



- **Q&As with Professor Carlos Duarte**

- Advisory Board member for The Red Sea Development Company.

- **Blooming soap brand wins Ethical Business Award**

- Soap company Bloom In Soap recently won an award for its ethical business practices.

- **Global sustainable tourism: Beyond Green**

- An interview with global sustainable tourism pioneer.



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## FOOD

Luxury ingredients are proving to be increasingly popular, bringing attention and revenue to the restaurants that splash out on a menu with specialised items.

## TRAVEL

Ovolo Hotels has announced its latest move in an ongoing pledge to ethical eating.

## HOME & GARDEN

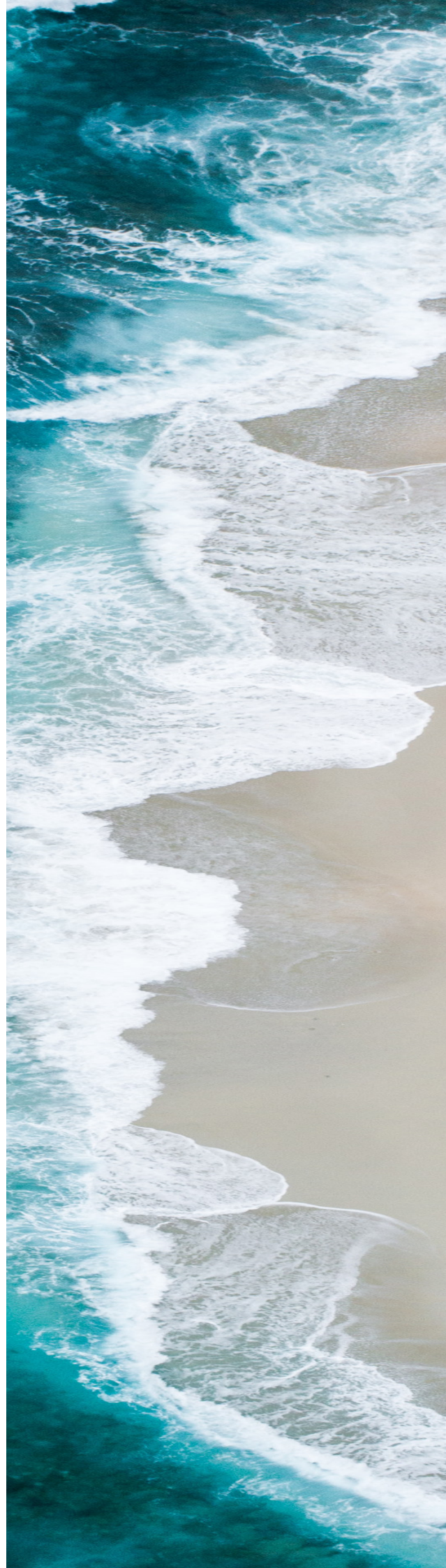
With the cost of living rising, making environmentally-friendly choices has unfortunately become less of a concern for Brits.

## A Word from the Editor

What can you do to help climate change? Listed below are the most achievable ways you personally can make a difference.

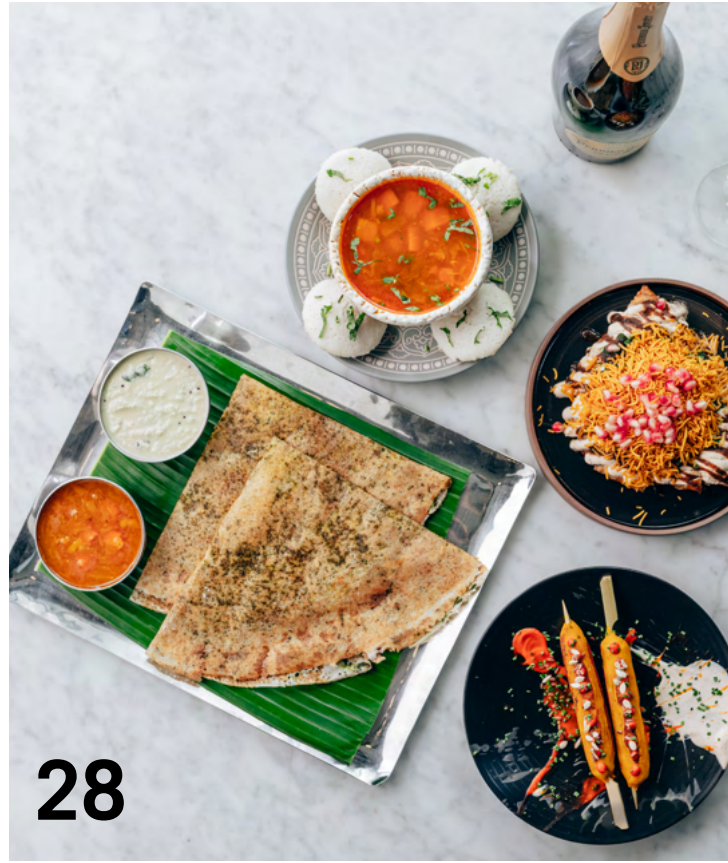
- Make your voice heard, tell your Member of Parliament, local councillors and city mayors that you think action on climate change is important. A prosperous future for the United Kingdom depends on their decisions about the environment, green spaces, roads, cycling infrastructure, waste and recycling, air quality and energy efficient homes.
- Ultimately, steps to reduce carbon emissions will have a positive impact on other local issues, like improving air quality.
- Avoiding meat and dairy products is one of the biggest ways to reduce your environmental impact on the planet, especially red meat, which has the largest environmental impact, and reduce dairy products or switch them for non-dairy alternatives.
- Try to use fresh, seasonal produce that is grown locally to help reduce the carbon emissions from transportation, preservation and prolonged refrigeration.
- When flying is unavoidable, pay a little extra for carbon offsetting.
- For leisure trips, choose nearby destinations, and fly economy – on average, a passenger in ‘business class’ has a carbon footprint three times higher than someone in ‘economy’.
- Instead of getting in the car, walk or cycle. For longer journeys, use public transport, or try car sharing schemes. Not only do cars contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, but air pollution caused by exhaust fumes from traffic poses a serious threat to public health.
- Investigate trading in your diesel or petrol car for an electric or hybrid model.
- Small changes at home will help you use less energy, cutting your carbon footprint and your energy bills.
  
- Put on an extra layer and turn down the heating.
- Turn off lights and appliances when you don’t need them.
- Replace light bulbs with LEDs or other low-energy lights.
- Make sure that your home is energy efficient: check your building has proper insulation, and consider draught proofing windows and doors.
- Switching energy supply to a green tariff is a great way to invest in renewable energy sources – and could save you money on bills, too.
- Plant trees. The Woodland Trust are aiming to plant 64 million trees over the next ten years, and need your help. Whether you want to plant a single tree in your garden, or a whole wood, they have tools and resources to help.
- Everything we use as consumers has a carbon footprint.
- Avoid single-use items and fast fashion, try not to buy more than you need.
- Shop around for second-hand or quality items that last a long time.
- Repair and reuse.
- Give unwanted items a new life by donating them to charity or selling them on.
- Avoid wasting food.

The Summer issue of Eco Living magazine has an array of interesting and inspiring articles that we hope you enjoy, happy reading!



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# Two of the world's most ambitious regenerative tourism projects: The Red Sea Project and AMAALA

**Q&As with Professor Carlos Duarte, Advisory Board member for The Red Sea Development Company and distinguished Professor of Marine Science at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology**

**W**hat are the most pressing environmental challenges that need immediate attention, particularly from the private sector? As the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report in April outlined, it's now or never for the world to avert a climate catastrophe and limit global heating to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. Doing so requires everyone to work together and change their approach. Issues such as pollution, ocean acidification and loss of biodiversity are still causing untold damage to our societies, economies and ecosystems. This must change, and fast.

Currently not enough action is being taken by the public and private sectors to address these issues. The private sector has been accused of prioritising profit over the environment. While this isn't true in most cases, damaging practices do remain across the world. Whether it's disposing of waste improperly or causing deforestation, many businesses must change their attitude and recognise that sustainability needs to be central to what they do, not merely an add-on. It's vital that this attitude shift takes place, not only to protect our future, but to repair the damage already done.

**What are the actions that can be taken to drive substantial change in environmental protection/conservation?**

When it comes to climate change, the cause can be the solution. Those responsible for damaging the environment also have the power to protect and even regenerate it. A slight change of approach has the power to greatly improve environmental protection and conservation. Already we are seeing a growing number of global companies take steps to reduce their environmental impact. This is positive, but it must be done on a far wider scale to make lasting change.

At the very least, every company should review its current environmental impact and identify areas to improve. By doing this, companies can then develop plans to improve their relationship with the environment, while also putting in place benchmarks to measure progress and not lose sight of targets. While an ambitious vision, if every company were to do this, a sustainable future would be much more secure.

**What projects are you leading / involved in that are best-practice examples of this?**

As part of The Red Sea Development Company's (TRSDC) Advisory Board, I am working on developing two of the world's most ambitious regenerative tourism projects, The Red Sea Project and AMAALA. Both are located on the western coast of Saudi Arabia and form a key part of the country's Vision 2030, which aims to diversify the Kingdom's economy, prioritise sustainability and create a more vibrant society.

Environmental protection and conservation are at the heart of what we are doing. We've aligned with all 17 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, to act as a baseline for how we approach sustainability. However, we want to go much further and regenerate the local environment and communities, not just protect them. To achieve this, we've undertaken some of the most ambitious initiatives ever attempted by a tourist destination.

To start, we performed one of the largest Marine Spatial Planning exercises ever, and the first one led by a private company, done in partnership with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), where I am a Professor of Marine Science. The exercise helped us better understand the impact of development and operations, and led us to leave 75% of the destination's 90-plus islands untouched. In fact, just 1% of the entire project area will be developed. The data provided from the exercise also led us to work towards a 30% net conservation benefit by 2040, a target almost unheard of in tourism.

My work with TRSDC also focuses on restoring and enhancing the marine ecosystem at the destination, to significantly mitigate CO2 emissions and deliver coastal protection from sea level rise, including the expansion of mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, coral reefs and salt marshes. One of the ways we're achieving this is by constructing a sewage treatment plant which has been innovatively designed to allow waste to be utilised for creating new wetland habitats, and supplementing irrigation landscaping at the destination.

Other ways the destination is putting regeneration first is the construction of three seawater reverse osmosis plants, to sustainably provide clean drinking water, and a solid waste management centre to meet our 'zero waste to landfill' goal.

**To what extent can thriving wetlands help to combat climate change?**

Wetlands absorb incredibly large amounts of carbon dioxide via photosynthesis, meaning that they can play a vital role in combatting greenhouse gas emissions.

When it comes to Saudi Arabia, wetlands are crucial given that it's a water-stressed region highly vulnerable to even subtle global changes. The Red Sea Development Company, therefore, aims to not only protect but enhance the local environment through a variety of methods, including by creating new wetland habitats at The Red Sea Project.

By actively regenerating coastal ecosystems such as mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, coral reefs and salt marshes, we can significantly mitigate CO2 emissions and deliver coastal protection from sea level rises. In fact, mangroves and seagrass meadows bury carbon at a rate 15 to 30 times higher than that of tropical forests by 'sinking and trapping' the carbon in deadwood and leaves on the sea floor. The mangroves at The Red Sea Project have been found to be six times more effective, than mangroves in other parts of the world, at sequestering carbon through calcium carbonate dissolution – a process that increases the ocean's alkalinity and, in turn, increases its capacity to safely remove CO2 from the atmosphere in seawater. We are aiming to harness this potential and regenerate wetlands to reduce The Red Sea Project's long-term environmental impact.

#### **What is the expected long-term impact of TRSDC's projects?**

With The Red Sea Project and AMAALA, we are attempting something that has never been tried before. We hope that, by reaching our regenerative goals, we can act as a global leader in tourism and show there is a way of developing destinations that leave the local environment in a better place than it was before.

Our 30% net conservation benefit by 2040 target will see the significant expansion of local forests, the reintroduction of endangered species, removal of impacts from invasive species and an overall improvement to biodiversity. With the introduction of thriving wetlands and policies such as zero waste to landfill, we can actively contribute to reducing carbon emissions in the region. However, sustainability is not just about species and the environments – it has an economic and social dimension, as well, delivered through the benefits of the project for local society and, more broadly, Saudi society.

TRSDC's role at the forefront of Vision 2030 means that we will play a vital role in reshaping tourism in Saudi Arabia. Through our projects, we want to be a bridge between cultures, and drive a greater awareness and understanding of the richness and diversity of Saudi Arabia as a place to change perceptions worldwide.

#### **With TRSDC's projects located in a water-stressed region, what are the key considerations when implementing and driving regenerative initiatives in a desert environment, and what challenges have been faced?**

Regeneration is a challenge in any region or environment but, naturally, in the desert it is particularly difficult to implement and drive initiatives that can stand the test of time. It requires thinking outside the box and having the courage to do things differently.

You can see this in our approach to creating thriving wetlands – we are trying to not only protect but expand on what is already there. The resources required to plant new trees, develop an innovative water flow system and build a sewage treatment plant to support the wetlands growth have been substantial, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

At TRSDC we have always embraced this experimental mindset, with a willingness to take calculated risks. We recognise the responsibility of protecting and enhancing this pristine region, and have set targets and undertaken projects almost unheard of in tourism. Whether it's committing to developing less than 1% of the project area to using regenerative water retention and distribution systems in our resorts, we have always tried to break new ground.

There has been no established road to follow, but we have been guided by a long-term commitment to leave the local environment in a better place than when we found it. With that in place, we can overcome any challenge.

#### **How important is collaboration between academia, public sector and the private sector in developing solutions to effectively combat critical environmental issues?**

Responding effectively to the climate crisis requires everyone to work together. Through collaboration and partnerships, we can maximize each other's strengths, bringing together the best and brightest to find innovative ways of overcoming global environmental challenges.

Our work on The Red Sea Project and AMAALA shows how successful collaboration between academia, the public sector and the private sector can be. We utilised the vast expertise at KAUST and other academic and scientific institutions to undertake ground-breaking research for our projects. Through their work, we were able to better understand the environmental impact of our development and put in place ground-breaking measures to minimise it. The support from policymakers in Saudi Arabia to help us reach our goals also provided the right environment for us to progress. We can act as a template for others to follow and show that, by using the expertise and resources of different sectors, environmental issues can be tackled effectively.

#### **What regulations would you like to see introduced to ensure that future development projects can better protect and enhance the local environments in which they are operating?**

Regulation that allows for increased collaboration between academia and the public and private sectors on major projects would always be welcome in creating the right environment for innovation and progress. Multi-centric governance has been shown to be particularly effective at driving sustainability, and our engagement with national government, local authorities, academia, industrial partners and, importantly, our own in governing the economic special zone where the project is located, will underpin our efforts.

However, as we have seen at The Red Sea Project, regulation isn't always the only driver to improvement. Things can be done differently if there is the will to try. There are also good financial reasons for businesses to choose sustainability without needing top-down demands. More and more consumers are eco-conscious, demanding goods and services that match their own sustainability values. Brands that ignore this growing trend could soon be grappling with their own long-term future



## Ten hacks to save money at home and be eco-friendly

**W**ith the cost of living rising, thanks to spiralling energy bills and soaring food prices, making environmentally-friendly choices has unfortunately become less of a concern for Brits.

A poll by Ipsos Mori earlier this year showed that 38% of people said it was more important for their household to cut costs than make choices that are better for the environment.

Here, Paul Moore, managing director of If You Care and non-exec director of the Organic Trade Board, looks at how you can be eco at home while still keeping on track with your budget.

Here are his top ten tips and hacks:

### 1. Doing the dishes

When buying items for cleaning and cooking in your kitchen, consider investing in good quality durable products, as cheaper ones end up costing you more in the long run. For example, sponge cloths that are made of a mix of pure cotton and cellulose can be used, then washed over and over again without degrading. Cheaper ones tend to lose their quality quickly and need to be disposed of sooner. At the end of their life, quality cotton-based cloths can be home composted, so they don't add to the problem of artificial fibres and micro planktons.

### 2. Food prep and storage

Kitchen foil is expensive but people tend to use it once to cover food then throw it away, which is wasteful as well as being costly. One brilliant hack when you're baking food in the oven is to put parchment paper over the dish then place foil on top. This prevents the foil from getting dirty, which means that you can use it again and again. The parchment paper can then go into the compost bin, which is better for the planet.

### 3. Start composting

That brings us on to the theme of composting. If you're not already doing this, it's definitely worth considering, as it will also save a lot of food going to landfill. You could use really space-efficient Bokashi composting digesters that will compost cooked foods without the smell and turn them into the most amazing and powerful liquid fertiliser. Different from a traditional garden compost that works on uncooked food scraps and garden waste in an aerobic manner, the Bokashi composter anaerobically digests cooked and uncooked food in a very short time and you don't need a big outdoor space.

### 4. Start an organic vegetable garden

Now you have your wonderful new compost bin, it's time to use the compost you've created to help nourish the soil in your garden and grow some delicious organic vegetables. With rising food costs, even vegetables are becoming very expensive to buy at supermarkets – not to mention the plethora of plastic packaging used in these places. If space is at a premium and you only have a window box, high value items such as coriander and fresh basil or salad leaves can be grown in rotation, in small spaces.

### 5. Buy seasonal

If you are going to head to the supermarket to buy fruit and vegetables out of pure convenience, try to buy seasonal wherever you can. Foods that are not in season in the UK can often have a huge amount of air miles associated with them and are usually very expensive. For example, buy British strawberries in the summer when they're not only cheaper and grown locally, but also much more tasty.



## 6. A note on meat

When buying meat, a much cheaper and more environmentally-friendly option is to invest in a whole chicken or joint of meat. You could cook this on a Sunday and make a roast, then the leftovers can be turned into various meals for the week, such as curries, pies or casseroles. The bones and carcass can be boiled with carrots, celery and onion to make a delicious stock, which can then be used as a base for a delicious noodle soup. Another way to reduce your environmental impact is to freeze any meat that you don't end up using. Wax paper is a brilliant option for preserving and freezing cooked meats, so you can enjoy them at a later date.

## 7. Stay cool when washing

Many people assume that hot water is the key to keeping clothes and dishes clean when washing. However, cleaning enzymes from washing liquids, powders and tablets are actually destroyed at high temperatures. These enzymes work best at body temperature, so try a cooler setting when using your washing machine. According to Which?, washing at 30°C uses 38% less energy than washing at 40°C, so not only will you be kinder to the planet, you'll also be saving money on your energy bills.

## 8. Ditch the tumble dryer

Once you've washed your clothes, consider ditching the tumble dryer as these suck up a huge amount of energy and, therefore, cost. Now it's warmer, simply take the time to hang your clothes outside or, on a rainy day, use a hanging rack inside. Better still, use an overhead hanging rack called a creel, which you can put on the ceiling in the utility room, getting all your washing out of the way.

## 9. Change what you wear

A lot of people tend to crank up the heating before considering simply putting on an extra layer, instead. Put a t-shirt under a shirt if needed, and wear slippers in the house. Having a cooler house not only saves energy, it also means there will be less dust mites present as these critters love warmer temperatures. Dust mites thrive in a temperature range of 20 to 25 degrees Celsius, so having a cooler house and setting your thermostat lower will reduce the presence of these tenacious little critters.

## 10. Borrow or buy second-hand

Before buying anything new, it's worth taking a step back and considering whether you could either borrow that item or buy it second-hand. Thanks to the rise of Facebook Marketplace and apps such as Depop and Vinted, buying second-hand is becoming the new normal – which is brilliant news for both the environment and your pocket.

When it comes to making changes in the home to save money and be eco-friendly, tiny steps make a big difference. Even if you follow just one or two of the tips above, you should see an impact on what you save each month.

If You Care creates products for the home with the aim of reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill. If possible, nothing should remain after the product has been used and properly disposed of. You can find out more at [www.ifyoucare.co.uk](http://www.ifyoucare.co.uk).

## *Andrew Henry interiors unveils first sustainable show home*

The team at Andrew Henry Interiors has showcased its innovative approach, creating a phenomenal, sustainable show home.

The ambitious project at Newland Homes' new zero carbon development in Tickenham highlights how designers can curate incredible spaces which promote environmental awareness. Enriched with clever designs and a host of eco-friendly credentials in each room which highlight the challenges our environment faces, the stunning show home marks the design team's first eco-friendly project and promotes the joy that can be found from upcycling and using sustainably-sourced products.

Creating a unique and beautiful home, Andrew Henry Interiors dedicated time and care into the project, incorporating upcycled pieces, sustainable materials and ethically-sourced furnishings.

Lead Designer on the project, **Lucy Thorn**, commented: "This project was revolutionary, not only for our team but also the wider industry to demonstrate that show homes can be both sustainable and stylish. This is a subject I am passionate about so I was thrilled to head this project and apply my knowledge of sustainability, whilst developing the Andrew Henry Interiors' offering. We all need to play a part in preserving the environment and the design industry can play a key role in its protection."

### **Lounge**

The team at Andrew Henry Interiors chose neutral shades for the majority of the home, creating a clean, sleek feel, introducing lined wallpaper to the spacious lounge for extra depth. Lucy comments: "Each furnishing item throughout the home has been researched and certified to ensure it features green credentials. In the lounge, we added stunning light-grey sofas created from a textile called Rolefin, which is produced through a zero-water consumption process, can be recycled up to seven times, contains no harmful chemicals and has an incredibly low carbon footprint."

The lounge also features furniture formed from Mango tree wood, which is collected once the plant has stopped producing fruit. The rustic and teal cushions, and additional soft furnishings, are handmade from recycled plastic yarn, and the rug has been produced using jute which is made from the jute vegetable plant. Showcasing her depth of knowledge, Lucy explains: "Jute is completely biodegradable. The plant grows quickly and, without the use of pesticides or fertilisers, this material is renewable and sustainable."

Lucy continues: "We felt it was important to have a good balance between products made from sustainable sources, and furnishings from second-hand sources to show the varying ways people can be more eco-friendly. The sideboard and bookshelf were sourced from local reclamation yards and upcycled to create beautiful stand-out pieces. A luxury burgundy armchair was sourced from Facebook marketplace, unifying the look and providing a cosy reading corner."







## Tiny House in Australia using HomeBiogas

**A**nnett and Paul live in Byron Bay, Australia and are passionate about minimising their impact on the planet. With an abundance of solar energy available to them in Australia, Annett and Paul thought it was a shame not to make the most of the resource. In the right climate, they believe that living off solar power is achievable and fairly simple.

Since they built the house on a paddock with no electrical outlets close-by, the first thing Annett and Paul did was install the solar panels, batteries and inverter, in order to generate electricity to run the power tools. They finished building their house in 2018, with an off-grid setup that includes six solar panels, a 4kW inverter, 24 solid state batteries (lithium-ion wasn't common back then, in Australia), a 165L solar hot water unit, a 10,000L water tank and a HomeBiogas system.

The HomeBiogas system is perfect for off-grid living such as that of Annett and Paul, as the system serves three purposes for them and in doing so, allows them to close the loop. Firstly, they use the system to dispose of their toilet waste. Second, it provides them with cooking gas. Finally, they receive liquid fertiliser for their garden. Annett and Paul said: "We're especially stoked about using the biogas system for our toilet waste because it closes the loop and it's a very easy, quick and clean way of getting rid of our waste. As a bonus, we get cooking gas. How amazing! Our cat contributes, too!"

While Annett and Paul use solar power to run appliances and have an induction cooktop for daily use, they rely on biogas on overcast days or in the morning, and at night when the sun is not out. The couple recently experienced a disastrous storm in their region and their batteries got low. With the biogas they'd been producing, however, they were still able to cook hot meals and make warming tea and coffee. Annett and Paul marvel at how they are sometimes unaware when there is an occasional power cut in their area, since they generate their own electricity and are, therefore, unaffected.

Annett and Paul share a love of permaculture gardening, while their garden provides them with a variety of herbs, leafy greens as well as seasonal fruit and vegetables, which they feed with the organic fertiliser produced in their HomeBiogas system.

Since they live in the subtropics, gas production is ongoing and constant; while biogas production slows down in the winter months, as it cools down, they still have enough gas to cook a meal on their biogas stove every day.

Annett and Paul are happy to be contributing to the effort of creating a world without waste, as HomeBiogas has already mitigated 90,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-eq, provided 14,017,095 hours of cooking with clean energy and 6,365 tons of food upcycled.

Follow Annett and Paul:  
IG: @livingtinyandgreen  
FB: Living Tiny and Green  
Blog: [www.livingtinyandgreen.com](http://www.livingtinyandgreen.com)







## *Gardening expert explains how to replicate ‘regencycore’ gardens*

**C**orset-tops, faux pearls and long sleeve gloves have all taken the UK by storm in the past few months, inspired by the aesthetic that has been aptly termed ‘regencycore’.

Social media has fast-tracked the trend, with thousands of TikTok users and Instagram bloggers embracing the Austen-inspired outfits, with #regencycore racking up over 21 million views on TikTok alone.

The recent release of Bridgerton season two also led to Google searches for ‘regencycore’ spiking and the upcoming cinema release of the Downtown Abbey: A New Era is likely to do the same.

Regencycore embraces old fashion, elegant hairstyles and the formality of the 1800s, and also makes a nod to the decor that defined the era. Grand sweeping staircases, manor houses and beautiful, landscaped gardens all feature in the Netflix drama. In fiction and real life, they were the set of regal romance.

Hayes Garden World’s Gardening expert Angela Slater has provided expert commentary explaining what regency gardens looked like, aiming to inspire readers to create their Bridgerton-esque haven in their backyard ...

### **What does Regency landscaping look like?**

When we think of the Regency period, we immediately think of the Jane Austin novels, which are filled with hidden meanings and the subtle nuances of a glance or a posy of flowers.

The classic architecture with its pleasing symmetry is synonymous with this period; this becomes translated into the garden where wide paths and herbaceous borders, framing the house, replaced the formal lawns.

Paths started to be constructed from gravel to protect ladies’ dress hems and dainty satin shoes, replacing the often-wet muddy grass and woodland paths seen previously. High hedges framing herbaceous borders and separating the garden rooms became popular, and they also gave a degree of privacy where a young couple could conduct their romance away from prying eyes – something which was frowned upon indoors and governed by strict rules.

Humphry Repton was at the forefront of this new garden renaissance; he discarded the lawns and embraced the idea of ‘garden rooms’ by planting thickets, shrubs and herbaceous borders. This led to hidden areas where one meandered around the garden instead of viewing the whole in one panoramic vista.



### **What did Regency garden furniture look like?**

Garden structures became fashionable; they varied from follies clad in climbers, particularly wisteria, gazebos and striped canvas canopies, where one could enjoy afternoon tea at leisure. Afternoon tea on the lawn was particularly important, with tables and chairs being brought out of the house. The table, of course, was dressed in a white cloth with bone China crockery, silver cutlery and vases of flowers, where guests dined on dainty sandwiches, cakes and hot toasted muffins. If garden furniture was used, it would be elaborate wrought iron and was placed around the garden at various points where one could pause and admire the vista.

### **Which flowers were prominent in the Regency era?**

Sumptuous herbaceous borders became fashionable – as did placing large elaborate floral arrangements in follies. Flowers were romantic or dainty, so think old fashioned roses, lilac, cornflowers, hollyhocks, pinks, sweet Williams and small daisies.

The language of flowers was extremely important, as it said things that a suitor was unable to express directly. Myrtle signified love and marriage, violets faithfulness, lily purity, and morning glory affection. The giving of a posy was hugely significant.

Source: Hayes Garden World

Photo by Burak The Weekender

## Research shows energy efficiency is guiding home-moving decisions

Energy crisis concerns and a desire for more sustainable living appear to now play a major role in the way Brits make home-moving decisions:

- Three in four people state that they are worried about the energy performance of their current home, with one in four saying energy efficiency will be 'crucial' to their next home move.
- Being 'eco-friendly' and 'having a good EPC rating' are now the 2nd and 3rd most desirable features in a new home, behind outdoor space.
- House builders offer the key to unlocking UK electric car industry, as over 70% of Brits state that they would be persuaded to buy an electric vehicle if their home had a charging point.

Research carried out by the Home Builders Federation, to mark New Homes Week 2022, has revealed the extent to which energy efficiency is now guiding the way Brits are making home-moving decisions. Around three in four respondents (73%) to the HBF's recent survey stated that they are worried about the energy performance of their current home, with around a quarter (24%) saying that energy efficiency will be 'crucial' to their next home move.

The Home Builders Federation commissioned the research, ahead of New Homes Week 2022, to investigate sentiment among the British public towards more sustainable living, following in the wake of the recent energy crisis and growing general awareness of our individual carbon footprints. Around 2,000 people were surveyed around the country, and the results reveal the full extent to which energy efficiency and environmental factors now guide our choices of where to live.

The results place the UK's residential developers in the forefront of meeting public demand for more energy-efficient living and show that, when it comes to selecting a new home, sustainability is now a firm fixture at the top of our criteria. 'Eco friendly' and 'Having a good Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)' were rated as the second and third most important factors, respectively, behind 'private outdoor space'.

This survey was published as a new report from HBF showed that buyers of new build homes are saving more than £400 per household on their energy bills, and emitting almost 600,000 tonnes less carbon than if last year's new build homebuyers has chosen an older property.

### **The report – 'Greener, Cleaner, Cheaper' – published by the Home Builders Federation – finds that:**

- owners of new build houses and flats will save homeowners an average of £435 a year, rising to £555 for new build houses alone – equivalent to the cost of an average Premier League season ticket or a coffee from Pret every working day of the year;
- the average new build home emits 2.38 tonnes less of carbon each year, around one-third of the carbon produced by the average older property;
- despite new build homes being, on average, 7.4% larger than older properties, new homebuyers are still generating valuable savings every month.

With more lenders beginning to offer green mortgages – such as lower interest rates for buyers of more energy efficient homes – and stricter requirements for landlords renting out domestic properties, home builders are urging lenders to go further and faster to assist homebuyers in making the right environmental choice. Factoring into mortgage calculations the lower bills paid by new build buyers would enable even further savings to be made by buyers.

A further aspect of HBF's research revealed the pivotal relationship that the new homes industry can play in driving the UK's burgeoning electric vehicle industry, as 71% of people responded that they would be more persuaded to buy an electric car if their house came with an electric vehicle charging station; these are becoming prevalent on new-build projects throughout the country. The energy efficiency of homes has become increasingly important in recent years, amid the ongoing crisis surrounding rising energy prices and an enhanced focus on environmental issues. Builders of new build homes are able to adapt to new technologies, materials and regulations to embed energy efficiency at the point of construction, while owners of existing properties will often find themselves facing disruptive, extensive and costly retrofit works to bring their homes to the same standard.

In the year to September 2021, 84% of new build properties received an A or B Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating for energy efficiency, while just 3% of existing properties reached the same standard. In contrast, 58% of existing dwellings had an efficiency rating of D to G.

The improved energy efficiency standards have a significant impact on household carbon emissions. The report finds that new build homes in this sample accounted for 15.4% of EPCs, 16.4% of the floorspace, but just 6.4% of the total annual CO2 emissions.

The report finds that new build properties offer lower running costs for all household utilities. On average, new build purchasers save an annual £395 on heating bills, £28 on hot water and £12 on lighting. In total, the yearly household bill for owners of older properties in this dataset was £890, almost twice as much as the annual bill for a new homeowner, which was £455.

The survey results place the UK's residential developers at the forefront of meeting public demand for more energy-efficient living, with new homes generating only around one-third of the carbon produced by the average older property each year. Indeed, further research by the HBF has found that, on average, owners of new houses and flats save £435 on household bills per property each year, which totalled £112 million in savings in the year to September 2021. For buyers of new homes, the savings are even greater – up to £555 annually or £46 per month, which is equivalent to the average Premier League season ticket or a coffee from Pret every working day of the year.

When it comes to how Brits are becoming more sustainable at home, it would appear that food is very much on our minds. When asked what sustainable choices people undertake in their day-to-day lives, respondents' top three choices were how they throw things away (53%), their food shop (44%) and what they choose to eat (38%). Furthermore, the survey indicates that sustainability now forms a significant part of our social norms and expected behaviours. When asked what the most socially unacceptable behaviours are when it comes to sustainability, 63% said not recycling was the worst, and a further 46% said driving to destinations where walking was possible. Fast fashion (38%) and driving an SUV when you don't necessarily need it (36%) also topped the list.

**Stewart Baseley, Executive Chairman of the Home Builders Federation commented:** “‘Location, location, location’ has been the driving mantra of the UK home-movers for as long as we’ve known, but these results suggest we’re now entering the era of ‘location, location, insulation’, with energy efficiency becoming an ever more crucial factor in how we select our next home. With energy bills rising, it’s never been more important for homebuyers to weigh up these costs as they consider their next move.

This research highlights the crucial role that residential developers play in not only making UK housing stock more sustainable and energy efficient overall, but also meeting the demand of an increasingly eco-savvy public, who want to cut down their energy bills and live in more sustainable homes. As an industry, we have made major steps forward year-on-year in making all elements of housebuilding as sustainable as possible, with many developers well on the way to reaching net carbon zero throughout their operations.”

Baseley added: “Mortgage lenders have a vital role to play in helping homebuyers to make the cost efficient and carbon saving steps that households are increasingly keen to make.”

The new homes industry has responded to the Home Builders Federation’s research findings ...

**Ian Heasman, Director of Sustainability at Taylor Wimpey, said:** “We announced our environment strategy in March 2021, which outlines our commitments to making our homes and developments more sustainable, and to lessening our impact on the environment. We know that people want to live more sustainably and to reduce their carbon footprint, and we want to make it as easy as possible for our customers to do just that. Our homes have many features, such as energy saving lighting, zoned heating and water saving taps, which make them energy efficient, and we’re encouraging more sustainable transport choices.”

**Jon Di-Stefano, Chief Executive of Telford Homes, said:** “COP26 has brought into sharp focus the pressing need for the property industry to accelerate their efforts in relation to the climate crisis and we’re delighted to play our part by being ranked as the UK’s most sustainable housebuilder in the Next Generation benchmarking report for the second year running.”

**Ben Stone, Head of Sustainability Keepmoat Homes, said:** “Building a more sustainable future is at the core of Keepmoat Homes, for the environment, for our customers, and for the future generations. We are proud to build homes for eco-conscious buyers and have taken a number of steps to ensure we continually strive to build the best sustainable homes possible. Recently, we have introduced a number of green initiatives, including low carbon concrete blocks, timber frame construction, low temperature asphalt, as well as reusing soil and aggregates. Reacting to the recent shift in home working, we have also given all customers on new developments a gigabit of broadband, allowing more people to work from home.”

**Nicola Barclay, Chief Executive of Homes for Scotland, said:** “Scotland’s home builders are already well on the path to net zero – with a 75% reduction in carbon emissions from new homes built today, compared to 1990 baselines. There is more to do, of course, which will be challenging, not only for builders in terms of skills, grid capacity and supply chain readiness, but also for consumers in terms of behaviour change as new technologies are introduced, so the recognition of this shift in consumer demand in the survey findings is very welcome.”

#### **About the survey:**

The research was carried out independently by Opinion Matters, on behalf of the Home Builders Federation, between 16.02.2022 and 18.02.22. The sample was made up of 2,000 nationally representative UK adults. The survey was conducted online.

## *You are what you breathe: MVHR systems for new build homes*

**O**ver the past 18 months, client requests for installing MVHR (Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery) systems have become increasingly popular. Let's face it, when building a new home, who wouldn't want to include a product that improves indoor air quality, reduces energy bills, preserves the fabric of the building and supports the net-zero movement?

Nowadays, due to strict standards for insulation and airtightness, new homes and renovated dwellings are incredibly energy efficient; however, these measures can affect ventilation and have a negative impact on the home air quality.

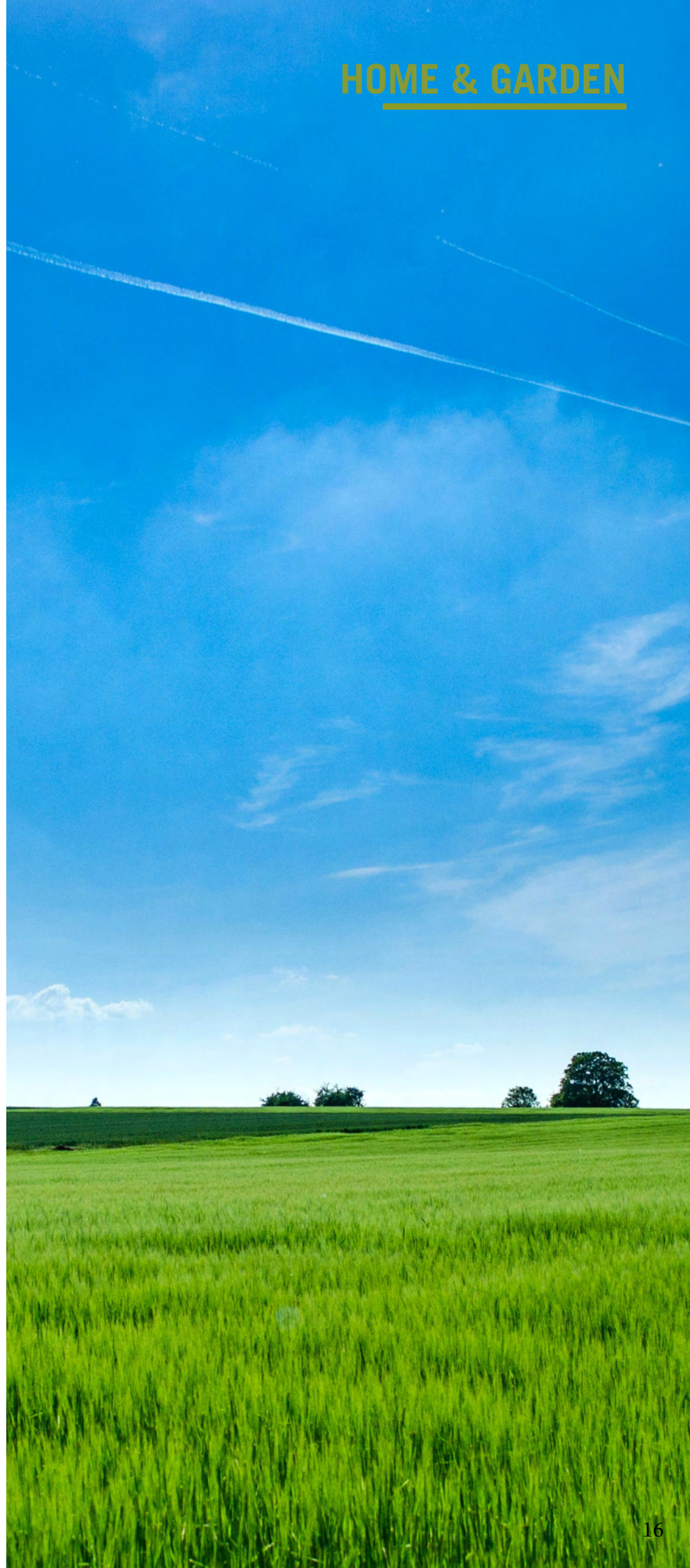
MVHR is a whole-house ventilation system that both extracts and supplies fresh filtered, temperature-controlled air throughout the property. It offers a balanced low energy ventilation solution for new build dwellings and re-uses up to 95% of the heat that would otherwise have been lost. MVHR uses a quiet fan that draws the stale air out and pumps fresh air in throughout the property, via a grid of concealed pipes.

MVHR systems are a clever solution to provide controlled ventilation of filtered air that has an abundance of benefits, especially for allergy prevention.

By including an MVHR system in your build project, you can guarantee great quality air flow as opposed to weather dictating ventilation, and the elimination of bad odours, damp, mould, and fungus.

The inclusion of an MVHR method can be seen as quite an investment. However, the small amount of energy used by the system to operate, compared to conventional heating and air conditioning solutions, can guarantee substantial savings on heating costs. It also supports the reduction of your CO2 footprint, helping towards more sustainable living.

An experienced Architect can advise you on the best 'environmentally friendly' choices to reduce your carbon footprint on your home development project.







## *Kate Austin Designs launches fair trade & organic homeware line*

**K**ate Austin has launched a vibrant collection of natural and organic homeware, in their trademark original prints - created in collaboration with Fair Trade artisans, Kate Austin Designs is a sustainable lifestyle brand centred on joy and fun, in print and colour. Everything starts in Kate's sunny Toronto studio, where she and her team create their original print designs, which are then made by Fair Trade artisans with incredible traditional hand work skills in India, Ecuador and Ghana.

The Home Summer 22 collection is produced from natural materials, including handwoven organic cotton, cabuya cactus fibre and hand-dyed elephant grass - all of which are ethically and sustainably sourced and produced.

Austin's collection is intended for celebrating the everyday pleasures of a meal shared with friends - a joy we no longer take for granted; and features an array of hot pink, fiery reds and spring greens. Inspiration for the collection was taken from the roses, tulips and peonies in Kate's garden, and her long forest-bathing walks in the woods, gathering moss and watching the flowers bloom...

The Home Summer Collection has been created from GOT certified organic cotton. The collection features seven different Kate Austin designs, which are hand-printed by a collective of master printers in Jaipur, India. The producers use non-toxic dyes and grey water systems in the studio - which helps to reduce the wasteful and expensive use of clean water needed in production. Along with a core of 40 main employees, the group also employs various master printers, dyers and weavers in the community. They are all local family businesses, many of which have passed the skill down through generations; all receive a living wage, which helps create a happy, tight-knit workforce, who take pride in their work.

**Napkins (set of 4) £38 (wrapped in plantable wildflower seed paper)**  
**Tea towels (set of 3) £47 (wrapped in plantable wildflower seed paper)**  
**Tablecloth £98**  
**Table runners £82**  
**Placemats £22**  
**Pot holders (set of 2) £25**  
**Double oven mitt £28**  
**Apron with front pocket £60**  
**Cushions £60**

Shigra Baskets: These come in seven different colourways and patterns; they are handwoven in Ecuador, using sustainable cactus fibre, by a community of indigenous Quechuan women in the Ecuadorian Andes

Small £32 / Medium £61 / Large £73

Website: <https://kateaustindesigns.com/collections/home>

# *Blooming soap brand wins Ethical Business Award*

**D**emonstrating ethical responsibility in all aspects of its business, Cambridgeshire soap company Bloom In Soap recently won an award for its ethical business practices. Displaying social responsibility to charity, adopting innovative plastic-free ecopackaging, and supporting fairtrade, women-led initiatives in Africa were the main reasons behind the win. Category winners were selected by a panel of expert judges, including Natasha Francis from the BBC's The Bidding Room and founder of The Urban Vintage Affair <https://theurbanvintageaffair.com/>.

Bloom In Soap (<https://www.bloominsoap.co.uk/>) handcrafts natural soap and skincare products that are kind to skin and the planet. Up against several businesses from across the country, Bloom In Soap outshone the competition by demonstrating unparalleled benefits to the environment, with its sustainable wildflower seed packaging. This plastic-free packaging is not only biodegradable but also supports our planet's ecosystem by growing a selection of wildflowers native to the UK. Thrilled with the award win, **Alison Leifsen, Founder at Bloom In Soap, said:** "I'm passionate about championing like-minded ethical small businesses. I work with a woman-owned UK small business to print my soap packaging. She sources her wildflower seed paper from a local paper mill. By working together, we keep our carbon footprint low, and it's a win-win for the environment."

Putting ethics before profits, Bloom In Soap also supports a fairtrade initiative in Ghana, by purchasing raw shea butter as an ingredient in its skincare products. Shea butter producers are often paid up to 2.5 times less for their product than the actual market value, so purchasing shea butter directly from this dynamic group of 54 Ghanaian women empowers them to stand up against exploitation, and demand a fair price for their product. Excited about supporting this female-led initiative, Alison added: "Empowering this group of incredible women brings joy to my heart. I connect with the group on social media, and it's clear that they love what they do - these women sing and laugh as they work, and that is wonderful to see. Supporting these women gives them a voice and enables them to flourish in ways that would otherwise not be open to them."

The Modern Maker Awards are organised by BizBubble (<https://bizbubble.co.uk/>), the small business network that provides support and inspiration to innovative small businesses throughout the UK. This year, dozens of small businesses entered the awards that celebrate and recognise the UK's creative industry.

Web: [www.bloominsoap.co.uk](http://www.bloominsoap.co.uk)

Email: [hello@bloominsoap.co.uk](mailto:hello@bloominsoap.co.uk)

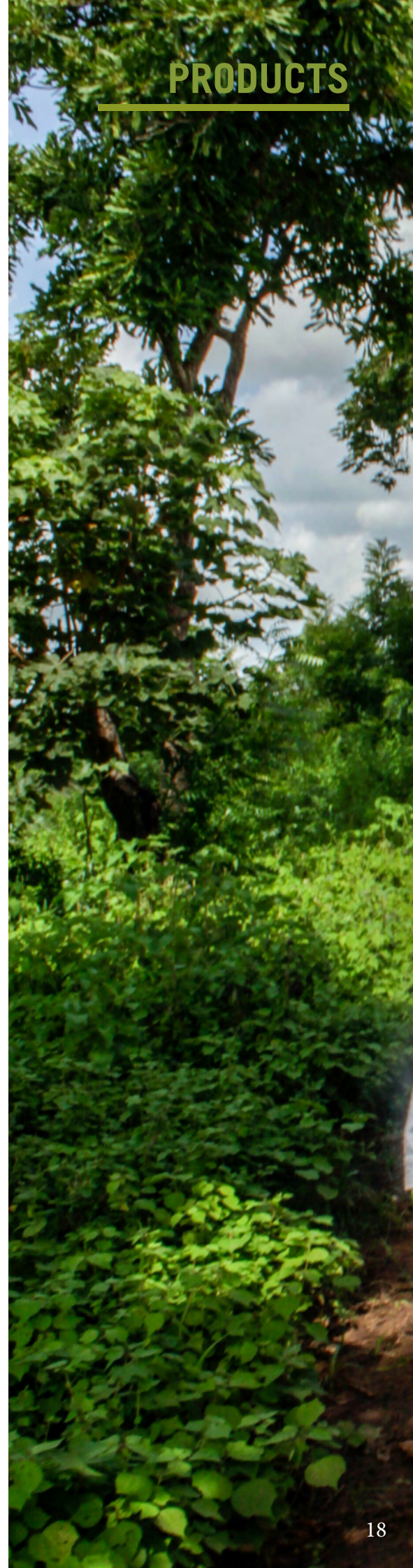






Photo by Elle Hughes

## *Over one million trees a day are cut down to make traditional toilet paper*

**W**ho Gives A Crap, the eco-friendly toilet paper company, has revealed the devastating impact that traditional toilet paper production has on deforestation. Over one million trees a day are cut down to make traditional toilet paper. That's the equivalent of Wembley Stadium 26 times over, although the likelihood is that this number is much more.

Globally, more than 1.9 million trees would need to be cut down each day to create enough traditional toilet paper (virgin rolls manufactured solely with new wood pulp) to satisfy all the world's bums.

'Environmental Impacts of Traditional Toilet Paper Usage', the inaugural report commissioned by Who Gives A Crap and helmed by specialist research team Edge Environment, makes plain the true scale of environmental damage caused by the 42 million tonnes of toilet paper used globally a year.

Released ahead of Earth Day (22 April), the report hoped to shed light on this largely unknown problem. Who Gives A Crap research indicates that the majority (62%) of people don't realise their choice of toilet paper can have an enormous impact on the current rates of deforestation.

Each person uses around 127 rolls of toilet paper per year, which means 735 million square meters of forest are needed to produce enough traditional toilet paper for the world's needs.

This scale of deforestation means that 180 billion kilograms of carbon dioxide would remain in the atmosphere every year, impacting biodiversity, flora and fauna, and even humans, with Indigenous communities around the world disproportionately affected. There's a lot to cause concern, but consumers have the power to change industry demand.

"We're flushing one of our most precious resources down the toilet," says **Simon Griffiths, CEO and co-founder of Who Gives A Crap**. "Even some of the most dedicated eco-warriors massively underestimate the impact traditional toilet paper production has on our forests and beyond."

Simon continues: "These statistics are pretty depressing, but we all have the power to change them. We want to empower the consumer to make ethical choices about how they spend their money, and the future that it is contributing to."

To download the full report, visit the [Who Gives A Crap's website](#).

## Skagen launches sustainable watches and jewellery

Skagen (pronounced skay-gn), the Scandinavian design-inspired watch and jewellery brand, is proud to announce a new sustainable mission statement critical to its brand ethos: “Skagen. Sustainability for People and Planet”. In conjunction with this, the brand is proud to debut three new watches and jewellery collections sourced with more sustainable materials. From pro-planet limited editions to sustainable iconic products, there is something for everyone to enjoy and feel good about wearing. In a significant effort to use materials that are more sustainable within 90% of the traditional watch assortment by the end of the year, Skagen is committed to pro-planet innovation and partnering with organisations shaping the path towards a more accessible and sustainable future.

This year, Skagen is partnering with Save The Waves Coalition – an international non-profit organisation that collaborates with diverse organisations dedicated to protecting surf ecosystems. Save The Waves Coalition aims to protect surf ecosystems worldwide by creating protected areas, through its flagship World Surfing Reserve program and Surf Protected Area Networks. “The goal of the partnership between Skagen and Save The Waves is to highlight the important role we all play in protecting coastlines and surf ecosystems worldwide, especially in the light of climate change,” says **Nik Strong-Cvetich, Chief Executive Officer of Save The Waves Coalition**. “Brands like Skagen not only help us raise awareness and provide people the tools they need to take action, but they also walk the walk on sustainability. Our collaboration is a reflection of these mutually held core values”.

Skagen has long been committed to making positive change and progress within the accessories and watches space, and its newest, more sustainable watch offering, Grenen Ocean, is designed with #tide ocean material® – which upcycles ocean-bound plastic waste and transforms it into a premium second-life raw material. It showcases the brand’s overall innovation and commitment to a more responsible form of production.

The eco-friendly timepiece cases and bracelets, in the 37mm styles, are made by combining 100% ocean-bound plastics with fibre for reinforcement. The ocean-bound plastics are collected and transformed, in part by renewable energy, into #tide granules, which are then repurposed into durable plastic and used to manufacture the cases and bracelets of these stunning, pro-planet watches. Most styles also feature Japanese solar movements that continuously charge in indoor and outdoor light, and hold up to a six-month power reserve (depending on the style), making them a more sustainable selection. The smaller 26mm Lille style features a #tide bracelet and at least 50% recycled BST stainless steel case, with prices ranging from £169 to £189.

Additionally, the Grenen collection features the Ocean Limited Edition watch, with a textured blue wave dial, case, and bracelet in durable #tide ocean material®, for a fresh and sporty look. The upcycled material is created from 100% ocean-bound plastics with fibre for reinforcement, giving waste a second life on your wrist. 100% of the 300 piece Grenen Ocean Limited Edition watch proceeds will go to the Save The Waves Coalition, to help protect and preserve surf ecosystems across the globe. “This style represents a great pairing of Danish design and Skagen’s sustainability efforts. We wanted the material to be the focal point, so it was important to use the right platform. Grenen is just that: clean lines, lightweight, and extremely wearable. That simplicity allows the materials to shine. This style continues our commitment to do better with the addition of solar movement,” said **Ian Miller, Skagen Creative Director**.



Lastly, Skagen is set to unveil its first-ever sustainable jewellery collection through a partnership with CLED, a jewellery brand that uses discarded resources like glass bottles and repurposes them into new treasured objects, to reduce the environmental impact that doesn’t sacrifice quality or design. CLED® stands for Conscious Lifestyle Earth Friendly & Ethical Design, and, like Skagen, the brand values transparency in all aspects of how they do business. “We wanted to create jewellery that not only looked good but crafted to ‘do good’” said **Halle Millien Skagen, Associate Creative Director**. The four-piece earring collection draws inspiration from sea glass, found throughout Denmark, due to its organic shape and colouration. Each piece is unique – no two are the same, due to the recycled glass used. CLED’s signature packaging is co-branded for this product, and made with recycled content and environmentally friendly inks. This stylish and more sustainable collection is available for purchase; visit [www.skagen.com](http://www.skagen.com).

“At Skagen, sustainability and timelessness are at the forefront of our eco-friendly design process, creating pieces to last a lifetime – with people and the planet in mind. We recognise the significance of our partnerships, suppliers, and material use, and celebrate our selections – solar movement, planetfriendly leather, and upcycled/recycled materials. Sustainability isn’t a choice; it’s a lifestyle. Let’s live it.”

Tide Ocean SA collects plastic waste from the ocean, along coastlines and uncontrolled landfills. In cooperation with scientists at the Swiss University of Applied Sciences in Rapperswil, Tide Ocean SA has found a solution to how the damaged plastic can be repaired and upcycled into high-quality granules and yarns for new sustainable products. For this achievement in circular economy, #tide was honoured with the German Materialica Design + Technology Award 2019, the Swiss Plastics Expo Award 2020 and the Hongkong International Business Award. In its first two years of business, #tide has already upcycled more than 25 million plastic bottles.

Save The Waves Coalition is an international non-profit organisation, working with diverse organisations to protect surf ecosystems. Founded by Seulye Jo, the brand is on a mission to disrupt how design can make a big impact, with a smaller footprint, by upcycling unlimited resources to create sustainable beauty.

## Products we love



### THIRTY • NINE design studio

THIRTY • NINE is a conscious design studio based in Essex, creating fashion and lifestyle accessories. Founder Jen has worked in the retail industry, designing womenswear, for several years. After witnessing the amount of material wasted from production and sampling scraps, she began collecting fabric to save it from going to landfill. Utilising preexisting textiles that don't cost our planet, the majority of the product range is one of a kind, due to the nature of 'end of roll' / remnant textiles or upcycling unwanted garments. It's a small and simple business promoting a positive change in our buying habits

### Reusable nappies: The Nappy Gurus®

Modern Reusable nappies offer convenience, ease of use and reliability – at a fraction of the cost of disposables, and at no cost to the planet! Most parents opt for one-size reusable nappies, as these will grow with your baby from birth through to potty training. That means that you only ever need to buy one set of nappies, and need never worry about them again.

Reusable nappies can seem daunting at first, with lots of different nappy brands and styles available on the market. However, at The Nappy Gurus® they aim to break it down and keep cloth simple! You can take a look at their Beginners Guide to Cloth Nappies here as a handy starting guide, and all of their nappies are sectioned into handy shopping categories. For example, Pocket Nappies (which are quick-drying, easy to use and have customisable absorbency), All in One Nappies (which are the easiest reusable nappies but are slower drying) or Fitted Nappies (which are recommended for overnight nappy use). This range of modern cloth nappies are tried, tested and loved by The Nappy Guru® team.



### Pop My Way collection

The Pop My Way collection features ingenious mix-and-match baby essentials with interchangeable accessories that are designed to 'pop' on to the garment. Add a splash of colour, replace a messy bib or make lost socks a thing of the past, thanks to the clever shoulder and ankle poppers. The brand's Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certifications mean that every step of their process is measurably sustainable – including the harvesting of the cotton, the environmental and social standards, and the packaging.

Pop My Way has received the highest rating of 'great' from Good On You, the world's leading source for ethical and sustainable brand ratings. The company has also received a Junior Design Award for 'Best Eco Baby Collection' and an Absolutely Mama award for 'Most Eco-Friendly Brand'. They have been featured in HELLO, the Independent, the Sunday Times, the Metro, OK, and more.

### The Fine Harvest

Good for your body, mind and soul... The Fine Harvest. The raison d'être at The Fine Harvest is to feed the body, the soul and the earth – offering quality artisan foods, made only with the finest ingredients in small batches, that are both delicious for our senses and healthy for us both physically and mentally. Sourcing directly from producers with no middlemen involved ensures high traceability while providing best value to consumers. The company believes that healthy, premium foods should be accessible for all, not just for a privileged few. With a passion for wellness, their produce proves that food is so much more than fuel – that it can be both delicious and good for you. That passion extends beyond people – their sustainability policy means that they are playing their part in healing the planet, too.

Andreas Diakou is the founder at The Fine Harvest. His strong belief is that premium quality foods that are both delicious and nutritious should be available for all to discover, and his mission is to make them accessible to as many people as possible. He also has a special interest in sustainability and ensures that he and his business play their part in making a positive impact on our planet – not only for the short term but for future generations, too.



## Method multi-surface concentrated cleaners

Kiss goodbye to your old cleaning routine with the launch of method's NEW multisurface concentrated cleaner.

Some say breaking up is hard to do, but method think it can be bursting with colour and smell like sunshine. So, ditch your old cleaning routine and start something new with method's mini, mighty multi-tasker. Available in four scentsational new fragrances, it'll put the va-va-voom back into your cleaning regime. It is available in:

- lively mango + citrus;
- refreshing lotus flower + sage;
- joyful bing cherry + bergamot; and
- dreamy jasmine + cypress wood.

Packed with plant-based cleaning power, this pocket rocket tackles a multitude of tasks. The ten times concentrated formula is 50% less expensive than method multi-surface cleaners. Just add water to make spray bottles and buckets, or you can use it neat to tackle stubborn grime.

The cute new bottle is made with 100% post-consumer recycled plastic and is widely recyclable. Each bottle saves up to 81% of plastic vs buying three new 828ml method spray bottles.

Available for £5 rrp, method's NEW multi-surface concentrates are available in cleaning aisles and online from at Tesco and method shop, and coming soon to Ocado and Amazon. Grab your mop – you've pulled! It's time to make a new friend with countless benefits.



## Soul Fruit's Fruit Chips

The Soul Fruit's Fruit Chips range includes: Dragon Fruit Chips, Mango Chips and Jackfruit Chips, which are all made from 100% vacuum-dried fruit with no added sugars, preservatives or oils.

Soul Fruit Chips are simply dried to crunchy perfection, meaning that they retain the nutrition of fresh fruit, without the health risks of fried food.

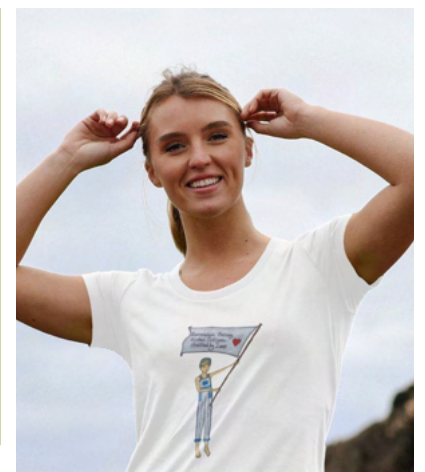
Its soft dried varieties include Soft Dried Mango and Dragon Fruit, which hit all the sensory touch points as the most popular artificial sweets. Irresistibly chewy and bursting with tropical flavours, they are nutrient-dense fruits which can be enjoyed anywhere.

Simply dried, 100% natural, with nothing added, these fruit snacks are not only incredibly delicious and satisfying, but they also count as one of your five-a-day, and are certified vegan and gluten free.

## Chariklo

Chariklo: kind to people and our planet. The company provides beautifully designed and ethically-made organic casual wear. Their original art and unique designs are real statement pieces. For those who want a more subtle look, they have unadorned tops, tees, and sweaters in a wide selection of gorgeous colours, including pastels and classic black or white. All their designs are available in various styles within their men's, women's, unisex and recycled ranges.

Every item is made to be remade within Chariklo's circular economy model. Simply start the returns process by scanning the product label. They will send you a Freepost\* envelope to return your used item and credit your store account (currently £5 per item returned). Each returned item is then re-milled and turned into a new recycled product. Make a difference and join the circular economy today with [chariklo.co.uk](https://chariklo.co.uk). \*Freepost is currently available for UK customers only.



## Introducing *ånd* and fragrance

The concept for *ånd* fragrance came from a feeling that the world was suffering fear and confusion, and that it was time for some positive solutions to the problems we all face. Obviously, perfume is a strange place to start, but Perfumer Simon Constantine saw that, through his craft, it was the only way he could see to make a contribution. During the coronavirus pandemic, it made him initially think that it was insensitive to launch a brand in the middle of such a crisis; however, in conversation with others, it became apparent that it could still be a positive step and so *ånd* fragrance was launched.

*Ånd* comes from old Norse and English for breath, spirit and ghost. Aside from sounding trendy, he wanted a word that felt right, like a breath of fresh air. The aim of *ånd* is to be a regenerative business – a collaboration between us all, and nothing is as good at joining things together as the word ‘and’.

### The people

Coming from a background where ingredients matter most – where they are grown and who grows them – Simon couldn’t help but make this the focus. Each ingredient was chosen because it had a direct benefit to people and the planet. They come from communities that offer ways of living and that it’s time to listen. Each fragrance aims to champion ways of living with ecosystems as a way of solving our future needs. Whether you are concerned about climate change, jobs or another pandemic, the key to all is restoring nature. Healthy ecosystems equal healthy people.

### The product

*ånd* fragrance currently has seven beautiful vegan, cruelty-free and ethical-sourced fragrances. Each perfume was formulated to be the comfort food of the fragrance world. The perfumes are a splash of colour, bold and fun. Some aspects of the perfumes will smell familiar and reassuring; others aim to push boundaries, but only in an effort to connect the customer through scent to worlds that we otherwise would struggle to visit.

- *Beån* is a warm mix of Tonka from the heart of the Amazon, mixed with organic orange oil.
- *Sånd* takes Australian Sandalwood and blends it, like never before, with banana and labdanum.
- *Båre* uses Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar and Shore Pine from Great Bear Rainforest, supporting First Nations, and exudes a herbal freshness coupled with a hearty vanilla base.
- *Frånk* was inspired after a trip to Somaliland and takes frankincense and marries it with fresh citrus and fruit gums.
- *Måd* is arguably the most crowd-pleasing, taking the best loved Madagascan Vanilla and then spinning it into a fun blackcurrant dessert.
- *Påtch* is made from Sumatran Dark Patchouli, grown by farmers who are working to reduce deforestation – magical and woody oudh with a fruity Osmanthus.
- *Får* is the latest luxury perfume to join the collection, with its yuzu oil, Makrut lime oil and Labdanum resinoid, to provide a gourmand tangy fragrance reminiscent of a yuzu cheesecake.

**Perfumer Simon Constantine said:** “The concept came from a feeling that the world was suffering fear and confusion and that it was time for some positive solutions to the problems we all face. Obviously, perfume is a strange place to start, but it’s my craft and the only way I could see to make a contribution.”







## Endangered Animals Mini Builds

New Endangered Animals Mini Builds from Build Your Own are the perfect addition to their growing range of eco-friendly, STEMinspired kits. Perfect as a family activity, Build Your Own's Endangered Animals Mini Builds are designed to ensure that there's no glue, no mess, no fuss.

Giving back to protect: for every Hawksbill Turtle kit purchased, Build Your Own will donate a percentage of the profit to the World Wildlife Foundation.

There are four Build Your Own Endangered Animals Mini Builds kits to collect: White Rhino, Snowy Owl, Mountain Gorilla and Hawksbill Turtle. Each has a unique moving action that brings it to life.

Build Your Own Hawksbill Turtle RRP – £9.99.

Putting together your Build Your Own Hawksbill Turtle is simple. Everything you need is in the kit – follow the instructions: press out the 23 pre-cut parts and build using easy slot together techniques.

Constructing the Build Your Own Hawksbill Turtle will take you and your grown up approximately 20 minutes.

Made using 100% sustainable cardboard and paper, Build Your Own's Hawksbill Turtle kit is 100% plastic-free, making it fun and environmentally friendly. Elegantly designed, with life-like features, including a colourful shell, Build Your Own's Hawksbill Turtle is a vibrant model. Once you've completed construction, the real fun begins! Animate your endangered turtle with a clever pull-tab flipper action for a delightful play element.

Develop your knowledge of the endangered Hawksbill Turtle with an information card and press-out Hawksbill Turtle Fact Stand. Share fascinating facts with your friends and family about the threats they face and the vital conservation work of the World Wildlife Foundation.

Build Your Own Hawksbill Turtle is suitable for ages eight to 100, but it is best enjoyed as a family experience.

- Mess-free, slot together cardboard construction
- Perfect family time activity
- Estimated build time of 20 minutes
- Skill level rating: 2.5 stars out of 5
- Discover and learn about hawksbill turtles
- 23 press-out parts
- High-quality sustainable cardboard and paper
- Full instructions included, plus online support
- Designed in the UK
- Fun, educational and supports STEM

Available from [www.buildyourownkits.com](http://www.buildyourownkits.com).

UNIQUE  
C B D

## *Unique CBD: an environment-friendly way to counter anxiety and sleep issues*

It's thought that around 75% of people have experienced more stress than usual since the start of the pandemic in 2020, with 61% saying that they have struggled to sleep as a result (Mintel).

Over recent years, entrepreneurs Oli White and Evie Marcer tried many different products to help manage their anxiety and sleep issues that had been worsening due to stressful jobs and busy schedules, with little success. Eventually, having tried various forms of CBD products and experienced some benefits, they decided to partner with a leading neuroscientist to help them create the highest quality, purest, custom-formulated CBD oils, initially for their personal use. The effectiveness of the oils led them to develop and launch Unique CBD, initially with two high quality CBD oils.

Unique CBD oil tinctures are CO2 extracted, 100% THC-free, and are also gluten-free, cruelty-free and vegan-friendly. Made with US organically cultivated hemp that is free of both herbicide and pesticide, the CBD oils are 100% natural. Made in the UK, every bottle contains a premium CBD product that has received third-party lab testing by Eurofins, one of the world's leading testing facilities.

Unique CBD originally launched with the CBD Drops, Day Drops, a 5% CBD oil tincture in a blend of the highest quality CBD and natural oils rich in Omega-3. Designed to support in calming one's nervous system and eliminating a build-up of stress during the day, Day Drops interact with our bodies' endocannabinoid system, associated with balancing a multitude of bodily functions, such as sleep, emotions, pain and stress (10ml, 500mg CBD – £55).

The brand's bestseller is the original Night Drops. A delicately balanced blend of natural terpenes and highest quality CBD oil in 20% concentration, Night Drops interact with the bodies' endocannabinoid system, allowing them to regulate functions of the body such as motor activity, appetite, short-term memory, immune cells, gut, kidneys, skin and many others. Users swear by the immensely beneficial effects on their more regular and deep sleep routines. This is one to try if you struggle to settle down and switch off at bedtime (10ml, 2000mg CBD – £135).

Now the brand has forayed into skincare, with the launch of the new CBD Body Cream (£49). Its gentle, safe formula is free from parabens, sulphates and PEGs, and is completely non-toxic and vegan-friendly.

A portion of each UNIQUE CBD sale is donated to the environmental organisation Ecologi, which has a goal to tackle climate change by planting trees and creating resilient, healthy forests that are crucial in providing benefits to sustain the environment, people and wildlife.

"We felt it an important part of our company's responsibility to take an environmentally conscious approach and make active efforts to reduce our impact. Our donations have already led to 621 new trees being planted, while helping to offset our carbon emissions and keep UNIQUE CBD green," said **Founder Oli White**. Stockist: [uniquecbd.co.uk](https://uniquecbd.co.uk)

# Adaptology for skincare

**A**daptology is an adaptogen-based range of targeted skincare solutions born from a real drive to create a more personalised ‘whole person’ approach to skincare, with a mission to empower people to understand their skin concerns, and make knowledgeable choices to improve their skin and their health in the long run. The company’s search for the most effective natural skincare ingredients for four of the most common skin concerns has taken it to the extreme ends of the earth, where high performance adaptogenic plants that thrive in stressful conditions have been found (a bit like trying to get on the Central Line at rush hour in summer).

These plants, found in extreme conditions, adapt their biology and evolve bio-correcting molecules to protect their cells and thrive. They include adaptogens such as Arctic Rose plus other ‘extremophiles’, marine algae and cacti. Adaptology uses the biocorrectors that these extremophiles evolve to protect cells from irritants, infection and environmental extremes. On human skin, they are proven problemsolvers for the stresses that cause skin concerns.

It is our modern way of living that has introduced multiple skin disruptors, resulting in an increasing prevalence of skin challenges. Seventy-one per cent report having sensitive skin, resulting in irritation, redness and/or dry skin. Acne is on the rise and now affects 15% of adult women (as well as 85% of under 24s). These conditions – plus premature ageing – can be triggered by external factors such as UV or blue light radiation and pollution, along with internal factors such as hormone imbalances, gut issues, stress, poor diet and lost sleep.

With modern life becoming more disruptive to skin health, Adaptology takes a supportive approach to problem-solving skincare, with philosophy based on restoring a healthy balance. This includes a scientifically formulated skincare range, alongside online skin coaching and nutrition advice, to address underlying causes and help establish healthy habits. It’s like taking supplements for your skin.

Adaptology has four skin type-specific ranges, plus a booster range that is good for all skin types: Red Avert – for redness & sensitivity, Time Warp – for ageing skin, Break Free – for blemish prone skin, Dry Spell – for dry skin, and the Hydro Pump Booster.

The company’s research has shown that many people are unsure of their specific skin type and, for this reason, it offers a skin quiz which can be found at [www.adaptology.com](http://www.adaptology.com). You will be guided to your perfect skincare collection. Full information on all of Adaptology’s adaptogens and ingredients can also be found on the website.

Passionate about fusing business and ethical values, Adaptology is part of Good Ventures, a company dedicated to formulating certified organic and sustainable products accessible to everyone. Adaptology, and its parent company Good Ventures, has been plastic negative as of 2020 and has offset all direct, manufacturing and transportation carbon footprints. Good Ventures produces all products in small batches, using wind-powered clean energy.



# *Ovolo becomes first hotel group to go veggie globally*

Independent and dynamic designer hotel collection Ovolo Hotels has announced its latest move in an ongoing pledge to ethical eating, conscious cuisine and cutting-edge veg, becoming the first hotel brand globally to commit to a vegetarian-lead offering, Plant'd, across its hotel restaurants.

The announcement signifies a further progressive shift for the designer hotel collection, following the success of its 'Year of the Veg' campaign, which launched in October 2020, where venues transitioned to a vegetarian-only offering for an initial 365 days, serving up vibrant vegetarian and plant-based cuisine.

**Ovolo Group's Founder and CEO, Girish Jhunjhnuwala said:** "Meat is being removed for a second year in a row at Ovolo Hotels. With a number of our Ovolo venues already serving plant-based cuisine, we have decided to go the full 100%. It's been a strategic move, but Ovolo prides itself on being an industry leader. We believe that the world changes, therefore we continue to evolve – we want to ensure we are doing our bit to help preserve our environment, promote healthy eating and enhance the image of amazing vegetarian and plant-based dining.

There has also been a lot of learnings along the way, and we want to share those insights with others in the industry, and outside the industry, who are considering making the switch to a vegetarian-lead offerings or integrating it into their existing offering. That's why we have created our Plant'd Playbook white paper, which will be publicly available for all to access".

Ovolo's Group Creative Culinary Partner, Ian Curley, has worked with the hotel's restaurants across the group including Hong Kong, Australia and Bali to take the Plant'd veg pledge. All venues now have new menus.

Inspired by an increasing consumer interest in the many benefits of a plant-based diet, this change reflects Ovolo's commitment to delivering its customers' desires, while promoting a 'eating good to feel good' mentality. Guests will continue to enjoy the quality food and beverage offering they have come to expect from Ovolo restaurants, while nourishing their bodies and feeding their souls through menus which reflect a renewed commitment to sustainability and wellbeing.

Of transitioning to a vegetarian-lead offering, **Ian Curley said:** "Our move to vegetarian dining has been even more successful than we anticipated, and we now find ourselves part of a new wave of plant-based pioneers. The one big lesson we have learned from our bold experiment: never underestimate your guests. A key focus for us has been ensuring we are creating something that still appeals to everyone – from vegans to flexitarians, and those who are simply keen on expanding their palette. We are lucky enough to be working with some incredible suppliers, across the rollout, who share our passion for offering nutritious, delicious and sustainable food solutions. Companies such as V2 are really expanding people's minds in terms of what is possible with plant-based cuisine, and make it an easy entry point for those curious about trying some vegan spins on classic dishes".

The Plant'd Playbook white paper includes: information on the reasons Ovolo has made the switch with their food and beverage offering; what to know before you go veg; tips on defining food and beverage menus; and learnings along the way. The white paper will be publicly available via Ovolo's Plant'd webpage on [ovolohotels.com](http://ovolohotels.com), in support of those companies looking to move to a vegetarian-lead philosophy and encouraging industry collaboration.

Committed to continuously finding ways to further reduce their environmental footprint, this launch comes off the back of several eco-friendly initiatives already implemented by the hotel collection in the past year. These include switching to free-range eggs, opting for a wine list lead by natural wines, providing refillable water containers, using more planet-friendly paper on the menus and takeaway containers, working with suppliers, and Ovolo being an early adopter of removing plastic straws to eliminate plastic.

This also includes the bold move away from single use bathroom amenity plastics – all OMG Amenities being designed in a sustainable manner, and making use of re-fillable, tamper-free pump bottles which are HDPE recyclable. The company has also introduced reusable woven bags for slippers, and the use of biodegradable materials in laundry bags and packaging.



# Global sustainable tourism: Beyond Green

**A**n interview with global sustainable tourism pioneer and co-founder of Beyond Green, Costas Christ ...

## 1. Can you tell us more about Beyond Green and how the brand originated?

The brand was born out of a natural synergy and shared set of values that were discovered over an initial coffee meeting between myself and Lindsey Ueberroth – CEO of Preferred Hotel Group – after we were introduced by a mutual friend. Working together and in collaboration with a hand-selected group of progressive, innovative hoteliers, we officially founded Beyond Green in April 2021, to establish a more purposeful way to explore the world where good guests meet good hosts.

## 2. What are some of the common misconceptions people have about sustainable tourism that you would like to clarify?

A common misconception is that you have to give something up to have a sustainable holiday, when really it is about gaining something more. What can be better than having a great vacation filled with learning and fun, while knowing that you are contributing in positive ways to protecting nature, supporting cultural diversity and benefitting local communities?

## 3. What are some top tips you can share for how we can be more sustainable this year?

Each of our travel choices can make a huge difference when it comes to booking a great hotel stay that is also great for local people and the planet. Beyond Green was created to make being a sustainable traveller easier. When you book a Beyond Green hotel, you are joining a movement committed to travel as a force for good. When booking any hotel, first look on their website to see if they have sustainability clearly identified as part of their mission and core values. Then give a call to the reception desk and ask a green hotel question, such as: Has the hotel eliminated plastic water bottles properly? These days, if a hotel is still using plastic water bottles in guest rooms, etc, you can be pretty sure that they are also behind on other sustainability practices. The good news is that more and more hotels are making sustainability a priority and, when it comes to real innovation, Beyond Green hotels are leading the way.

## 4. How important is it that member properties provide guests with the opportunity to connect with the local culture and people during their stays?

It is one of the core values we stand for: nature, culture, and community. All of our founding members are engaged in helping guests to connect with local people and to learn about the culture in the places they visit. Having an opportunity to learn about a destination's traditions and way of life is one of the great joys and privileges of travel.

## 5. Can you share some examples of some of the sustainability efforts that Beyond Green members are doing?

Beyond Green brings together some of the world's most forward-thinking properties that work tirelessly to protect biodiversity, celebrate cultural heritage, and improve local people's livelihoods in destinations around the world, all while delivering an exceptional guest experience.

Collectively, the brand's member hotels are responsible for the regeneration of more than six million acres of former degraded terrestrial ecosystems that are home to rare and endangered wildlife, and each property is required to adhere to more than 50 sustainability indicators that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For example, The Brando helped to pioneer the world's first air conditioning system powered by renewable energy without any harmful chemicals, including hydrofluorocarbons; they are major contributors to climate change. At Wilderness Safaris Bisate Lodge in Rwanda, a community partnership is helping to regenerate vital mountain gorilla habitat, and at Ted Turner Reserves Vermejo in USA, they are protecting and rewilding more than half a million acres of natural habitat, home to some of the rarest and most endangered species in North America.

### 6. Where is next on your travel bucket list?

I would jump at the chance to visit Xigera, Africa's newest and most sustainable safari lodge, located in the heart of the Okavango Delta – a biodiversity bonanza of nature – which is arguably among the greatest places to see wildlife on the planet. In addition to being powered by 400-plus kilowatt solar energy panels, the lodge has a Tesla advanced battery system for charging electric safari vehicles. Xigera is like a dream come true for experiencing the luxury of wide-open spaces where nature still reigns supreme – and that is before you even get to the luxury of the lodge itself, which offers 12 private villas, a celebrated chef, a spa featuring rejuvenating natural treatments for body and mind, and a wine cellar with curated selections from some of the most celebrated vineyards near Cape Town.

I also have this dream that, from the wide-open vistas of the Okavango, I will head to Aristi Mountain Resort in Northern Greece – a small family-owned property that is one of Greece's hidden secrets, tucked into a valley surrounded by snow-capped peaks and ancient hiking trails that date back to the time of the Romans. As part of this journey, I will pass small traditional villages along the way to enjoy fresh, local food served with a friendly side of age-old Greek hospitality





## *Luxurious sustainable lakeside clubhouse in Mexico*

In a display of modern luxury, the Valle San Nicolás Clubhouse makes use of sustainably-sourced Kebony wood to complete its spectacular Mexican lakeside vision. Located on the outskirts of Valle de Bravo, the clubhouse has been expertly designed to celebrate its surroundings, with a 360-degree vista of the adjacent lake and neighbouring mountains.

The clubhouse is the result of a collaboration between Mexican architecture studio Sordo Madaleno Arquitectos and developers Grupo Terraforma. Situated only two hours away from Mexico City, the Valle San Nicolás Clubhouse is perfectly positioned to offer an escape into nature, complete with a sustainable conscience and focus on well-being.

Decked in Kebony timber, the sustainable development offers a magnificent well-being experience, enhanced by an intimate connection to nature, as modern architectural style meets cutting-edge environmentally-friendly building technology.

The 385-hectare development features a circular floor plan which is unique in design, drawing attention to the spectacular scenery, with the open layout allowing the sun to flood through the structure from dawn until dusk. The site consists of an 800-metre water-ski lake and the showpiece clubhouse pavilion, as panoramic views of the lake are framed by rolling hills. Sordo Madaleno Arquitectos' emphasis on open corridors and exposed rooms allows for 360-degree views of the surrounding topography, including forests and mountain vistas, from almost every position of the clubhouse's interior.

A central sunken passageway feature splits the clubhouse into two wings, each of which is fitted with a vast range of relaxation, socialisation and well-being amenities, framing an internal body of water. The west wing grants access to the gym, outdoor jacuzzi, spa cabins and steam room, whilst the east wing allows groups to unwind with the choice of a bar, kitchen, dining area, barbecue and firepit. A swimming lane and sunbathing area located on a pier extension also offer a serene experience which complements the outdoor scenery.

With two ringed walkways spanning its interior and exterior, the clubhouse makes use of Kebony Character for the decking. Developed in Norway, Kebony's pioneering wood-processing technology sees sustainably-sourced softwoods heated with furfuryl alcohol, an agricultural by-product, modifying the wood to maintain the same properties of tropical hardwoods but without the same contribution to the carbon footprint. Kebony wood is cost-effective and a rich brown colour, making it a natural choice for this state-of-the-art pavilion, which embraces the environment and places an importance on sustainability.

The Valle San Nicolás Clubhouse demonstrates an awareness of the ever-growing demand for luxurious well-being experiences, which are committed to sustainable construction and the protection of natural sites such as the local Mexican panorama. Other finishing touches serve to complement the cross-laminated timber (CLT) structure, including volcanic stone and an American red oak roof.

**Nina Landbø, International Sales Manager at Kebony said:** "The Valle San Nicolás development honours a strong commitment to sustainable construction with no compromise to the building's inspired aesthetic. The installation of Kebony with its natural earthy tones promises high durability and stability, requiring little maintenance, thus making it the perfect choice for an outdoor waterfront pavilion deck."





## *Paddy & Scott's planting competition for under fives*

**S**uffolk coffee firm Paddy & Scott's has found an innovative new way to save its compostable cups from the bin by using them as the perfect pots for planting, as part of a new project designed to get green-fingered youngsters to develop a passion for plants.

With 1000s of its paper coffee cups destined for recycling bins every week, Paddy & Scott's has teamed up with local plant geek Michael Perry to get kids (and their parents, carers and teachers) involved in its summer planting competition.

Paddy & Scott's Hadleigh (Suffolk) and Ipswich branches will give away free wildflower seed balls to takeaway coffee buyers with an under-five child interested in taking part. It is also working with Hadleigh Community Primary School to encourage more children to grow flowers and plants this summer and share their successes online.

"Although our cups are compostable, they often end up in the general recycling, so we've thought long and hard about what we could do to give them a second life. We've worked with Michael before and he's full of great ideas, so we've teamed up with him to offer some inspiration on what could be grown in hope that it'll inspire a new green-fingered generation to get growing," **said Rachel Hutchings, Community Engagement Guru at Paddy & Scott's.**

"The competition is open to Reception and Nursery aged children and we're hoping to see lots of great growing going on throughout the summer, whilst also encouraging kids to reuse and recycle our coffee cups in fun and useful ways."

**Michael Perry commented:** "Wildflowers are an excellent source of nectar for bees and beneficial insects, and couldn't be easier to grow with seed balls and an easily compostable cup from Paddy & Scott's."

Michael has created a video on how to plant up in a compostable cup, and kids will be able to share their progress and final plants to @paddyandscotts. The competition is open from now until 18th July 2022. To find out more, search for #JuniorPlantGeeks.



## 30 Days Wild: UK's biggest nature challenge

The UK's biggest nature challenge, 30 Days Wild, is on course for a record-breaking year following an unprecedented number of people signing-up to take part so far.

Last year, more than 760,000 took part in the challenge, which encourages people to do something wild every day throughout June. 30 Days Wild is being supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Popular activities include wildlife-watching, breakfasting outdoors each day and listening to birdsong. 30 Days Wild fans interpret the challenge in different ways – from planting for pollinators to taking on sporting challenges to raise money for The Wildlife Trusts. Treasured moments from the challenge include:

- the participant who posted packets of wildflower seeds to their neighbours;
- the person who woke up at 5am every day to catch the sunrise and dawn chorus;
- the enthusiast who crocheted a blanket with 30 wildlife species – one square a day.

Actor and presenter Cel Spellman is backing 30 Days Wild, citing the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time in nature.

**Cel Spellman, ambassador for The Wildlife Trusts, said:** “30 Days Wild is a brilliant way to explore and develop our relationship with nature and to enjoy new experiences outdoors. Not just that, the benefits that time in nature has for our physical and mental health are quite amazing. I can't wait to get involved this year, and I hope that people of all ages and backgrounds do the same. It's good for the soul and good for nature.”

**Leanne Manchester, digital manager of The Wildlife Trusts, said:** “30 Days Wild is a firm fixture in our household calendar and it's a brilliant motivator for getting outside and experiencing all the amazing things nature has to offer. The natural world is struggling but there are so many things that we can do to help.

I really enjoy improving my garden for wildlife and noting the different species that come to visit. My favourites are the bee-flies that arrive in early spring, the goldfinches that always turn up, and the large red damselflies that enjoy my pond. 30 Days Wild also reminds me to take time to be still in nature, and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of being outside.”

A survey of 2021 participants revealed that taking part in 30 Days Wild improved people's relationship with nature and inspired them to take action.

- 88% said that they were very likely to make their garden more wildlife-friendly after participating in 30 Days Wild.
- 74% said they had either already taken action to reduce their carbon footprint or were very likely to after taking part in 30 Days Wild.

30 Days Wild is for people of all ages and from all backgrounds, with families, schoolchildren and care home residents all taking part. They include the following:

- Nisha Parmar from Northamptonshire who takes part in 30 Days Wild every year with her daughter. Nisha enjoys wildlife photography and regularly posts photos of wildlife throughout June.
- Alison Loudon from Coatbridge near Glasgow who first took part during lockdown in 2020. Her appreciation for nature has flourished, and she has since made bug hotels, planted wildflowers and learnt how to identify species with her children.
- Kenna from Newcastle, who is a member of their local Wildlife Trust and loves taking part in challenges. 30 Days Wild reminds Kenna to appreciate and enjoy nature in their local area.
- Diane Lewis from London, who takes part with her ten-year-old son, Nathan. Diane says that the challenge helps her disconnect from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and appreciate the wonders of the natural world.
- Six-year-old Atiya and mum Ayesha from London, who have taken part in 30 Days Wild for several years. Atiya, an environmental engineer, enjoys posting films online of Ayesha exploring their garden and doing small acts for nature like building bug hotels and creating a mini pond.

A five-year review of 30 Days Wild participants, run in conjunction with the University of Derby, found that people reported they felt happier and healthier from taking part, with positive effects lasting for at least two months afterwards.



Sign up to take part in 30 Day Wild and receive free inspiration at: [wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild](http://wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild).

**Laura Chow, head of charities at People's Postcode Lottery, said:** "I'm delighted funding raised by our players is encouraging people across the country to experience the benefits of being outside and beside nature. Every year we encourage the team at People's Postcode Lottery to get involved in 30 Days Wild and I love to see all the creative ways people bring a little bit of the wild to their day. Whether it's having a meeting outside, eating lunch on the grass or picking up a piece of litter on a walk, there are lots of ways – big and small – to go wild and connect with nature."

### 30 Days Wild 2021 polling

Over 5,000 people were surveyed in May 2021 regarding the impact of the pandemic on their attitude to nature - 78% of participants said the pandemic made them value nature more.

Then, over 900 people were surveyed in early July 2021, after participating in 30 Days Wild, and asked how likely they were to take specific actions which would benefit the natural world. The results are as follows:


Question	I've already done that	Very likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very unlikely
How likely are you to make your garden more wildlife friendly?	64%	24%	10%	1%	1%
How likely are you to work with your local community to create more spaces for nature where you live?	10%	17%	39%	28%	6%
How likely are you to sign a petition relating to the natural world?	46%	21%	26%	5%	2%
How likely are you to take personal actions to reduce your carbon footprint?	45%	29%	24%	1%	1%
How likely are you to take personal actions to reduce your waste (food waste, single-use plastics)?	57%	25%	17%	0.50%	0.50%

### University of Derby's five-year evaluation of 30 Days Wild: 2015-2020

- The University of Derby monitored participants of 30 Days Wild since it began in 2015 up to 2020. A summary of the evaluations done of the participants of 30 Days Wild 2016 and 2017 are here.
- '30 days wild: Development and evaluation of a large-scale nature engagement campaign to improve well-being' by Miles Richardson, Adam Cormack, Lucy McRobert and Ralph Underhill was published Feb 2016. It is online here.

### The Wildlife Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts are making the world wilder and helping to ensure that nature is part of everyone's lives. We are a grassroots movement of 46 charities with more than 870,000 members and 38,000 volunteers. No matter where you are in Britain, there is a Wildlife Trust inspiring people and saving, protecting and standing up for the natural world. With the support of our members, we care for and restore special places for nature on land, and run marine conservation projects and collect vital data on the state of our seas. Every Wildlife Trust works within its local community to inspire people to create a wilder future – from advising thousands of landowners on how to manage their land to benefit wildlife, to connecting hundreds of thousands of school children with nature every year. [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)


 THE OVO HYDRO

## *Ovo Hydro: first arena in the world to achieve ‘A Greener Arena’ certification*

The OVO Hydro, a Scottish Event Campus (SEC) venue, has been announced as the first arena in the world to achieve A Greener Arena (AGA) certification for its commitment to sustainability. AGA takes a holistic approach to sustainability, not only looking at emissions and environmental impacts but also people, inclusion and well-being. The award was officially presented to the OVO Hydro at the Green Events and Innovations Conference, as part of the wider International Live Music Conference (ILMC) being held in London.

AGA is awarded by A Greener Festival (AGF), a not-for-profit company committed to helping events, festivals and venues around the world, including Glastonbury, Primavera Sound and Roskilde Festival, to reduce their environmental impact. AGF are pioneers in the event sustainability sector, providing independent certification, training and expertise in helping to facilitate best practice for over 15 years.

Assessors highlighted the OVO Hydro’s commitment to reducing emissions, enhancing local biodiversity and being an instrument of positive change on the arena tour circuit. They praised the venue’s use of 100% renewable electricity, elimination of single use plastic cups at live events (saving two million cups per year), campus-wide sustainable food strategy and expansion plans for electric vehicle charging points. The “outstanding” programme for inclusion, health and well-being for staff through the dedicated people department was also highlighted.

Title partner OVO Energy supported the venue’s goal to achieve ‘Greener Arena Certification’ through funding of specific carbon reduction and environmental initiatives. As part of the assessment, AGF will also share actionable recommendations with the OVO Hydro team that are designed to further evolve the venue’s ongoing certification assessments in years to come.

**Debbie McWilliams, Director of Live Entertainment at SEC, said:** “More than ever we are focused on the impact our business has on the planet and are proud to be awarded A Greener Arena certification. Receiving such an accolade is further proof of our commitment to delivering a greener future for our events. Being the first arena in the world to accomplish this is a huge achievement and we hope this paves the way for others to follow. It is a significant milestone on our journey towards net zero by 2030, and a real credit to the team who work so passionately on implementing our sustainability strategy.”

**James Watts, Head of PR & Sponsorships, OVO Energy, said:** “We’re proud to work with partners who support our commitment to drive progress to zero carbon living. By becoming the world’s first arena to achieve the ‘A Greener Arena Certification’, the OVO Hydro is sending a clear signal to the industry that lower-impact live events are possible. We will continue to support the OVO Hydro to further reduce its carbon footprint, so fans and artists alike can perform in a venue that’s supporting our collective goal: saving the planet.”

As the first arena in the world to achieve the certification, the team at AGF also views the announcement as a milestone and catalyst for ongoing industry-wide progress and change. **Claire O’Neill, Co-Founder of AGF, said:** “A Greener Festival was launched in 2007 and, since then, we’ve assessed over 1000 events, tours and venues across five continents, providing the first and only sustainable event certification, including on site assessment of practical implementation and independent verification across 11 categories of event analysis, and the first dedicated arena certification. We’re delighted for the team at the OVO Hydro, and we hope that this leads the way for more arenas to get involved in the process.”

The milestone supports the SEC’s overall sustainability ambitions, and adds to the significant moves that it has already made towards reducing its carbon footprint and achieving net zero by 2030. Alongside 100% renewable electricity and elimination of single use plastic cups at live events, the campus has implemented a sustainable food strategy where a minimum of 80% of all ingredients are sourced in Scotland as well as reducing food waste to below 1%. The strategy combines working with staff, organisers, partners and visitors to support the net zero journey.



Photo by Chris LeBoutillier

## *UK is one of the few countries managing to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the last 60 years*

**C**limate change is an unavoidable problem, with the impact already being seen in extreme weather events right around the world. The primary driver of global warming is the high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions being produced.

The top five countries that have cut emissions the most are Curaçao, Moldova, The United Kingdom, Ukraine and Germany. Only five of the 93 nations saw their emissions decrease in the last 60 years, with the Caribbean island of Curaçao achieving the biggest decrease at -1.78% per year.

Moldova's emissions have fallen by an average of 0.66% over the last 60 years. If they continue to do so at the same rate, they'll have fallen to 6.7 MtCO<sub>2</sub> by 2032.

Whilst still being one of the countries with the highest emissions, the UK has seen its emissions fall in the last 60 years, from 545.9 MtCO<sub>2</sub> in 1959 to 370.1 MtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2019.

The countries with the biggest emissions increase are Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Malaysia.

Saudi Arabia's emissions grew by 578.9 MtCO<sub>2</sub> over the last 60 years, and the annual change is estimated at 8.66%. This increase is expected, given the country's role as the leader in the world's petroleum industry.

Thailand Increased its emissions by 285.8 MtCO<sub>2</sub> since 1959, so it could hit 568.9 MtCO<sub>2</sub> by 2032. It is largely due to the simultaneous economy and population growth that the country experienced over the last 60 years.

Malaysia Increased its emissions by 245.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>, meaning that it could hit 481.1 MtCO<sub>2</sub> by 2032.

### **Further findings**

The countries with the lowest estimated 2032 emissions:

- As well as being the country that has cut its emissions the most since 1959, Curaçao is also the nation that has the lowest predicted emissions by 2032, at just 2.8 MtCO<sub>2</sub>.
- Democratic Republic of the Congo is at the second lowest estimated emissions, reaching 3.7 MtCO<sub>2</sub> by 2032. The DRC is also home to the second largest tropical rainforest in the world, which acts as a carbon sink. Moldova has the third-lowest estimated emissions for 2032, with 6.7 MtCO<sub>2</sub>.

To view the full report: <https://www.utilitybidder.co.uk/compare-business-energy/2032-emissions/>.



## ***PUMA's circularity project RE:JERSEY - 75% repurposed football jerseys***

**M**anchester City players wore special PUMA jerseys ahead of their clash against Watford on Saturday 23rd April. They were made using repurposed football jerseys as part of PUMA's innovative recycling project, RE:JERSEY.

RE:JERSEY aims to reduce waste and pave the way towards more circular production models in the future. While PUMA's football kits on the market today are already made from 100% recycled polyester, the RE:JERSEY shirts worn ahead of that Saturday's game are made with 75% repurposed football jerseys. The remaining 25% comes from SEAQUAL @ MARINE PLASTIC.

PUMA will also set up special collection bins at the City Store, next to the Etihad Stadium, to invite fans to donate their old polyester items so that they can become a part of this garment-to-garment recycling project. The club will also set up take-back bins in other parts of the Etihad Campus. Further details on how fans can participate in RE:JERSEY can be found at <http://www.mancity.com/rejersey>.

"As part of our Forever Better sustainability strategy, we want to take more responsibility when it comes to the end of life of our products," said **Matthias Bäumer, General Manager BU Teamsport at PUMA**. "With RE:JERSEY, we are taking an important step in garment-to-garment recycling which will help us reduce waste in the future."

Ahead of the game, the centre circle at the Etihad Stadium carried the message "Eat, Sleep, City Repeat – 100% RE:JERSEY" on a bright blue patchwork, which was crafted using recycled materials. This patchwork will also be recycled as part of the experiment.

"Both Manchester City and PUMA have made significant commitments to their respective sustainability agendas that ensure both social and environmental actions work for long-term, tangible change," said **Pete Bradshaw, Director of Sustainability at Manchester City**. "With RE:JERSEY, PUMA is looking for new ways to make sporting goods more circular and we are proud to be able to play a part in this journey, working to engage fans, community, workforce and partners – actively collaborating for a better future."

The products made in the RE:JERSEY project also made an appearance during the pre-match warm-ups by Manchester City's Women's Team against Leicester, as well as by PUMA Clubs AC Milan, Borussia Dortmund and Olympique de Marseille in April and May.

In the recycling process used for the RE:JERSEY project, even old garments that feature logos, embroideries and club badges can be used, as the material is chemically broken down into its main components (depolymerization). Colours are then filtered out and the material is chemically put back together to create a yarn (repolymerization) that has the same performance characteristics as virgin polyester.

The RE:JERSEY pilot experiment is part of PUMA's Circular Lab and its Forever Better sustainability platform. As part of Circular Lab, PUMA announced the RE:SUEDE program last year, which tests whether the company can make a biodegradable version of its iconic suede sneaker.



## Levenseat to invest £4m in modernising recycling facility

**R**ecycling and waste management business Levenseat has announced plans to invest £4m in upgrading a new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), which it purchased for an undisclosed sum from Avondale Environmental. West Lothian headquartered Levenseat says that it will introduce new technologies and automated processes at the Falkirk site, where it plans to create up to 50 skilled jobs.

The new MRF is designed to process up to 200,000 tonnes of waste per year – almost doubling Levenseat’s current sorting line capacity. Under its management, the facility will continue to accept waste from existing customers and will also enable the company to expand its public and private sector business across central Scotland.

Improvements to the upgraded MRF will allow it to process and recover a much wider range of materials, including bulky waste, which has traditionally been difficult to recycle and has often ended up in landfill. The Falkirk site will also process mixed household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste. Through its industry experience and investment in the facility, Levenseat says that it will introduce new, innovative processes to ensure more of this waste stream is recovered for recycling, with remaining un-recyclable materials converted into fuel.

Turmec UK, a company with over 50 years of experience in the engineering and recycling industries, has been appointed to carry out refurbishment and installation of new equipment at the MRF.

The landfills and other associated operations remaining on the Falkirk site will continue to be owned and operated by Avondale Environmental Ltd, part of NPL Group.

**Levenseat Managing Director, Angus Hamilton, said:** “Today’s acquisition of the Materials Recycling Facility, which includes the land and associated equipment at the Falkirk site, is a core part of our ambitious strategy. We are proud to announce our plans to further automate and upgrade the facility and bring a number of skilled jobs to the site. This will ensure we can fully maximise its capacity to further support customers’ recycling objectives and play our part in the circular economy. We will build on our experience and expertise in this area to implement innovative approaches to ensure we maximise recovery from any waste stream going through the new site for recycling or conversion into energy.”

**NPL Group Development Director Arran Cameron said:** “We are delighted to have concluded this transaction with Levenseat that secures the expanded use of this facility and its future to handle ever changing waste compositions, and wish Levenseat well in their endeavours and look forward to other successes together.”

**Trevor Smart Head of Sales for Turmec in the UK said:** “We’re delighted to be working with Levenseat to upgrade its new MRF. This project will involve implementing the latest technology to ensure the new site will operate efficiently and at maximum capacity, further underlining Levenseat’s position as a leading Scottish resource management business.”

Levenseat’s acquisition of the MRF is being supported with financing from Virgin Money. **Sandra Gardiner, Relationship Manager at Virgin Money said:** “Levenseat Ltd is an exciting business with clear ambitions for future growth and we are delighted to continue supporting them, both with the purchase of the new Materials Recycling Facility in Falkirk and their plan to modernise the site to create a first-class efficient recycling facility.”



## *Cairngorms Connect: successful start to 200-year vision*

**M**ore than 7,000 broadleaf seedlings have been successfully germinated, 526 hectares of peatland habitats restored and invasive native conifers have been removed from over 1,000 hectares of forest, by a partnership of neighbouring land managers with an ambitious 200-year vision to enhance habitats, species and ecological processes of contiguous land in the majestic Cairngorms National Park.

Unparalleled in its scope, scale and timeframe in the UK, Cairngorms Connect has plans to expand native woodland to double its current size, re-establish blanket bog and forest bogs, and restore natural processes to river floodplains.

The partnership is already seeing real benefits from the work carried out since the project was launched in 2018. On 24th March, Cairngorms Connect published a report delving deep into the work carried out in the first years of the partnership, which also highlights successful progress already made.

With community engagement at the heart of the partnership, local volunteers and communities are enjoying reaping the benefits of their hard work. The Progress Update Report informs that young native woodlands are spreading across open moorlands and peatlands, and bogs are showing the signs of repair and early recovery; a range of people are connecting to nature, enjoying a wilder landscape in the making.

The Cairngorms Connect Tree Nursery, located in the heart of RSPB Scotland Abernethy National Nature Reserve, is helping to protect the threatened communities of montane woodland and other missing tree species across the region. Local volunteers have played a really important role, contributing over 400 hours and successfully germinated over 7,000 broadleaf seedlings, including species of dwarf and downy birch, aspen, alder, and downy and eared willow.

Restructuring Scots pine plantations creates a more natural forest and, in turn, a healthier and more climate-resilient habitat for people and wildlife. Throughout the Cairngorms Connect area, over 1,089 hectares of Scots Pine plantation and 1,132 hectares of tree planting has been completed, with non-native conifers removed from 1,175 hectares.

Restoring peatland habitats is another important aspect of Cairngorms Connect's 200-year vision. Peatlands are an essential part of the fight against climate change. Peatlands store carbon, preventing it from being released into the atmosphere, as well as providing a home for many rare and threatened species of flora and fauna. Work is already well underway, with management of red deer populations, re-wetting bogs, restoring water levels and re-profiling eroded peat channels being just some of the tasks that the team has undertaken. With support from the Cairngorms National Park Authority Peatland Action team, over 526 hectares have already been completed.





Speaking about the success of the partnership, **Sydney Henderson, Cairngorms Connect Communications and Involvement Manager, said**, “The Cairngorms is an amazing place for nature. The Cairngorms Connect habitats are home to over 5,000 species – 20% are Nationally Rare or Scarce and some are recorded nowhere else in Britain. We have a vital role to help people experience and value these wild places. As forests expand and diversify, they will clean air and help regulate the climate, and as peatlands function more effectively, they will purify water and store huge amounts of carbon. Cairngorms Connect embraces our responsibility to deliver these ‘ecosystem services’ and our restoration projects will deliver real benefits to communities.”

We are delighted that our first progress update is so positive – and that is, in part, thanks to the wonderful communities who have volunteered their time to support us with our vital work. The Tree Nursery, in particular, has played a really important part as a space for people to come together – especially during covid, where it was a safe outdoors space for people to get out into nature and help grow the forests of the future.”

**Local Arboriculturist, Alban Thom, from Nethy Bridge, who has been contracted for Cairngorms Connect forest restoration projects, said**, “Since I was young, I would ride my bike out through forests and into the mountains. I wondered why we had amazing forests and then places that trees didn’t grow. I didn’t know the reason but knew something wasn’t right, as you can see remnants of old forests, roots and stumps in the peat. Later, I learnt that it was our own doing and that the balance in nature had been lost – so now it is great to be involved in trying to bring the forests back.”

Cairngorms Connect, a partnership of Wildland Limited, RSPB Scotland, NatureScot, and Forestry and Land Scotland, is made possible with funding from the Endangered Landscapes Programme.



## Supporting the circular economy: sustainable packaging

Is Your Business Supporting The Circular Economy in the fight against single use plastics? Today, sustainability is more important than ever. In fact, a recent survey showed that 61 per cent of consumers have actively reduced their use of single-use plastics. In turn, this has the ability to drive trends. In 2020, the UK placed 4.9 million metric tonnes of plastic on the market. Out of this, 3.7 million metric tonnes became waste. In order to reduce plastic pollution, companies across the nation are now working to incorporate circular economy solutions into their business plans.

The circular economy is a sustainable model of reusing, repairing and recycling materials as many times as possible. In comparison to a linear system, circularity allows wasted materials to have a new life or to be recycled back into new products. As a result, waste is captured and the need for raw materials is alleviated. Here, we will explore some of the UK companies leading the way with sustainable packaging solutions. Using these examples, how can your business respond to the fight against single use plastics and align with consumer trends?

### L'Oréal Paris

L'Oréal Group is leading the way for sustainable packaging within the cosmetics industry. In collaboration with Paboco, the company has created a paper bottle using sustainably sourced paper. If used en masse, this has the potential to significantly reduce plastic waste. In addition to this, the environmental profile of 96 per cent of all new products launched by the company has improved in 2020. L'Oréal has also committed to using 100 per cent reusable, recyclable and compostable plastic packaging by 2025. As part of the L'Oréal for the Future campaign, the company has pledged to become sustainable by 2030. This includes the preservation of natural resources, management of water sustainability, fighting climate change, respecting biodiversity and banning testing on animals.

### Tesco

Tesco, one of the leading supermarket brands across the nation, is also making significant contributions towards sustainability. As well as ditching single-use plastic bags, the supermarket is promoting a circular economy within its Own Brand products, such as bin bags. This has reduced plastic sold throughout the company. In fact, over one billion pieces of plastic have been saved since this sustainability campaign began. Also, since 2018, Tesco has removed 11,400 tonnes of hard-to-recycle materials from its Own Brand packaging.

The future looks bright for this company. It is committed to making 100 per cent of the paper and board used in its packaging sustainable by 2025. In 2021, it also pledged to remove an extra 500 million pieces of plastic from its supermarkets throughout 2022. Do you think Tesco will achieve this goal?

### Waddington Europe

Waddington Europe, a leading producer of rigid plastic packaging, is committed to sustainable packaging innovation. Its Eco Blend and Eco Blend Pura ranges, as well as being fully recyclable, are made with 100 per cent post-industrial and post-consumer recycled content.



In recent months, the company has also designed an innovative strawberry punnet. This product uses raised based cushion technology that removes the need for an extra layer of protective bubble wrap and any adhesive. As a result, Waddington's strawberry punnet requires no glue, and it can be easily recycled straight back into food-grade rPET.

#### **LUSH Cosmetics**

LUSH Cosmetics prioritises sustainability throughout the production process. In fact, 66 per cent of all products sold each year are naked and require no packaging at all, saving 4,275 tonnes of plastic throughout its stores. This includes a number of popular products, such as bath bombs and shampoo bars.

In recent years, LUSH has designed its first piece of carbon-positive packaging. The cork pots, ideal for naked shampoo bars, are reusable and biodegradable. Throughout the production process, each cork pot retains 33 times its own weight in carbon dioxide. LUSH Cosmetics has also introduced sustainable schemes. The Bring It Back scheme allows customers to return used packaging in exchange for credit towards their next purchase. In addition to this, the Fresh Face Mask scheme gives customers a free face mask every time they recycle used packaging at one of the LUSH stores.

#### **ASDA**

Last and certainly not least, ASDA is leading the way with forward-thinking packaging solutions. Since 2007, ASDA has reduced the weight of their packaging by 27%, and the supermarket is committed to making all of its packaging fully recyclable by 2025. ASDA has introduced a packaging-free store in Leeds. This gives customers the opportunity to refill their own reusable containers with groceries, including pasta, cereal, dog food, and laundry detergents. The scheme is set to be expanded to other locations throughout the UK.

#### **To summarise**

Sustainability is trending. Consumer behaviours have incentivised businesses to create sustainable solutions to plastic pollution. From L'Oréal's cosmetics bottle to ASDA's free packaging zones, companies are adapting towards a more sustainable future

## *Flooding - can we ease the pressure?*

**W**ith heavy rains becoming more prevalent and authorities under pressure to build more homes, how do developers make building on floodplains less of an issue? In the last 40 years, rainfall has steadily increased in the UK and the number of properties at risk of flooding is growing. What can developers do to ease the pressure and start to address the flooding risks that over five million homeowners face? Here, Raj Somal, Director at the Sustainable Engineering Consultancy Dice, explores the issue.

Heavy rains and the subsequent flooding that comes with them are becoming more common. In the last decade (2009 - 2018), figures from the Met Office have shown that it's been around one per cent wetter than during 1981 - 2010 and five per cent wetter than 1961 - 1990.

According to figures from the Environment Agency, over 5.2 million homes and properties in England are at risk from flooding and coastal erosion. These numbers will have risen with 5,000 new homes being approved for construction on flood plains in 2021.

Put these pieces of data together and you can see the problems being caused, and the potential problems that will be caused, by flooding.

A floodplain is an area of land (generally flat) adjacent to a river or a small watercourse. This area is a continuation of the river channel which is allowed to flood when the river overflows.

When constructing within the floodplain, the area that is allowed to flood decreases. This means that, when the same amount of water enters that now-smaller area, the water gets displaced and increases the risk of flooding elsewhere.

Similarly, when building within Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b, the kind of development that is allowed to be built is determined, based on the vulnerability of the infrastructure versus the risk level of the flood zone.

However, generally, when proposing to build within these flood zones, one must prove that they are not increasing the flood risk elsewhere. This is done by undertaking flood modelling and providing flood compensation, in some cases.

The balance comes from having to consider the pressing demand for new homes as a result of the well-documented housing shortage, and the potential risk to whole communities if these are constructed on a floodplain.

To decrease the impact of a development in terms of flood risk, current regulations state that sustainable drainage needs to be incorporated within the proposals. This can be anything from attenuation ponds and permeable paving to filter drains, swales or storage tanks.

Essentially, sustainable drainage provides surface water storage on-site as well as water quality improvement and biodiversity benefits.

Attenuation is simply the storing of excess water on-site, prior to discharging at a lower rate to a suitable drainage outfall. The new rate can either be based on greenfield run-off rates (which is the rate at which the water would have drained if the site were open greenfields), or decreased brownfield rate (which is the discharge rate that is being generated from the existing impermeable areas being positively drained on-site, including a betterment). This is to ensure that the rates being proposed to leave the site are lower than the current rates – therefore, ensuring reduced flood risk downstream.

With regard to properties already built on floodplains, the options are limited when it comes to keeping excess water away from the homes.

Homeowners can introduce physical barriers such as a blockwork/masonry wall or a flood defence around the home, like a flood barrier or water gate, which reduces the potential risk of water entering the property.

Generally speaking, the risk of flooding will still remain if located within a floodplain, though, so damage mitigation measures are important. These can include carefully choosing materials for inside the home (certain flooring options, for example, will be less susceptible to water damage than others) or placing electrical sockets higher off the ground.

The onus is now on developers and planners to ensure that sustainable drainage is in place and for innovators in construction to look at new ways to relieve the pressure.

At the same time, support must be offered to those living in areas at high risk from flooding, and we must prepare for the challenges ahead.



Photo by Margaret Holland

## ***Coastal conservation with Essex Wildlife Trust***

**W**ith the warmer weather, more of us will be heading to enjoy the coast. Within the East Anglian region, Essex boasts 350 miles of coastline. From intertidal saltmarshes and mudflats to shellfish reefs and rock pools, which get revealed as the tides pull back into the vast ocean, the habitats that stretch along this coastline are varied and vast. Relying on these habitats are hundreds of species of marine life swimming within these waters, bird species nesting on Essex's beaches and insects flittering and fluttering through saltmarsh, reed beds and wetlands. The species that live in Essex's waters are fascinating and vital to maintaining a healthy ecosystem, help to combat climate change and keep our wildlife thriving for years to come. Find out how Essex Wildlife Trust is protecting the 'marine superheroes' of their county.

### **Little tern, big journey**

Have you heard of the little tern? Spending the warmer winters in West Africa, the short and squat sea bird migrates thousands of miles to Essex, to nest on its coastline from April to August. Birds like terns, the brightly-beaked oystercatcher and the ringed plover will use the Essex coast to nest and raise their chicks. However, beach-nesting birds are under threat due to human disturbance and coastal changes caused by climate change. To protect these threatened species, Essex Wildlife Trust works in collaboration with RSPB on their united project 'Share our Shores', to raise awareness of beach-nesting birds' presence. If you go to the coast this summer, give beachnesting birds the space they need and spread the word.

### **Climate-fighting seagrass**

From the shore nesters and the muddy bank waders, dive into the water off Essex's coastline and you'll be welcomed by a meadow as rich in life as the one in your nearest nature reserve. The Essex coastline boasts vital patches of seagrass meadows around the Blackwater Estuary and the Stour River. Seagrass is especially important as it stores up to two tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, holding this for centuries, and it helps to cleanse the waters it lives within by absorbing nutrients. Look closely and you'll find the sea hare, with bunny-ear-like tentacles on its head, chomping at this greenery. You may spot, if you are lucky, the rare short-snouted seahorse, clinging with its tail to this elongated plant. However, seagrass has been in decline for many years. Pressures to this essential eelgrass species include anchoring, mooring, trampling and water pollution. The Trust is currently part of a three-year project investigating the impacts of seagrass, with the aim to protect and restore the seagrass that grows in these shallow waters. You can help by avoiding seagrass areas when paddling and swimming, and telling others about these fantastic species that need our help.

### **Native oyster project**

The native oyster, also known as the flat oyster, is always hard at work. Each oyster filters an average of 200 litres of water a day. How do they do it? As a filter feeder, these little shellfish species help remove excess nitrogen from waters by absorbing it into their shells and tissue. The Essex coast is home to a growing native oyster population as they enjoy shallow coastal waters, estuaries and seabeds. Previously, native oysters have been in decline due to overfishing, but this is changing. So far, the Trust has helped the Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative to designate a 284km squared area within the Essex coastline as a Marine Conservation Zone, to recover native oysters and native oyster beds.

For more information on all Essex Wildlife Trust's conservation work, visit the website: [www.essexwt.org.uk](http://www.essexwt.org.uk) .



## *New IPCC-aligned reforestation programme provides carbon offset opportunity for SMEs*

**A**n innovative reforestation and rewilding programme will enable UK SMEs to purchase affordable woodland as part of their efforts to offset carbon and tackle climate change.

Scottish-headquartered holiday rentals business ClearWater Retreats has launched the new offering following the acquisition of disused farmland in Stirlingshire, which the company plans to transform into an eco-friendly, net-zero rural retreat.

Through the ClearWater Reforestation and Rewilding Programme, 50 acres of non-arable land on the site will also be replanted with trees and divided into small holdings, which companies can purchase as a means of offsetting carbon emissions. Wildflower meadows and ponds will also be created to attract bees, insects and other indigenous forms of wildlife, further contributing to carbon sequestration.

The new initiative is aligned to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimate that 20% of agricultural land will need to be released before 2050, to support emissions reduction and carbon sequestering objectives.

Through ClearWater's partnership with Scottish Woodlands, carbon capture on the site will be independently registered, validated and verified under the UK Woodland Carbon Code.

With minimum-sized reforestation plots of 2,500 square feet available for purchase, this innovative use of the redundant farmland is designed to make it viable for smaller SMEs or individuals to contribute towards net-zero. Buyers are also granted legal ownership and access to their holdings under a protective Deed of Conditions that effectively enshrines the land as forestry in perpetuity and safeguards it from any future commercial development whatsoever.

ADP Architecture, an employee-owned practice founded more than 50 years ago, is among the first SMEs to acquire one of the new ClearWater Reforestation and Rewilding holdings. With a local studio in Edinburgh, ADP is a thriving global architectural firm focused on creating positive places for people, communities and the environment. The practice has eight locations across the UK, Cyprus and India, and chose to get involved in the scheme to actively support their values of sustainability, belonging and engagement.

**Stephen Miles, ADP's Managing Director, said:** "Our engagement in the ClearWater Reforestation & Rewilding Programme is part of ADP's ambition to implement meaningful action to contribute towards net-zero. We were struck by this innovative carbon offsetting programme and its credentials, which aligned with our wider framework of establishing a tangible ESG strategy across our business. It reflects an acknowledgement of the need to address carbon emissions across the UK construction sector."

ClearWater has also announced that it will further expand the Reforestation and Rewilding Programme across its property portfolio, with plans to acquire up to 5,000 acres on suitable residential farm sites that have ceased productive farming, across the UK, over the next three years.

**Andrew Montague, CEO of ClearWater Retreats said:** "Our new Reforestation and Rewilding Programme will return abandoned, nonarable farmland to its natural habitat. By parcelling this into smaller, affordable packages, we are creating an ideal opportunity for SMEs to make a tangible contribution to net zero."

Our alignment with IPCC goals to return once intensively farmed lands back to native woodland is key in addressing 'greenwashing' concerns, as it reassures purchasers that the carbon offset from their holding is making a difference exactly where it is needed.



Following [the] launch in Scotland, we aim to significantly develop our Reforestation and Rewilding Programme across the UK, as we expand our property portfolio. This will support the requirements of small businesses across the UK, as they increasingly look to adopt impactful green measures and offset their environmental impact. The programme also further promotes ClearWater Retreats' ethos of combining our offering of luxury breaks with a strong commitment towards environmental stewardship and sustainability."

Launched in 2021, ClearWater Retreats' current accommodation offering includes: two luxury apartments in Edinburgh; a newly renovated early 19th century cottage and two modern, high-spec villas on Musselburgh Links, East Lothian; and a newly acquired site in Bucklyvie, Stirlingshire, which is currently under development with plans to create an eco-friendly and self-sustainable country retreat.

<https://www.clearwaterretreats.com>

### **ClearWater Reforestation and Rewilding Programme**

Its work in developing eco-conscious, luxury accommodation in rural areas mainly centres on projects that are diversifying small holding farms that have typically been out of operation for years due to the changing profile of farming. ClearWater specialises in using the existing farm buildings and underutilised land to breathe life back into these sites and their surrounding communities.

Utilising non-arable farmland has presented an opportunity to replant trees and introduce other rewilding measures on land which is divided into smallholdings and offered to companies or individuals as a means of offsetting carbon emissions.

This initiative also enables ClearWater Retreats to further support its own ambitious low carbon goals and safeguard rural land from development, benefitting the planet and future generations.

<https://www.clearwaterretreats.com/reforestation-patrons/>

### **ADP Architecture**

ADP is an employee-owned architecture practice, founded more than 50 years ago. The practice has wide experience across a number of key sectors, including healthcare, education, hospitality, workplace and residential.

The buildings are designed to create positive experiences for people and communities, and to benefit the environments they sit within. They use a bespoke Sustainability, Belonging and Engagement assessment tool to measure and improve the social and environmental impact that the projects have. As an international practice, they work from eight different locations across the UK, Cyprus and India, but as one team with a wide range of expertise to suit any project.

[www.adp-architecture.com](http://www.adp-architecture.com)



## Young people vote to mend ‘broken food system’

**M**ore than 100,000 young people around the world have voted on the top ten ‘Actions 4 Change’ they want governments and businesses to take to mend the “broken global food system” that is threatening species extinction, driving climate change and contributing to disease around the world.

A growing movement of young people, led by 35 courageous young activists from 28 countries, are demanding change from decisionmakers, who they feel are failing to listen to young people and to prioritise the global food crisis.

103,000 young people from all seven continents participated in the global consultation for the youth campaign Act4Food Act4Change.

Making sure that everybody can afford healthy and nutritious food was voted as the top priority in the manifesto, followed by backing sustainable farming to regenerate soil and reduce the use of damaging chemicals. Ensuring that every child can eat a healthy, sustainable meal at nursery, school or college came third.

The leading young campaigners have already galvanised hundreds of thousands of people to back their campaign – in part, inspiring support through their own actions to tackle the food crisis in their own countries.

- **Priya** set up India’s largest student health organisation, HealthSetGo, which has reached more than a quarter of a million students with resources and training about healthy eating habits.
- **Maureen** from Kenya has equipped 2,500 community members with nutrition knowledge and improved food security through training young women to cultivate indigenous vegetables.
- Canadian **Taylor** has enabled thousands of Liberian families living in poverty to buy nutritious food, with ingredients sourced from local women smallholders through his social enterprise.
- **Dev** grew up receiving free school meals in the UK. During lockdown, he successfully helped to influence the UK government to extend free school meals during the holidays and increase help for families to afford healthy meals.

**Rayan Kassem, Act4Food Act4Change youth leader, said:**

“Young people around the world are speaking up and demanding urgent action to tackle hunger, improve health and heal the planet. The food system is broken, and we are one of the most vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition and climate change. Our manifesto of Actions 4 Change is a challenge to governments and businesses to do the right thing. We will not compromise with decision-makers until we have a decent and fair future.”

**Anna Taylor, Director of The Food Foundation, said:**

“We are seeing the global movement of young people campaigning for a better food system growing by the day. The statistics are bleak: currently our global food system creates one third of all greenhouse gases and is the biggest driver of biodiversity loss. But the voices of young people are powerful, and their determination brings hope. It’s critical decision-makers listen and involve them in decision-making.”

Failure by businesses and governments to act to mend the broken food system would have catastrophic consequences for the planet and its people.

- Food systems generate around one-third of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.
- Our global food system is the primary driver of biodiversity loss, with agriculture alone being the identified threat to 86% of the species at risk of extinction.
- Three billion people can’t afford a healthy diet, with two billion suffering from food insecurity and one in three people suffering from obesity; yet, we waste a third of the food we produce.
- Poor diets are the largest risk factor contributing to the global burden of disease, responsible for about 22% of adult deaths globally.
- 70% of all fresh water withdrawn is used for agricultural irrigation, while nearly half the global population are already living in potential water scarce areas for at least one month per year.





## *How to get bees buzzing again*

It was World Bee Day on the 20th May - a day to celebrate and raise awareness for bees.

Bees are very important to our ecosystem due to them being major pollinators. The number of bees has been rapidly decreasing over the years. McQueens Flowers has some important information about bees and how to help them thrive.

Flowers are extremely important for bees, providing them with the nectar and pollen they need to thrive, as well as nesting habitats. Nectar provides them with energy to fly and find a nest, while pollen provides bees with the protein they need to grow and live.

Bees can see the colour purple most clearly in comparison to any other colour. Some of the best plants for bees, such as lavender, alliums, buddleja and aster, have purple flowers. That said, many flowers in other colours will still attract bees, so don't hesitate to invest in these, too.

McQueens Flowers has introduced a brand new bouquet called 'Hive' that is PERFECT for bees. This bouquet is both a tribute to World Bee Day, and the Jubilee in celebration of the Queen. This beautiful cornucopia of bee-friendly ingredients includes lavender, allium, and aster - all flowers that are perfect for bee attraction!

Each McQueens Flowers' bouquet is designed and hand-crafted in their London workshop, using the finest flowers from trusted growers and suppliers. The bouquets arrive in recyclable gift packaging, with care instructions on how to look after the flowers.



## *How travellers can help save our seas*

In honour of World Oceans Day, which was on 8th June, sustainable travel brand Beyond Green has been spotlighting ways in which people can help save the planet's seas, both at home and while traveling.

Conceived by the United Nations, World Oceans Day serves as a timely reminder “to celebrate the beauty, the wealth and the promise of the ocean.” Aside from boosting mental health, the world's oceans supply most of the oxygen people breathe while absorbing some 30 percent of human-made carbon dioxide, meaning that healthy oceans are vital to addressing climate change.

By choosing to stay at Beyond Green's eco-conscious member properties around the globe, guests can actively help protect the planet's marine ecosystems, and make travel a force for good. Whilst in the property, they can get involved with hands-on experiences, including organised beach cleans, ocean conservation projects and seeking out sustainable seafood options.

### **Beyond Green takes a deeper dive into ways travellers can help save our seas:**

- **Say no to single-use plastics:** A shocking forecast from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation confirms that, if the world's population proceeds on its current path, plastics could outweigh all the fish in the ocean by 2050. To help reverse this trend, it is imperative for people to avoid single-use plastic water bottles and seek out sustainable hotels, resorts, and lodges that are committed to do the same. All Beyond Green members, from Ireland's 800-year-old Ashford Castle to Botswana's new Xigera Safari Lodge, have eliminated single-use plastic water bottles from their properties, in adherence to the strict sustainability indicators outlined within the brand's vetting process, based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Help keep beaches clean:** Visiting beautiful beaches whilst on holiday is the perfect way for travellers to relax and unwind but, unfortunately, many beaches across the globe are battling litter and micro-plastic waste washed up on their shores. To help turn the tide of plastic pollution, guests can actively get involved with local beach cleans during their stays at Beyond Green member properties, including joining 'green teams' at Costa Rica's beachfront Arenas Del Mar and Turtle Inn in Belize, whose staff regularly volunteer to help clean up their local areas.
- **Seek out sustainable seafood:** Apps such as Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch and the Good Fish Guide put power in people's hands to make responsible dining decisions, and supporting conscientious restaurants is also key. For example, Big Sur's Post Ranch Inn serves sustainable seafood in keeping with Monterey Bay Aquarium guidelines, and Harvest at The Ranch at Laguna Beach earned Surfrider Foundation's first 'Ocean Friendly Restaurant' certification. For a more hands-on approach, to help handle the growing environmental issue of the non-native lionfish population destroying the barrier reef at Turtle Inn in Belize, guests can experience a unique diving opportunity to catch and cook the fish using traditional eco methods.
- **Support transformational opportunities:** The Blue Climate Initiative, supported by The Brando in French Polynesia, has brought together world sustainability experts, including Beyond Green co-founder Costas Christ, to co-author a new book – 'Transformational Opportunities for People, Ocean, Planet' – to advance action for global marine conservation and combat climate change. Guests at The Brando can also meet with visiting marine scientists at its on-site Ecostation, to learn about critical conservation initiatives and lend a hand by releasing fish larvae and baby turtles, under the guidance of marine conservationists.
- **Embrace eco-organisations through travel:** At Zanzibar's and Beyond Mnemba Island, guests can join staff to watch turtles hatch and learn more about the broader work conducted by Oceans Without Borders, and Beyond's marine conservation initiative that supports the establishment of marine protected areas and promotes coastal conservation. Islas Secas in Panama partners with the Islas Secas Foundation to support an array of ocean conservation projects and eco-education programmes for local students.

For further information or to book, visit <http://www.staybeyondgreen.com>.



## Adopting an explorer's mindset

Lucy Shepherd explains how to adopt an explorer's mindset ...

**W**e live in an ever-changing, unpredictable and uncertain world, and, if we don't have the tools to learn and adapt to our environment, it can become overwhelming and frightening.

I have the unusual job title of an Explorer. I've been leading and partaking in expeditions all over the world for over a decade and, more recently, I've come to use what I've learnt during these adventures to help me in everyday life. On expeditions, it's fast-paced, with every decision being crucial to the outcome. I'll face obstacles like rafts capsizing, polar bear encounters, and howling and threatening storms whilst exposed on the side of a mountain.

Although civilisation in the 21st Century might not appear so extreme, it has become a hard place to navigate, and this led me to think that we all might be a little better off if everyone could harness the explorer's mindset in today's complex and modern world.

There are a few essential skills necessary, that can be practised in a small way, every day, when trying to adopt this mindset.

### Stay curious

As a child, we were curious, but it tends to fade as we get older, unless we purposefully activate it. To be curious is to ask questions rather than let it pass us by. Instead of asking "Can we do this?", ask yourself "HOW can you do this?" With curiosity, we can see new ideas and possibilities that otherwise would be hidden. We can all learn to be curious by keeping an open mind, ask the question and see the excitement in everything.

### Embrace the unknown

A lot of people are afraid of the unknown, but how boring would life be if we knew what was coming every-single-day? Instead of being afraid, we should embrace it and take it on as a problem-solving challenge. With the unknown, approach it with intrigue to see how we will cope and grow. Embracing the unknown isn't about going headfirst into risks but is about looking at the whole picture, analysing the risk, having an appetite for it and going forward with that knowledge in hand.

### Be optimistic

There's nothing worse than being in the wilderness with someone who is draining everyone's energy. Saying that, though, optimism isn't about being happy all of the time; it is about being flexible and able to adjust a strategy in order to get to the outcome. Optimists believe that they will find a way to get to the end, failure is not an option, even if it means trying every avenue. It comes down to perseverance. Identify opportunities and adapt your goals. One thing to remember is that we can rarely control a situation, but we can control how we react to it.

### Nurture your resilience

Resilience has become a buzzword, but it is key to building an explorer's mindset. We're all born with resilience but the more we practise and nurture it, the more resilient we become. If we can channel our nerves and fear into finding a solution, we can bounce back quicker after being knocked down. Resilience is also the belief that we can thrive during hard times.

Applying these outlooks and employing the explorer's mindset can lead to true innovation, change and the willingness to adapt and navigate our fluid surroundings. It can assist in us putting one step forward without ego, without fear and with the desire to continue learning about this world in which we live.

You can read more about Lucy at <https://www.lucy-shepherd.com/> or follow her on Instagram or Twitter: @Lucysheps.

## *Kebony: producing superior wood in an environmentally friendly way*

**K**ebony is a Norwegian company which aims to be the leading wood brand and technology company. Underpinned by proven wood modification technologies, it produces an enhanced wood of a superior quality that is both environmentally friendly and cost effective. As more and more people look to reduce their impact on the environment, sustainable building materials such as Kebony have seen a significant rise in popularity, with consumers looking for sustainable building materials that come with a carbon-friendly guarantee.

The key disruptive trends in the construction industry are expressed by the need for greener, safer and better products, as the standard construction materials, concrete and steel are large emitters of CO<sub>2</sub> globally. The current large market for tropical wood is set to be replaced by enhanced wood to protect bio-diversity and reduce tropical deforestation.

Kebony's vision is to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and tropical deforestation, using its patented wood modification techniques which produce superior wood in an environmentally friendly way. Based in Oslo, Kebony is becoming increasingly global in reach, with Kebony wood used for a variety of impressive and sustainable projects worldwide.

The Kebony technology permanently transforms sustainably-sourced softwoods such as pine into Kebony wood by heating them with furfuryl alcohol – an agricultural by-product. By polymerising the wood's cell wall, the softwoods permanently take on the attributes of tropical hardwood, including high durability, hardness, and dimensional stability. The wood withstands weathering, retaining its unique appearance as it ages over time to acquire a beautiful silver-grey patina. With no additional wood treatment required, Kebony is a cost-effective and long-lasting alternative to tropical hardwood.

Most recently, Kebony has been selected for the decking of a new port terminal in Tallinn, Estonia, in addition to being used to clad a variety of award-winning self-build homes and sustainable garden products, as seen in the form of the Tubmarine – a wood-clad hot tub which is powered by a wood burner at its base. Courtesy of Kebony's pioneering wood processing technology, the Tubmarine is expertly crafted with sustainably



sourced softwood timbers that guarantee long-term stability and resistance, with minimal impact to the environment.

Revolutionising the market, this sustainable hot tub has paved the way for a new type of luxury – one which brings benefit to the environment, directly responding to the growing need for eco-friendly home and outdoor products. In selecting Kebony, **Chris Galley, Founder of Tubmarine**, explains that it ticks “all the boxes: durable, stable, environmentally friendly and aesthetically beautiful”. With no additional wood treatment required, and delivered with a ten-year guarantee, the Tubmarine is easy to maintain and long-lasting, making it a worthwhile investment.

Kebony has received numerous awards for its environmentally friendly technology and innovation, including its naming as a World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer. In October 2021, Kebony announced the closure of a EURO 30m investment round led by Jolt Capital and Lightrock. This growth is only set to continue, as individuals and architects alike strive to minimise their impact on the world around them.

## *The Design Ventura design and enterprise competition for students / 'Eco Seed'*

Every year, the Design Museum and Deutsche Bank conduct the Design Ventura design and enterprise competition for students aged 13-16, providing a unique opportunity for the students to develop their design skills.

This year, a record of 397 student teams, with over 18,000 students from across UK, participated in the 12th edition of the competition. The overall winning design was given to the student team from Cambourne Village College, Cambridge, with participants Holly, Serena, William, Genevieve and Amanda, for their eco-loving product 'Eco Seed' at a retail price of £11.99.

'Eco Seed' is a simple and fun design project that encourages people to create a meaningful connection with nature by growing seeds in a soilless environment using sustainable materials, making the whole process of growth visible to the human eye.

The design is in the shape of a doughnut, having a grid with holes big enough to help obtain the required water level. It is surrounded by a thick and airy buoyant ring, which gives the product the perfect buoyancy properties. This ensures that the seedlings will thrive in the water level, keeping them constantly hydrated and not overflowed, thereby negating the chances of the seed being spoiled. The design was created using a 3D printer which was envisioned to run on sustainable and renewable energy sources. The concept was prototyped multiple times before the team came up with their final design, combining earlier prototypes to create the best proportions, accomplishing their aims. PLA, which is a degradable and sustainable material made using cornstarch and sugarcane, and supposedly one of the eco-friendliest options for a 3D printer, has been used to create the product. Following the theme of sustainability, the packaging was also made from recycled and biodegradable card.

The student team was initially targeting college students and working professionals, but they soon realised the potential of the product design, and how growing and nurturing a seed can impact, and be of interest to, individuals across all age groups, especially children who can incorporate this product for academic learning and personal growth. Moreover, this product inculcates the idea of practising sustainable habits. The simplicity of the thought was propelled by a firm belief in sustainable living and this concept has been reflected right from end to end. The Cambourne Village College student team is working alongside a professional design agency to develop and manufacture their product for sale in the Design Museum Shop, starting Autumn 2022, and has decided to donate all sale profits to Motor Neuron Association, in order to spread awareness and make their contribution towards better access to care and research.

There were some incredibly gifted and talented student teams who participated and pitched their ideas to a panel of leading design and business experts, including Yuri Suzuki, Sound Artist and Designer, who was also the brief settler for this year's competition. Along with him were: Rosa Bertoli, Design Editor at Wallpaper; Sebastian Conran, Designer and Trustee at the Design Museum; Preena Patel, Buying and Merchandising Manager at the Design Museum; and Christoph Woermann, Chief Marketing Officer of Corporate Bank Marketing at Deutsche Bank. Only ten teams were shortlisted for their outstanding process and innovations, while Eco Seed was declared as the winning design.



# LOVE SCOTLAND podcast

## *National Trust for Scotland invites young people to have their say on tackling climate change*

**T**he National Trust for Scotland invited pupils from Langside Primary School, Glasgow, to visit Holmwood, a historic site under the care of the Trust, and discuss how the charity should respond to the climate and biodiversity crisis.

A firm believer in the need to listen to, and engage with, the views of young people, Trust Chief Executive Philip Long OBE met three eco reps from the primary school, to find out about their vision for the future of Scotland and what measures they believe the Trust must implement in order to tackle the climate crisis.

Scotland's largest independent conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland, has outlined its commitment to becoming carbon negative by 2031, in its recently released strategy 'Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone'.

Pupils Zara Gustinakova and Lyla Macfarlane, in Primary 6, and Alistair McClymont, in Primary 7, met with Philip and Juliet Turner, the Trust's Gardeners at Holmwood, to discuss this vitally important subject as part of the Trust's ongoing dialogue to understand what needs to be done to protect our built and natural environments.

During the visit, pupils discussed the importance of caring for our wildlife – in particular, their aspiration that the native red squirrel will be thriving again across the whole of Scotland in ten years' time. Alongside this, they shared their views on the need to care for our landscapes, plants and wildlife now, to allow them to flourish in the coming years.

Talking about why they chose to get involved with the Trust, the pupils cited a "need to help", "passion for the environment" and feelings that "not enough is being done". All three pupils signalled how urgent they thought the situation is for Scotland, expressing the view that, unless there is more action now, "we won't be able to survive and neither will animals," as well as sharing their concern that, as a country, "we're doing a lot but it still feels like it's not enough".

The young eco reps discussed the positive efforts of the Trust in responding to the climate crisis, through work that is being done to conserve and protect natural heritage, ranging from native flora and fauna to wildlife, and the need to protect long-established and increasingly rarer native species in order to protect the eco-system.

**Philip Long OBE, Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland, said:** "Earlier this year, we announced our ambition to become carbon negative by our centenary in 2031, as part of our ten-year strategy. Alongside this ambition, we have also made a commitment to introducing a range of changes and adaptations to allow us to respond effectively to the ongoing climate and biodiversity crisis, which impacts all aspects of the Trust's work, from the condition of our buildings to the preservation of our archaeological sites and the natural environment.

Across the Trust, we have a number of initiatives already in place, such as our Peatland Restoration project at Mar Lodge Estate and the creation of a wetland habitat on the Threave Estate but, in order to truly make an impact, I believe we need to engage young people and work with them to understand what needs to be done now and to conserve our sites for the future.



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We want the places we look after to be enjoyed by everyone and, to do that, we need to hear diverse voices about how we should be tackling climate change. Meeting with Zara, Lyla and Alistair was incredibly inspirational – hearing their passion for the subject and learning about the initiatives they’re participating in at school. It’s this passion and vision for the future that inspires us to make positive changes now, for the sake of future generations.”

**Mr Smith, a teacher at Langside Primary School, added:** “I think it’s vitally important that young people engage with these issues, particularly off the back of COP 26 in Glasgow. Climate change is at the forefront of many young people’s priorities and consciousness; it is fundamental that these voices are not just heard but acted upon. I’m incredibly proud of our three eco pioneers for their work in school and on this podcast – they are an inspiration!”

During their visit to Holmwood, the pupils were given the opportunity to work with Juliet on the Victorian kitchen garden, gaining a better understanding of the impact of the extreme weather the country is encountering as a result of the climate crisis. Learning more about the work of the Trust, the pupils also helped preserve heirloom flowers and vegetables, planting Sweet Pea Air Warden.

To find out more about the visit and the hopes of the Langside Primary School pupils when it comes to climate change, you can listen to the latest episode of the National Trust for Scotland’s Love Scotland podcast. Hosted by Cameron Angus Mackay, this podcast episode also covers new and ongoing initiatives from the Trust to combat the impact of climate change.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland, visit: [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk). Love Scotland can be accessed on Spotify or Apple Podcasts



## *Elegant eats: Luxury ingredients to help elevate your menu*

Luxury ingredients are proving to be increasingly popular, bringing attention and revenue to the restaurants that splash out on a menu with specialised items. Catering supply specialists Alliance Online explain how the industry trend of ‘premiumisation’ could help elevate your menu ...

### **What is premiumisation?**

Now a reliable marketing tool in the food and beverage industry, premiumisation allows product developers to come up with new, unique flavour combinations or food experiences to attract a wider customer base. While already being a well-established strategy, this turn towards the finer things was fuelled further by the pandemic, as enjoying specialised, higher quality food and drink became more of a priority as we spent more time indoors (FONA International).

Not only this, but the increased appreciation for luxury items has coincided with a rise in ‘quality over quantity’ consumer mentality. Due to a general increase in the public’s environmental concerns, premium ingredients (especially products like meat and fish) are often seen as the more sustainable choice, particularly by millennial demographics (Pearlfisher).

### **Luxury ingredients**

With the power to attract and delight new customers, adding luxury ingredients to your menu is one of the best ways to project a more premium image of your brand. Below are some of the most decadent items that can elevate any dish to a superior dining experience.

#### **Saffron**

Primarily grown in Iran, India, Greece, and Morocco, saffron is a spice with a rich history and is synonymous with luxury. More expensive by weight than gold, saffron has a labour-intensive harvest process which has shaped its reputation as an exclusive, precious ingredient often called Red Gold. Each flower only grows three threads of saffron and blooms for just one week a year; it must be harvested by hand at a specific time in the morning, meaning that it takes about a thousand flowers to make just one ounce of this spice (Bon Appétit).

Although the taste is hard to describe (generally called subtle and fragrant), both the flavour and distinctive yellow colour saffron adds to every dish make it instantly recognisable. Restaurants can showcase this luxurious ingredient in rice dishes like risotto and paella or use it to complement recipes which use high quality seafood with delicate, aromatic sauces.





### Truffles

Much like saffron, truffles have a unique flavour and are difficult to get hold of, making them an ideal candidate for the title of luxury ingredient. However, truffles have a much stronger flavour and aroma which — despite being somewhat divisive — means they act as a dominant taste in most dishes that use them. Also available in the form of truffle oil, these fungi have become popular additions to help elevate artisan pizzas, pasta dishes, and even to add a dash of glamour to sides or small plates like mashed potatoes.

Truffles have an earthy, umami taste that is slightly nutty and has hints of garlic. While the black variety are slightly less expensive and mix well in sauces, white truffles are even more aromatic and can be used raw, but they come with an accompanying price tag. To boast the most decadent dishes on your menu, this is the variety to use!

### Edible Flowers

Taking inspiration from the returning trend of ancestral eats, edible flowers are having a resurgence in popularity. Not just a colourful, delicate garnish, these edible blooms can actually add some unique, botanical flavours to your dishes and even some extra vitamins.

Sprinkle a handful of edible flowers over desserts for a pop of vibrant colour or use as a cocktail garnish to give your drinks an elegant, artisanal presentation. Some popular choices include lavender, roses or hibiscus, all of which can be used as decoration or to infuse sugar or syrups. Freezing flower petals into ice cubes is another way to incorporate them into your drinks menu; opt for bright blooms like pansies or violets for the best effect.

Additionally, vanilla pods are, in fact, flowers from an orchid plant, and this strong, sweet flavour has been popular in sweet dishes for centuries. However, knowing that this flavour comes from a natural, high-quality plant that is difficult to farm can, once again, elevate a simple dessert into something more special.

### Gold Leaf

Finally, as the ultimate presentational flourish, gold leaf is one of the most luxurious ingredients you can add to a dish. Typically used in desserts and sweet plates, it adds glitz and glamour to any food and is sure to delight customers before even taking a bite.

Particularly in the days of smartphones and social media, restaurants are increasingly aware of how important the visual element of food is, and a sprinkling of delicate gold leaf can help to achieve an extravagant dining experience. Despite contributing no flavour or texture, gold leaf can, therefore, add an undeniable touch of class to already sophisticated desserts like chocolate ganache, meringues or macarons, in one simple step.

### Rachel Kiss, Marketing and Online Manager at Alliance Online, said:

“Ahead of social holidays like Mother’s Day, those in the food and drink industry may be looking for ways to elevate their menu and create a more high-end atmosphere in their restaurants.

Incorporating luxury ingredients like saffron, truffles, and even gold leaf to the menu is an achievable and effective way for restaurants and food retailers to engage with premiumisation. Associated with exclusivity, higher quality, and often sustainability, these premium products are seeing a rise in appreciation since the pandemic, particularly among millennial consumers.”



## Recipes using duck

The delicious recipes on this page include: a crispy duck salad with hoisin dressing; roast duck breast and walnut salad; and succulent pulled duck covered in sweet chilli.

### **Crispy duck salad with hoisin dressing (by Abigail Buchanan, granddaughter of the Gressingham founders)**

Preparation time: 15 minutes  
 Cooking time: 35-40 minutes  
 Serves 4 as a starter, 2 as a main

#### **Ingredients:**

1 Gressingham aromatic half crispy duck  
 Salad leaves (rocket, baby spinach and finely shredded red or white cabbage work well)  
 2 medium carrots, grated  
 3 spring onions, finely chopped  
 ½ cucumber, finely chopped  
 Pomegranate seeds, to serve (optional)

#### **For the dressing:**

2 tbsp hoisin sauce  
 1 tbsp sesame oil  
 1-2 cloves of garlic, minced  
 1 lime, juiced  
 1 tsp freshly grated ginger  
 2 tsp soy sauce  
 1 red chilli, finely chopped  
 Salt and pepper, to taste

#### **Method:**

Cook the duck according to the instructions on the packet. It will take between 35 and 40 minutes. While the duck is cooking, combine the ingredients for the dressing and mix well.

Combine the salad leaves, carrots, spring onions and cucumber in a large serving bowl. When the duck is cooked, leave it to stand for ten minutes before shredding it.

Toss the shredded duck with the salad, drizzle over the dressing and serve scattered with pomegranate seeds.



### Roast duck breast and walnut salad

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Serves 2

#### Ingredients:

8 new potatoes, unpeeled  
 2 Gressingham duck breasts  
 100g green beans, topped and tailed  
 1 bag of mixed salad leaves  
 2 little gem lettuces  
 50g walnuts, toasted  
 Small bunch of chives

#### For the French dressing:

3 tbsp white wine vinegar  
 1 tbsp Dijon mustard  
 1 tbsp runny honey  
 6 tbsp olive oil  
 3 tbsp walnut oil

#### Method:

First, make the dressing by whisking the vinegar, mustard, honey and a pinch of salt and pepper together. Whisk in the oils very slowly and then season to taste. Set aside.

Preheat your oven to 220°C or 200°C fan. Simmer the new potatoes in salted boiling water until tender. Dry the duck breasts with kitchen roll, then score the skin six to eight times with a sharp knife and season both sides. Place the duck breasts, skin side down, in a frying pan with no oil, on a low to medium heat. Cook for six to eight minutes, or until the skin is golden and crisp. Carefully pour off any fat into a bowl as the duck cooks. Turn the breasts over and quickly seal the meat for 30 seconds. Transfer the duck to a roasting tray, skin side down, and place in the preheated oven. Cook for six to eight minutes, or a few more if you prefer the duck well cooked.

Remove the duck from the oven and leave to rest for five to ten minutes, skin side up, somewhere warm. Meanwhile, simmer the green beans in boiling salted water for five to ten minutes, until tender. Quickly whisk the dressing, then dress the salad leaves, lettuce, beans and potatoes. Divide between two bowls. Carve the duck and arrange the slices on top. Sprinkle over the toasted walnuts and snip some chives over the top to finish.



### **Pulled duck and sweet chilli**

Preparation time: 5 minutes

Cooking time: 1 hour 25 minutes

Serves 2

#### **Ingredients:**

2 Gressingham duck legs

½ tsp ground cumin

½ tsp paprika

200g sweet chilli sauce

2 large handfuls of salad leaves

2 spring onions, finely chopped

#### **Method:**

Preheat the oven to 180oC or 160oC fan. Season the duck legs with salt and pepper on both sides. Mix the cumin and paprika together in a bowl and rub the legs.

Place the legs on a wire rack in a baking tray and put them in the preheated oven. Cook for about one hour ten minutes, then remove them from the oven and lower the temperature to 150oC or 130oC fan. Transfer the duck legs to a clean roasting tray and baste them with the chilli sauce. Return to the oven for another 15 minutes.

Take the duck legs out of the oven and allow them to cool until you can handle them. Shred the duck meat and skin from the bones with two forks.

Divide the salad leaves between two plates and top with the shredded sweet chilli duck. Garnish with the sliced spring onions and more sweet chilli sauce. Serve with crusty bread and creamy, homemade slaw.



## Top eco wedding trends 2022

**A** new study by wedding finance experts at money.co.uk has revealed the biggest eco wedding trends, proving that in-season flowers come out on top.

By analysing Google search data from the last two years, the wedding finance experts at money.co.uk compared the year-on-year difference in searches for various eco wedding trends, to reveal the top trending. With a 200% rise in searches, it is in-season flowers that come out on top. Many bouquets are created using flowers that brides would prefer such as peonies, lilies and dahlias; however, this often means importing them from hundreds of miles away when you could use locally sourced and in-season flowers.

The second biggest eco-trend on the list is renting bridesmaid dresses, which have spiked by 181% compared to the previous year. Interestingly, renting wedding dresses is the third on the list, seeing 89% more searches. The fashion rental scheme is a great way to avoid purchasing and disposing of a dress that is only worn once and, instead, gives a dress multiple lives.

Moissanite engagement rings are fourth on the list of eco wedding trends in 2022 with an 83% increase. The discussion of moissanite stones has been made ever more popular thanks to a viral TikTok video which explains how much more ethically they are sourced than diamonds, and shows how similar the two stones look when side-by-side.

Rounding off the top five is sustainable wedding favours which have gone up by 75% by those trying to make their weddings less wasteful, followed by leaf confetti and sustainable wedding venues. Completing the top ten list are petal confetti, renting wedding linen and second-hand wedding dresses.

### Top ten eco wedding trends

Rank	Eco Wedding Trend	Year-on-Year Change (%)
1	In-season wedding flowers	200
2	Rent bridesmaid dress	181
3	Rent wedding dress	89
4	Moissanite engagement ring	83
5	Sustainable wedding favours	75
6	Leaf confetti	53
7	Sustainable wedding venue	50
8	Petal confetti	39
9	Rent wedding linen	33
10	Second-hand wedding dress	22

The full findings can be seen at: <https://www.money.co.uk/getting-married/wedding-trends> .

## ***BAFTA-winning costumes from The Favourite displayed at Blenheim Palace***

**A**ward-winning costumes from The Favourite have gone on display at Blenheim Palace as part of a new exhibition celebrating the life of John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough.

Created by the renowned British designer Sandy Powell, the costumes' silhouettes are historically accurate but are made from contemporary fabrics. She also opted to use mainly black and white within the court to differentiate the courtiers from the outside world.

In the film, which saw Olivia Colman receive an Oscar for her portrayal of Queen Anne, Rachel Weisz played Sarah, 1st Duchess of Marlborough, alongside Mark Gatiss as the Duke.

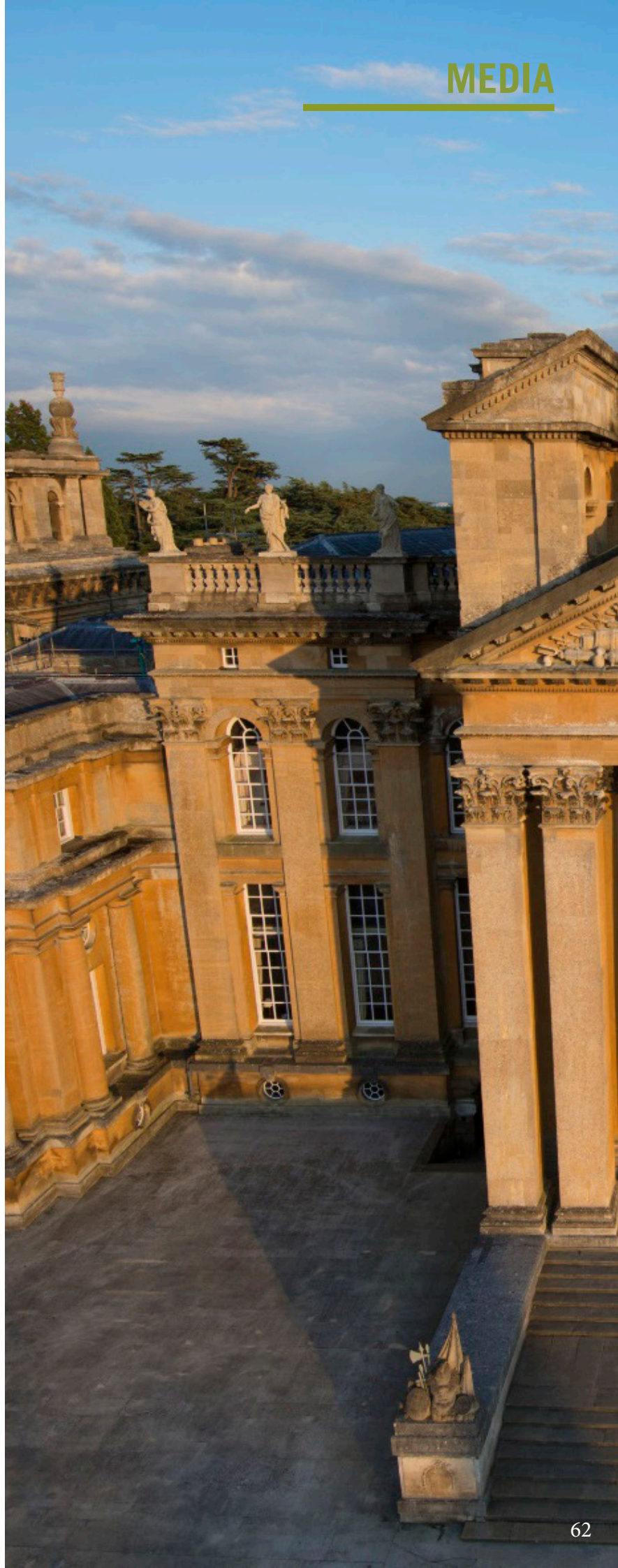
Blenheim Palace was built for the Duke as a reward from Queen Anne and a grateful nation for his stunning military successes in the War of the Spanish Succession.

Sandy Powell has been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Costume Design 15 times, winning three awards for the films Shakespeare in Love (1998), The Aviator (2004), and The Young Victoria (2009). She has also received 15 BAFTA Award nominations, winning for Velvet Goldmine, The Young Victoria, and The Favourite in 2018.

Running until 19th June, 'Battlefields & Baroque' transports visitors back in time to the Palace of the 1700s and marvels at the exquisite clothing, food, games and music that the Duke and his Duchess would have loved.

The exhibition also features displays of 18th century armour, music and instruments, the recreation of a court feast of the time, and a fascinating collection of unique maps, documents and artefacts from the Blenheim archive, many of them on public display for the first time.

For details visit: [www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on](http://www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on).





## *Antytila's proposal to perform live from Kyiv*

**U**krainian band Antytila recently went viral after posting a video from the frontline, asking Ed Sheeran to perform at the televised fundraiser live from Kyiv.

They had hoped to join the sold-out two-hour show at Resorts World Arena via live stream from Ukraine. Despite their pleas, the group announced, on 25th March, that organisers had turned down their offer to play at the show. Their heartfelt message was heard by millions, including other event organisers, who, recognising their plea, reached out and Antytila subsequently agreed to perform live from Kyiv at the Charity Gala at Tower Suites by Blue Orchid Hotels, London, in conjunction with Heather Small.

British soul singer and former lead singer of the band M People, **Heather Small**, who has sold over ten million albums worldwide and is currently on tour throughout the UK, performed at the Gala on 27th April. She said: "It is a pleasure to perform alongside Antytila, who, like all Ukrainians, have shown resilience and bravery as they continue to honour their music whilst defending their country." Formed in 2007, Antytila has since released six studio albums and performed numerous stadium shows in their home country. Currently, three members of the band are fighting on the frontline in Ukraine, with two more working as civilian volunteers.

**Lead member of Antytila said:** "First of all, I want to thank the people of Great Britain for supporting Ukraine! We are glad to be given an opportunity to speak and perform to you, thousands of miles away from the frontline. The main thing I want to say is that Ukrainians are brave and unconquered. We are fighting and will fight to the victory! But today we need support! We need support for our army and our refugees all over the world. Please donate and don't forget about our country, about each city that stands not only for our country but for democracy, freedom and dignity day-by-day: Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Kherson and others."

The headline sponsor for the event, which was held on Wednesday 27th April, was Blue Orchid Hotels, with additional valued sponsorship from Impact Capital Group and Elite Construction, plus support from Optimiser, Global Hospitality Services and Opulent Luxury Events. All proceeds from the night went to Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, managed by Integrity International Trust (Charity No. 1176502) – providing food, water, shelter, medical and other assistance to those affected by the war in Ukraine.







## *Winner of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Environmental Photography Award 2022*

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation is pleased to unveil the 2022 winner of the second edition of the Environmental Photography Award, **Easa Lebbe Muhammed Jamsith**, for his photograph 'Tears'.

After deliberation, the jury, made up of professional photographers, selected the Grand Winner of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Environmental Photography Award 2022 amongst the 8,000 entries, as well as the laureates in the five categories: Humanity versus Nature, Towards a Sustainable Future, Polar Wonders, Life Under the Surface and Beneath the Canopy.

Easa Lebbe Muhammed Jamsith grew up in a remote village in Sri Lanka, with a traditional lifestyle where nature played an important role. He stated that he wanted to put his art to good use.

He said: "In Sri Lanka, there is a landfill near the forest in Oluvil. It was a tragedy to learn on the morning of 5th January 2022 that an elephant was about to die in this dump. I immediately alerted the wildlife officials and rushed to the site. As soon as I arrived, I saw the Himalayan creature curled up in pain, so much so that it could not even stand up and had lost its strength. I approached to take the picture and it looked at me with tears in its eyes. The wildlife officials, accompanied by a doctor, examined the elephant and reported that it was suffering from a sudden blockage of the esophagus due to the daily ingestion of polythene waste (food wrapping) – a phenomenon that has already occurred six times in this landfill and is a testament to the relationship that humans have with nature."

The 36 best photographs from the competition were on display from 1st to 29th June 2022 on the Larvotto Promenade in Monaco. Exhibiting these large-format prints in the heart of a highly touristic area is a valuable opportunity to convey the environmental values, dear to the Sovereign and the Principality, to the general public, while inviting us to rethink our relationship with Nature.



## Sustainable shopping: free browser extension finds eco-friendly alternatives

**B**ritain's first browser extension that automatically finds its users sustainable alternatives to products and services, bought online, has been launched.

- The Beagle Button is the UK's first browser extension that fetches planet-friendly alternatives.
- It allows shoppers to browse online as normal, then it sniffs out more planet-friendly products and services in real time.
- Whether shopping for new jeans, a mobile phone tariff or a toothbrush, the free-to-use technology saves consumers the hassle of researching the sustainable credentials and ethicality of brands by automatically doing it for them.
- Consumers can personalise filters for the plug-in, prioritising values that they care about, such as plastic-free, organic, low-carbon, vegan, and women-run.
- At a time when greenwashing is rife, the Beagle Button allows users to shop sustainably with confidence.

### How it works

- 1 - Once downloaded, users shop as normal, e.g. for deodorant.
- 2 - If there is a more ethical product, The Beagle Button fetches it instantly.

The Beagle Button is compatible with nearly all browsers and can be used to shop for anything from banking to coffee. The tech start-up company has independently researched thousands of the most ethical and eco-friendly products worldwide, so you don't have to, and held them against its sustainability values of reducing waste, minimising emissions, supporting workers, protecting animals, and avoiding harmful chemicals. Using these values and earmarking them against existing customer reviews, Beagle uses a blend of machine learning and natural language processing to match users with a suitable product alternative as they browse in real time.

Beagle works on a product level, so no random or irrelevant alternatives pop up, too, whilst you're browsing. So, for example, if you're shopping for black jeans, Beagle will pop up with a sustainable equivalent in the same colour and style. If you decide to choose the alternative, simply click on the pop up and it will take you directly to the different retailer's site.

### Tailored to you

Beagle Button knows that sustainability and ethical consumption means different things to different people, so users can set filters to closely align with what they care about most. Filter choices include the following:

- Organic
- Plastic-free
- Vegan
- Longer lasting
- Ethically made
- Low-carbon
- Women-run
- Gives back
- Made in the UK
- Minority owned
- Second-hand

The Beagle Button works when users shop across the top 100 retail sites in the UK, including Amazon and ASOS, and will, instead, redirect shoppers to buy from one of their 250 verified ethical brands and retailers, from Finisterre and Allbirds to Cheeky Panda and the Environmental Toothbrush.

# THE BEAGLE BUTTON

Sniffs out the best product  
for **you** and **the planet**

**For what can I use it?**

The Beagle Button works across multiple departments, including the following:

- Beauty, grooming and hygiene
- Furniture
- Cleaning
- Homeware
- Electronics
- Clothing
- Accessories
- Appliances
- Services
- Food and drink
- Mobile tariffs
- Energy providers
- Banking providers

**Daniel Hemsley, CEO and co-founder of the Beagle Button said:** “We all love the convenience of online shopping, but it comes with a terrible cost to our planet. Even people who care about the environment often struggle to find sustainable alternatives. We wanted to take all the time-consuming research out of the process to make shopping sustainably as simple as a single click.

The Beagle Button is a tool that sits within your browser and recommends more sustainable and ethical products automatically, making planet-friendly shopping more accessible, less of a chore and genuinely convenient. We’re aware that sustainability means different things to different people, so we encourage users to select their preferences - then we can show them the best possible and most relevant alternatives.

Our priority is putting the absolute best, most sustainable products in front of people. We’re constantly evolving and looking for leading sustainable products and services. Both merchants and our users themselves can suggest products to us. We’ll then assess these and, if they pass our criteria, we’ll add them to our database.”

For more information and to add the Beagle Button to your browser, visit <https://joinbeagle.com/>

# PETER RABBIT™

## GARDEN ADVENTURE



## *Blenheim Palace welcomes 'The Peter Rabbit™ Garden Adventure – a live immersive experience'*

In the appropriately historic surroundings of Blenheim Palace, Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit is celebrating his 120th anniversary through a magical mix of storytelling, live performance and puppetry, on a journey around the grounds of this beautiful location.

Developed in association with Frederick Warne & Co (brand owner and part of Penguin Random House Children's Books), this is the first time Peter Rabbit has appeared in this way, and it is also a first for World Heritage Site Blenheim Palace, which has allowed unprecedented access for families trying to save Peter Rabbit from ending up in Mr McGregor's rabbit pie.

This summer, young Beatrix Potter Beatrix invites you to join her on an adventure to find her mischievous friend Peter Rabbit, as she leads guests through never-before-seen spots in the Palace's walled garden. Moving from flower and vegetable gardens to greenhouses and potting sheds, you'll get a glimpse of the estate no one else has seen, whilst meeting friends Jemima Puddle-Duck, Squirrel

Nutkin, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle and Mr Jeremy Fisher along the way. Watch out for many more surprises on your journey!

This 50-minute immersive adventure should be the star in the calendar of any child who loves to explore the great outdoors, any family who treasures spending time together in nature and any fan of the most beloved rabbit in children's literature, which has sold over 250 million copies since he first appeared at the start of the 20th century. A must-visit summer attraction for all ages looking to combine history, adventure and education.

Created by the team behind 'Autumn Treasure Hunt with Percy The Park Keeper' at Chiswick House & Gardens and 'Paddington Marmalade Messiness' in Dalkeith Country Park, 'The Peter Rabbit™ Garden Adventure - a live immersive experience' will be open to guests from 6th July until 3rd September 2022.

The show is directed by Barney McElholm and written by Calum Finlay, the creative team behind Histrionic Production's acclaimed 2021 'Percy The Park Keeper' adaption. Between them, they bring the experience of working at the National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre of Scotland, Shakespear's Globe, The Almeida, Theatre Royal Bath, Manchester Royal Exchange and Birmingham REP, amongst others.



## ***Burrington Estates continues sustainability-focused development***

**R**enowned south-west developer Burrington Estates has continued its impressive recent construction programme by starting on-site at its latest Maer View development in Bude, North Cornwall. The team at Burrington Estates has been highly active in recent years, responding both to heightened buyer interest in the south-west and demand for the company's particular brand of homes that are both design-led and place sustainability at the forefront. Recent successes in the local area have included The Heaths in Illogan, Harbour Reach in Fowey, and Penrose View in Truro.

Maer View is a prime example of Burrington Estates' sustainable approach, boasting a variety of forward-thinking features. These include air source heat pumps to all homes and wildlife-friendly bee-bricks throughout the development. Solar panels are also included on selected plots and available as an optional upgrade on other units, while electronic car charging points can also be added to each home. The site features a range of 21 attractive four-bedroom detached homes, situated along the sought-after Cornish coastline, each with a private garden and garage.

**Mark Edworthy, founder of Burrington Estates, comments:** "As a forward-thinking developer, we have always looked to deliver developments that are built for the future and have as little impact on the local environment as possible. Homebuyers have been moving to Cornwall and the wider south-west in record numbers in recent years, not least for the area's outstanding beauty and variety of natural scenery. We take our responsibility to protect that natural environment very seriously, whilst delivering much-needed high-quality housing to the local area. At Maer View, we are continuing this approach and are delighted to have started onsite to deliver an incredible collection of new homes on the north Cornwall coast."

As well as carefully considering its environmental impact, Burrington Estates also takes an active role in the community, in the locations in which it operates. At Maer View, the company will be contributing over £100,000 to local community projects, including a contribution of £57,000 towards improvements at Bude School, and £51,000 for upgrades to local footpaths and cycle paths. The development itself features community-focused features, including a central green space where neighbours can come together and an informal public open space with orchard planting. Overall, Maer View has been carefully designed to complement its surroundings and blend with the Cornish countryside and nearby coastline.

Edworthy adds: "At Maer View, our consideration of the natural environment and the attention to communal areas are great examples of what have made our developments so successful with home-buyers, and already we are seeing huge early interest in this project. We find that many of our purchasers are seeking not only a well-designed home, but a place to live that is in harmony with the local community and environment."

Off-plan sales have already begun at Maer View and a show home is set to open this summer. For further information, please visit: <https://www.burringtonestates.com/developments/new-homes-for-sale/maer-view/>.



## *Brent Cross Town: Living near green spaces in the capital*

**A**rgent Related has announced the sales' launch of the first, highly anticipated homes at Brent Cross Town, London's 180-acre, £7 billion new park town. Overlooking five acres of open green space, The Ashbee and The Delamarre will together offer 277 new homes, featuring timeless design and superior quality.

Brent Cross Town offers buyers a unique living experience in a new neighbourhood which is built around 50 acres of parks and playing fields, meeting the increased demand of living near green spaces in the capital. The Ashbee and The Delamarre will provide light, airy and spacious homes in an unrivalled location, with lakeside views across Claremont Park. Every resident of the two new buildings will also be part of The Claremont Park Club, a state-of-the-art health and leisure club and workspace facility, located across the ground floors of both buildings.

### **Introducing Brent Cross Town**

Brent Cross Town will be a true 15-minute town, with facilities and amenities that residents need for daily life available within walking distance. The apartments launched are the first of 6,700 new homes at Brent Cross Town. They will benefit from a new high street, bringing together well-known and independent shops, cafes and restaurants, complemented by exceptional indoor and outdoor sports and wellness facilities. The neighbourhood will have eight new public squares, wide pedestrian boulevards and landscaped parks. It is the ideal destination for people's changing lifestyles and supports more flexible ways of living and working in London.

Brent Cross Town is the largest urban regeneration project to be undertaken in London by a single developer. It is being delivered by Argent Related and includes the team behind the redevelopment of King's Cross. The masterplan for Brent Cross Town has been developed by Allies & Morrison, the multi-award-winning architectural practice which also shaped King's Cross. The new town offers exceptional connectivity. London St Pancras International and King's Cross stations will be just 12-minutes away via the new Brent Cross West station, and Brent Cross underground station provides services to central London every five minutes.

Brent Cross Town has also committed to be a net zero carbon town by 2030, at the latest. It will achieve this with the creation of highly energy-efficient homes and offices, and, through innovative design and build techniques which reduce their carbon footprint. Brent Cross Town has also partnered with Vattenfall, the Swedish Government-owned power company, to build a state-of-the-art district heat network that will deliver affordable, reliable, low-carbon heating and hot water to all Brent Cross Town residents. The district heat network removes the need for individual boilers in each home and ensures heating and hot water is always available.

### **New Parkside Living**

The Ashbee and The Delamarre comprise 277 apartments, ranging from studios to one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, including maisonettes. Each building has its own distinct aesthetic, with interiors by global architectural practice Woods Bagot. The Ashbee, designed by the award-winning Squire & Partners, offers 107 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, including maisonettes, with balconies and terraces on the upper floors. These range from 481 square feet (44.8 m<sup>2</sup>) up to 1,706 square feet (158.5 m<sup>2</sup>). The Ashbee is an elegant building with contemporary stepped brick facades. Its modern interiors draw on the design principles of the Arts & Crafts architecture of Hampstead Garden Suburb and Golders Green, associated with Ebenezer Howard and Harriet Bennett.

The Delamarre, designed by the architects and urbanists at Maccreanor Lavington, offers 170 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, ranging from 487 square feet (45.2 m<sup>2</sup>) to 950 square feet (88.3 m<sup>2</sup>). A contemporary interpretation of Art Deco, the interiors of The Delamarre reflect the work of key North London figures such as Ernst Freud. The striking bay-fronted brick mansion building is inspired by the Edwardian mansion blocks of neighbouring Hampstead and Highgate, with full-height windows and balconies, and wrap-around terraces for apartments on the upper floors, and a private podium garden at the centre of the building.

### **The Claremont Park Club**

The Claremont Park Club is a resident-only, state-of-the-art health and leisure club with a workspace facility, located across the ground floors of both buildings. Offering unparalleled amenities and service, the space will offer direct access to cutting-edge facilities, including a gym, fitness and yoga studios and separate personal training suit, as well as the perfect work-from-home amenities, with shared and private workspaces, a private bookable meeting room and two lounge areas. The Claremont Park Club also offers an exceptional environment in which to entertain, with two private dining rooms, and a cinema-style screening room complemented by a cocktail bar, and spacious lounge and entertaining suite.

**Tom Goodall, Partner and Head of Residential for Argent Related, said:** "Brent Cross Town will offer something unique to London; a new neighbourhood set around 50 acres of parks and playing fields, but within 12 minutes of Zone 1 London. It will be a place which supports health and well-being, and maximises the opportunities offered by our new flexible lifestyles. As well as being focussed on providing great new homes, we are focussed on creating the best place to live in the capital."

**Nina Coulter, UK Board Director & Director of Residential Development Sales at Savills, said:** “Brent Cross Town is the most important new residential development launch in London in 2022. Post the pandemic, there is a strong ‘green premium’, with homeowners wanting to live in a healthy environment. With its green spaces and commitment to the environment, Brent Cross Town is ahead of many other developments.”

The first phase of the development will include Claremont Park and a new parade of local shops; both were set to open in Spring 2022. Construction is also underway on the new Brent Cross West station, with construction set to be completed by December 2022. The first phases will also include around 1,000 new homes for sale and rent, as well as affordable homes, up to one million square feet of offices, new sport and play facilities, shops and restaurants, and a new primary school.

Buyers interested in Brent Cross Town can visit the new Visitor Pavilion located on Claremont Road NW2 1FE, where they can explore a scale-model of the new park town, tour the show apartments dressed by The Six Collective, view the new Claremont Park and enjoy a coffee at the adjacent Spruce & Larch café.

Apartment prices start from £390,000. Residents can apply for a parking licence for a bay in the shared basement car park. Savills is the UK and international sales agent for Brent Cross Town; contact: +44 (0)20 3319 0729; email: [sales@brentcrosstown.co.uk](mailto:sales@brentcrosstown.co.uk); or visit: [www.Brentcrosstown.co.uk](http://www.Brentcrosstown.co.uk).



# Google opens Bay View campus in Silicon Valley

**The first campus developed by Google and largest to pursue multiple green building certifications**

**G**oogle has announced the opening of its new Bay View campus in Silicon Valley, representing the company's first time of developing its own major campus.

The Bay View campus was designed by architects Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG) and Heatherwick Studio, as well as Google's design and engineering teams, and spans 42 acres adjacent to the NASA's Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley. It totals 1.1 million square feet, with 20 acres of open space, two office buildings, a 1,000-person event centre, and 240 short-term employee accommodation units.

The interiors of the buildings re-emphasise Google's vision for the future of work, designed in response to its understanding of why Google's employees come to the office, what they need from their teammates and what they need from the company.

For those coming into the office, it was designed to balance Googlers' desire to come together as teams with the need for an environment that enables deep-focus work. Team spaces are on the upper level and gathering spaces are below, separating focus and collaborative areas while still providing easy access to both. The second floor design has variation in floorplates, to give teams a designated 'neighbourhood' area that is highly flexible, to change with their needs.

#### Features include the following:

- The campus incorporates biophilic design principles, including greenery, natural daylight and views outside from every desk, to improve the health and well-being of those inside the building. Clerestory windows modulate direct light on to desks, with automated window shades that open and close over the course of the day.
- The ventilation system uses 100% outside air. This means that air flows one way, so there is no recycled air, which is much healthier for occupants.
- To remove toxins and create the healthiest environment possible, the project team vetted thousands of building products and materials — everything from carpet tiles, paints, piping, plywood and furniture were evaluated, using the Living Building Challenge (LBC) Red List as a framework.
- Nine pieces of artworks from local Bay Area artists are on and around the nine massive two-story elevators. Not only do they depict Bay Area ecology scenes, but they also help with wayfinding in the building.

Sustainability is also core to the Bay View campus. The site is expected to achieve a LEED-NC v4 Platinum certification and become the largest facility ever to attain the International Living Future Institute (ILFI) LBC Water Petal Certification.

#### Other features included:

- The integrated geothermal pile system, which is the largest in North America, is estimated to reduce carbon emissions by roughly 50% and will help both heat and cool the campus. The massive geoechange field is integrated into the structural system, reducing the amount of water typically used for cooling by 90% — equal to five million gallons of water annually.
- To help deliver on its commitment to operate every hour of every day on carbon-free energy by 2030, the first-of-its-kind dragonscale solar skin, as well as nearby wind farms, will power Bay View on carbon-free energy 90% of the time.
- Bay View is 100% electric, where even the kitchens are electric to decrease carbon emissions.
- To help deliver on its commitment to replenish 120% of the water it consumes by 2030, the site is net water-positive, with all non-potable water demands being met using the recycled water it generates on site. A series of above-ground ponds gather rainwater, combined with a building wastewater treatment system, together serving as a water source for cooling towers, flushing toilets, and landscape irrigation.
- The campus includes 7.3 acres of high-value natural areas — including wet meadows, woodlands, and marsh — that contribute to Google's broader efforts to re-establish missing essential habitat in the Bay Area.

Local residents can also benefit from the opening of the Bay View campus, including public access to expanded trails with panoramic views of the bay, improved bike connections to Stevens Creek and bay trails, expanded car lanes and new bike lanes with the widening of R.T. Jones Road.

Learn more about Google's Bay View campus at [g.co/realestate/bayview](https://g.co/realestate/bayview).







## *OVO Energy Solutions and Cornwall Council bring warmer, greener homes to the county*

**O**VO Energy Solutions, part of OVO, UK's third largest energy supplier, and Cornwall Council announce the start of a partnership to manage and deliver whole house retrofit solutions to over 400 of gas homes across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Whole-house retrofitting is a complete approach to making homes more energy-efficient, focusing on the fabric of the house first, then installing the right technology. It has the immediate impact of keeping homes warm and reducing energy bills.

OVO Energy Solutions partners with local authorities and housing associations to help them achieve their fuel-poverty and energy efficiency targets for homes.

Since 2020, OVO Energy Solutions has improved more than 2,700 homes' energy efficiency across the UK, including: installing air source heat pumps to nearly 400 homes and, in some cases, helping to reduce energy bills by up to 50%. Through 2021, as global gas prices started to rise, OVO Energy Solutions insulated over 1,500 homes. All of these were vulnerable or fuel-poor households, with approximately 50% being privately owned.

A warm, well-insulated home is critical for all households across the UK, but particularly those with health conditions and are vulnerable to colder temperatures.

As part of the Cornwall Winter Wellbeing partnership, OVO Energy Solutions will work with Cornwall Council to retrofit 400 homes. OVO Energy Solutions will deliver 1,000+ whole house retrofit measures to the properties, including: external wall, cavity and loft insulation, underfloor insulation, draught proofing, air source heat pumps, high retention storage heaters, solar PV and double glazing.

OVO Energy Solutions is also working in partnership with Cornwall Council and Cornwall Housing to deliver the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator project in Falmouth to 45 Cornish Units. These houses were built as part of the regeneration effort after the Second World War. The Social Housing Decarbonisation project, funded by the UK Government, will focus on reducing a home's heat loss through installing low-carbon and sustainable materials, which will achieve energy savings for the lifetime of the buildings and reduce heating loads on the homes. As a result, the expected annual cost saving is due to be around £600 per household. The project started in February 2022 and is due to be completed in July 2022.

**Raman Bhatia, CEO of OVO, said:**

"By working with leading local authorities and housing associations, we've unlocked a huge opportunity to create greener, more energy-efficient homes for those people who live in draughty homes and will benefit from lower energy bills.

Now, more than ever, the projects are critical to supporting households during the cost of living crisis, while also bringing down the carbon footprint of the home. We're proud to be working with Cornwall Council to retrofit homes across the county by installing technology, such as heat pumps or solar panels, and improving the lives of people in the community."

**Business and Energy Minister Lord Callanan said:**

"Improving the energy efficiency of UK buildings is the quickest way we can support families and businesses at a time of high global energy prices. That's why I am thrilled to see the UK Government's support of over £1 million, delivered through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator, helping residents in Cornwall upgrade to homes that are cheaper to run, heat and cool, whilst supporting economic growth and jobs across the region."

**Councillor Olly Monk, Cornwall Council's portfolio holder for housing, said:**

"This programme will help residents on low incomes have warmer homes, reduced energy bills and access to lower cost energy that is powered by renewable sources. It will also cut homes' carbon emissions, helping in tackling climate change and contributing towards our goal for Cornwall becoming carbon neutral by 2030."

**Andy Virr, Cornwall Council's Portfolio Holder for Adults and Public Health, said:**

"Having a warm home is a basic human right and also important to keep people healthy, which in turn helps to reduce pressure on our health services. This programme will help people affected by fuel-poverty and those most in need."

**Heidi Flack, Interim Director, Homes and Investments at Cornwall Housing Ltd said:**

"Cornwall Housing is delighted to be partners with Cornwall Council and OVO Energy on the Retrofit Programme. This important investment in our homes provides a range of energy efficiency measures to each property, including new roofs, photovoltaic panels, new UPVC windows and doors, more efficient external wall insulation and upgraded heating. These works also support Cornwall Council's carbon reduction targets and creates homes fit for the future. Most importantly, these improvements offer our tenants a comfortable, energy efficient home which will help to reduce costs and fuel poverty."





## Hand-crafted wooden bikes added to Cycle to Work scheme

**C**OCO-MATBIKE.UK, the world's most iconic sustainable, hand-crafted wooden bike, has partnered with Cyclescheme to help increase the number of people making the journey to work by bike. The Cycle to Work scheme is an employee benefit that enables working adults to save 25-39% on the cost of a bike and now have access to COCO-MATBIKE.UK's iconic wooden bike collection.

Each COCO-MATBIKE.UK is hand-crafted in Greece using plantation-grown American Ash (*Fraxus Americana*) as wood extends the bike's life cycle, and each adult ash tree provides enough wood to make 50 bikes. A tree is planted for each bike sold as COCOMATBIKE.UK's contribution to the environment. The bikes are also CO2-negative and carry a minimal design, lending themselves to offering nature's imprint on an urban landscape.

**Dimitri Philippou, CEO COCO-MATBIKE.UK said:** "We are thrilled to have partnered with Cyclescheme to provide COCO-MATBIKE.UK bicycles to their offer. Living a more sustainable and eco-friendly life is becoming more and more important to consumers and Cyclescheme helps increase the number of people making the journey to work by bike. More people cycling to work will improve public health and contribute to a more sustainable transport system, something we are very proud to be part of."

Employers can now choose one of the COCO-MATBIKE.UK bicycles, hire it for an agreed length of time, then snap it up for a fraction of its original value. The savings are generated by employees paying for their bike from their pre-tax salary (i.e. before tax is assessed or deducted). Obtaining the bike in this way reduces employees' taxable income and creates a tax savings. This mechanism for generating tax savings is known as a 'salary sacrifice'.

**Neil Mcguigan, Senior Manager, Product Implementation at Cyclescheme said:** "The COCO-MATBIKE.UK and Cyclescheme partnership is a natural one. Promoting and supporting green travel is a key objective of the Cycle to Work scheme. And the conversion is more relevant than ever, with both individuals and businesses placing a greater importance on sustainability in their everyday decision-making. We're excited to welcome COCO-MATBIKE.UK to the Cyclescheme partner network and work together to frown everyday cycling in the UK."

COCO-MATBIKE.UK was born in Athens, Greece after founder Paul Evmorfidis' bicycle broke down whilst riding in The Alps. Determined to create a better solution, he spent endless hours researching and testing, to create a range of robust, eco-friendly bikes that would withstand the test of time – without compromising the environment – and the COCO-MATBIKE.UK was created in 2016.

The COCO-MATBIKE.UK's ergonomic design, compact, firm frame and premium parts create an effortless cycling experience and deliver a smooth ride across all road surfaces, making it highly versatile.

Their minimal design and operation leaves almost no space for things to go wrong. Drum brakes and automatic gears ensure almost a lifetime operation without maintenance. If anything fails in the course of the years, though, their expert cycle repair shops' partners in the United Kingdom will do the job.

When it comes to the wooden frame, COCO-MATBIKE.UK gives a lifetime guarantee – further proof of how durable these bikes are; many have covered over 10000kms.

The COCO-MATBIKE.UK bike range – a selection of beautifully handcrafted bikes to suit your requirements ...

- Core range of 28" bikes for men (Odysseus) and women (Penelope) are available in both two and seven speed versions.
- Odysseus and Penelope also come as 28" e-bikes, designed to maintain your cycling awareness as you have to pedal to ride in e-bike mode.
- The Mentor foldable bike is available in both two speed and five speed – perfect for the commuter and is now available as an e-bike.

Prices start from £1990.00, subject to a tax assessment. Visit <https://coco-matbike.uk/> to find out more.





## A self-guided e-bike tour around vineyards in Kent

**A**n experience on an electric bike awaits you in Kent, where you can combine being green with superb wine, great food and Mother Nature's tonic of the great outdoors.

The UK Electric Bike Centre has created a package that has it all – self-guided vineyard tours for everyone, regardless of age – for friends, work colleagues, stags or hens.

Hire an e-bike, pick up a map, then navigate you and your group to one of the locally-chosen vineyards, where you enjoy a tasting of Kent's wonderful wine, produced from grapes grown in the county's famous chalky soil.

Alternatively, you can choose the pub routes for the pie and pint tour, stopping at places owned and run by the UK's oldest brewer, Shepherd Neame, or the Old Dairy Brewery, too.

They're not just for pleasure, though – they have hire contracts with courier companies and also work with businesses on the Cycle to Work scheme.

Founder Marcus Van Der Gaag says everyone comes back from a bike ride with the same two things – a huge smile on their face and a sense of achievement, having cycled much further than they thought they could or realised they had.

### e-bikes are easy – how they work

There are very few barriers to electric cycling. In 2021, Marcus's most senior cyclist was 89-years-old, who cycled 20 miles per week!

An e-bike works by automatically switching on a motor when you pedal. There are various levels of assistance, but the maximum speed is 15.5mph, or you can, of course, just use it as normal pedal bike, if you fancy putting in a bit more effort.

The extra help they give is the bit that helps you to ride farther than you think you could, without as much effort as you think you need. The biggest bene it is seen when climbing a hill or riding into the wind. Oh, and don't worry about 'range anxiety', either – the e-bikes have around a 60-mile battery range, ensuring that you have more than enough pedal power to get you there and back without running out.

### Self-guided tours

Marcus's self-guided tours start at his base in Headcorn (which he encourages people to get to via public transport) and take you, with the help of a very user-friendly picture map, to one of Kent's wonderful vineyards, pubs or a brewery:

- Hush Heath Estate & Winery (Staplehurst)
- Chapel Down (Appledore, near Tenterden)
- Gusbourne Wines (Ashford)
- Biddenden Vineyards (Biddenden)
- Woodchurch Wine (Woodchurch, near Ashford)
- Shepherd Neame (various)
- Old Dairy Brewery (Tenterden)

A full day will see you enjoy a tasting at two vineyards, whilst a half day will allow you one; the routes take you past some wonderful Kentish historical sites, too.



The bikes even have side panniers to hold your shopping, should you taste something that you just have to bring home.

If you get lost or aren't sure where you are, Marcus and the team are on-hand to help you to navigate your way through the carefully chosen quiet country lanes.

You can, of course, pay extra to have a guide, if you want to concentrate less on navigating and more on the beautiful countryside and your vineyard treats.

In keeping with being green, guests are also encouraged to arrive via public transport, with a taxi service offered to pick you up and drop you off again from Headcorn Station, just a few miles away.

If 2022 is the year of getting more active, trying new things, going outdoors more or booking up an amazingly fun experience, the UK Electric Bike Centre could be the place to look.

The vineyard tours are:

Full day, £50 (up to seven hours)

Half-day, £40 (up to three hours; 10am - 1pm or 2pm - 5pm)

Add a guide for £100.

Finally, if you're interested in buying an e-bike, Marcus and the team can tell you all you need to know, before you buy one from their shop – plus service, maintenance or repair, too

