Galaxy S20 FE
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Made in our city
Local gifts that go against the grain

Hand-carved for us by Adam Azmy at Blackhorse Workshop, E17
Clever cogs.
The new Audi A3.
What a time to be an Audi.

Official WLTP fuel consumption figures for the Audi A3 Sportback: Range in mpg (l/100km): WLTP Combined 34.4 (8.2) – 282.5 (1.0). WLTP CO2 emissions: 24 – 187g/km.
Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO2 figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. Data correct at 02 November 2020. Figures quoted are for a range of configurations and are subject to change due to ongoing approvals/changes. Please consult your Audi Centre for further information, Image for illustrative purposes only. Model shown includes optional extras.
Inside

This issue of Time Out in no time at all

Gift Guide 2020

Our annual round-up of Christmas presents concentrates this year on local and independent London businesses. Support them now!

FOLLOWING PAGE 20

Hand to mouth

Sangers, sarries, stratigraphic food tesserae: whatever you call sandwiches, London has some truly awesome ones

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Take control

Mixing identity politics and horror, Brandon “Son of David” Cronenberg’s “Possessor” is 2020 in a nutshell

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Caveman people

Jarvis Cocker is in the Devil’s Arse. Why? Lockdown, bruv. His new concert film is a streaming treat for these dark days

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November 24 – 30 2020 Time Out London
As one of London’s foremost ninnies, I like to shop in the city’s nicer places. Not posh or expensive places. Nice places. The type of places that spend their business loans on personalised tote bags and signature store fragrances. The ones that have an espresso machine by the till, even if they are in no way a café. Where they’ve put more time and effort into the shop’s Spotify playlist than into balancing the books.

These places all have something in common (beyond the fact that many people find them ‘pretentious’ and ‘hateful’). They are – like most small shops run by human beings not board rooms – local businesses, part of a community, owned by people who know and love the area. That’s why, when I waste a tenner on some minimalist stationery in that shop in the alley behind Sadler’s Wells, I don’t feel (too) guilty.

This year, when it comes to buying gifts, we at Time Out want you to go totally local. London’s beloved shops and venues have had a torrid time recently and this is the perfect opportunity to give them a hand. So, if you’re going to spend, spend with the little guy.
Welcome to Page 5G!

Home truths

Thanks to 5G, we’re already seeing dramatic changes in the way we work, play and even sort our rubbish. Here’s what you’ll discover in the latest episode of Samsung’s ‘Whatever Next?’ podcast, which focuses on the future of homes.

Here’s a tip: ‘Whatever Next?’ is the type of podcast that’s guaranteed to make you a seriously good conversationalist. Next time you’re at the pub (or, more realistically, on a Zoom call!), you could be regaling your mates about all the life-transforming innovations that 5G-enabled tech is bringing (or about to bring) us, like the ability to hang out in virtual environments as holograms, control video games with our minds and even print cakes in 3D! Hosted by Dr Hannah Fry and comedian Suzi Ruffell, it’s super-fascinating and lots of fun.

Episode six is all about the role of 5G in transforming our homes.

A smart rubbish bin

When’s the last time you properly – and we mean properly – sorted your recycling? Even the most environmentally minded of us struggle to recall which plastics go where at the best of times… and that’s where 5G comes in. Smart rubbish bins can categorise items for you and then, due to 5G’s super-fast speeds, your bin could transfer data to your local council, which would then tell rubbish trucks where to go and when to arrive. Extend that to whole cities and the process of waste collection will become much more energy-efficient.

A health-tracking mirror

It’s a hypochondriac’s dream (or, nightmare, depending on how you look at it): simply glance at a mirror and it could diagnose illnesses like skin cancer or diabetes. It’s something that Riccardo Miotto, an assistant professor at NYC’s Icahn School of Medicine, is working on – and you can learn more about it on ‘Whatever Next?’. Not quite into that idea? You can buy mirrors that give you a virtual face of make-up, which lets you try before you apply.

Robo-companions

Dogs: messy, loud, unpredictable… unless they’re robots! The lack of delay in data processing brought about by 5G will mean that robo-pets will be much more realistic than those battery-powered robotic dogs you used to see in the ’90s.

On episode six of ‘Whatever Next?’ you’ll find out how companies like Consequential Robotics are designing robo-pets to help people with loneliness and depression.

Listen to episode six, ‘Smart rubbish’, on Spotify, Google Podcasts and Apple Podcasts.

→ Search for the ‘Whatever Next?’ podcast today!
Google is providing free 1-to-1 mentoring to help your business adapt.

We’re helping local businesses across the UK adapt to new ways of working.

Find free tools for you and your business at g.co/helpforbusiness
It’s time to get into birdwatching

During lockdown, Ollie Olanipekun co-founded Flock Together, a birdwatching group for people of colour. He explains why you need to lose yourself in nature right now. Illustration Alva Skog

EVEyone benefits from being in nature. It's an opportunity to breathe. We’re glued to our phones and bombarded with hecticness on social media. The headlines can be daunting. Exploring nature allows us to escape – and right now, everyone needs that escapism.

I’ve been birdwatching for about seven years. I was drawn into it when I had a very stressful job. It was therapeutic. In May this year, I was out birdwatching and I posted some photos on Instagram Stories. Someone started replying and naming all the birds. I clicked on their profile, expecting to see the traditional birdwatching person, and it was [Flock Together co-founder] Nadeem Perera. He said he was an avid birdwatcher. I asked where he lived, thinking he’d say the Lake District or something, and he said Stoke Newington. I was like: I live in Clapton! We decided to set up a birdwatching club.

We made a flyer for our social channels and we had so much interest. We did our first walk on Walthamstow Wetlands with about 15 people. Outdoor activity, especially birdwatching, has been presented as a space for white people: we’ve all got the image of the khaki-wearing, middle-aged white male. If that’s the image that’s forced upon you, you feel it’s not for you. We had 74 people on our last walk before lockdown. It’s unlocking something. We’ve been all over the place – Walthamstow Wetlands, Richmond Park, Lee Valley, Epping Forest, Bushy Park. We are fortunate in London to have so much green space. We want people to understand that you don’t have to get on a train to Yorkshire to enjoy nature. It’s on your doorstep and it costs no money.

In Bushy Park, we saw a great spotted woodpecker – we stood there in silence observing this bird. When you experience wonder and awe it opens up so many positive feelings. Whatever you’re battling with internally, when you’re looking through binoculars and you spot a bird, your brain is clear for those few minutes. That’s what we want to help others to experience.

Follow @flocktogether.world on Instagram.
Eating a Dishoom bacon naan is a London rite of passage, but when the restaurant opened in 2010, people were confused. ‘The bacon naan has been on the menu since day one, but in the early days, people thought an Indian restaurant serving breakfast was crazy,’ says co-founder Kavi Thakrar. ‘Dishoom pays homage to the Irani cafés in Bombay. Londoners love a bacon sandwich, so we thought we’d do our version, like an Irani café would do in London.’ He tells us through it.

The bacon
‘We use streaky bacon and cook it in the oven at a high heat to get that crisp texture. I think that intense heat in the oven does something magical to it.’

The naan
‘The naans are baked to order for 20 seconds in the tandoor – it gets up to 500 degrees. It’s key: I don’t know of another bacon sandwich where the bread is baked to order.’

The chilli jam
‘We make big batches of it with tomatoes, vinegar, sugar, ginger, garlic and chillies. It’s sweet, sharp, spicy and massively addictive. It brings everything together.’

The herbs
‘We use fresh coriander – I like the herbaceous punch it gives. It brings colour and freshness, which I love in the morning. It compliments the chilli jam really well too.’

The cream cheese
‘We spread cream cheese all over the naan – it provides moisture and richness. We use Philadelphia. We tried loads of varieties and it’s just really good.’

City life

What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

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INTERVIEW BY PAULA AKPAN
Jade Anouka is in ‘His Dark Materials’ on BBC One.

Actor Jade Anouka on her formative years in a New Cross flatshare

When I graduated from drama school at 21, I rented a flat on Troutbeck Road with two mates, one who I’d met at drama school and another I’d met at the National Youth Theatre. Living there shaped the person and the actor I am today. At the time, I wasn’t acting that much but I was working three jobs. I’d come home and the three of us would look for auditions. A lot of rejection happened in that house. It was there that I developed a thick skin for this job. But a lot of my firsts happened in the three years I lived there: my first TV gig, my first lead in a Shakespeare play. The road is quite close to Goldsmiths and Camberwell College of Arts and that’s definitely represented in the area – there’s so much creativity and so many interesting characters. I worked in a café down the road and met loads of locals. I’d learn my lines while I was serving people. Everyone would say good luck. If I’m in the area, I sometimes go back to the road for nostalgia. I still think about the variety of life there that inspired me with my work. Living on Troutbeck Road nourished me in more ways than I can count.

Find out more at timeout.com/thingstodo

DIY bacon naan roll for two. £16. www.dishoom.com
SUPER SAVINGS

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across 100s of lines

habitat

habitat.co.uk
How to properly take care of the bike you bought in lockdown

London Bike Kitchen director Jenni Gwiazdowski shares her tips for cycle TLC

Bring it inside
I know space is at a premium in London, but storing your bike indoors is the simplest way to keep it happy. Rain wreaks havoc on metal parts, accelerating corrosion and rust. Squeeze your bike inside somewhere, or if that’s not possible, try a sheltered bike rack or a Bike Parka cover.

Go easy on the lube
Don’t oil your chain like you water a plant. Listen to your chain – if it’s making squeaking noises, bike lube may help. Clean your chain by wiping it down with isopropyl alcohol first. Place one drop of lube on each bushing (the bit between each link) on the bottom of the chain, let it sink in for 15 minutes, then wipe off. A thin film is all you need.

Look out for your poor tyres
Pumping your tyres will help prevent punctures and protect your wheels, but it’s important to use the right amount of pressure. The recommended PSI (that’s the pressure level, fyi) will be printed on the side of your tyre. Buy yourself a track pump and use it at least once a month.

Wipe down your rims
There are two common types of bike brake system. For rim brakes, wipe the rim with a warm damp rag once a month – the build-up of vehicle brake dust, dirt, and grit speeds up their wear. Disc brake rotors should be wiped with a clean cloth and isopropyl alcohol. Not sure which type of brakes you have? Ask at your local bike shop.

WORD ON THE STREET

The most ridiculous things we’ve overheard in London this week

‘Your personal brand is pâté.’

‘Which came first: cola or Coca-Cola?’

‘On days when it’s sunny, I’ll cycle. On days when it’s raining, I’ll masturbate.’

‘Imagine being a tortoise.’

‘I feel like life is just moving things around the fridge.’

‘I get a bit disorientated by a spatchcocked chicken.’

‘Honestly, kids are overrated. You should just get succulents.’

‘Rightmove is the married man’s Tinder.’

‘Oh there’s Waltham Abbey – that’s where the Battle of Hastings happened.’

‘Who would you rather shag – Gollum or Dobby the house-elf?’

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon
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The best stories from our editors around the globe

London is better than New York (for boozing, that is)

**WORLDWIDE**
We're chuffed AF to say that London has been named the best place to drink in the world, stealing the top spot at the World’s 50 Best Bars awards. The annual chart – compiled from votes by industry experts all over the globe – was unveiled in a virtual countdown instead of the usual glitzy, cocktail-fuelled bash, and the number one was awarded to London’s Connaught Bar: a Mayfair institution famed for its Martinis. It knocked last year’s champ, NYC’s Negroni specialist Dante, into second place, with two more London bars – Kwânt and Tayēr + Elementary – making the top ten. Make time for a celebratory bev once they’re open again. *Laura Richards*  
> www.worlds50bestbars.com

**NORTH ATLANTIC**
Your 2021 plans could include diving the wreck of the Titanic  
Whatever was on your to-do list for next year, we’re guessing it wasn’t exploring the sunken remains of the world’s most famous metaphor. However, aspiring Steve Zissous with deep pockets can pay $125,000 to dive the decomposing wreck of the *RMS Titanic* as a ‘mission specialist’ next summer. Finally, a chance to find out whether Leo and Kate could both have fitted on that door. *James Manning*  
> www.oceangateexpeditions.com/titanic
FRANCE

Paris’s most famous bookshop needs your help

It’s hard to imagine Paris without Shakespeare and Company, the 101-year-old Left Bank librairie that served Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein and James Baldwin. But sales have tanked since lockdown and the shop is struggling to stay in business. You can help by ordering from its online shop of English-language titles or signing up as a ‘friend’ of the shop for the next year. Allez vite and save a Parisian institution! Huw Oliver
→ www.shakespeareandcompany.com

JAPAN

Tokyo’s anti-coronavirus cat mascot is the hero we all need

So far this year, we’ve met Awawa the hand-washing bubble superhero, Quaran the quarantine mascot, and the mythical Amabie, who wards off plagues. Now say konichiwa to Koronon, the anti-coronavirus cat who’s the latest creation from Japan’s burgeoning mascot industry. Recently spotted making her rounds around Tokyo, handing out free disposable face masks, the super-kawaii pink cat sports a face mask, a heart-shaped purple shield and an anti-Covid logo on its chest in case you didn’t get the message. Follow its exploits via its Insta page. @koronon2020. Kaila Imada, Time Out Tokyo

AUSTRALIA

Live music is back... on the other side of the world

When was the last time you went to a massive arena gig? Not recently, we’re guessing. Well, here in Australia the mega-concert is finally making a comeback, with the city’s first large-scale shows since March taking place in Sydney in November and December. Each gig will seat 6,000 people (a reduced capacity, but still more than a packed Brixton Academy) with plenty of Covid safety measures in place. It’s all part of the regional government’s Great Southern Nights series, which is staging more than 1,000 shows at 300-plus venues in and around Sydney. Hang tight, UK gig-goers: you’ll get here soon enough! Time Out Australia editors
→ www.timeoutmarket.com/dubai
THE FINE ART OF STARTING

It’s hard enough to try a new sport in normal times, let alone in the middle of a pandemic. Lacking motivation? Six writers share tips for getting going.

Illustrations Jordan E Moss

A letter to myself before I started boxing

In the past four years Kate Lloyd has gone from ‘not sporty’ to ‘won’t stop banging on about sport’. Here’s how

Hello, 2016 me: it’s me from the future. I imagine you’re busy watching ‘Stranger Things’ and eating vegan fried chicken right now, but stop – there’s something important I need to tell you.

You know how you think it’s, like, super-glam to neck wine all weekend and do absolutely no exercise whatsoever? And you know how you’re anxious all the time? Have you ever thought – and I know this is a pretty wild idea – that the two... might be connected?

That’s right, it’s a shocking idea.

In a few months you’re going to stumble upon a bougie gym in Clapton. It’s going to be full of actual models and everyone will own the same all-black, all-Nike gym kit and your squidgy arms, short legs and Primark trainers will make you feel like the odd one out. You’ll go to a boxing fitness class and be so, so bad at it. Like ‘having a panic attack mid-session because you’re hungover and you cannot remember the combination’ bad. People will roll their eyes at you. It will be awful. But you’ll stick with it – at first, because the shower gel there is Malin + Goetz, and then, because it turns out that hitting things really hard is fun. A lot has happened since 2016 (let’s not go into that now), but I can tell you this: you’re about to discover one of the things that makes you properly happy. Even if it takes you at least a year to throw a half-decent jab. At some point you’ll go to a proper boxing gym. You’ll be the worst there by far but you’ll love how hard they push you. And, by 2020 you’ll train with burly giants in sweaty rings and outside in London Fields with bystanders peering at you and sometimes even back with those models in their Nike #looks – and you won’t care at all what anyone thinks about you. In fact, you’ll start to enjoy the fact that people seem surprised that, while you might be slow, your soft body can throw a punch so hard it could break someone’s nose.

Basically, what I’m trying to say is that I know – right now – you don’t think you’re sporty. You think sporty women are thin and shredded and actually good at sport. But maybe sporty for you means something different. Something like: enjoying moving your body in a way that gives you as big an endorphin hit as...
Find a community, says Jessica Morgan, and working out won’t be a chore anymore.

Want to know how I went from someone who thought ‘how on earth do you have fun running when, after five minutes, you’re fighting for your life?’ to a legit marathon completer? I’ve got three pieces of advice.

First, don’t overthink it. Pop your trainers on and head outside – you’re already halfway there. I started small: just like that. I signed up for my first 5km. I hated it: my legs hurt, my lungs burned and I muttered ‘fuck this’ the whole way round. But I finished.

Then, join a running club. I am now part of Run Dem Crew, where I’ve found some of my closest friends. While the pandemic has stopped us from meeting up, my weekly runs make me feel closer to them. I log my mileage on an app, checking in with my friends. It has become a lifeline during lockdown.

And finally, realise that not every run is going to be your best. Just after my 5k I joined LDN Brunch Club, a running collective who meet on Sundays and hunt out the best brunch spots in the capital.

On my first day, I leapt out of bed, picked my best outfit and headed to Shoreditch. I was terrified: 20km was the distance. Little did I know my poor inexperienced muscles (and smoker’s lungs) would pack in at 8km. I tapped out, let the group go on without me and sulked.

But I got back up again.

The following week, I joined the group again, only this time on a shorter route, chatting with the runners along the way. The social element made me forget that lactic acid filled my muscles, and the endorphins helped me not to think about my worries. To my surprise, I actually started to enjoy putting myself through pain. That’s when I knew I was doing a marathon.

Want to try it? Check out Run Dem Crew and LDN Brunch Club or find another jogging squad at timeout.com/runninggroups. Going solo? Try out the Nike Training Club app for tips on how to improve your speed and stamina.
Don’t be intimidated, says Isabelle Aron. Just get pumping

1 **Weightlifting is not just for bulking blokes**

When I was a teenager, I used to go to the gym with my friend to ‘work out’ – by which I mean we’d try to flirt with the PTs. I thought of the weights room as the ‘men’s room’ because I never saw a woman go in there. It made me think that weights were only for burly lads. But guess what? They’re for everyone. Have you ever lugged your grocery shopping back from a big Lidl on the bus? Congrats! You can lift weights.

2 **Being able to lift heavy stuff is a vibe**

I’ll be honest: my initial motivation for signing up to my local gym this time was that I wanted to get ripped for my wedding, but it became something more. Week by week, I pushed myself to lift heavier weights. I had to postpone getting married (thanks, Covid!) and I might not be ripped, but just gaining strength makes me happy. It’s about celebrating what your body can do.

3 **Clueless? That’s okay**

Something about lifting weights can feel intimidating. Maybe it’s because you don’t know how to use the equipment. Or because people in the weights area often do a lot of grunting. Don’t let that put you off. The grunting is very much optional, trust me. Obviously, you need to do things safely, so don’t just wing it – either master some moves with a PT or follow my lead and spend a lot of time on YouTube.

4 **A weightlifting routine might just keep you sane**

Despite the Great Dumb-bell Shortage, I managed to source some so that I could continue working out from home. On the many days when I didn’t want to get out of bed, having that routine was a huge help. **Want to try it?** Learn the ropes with east-London-based personal trainer Maiken Brustad. Train with her IRL at gyms like Third Space or Rumble Gym or follow her on Instagram @ptmaiken for virtual inspiration.

Virtual exercise classes as good as the real thing

**The one featuring zero gravity (apparently)**

Zero Gravity’s killer classes focus on isolating, activating and then exhausting one muscle at a time. Hard but good.

→ www.zerogravitypilates.co.uk

**The one that’s almost like being at a club**

At Your Beat is known for running high-octane dance classes. The studio’s brought that vibe to its At Your Gaff virtual series too: expect K-pop, R&B, Latin and pop classes.

→ www.atyourbeat.com

**Find your rhythm with cycling**

Eddy Frankel thinks taking it slow makes all the difference

Cycling – the lycra, tiny-cap variety – is not easy to get into. I got into it about eight years ago, then right the hell out. But this summer, I caught the bug (not that one) again, and decided to give it another go. I took it slowly. I did some hill climbs (Mott Street and Clapton Hill in Epping) and improved a bit. Then I built up a real nice fancy road bike, bought some lycra (yes, it looks silly, but you look even sillier if you’re sweating up Box Hill in jeans) and started riding with friends. It’s become one of the best things in my lockdown life. Social, coffee-fuelled, fun. Last week I did 130k into Kent. So that’s my advice: build up the endurance and then test yourself with longer rides with pals. **Want to try it?** For a mix of flats and climbs, Richmond Park is ace. Or pick from www.timeout.com/bikerides.

**How to begin doing yoga**

Bad start? Get up and keep going, just like Julio Bruno did

The first yoga class I signed up for? A hot one, foolishly. I tried following the poses – asanas – twisting like a badly made pretzel, leaving about 60 percent of my body mass on the mat in the form of sweat. Halfway through the class, I had to step out of the room and lie on the floor to catch my breath. It was embarrassing.

I left the gym mortified, but with the firm intention of returning. And I did – this time after a bit of online research. I picked hatha yoga – suitable for beginners, and (crucially) not involving a hot room. This time there were fewer clown-like stumbles. My muscles ached, but I felt happy. I started going most days and enjoying the island of personal freedom I’d found there. Now, when somebody mentions a dog, I immediately think about a downward-facing dog (adho mukha svanasana), which, by the way, I can do rather well now, or so I’m told.

**Want to try it?** I love Virgin Active Mayfair but you can find a good class near you at www.timeout.com/yoga.
It’s a ‘two desserts’ kind of year.

Available in the majority of larger stores w/c 21st December. Tesco Finest Passion Fruit Lego, Tesco Finest Chocolate and Toffee Opera Dessert, Tesco Finest Millionaire’s Praline Dessert, Tesco Finest Truffle Caramel and Orange Tort, Tesco Finest Chocolate Orange & Maple Bauble Cake, pre-order online from 13th Nov.

Every little helps

TESCO
Ways to be mindful at home

Have a virtual sound bath
Zone out to the soothing sounds of a bonging gong at a Zoom sound meditation sesh run by London centre Gong.
⇒ www.aboutgong.com

Do some yoga
Feel like your energy droops way down in the middle of the day? Attend one of the London Buddhist Centre’s lunchtime yoga classes on YouTube.
⇒ www.londonbuddhistcentre.com

Get into meditation
Signing up for some of the free webinars run by Covent Garden studio Inner Space will give you a running start at getting into a very centred groove.
⇒ www.innerspace.org.uk

Dive into wild swimming

Get the gear then chase some thrills: those are James Manning’s tips for getting into icy dips

It sounds like the stuff of nightmares but if you missed the memo, cold-water swimming is properly good for you. It helps your mind deal with stress and anxiety and your body fight off various lurgies – and it might even help stave off dementia.

And swimming outdoors, surrounded by sky and nature, just feels better than the striplights of your local leisure centre.

I’m still a hell of a way off matching the cold-water gurus who take to Hampstead ponds year-round, but over this summer I’ve found it increasingly hard to get near any reasonably non-murky body of water without wanting to jump in. And as the weather’s got increasingly crap, I’ve found myself becoming one of the people I used to roll my eyes at, dashing into the sea in late October. Here are some tips I’ve picked up. First and most obviously, you need to be a fairly strong swimmer: turning blue and getting dragged out by lifeguards is a bad vibe. You’ll want to head to one of London’s legit (and therefore lifeguarded) outdoor swimming spots. One good rule of thumb is to not stay in for more minutes than the number of degrees it is in the water. And kit is essential. You’ll need a wetsuit, rubber-soled surf boots – oh, and buy a thermos.

Want to try it? The Hampstead ponds and West Reservoir Centre are set to reopen from December. Find more good spots at www.timeout.com/wildswimming.
Give the gift of London

Our city has an ever-expanding scene of independent craftspeople and unique businesses producing all kinds of amazing things. This year has been an incredibly tough one for them, so our 2020 Christmas Gift Guide is championing businesses based in London, local makers and those who are ethical and sustainable. Our Love Local campaign has been supporting them this year, and now’s your chance to show them some love this festive season. Find more ideas at www.timeout.com/giftguide2020. Buy now!
THE MAKING OF

Harry Potter

A MAGICAL GIFT
THIS CHRISTMAS

GIFT TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WBSTUDIO TOUR.CO.UK
‘Chirp’ from Anden

Anden is a lovely little timber-obsessed company that designs and hand-finishes every one of its products right here in the capital. Our pick is this bizarre but beautiful wooden bird that sits on the edge of your desk. Give that brass thing on its butt a spin and ‘Chirp’ makes bird-like noises. Hand-carved from iroko and maple wood, it’s destined to make anyone who walks into your house smile. £45. www.madebyanden.co.uk

Gifts for the houseproud

Know someone with an enviable pad they keep going on about? Get them something nice

1. Shell vase by Stems Wilder. £15. stemswilder.com
3. Pollinator Seedbom by Kabloom. £4.50. www.webuilt-thiscity.com. This ‘seedbom’ is made from biodegradable packaging and filled with seeds for wildflowers to attract bees.
4. Aburi lampshade by Eva Sonaike. £125. www.amara.com
5. 2021 wall planner by Crispin Finn. £20. www.crispinfinn.com
6. ‘Thanks for Leaving’ print by Manson’s Press. £20. www.mansonspress.com

1 2 3 4 5 6
IF YOU HAVEN’T
GOT A HOME,
HOW DO YOU FIND
A HOME FOR
YOUR MONEY?

HSBC UK is working with local charities to
provide bank accounts for people without a fixed address,
helping to break the cycle of financial exclusion.

If you’d like to help too,
please scan the QR code to make a donation to Shelter.

Together we can build the new different.
Gifts for thirsty folk

Toast the outgoing car-crash of a year with something strong and locally brewed

Mondo Brewery mini-keg

Nothing screams London like a keg party: frat boys, beer pong, twit in a toga, dead cheerleader in the bath etc. Battersea’s ace Mondo Brewery does five-litre kegs of beer, including its poky 6.2% Brewing for Kubler IPA, and its scary 7.3% Stratosphere IPA. Spend Christmas lying under one like you’re Drinky Crow. Duwade.

→ £35. shop.mondoBeer.com

6. Hard soda by Good One. £33 for 12. haveagoodone.co.uk.
9. Sparkling wine 2016 by Renegade Winery. £100. renegadelondonwine.com
Gifts for fashion victims

Just kidding. Beautiful garms, sustainable shoes and Sir David’s face, ready-to-wear

Harley top by LF Markey

Started by a Central Saint Martins grad, LF Markey’s clothes are perfect for London life: colourful enough to cut through lockdown blues, comfy enough to lounge about in and, most importantly, extremely I’m-a-Stoke-Newington-Creative chic. This ethically and sustainably made top is screaming to be worn to dinner at Jolene.

→ £120. lfmarkey.com
5. Reclaimed leather shoes by Birdsong. £79. birdsong london.
6. Hoxton clutch by Been. £89. been london.
Been partners with a social enterprise that works with Londoners with learning disabilities.
7. Hat by Dark Arts Coffee. £15. www.darkartscoffee.co.uk.

Get even more gift ideas at timeout.com/giftguide2020
Finally, the festive season is here! These luxe treats and experiences make for seriously enviable gifts...

Christmas is around the corner, and we’ve never been more ready to don our reindeer jumpers, turn up the Mariah and crack open a bottle of Baileys. To help you take your gift game to the next level, we’ve teamed up with Baileys to bring you a selection of presents that, frankly, anyone would be delighted to receive.

1 The Baileys 12-Day Treat Advent Calendar
This one’s a no-brainer. Baileys is the perfect accompaniment to festive moments big and small – and your deserving pal could be tasting different delicious flavours every day in the lead-up to Christmas. This advent calendar is £20 on Amazon, and features 12 mini bottles in three flavours: Baileys Original Irish Cream, Baileys Salted Caramel and Baileys Espresso Crème.

2 Afternoon tea at Fortnum & Mason
The benefit of this bad boy is that the person you give it to has to take you along. Well, in theory, at least. These folks have been serving top-notch tea, sandwiches and scones since 1707 (that’s 313 years!). These days, F&M also offers vegan and gluten-free options.

→ www.fortnumandmason.com
3 Baking club subscription by Bakedin
It’s easy to get into a rut when it comes to baking – so why not bring a bit of freshness into the life of your cake-loving mate? As part of a Bakedin subscription, your friend will receive a unique baking kit each month, which will include everything they need to create tasty treats.

→ From £10.99. www.bakedin.co.uk

4 Virtual chocolate-tasting classes by Melt
There’s a way that you can taste your way through Bolivia, Mexico and Madagascar without leaving your sofa – and no, it doesn’t involve Google Street View. London-based chocolaterie Melt runs virtual tasting classes, which will take you to some of the world’s finest single-origin estates and even show you how to make your own.

→ From £20. www.meltchocolates.com

5 A weekend at Treehouse Hotel
Elevate a deserving buddy high above the capital at this gorgeous eco-hotel with superb views. Located behind Oxford Street, Treehouse Hotel is all lush green plants and minimalist fittings, with a rooftop bar that has a 360-degree panorama.

→ www.treehousehotels.com

BABY, IT’S COLD OUTSIDE

Break out those fluffy slippers and settle in for a cosy (and delicious!) night at home with these festive Baileys recipes...

Benjamina Ebuehi’s Baileys Original Irish Cream Gingerbread Trifle
Impress your friends and family with this seriously indulgent Christmas trifle by ‘Bake Off’ alumna, food stylist and recipe-writer Benjamina Ebuehi. This showstopper dessert blends spiced ginger cake with thick custard and a creamy layer of Baileys Original Irish Cream.

Lily Vanilli’s Baileys Original Irish Cream Christmas Cookies
The east London baking superstar has created an edible tree decoration using velvety-smooth Baileys Original Irish Cream, golden syrup, ginger and spices. It’ll be perfect as a snack while you’re decorating the Christmas tree – just make sure you save some to hang on the branches!

Find all these recipes (and more) at www.baileys.com

GIVE THE GIFT OF BAILEYS

For the friend who knows what they like, there’s always the option of gifting them a full-size bottle of the good stuff: there’s Baileys Original Irish Cream, but there’s also Baileys Chocolat Lune for the chocolate-lover in your life, and Baileys Salted Caramel. It’s available at all major supermarkets and online.

 Feeling lucky?
Selected bottles of Baileys Original Irish Cream will be sold with a unique tag code that can be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win one of thousands of Baileys Treat Hampers. You can enter to win one in time for Christmas. Bottles are available at selected supermarkets.*

→ Find more ways to treat yourself at www.baileys.com
Gifts for culture junkies

It’s been a tough year for London’s arty institutions, so give them love and money this Christmas


5. ‘What Is Culture For?’ by the School of Life. £12. www.searchandrescuelondon.co.uk.

6. Lady Macbeth Hand San by the National Theatre. £6. shop.nationaltheatre.org.uk.

7. ‘SEX: Too Fast to Live, Too Young to Die’ LP. £34.99. www.strangetheraparisdeadrecords.com

Andy Warhol soup can skateboard

The views of Pittsburgh’s king of Pop Andy Warhol on the noble pursuit of skateboarding are not recorded (as far as we know), but he’d surely have been tickled by the meta dimensions of this beauty. A screenprint of a can of soup becomes art. Said art is applied to a plank of wood you stand on. Said plank is now too fancy to stand on. If you do use this as a deck, you’ll be doing Warholities in no time.

→ £230. shop.tate.org.uk
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NEXT STREAMED EVENT ON SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER @ 7PM

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1000’S OF CASHBACK INCENTIVES
DISCOUNTS AT SELECTED HOSPITALITY VENUES
EXCLUSIVE TRAVEL OFFERS & DISCOUNTS

www.la-dolce-vita.club
Gifts for sweaty types

If you know someone who’s tried a new fitness regime this year, inspire them into 2021 too

**The Art of Ping Pong bats**

London’s the Art of Ping Pong collaborates with big-name artists to create unique bats that it auctions to raise cash for charity (Jake and Dinos Chapman’s contribution consists of an extremely salty political observation). These are less aggressive, but no less fun. Your serve!

→ £40 each. www.theartofpingpong.co.uk/shop

Gifts for the burned-out

Pampering products from the capital to make someone feel extra-special


Kan Kan soap in a tin

London-based Kan Kan sell extremely upmarket soap by the tinny, because it’s flexible and ecological, what with aluminium being recyclable and all. Top up your handssoap with mandarin and clary sage, pour chamomile and lavender directly from the can into the bath, or just keep a tin of lemongrass and juniper because it looks really cool: the choice is yours.

→ From £15. www.kankanlondon.com
Five ways to help homeless people in London this Christmas

This holiday season, let’s open our hearts, not just our wallets. Sadly, Covid-19 has hit the UK’s homeless population hard—and as winter sets in, the pandemic is making more people vulnerable to homelessness. Sometimes it’s hard to know how we can do our bit to help, which is why we’ve teamed up with HSBC UK to show you how your gift-buying can help those who need it most. You’ll also find out how HSBC UK is helping to break the cycle of financial exclusion, in partnership with Shelter.
1 Make someone’s life sweeter
Fact: chocolate is even more delicious when it’s helping someone to find a safe place to call home. Shelter – which is one of HSBC UK’s key charity partners – supports millions of people every year struggling with homelessness and inadequate housing. Shelter’s Emergency Gift Range chocolate bars are the perfect stocking filler. The range comes in five flavours: dark, white and milk chocolate, plus extra dark and Sicilian hazelnut and almond milk (both vegan). One hundred percent of the proceeds from each bar goes towards fighting the housing emergency.
→ £5. www.shelter.org.uk/chocolate

2 Help build your mate’s art collection
Brighten up a friend’s home – and the lives of homeless people – with a subscription to Art from Crisis. Every month, your lucky giftee will receive a unique A5 card created by an artist who has experienced homelessness. As their colourful collection builds, they’ll be directly assisting Crisis in its work to support vulnerable people.

3 Treat your chums to delicious brownies
Providence Row is a charity that has been helping rough sleepers in east London for 160 years. Its bakery, Rise, offers a training scheme for people affected by homelessness. The mentors are clearly doing a stellar job, because their brownies are next-level. They’re also letterbox-friendly, which means you can order them online and post them to your pal.
→ £12. www.risebakery.london

4 Spark someone’s lifelong passion
Youth homelessness charity Centrepoint estimates that about 110,000 young people requested council help with housing in 2018/19. Along with providing rooms, Centrepoint also offers mentoring, healthcare and more. You could buy a young person ten music lessons which might just change their lives, or cooking lessons to help set them up for life.
→ Prices vary. www.centrepoint.org.uk/more-than-a-gift

5 Give a friend some winter essentials
Chances are, you’re wearing some comfy socks right now – but for many people struggling with homelessness, keeping warm in winter is hugely difficult. London-based charity Unhoused runs a streetwear and essentials online store which has donated more than 100,000 items of clothing to homeless people: one for each product you buy. That means you can keep yourself and a recipient toasty (and stylish) this winter.
→ Prices vary. www.unhoused.org

What is the cycle of financial exclusion?
HSBC UK is working with Shelter and other local homelessness organisations to help those who struggle to open a bank account because they don’t have a fixed address. Without a bank account, it becomes very difficult to access government benefits or wage payments – which is why HSBC UK developed the No Fixed Address Service. Since its launch last year, more than 430 people without a fixed address have gained access to an account, and the number is growing. Find out more at www.hsbc.co.uk/no-fixed-address.

→ Discover more ways to help at www.timeout.com/hsbcuk
Gifts for the epicurious

Nosh your way through Christmas wearing some merch to help a local London maker out

Arty chocolate by Brik

Everybody loves chocolate, yet your other half would probably dump you if you got them a big bar of Oreo Dairy Milk as their main Christmas present. Well never fear: Brik’s chocolate – the brainchild of London-based Dane Kia Utzon-Frank – is so elegant it has won actual design awards, and is sold as tiles, not humdrum bars. It’s delicious too (if you dare eat it).

→ From £9.50. www.brik.site


7. ‘Mensch’ sweatshirt by Monty’s Deli. £35. montys-deli.com.


9. Chilli sauce by Peckham Sauce Co. £4.95. guzzl.co.uk.

10. Sainsbury’s print by the Design Museum. £58. designmuseumshop.com

Give your friend an Emergency Chocolate

Give homeless families hope

This year, shop with us: shelter.org.uk/chocolate

Registered charity in England and Wales (263710)
John Lewis
Wooden Mini Kitchen
Only at John Lewis

FOR BUDDING BAKERS

£35

3-years+: Choking hazard – not suitable for children under 36 months due to small parts that may cause a choking hazard.
Gifts for small Londoners

Kids love Christmas. Well, they love Christmas presents and food. Treat them to this little lot

Wooden bus by What Mother Made

‘Tis the season for all middle-class parents to fret about their children getting plastic things for Christmas. If you want a more wholesome toy, check out this handsome double-decker bus from Hackney-based What Mother Made. Crafted from sustainable wood, it contains seven passengers and a driver: a perfect number of people for a socially distanced Christmas trip.

→ £44. www.whatmothermade.co.uk

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1. ‘Black and British’ by David Olusoga. £6.99. www.talesonmoonlane.co.uk.
4. Pollock’s toy theatre. £25. www.pollocks-coventgarden.co.uk.
5. Tutu by Bob & Blossom. £50. shop.roh.org.uk.
6. Animal skipping rope. £5. www.vam.ac.uk/shop.

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Gifts for crafties
Hand-whittled, thrown and hammered by authentic London peasants with braided beards

Ceramic selfies by Charlotte Mei
Charlotte Mei, a brilliant illustrator and all-round creative cat from London, has decided to reinvent the concept of the selfie: introducing the ceramic version. Here’s how it works: you send Charlotte a photo of someone. Approximately one month later she’ll mail you a glazed interpretation of their head. That makes it sound far creepier than it is. These things are thoroughly charming.

→ £100. www.charlottemei.com/product-page/ceramic-selfie

7. Stud earrings by Studio Fara. £18. www.studiofara.co.uk.
For cute animal baubles
Christmas is the only time of year when it’s acceptable to be impossibly twee, and After Noah, on Upper Street, has quaint Christmas decorations in abundance. Finish off your tree with a furry panda or a felt penguin wearing a scarf.

www.afternoah.com

For Scandi style
Putney shop Blabâr is fully embracing all things Nordic this Christmas, with golden baubles, soft scented candles and intricate paper decorations.

www.blabar.london

For a make-your-own wreath
Get stuck into a DIY wreath kit from rustic florist and giftshop Botanique on Exmouth Market. It will make your front door look like it could be in Elle Decoration.

www.botaniqueworkshop.com

For the macaroni-and-cheese bauble you never knew you needed
It’s entirely possible to walk out of Covent Garden stationery shop Choosing Keeping having just spent £45 on a staple feeling like it was the smartest purchase you’ve ever made, and the same can be said for its Christmas decorations. We’ve got our eye on the tiny macaroni-and-cheese tin bauble. Mmm...

www.chosingkeeping.com

For something to suit a restrained aesthetic
Love Christmas but hate all the tat? Grab some clean-lined terracotta baubles for your minimalist tree at Darkroom.

www.darkroomlondon.com

For glitter and snow
From holographic glassware and confetti crackers to scented advent candles, Tufnell Park’s Inside Store has Christmas bits with a cool, designer twist, of course.

www.insidestoreldn.com

For festive plants
The Nunhead Gardener holds a treasure trove of greenery. You can order Christmas trees, fairy lights, decorative wreaths and tree stands online.

www.thenunheadgardener.com

For really nice candles
Stoke Newington shop Search & Rescue has been filling its chic shelves with gold- and silver cone candles, vintage glassware and hand-painted baubles for Christmas.

www.searchandrescuellondon.co.uk

For a little bit of history
Historic Royal Palaces, which manages the Tower of London, Hampton Court, Kew Palace and more, is facing a £95 million shortfall this year. Support it by buying its decorations, all with an old-time regal twist.

www.hrp.org.uk

For old-fashioned paper bits
Gift shop Snap really brightens up Roman Road with its pink signage, and it’ll brighten up your gaff for Christmas, too. Head to its website to find delicate paper-cut garlands from local maker East End Press.

www.snap-store.com

For something tacky
Inject humour into the usual red- and-green festive fare by picking up some of this Hackney shop WA Green’s eye-melting Christmas tat – like baubles of Joe Exotic.

www.wagreen.co.uk

For super-Londony decor
Carnaby Street’s We Built This City stocks affordable work by more than 250 London-based artists. Pick up all sorts, from Hendrix baubles to pop-up cards.

www.webuilt-thiscity.com

Get festive feels at timeout.com/christmas
LONDON FOR LESS

Food, drink, screenings, pop-ups: don’t miss our exclusive offers and discounts

Gorillaz

What is it? A performance of the band’s ‘Song Machine’ album, aka a legitimate live gig, aka a dream come true. Okay, it’s a virtual show, but what do you expect from a virtual band? We’re still hyped for the live music.

Why buy? Because this live-streamed show is a UK one-off, and it’ll be the first time Gorillaz perform ‘Song Machine’ live.

Wait, how much? This is the best bit: tickets are just £15 a pop.


Wild Highlands Coffee

What is it? A coffee lover’s dream, that’s what. You’ll get 1.5kg of small-batch coffee for just £14.99.

Why buy? To bag an unbelievable deal on some premium beans (freshly roasted in Scotland) or ground coffee. This offer’s a Black Friday special, so you only have until midnight on Friday to snap it up.

Wait, how much? We just told you, £14.99. Wake up and smell the bargain, people.

→ www.timeout.com/wildhighlandscoffee

Fat Big Quiz of Everything

What is it? See what they did there? Yup. Anyway, this is ten rounds of top knowledge-testing virtual fun.

Why buy? Because this is not your standard Zoom quiz. This bad boy is loaded with interactive graphics, videos, special guests and more. Plus, you might even take home (well, get sent) a prize.

Wait, how much? £5 for one player, £7.50 for a couple or a tenner for the whole family.

→ www.timeout.com/fatbigquiz

Prosecco & Wine Co

What is it? Six bottles of delicious Italian wine for £36, with free home delivery (which is normally £8.75).

Why buy? To replenish your vino vault without breaking the bank. You’re paying supermarket prices for wineshop-quality stuff here. You can choose between all red or a mixture of red, white and rosé.

Wait, how much? The price hasn’t changed since the first sentence (surprising, we know). It’s still £36.

→ www.timeout.com/prosecoandwineco

Deliver deals and online offers to get you through lockdown. Search ‘Time Out offers’
Air con units are mysteriously falling from the sky in the Angola-set, magical realist 'Air Conditioner'. Watch it, alongside other films that defy categorisation, at ICA’s film fest Frames of Representation. See p25 for more.
Things to Do

Cyber meats

Brindisa Ham Home School
To be a true jamón carver, you must possess more than a sharp knife and a desire to shovel slender curls of meat into your mouth while cooking. If you want to learn the ways of jamón, you must put the work in. You must enrol in virtual ham school. Run by Borough Market restaurant and food supplier Brindisa, the ‘school’ is a mini-masterclass with carvers James Robinson and James Edwards, who will share their knowledge to willing students through a screen. Once you have passed the test (ie handed over your cash), you’ll be sent a tasting kit and a downloadable guide. The kit contains all you’ll need to cut up your jamón, including a ceramic knife and wooden board. By the end you’ll have a passable cut of jamón and clear instructions on how to achieve it. In exchange for your £35, the Hato project will make a £15 donation to the Nightingale Community Foundation. Every Friday in November, The Duke of Cambridge. Nov 27. From £1. Book at www.brindisa.com/pages/virtual-ham-school.

Cooking clubs

Cooking with Scorsese and Others
How often do you think about that scene from ‘Goodfellas’ where Paulie uses a razor blade to slice the garlic so diaphanously thin that it liquefies in the pan with oil? If the answer is ‘every time you chop garlic’, this virtual film club might be for you. Run by Hackney’s indie printing and publishing house Hato Press, the club is about taking inspiration from food on screen. Every Friday in November 2 it’s been announcing the film of the week along with a recipe from a member of the Hato team. Despite the name, it’s not limited to Mr Scorsese’s on-screen mealtimes – last week it was pancakes served with a side of Barry Levinson’s ‘Rain Man’. You’ll have to join the group to find out what’s next on the menu.

Japan Society Film Club
Did you spend the last few months getting acquainted with Studio Ghibli movies or the big hits of Akira Kurosawa? Get fresh Japanese film recommendations and gather to obsess about them at this laidback online club set up by the Japan Society London. Once the film is decided, you watch it yourself and turn up on the first Wednesday of the month to dissect it. Next up: ‘Tokyo Godfathers’. Kon Satoshi’s 2003 animation about a trio of homeless misfits who find an abandoned baby while searching a garbage dump for presents on Christmas Eve. You’ve watched ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ enough times now, time to switch it up with a new Christmas film.

Charity baking

The Duke Bakery
If you didn’t get round to baking sourdough in the first lockdown and have absolutely no interest in starting now, consider buying it from The Duke of Cambridge pub in Islington, which recently launched The Duke Bakery to raise money for StreetSmart, a UK charity that funds projects tackling homelessness. Every Friday in November, The Duke has been selling head chef Peter’s signature organic sourdough-potato bread hybrid along with sweet spiced saffron buns, and giving 100 percent of the profits to StreetSmart. Stop by on November 27 for the last day of The Duke Bakery and exchange your dough for bread – or show proof of a StreetSmart donation to receive some delicious baked goods.

Refugee Nights
It’s not easy to see past the anxieties of lockdown when you have to keep ‘normal’ life going within the same four walls. But if we’re going to put

Jarvis Cocker is here to save us from our lockdown woes

Jarvis is... Stream ‘Beyond the Pale’
Jarvis is being Jarvis all right. He opens and closes his hands as if plucking his words out of thin air, then flashes a look that suggests he’s surprised at what’s coming out of his own mouth. He spins around, hands thrust towards the ceiling. Then the gawky, magnetic ex-Pulp frontman looks up, freezes: he’s in a cave.

Considering how fraught and claustrophobic life in lockdown can feel, it’s apt that this streamed performance of ‘Beyond the Pale’ – the debut album from Cocker’s new band Jarvis Is – was recorded inside an actual grotto, known as the Devil’s Arse, in Derbyshire. Somehow, the resulting film from directors Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard, ‘Live in a Grotto’, full of edgy angles and effects. The lighting veers from dancefloor lasers to glittering galaxies to a burning sun that appears to engulf Cocker entirely. His excellent and unsurprisingly cool band look like they’ve been swiped at random off Stoke Newington High Street. There’s creepy, Jarvis (‘Sometimes I Am Pharaoh’, a song narrated by a living statue) and there’s disco Jarvis (‘House Music All Night Long’, an anthem for the cooped-up and fed up). Predictably, his between-song patter is on point. If anyone could win me over to the gig-streaming cause, it’s Jarvis Cocker. I twirled and finger-wagged and teetered like a stick insect. This home-working troglodyte was transported. For 50 glorious minutes, I got to do that thing we all secretly dream of: hide in a cave, and wait for this whole thing to blow over.

Huw Oliver

Presented by Deeper Into Movies and Rough Trade. Available to stream until Dec 2. £15 at www.dice.fm
things in perspective: remember that for many people, ‘home’ does not equate to a place of safety. A recent report from the UN Refugee Agency showed that almost 80 million people were forcibly displaced by conflict and persecution by the end of last year. To reflect on this shocking stat, the Imperial War Museum is putting on a series of online broadcasts exploring refugee experiences. The final Refugee Night (December) will close with a performance from Noisettes’s lead singer, Shingai Shoniwa. Also featuring some guy called Jude Law.


Virtual art show

‘Rear Window’
‘Rear Window’ is so on the nose as an allegory for our current moment that the White Cube gallery has curated a whole online exhibition tied to the film’s themes. Put on your digital binoculars to explore this viewing room, where you’ll find Celia Hempton’s graphic paintings of the strangers she met on Chatrandom and the ‘Kitchen Table’ photostory by Carrie Mae Weems. It’s all about ‘slow’ looking, to interrogate the dangers of our gaze.

L.B. Jefferies, the lead in Hitchcock’s voyeuristic thriller, wasn’t always such a relatable protagonist. But who can honestly say they haven’t lost a self-isolation day to staring out the window, waiting for some drama to unfold? Thanks to the collective broken leg that is 2020, we have all reckoned with our inner Jefferies, and it isn’t pretty.

Until Jan 19 2021. Free. whitecube.viewingrooms.com

Digital film fest

Frames of Representation
If you watch a film at the ICA, chances are you’re going to slip out of the mainstream and into something a little less comfortable. At its Frames of Representation festival, now online for the first time, you’ll find 14 feature films from across the globe, each in that category that defies cinematic categorisation. Watch ‘Panquiaco’, a film partly inspired by a traditional Dule medicinal bath, a magical realist debut about air conditioners set to a jazzy soundtrack and a stunningly shot new diary film from photographer Khalik Allah.

Nov 24-Dec 13. Free for members. £6 per screening for non-members. www.ica.art

THREE OF THE BEST

Woodland walks

Highgate Wood
It was originally called Gravelpit Wood, but this sylvan realm of Highgate is prettier than its old name suggests. It’s a nature conservation site, so look out for foxes and bats if you’re out in the early evening.

Muswell Hill Rd.

Gunnersbury Triangle
Wedge between a troika of railway lines, this woodland was created in 1983 when a development was scrapped because of the natural value of the land, where you’ll find ponds, acid grassland, birch and a swamp.

Chiswick.

Sydenham Hill Wood
This dense patch of trees is one of the last swathes of the ancient Great North Wood that once stretched from Croydon to the Thames. It’s home to lots of bizarrely named fungi like jelly ears and earthstars (we haven’t made those up, promise).

Dulwich.
Things to Do

Spoken word

Roundhouse Poetry Slam Final
The Roundhouse is snapping us out of our malaise by adding some spoken word to our lockdown diet of podcasts and breakfast shows. Its Poetry Slam Final brings together some of the country’s greatest poets to compete for the title of Slam Champion. It’s filmed live from the Camden venue under strict safety regulations, so viewers can watch the heats and then cast votes alongside judges (writers Anthony Anaxagorou, Tobi Kyeremateng and Will Harris). It’s also the only time you’ll attend a gig here without the fear of getting stuck behind intrusive pillars.

→ Nov 27-29. Dec 1-6. Free. @hepwortheart

Crafty Fox Online Market
If struggling with bulging shopping bags and making small talk over scented candles is your idea of a Christmas nightmare, this London makers’ market is letting you stall-hop from the comfort of your home. All you’ll need is a sharp eye and nimble thumbs so you can scroll through the online stalls on Instagram and tap up bespoke homeware, art, cards and other lovingly made stocking fillers. Or you can buy all the felt pieces and beads you need to make them yourself. If 2020 isn’t the year of your handmade Christmas presents, it’s never going to happen.


Christmas markets

The Hepworth Wakefield Online Christmas Fair
It is worryingly easy to spend many hours (and pounds) in the Hepworth’s online shop, which offers artisan gifts just as cool as the Yorkshire art gallery’s minimalist concrete exterior. So brace yourself for its annual Christmas fair, which is going online in 2020. As usual, it’ll be gathering some of the country’s most talented artists and designers who’ll be filling their virtual stalls with textiles, ceramics, jewellery, handmade cosmetics, candles, stationery and homeware, which you can buy via the gallery’s Instagram Stories. Yes, you really do need that Salvador Dali egg cup. Probably.

→ Nov 27. Dec 4-5. Free. @hepworsmalltalk

2020 Booker Prize Winner in Conversation
In 2019, Bernardine Evaristo became the first Black woman and the first Black British author to win the Booker Prize with her novel ‘Girl, Woman, Other’. To round off her year in the literary spotlight, she’ll be interviewing Douglas Stuart, the 2020 winner, in an empty Royal Festival Hall. We spoke to the author and Londoner about how her life has changed since winning one of the biggest literary accolades in the world.

What has changed for you since winning the Booker?
‘My readership has changed. Being in the bestseller list on and off for 41 weeks is just phenomenal. I am staggered that Middle England has embraced the book: who’d have thought it? It took the Booker for that to happen. That’s how important the prize is. The level of recognition within the industry has also been great. I feel like I’m now known. As a Black woman, we need to be known. We don’t want to be marginalised and we don’t want to be considered inferior in any way.’

The 2020 Booker shortlist is the most diverse in its history. Is there a meaningful shift in publishing?
‘I think there is a shift happening, for now. The jury for the [2020] Booker prize is incredibly diverse and that makes a difference. I love the fact that there is so much diversity. I don’t know whether we’re entering a new era, or whether this is just something that’s going to come and go, whether there will be a backlash. We had Obama for two terms and then Trump for a term. It always feels like you have progression and then you go back, and then you go forwards again.’

What’s your relationship with London? It’s been the setting for a lot of your work.
‘London is a really important muse for me… It’s a city I feel I can endlessly explore. I grew up in Woolwich, which was very white and now it’s very multicultural. London is a city that is always in transformation and I’m always acquainting and reacquainting myself with it. ■ Alexandra Sims

→ Available to stream until Nov 30. £5. www.southbankcentre.co.uk
Online clothes Swap

Stop & Swap
Environmentally friendly clothes swaps have become quite scary in the time of corona. But, hoping to prove that sustainable shopping can still be possible during a pandemic, North London Waste Authority and Love Not Landfill have teamed up to create the city's first online clothes shop where you can find great pieces without worrying about whether they've been touched by hundreds of browsing hands. Each swapping event begins with a live Q&A – this week it's journalist Lauren Bravo (author of 'How to Break Up With Fast Fashion') dishing out sustainable fashion hacks – before the swapping commences via clothes-sharing app Nuw. As well as leftover outfits from people's lockdown clearouts, there'll be prize pieces from fashion journalists and influencers in the mix. The clothes will arrive in the post, so you can do your own Youtuber-style unboxing video.

 çık Nov 25. Free. Register online at www.nlwa.gov.uk/stop-and-swap

Dance Umbrella Digital
Log in for a digital festival of dance that will close with an almighty disco from Jay Jay Revlon, who'll be recreating his legendary Peckham club night, Let's Have a Kiki, with DJs and voguers from London's ballroom community.

akukan Nov 23-27. Free, donations are encouraged. www.danceumbrella.co.uk

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Welcome to...

THE OPTIMIST’S PAGE!

Keep your glass half full with amazing festivals, plays and exhibitions that are bound to happen in 2021

Theatre

1. ‘Doctor Who: Time Fracture’
   This immersive adventure in the company of everyone’s favourite Time Lord was first announced in a simpler era, but Tom Maller’s fully BBC-licensed production has been made future-proof, ie it’s socially distanced, whether such a thing is required or not. In any case, ‘Time Fracture’ is an adventure written by Daniel Dinsdale, that starts in London at the height of the Blitz, when a weapon of unknown origin creates a rift in space-time – and it’s your job to step in and investigate.
   Details beyond that are scarce, but it’s safe to assume that a mild peril-filled journey to alien worlds awaits.
   → Immersive LDN, 19 South Molton Lane. Due to run Feb 17-May 30 2021. £57-£77.

2. ‘Get Up Stand Up! The Bob Marley Story’
   Actor Arinzé Kene has been hovering in the neighbourhood of West End leading man status for a while. ‘Get Up, Stand Up!’ will see him really hit the big time as he plays Bob Marley in a handsome new musical based on the reggae legend’s life and songs. Directly by Clint Dyer and written by Lee Hall, it’s not entirely clear yet whether it will be a conventional biographical drama or just focus on a period of the singer’s life, but his estate has enthusiastically thrown its support behind this new endeavour, so the big Marley hits are guaranteed to make an appearance.
   → Lyric Theatre. 2021, dates and price tbc.

Big music fest

1. Grace Jones’s Meltdown
   When Grace Beverly Jones requests your presence, you oblige, without question, so it’s no surprise that her turn as curator of the multi-day Meltdown music festival led to one of the best line-ups we’ve ever seen. Solange, Peaches, Skunk Anansie, Lee Scratch Perry and Baaba Maal were all summoned by Miss Jones, until Covid came along and rebooted Meltdown into 2021. But the queen has it under control: the festival returns to the Southbank Centre next June with every act intact.
   → Southbank Centre. Due to run Jun 11-20 2021. Prices vary.

2. Tracey Emin/Edvard Munch
   The highlights of London’s art exhibitions in 2019 included the British Museum’s Edvard Munch: ‘Love and Angst’ and White Cube’s Tracey Emin: ‘A Fortnight of Tears’. Fast forward to 2020 and the Royal Academy has a show of not one, but both! Emin is a long-term fan of the Norwegian expressionist and the RA show will explore how Munch has been inspiring the artist since she was 18. Its original launch date was scuppered, but you’ll have the chance to see their brilliant, sorrowful works side by side come December.
   → Royal Academy of Arts. Due to run Dec 7-Feb 28 2021. £17.

3. Lynette Yiadom-Boakye: ‘Fly in League with the Night’
   Lynette Yiadom-Boakye’s Tate Britain solo show was another casualty of the November lockdown but we have everything crossed the exhibition will be able to reopen when restrictions are eased. The figures in her paintings belong to no time, no story – they are expressed from found images, and the artist’s imagination. Yiadom-Boakye is one of the most important figurative painters in the world, and this major survey of her work is a big career moment, so it’s worth getting that pre-booked ticket in the bag.
   → Tate Britain. Due to run Dec 2-May 9 2021. £13.

Gigs

1. Gorillaz
   Damon Alban’s virtual band Gorillaz are playing live next year for the first time since 2018. The homecoming show will follow the release of the band’s twentieth-anniversary composition series ‘Song Machine’, which features guest musicians including Elton John and St Vincent. The jury’s out on whether they’ll be making an appearance too, but you can bank on a rendition of ‘Clint Eastwood’, the most overplayed hit of 2001.
   → The O2. Due to run Aug 11 2021. From £45.

2. Ghostpoet
   In the early days of lockdown, Ghostpoet, aka south London musician and producer Obaro Ejimiwe, released his fifth album ‘I Grow Tired But Dare Not Fall Asleep’. After listening to it trapped in your flat, you can finally hear it in the flesh as the two-time Mercury Prize nominee is let loose on stage again to blast our ears with jazz-inflected electronica.
   → Bush Hall. Due to run Mar 5 2021. From £23.

3. Lady Gaga: ‘The Chromatica Ball’
   Lady Gaga is no stranger to London’s smaller music venues (she’s played Ronnie Scott’s and Moth Club), and now the art-pop icon is taking on, er, the home of Spurs, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, in support of her latest album, ‘Chromatica’. If anyone can make the football grounds feel stylish, it’s the woman who once wore a telephone as a hat.
In the era of the posh takeaway, status subs and whopping focaccias are the new kings. Get yourself a good one and eat it on a nice bench and jalapeños between perfect sourdough or to turn black truffle and Mont d’Or molten. Uber Eats yourself the Cacio e Pepe toastie (£7) – mozzarella, pecorino, and grated black– and you won’t be disappointed.

The absolutely, incredibly, ridiculously massive one
At some point in Lockdown 1 (don’t ask us when, time is blurry) Time Out’s art director posted a picture of a takeaway sandwich on the office Slack that caused uproar. It was giant. It was crusty. It looked so, so delicious. And it was from the Dusty Knuckle bakery of ginormous crusty potato sourdough fame. The socially conscious spot (in Dalston) is doing four big sarnie babies for you to collect right now. The best is a veggie number: charred hispi cabbage and fennel with hella crispy shallots (£7.90). Pre-order from the bakehouse and introduce it to its new mommy (your big belly).

The hangover destroyer
At Tottenham’s Wine & Rind, the toastie press has, like, really found itself. Sure, it’s spent the past 20 years focusing on turning Cathedral City, beans and a couple of slices of Warburtons into mouth-burning snacks for drunk students. But that’s the past. The trusty bread-smusher has taken some time to really work on itself, done a couple of retreats, and it now knows who it’s meant to be. And that is a kitchen utensil ready to seal gorgonzola and jalapeños between perfect sourdough or to turn black truffle and Mont d’Or molten. Uber Eats yourself the Cacio e Pepe toastie (£7) – mozzarella, pecorino, and grated black– and you won’t be disappointed.

The one so ’80s it basically has a mullet
The vibe at Sons and Daughters is cool, posh versions of flavours your nan would have been well into in 1985. Ooh, a nice chicken and mayo bloomer? Here it’s done with soy-cured parmesan, pickled cucumber and wasabi cress. Prawn salad? With jalapeño vinaigrette, some pickled ginger and some prawn
crackers, please. A lovely bit of egg salad (£8.50)? Let’s slip in some miso mayo and some truffle crisps. (That’s the best one.) It’s so huge it’s basically your breakfast, lunch and dinner all in one, baby.

→ Unit 119a Coal Drops Yard, N1C 4DQ.

**The legendarilly weird one**
The butties that Max Halley churns out in his Crouch Hill caff bear no relation to any sandwich you’ve had anywhere else ever before. This is a man who spikes his mayo with vinegar, anchovies, gravy or black beans to suit the sandwich it’s moistening, and that’s just the start. That bit of cheese you got between two slabs of MDF from Tesco the other day? A different species to the heavenly specimens he births. (He even does a sandwich with samosas in it.) Go worship his runny take on ham, egg and chips (£9.95).

→ 19 Crouch Hill, N4 4AP.

**The Scottish(ish) one**
Sure, Deeney’s might look like your average trendy east London joint. It’s got white walls, dangling houseplants and ’70s-style chairs. But this Leyton spot (which started as a Scottish street food stall on Broadway Market) has a not-very-well-kept secret – a serious skill for making grilled cheese sandwiches. The best way to eat these crispy, tangy oooooooooozy gezzers is filled with robust cheddar, tangy mustard, onion, rocket and your choice of meat or vegan haggis. The haggis in the vegan one – Lady Macbeth (£6.50) – is a tasty nut-roast kind of thing and it’s arguably the better of the two. Don’t @ us, meatheads.

→ 360 High Rd Leyton, E10 6QE.

**The one you’ll probably take a picture of**
Swaddled in foil like a post-race marathon runner, then sliced in half, Dom’s Subs pop up all over Instagram like they’re Wish.com ads. These status-symbol hand snacks

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**LYANESS SAYS:**
‘Bring a corner of award-winning cocktail bar Lyaness into your home with our cocktail delivery service, available through Deliveroo seven days a week. Choose from a selection of our favourite cocktails in three different sizes: single-serve, two serves or five serves.’
20 Upper Ground, SE1 9PO.

**ICHIBA SAYS:**
‘Ichiba has launched a new London Japanese grocery delivery service with more than 600 favourites, from fresh sushi, ramen, bento and poke to rice, miso and tofu. Pick up frozen buns, gyoza and ice-cream mochi for an extra treat, plus fresh organic vegetables to help you cook a feast! Order now.’
shop.ichibalondon.com

**AIM ESCAPE ROOMS SAYS:**
‘Using the latest augmented-reality and GPS technology, this adrenaline-spiked outdoor escape game combines the best elements of our high-concept escape rooms with a thrilling treasure hunt. Licensed for up to six people from the same household and two people from different households.’
Goodman’s Fields, E1 8PQ.

**MIRACLE AT HENRIETTA SAYS:**
‘Once again, Henrietta Hotel will open the festively famous Miracle. The Christmas-themed pop-up bar, renowned for its creative cocktails garnished with a side of kitsch, will launch on the hotel’s mezzanine from December 3. Next to Covent Garden Piazza, the bar will be the perfect pit stop for a cocktail.’
14-15 Henrietta St, WC2E 8QH.
were dreamed up in Lockdown 1 by the lads from coffee shop Lanark on Hackney Rd. The aim? Deli-style sandwiches available for collection and delivery around east London. The result? Soft, freshly baked subs with a vast list of ingredients. Take the Cold Cuts (£10) featuring mortadella, salami milano, bresaola, ghabagool, mayo, vinegar peppers and shredded iceberg, for example. Cross-sections of these long boys look like they should be hanging in Victoria Miro. → 262 Hackney Rd, E2 7SJ.

The sloppy meatbally one
Since Peckham diner Larry’s opened earlier this year, it’s earned a rep for being a rather serious purveyor of some of the city’s top comfort food. It’s no surprise that calling Larry’s meatball sanga (£10.50) ‘a sandwich’ is something of an understatement. Peel open the chonk’s two paving-slab-sized pillows of focaccia and you’ll find hunky beef and pork meatballs in pools of house red sauce, melted mozzarella and fermented chilli mayo. Pre-book it for delivery or collection and make a big old mess of yourself eating it. → Unit 5, 12-16 Blenheim Grove, SE15 4QL.

The posh fish-finger one
Balham Aussie joint Milk is the kind of London café that has white-washed brick walls, serves buckwheat pancakes (plated up like they’re on MasterChef) and gets shout-outs from Goop. But don’t let that put you off. This place does a fish-finger sarnie like you’ve never eaten in your life. Or should we say a ‘panko-breadcrumbed red snapper’ sarnie. The Milk Bread Sando (£10.20) is served with punchy fukujinzuke pickle, dashi mayo and housemade tonkatsu sauce, snuggled up in a soft, fluffy bun, and delivered every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. → 20 Bedford Hill, SW12 9RG.

It will render your body motionless for 36 hours after eating

The one with a whole chicken kiev in it
‘Ooh, have you heard of this little-known spot called the Breakfast Club?’ is something no one has said since 2015. But bear with us. This summer, London’s most over-subscribed hash-brown-server created something new. St Elmo’s – a sarnie bar menu. Its highlight? The Chicken Kiev, which unsurprisingly features a chicken kiev plonked into toasted focaccia with peas, melty cheesy sauce and burnt onion cream. It’s retro, massive and a hefty £10.50 (but it is almost a burger). It will render your body exhausted and motionless for 36 hours post-eating, but we’ve all got a lot of time to kill at the moment. → Multiple venues.

The really simple one
You know how 2020 has streamlined all of our choices? There’s no ‘should I go out tonight?’ or ‘should I quit my job and travel the world?’ nowadays. And you know how that’s a bad thing? Doesn’t it also feel… a little bit good? Peaceful, even. Getting a sandwich at Tongue & Brisket captures that latter mood. You have literally four options: chicken schnitzel, roast beef, tongue or salt beef brisket (our favourite: perfectly salted meat with tangy pickled cucumber) on rye. That’s it. No scrolling endlessly through Deliveroo or scanning two sides of paper filled with options. Just go, spend £5 and have a nice time. → Multiple venues.

The festive-but-good one
Here’s some news that will come as sweet, sweet music to the ears of sandwich fans across the city: the legendary Bodega Rita’s is back. Founders Gabriel Pryce and Missy Flynn, whose King’s Cross joint shut this summer, are proper pioneers of the Sarnies as Serious Food scene. And now they’ve teamed up with Lyaness (the famous and good bar) on a Deliveroo menu of snacks and booze, with 5 percent of sales donated to charity The Felix Project. Those snacks? Two souped-up Christmas sourdough numbers: one meat, one veggie. Both are Grade A stacks, but you’re going to want to chomp your way through The PSF most of all: it’s a sweet-salty mix of pumpkin falafel, whipped goat’s cheese, spinach, red pepper relish and tahini for £9.50. → Kate Lloyd

Find more sarnies at timeout.com/sandwiches

November 24 – 30 2020 Time Out London
Top chefs’ favourite cornershops

Over the next two issues, we’re asking good cooks where they buy good food. This week: local stores and mini-supermarkets

Karan Gokani Hoppers
‘During Lockdown 1 I’d skip the queues at supermarkets and shop at Hilal Food Centre, the 24-hour Turkish store on Kilburn High Road. Along with stocking a huge array of spices, they also have exotic fruits and fantastic lamb chops.’
→ 322-324 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 2QN.

Emeka Frederick Chuku’s
‘We love West Green, the grocery store in Tottenham. It serves us well with yam, plantain and now all our other fresh fruit and vegetables. It even has cassava flour and Nigerian spices we need, like suya.’
→ 27-29 West Green Rd, N15 5BX.

Aaron Webster and Remi Williams Smoke & Salt
“When we were cooking out of Pop Brixton, the shops of Electric Avenue became a godsend for produce. Our favourite is Nour Cash & Curry. What you think is a crowded bolthole full of fruit and vegetables, opens out to a wonderland of spices and oils.”
→ 23 Market Row, SW9 8LB.

Joe Fox Townsend
‘I like going to indie grocery store Cups and Jars in Forest Gate to refill my soaps and laundry detergent. Adjusting to zero waste is new to a lot of people and I’ve seen how patient they are with customers, taking time to explain the products properly and advising what’s best.’
→ 108 Woodgrange Rd, E7 0EH.

Tom Brown Cornerstone
“The fruit and veg at Premier in Hackney Wick seriously stands out. I’m pretty sure we have the same local supplier. We often dash in there mid-service because we have run out of mint or parsley and they drop everything to sort us out.”
→ 22-26 Felstead St, E9 6LT.

Avinash Shashidhara Pali Hill
‘Everything about New Continental Stores in Shepherd’s Bush Market reminds me of the shops in India. The smell when you walk in is a...’
combination of spices, soaps and incense. You can buy flours, pulses, spices, condiments, cosmetics and oils from India, the Middle East and the Caribbean. They even stock some salt cod and dried prawns.

James Cochran 12:51
‘My favourite cornershop has to be Hop Burns & Black on East Dulwich Road. It has everything you need, from hot sauce to independent beers. It never disappoints.’

→ 167 Shepherd’s Bush Market, W12 8DF

Dom Fernando
Paradise Soho
‘Patel Brothers is near my family in Tooting. They do anything and everything, from fresh South Asian fruit and vegetables to spices and even the Sri Lankan version of Hello magazine. Necessary for a well-rounded Asian trip to the shops.’

→ 187-189 Upper Tooting Rd, SW17 7TG

Will Blank
Top Cuvée
‘My local cornershop St. J’s in Walthamstow is fantastic. They focus on local producers like Wood St Coffee, Wild Card Brewery, Chocolatine Bakery, all within a mile of the shop.’

→ 18-20 St James St, E17 7PF

Ben Tish Norma
‘I love Bangla Bazar in Limehouse. It’s ideal for super-cheap and fresh fruits, spices and sauces. I’ll buy a whole load and prepare an Indian feast at home. It’s brilliant if you love Indian food – the best place I know when it comes to value and range. I could spend all day in there.’

→ 132 Salmon Lane, E14 7PQ

Farika Holden
Grateful Pies
‘I’m a big fan of Simply Fresh in Bethnal Green. They serve bread from Little Bread Pedlar and they also bake fresh bread on site, so the place always smells super.’

→ 201-203 Roman Rd, E2 0QY

Bin Li
Murger Han
‘Westferry Food & Wine in the Isle of Dogs is at the bottom of my building. I like to get some soy milk and English chocolate (Lion bars and Bournville) and have the two together when I get in from long days of working.’

→ Ocean Wharf, 54 Westferry Rd, E14 8LW
New year, new view

Feeling a tad nature-starved? Make up for it big time by planning a 2021 trip to some of the country’s most beautiful and mindblowing landscapes

HOLIDAYING CLOSER TO home was big this summer, and that’s set to sail right on into 2021. So you’ll want to get a wiggle on: these ten tranquil British spots have all the peace, quiet and soothing green space your locked-down soul desires, and then some. Yes, your local park is great. But for a proper hit of nature, epic views and wide-open spaces, book these stunners.

1 Lundy Island Devon
Has 2020 given you a taste for your own company? This tiny island off the coast of Devon, which successfully raised funds to secure its survival this year, is truly remote. Home to fewer than 30 people and some puffins, it’s dotted with historic buildings that have been turned into holiday rentals for people seeking solitude: a couple of the cottages sleep just one.

→ Four-night stay from £123.
www.landmarktrust.org.uk

2 Snowdonia Wales
No one wants to be queuing to reach the summit of Snowdon, as happened this summer, but there are ways to explore this mega National Park, and its surrounding countryside, without adding to the crowds. Like cliff camping – spending the night in a tent suspended above the waves – for example. Or push your heart rate up by taking a rock-climbing course and making your way up the area’s peaks the super-steep way.

→ Cliff camping from £200 per person, climbing from £60 per day. www.gaiaadventures.co.uk

3 Dedham Vale Essex
You don’t need to venture far from the city to discover bucolic countryside. Hop outside the M25 to the Essex-Suffolk border and you’ll find yourself in the fertile landscape around the River Stour, populated with riverside pubs, neat villages (bed down for the night at The Sun Inn in Dedham, after filling up on local Tiptree jam and scones) and, in midsummer, trees bowing with the weight of their own lushness.

→ The Sun Inn. From £150 a night.
www.thesuninndedham.com

4 Norfolk
You can social-distance without trying in Norfolk: this wide, flat county feels vast and wonderfully empty even in the height of summer. Head to pinewood-edged Holkham Beach; rent a self-contained canal boat and bob along the Broads; or book a night in new hotel The Harper in Langham, opening in spring. It promises laidback luxury in a former glass-blowing factory, and it’s minutes from Blakeney’s seal colony if you need to swerve human interaction for an afternoon.

→ The Harper. From £175 a night.
www.theharper.co.uk
Get outta town at timeout.com/uk

Salford Manchester
Another big city might not seem like the obvious place to seek nourishing nature, but as of May 2021, Manchester will be just the place thanks to the opening of Royal Horticultural Society Bridgewater: a grand, 154-acre masterpiece in the grounds of Salford’s Worsley New Hall. Visit to discover an ancient walled garden, a peaceful lake and acres of woodland.
→ RHS Bridgewater. £tbc. www.rhs.org.uk

5

Shropshire Hills
Shropshire
You’ll find trickling rivers, craggy peaks, heath, moorland and classic hills of the rolling variety at this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty near the Welsh border. For total tranquillity and ancient ruins, visit the quiet village of Clun. For a bit more action, try pretty Ludlow, for its historic centre, grand castle and buzzy food scene. Had more exotic adventures in mind entirely?

6

Isle of Sheppey Kent
If feeling a million miles from the city but only having to travel, say, 50 is the aim, Sheppey is the place. Not cutesy like nearby Whitstable, it’s a place of vast marshland and even vaster skies. You could visit the area during the rescheduled Estuary Festival, taking place nearby in early summer. Whenever, a night or two in an Elmley cabin with floor-to-ceiling nature-reserve views is a must-book.

8

England Coastal Path
By the end of 2021, England will have the longest coastal walking route on the planet. The 2,800-mile walk will link up some existing coastal paths, improve others and create a few brand new routes. For a preview, check out the quiet Lincolnshire section between Skegness and Mablethorpe, which is already open – pausing to spot art and stop off at Anderby Creek Cloud Bar and the North Sea Observatory.
→ www.nationaltrail.co.uk

9

Lake District
Cumbria
There’s never a bad time to visit the Lakes, but in 2021 there’s a special reason: it’s the seventieth anniversary of the region’s glassy waters and towering peaks officially becoming a National Park. Celebrate the big one by booking a hotel room with an epic view at Another Place, admiring those green and pleasant views from a hiking trail, hiring a paddleboard or rowing boat to float around Coniston Water or hopping between towns and villages sampling local ales. First stop: the Drunken Duck pub and brewery, sitting on a rural crossroads in the middle of nowhere.
→ Another Place. From £190 a night. www.another.place. The Drunken Duck. www.drunkenduckinn.co.uk

7

West Highlands
Scotland
Head west for the best of the Scottish Highlands, where you can try wild camping (it’s legal in Scotland, fyi) or rent out loch’s-edge holiday home The Net Store. For a totally undisturbed week, book a cottage on the topically named Isle of Rona – population: two (plus you).■ Ellie Walker-Arnott

10

Head over the county border to the new lodges at West Midland Safari Park, which open in 2021 with up-close views of the elephants.
→ West Midland Safari Park lodges. £tbc. www.wmsp.co.uk

9

If feeling a million miles from the city but only having to travel, say, 50 is the aim, Sheppey is the place. Not cutesy like nearby Whitstable, it’s a place of vast marshland and even vaster skies. You could visit the area during the rescheduled Estuary Festival, taking place nearby in early summer. Whenever, a night or two in an Elmley cabin with floor-to-ceiling nature-reserve views is a must-book.
SEDUCTIVE, SHREWd and special, ‘Lovers Rock’ is the second chapter in the BBC’s five-film anthology about Black London life from the 1960s to the ’80s, all of them directed by British filmmaker and artist Steve McQueen. It immerses us in a house party in Ladbroke Grove in 1980 – a swirl of excited preparations followed by the rituals and rhythms of the party itself, a cash-on-the-door reggae night. There’s flirting. Showing off. Getting it on. A lot of dancing. A queue for the loo. Some snogging in the garden. Clouds of cigarette smoke, loads of sweat and the buzz of the crowd pulling Bruce Lee dance moves when the needle drops on ‘Kung Fu Fighting’.

And that’s it. It’s a blissfully simple short story of a film, unfolding over one night. While it might be a quick fix – a high, a swoon, a rush and it’s over – McQueen and his co-writer Courttia Newland cram an enormous amount of joy, experience and suggestion into an hour and a bit.

While it’s an ensemble piece, the spotlight falls most tightly on Martha (Amarah-Jae St Aubyn). We follow her sneaking out of home, until her night ends with the promise of more to come from Franklyn (Michaél Ward), the handsome guy she meets. There are events – a scuffle, the blossoming romance, some aggro on the door, a lot of laughs – yet it’s the dancefloor moments that linger: the women breaking into a version of Janet Kay’s ‘Silly Games’, and the male flipside, a sweaty mass of blokes getting down to The Revolutionaries.

This is a clued-up film, aware of the divisions of race, class, power, money that would define much of the lives of these first- and second-generation Black Londoners, many of them the sons and daughters of Caribbean immigrants. But, apart from a couple of telling
The 30 best films to stream on Netflix at timeout.com/film

**Possessor**

NEEDLES JABBED INTO scalps, stabbings and a brutal mauling with a fireplace poker: it’s fair to say ‘Possessor’ is not for the squeamish. Clearly informed by his dad David’s work, writer-director Brandon Cronenberg traffics in a similarly edgy vein of body horror, while exploring what it’s like to lose your sense of self. TLDR? Not fun.

It’s set in an alternate 2008, where assassin Tasya Vos (Andrea Riseborough) picks off targets by possessing other people’s bodies via a brain implant link. Her latest job means inhabiting Colin Tate (Christopher Abbott) and killing his fiancée’s father, the wealthy CEO of an Amazon-like tech company that Vos’s employer wants to take over. But once Vos gets inside Tate’s skin, hallucinations and hazy memories begin blurring the lines: who, here, is really controlling whom?

An actor portraying a co-star can be a difficult needle to thread, but Abbott’s rendering of Tate when Vos is pulling the strings doesn’t go Travolta-in-’Face/Off’ big. It all gets a bit murky as the two characters start jockeying for control, but the lead-up is eerily convincing.

‘Possessor’ is a smart, skittish and bloody cinematic journey that leaves some of the dot-connecting to you. Even without the budget of ‘Inception’, Cronenberg delivers a similarly mindbending ride that’s filled with gruesome set-pieces and a clear message: it doesn’t matter if you’re piloting a mechanical drone or inhabiting a human one, the business of killing has a tendency to separate you from your identity. Not to mention your humanity. ■ Zach Long

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interactions away from the party – a condescending white boss, a group of menacing white boys – its politics are implicit. With ‘Lovers Rock’ McQueen creates a proud bubble of Black youth: the party and the music cancel out the noise of parents, bosses, church, racists and other downers of early ’80s England. But they’re all hinted at. The party is an escape, a retreat, a sort of freedom.

And what a party. McQueen and his collaborators (cinematographer Shabier Kirchner deserves a special shout out) immerse us so deeply in the sounds, sights and smells of this time and this place that there’s barely time to think. The detail is hypnotic. It’s a film of sounds, feelings and textures. The tunes will lodge in your brain, and you’ll emerge blinking into the light like you were right there yourself – wondering where you’ve been, what you’ve seen and when you can return. ■ Dave Calhoun

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WHAT IS IT...
An edgy sci-fi horror from Brandon ‘Son of David’ Cronenberg.

WHY WATCH IT...
It’s very bloody – and very bloody good.

● Director Brandon Cronenberg (18) 104 mins. Streaming from Nov 27.
A BIG LOCKDOWN

revelation for me was
my children’s utter
uninterest in Disney:
something I naturally
only discovered after I proudly
presented them with a shiny new
Disney+ subscription in April.

Still, I had the subscription, I like
‘Star Wars’, and I really wanted to
watch ‘The Mandalorian’. Then,
for the sake of completeness I put
myself through ‘Solo’ and ‘The
Rise of Skywalker’. Unfortunately,
lockdown rolled on and I’d run out
of ‘Star Wars’ stuff to watch. Or had I?
I’d heard that cartoon series spin-off
‘Clone Wars’ was rather good, but
I’d avoided it because it sounded
like it was for those ‘Star Wars’ fans
who could name all the different
lightsabers, plus I was still scarred by
the objectively terrible ‘80s cartoons
‘Ewoks’ and ‘Droids’.

I was very wrong. ‘The Clone Wars’
turns out to be utterly brilliant:

a madly sprawling but deeply
intelligent and often fantastically
well-written exploration of the
world of the ‘Star Wars’ prequels.
Yes, the prequels: their flawed
nature is almost the point. We
didn’t need any more adventures
from Luke, Han and Leia. The
three they’d had (at the time) were
perfect. But the space- operatic mess
of ‘The Phantom Menace’, ‘Attack
of the Clones’ and ‘Revenge of the
Sith’ is ripe for untangling, and
showrunner Dave Filoni delivers
seven seasons that breathed life,
humanity, humour and tragedy into
the escapades of Obi Wan, Anakin
and their clone armies.

The Clone Wars’ takes a little
while to get into its stride, with the
early series marked by simpler
storytelling and animation. And,
of course, it’s a shade nerdy. But it’s
parsec ahead of the last few ‘Star
Wars’ films, and just the escape I’ve
needed to get through lockdown.
The kids? They’ve got CBBC.

The kids? They’ve got CBBC.

Ear-licious podcasts to cook along to

Time Out writers pick their favourite hobsode listening

Table Manners

Table Manners

If you’re missing having friends over for dinner,
this podcast, hosted by singer Jessie Ware and
her mum Lennie, might just be the next best thing.
They invite celebs (Guests include Kylie, ‘Queer Eye’s
Antoni Porowski and MP Jess Phillips) over
to Lennie’s for dinner, they have a good old chat
and sometimes Jessie’s brother gets roped in to
make pudding (David Schwimmer siags off his
banana bread in one episode). It’s the podcast
equivalent of a juicy novel. Isabelle Aron

www.tablemannerspodcast.com

Off Menu

Off Menu

Every episode, cheeky English chappies James
Acaster and Ed Gamble invite a celebrity guest
to their fictional restaurant to pick their dream
menu. And what comes out of the kitchen?
Banter, obviously. Loads of bloody banter. They’ve
had everyone from Wahaca founder Thomasina
Miers to singing megastar Josh Groban, and it
always leads to some
delicious conversation. Eddy Frankel

www.offmenupodcast.co.uk

Out to Lunch with Jay Rayner

Out to Lunch with Jay Rayner

You’ve seen him on ‘MasterChef’, you’ve read
him in the paper and now you can have his lovely,
calm-but-critical voice beamed directly into
your brain via your ears because Jay Rayner has
himself a podcast. The big man of food writing
(the guy’s, like, nine feet tall) talks to celebs like
Charlie Brooker, Tim Minchin and everyone’s
favourite Disney chauffeur, Minnie Driver, all
about food and stuff. Tasty. Eddy Frankel

@outtolunchwith

Desert Island Dishes

Desert Island Dishes

If ‘Desert Island Discs’ is a bit heavy on
Beethoven and childhood anguish for your liking,
give this spin on the concept a whirl. It’s hosted
by food writer Margie Nomura with an ear for a
good story and a savvy sense of the connection
between food and emotion. The guests usually
wax nostalgic about the dishes that made them.
If you fancy hearing Stanley Tucci saying the word
‘risotto’ a lot – and trust me, you do – look no
further. Phil de Semailen

www.desertislanddishes.co

MY STREAMING SALVATION

The Clone Wars

Culture editor Andrzej Łukowski on
his small-screen happy place

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Five ways to turn your living room into a cinema

With cinemas closed, Alim Kheraj suggests how to replicate those Dolby Atmos vibes at home

1. Pick up a killer TV

There’s no point buying a TV that isn’t 4K ultra-high-definition. Chinese brand Hisense is great for entry-level tellies: models in its R7 series can come in at under £400 and offer loads of Smart-TV features and decent picture quality. More image-conscious viewers might want to consider the Samsung Q70T (from £550), which delivers a crisp picture and nifty software to upscale HD and SD content. The problem is that Samsung doesn’t support the picture-enhancing power of Dolby Vision. For that, try LG’s LG CX range (from £1,000).

2. Sort the sound

Setting up a surround sound system takes effort, and often you need to be quite precise about where you place each speaker and the AV receiver you’re using. If you’re not ready to figure all that out, just pick up a soundbar instead. The Sony HT-X8500 (£299) or its luxe counterpart Sonos Arc (£799) both offer the illusion of surround sound thanks to some clever trickery. If you just want a bit of extra noise on a budget, the bijou but beefy Bose Solo 5 (from £199) is the device for you.

3. Grab some snacks

No trip to the cinema is complete without snacks, and there’s a range of popcorn machines to bring that hot-butter smell to your home. Klarstein Volcano Popcorn Machine (£70.99) is a reliable popper that won’t fire molten kernels at you from across the room. And pick up Kernel Season’s topping pots (£2.49) to mix up the flavours. But remember: you have to vacuum up the loose popcorn.

4. Get physical

Yes, most of what you might want to watch is available online. But no, you don’t own any of it – no matter how much you paid Amazon. One day your old DVDs and Blu-rays may be your only way to watch your favourite movie. There are great-value Blu-ray players out there, like Panasonic’s DP-UB450EB (£179) – although there’s a case for investing in an Xbox Series X or PlayStation 5 (both from £450), which will play your physical media (and do a fair few other things). Additionally, you might consider getting an Apple TV 4K, an Amazon Fire Stick or the Chromecast with Google TV, which give you access to a whole host of streaming apps.

5. Arthouse-up your sofa

Interiors expert Chelsey Brown, the editor of CityChicDecor.com, has some tips for how to make your living room more inviting for movie time: ‘Funky-shaped pillows, like something circular or knot pillows, are a simple trick to add character to your space,’ she says. She recommends blackout blinds to provide that pitch-dark movie experience. They’re available online for around £30. If that sounds small fry to you, how about a new sofa? ‘Try one with a bed in it, or a futon for a budget-friendly option,’ Chelsey says. ‘You can pull out the bed whenever you want to curl up for a movie – it’s like being in a luxurious cinema.’

More time in tips at timeout.com/timein
A non-gamer’s introduction to the PlayStation 5

Should you add Sony’s new console to your letter to Santa?

MASTERED SOURDOUGH?
Completed Netflix? Sony’s new PlayStation 5 is here to save Lockdown 2.0. The sleek new console looks like it just decoupled from the International Space Station and has the performance and price to match (£350 for the digital version or £450 with a disc drive, the same as the new Xbox Series X). It’s got full 4K graphics at a super-smooth frame rate, blink-of-an-eye loading times and a fancy new controller with ‘adaptive triggers’ and ‘haptic feedback’ – whatever they are – but will this gargantuan sci-fi monolith just end up as another expensive dust collector under your TV?

Well, not if the games have anything to do with it. You’ll want to pick up a few of the 25-plus PS5 launch games. Our pick would be Spider-man: Miles Morales. This superhero romp promises a whole load of web-swinging fun. What better way to spend your time stuck through New York’s skyscrapers? Handily for long-standing PlayStationers, the PS5 is also backwards compatible with more than 4,000 PS4 games, so keep hold of that old copy of Red Dead Redemption 2. The console’s real highlight comes in the form of a subscription-based games library: the PlayStation Plus Collection.

A PlayStation Plus subscription will set you back a further £6 each month, but seasoned gamers will see that as a steal, considering the games in the collection: Norse fantasy God of War: Persona 5, a stylish role-player featuring the funkiest video game soundtrack ever, as well as Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy, the Indiana-Jones-style adventure of Uncharted 4. It feels like there’s something for everyone (three things if you’re into bandicoots).

If you’re a movie lover, bear in mind that the PS5 also plays all your old DVDs and Blu-rays. With streaming sites recently admitting that they’re only lending you those films you bought, physical media is back. This console is all the excuse you need to head up to the loft and grab your old boxset of ‘The Wire’.

The PS5 has all the specs you’d want and a great-value games collection, but if the price tag seems steep, the Xbox Series S might be for you. At £230, it’s the wallet-friendly option for next-gen gaming, with its own rival games subscription service. Santa awaits your decision. ■

Django Zimmatore

Three mobile games where you smash stuff
Destructive fun for your phone

1 Burrito Bison: Launcha Libre
If you’re looking for some simple, if completely ridiculous, stress relief to get you through lockdown, this game is a winner. The bonkers bovine adventure sees you play as a wrestler, who happens to be a mask-wearing bison (wait, it gets weirder), who must defend his home town from a gummy-bear invasion (told you). To defeat them, you use body slams and absurd in-game items to smash the gelatinous army to pieces – and you’ll feel a whole lot better afterwards. Trust us.

2 Knightry Brawl
Say hello to Game of Phones. This medieval mêlée is a platform game that gives you command over a tiny knight and sets you on a quest through a world full of heavily armoured adversaries. You start out with a pot on your head and pick up better armour and weapons as you go – as long as you don’t get smooched by the Viking bloke with the hammer first. The sword-swinging takes a while to master but then time is all we have.

3 Fruit Ninja 2
The sequel we never knew we needed comes with new swords, new features and some fun fruit facts (did you know that there’s a mango called R2E2?). The premise is the same, though: you slice the shit out of enormous quantities of flying fruit and try not to hit the bombs that occasionally sail into the mix, looking for all the world like sizzling coconuts. Download it and get your 5,000 a day. ■

George Blew
Galaxy Buds Live
Loving your creativity this holiday!