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Editor's Note

A friend asked me today how I decide what to write about in this Editor's Note. I replied that I usually talk about what's going on in my life, so the topic this month is TEETH!

I've never liked my teeth. One not-very-kind friend of my parents once compared them to the Giant's Causeway. I had no idea what that was at the time, but it didn't sound complimentary.

So, after 65 years of tooth dissatisfaction, in September last year I finally decided to get aligners fitted. Nine months later, my teeth are as good as they're going to get. They're not perfect, but are definitely straighter than they were!

Last year I also had problems with tooth ache. After two visits to emergency dentists, I decided to have the offending pre-molar extracted - a decision I have regretted ever since. I cannot get used to constantly chewing on the other side of my mouth, so now I'm planning on getting an implant.

I'm not the only one spending my children's inheritance on teeth. One brother is getting a full top set of implants and the other has had his top teeth veneered. Why have we all gone crazy all of a sudden about our gnashers?! Two reasons come to mind. First, we are getting old and what once served us well is wearing out. Second, we are now able to afford to spend money on ourselves that once went on the kids!

Have a good month, and don't forget to brush and floss!

Until next time...

Debbie Singh-Bhatti

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If your home has small and impractical spaces, what can you do to create the illusion of having more space? For an out of proportion narrow room with a high ceiling, installing a false ceiling with recessed downlighters will help to balance the proportions of the room. By shortening the height of the room, it will instantly look wider. An alternative to this is to change the floor level, which could make the ambience of a large dining room or living room more intimate.

If you aren't brave enough to start altering ceilings and floors, or you own a period home that shouldn't be tampered with too much, there are other ways to change the illusion of a room's dimensions. Square spaces can be visually lengthened by placing a pair of screens or open shelving units that mirror each other across the room. Other contemporary room dividers include fabric panels, glass bricks - and don't forget about cleverly placed mirrors! Mirrors can give the illusion of a room being longer, and early 19th century architect Sir John Soane used mirrors to create the illusion of window portholes.

Glass is a popular material for interiors. Glass tables blend into the background and won't overcrowd a space-challenged room and glass used in place of staircase spindles allows natural

light to flood into otherwise dark spaces, helping to maximise the illusion of space.

If you have a garden next to your room, visually bringing it indoors will help to fool the eye into seeing a larger space than there actually is. Choose garden furniture that coordinates with your interior furniture and add indoor plants to your room to tie in both areas. You can increase this effect by using the same floor covering inside and outside, for example weather-hardy sandstone, terracotta or slate tiles, or outdoor decking stained to match wooden interior floors.



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Could You Be Over Insured?

Insurance is designed to offer peace of mind, yet but for many households, it can quietly become an unnecessary expense. From mobile phones and appliances to pets and travel, it's easy to accumulate multiple policies without fully considering whether they're needed. The result? Overlapping cover, duplicated protection, and monthly costs that add up far more quickly than expected.

The key is understanding what genuinely requires protection. Home insurance, for example, is essential. Buildings and contents cover protect against major financial loss, and most mortgage providers require it. Similarly, car insurance is a legal necessity and for many, life insurance provides important security for dependants.

Beyond these, however, the picture becomes less clear. Take gadget insurance, for instance. While it can offer reassurance, many policies overlap with existing cover - either through home insurance or even bank accounts that include device protection. Likewise, extended warranties on appliances are often unnecessary, particularly when consumer rights already provide a level of protection.

Pet insurance is another area where decisions should be carefully weighed. For some, particularly owners of pedigree breeds or older animals, it can be invaluable. For others, setting aside a dedicated savings fund may prove more cost-effective over time.

And even when it comes to matters of taxation, some insurance decisions can be left behind. Some accountants offer an HMRC Tax Inspection Insurance when, for anyone filing on time and

using digital methods, the chances of being selected for an inspection are extremely low.

Overall, a useful approach is to review policies annually. Ask yourself what you are actually protecting, and what would happen if you didn't have this cover. If the financial impact would be manageable, the policy may not be essential.

As always, the decision of what to leave and what to protect is down to the individual and the circumstances you find yourself in. There is no 'one size fits all' solution, so assess your needs and make choices based on those.

CHECK TO PROTECT

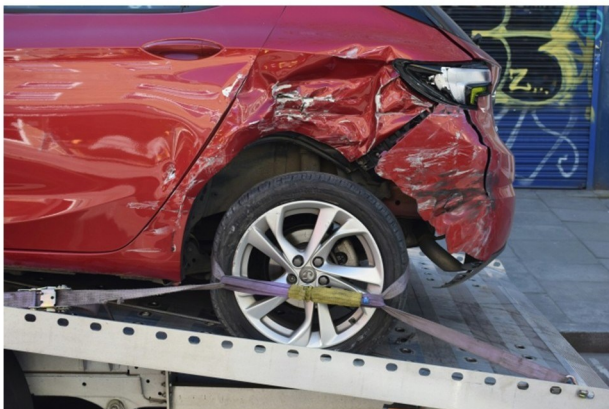
Do you have multiple policies for the same item?

Are you paying for warranties you may never use?

Could you afford to replace the item yourself?

Are you still using everything you've insured?

Have you reviewed your policies in the past 12 months?



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A cartoon illustration of a handyman. He is wearing an orange cap, an orange shirt, and blue overalls. He is holding a pencil in his right hand and a saw in his left hand. He has a friendly expression and is looking towards the viewer.


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A collage of images related to security. It includes a close-up of a security keypad, a person's hand pressing a button on the keypad, a security camera, and a gate.



At Happy Days we understand that everyone needs a break from time to time. Carers are no different, and it's important that you are able to have a rest - to run errands, meet up with friends or simply relax. Breaks are good for your physical and mental well-being and can enhance the relationship with the person you care for.

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Across the UK, a new generation of owners is embracing a more proactive, holistic approach to animal wellbeing. Preventative care, tailored nutrition and lifestyle-focused routines are becoming part of everyday pet ownership.

One of the most visible aspects of this trend is the expansion of services once considered niche. Canine physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and mobility treatments are now widely available, helping dogs recover from injury, manage arthritis and maintain strength as they age.

Nutrition, too, has become more sophisticated, with owners moving beyond standard supermarket options, exploring breed-specific diets, fresh food plans and supplements designed to support everything from joint health to digestion and coat condition.

There is also growing attention to mental wellbeing. Puzzle toys, scent training and structured play are increasingly recognised as essential tools. The idea is simple: a stimulated pet is often a calmer, happier one.

There is also a clear benefit for owners. Engaging more actively with a pet's wellbeing (through training, exercise or structured play) can strengthen the bond between animal and owner, creating a more rewarding relationship on both sides.

From physiotherapy to personalised diets, the way we care for our pets is evolving... and it may be improving their lives more than ever



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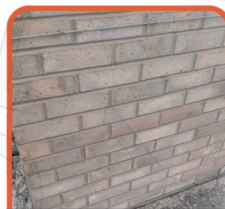
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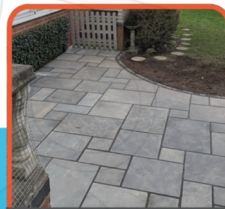


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Most of us wouldn't think twice about tidying a messy cupboard or sorting out an overflowing drawer. Yet our digital lives often become far more cluttered than our homes. Thousands of photos, hundreds of unread emails, countless apps and constant notifications can leave our devices feeling chaotic and our minds feeling overloaded.

A regular digital declutter can help you save time, reduce stress and even improve online security.

One of the biggest sources of digital clutter is photographs. Smartphones make it easy to take dozens of pictures every day, but much harder to sort them. Set aside a few minutes each week to delete blurry shots, duplicates and screenshots you no longer need. Create albums for holidays, family events or hobbies to make favourite memories easier to find. Apps such as Google Photos and Apple Photos can automatically identify duplicates and organise images by date, location and people.

Email inboxes are another common problem area. An inbox containing thousands of messages can make important emails difficult to spot. Start by unsubscribing from newsletters and promotional emails you never read. Most email providers also allow you to create folders and rules that automatically sort incoming messages. Apps such as Clean Email can help identify old messages that can be archived or deleted.

Next, take a look at your apps. Many of us download apps for a specific purpose and then forget about them. Unused apps take up storage space and can sometimes continue collecting data in the background. Remove anything you haven't used in several months and organise the rest into clearly labelled folders. You may be surprised by how much cleaner your home screen feels.



Notifications deserve special attention. Every buzz, ping and pop-up competes for your attention, making it harder to focus on what's important. Review your notification settings and ask yourself whether you really need instant alerts from every app. Limiting notifications to essentials such as calls, messages and calendar reminders can make a noticeable difference to productivity and wellbeing.

Finally, use your decluttering session as an opportunity to improve online security. Delete old accounts you no longer use and update weak passwords. Consider using a password manager such as Bitwarden, 1Password or LastPass to create and store strong, unique passwords for every account. Enabling two-factor authentication wherever possible adds an extra layer of protection.

Digital clutter doesn't build up overnight, and it won't disappear instantly. However, a few minutes of maintenance each week can keep your devices organised, efficient and secure. Think of it as housekeeping for the digital age—less clutter, less stress and more time to enjoy the technology that is supposed to make life easier.

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The concept of a 'daily reset' is straightforward: short, manageable interventions that help restore balance, both physically and mentally, without requiring a complete overhaul of your routine.

In other words, rather than committing to an hour at the gym or a strict wellness regime, it's about finding moments within the day that allow you to pause, reset and refocus.

A 10-minute walk, particularly outdoors, can boost circulation, increase energy levels and provide a valuable break from screens. Exposure to natural light also plays a role in regulating sleep patterns, helping to align the body's internal clock. And walking is one of the simplest and most accessible forms of exercise, yet often one of the most effective.

Breathing exercises are another powerful tool. Slowing the breath, even for just a few minutes, can activate the body's relaxation response, reducing stress and improving concentration.

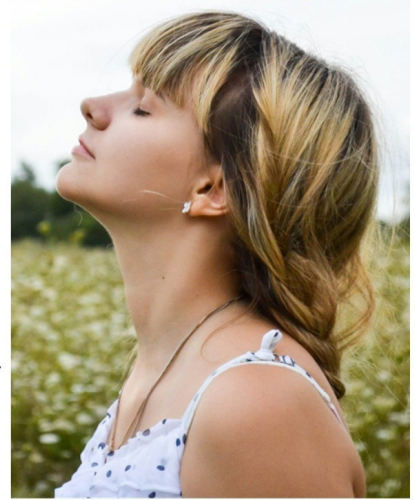
Then there's hydration – starting the day with a glass of water, or simply making a conscious effort to drink more regularly, can have an immediate effect on how alert and energised you feel.

A nutrition reset might include a healthy snack, and let's not forget the mental component here as well - taking a few moments to step back, reflect or simply sit without distraction can help clear the mind and improve focus.

The key to all of this is consistency rather than intensity. Over time, these small habits begin to compound, creating noticeable improvements in energy, mood and overall wellbeing.

The 10 Minute Daily Reset

Small habits that improve sleep, energy and focus



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For generations, car ownership has been a cornerstone of British life. So often it's been a symbol of independence, convenience and identity. Yet that model is beginning to shift. Across towns and cities, a growing number of drivers are asking if they actually need to own a car anymore.

The answer, increasingly, is no - or at least not in the way we once did. At the most flexible end of the scale sit services like Enterprise Car Club, where vehicles can be booked by the hour and collected from designated local bays. For occasional drivers, it offers access to a car without the cost or commitment of keeping one. Insurance, fuel and maintenance are typically included, and the experience is managed through an app.

Step up from that, and you find the emerging world of car subscriptions, often described as the 'Netflix model' of motoring. Instead of buying or financing a vehicle, drivers pay a monthly fee that bundles together the car, insurance, servicing and breakdown cover.

National providers such as Ono and Care by Volvo have helped bring the concept into the mainstream, particularly in the electric vehicle market, but there are now local providers offering this service.

The appeal is clear - there is no long-term contract, no concern over depreciation, and in many cases the option to swap vehicles depending on lifestyle. A driver might choose a compact city car one month, then switch to a larger model for a family holiday. It is a level of flexibility that traditional ownership simply cannot match.

Of course, that flexibility comes at a cost. Monthly subscription fees are typically higher than standard finance deals, and mileage limits can apply. For high-mileage drivers or those seeking the lowest possible cost, ownership (whether outright or via PCP) still makes the most financial sense.

However, the equation is no longer purely financial. Convenience, certainty and adaptability are becoming just as important as price. With insurance premiums rising, maintenance costs unpredictable, and urban parking increasingly scarce, the traditional burdens of ownership are harder to justify.

What we are seeing is not the end of car ownership, but the expansion of choice. Drivers are beginning to mix models depending on their needs, using car clubs for short trips, subscriptions for medium-term flexibility, and ownership only if necessary.

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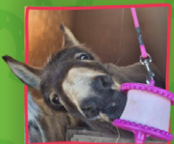


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With free entry and plenty to enjoy for all ages, visitors can meet some of our rescued farm animals, feed the donkeys, brush a pony, take part in dog agility, browse craft stalls and enjoy delicious refreshments from Stella's Café.

As well as providing a fun-filled day for the community, the event is helping raise funds for Thornberry's farm animals. We are currently aiming to raise **£4,300** for essential new equipment that will improve grazing areas and help us provide the very best care for the ponies, donkeys, sheep and other animals who call Thornberry home.

Whether you're an animal lover, looking for a great family activity, or simply fancy a lovely afternoon in the countryside, we'd love to welcome you along.

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July Entertainment

TV HIGHLIGHTS

Sugar - Apple TV – July

The second series of this much anticipated neo-noir mystery drama series starring Hollywood heart throb Colin Farrell as John Sugar hits small screens this July. Sugar is a private investigator in Los Angeles who is searching for his missing sister whilst uncovering the seedier side of LA. One new case involves the brother of a local boxer which opens a deeper investigation into the city's underworld. Also stars Kirby, Amy Ryan and Hollywood veteran James Cromwell.

Avatar: The Last Airbender – Netflix July

In this exciting, animated fantasy, Aang thinks he is one of the few surviving Airbender, who are individuals from the Air Nomad culture, which values freedom, peace, and spiritual enlightenment. Airbenders can manipulate and control air, using it for defence, mobility, and offense. The story follows Aang and another Airbender named Tagah as they fight to try and restore their culture.

XXIII Commonwealth Games – TNT Sports

When the Australian state of Victoria withdrew as the original host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in 2023, Glasgow stepped in and promised to deliver a games to remember. After the mega successful 2014 games in the city, few would doubt that Glasgow can make the XXIII Commonwealth Games the best ever. Although it is by its own admission a slimmed down games compared to previous events there will be still over 3000 athletes from 74 countries participating in events like cycling, swimming and athletics and promising world class performances.

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LARGE SCREEN HIGHLIGHTS

Minions & Monsters (Universal) 1st July

This upcoming animated comedy film is the third instalment in the Minions series and the seventh overall in the Despicable Me franchise. It features the voices of Zoey Deutch, Christoph Waltz, Jeff Bridges, and The West Wing's Allison Janney. The story takes place in the 1920s and follows the intrepid Minions as they embark on a new quest to find monsters to cast in their own monster movie! Expect more brilliant comic mayhem and chaos.

My Father's Island (Curzon) 3rd July

Also known as Sukkwan Island, this movie is a haunting emotional drama set in the Norwegian wilderness premiered at last year's Sundance Festival to critical acclaim. The story follows a haunted young man as he travels to a remote Norwegian island to reconnect with his estranged father and confront the traumatic experience that they shared ten years earlier which transformed their relationship.

Moana (Disney) 10th July

Disney Studios Moana is a live action adaptation of the highly successful 2016 animated movie of the same name. With a mission to restore prosperity to her people by recovering the heart of the goddess Te Fiti, which has been stolen, our heroine Moana answers the ocean's call and embarks on a daring voyage beyond the reef of her island.

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How to Attract Birds to Your Garden



Invest In A Feeder Or Table

From hanging feeders that you can place in a tree or on your balcony to larger, ornamental tables that could become a feature of the garden, there's sure to be a feeder to suit your budget and style. Placing a food source in a safe place is a sure-fire way to attract a whole host of birds.

Find A Safe Space

This should be somewhere quiet, where birds can eat without fear of being disturbed. It should also be somewhere safe, where predators can't easily

reach them as they eat. Lastly, somewhere sheltered would be useful, so they aren't disturbed, or hurt, by strong winds. Do this, and they'll be happily eating before you know it!

Clean And Tidy

It's important to keep your table or feeder clean and hygienic, as diseases and infections pass very easily between bird species. Use a long bristled brush with warm, soapy water in a bucket and carefully and thoroughly clean the feeder or table. If you can, use a non-toxic and mild disinfectant to get rid of any nasty bugs. Make sure it's completely dry before re-filling with food.

What's On The Menu?

Different bird species enjoy a wide variety of food. Blue tits and great tits love seeds, peanuts and even suet. Finches enjoy a tasty sunflower heart and will happily eat leftover bread, fruits such as apples and pears and unsalted nuts too. Just take care to clear them away before they get mouldy!

Follow these tips and you can not only enjoy regular visits from our feathered friends, but you can also feel good knowing that you are helping to keep the bird species of the UK healthy, strong, and thriving!



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Gardening in July

The Lawn

Watering is one of the most time-consuming jobs this month. For best results, water early in the morning or late in the evening for minimal evaporation. Lawns may be showing signs of stress, but they are very resilient, and a dry brown lawn will recover fully with a downpour or two. However, it is still important not to neglect to water your garden while on holiday. It is well worth asking a family member, friend or neighbour to pop around regularly or consider installing an irrigation system to take away the worry.

Vegetables

There is a lot to harvest this month. Potatoes should be ready to dig up and enjoy, and runner beans should be cropping heavily. Runner beans freeze well after a quick blanch in boiling water. Broad beans are great this month too. Remember to cut the plants down after harvesting but leave the roots in the soil to release nitrogen as they decompose, enriching the soil.

Courgettes should be picked regularly to avoid them growing into marrows, perhaps leaving a few to grow into these garden

giants. Tomatoes should be picked frequently, and the plants should be monitored closely, removing any side shoots that are growing. Remember to feed plants regularly.

Continue to sow salad leaves and radishes but in small amounts to ensure regular cropping. Sow the final batch of peas and dwarf beans for an autumn crop.

Fruit

Strawberries are still fruiting well and are juicy and delicious. Raspberries are just coming to their best with succulent fruits as are blackcurrants, redcurrants and gooseberries, all of which preserve well. If you have nectarines and peaches, they should be perfect to pick now.

Flowers

To ensure continuous flowering, deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials and they will continue to look magnificent. With some tender loving care sweet peas should be full of perfume and colour for months to come.

Rob Bullock



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Roman Fried Chicken with Tomatoes

Ingredients (serves 4)

4 skin-on chicken thighs, deboned (500g)
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1½ tsp dried oregano
105ml olive oil
15g oregano sprigs
130g unsmoked pancetta, chopped
½ tsp fennel seeds, lightly crushed
1tsp tomato paste
¾ tsp chilli flakes
300g datterini tomatoes
½ tsp maple syrup
1½ tsp white wine vinegar
Fine sea salt and black pepper

Method

1. Place the chicken thighs in a bowl with the garlic, dried oregano, 1 tablespoon of the olive oil, ½ teaspoon of salt and a good grind of pepper. Mix well then set aside to marinate for at least 1 hour (or up to overnight in the fridge).

2. Place a large frying pan over medium heat. Once hot, add 30 ml of the oil and place the chicken thighs skin side down. Cook undisturbed for 7–9 minutes, until the skin is deeply golden and crisp. Turn over and cook for a further 4–5 minutes, until cooked through. Transfer to a plate and leave to rest for 5 minutes before slicing into 2–3 cm pieces.

3. Meanwhile, place a sauté pan over medium heat and add the remaining 60 ml of olive oil.



Add the oregano sprigs and fry for 2–3 minutes, turning once, until crisp and fragrant. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside on kitchen paper.

4. In the same pan, add the pancetta and cook for 3–4 minutes, until golden and crisp. Stir in the fennel seeds and cook for 30 seconds. Add the tomato paste and chilli flakes, cook for another minute then stir in the tomatoes. Cook for 5–7 minutes, stirring frequently, until they burst and soften but still hold their shape.

5. Stir through the maple syrup, vinegar and ½ teaspoon of salt, then remove from the heat. Arrange the sliced chicken on a serving platter and spoon over the sauce, along with any resting juices. Sprinkle the crispy oregano on top and serve with bread to mop up the sauce.

Recipe by Yotam Ottolenghi



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Anston Arts and Crafts

Busy as bees around a honey pot – that's our crafters! We currently have a myriad of projects underway or "in the pipeline" and are excited to see them come to fruition.

Our group has many talented members who are all willing to provide help and assistance, and organise a craft or two during the year. Why not come and join us and have a cup of tea and a biscuit or two and make new friends along the way? Your first week is free.

We meet every Wednesday 12pm – 3pm at Anston Parish Hall, Ryton Road, North Anston. Sue, our Membership Secretary, will be on hand to welcome you but if you'd like further information before giving us a try, contact Sue on 01909 564891 or email roysayles123@btinternet.com. We look forward to meeting you.

Todwick Historical Society

Our next meeting is on July 14th at 7.30pm in Todwick Village Hall. Susan Deal will be giving a talk titled "A Woman's Place: The Victorian Home and Housework." If you had been a working class Victorian housewife how would you have heated and lit your house, done your washing, cooking and cleaning and how much would it have cost you? Come along and listen to Susan's interesting talk.

Admission: members £3, guests £4. Refreshments are included. All are welcome.

Litter Picking Locations July 2026 Dinnington and Anston

Meeting Thursdays at 9-9.30am/ bag drop area:
2nd - Junction of Outgang Lane/Undergate Rd
9th - Entrance of Greenlands Park car park
16th - Junction of Pennypiece Lane/Quarry Lane
23rd - Junction of Houghton Rd/Todwick Rd Ind Est
30th - Dinnington Market & car parks/near bus station entrance of Old Church Lane opposite Briddon Gates

More Info: len@fowkes42.plus.com

Workshop Probup Club

Probup provides retired professional and business men with an annual programme of visits, lunches and informal get togethers for a chat and a coffee, with presentations by speakers on alternate Fridays from 10am to 12pm at St John's Parish Centre, Carlton in Lindrick. Visit https://www.probusclubofworkshop.co.uk.

Come along and try us out for free without obligation – contact Chris Stanton on 01709 818927 or email cdstanton@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

Sept 4 - Alan Withington - Cyanotypes, taking photos without a camera

Sept 18 - Ian Mather - Retford Little Theatre

Oct 2 - Stephen Gay - Cleethorpes or bust!

Oct 1 - Autumn Lunch – Venus, Dinnington

Kiveton and District Women's Club

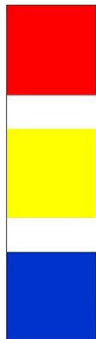
Ladies, why not come and join us at Kiveton Park and Wales Village Hall on Monday 21st September when Stephen Gay will be telling us about another of his train journeys? We meet from 1.30pm till 3.30pm, on the first and second Mondays in the month. It costs £3 with an optional £1 for a raffle ticket, and refreshments are included. We have our AGM and social on 5th October, then on Monday 19th October we have Alva de Chiro to tell us about her husband's life story as a young Italian boy at the start of WW2. We have additional speakers until the end of the year so I will keep you informed. Do come and join us. Contact Joan Bramley 07767 838265 or joanbramley@outlook.com.

Events at South Anston Methodist Church

Sat 11th July - Anston Male Voice Choir Concert in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, start time 7pm. Tickets £10

Sunday 12th July- Church Anniversary Service at 10am

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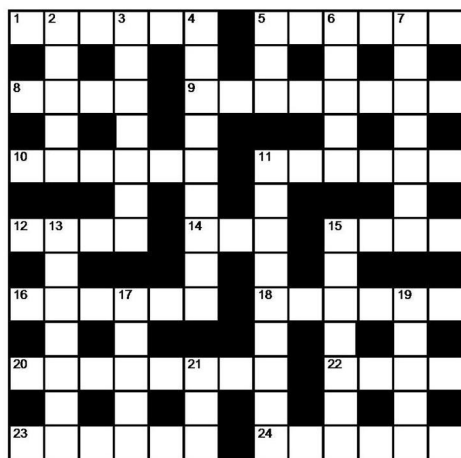


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Crossword



Across

- 1 Thick material used to make tents (6)
- 5 Backless sandals with toe-post (6)
- 8 Planting medium (4)
- 9 Green vegetable (8)
- 10 Fruit beloved of monkeys (6)
- 11 Sauce served with seafood (6)
- 12 Area (4)
- 14 Frozen water (3)
- 15 8 Bits (computer term) (4)
- 16 Expression (6)
- 18 Waterproof jacket (6)
- 20 Sticky insect trap (8)
- 22 Acclaim, cheer (4)
- 23 Capital of Russia (6)
- 24 Brine (6)

Down

- 2 Fragrance (5)
- 3 Rural community (7)
- 4 Boat, or type of sandwich! (9)
- 5 Also (3)
- 6 Golden award (5)
- 7 Chivalrous (7)
- 11 Reference book for writers (9)
- 13 Shakespearean tragedy (7)
- 15 House of ill-repute (7)
- 17 Savoury jelly (5)
- 19 Extra-terrestrial (5)
- 21 Foot (3)

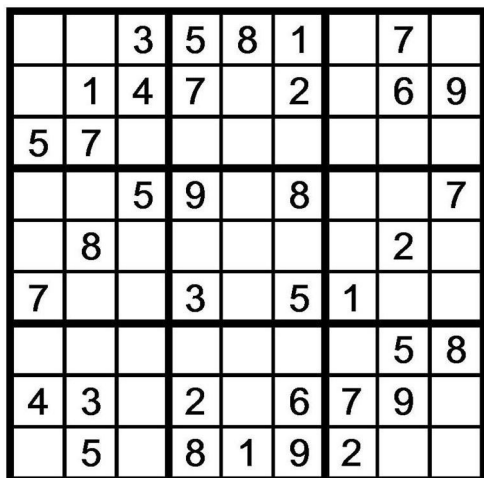
Sudoku

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 38

Word Search

Can you find all of the holiday-related words hidden in the grid?

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| airport | coast | hiking | outing | rest |
| beach | cottage | holiday | packing | sailing |
| bistro | cruise | hotel | park | sand |
| break | ferry | jet ski | play | sea |
| cafe | fishing | journey | pool | suitcases |
| camping | flight | lodge | reading | sunbathe |
| caravan | haven | museum | resort | tour |



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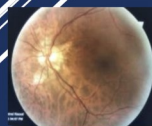
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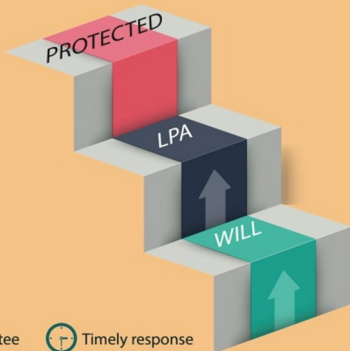
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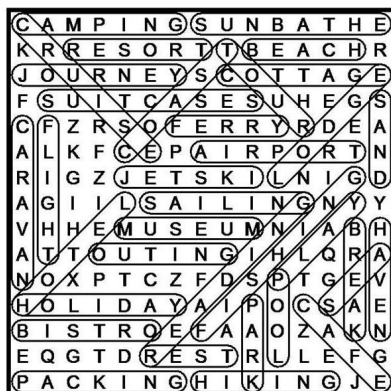
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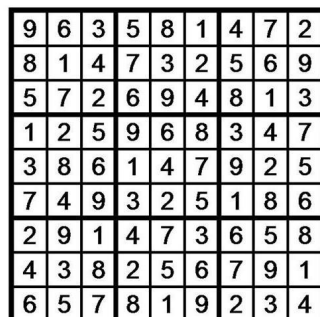
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