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FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE 126

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SCAN ME

# Welcome

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our jam-packed February edition. We are excited to share that quite a few new businesses have been added this month.

As always, please support the local businesses featured within and let them know you saw their advert in the Inside Magazines booklet. If you have used any of these businesses, please share your experience with us; we are often asked for recommendations and will only provide them if we have used the service personally or if the business comes with excellent reviews.

Please take the time to look through this month's magazine to see everything that is going on. When you have finished with your copy, please keep it safe in a drawer as you never know when you might require the services of one of our featured businesses, or simply pass it on to someone else to read.

Until next time, Reg inside magazines Editor

January Competition Winners

Britfest - Angela Dunning - Over 30,000 Visitors

£25.00 Cash - Margaret Carden - Cerys Matthews

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**DISCOVER CYPRUS**

**PAPHOS**  
Paphos is a beautiful coastal town with a rich history. It is home to the Paphos Archaeological Park, which contains some of the best-preserved ancient mosaics in the world. The town is also known for its beautiful beaches and vibrant nightlife.

**LARNAKA**  
Larnaca is a charming coastal town with a long history. It is home to the Larnaca Salt Lake, which is a natural wonder and a popular attraction. The town is also known for its beautiful beaches and vibrant nightlife.

**AGIA NAPA**  
Agia Napa is a beautiful coastal town with a rich history. It is home to the Agia Napa Archaeological Park, which contains some of the best-preserved ancient mosaics in the world. The town is also known for its beautiful beaches and vibrant nightlife.

**Whats On North Wales & Chester February 2026**

**CHESTER**  
COLLAGE: JOURNALS  
The Chester Journal is a local newspaper that provides news and information about the city and its surroundings. It is a must-read for anyone interested in local events and news.

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**WEST COAST THEATRE**  
WEST COAST THEATRE  
A night of live music and entertainment featuring some of the best bands in the region. Don't miss this exciting event!

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**ARTWORK DEADLINE DATE 16TH FEB**

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**MAW  
4**

Glannau Dyfrdwy  
a Chweched  
Glannau  
Dyfrdwy  
5.30pm - 7.30pm

**MAW  
7**

Llysfasi  
10am - 12pm

**MAW  
11**

Iâl, Chweched  
Iâl a Ffordd y  
Bers  
5.30pm - 7.30pm

**MAW  
14**

Llaneurgain  
10am - 12pm

**SGANIWCH Y COD QR**  
i gadw eich lle a gwneud  
cais am gyrsiau sy'n dechrau  
ym mis Medi 2026



# MARCH OPEN EVENTS

**MAR  
4**

Deeside  
& Deeside  
Sixth  
5.30pm - 7.30pm

**MAR  
7**

Llysfasi  
10am - 12pm

**MAR  
11**

Yale,  
Yale Sixth &  
Bersham Road  
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**MAR  
14**

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DAY 2 - FRIDAY, JULY 3



Happy Mondays

Peter Hook

The Brit Fest taking place this Summer from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th July 2026 at Ashley Hall Showground in Altrincham, promises it's biggest and most spectacular event yet.

Headlining the festival will be **Happy Mondays** on Friday, **Holly Johnson** on Saturday, and **ABC** on Sunday, joined by a stellar cast of British music icons including **Wet Wet Wet**, **Eternal**, **Peter Hook & The Light**, **Sleeper**, **Chris Helme**, **Cast**, **Aswad**, **Space**, **The Blow Monkeys**, **Babybird**, **Rick Parfitt Jnr** & **The RPJ Band**, **Fisherman's**

**Friends**, **Altered Images**, **Doctor and the Medics**, **Stereo MC's**, **The Farm**, **Let Loose**, **Nathan Moore (Brother Beyond)**, **Mark Radcliffe & Co.**, **James Walsh (Starsailor)** and our first international guest **Jason Donovan**, plus many more. The weekend kicks off with a Thursday night party featuring **Symphonic Ibiza**, complete with live strings and special guest **Angie Brown**.

Since its debut in 2024, The Brit Fest has seen remarkable growth, reaching over 30,000 visitors in 2025 - a massive year-on-year increase. 2026 is set to be the biggest edition yet. Altrincham-

based ABC+ Warranty returns as the Official Title Partner for The Brit Fest 2026. Festivalgoers can camp, glamp with Tangerine Fields, or bring motorhomes and caravans, while nearby hotels including the Delta Marriott offer luxury stays complete with spa and shuttle service.

For details of line-ups, ticket prices etc. go to: [www.thebritfest.co.uk](http://www.thebritfest.co.uk)

For a chance to win the tickets, just answer the following question:

**"In which year did Brit Fest make its debut?"**

**To enter:** Just send your full name, address and the date you received the magazine along with your answer to: [insidemagazinegroup@gmail.com](mailto:insidemagazinegroup@gmail.com) - Closing date: February 20, 2026



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# Mother's Day 2026

2 Course £25.90; 3 Course £29.90

## Starters

- Homemade Vegetable Soup with Bread Roll (VE, VEA, GFA)
- Salmon Terrine with Pickled Salad & Melba Toast (GFA)
- Stout Braised Short Rib Croquettes with Celeriac Puree
- Homemade Chicken & Liver Pate with Onion Marmalade Chutney & Melba Toast (GFA)
- Creamy Garlic Mushrooms with Ciabatta Garlic Bread (V, GFA)

## Mains

- Lamb Shank with Mash Potatoes & Roasted Baby Vegetables with Rosemary & Mint Jus (GFA)
- Roast Beef Served Pink with Yorkshire Pudding & All the Trimmings (GFA)
- Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing, Yorkshire Pudding & All the Trimmings (GFA)
- King Prawn Linguine with a Garlic & White Wine Creamy Sauce & Ciabatta Garlic Bread (V)
- Vegetable Wellington with Creamy Mash & Seasonal Vegetables (V)

## Dessert

- Triple Chocolate Brownie with Ice Cream (V, GFA)
- Apple & Blackberry Crumble with Custard (V, GFA)
- Ferrero Roche Cheesecake with Chocolate Sauce (V)
- Lemon Roulade with Raspberry Coulis (V)

## Children's Menu

### Starters

- Garlic Bread (V)
- Vegetable Soup (V, GFA, VEA)
- Mozzarella Sticks

### Mains

- Small Roast Turkey with All the Trimmings
- Pizza, Chicken Nuggets or Fish Fingers with Fries
- All Followed By Ice Cream



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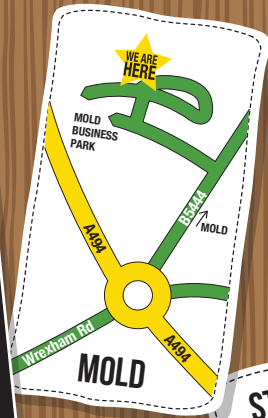


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# 2026 Quiz

Test your knowledge on the events of the upcoming year

## 1: JANUARY

Can you name the European country that will adopt the euro this month?

## 2: FEBRUARY

The Winter Olympics are scheduled to be held this month in Cortina d'Ampezzo. In which country is this winter resort?

## 3: MARCH

Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man arrives in cinemas and on Netflix in March. Who are the two stars pictured who take centre stage in the new movie?

## 4: APRIL

Following Rachel Reeves' November Budget, the National Living Wage for Ages 21+ will rise by 4.1% to £12.71 in April. How much extra is this an hour?

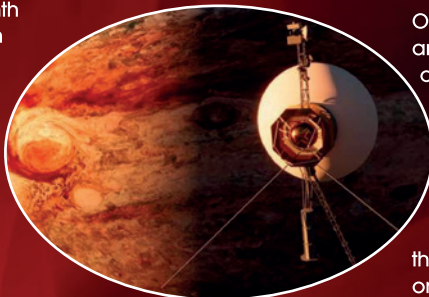
## 5: MAY

One of the most highly anticipated films of the year, the Devil Wears Prada 2, is set for release. Name the two actresses

to be reprising their roles from the original 2013 movie.

## 6: JUNE

Which iconic actress (who died on August 4, 1962) would have been 100 on June 1?



See Question 11

## 7: JULY

The men's football World Cup will reach its conclusion on July 19. In which three countries are the games being played?

## 8: AUGUST

The Commonwealth Games will draw to a close on August 2. Which UK city will host the event?

## 9: SEPTEMBER

The shortlist for the Mercury Prize will be revealed in September. Who won the award in 2025 with his album 'People Watching'?

## 10: OCTOBER

October marks the 100th anniversary of the first collection of Winnie the Pooh stories being released. Who wrote the books?

## 11: NOVEMBER

On November 15, the NASA spacecraft pictured will reach the historic milestone of being one light-day away from Earth - that's 16.1 billion miles away. Do you know the name of the spacecraft and the decade it was launched?

## 12: DECEMBER

On December 18, it will be 60 years since the film How the Grinch Stole Christmas! was first shown. But do you know who wrote the book?



See Question 3

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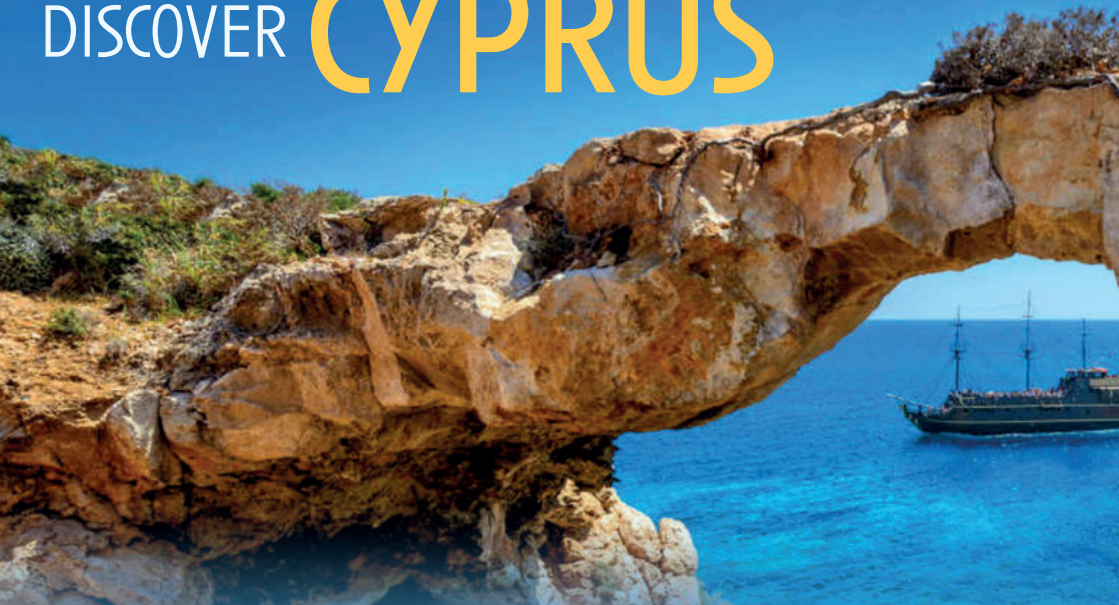
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# DISCOVER CYPRUS



Cyprus has often been described as 'the Mediterranean of your childhood' and that phrase sums up its essential peace, serenity and sheer natural beauty.

## FAMAGUSTA

The town is home to the fabulous Lala **Mustafa Pasha Mosque**, as well as countless other historical treasures. Some of Northern Cyprus' best, and quietest, beaches are close by and a stay here is ideal as a base from which to explore the wild and unspoiled beauty of the **Karpaz Peninsula** - a place where you are more likely to come across a few wild donkeys than other holidaymakers!

## LIMASSOL

Limassol has so much to offer for everyone. With pristine beaches and so much to do, it's no wonder it is one of the most popular resorts in Cyprus for a summer holiday. Visit **Limassol Castle**, the various museums including the famous archeological museum, enjoy a boat trip and explore the many historical sites nearby such as the ruins of **Kourion** and **Sanctuary of Apollo**. There are quite a few water parks around this area, which offer an amazing day out if you have children. There's also **Limassol Zoo** and the stunning **Caledonia Waterfalls** to explore.

## KYRENIA

Kyrenia means more than just the harbour and castle. Strolling through the streets of the old town, you will never be far away from the ruins of the **Lusignan walls** and towers which originally formed a protective curtain around the town. Kyrenia offers plenty for the keen shopper, with a vast array of outlets providing everything from the latest designer fashions to Cypriot souvenirs - not to mention a truly remarkable choice of restaurants. Kyrenia is an ideal base to explore Northern Cyprus, and it has some of the island's best accommodation. Yet the serene beauty of the countryside is never far away.

## AYIA NAPA

Relax on one of the 14 Blue Flag beaches during the day, and enjoy the party in one of the many bars and clubs in the evening and throughout the night until sunrise. The world famous **Nissi Beach** is not far away, whichever Ayia Napa hotel you choose, featuring music and dancing on the sand until the early hours. The Ayia Napa coastline features many luxury 5 star hotels, as well as smaller

family run accommodation in the town centre itself, or choose an apartment on the main party strip to be in on all the action.

## CORAL BAY

Coral Bay, although lively in the town centre, offers a more relaxing and tranquil location than some of the other resorts in Cyprus, which may be one of the reasons this town is so popular. The peaceful white sand Blue Flag beach features a limestone cliff backdrop, with plenty of sun loungers to choose from. This is a relaxed and family-friendly resort, with many traditional bars and tavernas serving local food to choose from in the main town centre.



## PAPHOS

A holiday in Paphos (main pic) offers the perfect blend between all the amenities you need and absolutely stunning beaches. Explore Paphos, the ancient city in the south-west of Cyprus, full of interesting culture and ancient history. The Troodos Mountain Range is not far away, and the airport is just a stone's throw from the hotels, making for an easy airport transfer. Paphos Aphrodite water park is well worth a visit if you have children, and is the biggest water park in the area. The baths of Aphrodite are also not far away, with tour options available. There is Pafos Zoo, plenty of boat trips and excursions available, and a visit to Kato Paphos Archaeological Park is well worth a trip.

## LATCHI AND POLIS

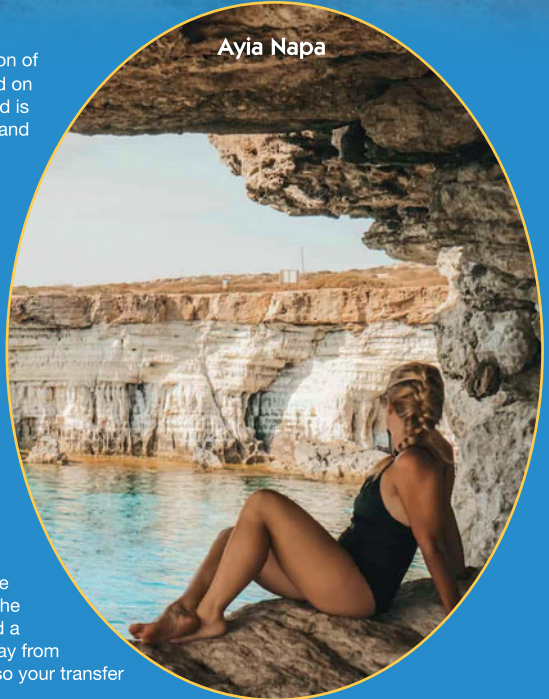
If you enjoy walking and exploring the landscape, the **Adonis Nature Trail** is an extremely popular attraction close to Polis. At around 7.5km, this hiking trail is perfect to experience the natural wonders of Cyprus. You need to be fit to attempt the walk to the top of the ridge, but the views are well worth the effort. You could also consider the **Smigjes Nature Trail**, which also offers spectacular views. The nearby village of **Kathikas** is well worth a visit, being a traditional

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# Your stars for February



## **Aries** (March 21 - April 19)

If you are tempted to overspend, try to resist the urge. This is likely to be a very social period in your calendar and you may need to watch any potential strain on your finances. You will be in great demand on the social circuit and others will seek out your company.



## **Taurus** (April 20 - May 20)

Your patience could well be put to the test. There could be a situation where you will need to forgive and forget, rather than harping on about something that has irritated you. Your emotions may be up and down but mentally you will remain strong and able to deal with whatever may happen.



## **Gemini** (May 21 - June 20)

This could be a profitable period for those born under the sign of the Twins. You will be confident enough to take risks, and if you make investments this month, they may prove profitable in the future. An approach to your bosses about a pay rise may prove more successful than it has previously.



## **Cancer** (June 21 - July 22)

Cancer charts show you may need to slow down and take more care of your health. You may also need time to de-stress and get away from the workplace. A few hours of relaxation, especially at weekends, could be of great benefit to you.



## **Leo** (July 23 - August 22)

You are going to experience a certain amount of fulfillment where your career is concerned and much satisfaction will be gained from doing well and achieving your goals. Others will seek you out for advice which they will follow and your opinion could be much sought-after.



## **Virgo** (August 23 - September 22)

You will be dealing with a lot of money-related issues during this period and your horoscope predictions suggest that any financial speculations you make will be fruitful, though you will not indulge in impulsive spending; rather, you will be taking a more measured and careful approach.



## **Libra** (September 23 - October 22)

Life may slow down for Libra folk, offering some welcome rest from the recent whirl of activity, giving you time to spend with family and close friends. It is a time for quiet reflection, recovery and an ideal time to re-charge your batteries.



## **Scorpio** (October 23 - November 21)

This is likely to be a spiritual phase for Scorpions where you will be in a reflective and contemplative mood. It is entirely likely that stepping back from the business in your life will make you spiritually stronger. Don't feel guilty about taking time out to relax.



## **Sagittarius** (November 22 - December 21)

Sagittarians may see the need to sort out minor issues in personal relationships. It would be beneficial to all concerned if both parties could listen to the other and act directly and quickly upon what has been said. You may need to curb their idealism and learn to be more practical in their relationships.



## **Capricorn** (December 22 - January 19)

You may feel a bit fragile - whether this is due to stress at work, family problems or simply that your work/life balance is off-kilter. In any case, Capricorns could find alternative therapies very helpful, especially when symptoms like tiredness, headaches and indigestion are vague annoyances.



## **Aquarius** (January 20 - February 18)

Your finances will be in great shape during this phase and there could be an influx of money which you didn't know was coming. This will mean that you can fulfill some of your wishes or desires. It could be a lucky time for you in all aspects of your financial dealings, so don't hold back!



## **Pisces** (February 19 - March 20)

You could find yourself in a quiet and reflective mood and feel a bit down and dejected. It may be that you are struggling with the pace of your life at the moment so be mindful that life doesn't always have to go at a hundred miles an hour.



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# PORK AND AROMATIC RHUBARB TRAYBAKE

Make this super simple pork and rhubarb traybake for an aromatic dinner bursting with flavour. Serve with steamed veg or rice, if you like.

## INGREDIENTS

- 50g honey
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp grated ginger
- 1 orange, zested
- 1 red onion, cut into slim wedges
- 2 star anise
- 250g forced rhubarb stalks, sliced into 3cm pieces
- 4 bone-in pork chops
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp Chinese five-spice powder
- small handful of coriander, roughly chopped
- 1 tsp toasted sesame seeds
- steamed vegetables or rice to serve (optional)



## METHOD

**STEP 1** Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Combine the honey, soy sauce, sesame oil, ginger and orange zest in a bowl. Add the red onion and star anise, and toss together. Season lightly. Pour onto a baking tray, spread out, then roast for 15 mins. Add the rhubarb, tossing to combine, and roast for a further 10 mins.

**STEP 2** Drizzle the pork chops with the vegetable oil, then mix in the Chinese five-spice and season well. Heat a large frying pan over a medium heat and using tongs, hold the chops fat-side down for 2 mins to brown the fat. Cook for a further 2 mins on each side, until golden brown.

**STEP 3** Nestle the chops into the onion and rhubarb mixture and roast for 8-10 mins or until the pork is just cooked through. Remove from the oven and discard the star anise. Sprinkle over the coriander and sesame seeds. Serve with steamed veg or rice, if you like.

**SERVES: 4   PREP: 20 mins   COOK: 50mins**



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[visitcheshire.com/events/collabro-harmonies-the-cathedral-tour](http://visitcheshire.com/events/collabro-harmonies-the-cathedral-tour)

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[chester.com/listing/the-doors-alive-at-the-live-rooms/](http://chester.com/listing/the-doors-alive-at-the-live-rooms/)

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[visitcheshire.com/events/sports-day-scarecrow-festival](http://visitcheshire.com/events/sports-day-scarecrow-festival)

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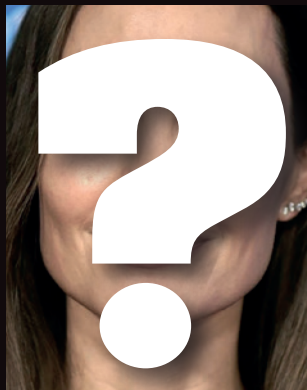
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She made her screen debut as a child alongside her father, Jon Voight, in *Lookin' to Get Out* (1982), and her film career began in earnest a decade later with the low-budget production *Cyborg 2* (1993), followed by her first leading role in a major film, *Hackers* (1995). She won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in the 1999 drama *Girl, Interrupted*. Her starring role as the video game heroine Lara Croft in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* (2001) established her as a leading Hollywood actress. She continued her action-star career with *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* (2005), *Wanted* (2008),

## WHO AM I?

*Salt* (2010) and *The Tourist* (2010). In addition to her film career, She is known for her humanitarian efforts, for which she has received a Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award and made an honorary Dame Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (DCMG). She has been cited as the world's most beautiful woman by various media outlets. Her personal life has been the subject of wide publicity. She is divorced from actors Jonny Lee Miller and Billy Bob Thornton, and is legally separated from actor Brad Pitt with whom she has six children, three of whom were adopted internationally.



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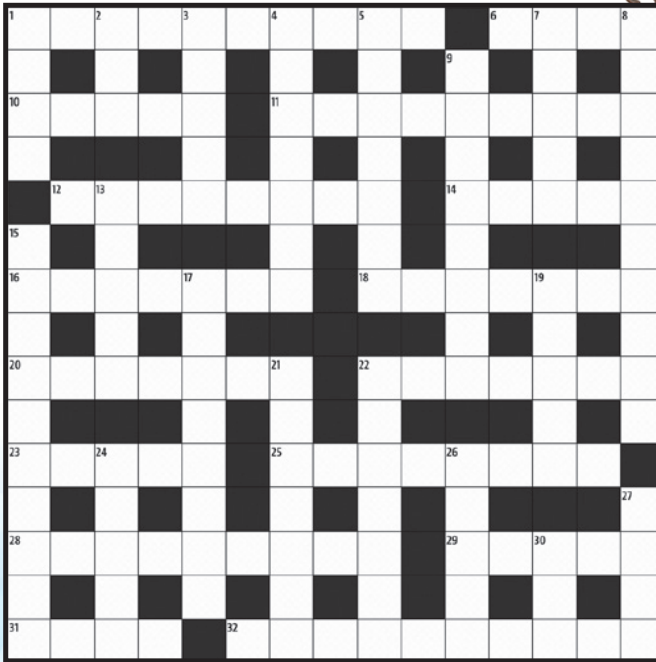
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# Crossword



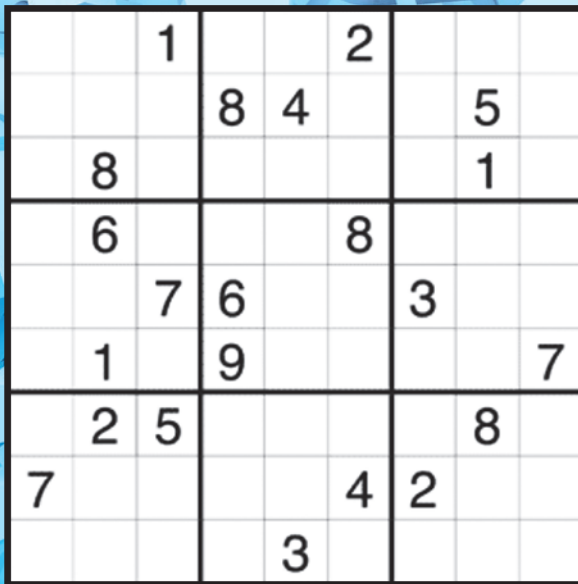
## Across

- 1 Vouched for
- 6 Cupid
- 10 Small lizard
- 11 Washed (hair)
- 12 Unit of pronunciation
- 14 Financial outlays
- 16 Darken
- 18 Burnt with steam
- 20 Yearly publications
- 22 Song and dance show
- 23 Comes closer to
- 25 On upper floor
- 28 Bank robber's head cover
- 29 Swallows nervously
- 31 Recedes
- 32 Cinema attendants

## Down

- 1 Pop band performances
- 2 Rainbow shape
- 3 Circular coral reef
- 4 Nuclear agreement (4,3)
- 5 Travel cheats, fare ...
- 7 Origins
- 8 Riding position (4,6)
- 9 Sale items
- 13 Crave (for)
- 15 Acquirable
- 17 Backpack
- 19 Furnishing scheme
- 21 Shrill laughs
- 22 Boo-hoo
- 24 Impromptu (2,3)
- 26 Journalistic slant
- 27 Functions
- 30 Illuminated

# Sudoku



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## WUTHERING HEIGHTS

● **In cinemas:** February 13, 2026 ● **Director:** Emerald Fennell ● **Starring:** Margot Robbie, Jacob Elordi, Owen Cooper. ● Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi star in this latest adaptation of Emily Brontë's passionate and tumultuous classic love story set against the backdrop of the Yorkshire moors, exploring the intense and destructive relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw.

## GOOD LUCK, HAVE FUN, DON'T DIE

● **In cinemas:** February 20, 2026  
● **Director:** Gore Verbinski  
● **Starring:** Sam Rockwell, Stevel Marc, Tanya van Graan.  
● A "Man From the Future" (Rockwell) arrives at a diner in Los Angeles where he must recruit the precise combination of disgruntled patrons to join him on a one-night quest to save the world from the terminal threat of a rogue artificial intelligence.



## GOAT

● **In cinemas:** February 13, 2026  
● **Director:** Tyree Dillihay  
● **Voiced by:** Caleb McLaughlin, Gabrielle Union, Nick Krill.  
● A small goat with big dreams gets a once-in-a-lifetime shot to join the pros and play roarball, a high-intensity, co-ed, full-contact sport dominated by the fastest, fiercest animals in the world.

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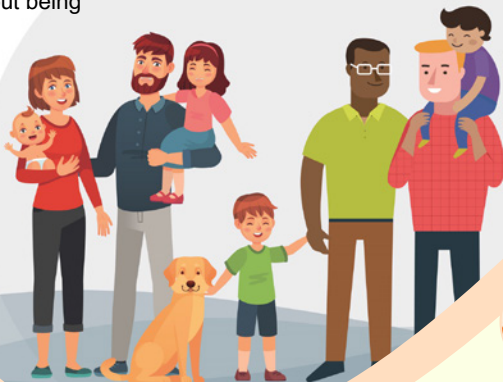
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**Malibu Genius 641 LE** The winner of the most luxurious campervan at the Practical Motorhome Awards 2025 is an innovative option which offers plenty of comfort and storage.

Malibu has added an extra 47cm to the original 5.93m length of the Mercedes Sprinter, as the manufacturer was unable to fit everything it wanted to include for its comfort spec level. Despite this rear extension, it still matches the

original base vehicle's beading.

This extra space is especially felt in the side kitchen, where a good work surface (including a pull-out extension), a two-burner hob and a large sink can be found, although there is no oven as standard.

**Base vehicle:** Mercedes Sprinter **Berths:** 2 **Belts:** 4  
**MTPLM:** 3500kg **MiRO:** 2946kg **Payload:** 192kg  
**Length:** 6.40m **Width:** 2.02m



**Sun Living V65 SL** This is an impressive campervan!

The Fiat Ducato-based campervan is a new layout, and there's a comfortable front lounge, with light streaming in through the windows and a Heki, while movable LED spotlights and ambient lighting can be used in the evening. We liked how the clip-on table also comes with a swing-out extension, so everyone can reach it.

**Base vehicle:** Fiat Ducato **Berths:** 2 (plus 2 optional) **Belts:** 4  
**MTPLM:** 3500kg **MiRO:** 2940kg **Payload:** 560kg **Length:** 6.36m  
**Width:** 2.05m



**Mobilvetta Admiral H6.3**

The Fiat Ducato-based camper comes with a smart black exterior, and a cab that includes plenty of features so you can sit back and enjoy the drive. These include cruise control, air conditioning, traction plus and electronic stability control.

**Price:** £79,995 **Base vehicle:** Fiat Ducato **Sleeps:** 2  
**Belts:** 4 **Length:** 6.36m **Width:** 2.05m **MTPLM:** 3500kg  
**MiRO:** 3124kg **Payload:** 376kg



# VANS FOR 2026

**Auto-Trail Expedition 68XL** It may have an XL in its name, but the Expedition 68XL is still fairly small, coming with a length of only 6.36m. We thought it was an impressively nifty campervan when we put it to the test, with plenty of storage. It makes a great choice for campervanners who want a good day-to-day vehicle that also provides plenty of the comforts you would want on tour.

The front dinette has an optional pop-top roof and a table that can be folded away beneath, which not only gives you space for the ladder, but also ensures anyone in the two travel seats has plenty of legroom.

**Price:** £57,563  
**Sleeps:** 2 (optional 4)  
**Belts:** 4  
**Base vehicle:** Fiat Ducato  
**Length:** 6.36m  
**Width:** 2.05m  
**MTPLM:** 3500kg  
**MiRO:** 2950kg



**Swift Carrera 144** A longtime favourite, but we think the new upgrades the 2026 model comes with have given a nice freshen up to what we already viewed as one of the best campervans. The Carrera 144 has a layout that works particularly well for touring couples. This is due to its comfortable rear lounge, where facing sofas can be made up into a double bed; couples would then have the option of leaving the bed set up, and then using the front dinette to relax in during the day instead. The washbasin folds away, and we also like the new smart black fittings.

**Price:** From £77,590 **Sleeps:** 3 **Belts:** 4 **Base vehicle:** Fiat Ducato  
**Length:** 5.99m **Width:** 2.26m **MTPLM:** 3500kg **MiRO:** 3025kg  
**Payload:** 475kg



**WildAx Equinox** A highly commended contender in our best campervan for everyday use category at the Practical Motorhome Awards 2026, the Equinox is a high-spec Ford Transit-based campervan which has plenty of comfort throughout and is available as both a front-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive model.

**Price:** £78,495 **Base vehicle:** Ford Transit **Berths:** 4  
**Belts:** 4 **MTPLM:** 3500kg **MiRO:** 3108kg **Payload:** 392kg  
**Length:** 5.98m **Width:** 2.06m



**PART  
TWO**

## Do you need planning permission to convert a basement?

**T**RANSFORMING a subterranean space in your home is a complicated process, even before you start work.

Last month we gave an overview of the permissions required to convert a basement and to start from scratch. However, there are other consents which need to be secured, and we detail them for you here...

### What other permissions do you need to convert a basement?

A Lawful Development Certificate is a good idea if your basement conversion plans fall within the scope of permitted development, especially if you plan on selling your home in the future. This proves that the work was undertaken lawfully. Building Regulation approval will generally always be required. This ensures works are carried out to current building regulation standards, and will cover any electrical installations, structural alterations, staircases etc. Building regulations

for basement conversions can be very exacting, especially when it comes to waterproofing and ventilation, so it's important you follow the guidance set out by the regulations.

You should also double check the legal status of your property. If the property is leasehold, don't forget to obtain Landlord/Freeholders consent first.

Finally, if your proposed work impacts a wall or boundary you share with a neighbour, you will need to have a Party Wall Agreement in place.

### What happens if I convert my basement without planning permission?

If you convert your basement without planning permission and it later transpires that you should have submitted an application, you can submit a retrospective planning application and seek permission after the fact. However, there is no guarantee that this will be granted, so

you should always secure consent before any work begins. It's also possible that you could face enforcement action to make changes to your work to make it compliant with the planning rules, or even undo it in its entirety. As well as making sure you have planning permission in place if you need it, you should also avoid this basement conversion mistake if you want your project to be a success.

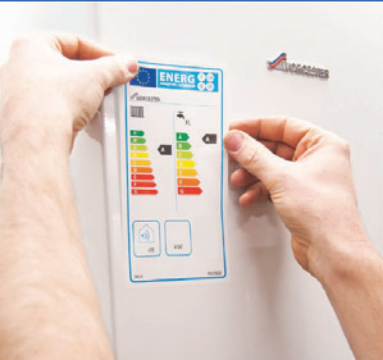




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**Ford Crossover** A new mid-sized crossover will join Ford's ranks, filling the gap left by the soon to be axed Focus hatchback. Technical details remain unknown, but it is likely that the new model will arrive with a diverse powertrain offering, including a pure-electric option.

# BEST NEW



**MG 2** MG has confirmed it is working on an electric city car with a target price of around £20,000. It could be named the MG 2 and is expected to go on sale early 2026.



**Mercedes E-Class EV** An all-electric version of the C-Class will break cover next year as a direct rival to the forthcoming BMW 3 Series EV.



**Kia EV-2** Kia will launch a small crossover in 2026, trading the long range and rapid charging speed of its stablemates for a more affordable price of £25,000.



**Porsche Boxster/Cayman** This next-generation 718 Boxster and Cayman will be fitted with combustion engines in a major shift away from its electric strategy.



# CARS 2026

**Volkswagen ID GTI** The hot version of the ID Polo is set to go into production in 2026, when it will be Volkswagen's first electric GTI model. Bosses say the car prioritises fun handling over outright power and performance.



**Renault Megane E-Tech** Renault will roll out a range-topping performance version of the Megane E-Tech next year that will reposition the EV as a hot hatchback.



**Hyundai Ioniq 6 N** The 6 N shares the 5 N's 641bhp dual-motor powertrain and have a similarly aggressive aerodynamics package.



**Jaguar Electric SUV** The current Jaguar GT will be followed by a Bentley Bentayga-sized electric luxury SUV and a similarly positioned electric saloon.



**Dacia Estate** Going toe-to-toe with the Skoda Octavia, this petrol-powered, off-road-ish estate will support Dacia's growth ambitions in the C-segment.

## 2026 QUIZ

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Bulgaria                         | 7 Canada, Mexico and the USA   |
| 2 Italy (the Dolomites)            |                                |
| 3 Barry Keoghan and Cillian Murphy | 8 Glasgow                      |
| 4 An increase of 50p               | 9 Sam Fender                   |
| 5 Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway   | 10 AA Milne                    |
| 6 Marilyn Monroe                   | 11 Voyager 1, launched in 1977 |
|                                    | 12 Dr. Seuss                   |

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8	1	4	9	2	3	5	6	7
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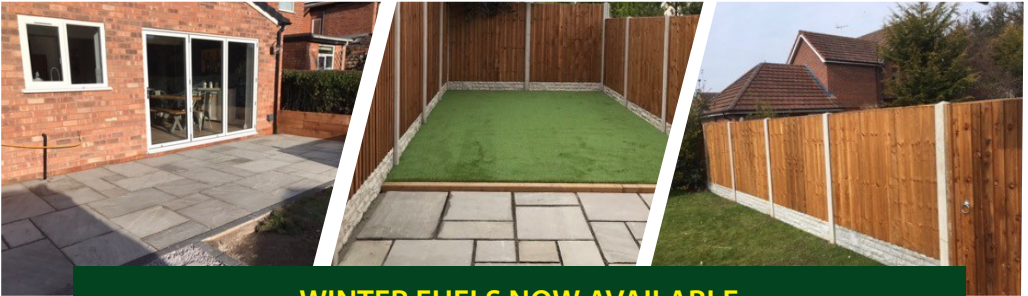


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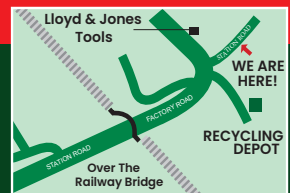
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# How to tempt robins into your garden this winter



**W**HO doesn't love robins? These cheerful little birds are a favourite amongst gardeners across the UK, and if you want this feathered visitor to keep returning to your garden, a wildlife expert has revealed the one fruit you should be adding to your bird feed this winter.

With deep cultural and symbolic associations, distinctive red breasts and apparent confidence around humans, robins are a delight - it's easy to see why so many of us want to know how to attract robins to our gardens.

One fruit robins love in particular is raisins, and experts say they are great for providing an extra energy boost this winter.

Before we get into it, it's important to make clear that you should NOT leave raisins out for birds if you have dogs. This is because raisins are toxic to dogs.

If you have a dog, or if neighbouring dogs could access your garden, it's best to offer raisins in a way that dogs can't reach - such as on a raised feeding table or in an enclosed feeder

- or simply choose a safer alternative like mealworms or a soft bird food mix.

## Why should you leave raisins out for robins?

If it is safe for you to leave raisins out in your garden, they can provide a wonderful energy boost for robins and other garden birds - and in winter, when food is scarce, it's important to ensure to leave out high-energy and fat options, and raisins happen to be one of a robin's favourite foods.

Robins adore raisins. They're a lovely little energy boost when natural food is harder to find. If you soak the raisins in warm water first, it makes them softer and easier for robins to digest - especially helpful during frosty mornings when insects and worms are tucked far below the frozen ground.

Raisins, along with mealworms and soft fruit, are brilliant for helping robins keep their strength up through the colder months.

We can't go as far as to say that providing a robin's favourite food will make them 'loyal' to your garden, but providing a safe environment with shelter and food is a great way to

attract birds and keep them coming back.

Because robins are highly territorial, once a bird has claimed your patch as part of its territory - and discovers you're offering food - it will happily come back day after day. Many people find their robin becomes a bit of a companion, following them around the garden just as their wild ancestors once followed boar, watching for food stirred up by the digging.

## Why is it important to feed birds in winter?

Knowing what to feed birds in winter is so important, as food can be in short supply during this time of year. While berry-bearing shrubs can be a vital source of food in your garden (so it's worth planting some), you should also consider leaving food out regularly for your garden birds.

Winter is the hardest time of year for robins, especially during long cold spells when they can lose up to 10% of their body weight in a single night.

A steady supply of high-energy food can quite literally be the difference between life and death for these little birds.



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