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Queen's Platinum Jubilee Special 2022



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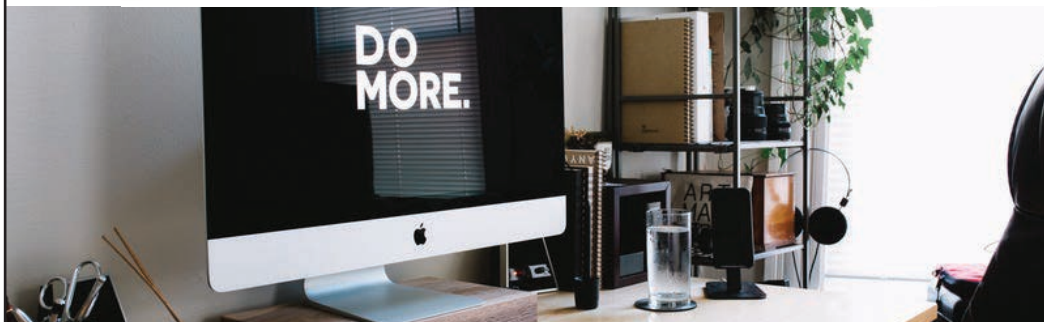
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Greenfingers... the Alan Titchmarsh column

He's a brilliant presenter, accomplished gardener, talented novelist and all-round horticultural inspiration. This month, Alan Titchmarsh talks about the impact his iconic *Ground Force* series had on the nation.

I get asked a lot about *Ground Force*, the TV programme I fronted for five years from 1997, and the impact it made on gardening, as a whole. To be honest, I don't like to talk up my achievements too much, but I will admit this was one of the real successes I will always look back on with fondness.

That's not so much for any personal reasons, and I certainly don't think my horticultural knowledge was called on in the same way it has been with other gardening shows I've done over the years. Instead, the pride I have for *Ground Force* stems from a place where we managed to start something of an outdoors revolution.



Not only were we at the forefront of a new brand of reality TV (that wasn't a talent show or a singing contest). It was in people's homes, in their lives, and focused on the idea that people could come together from all over to make a difference.

All the people involved in *Ground Force* came from different backgrounds and offered very different ideas in the process of transforming a chosen family's back garden, but it worked. My role was probably one of the easiest – almost just an anchor man pulling the whole thing together, however clumsily!

The show's success provoked a whole raft of other home reality programmes where people's dreams came true... usually. And I say that on the basis of some of the awkward transformations *Changing Rooms* embarked on! Yet for

the most part, this brand of telly was incredibly successful – think *DIY SOS*, *Property Ladder*, *Amazing Spaces*, *Grand Designs*, *Location Location Location* and others.

At the heart of it is exploring human nature and putting



ordinary people in extraordinary situations, and seeing how they react. Everyone who agrees to take part is looking for something, and the lucky ones are the ones who find it and know when they have found it. After all, our gardens will never be absolutely perfect places – nature sees to that – but *Ground Force* certainly got them close to that for a time.

As the TV crews departed, I would always suggest to the homeowners they should just sit in or look out over their garden without feeling conditioned to keep it in a certain way. Life isn't like that – it evolves, as do our outside spaces, and we should let it.

As John Lennon said, "Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans"... or tidying the garden!

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Money on my mind... the Martin Lewis column

He's the UK's leading money saving expert - a journalist and presenter who has kept millions of pounds in people's pockets as well as lifting the lid on the threats and dangers we need to be aware of as consumers.

In this month's column, Martin Lewis looks at taking financial responsibility for ourselves in these post-pandemic days.

What the Coronavirus pandemic has given us, probably more than any point in the past 50 years, is an idea that we can turn to a bank, or the government, or a charity, for help and support. And I won't deny that, in some examples, these entities have stood up and there has been a feeling of support and community.

Yet I think we all realise that can only go so far. We have now emerged out of the darkness of the pandemic, and slowly but shortly the directive is that we have to fend for ourselves again. I don't doubt some support remains, but I wouldn't expect it to last forever.

I think we are all living slightly differently now, and certainly in wake of food shortages during the first lockdown, I have seen much greater understanding and willingness of people to feed their families more responsibly.

The average food waste bill in the UK still stands at around £750 per year, and that's horrendous. Remember the difference between Use By and Best Before, and it will save



you hundreds each year.

If you have any packaging that has a date on it, if it's

after that date, lots of people just sling the food. Well, let's remember – Use By is a health notice to you. If something is beyond its Use By date, you need to chuck it in the bin. Best Before is the manufacturer's guide to optimum quality. All it means is that the item will be in its best possible condition before this date. The day after a Best Before, it's still perfectly legitimate to eat.

With some canned goods, it's still perfectly okay to eat them three or four years after the Best Before date. So, use your nose to smell it, use your eyes to look at it, use your senses to decide whether it's right for you.

Just by diminishing that, and by having a decent shopping list and proper menu planning, you will cut down waste. That's not just good for your pocket, but also good for the environment.



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Jennie Bond

A portrait of the Queen, by revered royal correspondent, Jennie Bond.

Jennie Bond worked as Royal Correspondent for the BBC throughout the Nineties, covering some of the happiest, most tragic and scandalous moments that have befallen the family in recent times.

"At the heart of it, I am fan of royalty and a fan of the family unit," she says. "The trials that the Royal Family have been through are really no different to our own, and that should reassure them as well as us. They are human beings, and fate doesn't shine brighter on them, because the everyday gains and losses that are just part of being alive.

"Ultimately, it is how you come back from the challenges that really matters – and the Queen has, over the past seven decades, truly shown herself to be the most resilient person possible."

Bond is certainly relieved our Head of State has styled and

positioned herself with such a brand of quiet authority. "You could arguably look at almost everyone around the Queen and pick out faults and failings," she says. "We've seen so many in recent years, to the extent we don't need to name the culprits or the dealings.

"Yet when you shine that light on the Queen it's really difficult, at any point, to say, 'you got that wrong', or 'this could have been done better'.

"I think with Elizabeth we tend to take that for granted – we tend to just accept she is like that without contemplating what sort of royal landscape we would have with someone less capable at the helm."

As far as privacy goes, the



Queen values it, but respects the need to be visible and approachable. "Elizabeth is funny, charismatic, sharp as anything, but I think worn down at times by the sheer weight of what it is she has to do. It's no easy task for someone in their nineties and no amount of wealth or privilege will compensate for what is an incredible commitment to her people," says Bond.

"I have had the honour of covering a lot of royal moments of great importance... moments in history I suppose – Princess Diana's death, the Queen Mother's death, the divorce of Charles and Diana. All those were very important moments I had to report on. But honestly, I think the jubilee celebrations and the pomp and pageantry is the most important. I know it signifies a simple anniversary – just a date in the calendar – but more than that it's a way of looking back over the continued efforts of someone so brave and inspiring, and is the perfect way to say 'thank you' to a very special lady."



Previous Jubilees

For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the planet feels as though it's in a very uncertain place. Across Brexit, through Covid, and with the rumblings of conflict going on in so many parts of the world, perhaps the pomp and pageantry of celebrations to distract us, if only for a few days, from the ills elsewhere.

Leaving to one side the Diamond Jubilee from just a decade ago, we take a look at the three other significant jubilees marking our current Monarch's reign.

Silver Jubilee, 1977

The year 1977 saw the Ford Fiesta go on sale in the UK, and Concorde flights begin between London and New York.

The Yorkshire Ripper, Peter Sutcliffe, courted national headlines, while Amnesty International won the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize.

Fleetwood Mac released *Rumours*, while a new underground line edged towards completion – the Jubilee Line! Originally termed the Fleet Line, it was supposed to open in 1977, although digging work meant the deadline slipped by two years.

Elsewhere, the Jubilee Walkway around significant parts of London and the Jubilee Gardens, which are positioned in front of the London Eye, were significant additions to mark the occasion.

Ruby Jubilee, 1992

The Queen's Ruby Jubilee came in the same year as what she famously termed her 'annus horribilis' (a Latin phrase meaning 'horrible year'). The preceding months had seen three of her children's marriages fail, while fire swept through Windsor Castle.

As a result, the Ruby Jubilee celebrations were perhaps more subdued than some of the others. A gala was held at the Royal Opera House; The Great Event at Earl's Court brought back notions of Victorian



opulence, while a jubilee lunch was held at Guildhall. However, in the immediate post-Diana era, and with a backdrop of public outcry over royal spending, and within that, the Queen agreeing to pay income tax, it was considered most appropriate to tone down celebrations.

Globally, the year saw Yugoslavia break up, as did Czechoslovakia, while George Bush and Boris Yeltsin proclaimed a formal end to the Cold War; albeit attention was rapidly switching to the escalating Gulf War situation.



Golden Jubilee, 2002

The Hungerford Footbridges, across the Thames between Charing Cross and South Bank, are the main tribute to the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002.

There is also a Diamond Jubilee Window adorning Southwark Cathedral, and of course the huge new leisure development over in Stratford was to be giving jubilee billing in being named the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Globally, US weapons inspectors returned to Iraq and within a year a second catastrophic war was to hit the gulf state.

In the UK, the year brought an end to Foot & Mouth, which had ravaged UK farming for the previous 11 months, while England lost 2-1 to Brazil in their World Cup quarter-final.

The Queen in Decades

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee represents the perfect time for us to look back over seven decades of impeccable rule by Elizabeth II.

Even now, at 96, Elizabeth still undertakes her seemingly endless list of public and private duties with consummate ease, and to begin the long process of preparations in the lead-up to

her century milestone in 2026, we have compiled a collection of images of the Queen on every decade of her life.



At 10 - Princess Elizabeth, right, arriving with her sister, Princess Margaret, at the Royal Tournament, Olympia.



At 20 - Princess Elizabeth in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, seen here with her mother Queen Elizabeth.



At 40 - The River Severn was at its full tide of 46ft as the Queen opened the world's seventh-longest bridge with Mrs Barbara Castle



At 30 - Harry Primrose, the 6th Earl Of Rosebery, With Queen Elizabeth II At Epsom On Oaks Day



At 50 - Queen Elizabeth II visits Associated Newspapers in Fleet Street, London, in 1976



At 60 - Queen Elizabeth II with David Attenborough, filming the Christmas Message in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace



At 70 - Queen Elizabeth II out and about in her Range Rover



At 90 - Queen Elizabeth II is accompanied by Arlene Foster and Martin McGuinness, as she unveils a portrait of herself by artist Colin Davidson at Crosby Hall in London



At 80 - The Queen at the State Opening of Parliament in November 2006

The Queen's Jubilee: Platinum Pomp

The work that goes on behind the scenes to mark Jubilee celebrations.

Soldiers, horses and musicians

It all starts to come to fruition on the Thursday, as Trooping the Colour marks the Queen's birthday celebrations. Over 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will come together in the traditional Parade. This is the first Jubilee celebration in which women will be included in the regiment, so additional preparations have been made to ensure the influx of first-time participants.

RAF fly-past

The traditional RAF fly-past completes the parade. The routine will have been practised countless times, though contrary to popular belief, this isn't just a privilege reserved for the Queen. In the lead-up to the event, local communities have been invited to apply for their own fly-pasts.

Jubilee beacons

A fortnight before the Jubilee, 1,500 Platinum Jubilee beacons will have been distributed across the UK. This lighting

of beacons first took place in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and are a symbol of unity across towns, borders, countries and continents.

St Paul's Cathedral

On Friday, June 3rd, attention switches to the Thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral. Public safety elements come to the fore here, with tens of thousands of well-wishers lining the streets around the Thames as the Queen and family members attend.

The Derby

A day of leisure follows on the Saturday as the Queen visits The Derby at Epsom Downs. The event itself is over 240 years old and has garnered a different winner every year, and is open only to three-year-old thoroughbred colts and fillies who have qualified for the race in the months preceding it. It remains the race that offers the biggest prize pot in the British racing – over £1.1million.

10,000 charitable tickets

In the evening, Elizabeth returns to London for a party at Buckingham Palace. In

the months leading up to the event, which features music and drama celebrating some of the most significant cultural moments from The Queen's seven-decade, over 10,000 tickets have been made available to charitable organisations. This has been two years in the planning.

Street celebrations

Finally, on Sunday, June 5th, communities across the UK are invited play out their own Platinum Jubilee street celebrations. Named The Big Lunch and launched in 2009, communities have been planning for months how they wish to mark the special day, with up over 1,500 applications made.

200 silk scarfs

At the same time, the Platinum Jubilee Pageant sees artistic performers, dancers, musicians, military personnel, key workers and volunteers tell the story of the Queen's 70-year reign. It includes a 'River of Hope' section comprised of 200 silk flags made by primary and secondary school children.



The Queen in her own words

Quiet, impeccably mannered, but always addressing with poise and precision, what Queen Elizabeth II says is always worth hearing.

The Queen and Diana

The idea that the Queen was in some way unapproving of Diana is one that has permeated the popular press and, it might be said, has left an indelible stain on the reputation of both. Yet many biographers have noted that the relationship between the two was excellent, even after the break-up of Diana's marriage to Prince Charles.

"No one who knew Diana will ever forget her. Millions of others who never met her, but felt they knew her, will remember her.

"She was an exceptional and gifted human being. In good times and bad, she never lost her capacity to smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with her warmth and kindness. I admired and respected her - for her energy and commitment to others, and especially for her devotion to her two boys."

Serving her country

Upon the Queen's coronation, she declared herself fully at the service of the nation she was serving, as have all Monarchs coming to the throne. While the words are regularly spoken, the intensity with which they were said perhaps should have given

some indication that Elizabeth truly was giving herself over to the nation, a



it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

Struggles

Taking strength from all around her, the Queen has never professed to have all the answers.

"I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their



efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together."

Family

Bringing the royals back to a status where people can empathise and share in the joys and pain of the family unit, is something Elizabeth has excelled in.

"Like all best families, we have our share of eccentricities, of impetuous and wayward youngsters and of family disagreements."

Contrition

Finally, the Queen has not only had to reference and apologise for events that occurred long before she was born.

"To all those who have suffered as a consequence of our troubled past I extend my sincere thoughts and deep sympathy. With the benefit of historical hindsight we can all see things which we would wish had been done differently or not at all."

Walk this Way: Hatfield Forest, Essex

Britain is renowned for a limitless quantity of walks, tours, hikes and on-foot ventures that combine well-worn paths, rugged trails, bountiful terrains, and some of nature's very finest and most inspiring sights.

In this issue, we look at one of Essex's most eclectic medieval hunting forests, whose secrets and scenery remains.

Distance: 5km

Time: Approx. 2 hours

Terrain: Guided, flat paths

Difficulty: Easy

Accessibility: Pathways and fields

Start and End Point: CM22 6NE

This 5km walk, not far from London, reconnects ramblers and families with a stunning medieval forest, showcasing beautiful trees, elegant views and undisturbed nature. The forest is also marked a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

WALKING ROUTE:

1. From the car park, head along the entrance road until reaching a boardwalk path to your left. Turn right here and head across the plain, keeping the line of trees close on the left. Keep going to the exit road from the forest and cross the road.

2. Head towards a red-roofed building in the distance, then exit Hatfield Forest through the metal gate and turn left onto the Flitch Way.

Continue for a mile, with the boundary of the forest alongside on the left. Pass through three gates until

reaching Elman's Green.

3. At the third gate turn left back into Hatfield Forest, and on to the Forest Way path. When you reach the first left opening, fork left and go diagonally left across the pasture to the far corner, where you will find the site of the Doodle oak.

Return to the Forest Way path, following it along until you reach Six Wantz Ways (where six paths meet).

4. At the first crossroads the Portingbury Hills Iron Age settlement appears your left, then go straight over the crossroads to a T-junction.

Turn right then left on to a smaller path, to Round Coppice, bearing left at a crossroads. Then when you arrive at the open plain, walk straight across

to the gravel track at the far side.

5. Pass Warren Cottage before crossing the road and over a small bridge, through a hawthorn coppice and towards a boundary gate of the lake area.

With the lake on your left, you will emerge at the Shell House and Discovery Room for refreshments.

Exit via the dam, through the woods, across a plain until the end and back out onto the road, then back to the car park and a cluster of 400-year-old pollarded hornbeam trees.

Is Essex a county too far?

If Hatfield Forest feels a little too far out your way, explore all manner of other routes – many closer to home! – by visiting the National Trust website.



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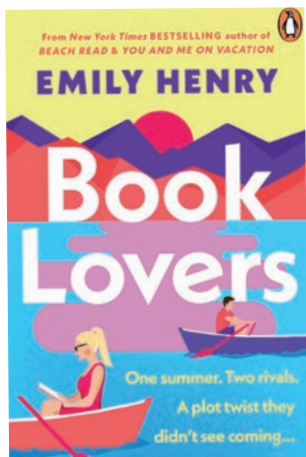
Far-flung fiction

This month, a voyage back into the world of fiction, with a selection of books that can whisk us away to far-off places

Book Lovers by Emily Henry (May 3rd)

Book Lovers comes from the pen of New York Times bestselling author Emily Henry, and follows the tale of Nora Stephens, who has a life ensconced in books. She has read them all, but the only people Nora is a heroine for are her clients and beloved little sister Libby.

That's why she agrees to go to Sunshine Falls for the month of August when Libby begs her for a sisters' trip away. With visions of a small-town transformation for Nora, who she's convinced needs to become the heroine in her own story, she encounters not picnics in meadows, but Charlie Lastra, a bookish brooding editor from back in the city. It would be a meet-cute if not for the fact that they've met many times and it's never been cute.



A Lady's Guide to Fortune Hunting by Sophie Irwin (May 12th)

A Lady's Guide to Fortune Hunting is a smart tome from Sophie Irwin – a debut novel from the London-based author that combines intelligence with craft.

In the plot, lead character Kitty Talbot needs a fortune. Or rather, she needs a husband who has a fortune. This is 1818 after all, and only men have the privilege of seeking their own riches.

With only 12 weeks until the bailiffs call, launching herself into London society is the only avenue open to her, and Kitty must use every ounce of cunning and ingenuity she possesses to climb the ranks.

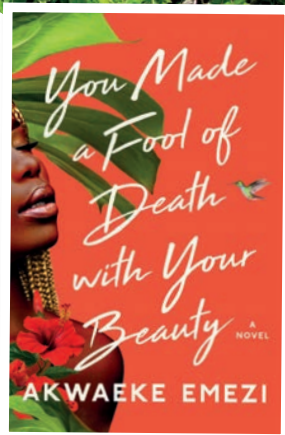
Can she secure a fortune and save her sisters from poverty? There is not a day to lose and no one – not even a lord – will stand in her way...

You Made a Fool of Death with Your Beauty by Akwaeke Emezi (June 2nd)

Akwaeke Emezi's *You Made a Fool of Death with Your Beauty* is a deeply heartfelt romance novel about a woman named Feyi who eases back into the dating scene after an accident killed the love of her life five years prior. The book has courted

not just the imagination of the book-reading public, but screenplay writers as well, and is already being adapted into a movie.

"After spending most of my teenage years buried in romance novels, I always wanted to write one myself," Emezi told *Entertainment Weekly* in a recent interview. "*You Made a Fool of Death with Your Beauty* is a love letter to the brave choices we make in the name of love, the costs we pay for it, and the glory of the reward at the end."



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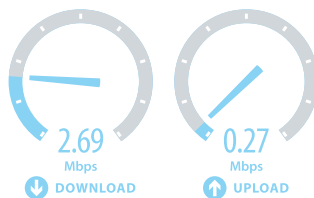
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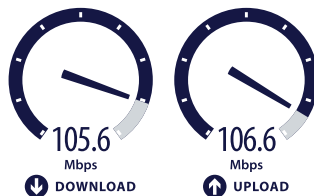
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The Hairy Bikers' Dairy-Free, Vegan Brownies

Introduction

Si, from the Hairy Bikers:

The baking revolution of the Noughties was really something to behold, and the momentum of that in the years since has never slowed down.

As a duo, we always felt we had unfinished baking business ahead of our Bakeation series, not least because being on the road, on motorbikes, does limit your ability to use an oven. Also, I think in some ways, baking can easily get pushed to one side when the necessity is there to get home and cook a meal for your family.

Lockdown finally afforded more time to play about with baking ideas and ingredients, and this dairy-free variation on the classic brownie was one of my absolute favourites.

These brownies contain no butter and no eggs, and are vegan friendly, and beauties still taste fantastic. Give them a try!



Ingredients

(serves 8-12)

- 275ml plant-based milk, any sort
- 150ml groundnut or walnut oil
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp ground flax seeds
- 60ml hot water
- 125g plain flour
- 125g cocoa powder
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 100g light soft brown sugar
- 75g caster sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 150g vegan chocolate chips
- 100g nut butter, any sort

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/
Fan 160°C/Gas mark 4. Line
a 20x20cm brownie tin with

baking paper or brush with
cake-release spray.

2. Whisk the milk, oil and
vanilla extract together in a
bowl and set aside. Mix the
ground flax seeds with the
hot water and leave to stand
for 5 minutes. Whisk all the
remaining ingredients, except
the chocolate chips and the nut
butter, together in a separate
bowl.

3. Beat the flax seeds into the
wet ingredients, then add the
dry mixture and fold in as gently
as you can. Add the chocolate
chips.

4. Scrape the mixture into the
prepared tin. Dot spoonfuls
of the nut butter all over the
batter, then swirl it through,

using the tip of a knife. Don't
mix it up too much!

5. Bake for 20–25 minutes
until the brownies have just
set. Leave to cool completely,
then cut into squares. If you
want them extra fudgy, put
them in the fridge for several
hours. Otherwise transfer to an
airtight container.



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