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March 2026

YourMag

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The Two-Break Year
Why one holiday isn't enough any more



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Editor's Note

Friday the thirteenth may be an ominous date for some, but for our family it signifies the day my dad entered the world - on Friday 13 February 1925. That means he would have celebrated his 101st birthday last month if he were still with us. My sister and I visited his grave to lay flowers and spend a few moments in quiet reflection. Afterwards, we collected the wreaths that had been laid at Christmas. One of them was from an old primary schoolmate of mine, who became dad's apprentice at the age of sixteen and stayed with him for over 20 years, until dad finally retired, well into his seventies.

The main reason dad delayed his retirement for so long was because he didn't want to leave Granville without a job, and the main reason Granville stayed so long was because he didn't want to leave dad without a worker. Their mutual loyalty and respect really touches me, even now. Granville always remembers to lay flowers on dad's grave, even though his former boss has been gone for 25 years. I feel it is credit to both men that this loyalty and affection continues after the passage of so much time.

In a world where so much is fleeting and temporary, with the focus on "Me, Me, Me" it is heartwarming to hear about stories such as these. I hope to be as committed and loyal!

Until next time...

Debbie Singh-Bhatti

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For decades, the annual holiday followed a familiar pattern: one big trip booked months in advance, expected to deliver rest, adventure and memories in a single hit. Increasingly, travellers are rethinking that model. In its place, the 'two-break year' is quietly becoming the new normal. That's one longer holiday, paired with a shorter escape that resets energy without the pressure.

The shift is partly practical. Work patterns have changed, with more people able to take flexible or staggered time off. Costs have changed too - splitting a holiday budget allows travellers to be more selective, choosing one statement trip and one simpler break rather than investing everything into a single, all-or-nothing experience.

The longer holiday - often planned for summer or early autumn - still plays its traditional role. It's the main event, where people invest emotionally and financially, whether that's a beach stay, a family getaway or a long-awaited destination.

The second break is different. It's shorter, closer to home or easier to reach, and far less demanding. It might be a long weekend, a short cruise, a countryside stay or a few days somewhere familiar. The goal isn't to explore

everything - it's to stop, rest and return feeling genuinely refreshed.

March has become a key moment for planning this approach. With the year stretching ahead, travellers can balance budgets and time more realistically. Booking early secures options, whilst also leaving space for spontaneity later on. For many, the smaller break becomes something to look forward to in the quieter months (and we all need that) - a mental marker that helps pace the year.

There's also a psychological benefit. Expecting one holiday to fix exhaustion or burnout puts pressure on the experience. When that trip is split, each break has a clearer purpose. One satisfies the desire to travel; the other supports wellbeing.

Travel providers are responding too. Shorter packages, flexible itineraries and mid-year deals are increasingly designed around this pattern, making it easier to slot breaks into busy schedules without overcommitting.

The two-break year isn't about travelling more for the sake of it. It's about travelling smarter - recognising that rest works best when it's spread out, not saved up. In a world that rarely slows down, two well-chosen breaks may offer more than one ever could!



The Two-Break Year

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Not long ago, earning extra money outside a full-time job was seen as either a stopgap or a sign something wasn't quite working. In 2026, that perception has shifted dramatically. Side income, whether modest or meaningful, has become a normal part of working life for millions of people across the UK.

Rising living costs are the most obvious driver. Energy bills, food prices, mortgages and rents have all climbed faster than wages for many households. Even people who consider themselves comfortable are feeling the squeeze. For them, an additional 'home' income isn't about getting rich - it's about restoring breathing room.

What makes this new way of boosting financial health different now is how neatly it fits around existing jobs. Remote work, flexible hours and digital platforms mean people can earn extra without quitting their day role or dramatically changing their lifestyle. The modern side income often happens in the margins: evenings, weekends, or short bursts of focused time.

Crucially, side income today isn't limited to one type of person. It spans age groups and professions. Some are monetising existing skills... perhaps writing, design, tutoring, bookkeeping. Others lean into practical work... such as gardening, decorating, pet care, maintenance. Increasingly, people are also generating income from assets they already own, whether that's spare rooms, vehicles, tools or specialist equipment.

There's also a psychological appeal. Side hustles offer a sense of control at a time when many financial pressures feel external and unpredictable.

Even a few hundred pounds a month can change how people feel about their finances, reducing reliance on credit or easing anxiety around unexpected costs.

Importantly, most successful side incomes don't start with a big leap; they begin with research. People test demand before committing time or money, often by exploring online marketplaces, local noticeboards, or community groups to see what services are being requested. Others speak to people already doing similar work to understand pricing, time commitment and pitfalls.

Those considering a side income are also becoming more realistic. The aim isn't usually rapid growth or replacing a salary, but sustainability. The best side incomes are repeatable, manageable alongside existing work, and don't lead to burnout. Many people deliberately cap hours to protect their main job and personal time.

There are practical considerations too. Extra income may affect tax, benefits or allowances, so understanding thresholds and obligations early is essential. This is where professional advice or basic financial planning can prevent problems later.

The rise of side hustles reflects a broader change in how people think about work and money. Instead of relying on a single source of earnings, households are spreading risk and opportunity across multiple streams.



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At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers

lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for every installation we carry out!'

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big or small, call Warren on **0800 612 8359** and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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Safety at Home Matters!

As Winter fades away, thoughts turn to Spring cleaning, which is an ideal time to check that everything is still working correctly. Start by pressing the test buttons on your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. The South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service still offers FREE home visits to people who are most at risk. To find out if you qualify, please telephone 0114 253 2314. You can also get help by emailing cfsadmin@syfire.gov.uk or safe&well@syfire.gov.uk. If you are not eligible for the personal visit, text HELLO FIRE SERVICE to 07862 126663 to do a virtual home safety check. These cover advice on emergency escape plans, overloaded sockets, cooking risks, fitting of new smoke alarms and general advice to help you stay safe.

Carbon monoxide can be generated by fires from appliances that burn gas, wood, oil or coal. It is colourless, odourless, invisible - and very dangerous to your health. Household appliances that have not been properly installed, are faulty or have not been properly maintained and serviced are the main culprits. If you have a caravan or motorhome it is a good idea to install carbon monoxide and smoke alarm systems, and if you go camping, you should never cook inside a tent.

At home, another check is to ensure that the mains water valve will open and close easily. There are a number of automatic shut-off



water valves on the market that can minimize the risk of flooding. This can be especially useful if you are away on holiday or are working away from home. The simple ones will turn off the water supply if there is a burst pipe or a tap left running. Depending on your budget, additional services such as mobile phone alerts are available - some have voice control, scheduling and integration with other smart home devices. Flooding can cause a huge amount of disruption and expense so prevention is much better than cure.

It is also good practice to tell a trusted neighbour or friend to keep an eye on your home if you are not going to be there for a while. Finally, if you do self catering, the same rules apply. Be very aware.

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EGG-CELLENT EASTER IDEAS!

Easter has a habit of sneaking up on families, but with a little planning and a willingness to get out and about, Easter can become one of the most enjoyable, sociable breaks of the year for children. Here are six ways to make it memorable in 2026.

Go beyond the back garden egg hunt

Traditional egg hunts are still a hit, but many families are now opting for organised community versions. Parks, farms, heritage sites and local attractions often run Easter trails with clues, activities and prizes. These events add structure, variety and a sense of occasion, as well as giving children something to talk about afterwards.

Try a church or community Easter event

Easter events hosted by churches can be welcoming, creative and child-friendly. Many offer craft sessions, storytelling, music or child-focused services that explain the Easter story in an accessible way. For our young stars, it adds meaning and a sense of tradition to the holiday.

Make a day of a spring outing

It doesn't all have to be about chocolate! Easter is one of the first chances of the year to properly enjoy being outdoors again. Zoos, wildlife parks, gardens and countryside attractions often programme special Easter activities. A simple day out – perhaps factoring in a picnic, walk or nature trail – can feel like a proper seasonal marker for children.

Get involved in something hands-on

Children remember what they do more than what they're given. Craft workshops, baking sessions, pottery painting or farm experiences



give kids something tactile and creative to focus on. Many local venues run short Easter holiday workshops designed specifically for younger age groups.

Create a mini Easter tradition

Families are increasingly creating their own small Easter rituals: a special breakfast, a spring walk on Easter morning, decorating eggs together, or visiting the same café or park each year. It's these repeated moments that can often provoke the most meaningful memories.

Balance treats with time together

Chocolate is part of Easter, but so is shared time. Board games, film afternoons, outdoor play or helping to cook a meal together all help children associate Easter with connection, not just consumption.

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Keep On Driving

vehicles. Preventative maintenance matters more, with owners more likely to invest in proper servicing, timing belts, suspension work and tyre quality rather than pushing problems down the road. Cosmetic upkeep has returned too: valeting, paint protection, interior repairs. And this isn't being done to show off; it's because pride of ownership has quietly returned.

Technology has played a role. Modern cars are better built, more reliable and more predictable than those of previous decades. A well-maintained vehicle from 2015 can still feel perfectly current for everyday life - with sat-nav, Bluetooth and safety features no longer ageing as quickly as they once did.

Why we're keeping our cars for longer - and what you can do to increase their lifespan

Not so long ago changing your car every three or four years felt normal. PCP deals, shiny upgrades and "treat yourself" thinking made regular swaps feel sensible, even expected. In 2026 though, that mindset is quietly disappearing. Across the UK, drivers are holding onto their cars for longer than at any point in recent memory.

The reasons are practical first. New car prices have climbed sharply, insurance premiums remain stubbornly high, and servicing costs mean replacing a vehicle now requires serious justification. Add in uncertainty around petrol, hybrid and electric futures, and many motorists have decided that the car they already own is the safest bet.

People are also starting to reframe what their car represents. Instead of a disposable lifestyle accessory, cars are becoming long-term household assets again. Ten-year ownership is no longer unusual, mileage milestones once dreaded are now worn with pride, and there's a growing confidence in saying, "It still runs perfectly - why would I change it?"

This shift has changed how people care for their

There's also a psychological shift at play. In a world of subscriptions, updates and constant upgrades, keeping a car long-term feels grounding. After all, a BMW 6 Series is just as effortlessly cool as the new model on the forecourt.

How to keep your car on the road for longer:

Service on time – Prevents hidden wear and catches faults before they escalate.

Change oil more often – Fresh oil protects engines from real-world driving stress.

Watch your tyres – Correct pressures and alignment reduce strain across the car.

Fix small faults early – Minor issues become major failures if ignored.

Keep it clean – Dirt, salt and moisture quietly shorten a car's lifespan.

Protect the battery – Short trips drain modern systems faster than you think.

Drive smoothly – Gentle acceleration and braking preserve engines and gearboxes.

Warm up gently – Cold engines hate hard driving in the first few miles.

Read the dashboard – Warning lights are early interventions, not inconveniences.

Stick with one garage – Familiarity helps spot problems before they become costly.



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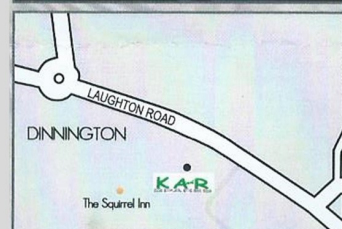
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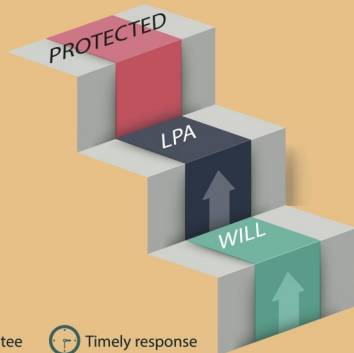
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How much do our pets understand?

movements, and let the cat initiate contact. Respecting boundaries builds trust, which makes cats more responsive and engaged over time.

Rabbits recognise routines and individual humans, responding to voice cadence rather than specific words. They associate certain sounds with safety or threat and are highly sensitive to environment changes. Maintain calm, predictable handling and sit at floor level when possible. Consistency and gentle vocal cues help rabbits feel secure and confident.

Hamsters, while not social in the human sense, recognise scent patterns and distinguish familiar handling from unfamiliar touch. Voice tone matters far less than smell, timing and gentleness. Handle at the same time each day, wash hands beforehand, and move slowly. Familiar scent and routine reduce stress and improve tolerance.

Guinea Pigs are highly vocal animals and recognise feeding sounds, routines and specific human voices. Many develop different responses to individual household members. Talk to them during feeding and cleaning times. Verbal consistency paired with routine strengthens recognition and reduces anxiety.

Birds are in a category of their own. Many understand context, mimic speech meaningfully and recognise emotional states. Some species can problem-solve at levels comparable to young children. Engage frequently, vary stimulation, and talk directly to them. Mental enrichment is as important as physical care.

We talk to our pets constantly, but how much do they actually understand? Science suggests more than we once thought, though not always in the way we imagine. Most pets don't process language as humans do, but they are highly skilled at reading patterns: tone, timing, routine and emotional cues. Understanding this can transform how we interact with them.

Dogs don't understand language as sentences, but many breeds will recognise upwards of 200 words, with some exceptional cases exceeding that. More importantly, they read tone, body posture and facial expression with remarkable accuracy. Dogs often respond faster to emotion than instruction, which is why they may ignore a command delivered flatly, but react instantly to excitement or tension. Keep verbal commands short and consistent, but pair them with clear body language and calm confidence. Dogs learn best through repetition, praise and predictable routines, which all help them build a reliable picture of the world.

Cats recognise their names, even when they pretend not to. Research shows they distinguish familiar human voices from strangers and can associate tone with intent. What they don't do is prioritise obedience. Cats understand far more than they comply. Speak softly, avoid sudden

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The Village Beneath the Water

Hidden beneath the calm surface of Ladybower Reservoir lies the lost village of Derwent - a place that, for brief moments during dry summers, re-emerges as a haunting reminder of a community sacrificed for water security.

Derwent stood in the Upper Derwent Valley in Derbyshire until the early 1940s, when it was deliberately flooded to create Ladybower Reservoir. Along with the neighbouring village of Ashopton, Derwent was cleared to make way for a major engineering project designed to supply drinking water to the rapidly growing cities of the Midlands and northern England.

Plans for the reservoir had been discussed for decades, but construction accelerated during the Second World War. Despite the pressures of wartime Britain, work continued, and by 1943 the valley was sealed. Around



700 residents from the two villages were displaced, their homes, farms, shops and church largely dismantled, or demolished completely, before water was allowed to flood in. Even gravestones were removed from Derwent's churchyard and reinterred elsewhere.

The reservoir officially opened in 1945, forming part of a wider system that includes Howden and Derwent reservoirs upstream. Ladybower itself is best known for its distinctive plughole overflows, but beneath its waters lies the old road network, stone walls, bridges... and the foundations of Derwent village.

As Britain heads into the warmer months, attention often turns back to the submerged settlement. During periods of prolonged dry weather or drought, water levels can fall dramatically, revealing the ghostly outline of the village. The stone arches of the packhorse bridge, the curve of old roads and the remains of building walls briefly return to view, sometimes for weeks at a time.

These moments attract visitors, photographers and historians alike, each knowing the reappearance is always temporary - a fleeting window into a past deliberately submerged.

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Technically Cool

If tech envy had a season, this would be it. From gadgets that change how you see the world to smart hardware that feels straight out of the future, 2025/26 is shaping up to deliver some truly eye-catching kit. Here are five of the most talked-about tech ideas that will have your friends asking, "Where did you get that?"

Immersive Smart Glasses The next augmented reality wave

After years of experimentation, smart glasses are making a comeback with designs that blend AR overlays into everyday life. These devices don't just display notifications - they can show directions while you walk, translate language in real time and stream information without pulling out a phone. From 'fad' status, there is really belief behind the tech now, and versions are hitting the market all the time, bringing AR out of the headset and into daily wear.

Price: Around £500

Next-Gen TV Panels Big picture, better colours

Television technology has leapt forward with ultra-large displays using advanced light-control systems that deliver eye-popping brightness and colour detail far beyond traditional LED screens. Expect screens up to 100+ inches with precision lighting and anti-glare enhancements, ideal for films and games that really pop.

Price: Upwards of £3,000

8K 360° Capture Drones The ultimate aerial showoff

The next generation of drones is about more than pretty aerial shots - they're now capable of capturing immersive 360-degree video at ultra-high resolution. That means footage you can reframe, pan, explore after, effectively, reshoot, even after you fly and you've returned to the ground, taking personal video to another level.

Price: £1,000+ for capable 8K models

RGB Mini-LED Monitors Desktop lighting with a twist

Bringing premium visual tech traditionally found in TVs to desktop monitors, new Mini-LED screens feature thousands of individually controllable light zones. The result is incredibly accurate colour and contrast for gaming, creative projects or immersive movies... plus lighting effects that match your content.

Price: £600-£1,200+ depending on size

Open-Ear Audio Wearables Hear the world, keep your sound

Open-ear audio tech is evolving beyond earbuds, offering devices that deliver immersive sound while keeping your ears open to surroundings - ideal for music, podcasts or calls without isolation. Recent releases have expanded battery life and audio quality significantly and 2026 is expected to see a major consumer adoption at the top end of the market with brands like Bose and Huawei really getting behind the tech.

Price: £150-£250+



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Health on the Shelf

The health habits we're inclined to ignore because they're too boring!



When people think about improving their health, the focus is usually on bold changes: new workouts, ambitious diets, wearable tech or dramatic resets. Yet for most people, health doesn't unravel suddenly, it drifts. Energy dips become normal, aches are tolerated, sleep worsens gradually. The habits with the biggest long-term impact are often the least exciting, and because they feel unremarkable, they're the easiest to ignore. These are the unglamorous health habits that quietly do the heaviest lifting.

Going to bed at the same time

Sleep quality isn't just about hours, it's as much to do with rhythm. A consistent bedtime helps regulate hormones, mood and immune function. Irregular sleep – even with enough total hours – leaves the body permanently playing catch-up.

Drinking enough water

Hydration affects concentration, digestion, joint health and circulation. Many people operate in a state of mild dehydration, mistaking headaches or fatigue for stress or poor sleep rather than a simple lack of fluids.

Getting daylight early

Morning daylight helps set the body's internal clock. Just 10 minutes outside early in the day can improve sleep quality, alertness and energy later on, particularly for people who spend most of their time indoors. So if ever there is an incentive to do the school run, this is it!

Moving little and often

Health benefits don't only come from structured exercise. Regular low-level movement such as standing, walking and stretching, improves circulation and reduces stiffness. In direct contrast, periods of sitting can undermine even the best workout routines.

Eating at roughly the same times

Irregular eating disrupts blood sugar and energy levels, while consistent meal timing supports digestion, focus and appetite regulation, reducing late-day crashes and the temptation to overeat.

Checking small things before they become big ones

Blood pressure, eyesight, hearing, posture and persistent aches often deteriorate slowly. Regular check-ins catch issues early, when they're easier to manage and far less disruptive.

At the end of the day none of these habits are exciting. They won't deliver dramatic transformations or instant results. Yet put together, they form the foundation of everyday health, and the kind that supports work, relationships and resilience rather than demanding constant attention.

The irony is that these habits work precisely because they're boring. They don't rely on motivation or willpower. They rely on repetition. In a culture obsessed with optimisation, the most effective health strategy may simply be doing the basics well... consistently, quietly, and without fuss.

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Painting or wallpapering a room feels like one of the simplest home upgrades, until your chosen look hits the wall. What looked calm and elegant on a sample card, or in a seductively wrapped selophane roll, can suddenly feel dark, cold or overwhelming. Most of the time, it isn't the colour itself that's wrong, but how it's been chosen. These are the most common mistakes... and how to avoid them!

Choosing colour under the wrong light

Paint always looks different in shops. Artificial lighting can warm or cool tones dramatically. Once home, north-facing rooms can flatten colour, while strong sunlight can bleach it. Always test paint in the room itself and view it at different times of day.

Testing too small

A tiny square on the wall won't tell you how a colour behaves. Paint large sample areas on multiple walls so you can see how it shifts in shade, and in the same way get as much sample wallpaper as possible to really get a

feel for a pattern. Remember depth and warmth, as light moves around the room.

Ignoring room orientation

South-facing rooms can handle cooler shades, while north-facing spaces often need warmth to avoid feeling flat. This is one of the biggest reasons rooms end up feeling 'off' even when the colour or pattern is technically right.

Forgetting the ceiling and woodwork

Walls don't exist in isolation. Ceiling colour, skirting boards, doors and frames all affect how a room feels. A bright white ceiling can make walls feel darker; softer whites often create a more balanced finish.

Chasing trends without context

Trending colours look great online, but not every shade suits every home. Deep greens, greys or bold blues can overwhelm smaller or poorly lit spaces. Always consider your room's size, function and existing furniture before committing.

Underestimating finish and durability

Where paint is concerned, matt, silk, eggshell and satin all behave differently. Matt hides imperfections but marks easily; silk reflects light but shows flaws. High-traffic areas need tougher finishes, even if the colour stays the same.

Doing it all without advice

Painting and wallpapering is inexpensive, but redoing the job isn't. Local specialists and decorators can offer insight into undertones, finishes and long-term wear, saving time, money... and frustration!

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The whys and wherefores of redecorating a room



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March Entertainment

TV HIGHLIGHTS

Scarpetta, Season 1 - Prime Video 11th March 2026

Scarpetta is an exciting new mystery thriller, based on the hit book series by Patricia Cornwell, starring Nicole Kidman and Jamie Lee Curtis. The series follows Dr. Kay Scarpetta (Kidman) who is a forensic pathologist, as she uses state of the art forensic technology to solve crimes. The series promises plenty of psychological complexities, plot twists and shock reveals.

Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man - Netflix 20th March 2026

The much-anticipated award-winning Peaky Blinders returns on Netflix from March 20th. The Immortal Man features a new generation of Shelby's. Little is being revealed about this new chapter, but we are told that due to the chaos of wartime Britain, Tommy Shelby faces significant issues as he confronts his past and the future of his family.

The Lincoln Lawyer Season 4 Netflix TBC

Michael Connelly's beloved character Mickey Haller (Manuel Garcia-Rulfo) returns in this eagerly awaited new series, and viewers are encouraged to replay the season three finale and its explosive end to get them up to speed for the new season. In Season 4 Mickey is arrested for murder after a client's body is found in his car, forcing himself to defend himself from behind bars!



LARGE SCREEN HIGHLIGHTS

Hoppers 6th March

In this latest whacky animated offering from Pixar, Hoppers is based upon the scientific discovery of 'hopping' human consciousness into lifelike robotic animals, allowing them to experience what life is like as an animal. In this story teenager Mabel uses this groundbreaking technology to transfer her human consciousness into a robotic beaver to communicate with animals and protect their habitat!

Project Hail Mary 6th March

Starring Ryan Gosling as schoolteacher Ryland Grace who wakes up alone on a spaceship millions of miles from Earth with amnesia only to discover that he is on a mission to save Earth from a catastrophic event caused by a star-eating microbe called Astrophage. Thankfully Ryland discovers that he isn't alone when he encounters an alien called Rocky with the same mission.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze. TBA

A movie treat for 'heroes in a half shell' fans as 'The Secret of the Ooze' is headed back to theatres for its 35th birthday! This sequel to the original 1990 film features the Turtles, Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo, battling their enemy, the Shredder, who seeks revenge with new mutants



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Choosing The Right Aesthetics Company

Becoming more popular amongst women and men, aesthetic treatments are non-surgical procedures designed to enhance appearance without surgery.

In 2026 many of us are choosing non-surgical aesthetics beauty treatments to help us look and feel younger, healthier and fresher. They can include procedures for our bodies and faces, and particularly our skin, with much emphasis on reducing wrinkles and other signs of ageing. The industry is still largely unregulated so that means choosing the right company or professional is even more important.

Growing popularity

Although more and more people are choosing to have beauty treatments in recent years, there has been a shift to non-surgical procedures which now make up over 90% of treatments in the UK. And more men are choosing aesthetics treatments with over one in three treatments now for men.

Popular Treatments

Many popular treatments fall into three groups: injectable treatments include Botox injections, dermal fillers, and fat-dissolving injections. Skin rejuvenation treatments including chemical peels, microneedling and laser treatments. And advanced facial treatments including mesotherapy, electrical muscle stimulation and hydrafacials. These procedures often require a practitioner to have different training and experience, with some often specialising in one type of treatment or another.

How to choose a practitioner

Whilst the government is currently introducing a regulatory framework for aesthetic treatments, the UK aesthetics industry is still largely unregulated.

A good place to start researching where to have a beauty procedure is by word of mouth or personal recommendations, reading online testimonies or reviews. Asking what qualifications practitioners hold and what continuing training they are doing, as well as what levels of medical indemnity insurance they hold will also offer peace of mind. And a visit to a beauty salon and meeting both practitioners and clients face to face will give you a good feel of an establishment.

Companies and individual practitioners should be registered with the Care Quality Commission, as this offers a rigorous process of checks and proof that they are fit to provide good quality care.

Personalised treatments

We are all different and no beauty treatment works the same for each of us. The best aesthetics company never offer a one size fits all approach to treatment, instead tailoring treatments to a client's specific needs, aims, budget and medical circumstances. A treatment plan should begin with the practitioner getting to know the client, formulating a treatment plan, clearly highlighting potential risks and costs and setting out an aftercare plan. The best companies aim to meet their clients' needs and do not suggest treatments that are not needed. Good follow-up care is the sign of a top company and putting the welfare of the clients first, they will have a follow-up policy to check on customer satisfaction, any concerns after treatment and potential future treatments.

A good aesthetics company not only helps you look better but feel better too and likely has many highly satisfied clients who are more than happy to attest to that.

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The UK has a level of biodiversity which places us amongst the bottom 10% of countries in this world. Endless experts and scientists consider the use of pesticides to be a significant factor in this decline. Pesticides are not discriminating, they will kill the many beneficial creatures as well as the pests. But if we don't spray, how will our plants survive attacks by pests? Companion planting is one strategy, by simply placing protective plants close to those we want to keep pests from eating.

Insects rely on their strong sense of smell over long distances. Growing just one type of plant that they love (like vegetables) holds up a flag to them: "Here we are - come and get us!" And they will! Vegetables smell irresistible to pests. By mixing in a range of aromatic, highly scented herbs, which give off a scent so strong that it irritates the systems of many pests and hides the more attractive smell of your vegetables, pests will keep away. Plants such as rosemary, lavender, mint and basil contain linalool, a chemical whose smell can overwhelm insects. Planting them around your vegetables will help to deter pests.

Companion Planting



Chives contain pungent sulphurous compounds which disguise the smell of your vegetables or flowers, so aphids fly on by! Fringe vegetable patches with chives and plant French marigolds in the greenhouse as their smell deters aphids that might be tempted in by the attractive aroma of tomatoes.

Another strategy is sacrificial planting. What's this? Simply put, it's offering the insects something more tempting to keep them off your special plants! Nasturtiums, abundant in sweet nectar, pollen, and soft sappy growth, are the ultimate culinary delight for many pests, such as black fly. Push seeds into the ground near crops. This highly prized treat attracts pests away from other plants. They love to suck nasturtium sap and then lay their eggs there rather than move over to your vegetables. In this way nasturtiums act as a sacrificial alternative.

Next, why not attract beneficial insects who will eat your pests?! Ladybirds and Lacewings, and especially their hungry larvae, eat insects in vast quantities. These are your very best friends. Grow lots of flowers to attract them. They fly in for nectar, spot your pests and gobble them up, then lay their eggs on your vegetables thinking

the pests will be a good source of food for the soon-to-hatch larvae who eat around 100 pests a day! I have seen ladybird larvae on a runner bean area, solidly black with infestation, clear the beans in about a week!

Had you sprayed, this would not have happened: you would have killed the lacewings, ladybirds and other beneficial insects, your vegetables would have contained toxic residues and your flowers would have contained toxic pollen and nectar, which visiting insects would have absorbed.

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1 egg
1 egg yolk
325g chocolate chips



Method

Grease or line 2 large baking trays.
Sift together the flour, bicarb and salt.
Cream together the butter and two sugars until light and fluffy.
Beat in the vanilla, egg and egg yolk until light and creamy.
Mix in the sifted ingredients and the chocolate chips until well combined.

Drop the cookie dough on the baking trays. For large cookies use around 4 tbsp of dough. Space 8cm apart and do not flatten. Cook for approx. 20 mins until the edges are lightly toasted.
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Todwick Historical Society

Our next meeting is on 10 March 2026 in Todwick Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Our guest speaker, Tony Dodsworth, will be speaking about the General Strike and continuing coal lock out of 1926, with special references to the South Yorkshire area. Admission is £3 for members and £4 for guests. Refreshments are provided and all are welcome.

Litter Picking Locations

Dinnington & Anston March 2026

Meet on Thursdays 9-9.30am/bag drop area:

5th - Junction Church Lane/Athorpe Road

12th - Junction Old Church Lane/opposite Briddon Gates

19th - Junction Outgang Lane/Undergate Road

26th - Entrance Greenlands Park car park

For more info: len@fowkes42.plus.com

Bassetlaw Branch Parkinson's UK

The next meeting takes place at Workshop Cricket Club, Central Avenue, Worksop S80 1EN on Tues 3rd February at 2pm, when the guest speaker will be Mike Storr entertaining us with humorous stories of the old "Masters of Mirth".

Other activities available to members include walking football, singing for well-being, ballroom dancing, Pilates, cinema club, indoor bowling, lunch club and golf to mention but a few. It is also perfectly fine if members prefer not to join them and just enjoy a friendly afternoon chat over a cup of tea at one of the monthly meetings.

For more details of the Branch and its many benefits please contact Chris Coldwell on 01909 730629.

Anston Arts and Crafts

Spring is just around the corner and Easter is beckoning. Crafts to celebrate are being created by our lovely members to display around their homes. Beautiful flowers are being painted and embroidered, and just for a bit of silliness we are having an Easter bonnet parade!

In 2026 we are trying to work our way around the seasons and look forward to starting our Green Man project later in the year. We will be using clay (a new medium to some of our group), along with textiles and paint to depict this ancient, primarily pre-Christian symbol, representing nature, rebirth and the cycle of growth – a guardian of the forest.

If you would like to join us, we are at Anston Parish Hall on Wednesdays, 12-3pm. We provide tea, coffee and biscuits. Your first week is free and then just £3 per week. We are a friendly group who will help you to settle in and make new friends.

For more information about our activities please just pop in or contact our Membership Secretary Sue Sayles on 01909 564891 or email roysayles123@btinternet.com who will be happy to answer your queries.

A Big Thank You

On 11 February, I set off on my mobility scooter (my buggy) to go to town. I had almost reached the end of Barleycroft Lane (Dinnington) when the buggy suddenly stopped and everything went dead. I had no choice but to try to push the buggy home, to Swinston Hill Road. It was very heavy, and even on Barleycroft Lane, it was a struggle. There was no chance that I could push it up past St Joseph's church, so I went via Western Avenue/Central Avenue.

When I had nearly reached Central Avenue, a young girl came and asked if I wanted a push. I was most grateful, as I was exhausted. Between us, we pushed the buggy along Swinston Hill Road, and when nearly home, a lady stopped her car and came to help. We finally got the buggy (and me) home, and I was so thankful. When I got into the house, I was overwhelmed by their kindness and cried. Crying is easy for a nonagenarian.

I don't think I thanked the two ladies at the time, so I hope they read this. They will recognise themselves if they do. I offer them my heartfelt thanks, especially the teenage girl who pushed the buggy a very long way. You are an angel. Not all the angels are in heaven!

R.S. 107

Voglia d'Italia

The Italian Society for South Yorks and North Notts presents: *Edward Lear at Sestri Levante. Topographical Art as a Source for Landscape History*. Professor Ross Balzaretti will talk about the drawings, mostly watercolour, which Lear made in May 1860. The talk will be illustrated with many images of his work as well as his contemporary diaries.

Friday 6 March 2026, 7.30 pm, Tickhill Parish Room, Northgate, Tickhill, DN11 9HZ. Non-members are welcome, admission £5. Further information: 01709 370895.

The Cardiac Support Group

On Friday, 6 February, our speaker was Hannah Goulding from Bluebell Wood. She obviously loves her job and gave us a good idea of the excellent work carried out there.

Our next meeting is on Friday 6 March at 2pm, when we welcome our old friend Ann Featherstone. An excellent story teller, her subject is: *I'll polish him off*. All welcome, please join us! £2 per meeting. Venue: Workshop Cricket Club. Refreshments included.

Pat Broskom (chair), 01909 562361

South Anston Methodist Church

Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday Service at 10am with Deacon Emily Hoe- Crook. All are welcome.

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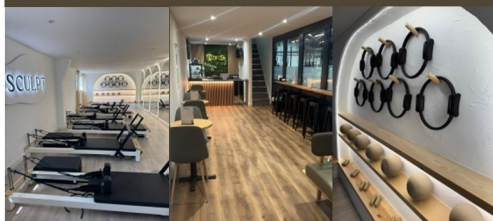
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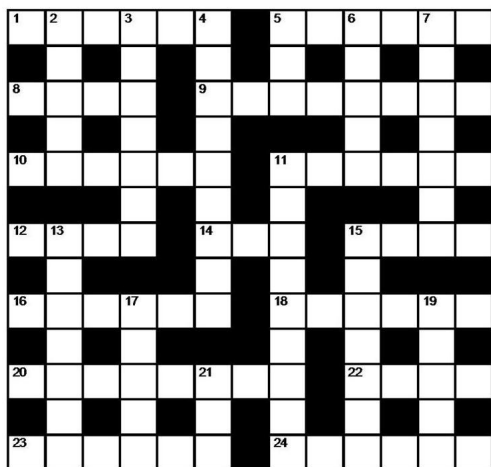
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Crossword



Across

- 1 Material used to make tents (6)
- 5 Skimpy knickers! (6)
- 8 Earth, compost (4)
- 9 Green vegetable (8)
- 10 Bendy fruit (6)
- 11 Hard yellowish tooth deposit (6)
- 12 Area, region (4)
- 14 Frozen water (3)
- 15 Nip, chomp (4)
- 16 Expression, brief utterance (6)
- 18 Lightweight waterproof jacket (6)
- 20 Sticky insect trap (8)
- 22 Barrage, bombardment (4)
- 23 Undercover, secret (6)
- 24 Brine (6)

Down

- 2 Odour, scent (5)
- 3 Group of houses, rural community (7)
- 4 The Beatles sang about a yellow one! (9)
- 5 As well, also (3)
- 6 Coveted film award (5)
- 7 Dashing, debonair (7)
- 11 Dictionary of synonyms and antonyms (9)
- 13 Shakespearean play (7)
- 15 House of ill repute! (7)
- 17 Bramley, Granny Smith, Cox (5)
- 19 Extra-terrestrial (5)
- 21 Container, vessel (3)

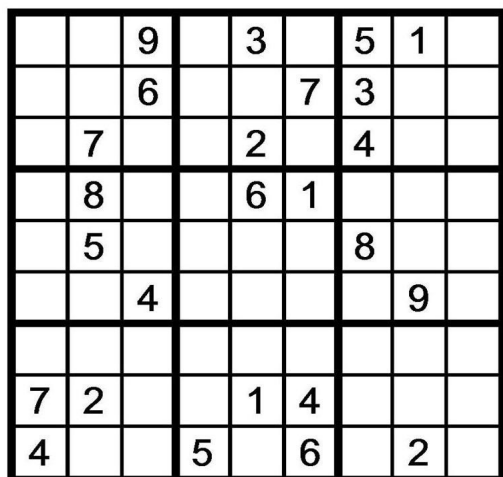
Sudoku

How to play Sudoku

It's simple! Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3 x 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repetition.

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Sudoku is highly addictive!

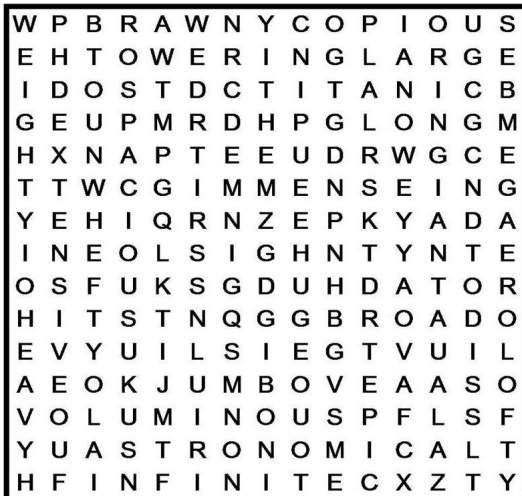


Solutions on Page 46

Word Search

This month all the words in the grid are synonyms for BIG!

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|------------|
| astronomical | giant | jumbo | titanic |
| brawny | grand | large | towering |
| broad | great | lofty | tremendous |
| chunky | heavy | long | vast |
| copious | hefty | mega | voluminous |
| deep | huge | mighty | weighty |
| epic | hulking | outsized | whopping |
| extensive | immense | spacious | wide |
| fat | infinite | tall | |





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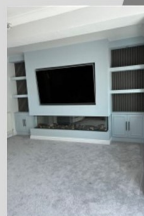


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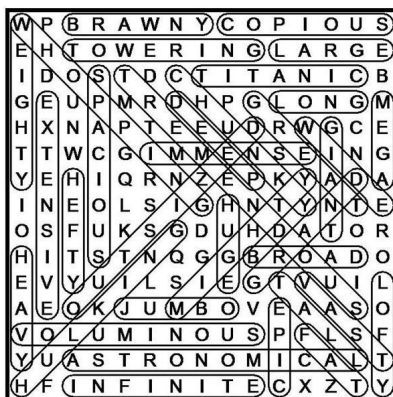
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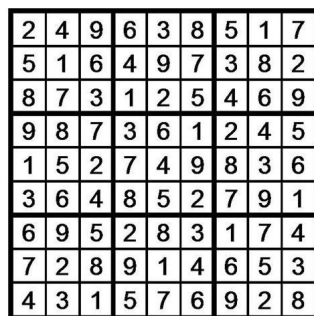
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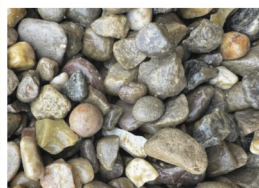
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