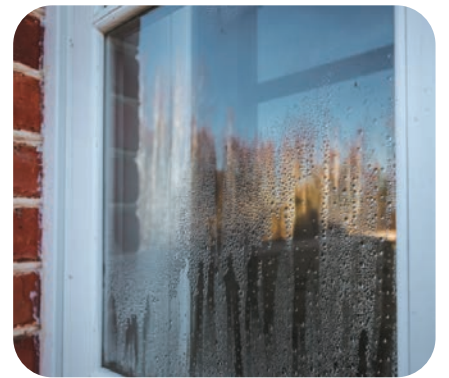
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Farndale Daffodil Walk

Spring walks don't get much better for seeing vast swathes of daffodils than this one. It takes just over an hour up the A1 from Leeds to reach Farndale and, every year, this secluded town in the North York Moors is blanketed in daffodils, carpeting the meadows and river banks in brilliant flaxen colour. It makes it one of the most picturesque places in Yorkshire come springtime, and you can enjoy a special 3 mile linear walk along the enchanting River Dove to help you enjoy it at its vivid yellow best.

Growing naturally in the area, the daffodils are protected within the nature reserve which was established in 1955.

The walk starts at Low Mill car park, North York Moors National Park, York, North Yorkshire, YO62 7UY where you can also pick up a walk leaflet. There is the 'Daffy Caffy' on the way at High Mill and the Feversham Arms at Church Houses – both perfect stop offs for refreshments!

Harewood House Circular Walk

Harewood House is perfect in all seasons, but spring has some extra benefits. Beautiful grounds surround the historic estate and they come to life at this time of year, so why not take on the circular walk around the house? It's just under 5-miles long and it promises a fairly easy-going walk that takes in all manner of breathtaking natural scenery – lambs will be grazing on Cote Hill, cherry blossom pops up in Pipe Wood and there's a violet takeover in the Bluebell Wood. When you're done, pop back to the house for a well-earned brew and loads of culturally rewarding activities.

Taking in the house and it's café for refreshments, this walk starts at Cote Hill, Harewood House, Harewood, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS17 9LG but there is a charge per person to access the main estate.

For a free walk, begin at the Muddy Boots Café on Church Lane instead. Here, there is parking with an honesty box for around 20 cars and as soon as you park up you will see and hear the Red Kites flying overhead.

Entering the woods, if you are quiet you can spot both Fallow and Red Deer, and the stretch of the Leeds Country Way you join further on is a great opportunity to do a bit of bird spotting. Finish back at the café for well-earned refreshments and more entertainment courtesy of the Kites.

The Stray, Harrogate

A park in the historic town of Harrogate, The Stray is home to an 'avenue' of cherry blossom trees, which line the path through a section of the park making for stunning photo-ops. Like a little slice of Japan in Yorkshire, the trees form a natural archway that you can stroll underneath – a beautiful bit of scenery for all who visit.

In the spring months, the avenue pops with candyfloss pinks, while the edges of the path gather a sprinkling of the pretty petals, and other areas of the park become dotted with the happy yellow of daffodils and the striking violet of crocuses.

In addition to the blossoms, The Stray boasts 200 acres of well-groomed parkland, conveniently situated in the heart of the up-market spa town. Naturally, the park lends itself well to picnics and events, however, it's surrounded by incredible independent coffee shops, restaurants and shops – making it a great spot for a wholesome stroll before enjoying a well-deserved bite to eat.

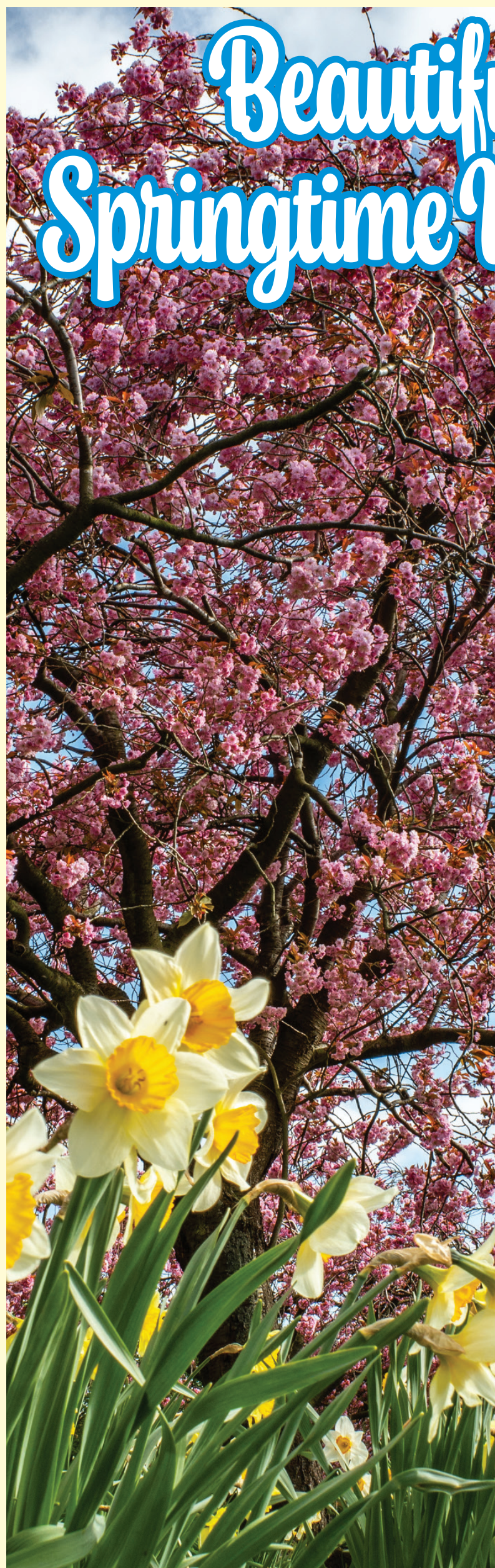
The park is open to the public daily, and will likely be adorned in cherry blossom until early May.

Hetchell Wood Nature Reserve

Full of zigzagging paths to discover, nooks to explore, and sounds and smells all around... a visit to Hetchell Wood is huge fun. This magnificent ancient woodland is a soothing retreat, with the soft trickle of the bubbling Bardsey Beck in the background. A circular walk takes you through a variety of habitats on this undulating reserve, with towering rocky crags, secret pools, and spectacular views of the valley from the top.

In spring, the woodland floor is graced by a beautiful sea of fragrant wild garlic, along with bluebells and yellow archangel, alongside a grassland area filled with flowers that gives the woods a beautiful pop of colour and light and attracts a variety of insects.

Hetchell Wood is home to a very strange and special plant that only occurs in Yorkshire at a handful of sites – the thistle broomrape. It has no leaves or chlorophyll and is a parasite that mostly relies on creeping thistle for nutrients. And if you look closely at the base of hazel trees, you might find the unusual toothwort, another parasitic plant. There's something for everyone to enjoy here, no matter what your interest or knowledge!



**Beautiful
Springtime**

Beautiful Walks!

Hawksworth Wood & Kirkstall Abbey Walk

You don't have to go too far for this spring walk in Yorkshire – Kirkstall Abbey is just a few miles from Leeds city centre, but the 6.7-mile walk here is too pretty not to include. It starts with a tree-lined amble through Hawksworth Wood – look out for the bright, bold colours of spring flowers beneath your feet as well as dwarf sized boulders dotted around which are perfect for little explorers to clamber over.

You'll soon join the path that takes you alongside the River Aire and past wildflower meadows of the Rodley Nature Reserve where you can spot everything from woodpeckers to roe deer. Make a detour down the paths along the river to the bluebell-covered fields around the historic Kirkstall Abbey before heading back to the start.

There is also a park just across Kirkstall Road with a playground and plenty of space to let off extra steam for the kids.

Refreshments can be found at several local pubs including The Dalesman and The Bridge.

The walk starts at Hawksworth Wood, Rein Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS18 4TA

Temple Newsam

Temple Newsam is one of the city's best loved estates. At this time of year there is a carpet of crocus offering a colourful display, and baby animals on the farm. Amble through parkland, woodland and formal gardens to enjoy all that Temple Newsam has to offer. In addition to this, the estate are offering a guided Dawn Chorus walk on the 13th of this month.

Join this family dawn chorus walk through the Temple Newsam estate, using birdsong to identify woodland and parkland bird species. You might spot some other wildlife too, as well as enjoying the varied and historic Temple Newsam landscape.

The walk is suitable for families and beginners, but everyone is welcome. It's approximately 4 miles, through fields, woodlands, over stiles and up steps.

The walk finishes in the courtyard for a full English breakfast at 9am in the café. Breakfast is pre-ordered, with a variety of different options available.

£15, booking essential via Dawn Chorus Walk - Temple Newsam (leeds.gov.uk). Meet in the Stable Courtyard at 6am.

Fountains Abbey Circular

There are few backdrops quite as stunning as Fountains Abbey for a wonderfully breezy spring walk, but that's not all you have to look forward to on this enriching 5-mile hike across North Yorkshire. There are all manner of must-visit landmarks to soak in, from Fountains Hall to Studley Royal Water Garden and the Deer Park. Springtime is always pretty as a picture here, with snowdrops, pale yellow primroses and even wild garlic cropping up across the extensive grounds – the ducklings and goslings out on the lake are too cute to ignore as well. When you're done, the cafe in the visitor's centre is waiting.

The walk starts at Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 3DY. Entrance fees apply

Castle Howard

With 1,000 acres of parkland to explore, Castle Howard is a haven of peace and tranquillity with extensive woodland walks, temples, lakes, and fountains. The monumental landscape offers breathtaking views at every turn, taking in the countryside of the Howardian Hills, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Spring brings beautiful rhododendrons and blue bells in the ornamental Ray Wood. With bubbling brooks, ancient monuments and woods, the Castle Howard Estate lies in some of Britain's most beautiful countryside and what better way to discover this stunning landscape than on foot?

Situated in the Howardian Hills National Landscape and close to the North York Moors National Park, Castle Howard is the perfect base for your adventures. Whether you fancy a daylong ramble across field, forest, or furrow, or even a meander across the moors, there's a walk there for everyone.

Entrance fees apply.



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MOTORS

NEW NATIONAL HIGHWAYS CAMPAIGN URGES LANE HOGGERS AND TAILGATERS TO CHANGE THEIR DRIVING STYLE

One in three drivers have admitted to middle lane hogging while one in four have been guilty of tailgating on some of the nation's fastest roads, figures released by National Highways reveal.

The survey findings – were released as National Highways launched a new campaign – show lane hogging was among the most likely behaviours to cause motorists and riders to feel frustrated, while tailgating was among the most likely to make them feel anxious, stressed or unsafe.

The campaign is urging drivers to carefully consider their driving habits – as little changes can change everything.

According to the survey, carried out by Ipsos UK on behalf of National Highways, nearly a third (32%) of drivers admitted to lane hogging at least occasionally while driving on England's motorways and major A roads.

When thinking about their most recent journey, around a third (34%) of those responding noticed middle lane hogging, and many of them reported that it made them feel frustrated or angry.

Meanwhile almost seven in ten adults in England (67%) said close following, or tailgating, is a serious problem on these types of roads.

The survey of 2,500 adults, aged 16-75, also revealed nearly a quarter (23%) of drivers admitted to tailgating at least occasionally.

Nearly three quarters (73%) of people said that if they personally were to drive too close to the vehicle in front, this would be likely to cause an accident. Around the same proportion (75%) said that if other drivers drive too close to their car, this would be likely to cause an accident.

Lane hogging and tailgating both fall under the offence of careless driving with police officers having the power to hand out on-the-spot fines of £100 and three penalty points, meaning failing to keep left on the motorway and close following could hit people in the pocket.

The new campaign – carrying the slogan 'little changes, change everything' – will feature on radio and television adverts, podcasts, roadside billboards, posters at motorway service stations, retail parks and petrol stations, and on social media.

National Highways Director of Road Safety Sheena Hague said:

"Bad habits can make driving on our motorways a challenging experience, as those who lane hog or tailgate frustrate other drivers and make them feel unsafe. Both are dangerous and can cause accidents.

"Our campaign aims to motivate motorists to embrace little changes, which will have an overall positive effect on both them and their fellow road users, reduce congestion and keep traffic flowing.

"The message is simple – always allow plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front, and unless overtaking move into the left-hand lane."

Lane hogging can disrupt the flow of traffic leading to congestion and cause frustration to other road users. It can also lead to other drivers undertaking.

The middle lane should be used for overtaking, letting traffic onto the road, and when traffic conditions do not allow for driving in the left lane.

When traffic conditions allow, people should drive in the left-hand lane and if overtaking should return to the left-hand lane when it is safe to do so.

When it comes to close following, the Highway Code says drivers should "allow at least a two second gap between you and the vehicle in front on roads carrying faster moving traffic". The two seconds are made up of the time needed for thinking and stopping. And when it's raining drivers need to at least double that gap.

Find out more about the campaign at:

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/little-changes/#firststep



Europe's Fan Favourite Gets Facelift

Since its debut in 2004, the Hyundai Tucson has captured the hearts of European drivers, establishing itself as a bestseller and a fan favourite across the continent. In 2023 alone, 158,056 units of the compact SUV were registered in Europe, marking a notable increase in sales from the previous year.

Up until March 2024, 746,836 units of the current, fourth-generation Tucson have been produced for Europe at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Czech (HMMC) and are being exported to 60 countries – some outside of the continent. The top three markets for Tucson in Europe are Germany, Spain, and the UK.

Building on its legacy, Hyundai is presenting an update of its top seller, which boasts an array of enhancements, including an updated design, innovative technology, a powertrain line-up that better reflects customer needs, and an improved overall package.

As a leading, customer-centric brand Hyundai updated the new Tucson, which retains the progressive appeal of its predecessors while introducing fresh updates. Featuring a sleek and modern look, Tucson boasts redesigned bumpers at the front and rear with new skid plates. In the front, the recognisable 'angel wing' design was reimagined with larger daytime running lights, and the retention of the half mirror effect nestled within the grill, which was refined with laser-cut precision and the surface light treatment to create a feeling of complete illumination. The model also boasts a revamped line-up of alloy wheels and introduces five captivating new colours: the launch colour Cypress Green Pearl, Ecotronic Grey Pearl, Ultimate Red Metallic, Jupiter Orange Metallic, and Sailing Blue Pearl.

The N Line variant remains sporty looking yet more refined and elegant. These include dedicated front and rear bumper designs, updated grill meshes, the same daytime running lights as the base model, N Line 19" alloy wheels, body-colour wheel arches and sides.

Inside, the new Tucson takes comfort and convenience to new heights, introducing a range of updates to enhance the in-car experience for the driver and passengers. Apart from the seats and the centre door trim, the interior was completely redesigned, including the dashboard, centre fascia, steering wheel, and centre armrest. From the redesigned steering wheel to the dual curved 12.3-inch displays for the cluster and infotainment, every detail is crafted with all occupants in mind. The crash pad has been redesigned to adopt a horizontal layout with an open tray. The dual automatic temperature control has also received a new display. Other interior changes include a new armrest type, the introduction of a column type shift by wire behind the steering wheel, and an updated design to the upper door trim.

The seats also received a makeover with a new pattern and new material options (cloth & leather combination). For customers seeking more customisation, Tucson introduces a new interior colour pack, Cypress Green. Tucson N Line brings its own set of distinctive features to the interior, such as red stitching and details, such as the red ring around the engine start/stop button, and a textile suede & leather trim in Obsidian Black.

UK specifications are still to be confirmed.

GET A YEAR OF MOTORING FOR LESS THAN £130 WITH OHME



With electricity prices reduced, EV drivers will be able to charge their cars for less says Ohme, the UK's largest dynamic smart charging company.

As the Standard Variable Tariff dropped to 24.5p/kWh on 1st April, the lowest price in two years, drivers of electric vehicles will be able to enjoy greater savings when charging at home.

However, while that will be welcome news for EV drivers keen to reduce their charging costs, Ohme is encouraging those same drivers to make even bigger savings by switching to a smart EV tariff.

"As more people are trying to lower their household bills, this reduction in the price of electricity will be welcome news for drivers of EVs," said David Watson, Ohme CEO. "However, they could easily lower those bills further by finding out if their electricity supplier offers a special tariff for EV drivers. If not, then they should consider switching to an energy provider that does to enjoy even bigger savings of running an EV."

Ohme's dynamic smart chargers can connect with the grid in real time, automatically adjusting to optimise the cost of charging and accessing all the times of the smartest, greenest and lowest cost energy tariffs.

Charging on the new Standard Variable Tariff in a typical EV for 6800 miles of driving (the UK annual average) would cost £417.00. On a smart EV tariff such as Intelligent Octopus Go however, the same mileage would cost just £127.50. The same distance in a petrol car would cost more than £1100.

Ohme is the official charger provider for Mercedes-Benz and Hyundai in the UK, as well as Polestar and the Volkswagen Group in the UK and Ireland and customers on the Motability scheme, the largest fleet operator in the UK. Ohme has been named as Fast Track Company of the Year in the 2023 UK Green Business Awards as well as Best Chargepoint Manufacturer in the 2024 Irish EV awards.

MOTORISTS LOSING FAR MORE THAN THEY SAVE WITH DIY CAR SERVICING OR SKIPPING ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

CASH-STRAPPED MOTORISTS are paying a heavy price when it comes to trading in or selling it, by doing their own servicing.

The warning comes from consumer car-selling service HonkHonk.co.uk, which is seeing reductions in the value of home-maintained cars which far exceed the savings made by not using garage services.

As the cost of living crisis continues, more people than ever are turning to YouTube tutorials to guide them through oil changes, brake pad replacements and other routine maintenance.

But initial savings often turn into massive reductions in the value of the car when it's eventually sold.

HonkHonk says it's vital to have an official record of essential servicing or dealers will significantly reduce any price they offer against the car to set against doing the work themselves.

The problem has been recently highlighted by customers of HonkHonk - which brings motorists together with dealers who want to buy their cars - reporting that dealers had turned down good cars because they had no recent service history.

Dealers also tell HonkHonk that some sellers don't appreciate that the dealer will have to vouch for the maintenance of any car they sell - which means repeating any work that the motorist has already done.

In some cases DIY maintenance means a car may have no takers at all on the HonkHonk marketplace, where dealers compete with each other for the best cars they need for stock.

To illustrate the issue in cash terms, HonkHonk reveals these real life examples of an initial saving turning into a much bigger loss, using three current cars for which customers are struggling to find acceptable offers.

Range Rover Sport with 45,000 miles

Trade value in excellent condition and full service history £35,000.

Two entries missing from service manual.

Servicing money saved - between £600 and £2,000.

Best offer £29,500.

Cost of skipping warranted services - up to £4,900.

Because this car has not sold for 30 days it has also lost an extra £800 in trade value since being listed for sale.

Mini Cooper diesel with 30,000 miles

Trade value in excellent condition and full service history £13,000.

Services skipped for years 4 and 5.

Servicing money saved - between £400 and £750.

Best offer £11,500.

Cost of skipping warranted services - up to £1,500.

Ford Fiesta 1,6 Petrol with 65,000 miles

Trade value in excellent condition and full service history £4,000.

Only 6 warranted services in 12 years (against 11 recommended).

Servicing money saved - around £1,200.

Best offer £2,250.

Cost of skipping warranted services - £1,750

HonkHonk.co.uk provides motorists with a chance to offer their car to a network of thousands of dealers looking for stock, who then compete to buy the car.



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Cardo Systems, pioneers of wireless communication devices for motorcyclists, is thrilled to announce a strategic and impactful three-year partnership with the renowned Honda Adventure Roads (HAR) Project to become its 'official communicator'.

This collaboration builds on the already strong relationship between the two brands following the launch of the Honda PACKTALK EDGE device in 2022 and the use of the EDGE unit during the 2022 HAR journey to Iceland.

The Honda Adventure Roads Project is an iconic initiative that invites riders to embark on unforgettable journeys across diverse terrains, pushing the boundaries of exploration and camaraderie. With a commitment to providing unparalleled communication solutions, Cardo Systems is set to enhance the overall experience for participants, ensuring seamless connectivity throughout their adventures.

As part of this exclusive partnership, Cardo Systems has equipped Honda Adventure Roads guide riders with its state-of-the-art motorcycle communication systems to ensure clear and reliable communication. The

Honda PACKTALK EDGE devices feature Cardo's proven Dynamic Mesh Communication (DMC) connectivity – allowing riders to stay connected effortlessly in challenging and dynamic riding environments, Natural Voice Operation and 13-hour battery life.

Nick Bennett, Head of the Honda Adventure Roads project, comments: "We're thrilled to join forces with Cardo Systems and sign a three-year partnership. This collaboration perfectly aligns with our pursuit of adventure and exploration of new horizons using Honda product. Having personally used the Cardo devices, I know they're the perfect fit for our adventure and will allow participants to stay connected, share their experience and forge lasting memories."

For more information about Cardo Systems and its product line-up, visit www.cardosystems.com.

Find out more about Honda Adventure Roads, via;

www.honda.co.uk/motorcycles/experience-honda/honda-adventure-roads

Squires Cafe

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WAGGING TALES!



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Plea For Dog Owners To Keep Dogs On Leads During Nesting Season

Paws for thought! The Wildlife Trusts and Dogs Trust encourage owners to keep their pooches on leads during nesting season from March until August

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are encouraging dog owners to keep their pets on leads during visits to nature reserves and the wider countryside. Unsupervised dogs can unintentionally cause harm to ground-nesting birds such as skylarks, lapwings, meadow pipits and woodcock, as well as other birds such as robins and dunnocks that nest close to the ground, so it is vital that they are kept under control.

As well as the year-round birds, springtime brings with it the arrival of exciting migratory visitors which have travelled thousands of miles to nest at nature reserves throughout the UK. Many of these birds nest on or close to the ground, where they're particularly vulnerable to disturbance from dogs. This can lead to them abandoning their nests and losing their eggs or chicks. Some bird species are already struggling, and disturbance by dogs can make it even harder for them to survive.

Off-lead dogs have also been known to go for the occasional unexpected swim in ponds, rivers and other waterbodies. These areas are home to wildlife that dogs can disturb, such as voles, otters and newts, and there is also a risk of your pet getting injured. Dogs may also pollute waterbodies with chemicals used in flea treatments – these can be extremely harmful to aquatic life.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Grass Wood nature reserve near Grassington is popular with visitors looking to enjoy the spring wildflowers or autumnal colour, including dog walkers.

Reserve Assistant Becky Dennison said,

"Grass Wood nature reserve is a popular and special site with lots of wonderful wildlife, but it includes some very sensitive species including song birds that can easily be disturbed by dogs.



"Nesting and fledgling birds are particularly vulnerable to disturbance - the eggs of the willow warbler are so tiny that they can be snaffled up or crushed in a moment without the owner noticing, and scaring a bird away from its eggs in poor or cold weather can lead to the eggs or chicks chilling to death very quickly. We implore everyone to please keep your dogs on leads, especially in spring when wildlife is at its most vulnerable; please do not allow them to run through the woodland undergrowth and out of sight or there is a very real risk that our spring woodlands could fall silent from much of their most beautiful birdsong."

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has also recorded multiple problems with dogs chasing grazing livestock, including two in 2023: one of the Trust's Hebridean sheep was attacked at Stirley nature reserve near Huddersfield, requiring extensive medical intervention, and pregnant ewes were chased by off-lead dogs at Kilnsea Wetlands near Spurn.

Many dog owners are passionate about nature and want to avoid harming it. However, even the most well-behaved dogs can unintentionally cause distress or damage wildlife, simply by following their natural curiosity. Birds perceive dogs as predators; when dogs roam freely, birds may abandon their nests, leaving eggs and chicks cold and unprotected. From designated walking paths to understanding wildlife seasons, there's plenty we can do to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience – on two legs or four.

Responsible dog owners can help wildlife if they:

- Keep dogs on short leads on nature reserves and in the wider countryside. Allowing dogs to worry livestock is against the law, under The Animal Welfare Bill.
- Only visit reserves with dogs under control where they are permitted and always keep to paths. Nature reserves are rare places where wildlife is given the priority.
- Clean up after animals and dispose of dog waste in bins or at home. Dog waste is dangerous for wildlife as it can carry diseases, scare away animals and increases nutrients in soils above healthy levels, affecting the natural balance of fragile habitats.
- Prevent dogs jumping in ponds; this can disturb aquatic wildlife, and insecticides found in dog flea treatments pollute waterways and kill wildlife too.

Dr Jenna Kiddie, Head of Canine Behaviour at Dogs Trust, says:

"Dogs enrich our lives, but they also bring a level of responsibility. Whilst many of us enjoy taking our dogs for long walks, especially as it becomes a bit warmer, we urge dog owners to consider their surroundings, particularly when visiting areas where they might encounter wildlife. When visiting rural areas, owners should keep their dogs under control and ensure they do not worry other animals or stray from the path, as well as dispose of their dog's waste appropriately. We would advise keeping your dog on a short lead, and close to you, especially whenever livestock are nearby. It is important to remember that chasing is normal dog behaviour, and that any dog is capable of chasing, irrelevant of breed, type, age or size."

Clare Webb, Countryside Code Project Manager at Natural England is supportive of The Wildlife Trusts' initiative. She says:

"The Countryside Code helps us all respect, protect and enjoy our outdoor spaces. Many of us enjoy nothing better than a walk with our dogs in the fresh air and the Countryside Code sets out how we can do this responsibly by keeping dogs on a lead, checking local signs, respecting livestock and those who work in rural areas."



'Complacency Kills' As Dog Attacks On Livestock Increases

Complacency among some dog owners alongside an inability to control their dogs has seen dog attacks on livestock increase causing needless suffering. Estimated costs of dog attacks on livestock in the UK were £2.4million last year up nearly 30% compared from the previous year. The shocking statistics revealed by NFU Mutual, is incredibly alarming for farmers especially as the 2024 lambing season is underway with pregnant ewes and newborn lambs more vulnerable.

A recent survey conducted by PetBuzz on behalf of NFU Mutual of over 1,100 dog owners found more people were letting their dogs off leads in the countryside last year than in 2022, 68% and 64% respectively.

Worryingly, less than half (49%) said their pet always comes back when called.

Almost eight percent admitted their dog chases livestock but 46% believed their dog was not capable of causing the death or injury of farm animals. More than half (54%) felt they did not need to take active measures to prevent their dog from chasing.



If present at an attack, 57% of dog owners would intervene to stop it, 22% would report it to a local farmer and 11% would call the police.

With many dog owners planning to visit the countryside at a time when sheep and lambs are at their most vulnerable, NFU Mutual is calling for them to:

- Keep dogs on a lead when walking in rural areas where livestock are kept but let go of the lead if chased by cattle
- Be aware that all dogs, regardless of size, breed, and temperament, can cause the distress, injury and death of farm animals
- Report attacks by dogs to the police or local farmers
- Never let dogs loose unsupervised in gardens near livestock fields – many attacks are caused by dogs which escape and attack sheep grazing nearby

Leading Veterinary Charity Addresses 'Fatal' Respiratory Dog Disease Spreading In The US



With reports of rising cases of Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD) in dogs across the US, a leading UK veterinary charity has issued advice to pet owners, reassuring them that the disease does not appear to have spread to the UK.

PDSA Vet Catherine Burke said: "Pet owners will be no stranger to catching a nasty cough themselves but may not be aware that our four-legged friends can suffer from similar respiratory infections.

"While there has been discussion around CIRD in the US, particularly in the news, the same disease hasn't been seen in the UK. If your dog catches a cough, it's much more likely to be 'kennel cough' – a known and usually treatable illness that vets across the country have extensive knowledge about and experience treating.

"Kennel cough is an infection of the airways that causes a dry hacking cough in dogs. It usually stems from a viral infection but can occasionally be caused by bacteria too. It spreads through direct contact between dogs, as well as in the air and on surfaces, so is most prevalent when a group of dogs are gathered in one space, such as in kennels or doggy day care.

SPOTTING THE SYMPTOMS

"Symptoms of kennel cough can sometimes take up to two weeks to develop and can last for up to three weeks, so don't be alarmed if your furry friend doesn't seem to be feeling better straight away. While most dogs will come down with a hacking cough, puppies, older dogs and those with other illnesses might also suffer from other symptoms such as a reduced appetite, low energy, a high temperature and difficulty breathing.

"If you notice your furry friend coughing, or if they aren't being their usual greedy and playful self, it's a good idea to speak to your vet for advice and book them in for a check up, especially if they are having any problems breathing. Make sure to let them know that your dog has been coughing – they might ask you to wait outside before being called in to minimise the risk of spreading infection to other dogs in the waiting room.

TREATING YOUR POORLY POOCH

"Dogs with kennel cough will usually recover at home within one to three weeks, without medication. Exercise can make their cough much worse so you may need to keep your pooch rested, and give them plenty of TLC. Some dogs with kennel cough may benefit from sitting in a steamy room (perhaps while you have a shower or bath) to help relieve the congestion in their airways. Never leave your dog alone in a steamy room though and don't force them to stay if they aren't comfortable.

"If your furry friend has more severe symptoms, your vet may prescribe anti-inflammatory medication, to help reduce airway inflammation and help to bring down a high temperature. Antibiotics are rarely prescribed for kennel cough as most cases are caused by a virus (which doesn't respond to antibiotics) but depending on how your dog is coping especially if your dog is very young, old or suffers from any other health conditions, your vet may suggest they need them.

"Keep your pooch away from other dogs and public spaces for two to three weeks as, even after their symptoms have cleared, they'll still be contagious and can continue to spread the infection.

PREVENTING KENNEL COUGH

"The most effective way to prevent kennel cough is through vaccination, especially if your pooch spends lots of time around other furry friends. The protection from vaccination will last for 12 months and significantly reduce the chances of your dog catching the infection. Most kennels and doggy day care centres will request that each dog is vaccinated two to three weeks prior to joining them."

Seek advice from your vet if you're unsure about anything relating to kennel cough, or for more information about the infection, visit: www.pdsa.org.uk/kennelcough

PDSA is the leading vet charity for pets in need. For more information visit pdsa.org.uk



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BVA Welcomes Pet Microchipping Reforms As Positive Step Forward

The British Veterinary Association has welcomed the announcement of new Government measures to reform the existing pet microchipping database system.

The announcement by Defra sets out plans to make microchip records easier to access, improve the accuracy of microchip information, and standardise processes for database operators with the aim of helping reunite stray pets and deter pet theft.

The measures include the creation of a centralised portal for microchip records, which has long been a key ask by the veterinary profession.

Responding to the announcement, BVA President Anna Judson said:

"Microchipping is a vital tool for vets working to identify lost pets and to successfully reunite them with their owners. The British Veterinary Association has been pressing for action to address

issues with the current database system, which have been a source of ongoing frustration.

"These new measures are a positive step forwards and the new portal should help vet teams to check multiple databases quickly, identify and reunite cats and dogs with their owners and provide prompt treatment where needed."



British Veterinary Association

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Start For Life Campaign: If They Could Tell You

A new government campaign - Start for Life's 'if they could tell you' - has launched to support parents to help build secure bonds to help nurture their baby's future mental health, along with easy-to-follow guidance on the Start for Life website.

The campaign aims to highlight that babies' expressions, reactions, noises and cries are the way they communicate their needs and feelings to parents which in some cases can be an indication of their mental wellbeing.

Parents and carers can learn how to interpret these cues so they can find the best way to meet their baby's needs.

A baby's brain is making one million neural connections every second, making pregnancy and the first 2 years so important for their healthy development. These connections are formed as a result of the interaction between parents and their babies, laying the foundations for their physical and emotional wellbeing, now and in future. Secure relationships with parents and carers positively impacts child development outcomes and reduces the likelihood of mental health difficulties.

Minister for Public Health, Start for Life and Primary Care, Dame Andrea Leadsom, said:

"We are committed to giving every baby the best start in life, and promoting that vital secure attachment between babies and their parents in the 1,001 critical days from pregnancy to 2 years old is crucial for their future wellbeing.

"Speaking with parents across the country, I've heard first-hand that they need more support around how to better build those connections. Parents can access a range of support and advice, in person via family hubs and on the Start for Life website.

"We are also launching new guidance for frontline practitioners, aimed at helping them to start conversations with parents about building their relationship with their baby."

Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy, said:

"A strong, loving connection between parents or carers and their baby can play a significant role in developing the brain and protecting their mental health as they grow up.

"This campaign will make it easier for parents and carers to interpret the way their baby is communicating with them and understand how best to meet their baby's needs.

"Raising a baby is not easy and I hope that new NHS trusted advice provided through the campaign will be a helpful source of information and support to parents and carers."

New guidance for frontline practitioners will also help start conversations with parents and carers to explore their relationship with their baby, in order to provide support.

The early years are a crucial time for the development of a child's brain. Over a third (41%) of parents of under 2s in England are unaware that mental health starts to impact a child's development before they are 2.

While most parents (95%) feel confident in supporting their baby's emotional and social development, more than two-thirds (73%) of parents in the survey indicated they would welcome support in nurturing their connection with their baby further.

The new survey from Censuswide, which explored parents' understanding of building a positive connection with their baby, also found that over half

(53%) of parents believe that parenting advice they received in their baby's early life, such as letting the baby 'cry it out' (53%) and limiting physical affection (52%) to avoid the baby becoming clingy was outdated, with almost a third (31%) of parents feeling guilty for following this advice when their baby's cues indicated otherwise.

Child development expert, Dr Amanda Gummer, said:

Building a strong connection with your baby from pregnancy onwards helps to foster a sense of love and security, laying the foundations for their future wellbeing and mental health.

Tips For Parents

Dr Gummer has these tips for parents to help interpret cues and build strong connections with your baby.

Mirror Your Baby's Reactions And Emotions

Babies need you to help them learn about themselves and the world around them. Your baby might be telling you they're ready to play if they're smiling or cooing. You can mirror your baby's reactions and emotions - such as smiling back if they have bright eyes - as this shows them that it's OK to express those emotions.

Comfort Your Baby When They Are Crying

It's important to respond to their cries, as well as their smiles, with love and reassurance. If your baby is crying, try soothing them with gentle rocking, speaking softly, or singing to them.

Remember, you cannot 'spoil' a baby with too many cuddles and it does not make them clingy. Babies will cry for different lengths and at different times, so try not to compare your baby to others. Babies also cry for different reasons; pain cries can be different to hunger or tired cries so try to understand what they're telling you to help you respond appropriately. Looking after yourself is also really important and will help you to comfort your baby's cries.

Enjoy Playing Face-To-Face With Your Baby In Everyday Moments

The more you cuddle, look at and play face-to-face with your baby, the more secure they'll feel, and the more independent they'll become. In time, they will feel confident that you will be there for them. This can be as simple as saying what they do and name what they see, as you're going about your routine.

Let Your Baby Take Breaks When They Need Them (And The Same Goes For You!)

Your baby's body language, facial expressions, noises and cries are their ways of telling you what they need. Sometimes they might be telling you they just need a break. Show them that it's ok if they need to try something different, or just to rest. Remember to also take care of yourself, and take a moment when needed, so you're ready to understand and respond to your baby's cues.

Find further information and support visit:

<https://familyhubs.campaign.gov.uk>

Etrasimod Approved To Treat Patients Over The Age Of 16 With Ulcerative Colitis

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the medicine etrasimod (Velsipity) to treat people with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis.

Ulcerative colitis is a long-term condition where the colon and rectum become inflamed. Small ulcers can develop on the colon's lining and can bleed and produce pus.

The main symptoms of ulcerative colitis are recurring diarrhoea, which may contain blood, mucus or pus, stomach pain and increased stool frequency. Patients may also experience extreme tiredness (fatigue), loss of appetite and weight loss.

Julian Beach, MHRA Interim Executive Director, Healthcare Quality and Access, said:

Keeping patients safe and enabling their access to high quality, safe and effective medical products are key priorities for us.

We're assured that the appropriate regulatory standards for the approval of this medicine have been met.

As with all products, we will keep its safety under close review."

Etrasimod is a long-term prescription medicine and treatment should only be started under the supervision of a doctor who is experienced in treating ulcerative colitis.

The recommended dose of etrasimod is one 2 mg tablet taken once daily. Etrasimod should be taken with food for the first 3 days. After this, etrasimod can be taken each day with or without food.

Etrasimod prevents lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell) from travelling from the lymph nodes (part of the body's immune system that contains lymphocytes) into the blood. These lymphocytes are involved in the immune response and inflammation that is linked to the development of ulcerative colitis. By reducing the number



of lymphocytes circulating in the blood surrounding the large intestine, etrasimod helps to reduce bowel inflammation and the symptoms associated with the disease.

This regulatory approval is supported by evidence from two randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical studies (ELEVATE UC 52 and ELEVATE UC 12) involving 743 patients aged 16 years and over for whom standard treatment or other treatments did not work well enough or could not be used.

Taken together, the results from the two studies showed that, after 12 weeks of treatment, 26% (129 out of 496) of those who received etrasimod had achieved clinical remission compared with 11% (27 out of 247) of those who received placebo.

One of these studies also looked at the longer-term effect of treatment and found that 32% (88 out of 274) of people taking etrasimod achieved clinical remission after 52 weeks compared with 7% (9 out of 135) for those receiving placebo.

The most common side effects of the medicine are bradycardia (slow heart rate), hypertension (high blood pressure), urinary tract infection (infection of parts of the body that collect and pass out urine) and lower respiratory tract infection (infection of the lower airways or lungs).

As with any medicine, the MHRA will keep the safety and effectiveness of etrasimod under close review. Anyone who suspects they are having a side effect from this medicine are encouraged to talk to their doctor, pharmacist or nurse and report it directly to the MHRA Yellow Card scheme, either through the website (<https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>) or by searching the Google Play or Apple App stores for MHRA Yellow Card.

Landmark NHS Deal Gives Patients Access To Groundbreaking Light-Activated Antimicrobial To Combat Antimicrobial Resistance At Pontefract And Pinderfields Hospitals

Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust has approved the commercial adoption of Ondine's groundbreaking light-activated antimicrobial, Steriwave®. The approval will see the use of Steriwave expanded across hip and knee surgery patients at Pontefract and Pinderfields NHS Hospitals to reduce the incidence of surgical site infections (SSIs). This adoption as standard-of-care for orthopedic patients follows a successful, initial deployment that is being used to evaluate Steriwave at Pontefract Hospital.

Dr Stuart Bond, Consultant antimicrobial pharmacist and Director of Innovation at Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust, commented: "We are very pleased to be the first NHS Trust to be giving patients access to this important new technology. SSIs can have a devastating effect on patients and their families, and we are pleased that we have demonstrated the feasibility of using Steriwave in our Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence at Pontefract Hospital. It is a real step forward to making Steriwave more widely available across the Trust."

Ondine Biomedical, Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust, and Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber have partnered to sponsor a health economic analysis with the York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC). The full findings of this study [expected to be reported on later this year] will be used to support the further spread and adoption of Steriwave across the NHS and across additional surgical applications.

SSIs are one of the most common healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and affect one in every 20 patients who undergo a surgical procedure in the NHS. SSIs can cost up to £100,000 per patient, and the overall cost of HAIs to NHS England is over £2 billion a year. These costs are expected to rise as growing rates of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) make the current standard of care – the antibiotic mupirocin – less effective.

Steriwave is a light-activated antimicrobial that uses a specific wavelength of red light to destroy pathogens that colonise the nose and can spread to cause harmful infections. Crucially, unlike traditional antibiotics, Steriwave is immediately effective with a single five-minute treatment and does not trigger antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Nasal decolonisation – eliminating harmful pathogens from the nasal cavities – is recommended by WHO and NICE prior to surgery as a key approach to preventing SSIs.

The CEO of Ondine Biomedical, a world leader in light-activated antimicrobial technology, Carolyn Cross, said: "We are delighted to see the first two NHS hospitals adopt Steriwave, particularly as NHS is seen around the world as a leader in antibiotic stewardship in response to the growing threat of AMR (antimicrobial resistance). This is not only a significant milestone for Ondine, but Mid Yorks's accelerated decision to adopt suggests that Steriwave has been well received by patients, surgeons, and nurses."

Steriwave has been used in over 150,000 patient treatments, including at major hospitals across Canada, including Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), The Ottawa Hospital (TOH), and the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute. Research recently published by VGH in the Canadian Journal of Surgery showed that the use of Steriwave in patients undergoing spine surgery resulted in a 66.5% reduction in post-surgical infection rates and almost \$2600 per spine surgery patient, representing \$2.5 million in annual savings for Vancouver General Hospital's spine group. No serious adverse events have ever been reported from Steriwave treatment.



Mid Yorkshire Teaching
NHS Trust



The NHS has launching a new national campaign to find the 'missing millions' who have undiagnosed high blood pressure.

High blood pressure, often described as a 'silent killer', affects an estimated 32% of adults. As the condition rarely has any symptoms, approximately 3 in 10 of these remain undiagnosed, equating to 4.2 million people in England.

The public are being warned that there are often 'no clues' about who might have high blood pressure - the only way to know is to have a simple test.

With the NHS announcing an additional 2.5 million blood pressure checks in community pharmacies over this year and next, those aged 40 years and over are now being urged to get a free blood pressure test at a participating pharmacy. The procedure is quick, non-invasive and you do not need to book in advance.

This comes as new survey data reveals widespread misconceptions about the condition among those at risk.

Despite the majority of high blood pressure cases being asymptomatic, only one in 14 respondents (7%) thought the condition has no symptoms. The survey also revealed one in 6 (17%) of those surveyed have been put off having a blood pressure check because they do not feel unhealthy or stressed.

Health Minister Andrea Leadsom said:

"Millions of adults in England unknowingly have high blood pressure, without experiencing any symptoms. As part of our Pharmacy First programme, the NHS has expanded its pharmacy offering to include 2.5 million more blood pressure checks within local pharmacies.

"Knowing if you have a healthy blood pressure is so important and this new drive will help to prevent the potentially fatal consequences of untreated high blood pressure.

"I urge people to go to their local pharmacy today to get their blood pressure checked. It could be a life-saving trip."

Left untreated, high blood pressure can lead to heart attacks, strokes, kidney disease and vascular dementia.

However, the survey of over 2,000 adults aged 40 and over revealed worrying numbers who do not know the potentially fatal effects of high blood pressure - with 4 in 10 (41%) unaware that, if left untreated, high blood pressure can lead to heart disease, and over a fifth (22%) being unaware that it can cause strokes and heart attacks.

To encourage more over 40s to come forward for potentially life-saving blood pressure checks, new advertising features a fictional detective

struggling to solve the mystery of high blood pressure, due to a lack of 'clues' and 'insufficient evidence'.

The campaign is being backed by Graeme Souness, TV pundit and former footballer, who is affected by high blood pressure and had a heart attack, and Gloria Hunniford, TV presenter and broadcaster, whose dad and husband have suffered strokes.

The pair appear alongside other patients affected by the condition, and pharmacist Deepak Bilakhia, in a mock police line-up to demonstrate how any of us could be unknowingly walking around with the condition.

Gloria Hunniford said:

"This campaign is very close to my heart - both my husband and my father sadly suffered from a number of strokes due to high blood pressure, so I know from personal experience just how important it is to get your blood pressure checked, even if you feel healthy.

"That's why I'm so pleased to hear that pharmacies offer free, quick blood pressure checks for people aged 40 and over - thankfully, this really will save lives."

Graeme Souness said:

"It's so important to get your blood pressure checked - in my experience, high blood pressure doesn't only affect the 'usual suspects', it can and does affect anyone so you could be at risk without knowing it.

"I've had high blood pressure for years but have been able to manage it with a routine of healthy eating, regular fitness and regular blood pressure checks."

It is hoped that the campaign will urge those at risk to prioritise getting their blood pressure checked, even if they have no symptoms - after the survey revealed that blood pressure checks are low on the list of people's annual priorities.

The majority of those at risk currently prioritise annual tasks such as getting their car MOTd (56%), getting their boiler serviced (55%) or renewing insurances (60%), above checking their blood pressure (43%) - despite its life-saving potential.

Meanwhile 2 in 5 (44%) were not aware they could get a free blood pressure check at a pharmacy, with even more being unaware that they do not need an appointment (59%).

Visit the NHS website to find a pharmacy that offers free blood pressure checks near you or search 'pharmacy blood pressure check'.

NICE Recommends New Combination Treatment For Advanced Kidney Cancer

1,100 people with advanced kidney cancer could benefit after NICE recommended a new combination treatment.

Cabozantinib (also known as Cabometyx and made by Ipsen) with nivolumab (also known as Opdivo and made by Bristol Myers Squibb) is recommended in final draft guidance as a first-line treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma in adults.

Renal cell carcinoma is the most common type of kidney cancer and the advanced disease means the cancer has spread beyond the lymph nodes to other areas of the body. Treatments aim to control the cancer and relieve symptoms, which can include unexplained weight loss, tiredness, and fever.

Cabozantinib, which is given as tablets taken daily, blocks proteins called receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs), which are involved in the growth of cells and the blood vessels that supply them. These proteins can be present in high amounts in cancer cells, and by blocking them the medicine can slow down tumour growth and help to cut off the blood supply the cancer needs.

Nivolumab targets a protein on immune system cells that normally stops them from attacking other cells in the body. By blocking protein, the medicine boosts the immune response against kidney cancer cells.

Clinical trial evidence suggests people having cabozantinib plus nivolumab live longer and have longer before their cancer gets worse than people having other standard treatments such as sunitinib, pazopanib or tivozanib.

A randomised controlled trial comparing cabozantinib plus nivolumab with sunitinib found that people taking cabozantinib plus nivolumab had a median overall survival of 49.5 months compared with 35.5 months for sunitinib. It also found that progression-free survival was 16.6 months compared with 8.4 months for sunitinib.

NICE also used UK real-world evidence to inform the underlying risk and safety associated with having renal cell carcinoma and having treatment.

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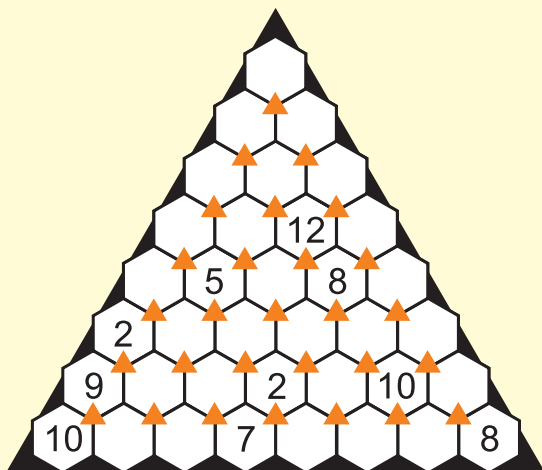
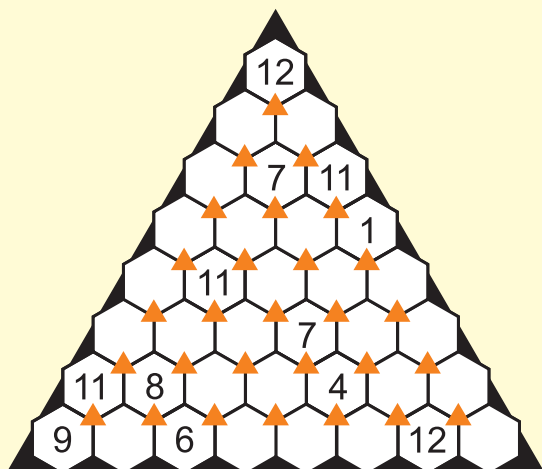
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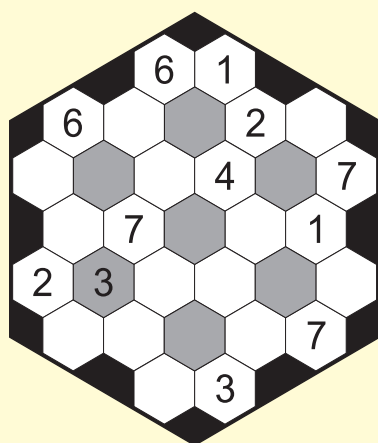
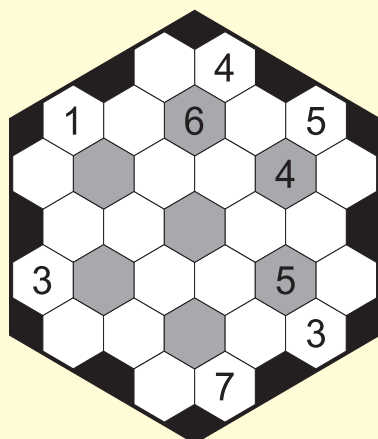
Subaddo 3D

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



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.

7	12	9		25	2	2		23	6	13		10	5	25
25	21	6		6	7	7		6	9	12		5	12	25
15	6	19		10	25	6		19	25	21		24	7	7
23	7	25	22		6	21	25		15	24	15	25	23	
			24	21	26	25	8		5	25	15			
	2	6	15	24			24	9	17	6	15	6	23	
2	12	7	8	23		23	10	6	9			7	12	2
6	8	12		25	9	12		7	25	10		10	6	21
10	25	15			6	21	24	6		12	19	25	21	6
	8	25	23	19	12	10	23			12	6	21	23	
			6	24	7		7	25	25	26	23			
21	25	24	9	15			25	26	25		10	24	25	8
25	6	21		24	18	23		24	21	25		12	14	6
25	14	25		12	21	25		15	24	7		10	24	10
18	25	8		15	12	10		9	25	20		6	7	25

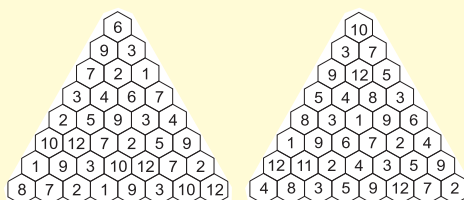
SOLUTION GRID

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

GIVEAWAYS

- #25 = E
 - #15 = N
 - #2 = B
- 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

March edition answers



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Terms & Conditions – Entries must be in by the 23rd April 2024. 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.

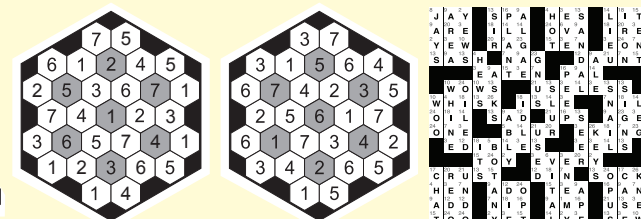


MARCH EDITION COMPETITION WINNERS

The Great Yorkshire Shop competition - Richard Dante

Heck Recipe Book & Product Kit - Wendy Astin

Congratulations!





Monthly Horoscopes By Russell Grant

ARIES March 21st - April 20th

Returning to a hobby or pastime you enjoyed in your childhood will lift your spirits on the 1st. Happy memories on the 3rd will help sustain you through some tough times. The Solar Eclipse on the 8th will get you questioning your priorities. Your destiny may not lie where you thought it did as you start setting new and more exciting long-term goals. Plans that are forming in your mind will soon become a reality. Your mind will be exceedingly active on the 15th and you will easily take in the facts of all situations. The Full Moon on the 23rd will take you to a place where you used to live or that holds some special memories. You might feel you can read minds on the 29th when people will hardly open their mouths before you know exactly what they are going to say.

TAURUS April 21st - May 21st

The Solar Eclipse on the 8th will be working on you spiritually when adopting a spiritual practice, developing your creative talents or starting on a personal development course are all worthy activities. You understand what a youngster wants on the 11th, why they want it and whether or not it is a good idea. Activities with children and young people on the 19th will bring some fun, amusement and laughter into your life. A colleague will be exceptionally irritating on the 22nd as you have other things to do but they can't seem to manage without your help. Some unfinished business with a past partner will be brought to your mind under the Full Moon on the 23rd. If you still have grievances with someone, write them a letter then burn it. This will purge painful emotions and allow you to move on.

GEMINI May 22nd - June 21st

Confusion is likely on the 3rd when garbled messages and other misunderstandings will leave you scratching your head in bewilderment. The Solar Eclipse on the 8th highlights the value of good friendships. Parties, social gatherings and professional events will all be valuable opportunities for networking over the next six months. Whether you are seeking employment, wanting to break into a new social circle or volunteering for a charity, making new contacts is essential for your aims. An important message will fail to reach you on the 16th or the message you do receive will be incomplete. A youngster will be behaving badly on the 20th. A word of caution will save them from getting into trouble. If you've been stuck in the same place for some time, get mobile on the 23rd. The Full Moon prompts you to take physical exercise to release tension that has been building for some time.

CANCER June 22nd - July 23rd

The Solar Eclipse on the 8th marks this as a momentous time for your career and professional aims. Several important people will offer to support your ambitions. Meetings and interviews that take place now will help you move up the ladder of success. Alternatively, you could get a chance to forge a whole different career path. If a trip or journey can be postponed on the 13th, all well and good as adverse conditions will affect all forms of travel. Routine pressures and unfair demands will be made on you on the 20th. You can't wait for a chance to spend more time with friends you like most. The month will not be without mix-ups and muddles and the Full Moon on the 23rd will bring a good opportunity to sort out any confused thinking and clear up misunderstandings. More time can be devoted to a favourite hobby or pastime on the 30th.

LEO July 24th - August 23rd

The Solar Eclipse on the 8th makes this a great time to go on, or to start planning a journey. Choose a destination you've not yet had the opportunity to visit. If you're looking for work you will achieve success in the fields of travel, advertising and education. There may be a need to give some attention to problems of family members or in-laws on the 13th. A housemate or workmate will forget to pass on some important information on the 16th or the message they do give you will be incorrect. Projections you make on the 19th will be based more on what you wish to happen than on facts that should be taken into consideration. Attending to family and domestic responsibilities will feel satisfying on the 23rd when the Full Moon prompts you to find ways to make life easier for those you love.

VIRGO August 24th - Sept 23rd

The Solar Eclipse on the 8th will bring legal and property matters to your attention. The next six months will be significant in helping you secure your financial position. Group and club events will be fun on the 11th but avoid any strenuous exertions as your energy reserves aren't as high as you think. Trips and outings shared with close friends and loved ones will be enjoyable on the 15th. You might also be happy to help organise some form of recreational activity. Leave nothing to chance on the 20th. Rely on logic to lead you through a tense situation. The Full Moon on the 23rd urges you towards taking action on matters that are important to you. You won't rest until you have sent off emails, made phone calls and written letters with the intention of getting things moving. Some people feel exhausted just watching you.

LIBRA Sept 24th - Oct 23rd

The Solar Eclipse on the 8th encourages you to follow your instincts if you're keen on pursuing a new partnership. In business and romance, having supportive people alongside you makes you even more determined to reach a cherished goal. Study the details and small print of contracts carefully on the 10th before signing anything. Be sure you are fully acquainted with all the facts. Your love life will hit a high note on the 19th. A romantic outing will take you to a place you have never been to before. You will have some great ideas for making money on the 23rd. The Full Moon suggests you should keep these to yourself as no one else seems to understand what you are on about. It will be essential that you keep both feet planted firmly on the ground on the 30th especially where financial and business activities are concerned.

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd

The Solar Eclipse on the 8th makes this a good time to start a diet. Include lean protein, raw vegetables and fresh fruit in your diet to boost your energy level. Worries that keep you awake at night on the 13th will be as a result of your overactive imagination. Moderation is the key to success on the 15th. If arguments occur, look for a workable compromise. Discrete negotiations will go well on the 20th. You can employ stealth and circumspection to excellent effect now. The Full Moon on the 23rd opens your spiritual senses. Some strange experiences will get you thinking when these can only be described as mystical and psychic. With you feeling more determined, it won't take a lot of effort to finish work ahead of schedule on the 26th. Getting involved in a fund raising project or helping with a local event will bring you a lot of pleasure and satisfaction on the 30th.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st

The Solar Eclipse on the 8th reminds you of the importance to relax and have fun. If you have been thinking about taking up a new hobby this is the time to do so. It will not matter if mistakes are made. Allow yourself to be a beginner and enjoy developing new skills and experimenting with ideas that stimulate your imagination. Let other people know what is on your mind on the 11th. It would be foolish to accept an offer made by someone you don't really trust on the 13th. Meet up with a professional contact in an informal setting to discuss a workplace intrigue. The 19th will be a good day to purchase items for your home. Better still if you can do this with a housemate so you can choose things together. The Full Moon on the 23rd makes it hard for you to concentrate so take care when driving and using machinery.

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th

The Solar Eclipse on the 8th will find you taking a deeper interest in your family history. Projects and research conducted now will revolve around your home and family, your childhood and the past. A family heirloom will have an interesting history and talks with an older relative will reveal that one of your ancestors shared a similar gift or passion of yours. Running an errand could lead to unforeseen circumstances on the 11th. You might prefer to stay in one spot. A youngster's rebellious behaviour will get them into trouble on the 21st. You always knew this was going to happen but this won't make it any easier to deal with the situation. It will be hard to have patience with other people on the 23rd when the Full Moon puts your nerves on edge. Turn to activities you love to soothe your soul.

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th

Emails and voicemails on the 8th will hold some important information. The Solar Eclipse increases the need to be direct and precise in all communications, both in the workplace and in the home. Although messages received will be erratic at times, it is the way you handle discussions, meetings and interviews that will determine your fate. Mistakes of the past will be discovered on the 21st. Someone in authority will want this investigated immediately. If you are innocent of it all, don't get too anxious. Your mood will be escapist under a rebellious Full Moon on the 23rd. That's why you won't want to have anything to do with relatives or colleagues who keep reminding you of your chores and duties. If you're being careful with your cash on the 29th, you might find ways to recycle items you have used before.

PISCES Feb 20th - March 20th

A little extra money will come your way thanks to the Solar Eclipse on the 8th. Since no-one can be absolutely confident about their income these days, it would be sensible to put this in a savings account. That way, you won't feel so tempted to spend it. Be sure your mobile is charged on the 11th. Someone will be trying to contact you with an urgent message. Alternatively some good news will require an instant response. It will seem like a good idea to take some time off work to complete jobs about the house on the 14th. If you're worried about a younger relative, try to talk this out with someone you trust on the 20th. Life may become difficult for a while under the Full Moon on the 23rd. Over the next few days you might expect a number of delays and frustrations.



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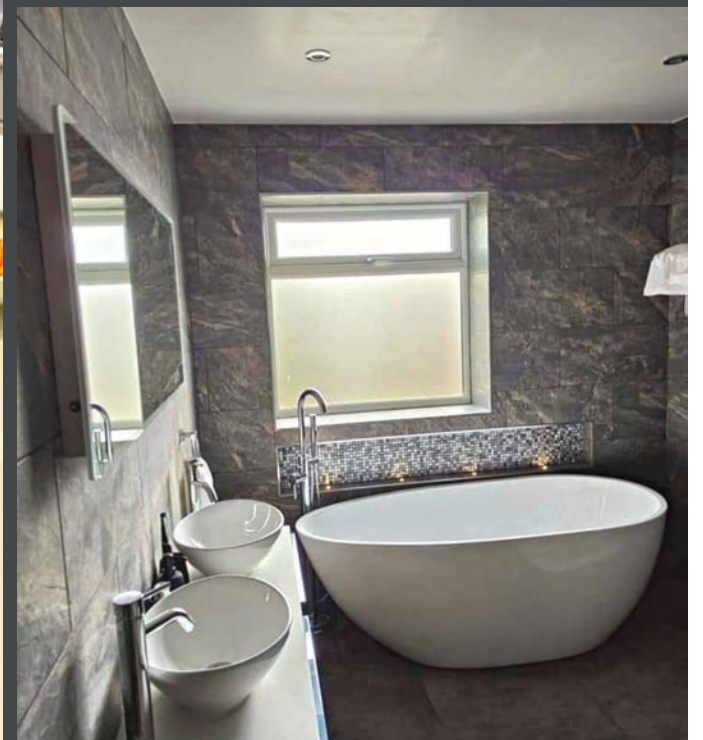
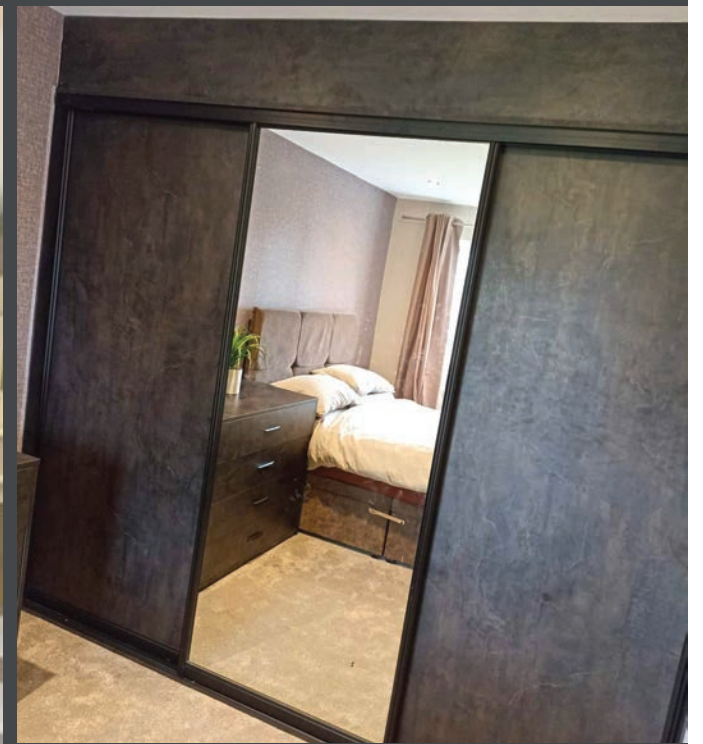
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For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact the Entertainment Licensing Section on **0113 378 5029** or email entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on conviction for this offence is an unlimited fine.

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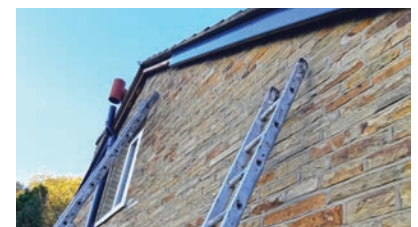


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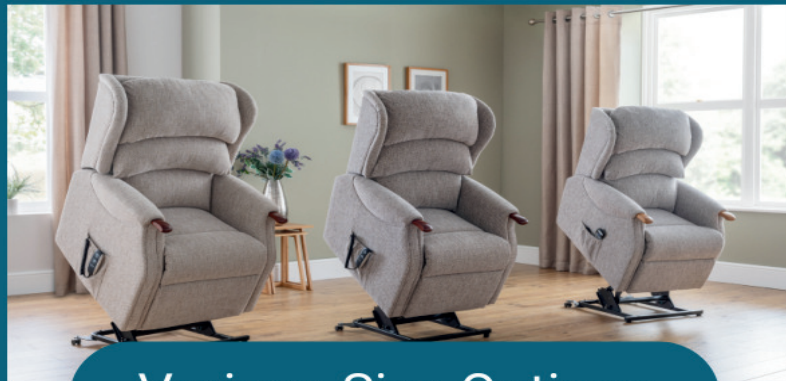
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