



SUMMER GARDENING

ESSENTIAL TASKS FOR YOUR GARDEN THIS SUMMER

UK FESTIVALS

FESTIVAL SEASON IS UPON US
SO LETS GET READY TO ROCK

SUMMER SALADS

CREATE A SUMMER SALAD
TO BE PROUD OF

DIY DECKING

A GUIDE TO BUILDING YOUR
OWN DECKING AREA

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

GET READY FOR THE
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

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WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION

We're in the middle of summer, the schools are breaking up and the sun is shining. In this month's magazine, on pages 2&3 we look at how to start a new garden from scratch, including hard landscaping, planting styles and new borders. Whether you have inherited a new garden or are still working with an existing one, on pages 8&9, we have a full-proof guide to help you build your own decking area.

Leeds, Reading and Glastonbury may have come and gone, however, there are lots of other festivals upcoming, and on pages 4&5 we look at some of the best. Keeping with the festival theme, on page 6 we review some of the best tents on the market.

Keeping with the outdoors theme, on page 7, we offer some great healthy summer salads to serve alongside your BBQ, and on page 12 we have our guide to the hottest firepits on the market. As well as all these great features, we also have our usual monthly gardening guide, a preview of the Women's World Cup and a further preview of the summer blockbusters to expect on the silver screen this summer.

So grab a beer or a glass of wine, put your feet up and enjoy this month's magazine.

Jonathan Wheatley
Editor



A bare lawn can be a blank canvas waiting to be transformed into a vibrant and inviting garden. With careful planning and thoughtful design, you can create a beautiful oasis filled with colorful flower borders and stunning hard landscaping features. In this article, we will guide you through the process of turning your ordinary lawn into a breathtaking garden that will be the envy of your neighborhood.

STEP 1: ASSESSING YOUR SPACE AND SETTING GOALS

Before diving into any garden project, it's essential to assess your space and determine your goals. Consider the size of your lawn, the amount of sunlight it receives, and any existing elements that you would like to incorporate or remove. Think about how you envision your dream garden: Do you want a serene retreat or a vibrant and lively space? Having a clear vision will guide your decisions throughout the project.

STEP 2: DESIGNING YOUR FLOWER BORDERS

Flower borders are a fantastic way to add colour, texture, and visual interest to your garden. Start by selecting a variety of flowers that bloom at different times of the year, ensuring that your garden remains lively and colourful throughout the seasons. Consider the height, growth habits, and colour schemes of the flowers to create a harmonious and balanced composition.



TRANSFORMING YOUR LAWN INTO A BLOOMING PARADISE

Creating a beautiful garden with flower borders and hard landscaping

Sketch out a plan for your flower borders, keeping in mind the shape and dimensions of your lawn. Aim for a mix of perennials and annuals, allowing for continuous blooming year after year. Remember to factor in the growth requirements of each plant, including sunlight, soil type, and moisture needs. Group plants with similar requirements together to make maintenance easier.

STEP 3: IMPLEMENTING HARD LANDSCAPING FEATURES

Incorporating hard landscaping features such as pathways, patios, and focal points can add structure and functionality to your garden. Determine the areas where you would like to introduce these elements, keeping in mind the flow of foot traffic and the overall aesthetics of your design.

For pathways, consider using materials like natural stone, gravel, or brick, depending on your preferred style. Create curves and gentle bends to add visual interest and guide visitors through your garden. Patios and seating areas can be designed to complement the overall theme of your garden, providing spaces for relaxation and entertaining.

STEP 4: PREPARING THE SOIL AND PLANTING

Prepare the soil in your flower borders by removing any weeds, rocks, or debris. Loosen the soil and add organic matter such as compost to improve its structure and fertility. Follow the planting instructions for each flower, ensuring proper spacing and depth.

When planting, consider the color combinations and varying heights of the flowers to create a visually appealing arrangement. Mix textures and shapes to add

depth and interest. As you plant, visualize how the flowers will grow and interact with each other over time.

STEP 5: MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Maintaining your garden is key to its long-term success. Regularly water your plants, especially during dry spells, and mulch the flower borders to help retain moisture and suppress weed growth. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage new blooms, and remove any diseased or damaged foliage to maintain the health of your plants.

Prune shrubs and hedges as needed to maintain their shape and size. Weed regularly to keep your flower borders looking clean and tidy. Additionally, fertilise your plants according to their specific needs to ensure healthy growth.

Transforming a bare lawn into a stunning garden filled with flower borders and hard landscaping features is a rewarding and fulfilling project. With careful planning, design, and maintenance, you can create a space that brings joy and beauty throughout the year. Remember to assess your space, set clear goals, design your flower borders, implement hard landscaping features, and care for your plants. Soon, you'll be enjoying a garden that will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of your home but also provide a tranquil sanctuary for you to relax and unwind in the beauty of nature.





LET THE

Festival season is upon us, so dig out your tent and wellies and get set to rock on ...

Ah, the music festival. A staple of summer in these sunny isles. A gathering of thousands in a random park or field, all there to groan about ticket prices, the cost of a pint or the queues for the toilets while waiting patiently to go nuts when the headline act strides into the spotlight.

Already we have been treated to the behemoths that are Glastonbury and Download, but there are many to come - some big, some small - but all providing a stage for acts we know, acts we have forgotten but were big Back In The Day, and acts which could be the next big thing.

Here's a little sample of what you can expect this month.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME, HYDE PARK

A bit of a fixture now in the capital, BST spans four weekends from late June into mid-July. Last year, the American Express-backed event came out of lockdown with a bang – Adele (twice), the Rolling Stones (twice), Pearl Jam (twice), Elton John and Eagles. It was like the sponsors had passed the organisers their Gold card and said: “Oh, go on then...”

So how do you follow that? With another programme of big-hitters, that's how. Pink and Guns N' Roses took to the Great Oak Stage in June, and will be followed by Take That for their main UK date on July 1st and K-pop sensations Blackpink the following day. The Boss, Bruce Springsteen, brings the E Street Band to the royal park on July 6th and 8th, sandwiching the legend that is Billy Joel on the 7th. The enchanting Lana Del Rey brings proceedings to a close on the 9th.

Providing a stage for acts we know, acts we have forgotten but were big Back In The Day, and acts which could be the next big thing



MUSIC PLAY

LATITUDE

A little bit of Hollywood glamour has been sprinkled on this year's Latitude line-up, which runs from Friday July 21st to Sunday the 23rd.

Emmy and Golden Globe-winning actor Kiefer Sutherland, aka TV cult hero Jack Bauer, will grace the BBC Sounds stage with his band on the final day of a festival now well established in Henham Park near Southwold in Suffolk.

Headliners at the multi-genre cultural feast include George Ezra, James, Paolo Nutini and Pulp, while anyone needing a good laugh will be treated to the likes of Romesh Ranganathan, Ed Byrne, Sara Pascoe and Ed Gamble on the comedy stage.

STANDON CALLING

This one is getting increasingly popular, and rightly so. Styled "as an independent boutique music and arts festival" over four days (20th to 23rd) in the Hertfordshire countryside near Standon, this festival has been shortlisted for a raft of awards.

This year's line-up – which kicks off with the Human League on the Thursday night and features Years And Years and Self Esteem before climaxing with Bloc Party, Rick Astley and Melanie C on a crowd-pleasing Sunday – probably won't harm its reputation.

CAMP BESTIVAL

Camp Bestival really is one for all the family. Celebrating its 15th anniversary at Lulworth Castle in Dorset, the three-day party (27th to 30th) promises an eclectic mix of music, circus, family fun and activities.

Musically, there is a wildly diverse programme from Grace Jones, Craig David and Ella Henderson to The Stereo

MC's, Scouting For Girls and Sam Ryder. For the kids there's the likes of Mr Tumble, Horrible Histories and Dick & Dom; plus BigTopMania's circus skills, Cirque Bijou's Night-time Spectacular, and even an African Drumming School.

Appetite whetted? There's a second instalment at Weston Park a few miles from Shifnal in Shropshire from August 17th to 20th.

Y NOT

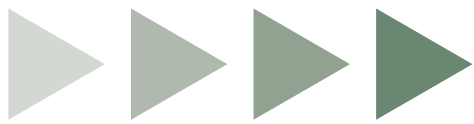
Why not indeed. Tickets are selling fast for this three-day event (July 28th to 30th) nestling on the southern fringes of the Peak District in Pike Hall, Derbyshire. Headlines include Royal Blood, Kasabian and Paul Weller, with a top-notch supporting cast including The Bombay Bicycle Club, The Wombats, KT Tunstall and a DJ set from Faithless.

TARTAN HEART FESTIVAL

Kiefer Sutherland's agent is making the most of his client's time in the UK, sending him on a near 600-mile hike from deepest Suffolk to the Belladrum Estate in Kiltarlity near Inverness for the Tartan Heart festival (27th-29th July). Ahead of him on the bill are Travis, Bastille and Sigrid. Also scheduled are the Alabama 3 and the exotic Colonel Mustard and The Dijon Five.

KENDAL CALLING

Sutherland's travels also take him to the UK's most picturesque festival in the heart of the Lake District. He's there along with Melanie C, Kasabian and Confidence Man. However, Nile Rodgers & Chic top the opening night on the 27th at Lowther Deer Park, with Royal Blood, Kaiser Chiefs, Blossoms and Example also scheduled to appear before the climax on the 30th.



PICKING THE RIGHT TENT

Having the right equipment in place for your trip can make a world of difference



There are so many options on the market, thanks to the explosion of interest in staycations



heading to a festival this summer.

STAYCATION WITH THE FAMILY

A tent is a great choice if you are heading away for a family holiday.

The rustic feel you will experience will truly get you feeling close to nature and the clean air will do you all a world of good.

There are many considerations for you to ponder when picking a tent which is going to be suitable to fit the whole family and be comfortable enough to avoid the little ones from moaning too much.

'Tent palaces' have become popular choices, which are big tents that house plenty of space for the whole family.

These include separate areas, where your little ones can have some privacy, while still being close enough to be supervised and in ear-shot.

Family holidays will be far comfier when you select a tent with a main living area, as well as separate sections for sleeping family members.

For example a Coleman Da Gama 6 includes a bright living section with a high ceiling to be able to stand, as well as three separate podded areas for sleeping.

BE FESTIVAL READY

When heading to a festival, a good choice of tent is your best friend.

Keep in mind how long it will take to set up your tent, as you do not want to spend half of your first day at a weekend festival pitching your tent, so a pop-up tent is ideal.

Also, remember to go for a slightly larger tent than you think, so if there are four of you sharing one tent, do not just go for a four-man tent, as the extra room will be greatly appreciated after a long day of dancing and singing your heart out.

Purchasing a tent can be a cost-effective solution for family holidays and trips away as you avoid the annoying added expense of a hotel or other pricey accommodation.

However, a big issue comes when trying to pick which tent to purchase, as there are so many options on the market, thanks to the explosion of interest in staycations in recent years.

There are so many different tents to choose from, which come in a variety of shapes and sizes, with plenty of choice in terms of added features.

Here are some things you should consider when purchasing a tent for family staycations, or if you are

Barbecues are fantastic, but a great salad to serve on the side is not to be underestimated



You can choose to have either the apples or grapes be red rather than green, to ensure they don't blend in with the green of the celery

CLASSIC SUMMER SALADS

These well-known dressings, though charmingly simple, can offer a unique taste and character on these classic salad recipes that go so brilliantly with barbecued meats. A good salad doesn't just complement a barbecue, it has the power to transform a dull barbecue into a wonderful memorable experience if it's done right.

A SIMPLE YET SOPHISTICATED CUCUMBER SALAD

Cucumber is the perfect summer refreshment because they are one of the few vegetables that are most delicious when served cold, keeping you nice and cool in the summer rays, and furthermore cucumbers have a high water content which keeps you hydrated in the heat.

Slice the cucumber in any way you like. If you use a peeler all around the cucumber before slicing, the slices will be interestingly shaped, making the salad all that more attractive. Dress the slices in a big salad bowl with a lovely vinaigrette. There are a variety of different vinaigrettes, all of which should have salt and pepper, and, although this isn't always necessary, have oil as a base. Vinaigrette ingredients can include: balsamic vinegar, mustard, garlic, lemon juice, and/or honey. All or some of these elements can create a delectable vinaigrette, and to be created to your bespoke liking. Simply add sliced red onions and chopped dill, along with the vinaigrette

you've made, and you have yourself an amazing summer cucumber salad to go alongside your barbecue.

HOW TO CREATE THE CLASSIC WALDORF SALAD

A Waldorf salad is equally refreshing on a summer's day, and can accompany a barbecue beautifully, since, like a cucumber salad, it's cool, it's light, and it's super healthy. Named after the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York City, where it was first created in 1896, this well-known fruit and nut salad traditionally includes celery, apples, grapes, and walnuts, finished with a mayonnaise-based dressing.

It's recommended to have the apples and celery sliced into thin strips, since the grapes and walnuts can't really be presented in this way. This provides a contrast in texture and appearance in the salad. On this note, you can choose to have either the apples or grapes be red rather than green, to ensure they don't blend in with the green of the celery – it just keeps things colourful and ensures all ingredients can be identified easily in the salad. As for the dressing, it's traditionally mayonnaise, salt, and pepper. However, adding some lemon juice or mustard will give the salad a nice punch, and you can use Greek yoghurt rather than mayonnaise as a healthier, lighter option, as it has more protein than mayonnaise and also has fewer calories.

A GUIDE TO BUILDING A DECKING AREA

Adding a decking space to your garden can provide a much needed place to sit back and relax, while making the most of your outdoor space.

While the process may seem daunting, laying your own deck is achievable and can be a very satisfying challenge to take on.

PLAN BEFORE YOU START

Take your time to fully plan out the project before you begin, in order to avoid having to make mid-day trips to a DIY store to purchase a tool which you have not thought about needing.

It will also be wise to draw out a detailed sketch of your deck, including measurements.

Keep in mind the different expansion gaps you should leave in measurements, depending on the material you are using.

For example, solid composite boards need an expansion gap of 6mm along the length of the boards while timber boards need 5mm to 8mm.

These expansion gaps, which sit between each board, allow for natural expansion and rainwater run-off.

GETTING THE AREA PREPARED

An important first step to ensure your deck build goes as planned is to make sure the area is correctly prepared.

Measure out the site according to your sketch and tap a peg into each of the four corners, before running string or builder's line between each to create a visual shape on the ground.

Now, you should skim over the area within the lines to remove any plants and stones, before running around the edge of the string with an edger to cut straight lines out of the grass.

Then use a spade to dig up the turf, exposing the ground beneath.

You can make sure the area is level by laying down one of your decking boards, with a spirit level on top.

If you are off-level, take some time to dig out any bumps, before raking the area and rechecking the level.

When building on soft ground, you have two options for what surface the decking will sit on.

You can either lay the deck directly on the ground for simplicity, or can establish concrete pads to increase the stability. When laying directly onto the ground, cover your area with a layer of weed control fabric, followed by up to 50mm of gravel.

BOARDS AT THE READY

Now your base is ready, you can move onto preparing the boards.



Adding one of these structures will completely transform your outdoor space

You can choose to purchase a complete selection of boards for your deck, or can even make use of recycled decking boards from previous projects or from others in your community.

Take a look at online marketplaces for boards which people no longer need to cut down the cost of your project.

Lay your chosen boards out and mark your desired length on each with a pencil.

You can then use a variety of tools to cut the boards, including a mitre saw or a jigsaw, for ease, or a panel saw.

Once your pieces are correctly cut down, apply a protective treatment to seal the freshly cut sections of the wood.

PUT TOGETHER THE FRAME

Now you are ready to lay out your base frame.

Lay out your decking frame before securing anything, these are the four sides of the decking which touch the floor.

Check the corners are square using a set square and keep your spirit level handy throughout to check the level.

Join the frame together by marking and drilling the pilot hole, before fixing two 150mm timber drive screws into each corner.

Now the frame is secure, check the level once again.

For the internal support boards, mark out 400mm distances along the external joists.

Add a joist hanger to each internal hanger, which can then be screwed to the external joist at each 400mm mark, when slotted inside.

Follow the line of your 400mm marker and drill pilot holes on the outside of the frame and drill through 100mm timber drive screws to secure the structure.

Once all the internal joists have been added, they should sit no further than 400mm apart.

ADDING THE DECKING BOARDS

Now is the time to secure the decking boards to the top of your structure.

Start by pre-drilling holes through the top of the board and into the frame with a 2mm bit, which will prevent the timber from splitting.

Find a suitable marker, such as a thin piece of timber, to space between each of your boards to mark out your expansion gap.

Lay one board at a time, ensuring your expansion gap is in place and you are evenly securing the boards in the same place to the frame for a clean finish.

When building on soft ground, you have two options for what surface the decking will sit on





JULY GARDENING GUIDE

Essential tasks for
the UK Gardener

By tending to essential tasks such as watering, pruning, weeding, and harvesting, you can ensure a flourishing and bountiful garden

July is a delightful month for gardening enthusiasts in the United Kingdom. With the warm weather and longer days, it's the perfect time to revel in the beauty of your garden and carry out essential tasks to keep it thriving. In this feature, we will explore the top gardening jobs to tackle in July, ensuring your outdoor space remains vibrant and abundant throughout the summer season.

WATERING AND HYDRATION

As the temperature rises, watering becomes a vital task to keep your plants healthy and hydrated. Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation and allow the soil to absorb moisture effectively. Focus on the base of the plants, making sure to reach the root zone. Container plants may require more frequent watering, so check them regularly to prevent drying out.

PRUNING AND DEADHEADING

July is an ideal time for pruning and deadheading, as most plants are in full bloom. Remove spent flowers from roses, herbaceous borders, and bedding plants to encourage continuous flowering. Prune spring-flowering shrubs such as lilacs and flowering currants after they have finished blooming. Trim hedges and shrubs to maintain their shape and promote healthy growth.

CONTROLLING WEEDS

Weeds can quickly take over your garden, stealing nutrients and water from your plants. Take time to regularly remove weeds, ensuring you remove the entire root system to prevent regrowth. Mulching flower beds and borders with organic material, such as compost or bark chips, can help suppress weed growth and retain soil moisture.



FEEDING AND FERTILIZING

To support the growth and development of your plants, consider feeding them with a balanced fertilizer. Apply a slow-release granular fertilizer to your borders, following the instructions on the packaging. Pay attention to nutrient requirements specific to each plant, ensuring you provide the right balance of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

PROTECTING FROM PESTS AND DISEASES

Keep a watchful eye for pests and diseases that can damage your plants during the summer months. Aphids, slugs, and snails are common culprits. Monitor your plants regularly and take appropriate measures, such as handpicking pests or using organic pest control methods, to prevent infestations. Consider using physical barriers like netting or horticultural fleece to protect vulnerable crops.

HARVESTING AND ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOUR

July is the month of harvest, with an abundance of fresh produce ready for picking. Enjoy the rewards of your vegetable garden by harvesting crops such as tomatoes, beans, peas, courgettes, and salad greens. Harvest fruits like strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries when they are ripe and at their flavourful best. Regularly harvesting encourages further growth and ensures the continuous productivity of your plants.

SUMMER PRUNING OF FRUIT TREES

July is an opportune time for summer pruning of fruit trees. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing branches to improve air circulation and allow sunlight to reach the fruit. Summer pruning helps maintain the shape and size of the tree, enhancing fruit quality and reducing the risk of disease.

TENDING TO THE LAWN

Give your lawn some attention in July to keep it looking lush and healthy. Mow the grass regularly, ensuring you don't cut it too short, as longer grass can help shade the soil and retain moisture during hot weather. Trim the edges for a neat appearance and use a garden fork to aerate compacted areas. Water the lawn during dry spells but remember that brown patches can recover once rainfall returns.

July offers a wealth of gardening opportunities for enthusiasts in the UK. By tending to essential tasks such as watering, pruning, weeding, and harvesting, you can ensure a flourishing and bountiful garden. As you carry out these gardening jobs, take a moment to appreciate the beauty around you and savour the joy of nurturing your outdoor space. Happy gardening!




It's the perfect time to revel in the beauty of your garden and carry out essential tasks to keep it thriving

A GUIDE TO BUYING A FIREPIT

Why not try something new this summer with a firepit for your garden?

An actual barbecue isn't the only way to undertake and host a barbecue. In fact, a pit of fire is the more traditional method to barbecuing meats, since humans were cooking simply over fire long before the barbecue grill was invented. So, how about bringing things back down to basics and adding some theatre this summer and using a firepit when you host your next barbecue? Here is our varied list of the best customer-reviewed firepits from Amazon.



VONHAUS GAS FIRE PIT

This firepit offers a rectangular-shaped pit, complete with a regulator, hose, carry handles, and adjustable flame settings. The firepit is compatible with propane, and is of faux concrete. The firepit boasts a contemporary design and is rust resistant, enjoying an altogether sleek appearance without the heavier weight.

Currently standing at £449.99 on Amazon.

<https://tinyurl.com/3d9sunkt>

SOLO STOVE FIRE PIT BONFIRE

Coming equipped with a stand, this portable, smokeless patio heater for wood burning can be brought anywhere, including camping trips, due to its unsuspecting size. It's one of the most unique firepits on the market today, in that it pushes the limits of both combustion airflow efficiency with an overall minimalist outdoor design. Bottom vent holes allow oxygen to feed the fire from below, reaffirming a masterful design.

Currently standing at £249.99 on Amazon.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p99hywn>



OUTLAND LIVING FIREBOWL

This is a deluxe portable propane gas fire pit, complete with a cover and carry kit, ultimately boasting a polished finish. Leaving no dirty ash in site after use, this is the perfect outdoor centrepiece for all kinds of outdoor events, including camping trips, tailgating get-togethers, and even beach parties. It is compact, making it very easy to transport, and enjoys a durable high quality steel construction with protective enamel finish for dependable longevity.

Currently standing at £159.99 on Amazon.

<https://tinyurl.com/yckbpb2e>



ROUNDFIRE HEXAGANOL CONCRETE TABLETOP FIRE PIT

This firepit is so conveniently small, it can be placed on a tabletop, adding extra convenience and efficiency to your experience. It's so compact it can also be used indoors. Looking stunning in any environment, this will adorn any home, inside or out. The felt base helps dissipate the heat produced by the fire stone, protecting your table and surfaces from heat produced by the fire.

Currently standing at £ 31.38 on Amazon.

<https://tinyurl.com/uvyujwnz>



BLOCKBUSTER HITS COMING OUT IN THE UK IN SUMMER 2023

There are a number of brilliant flicks coming to the big screen

A number of top films are set to be released in UK cinemas during summer 2023. Movie fanatics are in luck, with some massive names in the media industry set to return to the big screen in the coming months. Here are three films which we simply cannot wait to see.

INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

Do not worry, you have not transported to the 1980s, a brand new Indiana Jones film is really going to be released in 2023. Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny is the fifth and latest instalment of the beloved series, which follows the adventures of daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones, who is played by Harrison Ford. Dial of Destiny is the first Indiana Jones film released since 2008, and is only the second of the 21st century. This follows Jones as he races against time to retrieve a legendary artifact that could change the course of history. Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny will be released on UK screens on Friday, June 30.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING PART ONE

Another movie series coming back to our screens is Mission: Impossible. This is an American action spy film series, with the upcoming Dead Reckoning Part One forming the seventh edition. Starring Tom Cruise, Hayley Atwell, Ving Rhames and Simon Pegg, this film will be released on Wednesday, July 12. A sequel, Dead Reckoning Part Two, has already been announced and will be released in June 2024.

BARBIE

Childhood toy Barbie is set to be brought out of children's imaginations and into life on cinema screens in this fabulous upcoming flick. A star-studded cast has already been announced for the upcoming Barbie movie, including Margot Robbie as the title character, as well as Ryan Gosling as Ken. This surrounds life in the idyllic Barbie Land, where everything seems to be perfect - until one Barbie suffers a full-on existential crisis. Barbie will be released in the UK on Friday, July 21.



FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Get ready for the biggest tournament in women's football

GROUP A

The first host nation is in a good position to move out of the group stage. Switzerland and Norway are seen as the favourites based on the world rankings, but one or two good performances would do the co-hosts very well. Norway may be past winners, but let's not forget the 0-8 defeat to England in the Euros last summer.

GROUP B

On paper this should be a decently simple path to the round of 16 for the other host nation, but inconsistent performances over the last few months could lead to an upset at the hands of Nigeria or Ireland. Canada are the reigning Olympic champions, so should happily qualify.

GROUP C

Costa Rica and Zambia will need to be at the top of their game if they want to stand a chance of progressing, as Spain have proven themselves very capable despite ongoing issues internally. Japan, winners in 2011, will be looking to join their male counterparts in qualifying from a group featuring Spain and Costa Rica—ideally without losing on penalties this time!

GROUP D

We don't actually have much to say about England's group. At risk of jinxing it, none of these teams should pose any threat to our advancement to the next round, with a match against China, ranked 13 in the world, probably providing the best entertainment.

GROUP A



Norway



Switzerland



New Zealand



Philippines

GROUP B



Australia



Nigeria



Canada



Republic of Ireland

GROUP C



Spain



Zambia



Costa Rica



Japan

GROUP D



England



Denmark



Haiti



China

GROUP E



USA



Netherlands



Vietnam



Portugal

GROUP F



France



Panama



Brazil



Jamaica

GROUP G



Italy



South Africa



Argentina



Sweden

GROUP H



Germany



Colombia



Morocco



South Korea

GROUP E

The 2019 final will be recreated as USA and Netherlands meet in the group stage. This match will most likely determine who qualifies in first or second place from the group, as the other two teams will not present much adversity.

GROUP F

Much like the men's game, France and Brazil are looking to prove themselves as powerhouses in this tournament. Ranked 5 and 8 respectively, they should be flying into the round of 16.

GROUP G

While Argentina enjoyed an amazing victory in last winter's men's World Cup, their women's squad is much less prominent on a global stage. World number 3 Sweden will be looking to secure first place in this group, while the race for second place will certainly produce some great matches.

GROUP H

The runners up in the EURO last year will be looking to put on three masterclasses in the group stage, with advancement almost guaranteed. South Korea might put up a fight to give us an interesting game, however.

KEEP UPDATED

The official FIFA website (fifa.com) will have a full list of results and upcoming fixtures in the tournament, as well as group tables. You can also find coverage on BBC Sport.

Matches will be broadcasted on either the BBC or ITV. At time of writing, a full list of matches on each channel has not been released, so keep an eye on both websites for further updates.

Acorn Drive, Swaffham

£669,995



Brand new, superb, substantial executive style detached five/six bedroom house situated on an exclusive secure gated development on the edge of Swaffham. This fantastic property boasts amongst many things two reception rooms, inglenook style fireplace, intergrated appliances and much much more!

SWAFFHAM - 01760 721389 - info@longsons.co.uk

Swaffham - 01760 721389

Watton - 01953 883474

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION VALUATION

Woodward Avenue, Necton

£550,000



A well presented four bedroom detached house in the sought after village of Necton. The property offers two en-suites, two reception rooms, kitchen/dining/family room, good size gardens, double garage and parking. Viewing is highly recommended.

SWAFFHAM - 01760 721389 - info@longsons.co.uk

Millfield, Ashill

£335,000



An extremely well presented detached 2/3 bedroom bungalow in the popular village of Ashill. The property benefits from a high spec kitchen/ dining/ living room overlooking the rear garden along with a lounge and integral garage. Viewing highly recommended.

SWAFFHAM - 01760 721389 - info@longsons.co.uk

Cook Road, Holme Hale

Guide Price £600,000



Superb five bedroom detached house with double garage and annexe potential, situated on a generous plot in an enviable position with countryside outlook to the rear and side. This fantastic property boasts three reception rooms, utility room, en suite shower room, ample parking and conservatory.

SWAFFHAM - 01760 721389 - info@longsons.co.uk

Cley Road, Swaffham

£475,000



Spacious, detached five bedroom house with annex potential situated on a popular development with open countryside views to the front on the outskirts of Swaffham. The property offers three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, shower room and first floor bathroom, double garage and parking!

SWAFFHAM - 01760 721389 - info@longsons.co.uk

Swaffham - 01760 721389

Watton - 01953 883474

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION VALUATION

Halton Road, Watton

£230,000



Very well presented semi-detached three bedroom house situated in a sought after location within Watton. The property offers kitchen/breakfast room, living room, ground floor cloakroom, enclosed private garden, off street parking, UPVC double glazing, oil fired central heating.

WATTON - 01953 883474 - watton@longsons.co.uk

West Road, Watton

£320,000



A very well presented semi-detached four/five bedroom house situated in the market town of Watton. The property boasts a kitchen/dining room, boot room, garden room, living room, ground floor cloakroom, superb master bedroom with en-suite and walk-in dressing room. Viewing highly recommended.

WATTON - 01953 883474 - watton@longsons.co.uk

Setterden, Mere Road

£525,000



A spacious detached four bedroom house situated on the sought after Mere Road in Stow Bedon. The property offers huge potential, two reception rooms, utility room, cloakroom with WC, bathroom, four car garage, large gardens, ample off road parking, central heating and double glazing. Available chain free!

WATTON - 01953 883474 - watton@longsons.co.uk

Dereham Road, Watton

OIEO £650,000



Spacious, well presented, three bedroom detached bungalow sitting on grounds approaching 0.5 acres in Watton. The property offers a multitude of potential uses with double garage and workshop, separate treatments rooms with planning permission passed for business use with ample parking and much more!

WATTON - 01953 883474 - watton@longsons.co.uk

Swaffham - 01760 721389

Watton - 01953 883474

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION VALUATION

Shire Horse Way, Watton

£325,000



Extremely well presented modern detached three bedroom house situated in Watton. This fantastic property offers open plan living to ground floor, en-suite shower room, third bedroom currently set up as cinema/gaming room, office/studio/gym, landscaped garden, air conditioning, gas central heating.

WATTON - 01953 883474 - watton@longsons.co.uk

Swaffham | Watton

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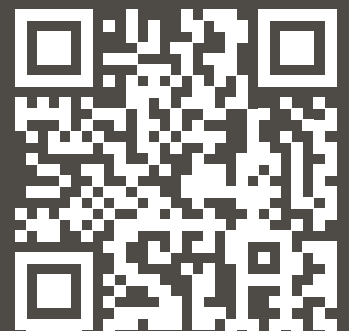


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HOW MUCH
IS MY
PROPERTY
WORTH?



Present your house for sale by de-cluttering...

Maximise your home's potential and create spacious rooms enticing potential buyers – simply by de-cluttering!

“ De-cluttering allows you to... maximise your space, emotionally prepare you to move, and will allow you to focus your buyers on what is important ”

If you are looking to sell your house, or have had your home on the market for a while now, then you probably want to get the maximum sale price in the quickest time. There are a few things you can't control – but the one thing that is in your control, is the look and feel of the interior and exterior.

While it's worth spending time fixing and cleaning your house before potential buyers come and view, it's also important to de-clutter. This creates spacious rooms and also allows you to decrease and organise your personal items before you move yourself. Of course it's understandable that you don't to want spend money, time and energy on a home you are about to leave, however, a lot of people are looking for a house in which they can move straight into. Maintaining your

property might even save you thousands of pounds; it could even reduce added expenses of living in your home whilst waiting for a sale. And it might even help avoid possible reductions in the asking price.

The main reason in which people move house tends to be because they lack space in their current home. They want a home that is spacious and in which they can grow into. If a potential viewer comes to your home and sees that there is lack of space, then this will turn them away.

De-cluttering allows you to remove any unnecessary items in an untidy or overcrowded place. It will help maximise your space, emotionally prepare you to move, and will allow you to focus your buyers on what is important.



So where should you start?

You need to create a great first impression and focus on the rooms themselves. You will notice that the first things you see in each room are personal items. Where possible you want to create the look of a

them into things you want to keep and things you want to get rid of. You may even find that you have collected a cupboard full of paper work. Get yourself organised! Don't just throw it all away, but file it and go through it thoroughly. This will also make it easier when you move.

De-personalising can also be a great way to de-clutter. Too many personal effects can be distracting to buyers. They want to see a house in which they can make their own memories rather than seeing yours. Again, personal items can be stored away. Remember

“ Where possible you want to create the look of a lifestyle that the potential buyers want ”

lifestyle that the potential buyer want. This usually has a 'show home' feel, rather than a 'lived in' feel. Minimising your things is the quickest way to do this: you want to ensure that potential buyers can do simple things, like, open any doors easily, ensuring that there are no obstacles.

So, what do we mean by clutter? There are two types: genuine clutter, and items that you want to keep but don't work for the sale of your property.

Genuine Clutter:
You need to go through the space and sort out each item, categorising

You also want to focus on little things like DVDs, books and trinkets. These items may have some small value so sell them or donate them to charity. Get rid of any old shoes and coats that are lying about in your porch or hallway. You might want to hide away the coats and shoes you do currently wear. Store them in your wardrobe, while you have viewings.

Items that you want to keep but don't work for the sale of your property:
You may want to consider putting some items in storage while you sell your home. Sometimes items are too large or even too small for some spaces and can make the room look odd. If you want to keep these particular items, then store them until you move into your new home.

that this is only a temporary way of living and hopefully it won't be for long! If you find you are keeping more things than you are throwing out, then think about whether or not it's in the right room or do you even need it now?

As previously mentioned, you can attempt to sell some of the things you have acquired over the years. Use sites like eBay, Gumtree and social networking sites to try and sell items. You may want to even hold a house sale for the remaining items that you can't sell. Failing that, why not donate to charity.

The end goal is still the same and it's important to help potential buyers envision your house as theirs. So remember, de-cluttering will make your home more spacious and entice potential buyers!

Top Tips!

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If you are throwing away paperwork, shred anything that is confidential

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De-clutter before agents come and take photos of your property. This will help attract more potential viewers online and get that first good impression

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.....

Don't spend too long on certain items and don't get distracted. Keep yourself motivated and race against the clock!

.....

.....

Make it fun! Play some music or watch TV while you de-clutter

.....





Your step-by-step guide to the conveyancing process

Once a sale has been agreed and is in the hands of your solicitor, it will go through the following stages. Sometimes additional work will be needed – for example, if the property is leasehold or is yet to be registered with the Land Registry. It is also important for buyers to discuss the availability of their deposit with their solicitor early in the transaction, and we strongly recommend that you contact your solicitor regularly so that they can keep you fully up-to-date with the progress and the latest timescales.

Seller's solicitor's steps

- Obtain a copy of the Title Deeds (or office copies if the title is registered)
- Obtain a copy of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) (if applicable)
- The seller(s) will return a completed Property Information Form and a Fixtures, Fittings and Contents Form to the solicitors
- Copies of the above documents, plus a draft contract – this is known as an 'Information Pack' – will be sent to the buyer's solicitor
- Answer the buyer's solicitor's additional enquiries (for example, specific questions about fixtures and fittings) and obtain copies of any planning consent documents
- Agree the contract and arrange for the sellers to sign it in readiness of the exchange (below)
- All parties agree completion dates and the contracts are exchanged

Between exchange and completion

- Obtain redemption figures from the mortgage lender and reply to requisitions on title
- Approve the transfer and arrange for the seller(s) and buyer(s) to sign
- Receive the agent's fee account and seek the seller's consent to settle this out of completion funds

Completion date

This is the date the ownership of the property passes from the seller to the buyer, and it follows the successful transfer of funds. It's the date that the whole process works towards.

Upon completion

- Receive completion funds and (only when this has been completed) instruct your estate agent to release the keys to buyers. Redeem mortgage and forward the financial statement. Forward any surplus funds (unless these are being used to fund an onward purchase). Ensure all outstanding bills are paid
- Forward transfer documents and deeds to the buyer's solicitors
- Forward evidence of 'discharge of mortgage' to the buyer's solicitors

Buyer's solicitor's steps

- Obtain the Information Pack, including a copy of the EPC (if applicable) from the sellers' solicitor and raise any additional queries
- Initiate any specialist searches (for example: a coal search). Submit local, environmental and water searches and a chancel check. This takes about 10 working days in total, and enquiries are then usually raised from the results
- Approve the contract when all enquiries are satisfactory and complete. (At this stage, a mortgage transfer deed will need to be signed and witnessed)
- Receive a mortgage offer and instructions from the lender and deal with any conditions set out by them. Make sure that life cover and buildings insurance is being arranged
- Request the deposit, report back to the buyer, and arrange for the contract to be signed. Place buildings insurance and life cover in force
- All parties agree completion dates and the contracts are exchanged

Between exchange and completion

- Raise 'requisitions on title' and prepare the draft transfer deed
- Report on title to mortgage lender and obtain funds for completion, including Stamp Duty (if appropriate)
- Prepare accounts, obtain signature to mortgage deed and undertake final Land Registry and Land Charges searches

Completion date

This is the date the ownership of the property passes from the seller to the buyer, and it follows the successful transfer of funds. It's the date that the whole process works towards.

Upon Completion

- Forward to the seller's solicitors the balance of funds - it is only then that they can authorise the release of the keys. Receive from the seller's solicitors, the transfer document deeds
- Stamp the Transfer Deed, register the buyer's ownership with the Land Registry and forward the deeds to the lender or client (where appropriate)

Contract - The agreement that sets out the main terms that have been agreed - for example: price, address, names, etc. Two copies are drawn up, and each party signs one in readiness for the exchange of contracts.

Deposit - The part of the purchase price (usually 10%) which the buyer pays on exchange of contracts.

Exchange of contracts - The swapping of signed contracts by the solicitors (together with the buyer's deposit). After this, the contract is binding.

Energy Performance Certificate - This contains information on energy use, energy performance, carbon dioxide emissions, and fuel bills.

Land Registry - The Government department that records who owns what land, and under what conditions.

Local Authority Search - A list of questions that are specific to the property and intended, for example, to discover if there have been any planning applications on the property, if the road to the house is maintained by the council, etc.

Mortgage Redemption Figure - The amount required to repay the outstanding capital/ interest of a mortgage.

Property information form/fixtures, fittings and contents form - Standard forms about the property that the seller answers for their solicitor (for example: what will be left behind, details of guarantees, etc.)

Title Deeds - Legal documents that prove ownership of land/buildings, and the terms on which they are owned.

Transfer of Title - The document that passes the ownership from the seller to the buyer.

Stamp Duty for buy to let investors and second home owners - An additional tax, paid by the buyer purchasing an additional property that is not their main residence. It includes buy to let landlords and those buying second homes and holiday homes. The higher rates will be 3 percentage points above the current rates of duty shown below.

Requisition on title - An enquiry relating to the completion arrangements.

Seller's Pack - This comprises a Property Information Form, a Fixtures, Fittings and Contents Form, a copy of the title deeds and the draft contract.

Stamp Duty - Currently, the Stamp Duty threshold for residential properties is £250,000. For first-time buyers you can claim a discount and won't pay Stamp Duty up to £425,000 on the purchase price and after that you will pay only 5% between £425,001 to £625,000.

However, how much you pay is also dependent on whether you already own another property or if you're a non-UK resident.



Moving house?

From meter readings to removal companies, there's so much to remember when moving house. Here's our checklist of what to do and when

First of all, congratulations on your new home! The excitement has probably now kicked in but moving home can also be one of the most stressful and emotionally draining things you can do. However, careful organisation and planning can help decrease the stress and anxiety of moving. This comprehensive and essential checklist will help you do just that.

Eight weeks - Research

Ideally, you want to start packing away any non-essential items as early as possible. This includes any items stored away in the loft, garage and shed. If you are not using it, pack it. Looking into your new area is also important, try to do this around eight weeks before you move. You might need to think about transferring your children to different schools and ordering new uniforms too. At this point, ensure you are also documenting all your important information away: that includes contact details, dates, contracts and information regarding your solicitor.

Six weeks - Removal companies or do it yourself?

Now would be the perfect time to decide on a local removal company. Or if you don't have too much to move, you may want to do it yourself. You could even look into different van hire companies. At this point you've probably started packing away some bits, but if there is anything you decide not to take, then look into selling these items or donating them to charity. This will also give you an idea on the volume of items you have to move.

Four weeks - Notify utility companies

This would be a good time for you to notify utility companies and inform them about your move to switch over. This includes gas and electricity, council tax, internet, phone rental and TV. You should also consider changing any car insurance, tax, memberships, phone contracts and inform your bank about the move. Now's the time to also arrange a date to have your new house cleaned before you move



“ It will be worth packing a night bag each to help everyone settle in, which means you won't have to rummage through everything to find your toothbrush! ”

in, and start ordering any new furnishings for your new property. Start packing away more items, that being, out of season clothes, books, dvd's and even bulky items, like TV's that aren't used often.

Two weeks - Confirm all details

Confirm your move with your removal company or van hire, estate agents and schools. If possible, try to organise someone to look after your pets and children for the day of your move, as this can also be a stressful time for them too. If your removal company doesn't disassemble any furniture or sort out the un-plumbing for the washing machine, then now would be the ideal time to organise these. Remember to also cancel any local services you receive: this could be window cleaners, gardeners and newspaper deliveries. You should now also think about re-registering to vote and getting your post re-directed after your moving date. Continue packing away more furnishings, kitchen appliances and crockery that you won't be using for the next couple of weeks.

24 hours - Final check and walk round

You now have only 24 hours before you move, so double check that everything is packed away and ready for transit. It will be worth packing a night bag each to help everyone settle in, which means you won't have to rummage through everything to find your toothbrush! You may want to create an inventory of your boxes and

furniture to help you keep track of what you have and to help you ensure it doesn't go missing.

Moving day

Today is the day! You need to be ready for when your removal company comes. Ensure that you let them know if there are any fragile boxes that need extra care when handling. If you're moving yourself, then pack up your car or van and work out how many trips it may take. Before you leave, also take note of your final meter readings and send these off to your provider. Don't forget to leave your keys for the new owners!

You have arrived at your new home!

Give your removal company instructions of which boxes go in which rooms and make sure you are happy with everything that has arrived. Ensure you check for any damage before the movers leave. Read your new utility meters and send your readings of to your supplier. Taking photos of them will also ensure you have the correct reading if you need them again in the future. Unpack your essentials such as bed linen and clean towels. Don't worry about the rest, it isn't going anywhere! Order a takeaway, have a cup of tea and enjoy your first night with your family.

Right, so now you're all moved in, it's time to settle down, unpack and enjoy your new place. Remember, planning is essential to ensure your move runs stress free.

Checklist

Eight weeks

- Pack non-essential items
- Research your new area (transfer schools and order new uniform)
- Keep all important documents

Six weeks

- Decide on a local removal company
- Clear out any unwanted items
- Keep packing

Four weeks

- Notify utility companies
- Start preparation for your new house
- Keep packing

Two weeks

- Finalise all details
- Organise pet and child care
- Cancel local services
- Keep packing

24 hours

- Check every room and ensure everything is packed
- Pack a night bag so everything is to hand
- Collect your new keys
- Make sure your phone is fully charged so you can get in touch with the estate agents or removal company

Moving in

- Prepare for the arrival of the removal company and give them directions/your contact details
- Ensure everything is ready to move
- Record meter readings

On arrival

- Give removal company instructions of what goes where
- Check for any damage before they leave
- Read your new utility meters and send them off to your supplier
- Check if the previous owners have left anything behind
- Unpack essentials
- Order a takeaway and sit back and relax!



Want to treat yourself to a proper removal company for your next move or are you prepared to do it yourself

Removal company or brave it yourself?

You're excited about your new home and location but the process of packing, organising and actually moving all of your items is something no-one really ever looks forward to. Not only that but you also have to contact utility companies, maintain a job, keep your children happy and clean your entire house. You do have super powers, right?

Removal companies

Unless you live in a small property or flat, it could be worth hiring a professional removal company to help relieve some of the stress on the day. They have many skills and experience and some of the services they can provide include packing and

unpacking, dismantling and assembling furniture, loading your belongings quickly and securely, including those fragile and specialist items. They can even supply you with packing materials.

Hiring a removal company will also allow you the time to collect the keys to your new home. You also won't have to worry about the exhausting physical side of things, that being carrying boxes back and forth. Some services are great if you don't have much time to plan and get these done yourself; however these do often come at a premium and may not be suitable for those on a budget. When choosing a removal company

You also won't have to worry about the exhausting physical side of things, that being carrying boxes back and forth



its key to look at those which have good recommendations and reviews, as you need a company you can rely on. You can use comparison sites, such as comparemymove.com and reallymoving.com, to help find you the best deals.

Getting quotes

You should aim to get at least three quotes from removal companies, preferably from firms which will come out to your property rather than those who just estimate the cost over the phone, as you don't want any nasty charges later on. Plus it will give the company an accurate idea of any restricted areas in your home, if they can park a van or lorry, and how many

items you have. You should also ask for the price to be broken down so you can see just how much you are paying for when it comes to certain aspects like insurance, packing, an hourly rate, mileage and any storage costs.

Once you have found a removal company, it can be useful to send them a briefing sheet that includes information about any items which need to be specially packed, any difficult or large items, plus any carpets and curtains which need moving. Finally, it can also be helpful to send them a floor plan of the new property so they can unload efficiently.

Top tips for packing

When packing, ensure you don't overload your boxes with heavy items, as these will be difficult to lift and could cause a back injury.

Fill any empty gaps using old newspaper, clothing, socks or even tea towels. This will help secure any items when they are being moved.

Create an inventory and label all your boxes and write the contents on each box with a marker. That way you will know which room each box is to go in. And if you are super organised, you could even colour code each room!

Pack heavier boxes on the bottom. This might seem like common sense but it will ensure that any of your fragile items won't break.

Pack a survival box. These are the things that you will need first and should include paper towels, bin bags, cutlery, the kettle, some mugs, tea, coffee, milk, sugar and finally, some toilet paper!



RELAX THIS SUMMER



HOW MUCH IS YOUR PROPERTY WORTH?
Book a **FREE** property valuation with us today

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