



Summer

A Barnsley Chronicle Publication

LIVING

August 2025

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WHY YOUNGSTER IS ON
FUNDRAISING MISSION**

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**COLD AS ICE: LOCAL
HOCKEY PRO INSPIRING
NEXT GENERATION**

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Welcome to Summer Living

I HOPE you've got your sun cream, sun hat and sunglasses at the ready – it looks like Barnsley is in for a long hot summer.

Gone are the days of leaving the house with a coat, turning the heating up, or sleeping with the big duvet on. Well, for now at least.

Summer also marks the release of the latest in our line of seasonal living magazines – which is full of content to keep you entertained during a sit in the garden.

I got the chance to sit down with one of the most sought after producers of cricket bats in the world – who himself is an export of Barnsley's former Slazenger factory.

Green Fest is also reviewed – what a lot of fun that looked and people got so creative with their designs for scarecrows.

We have also caught up with Barnsley's only professional ice hockey player, Alex Oldale, to see how he has spent his summer months inspiring the next generation.

Maybe you're looking for a way to keep yourself, or the little ones, entertained in the summer holidays - our event guide has something for everyone to enjoy whether it's music or theatre you're into – we have got you fully covered.

Josh Timlin has been in top gear again, as he tells us what he's been driving this summer in his latest car review.

We will be back in a few months, when the weather starts to turn yet again, with a new, yet still bumper, living magazine showing you the best that Barnsley has to offer.

In the meantime, if you want find yourself in the next edition of our seasonal living magazines, you can give us a call on 734400 or email us on bcsales3@barnsley-chronicle.co.uk

Jack Evans



Also in the magazine...

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A master at work – we meet the man still in bat...



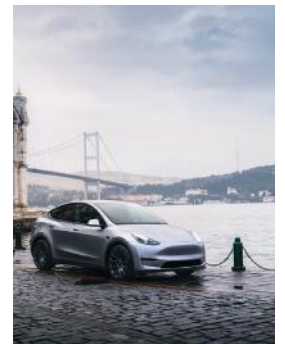
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Your full entertainment guide for the coming weeks



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Josh Timlin gets behind the wheel of a Tesla



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TOURS / EXCURSIONS / SHOWS

TOURS

DATES	HOTEL	PRICE
1 - 7 Sept	Paignton - Queens Hotel	£622
3 - 7 Sept	Exmouth - Cavendish Hotel	£420
5 - 12 Sept	Jersey By Air - Merton Hotel	£1266
6 - 10 Sept	Bridlington - Monarch Hotel	£412
7 - 12 Sept	Weston-super-Mare - Sandringham Hotel	£385
13 - 17 Sept	Isle of Man - Chester House Hotel	£589
14 - 19 Sept	Eastbourne - Cumberland Hotel	£500
14 - 20 Sept	Falmouth - Membly Hall Hotel	£636
14 - 19 Sept	Ireland - Legendary Landscapes Tour	£790
14 - 19 Sept	Llandudno - Chatsworth Hotel	£450
14 - 19 Sept	Great Yarmouth - Nelson Hotel	£385
15 - 19 Sept	Llanberis - Royal Victoria Hotel	£553



DATES	HOTEL	PRICE
15 - 19 Sept	Southport - Royal Clifton Hotel	£344
20 - 24 Sept	Blackpool - Queens Hotel	£415
20 - 26 Sept	Fort William - Croit Anna Hotel	£496
20 - 24 Sept	Ilfracombe - Imperial Hotel	£355
21 - 27 Sept	Weymouth - Royal Hotel	£562
22 - 26 Sept	Bideford - Durrant House Hotel	£408
22 - 26 Sept	Cotswolds Tour - Bosworth Hall Hotel	£350
22 - 26 Sept	Torquay - Derwent Hotel	£368
22 - 26 Sept	Whitby - Royal Hotel	£428
24 - 28 Sept	Criccieth - George IV Hotel	£376

TOURS (continued)

DATES	HOTEL	PRICE
24 - 28 Sept	Eastbourne - Queens Hotel	£408
28 Sept - 3 Oct	Tenby - Belgrave Hotel	£526
29 Sept - 3 Oct	Folkstone - Grand Burstin Hotel	£284
29 Sept - 3 Oct	Llandudno - Chatsworth Hotel	£370
29 Sept - 3 Oct	Skegness - Savoy Hotel	£395

EXCURSIONS / SHOWS

DATES	HOTEL	PRICE
Wed 3 Sept	NYMR - Pickering & Whitby	£39 Ad £30 Child
Wed 10 Sept	Princess Boat Cruise & Lunch	£46pp
Sun 21 Sept	Buckingham Palace	£70 Ad £57 Child
Sat 4 Oct	Coronation Street Tour	£55pp
Sun 30 Nov	Blenheim Palace & Trail	£94 Ad £74 Child
Wed 3 Dec	Princess Boat & Xmas Lunch	£50pp
Sat 13 Dec	Windsor Castle at Christmas	£65 Ad £51 Child
Sun 14 Dec	Chester Zoo & Lanterns	£53 Ad £46 Child
Sat 20 Dec	Disney on Ice	£65pp
Sat 17 Jan '26	Six 'The Musical'	£77pp
Sat 14 Feb '26	Barnum 'The Circus Musical'	£90pp
Sun 15 Feb '26	Birmingham Military Tattoo	£53pp
Sat 28 Mar '26	Fawlty Towers 'The Play'	£70pp
Sun 5 Apr '26	Matilda 'The Musical'	£107pp



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Academy continues to provide perfect stage

Advertiser's announcement

NESTLED in the heart of Barnsley, The Academy Theatre Birdwell stands as a testament to the enduring power of the arts in our community.

This intimate venue, cherished by locals and visitors alike, is more than just a theatre; it is a hub of creativity and expression that enriches the cultural fabric of our town.

For decades, The Academy Theatre has showcased a diverse array of performances, including gripping dramas, mesmerising musicals, lively comedy shows, and engaging community events.

With its welcoming atmosphere and commitment to high-quality productions, the theatre plays a crucial role in bringing the community together and fostering a shared appreciation for the performing arts.

One of the theatre's standout features is its dedication to nurturing local talent.

By providing a platform for aspiring actors, writers, and directors, The Academy Theatre encourages creativity and collaboration among residents.

Workshops and community productions not only hone skills but also empower individuals to express themselves and build lasting connections with others who share their passion for the arts.

The impact of The Academy Theatre extends beyond the stage – it serves as an educational resource, offering programs for schools and young people to engage with the arts in meaningful ways.

By introducing the next generation to theatrical experiences, the theatre inspires creativity and critical thinking, equipping young minds with valuable skills that transcend the arts.

In addition to its role in supporting local talent and education, the theatre has become a vital economic contributor to Barnsley.

By attracting visitors from surrounding towns and cities, it boosts local businesses, from restaurants to shops, and creates jobs, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable community.

The ripple effects of a thriving arts scene are felt throughout the town, making it an integral part of Barnsley's identity.



As we look to the future, The Academy Theatre Birdwell faces challenges, as many venues do, in adapting to changing audience expectations and the rise of digital entertainment.

However, its commitment to innovation and community engagement ensures that it will continue to be a relevant and beloved destination for years to come.

In celebrating The Academy Theatre Birdwell, we celebrate the spirit of Barnsley itself – a community that values creativity, supports the arts, and recognises the power of connection.

As audiences fill its seats and artists take to its stage, the theatre remains a beacon of cultural vitality, reminding us all of the importance of art in our lives.

Whether you're a lifelong patron or a first-time visitor, stepping inside The Academy Theatre is an invitation to experience the magic of performance and the shared joy that comes from storytelling.

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Ian sees no reason to declare just yet...

FOR over 50 years Ian Sampson has been making cricket bats – having gone from a teenage apprentice to crafting and repairing them in his own personal workshop.

A Friday afternoon interview in 1972 was the starting point – and 53 years on the job still feels more like a hobby than a profession.

He said: “I grew up facing a sports field across from the house where I grew up in Carlton, me and my siblings played and watched sports there, all I’ve ever done is be associated with sports.

“When I left school at 15, I had the interview at Slazenger, I saw the job offering and my mum came with me for support. We were surrounded by a lot of colliers, and I knew a lot of miners, I thought I’d follow them down but luckily I started at Slazenger the next Monday.

“These days making bats doesn’t feel like a job to me, sometimes my relatives come and watch me like it’s just a hobby.

“I get a lot of satisfaction by making them and seeing them used on the green.”

Ian’s starting point, the Slazenger factory in Horbury, was his working home for 20 years.

At that time, Slazenger’s factories stretched across Europe into Germany, manufacturing a range of sporting goods.

The Barnsley factory was one of the world’s main exporters of tennis balls, with them even being used at Wimbledon – and in 1992, Slazenger moved its cricket bat production to Barnsley as well.

Ian added: “We became an add on at Barnsley alongside the tennis production in 1992, the opening ceremony was conducted by Richie Richardson who once captained the West Indies.

“We used to get visits from some of the greats in the sport at the time – Alec Stewart, Mark Butcher, Mark Ramprakash... Dickie Bird even popped down a few times as well. The best used our bats as well, Viv Richards was one of the stand-outs at the time using Slazenger.

“No-one else competed with us, it makes me so proud to say I worked there.”

Despite the domination of Slazenger bats, production was moved to Asia from Europe in 2002, bringing generations of production in Europe to an end.

The closure of Barnsley’s factory was a big blow – for the town and for Ian.

“I was very disappointed to see it go, I’d worked there all my adult life.

“I thought it would be what I did forever, sadly that wasn’t the case.

“It was a big blow to the town as well, it was sad for a big community of people, I had lost some good work friends in ‘92 when I moved to Barnsley, and then we lost some again.

“Slazenger didn’t just close us down though, they shut down in Germany and the tennis ball production went abroad to Asia as well, a lot of it went to the Far East.”

Despite most bats being made overseas nowadays, Ian has remained one of the few independent crafters in Britain. After leaving Barnsley he set up his own workshop with a friend and work partner, which he still runs now in Wakefield.

Ian now works under the name Warrior Cricket Bats – with business being better than ever.

He added: “I set up the new workshop with an old Slazenger partner and it’s going excellent, I get a lot of newcomers and fortunately a lot of them are youngsters as well, I’ve made bats for their parents and grandparents to buy. I do a lot of repairs as well as making at the moment, I get repairs from all over, with people sending me their bats to fix.

“On a regular day I’d say I make two or three full bats, at one time I used to make more than I could sell, but it has definitely gone the other way now.”

Even though during his time at Slazenger, Ian brushed shoulders and helped make bats for professional stars, it is his younger clients that bring him enjoyment these days.

“I still get as much pleasure seeing a kid come in with their parents to get a bat. I’ll let them watch me make it and seeing their eyes light up is great.

“To then give it to them and see them using it on the village green is an amazing feeling.”

Aged 15, Ian Sampson expected to follow most of his family and friends down the pit but his love for sport and a little help from his mum landed him a job at Slazenger’s. **Jack Evans** finds out why he keeps batting on...






I felt completely fine. But I still had lung cancer.

Barnsley residents aged 55-74 who have ever smoked will be invited from autumn 2025 to have free Lung Cancer Screening.

Chances are you'll be ok and it'll give you peace of mind, but, if it is cancer, catching it early can make all the difference.

It did for me.

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The shop itself is located just behind a pub on Wakefield's Westgate, almost hidden away from the public.

The skill and style of Ian and his workshop has led to customers visiting from all over the British Isles.

Many people also ask to try their own hand at making bats in his workshop – but he insists it's a skill that takes years to master.

He said: "I get quite a few lads who want to make one as part of a hobby, but when they get here and see how much work takes place, they realise how hard it actually is."

"It's so easy to make a mess when doing it handheld, a lot of bats get mass produced nowadays and use a different process."

"It's not an easy skill to pick up either, and the price of the raw materials means that you can't make any mistakes along the way."

"I use the top willow in the UK to make my bats, from the world's biggest suppliers."

"I've been able to keep a good relationship with Slazenger and the family who runs their factory as well."

"It's a good working relationship."

It's not only cricket that's occupied Ian's love for sport though – he has quite the history in Rugby League as well.

He added: "I used to play rugby league back in the day, when I worked for Slazenger."

"I got a chance at coaching Great Britain's under-18 side at one point, we went on a tour of Australia and it was a great experience."

"All I seem to have done is be associated with sport."

Despite being at the age where most would be planning on retirement, Ian shows no sign of giving up his profession just yet – good news for cricket club batsmen up and down the country.

"I thought I'd work at Slazenger forever and obviously that wasn't able to work out."

"I plan to keep going as long as I can for now though."



MASTER CRAFTSMAN: Ian Sampson with two young customers from Elsecar Cricket Club and doing a repair in his workshop.



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Oliver has a big goal in mind...

A ROYSTON teenager is hoping to travel to Borneo on a volunteering trip in 2027 – and he’s currently fundraising to make his dreams come true.

Oliver Riseborough, 14, has the opportunity to go to the Asian island as part of a trip with Camps International, where he will help with community and environmental projects.

He said: “I think the trip is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I might never get the chance to do it again as well.

“It will give me a taste of my dream job as well, which is to travel the world.”

However, the high costs of going to Borneo has led to Oliver setting up a fundraising page to help fund his trip.

Oliver has planned a variety of other activities to help him reach his goal, including local gardening work, organising a stall to sell crafts at the Royston Gala, and a 6km Total Warrior challenge next year with family and friends.

He also volunteers regularly with the Salvation Army, something he has done since the age of ten.

He added: “I’ve done a lot of gardening and helping with free school lunch campaigns as well, it certainly felt like a very new experience being able to give back to the elderly.”

Oliver hopes that his fundraising efforts, alongside his skills from volunteering, will help him not only reach Borneo, but make a difference there as well.

He hopes that the fundraising will help with his resilience, independence and problem-solving skills.

He added: “The budgeting will be a huge life skill to learn, it should help with my time management as well.

“I’ll hopefully be doing a lot of physical work as well whilst I’m in Borneo, we will be building schools and staying in the jungle.”



Dearne arts festival is back

THERE is another date for your diaries in September with the return of the Dearne Community Arts festival.

The event at Astrea Academy Dearne in Goldthorpe is scheduled for September 27 between 11am and 4pm.

It’s going to be a packed day of performances with the Greentop Circus on at 11.15am.

Later on Alejandro Barnett will be showcasing the harp and there will be performances by Barnsley Youth Choir East and pupils from the school as well as Clayton School of Dance.

There will also be a host of stalls, workshops and refreshments.

Below: pictures from last year’s event.



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Afternoon Tea in aid of Weston Park Cancer Charity

Monday 25th August 1.00-4.00pm

Afternoon tea £20.00 per person
(£8.00 per person + all raffle money donated to charity)

Don't fancy Afternoon Tea?

Why not come along and join us for the games, quiz & Raffle, and browse the Craft Stalls selling a variety of goods (Free Entry). Other Refreshments will be available on the day.

Then also any afternoon teas in
August – 1st – 31st 12.00-5.00
£20.00 per person with £8.00 being donated to the Charity.



Soul & Motown Sunday Lunch Sunday 14th September 2025

12.30-4.00pm

2 Course lunch followed by
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Christmas 2025

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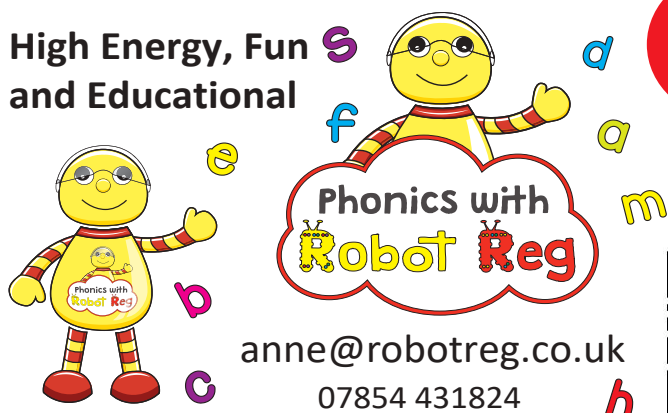
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A-LIVE AND KICKING: Barnsley Live festival brought in the crowds earlier in the summer. Here's a range of pictures from the live music event which took place across numerous venues in the town centre.



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Lake brings in guests

THERE'S always something on offer at Manvers Lake and locals recently had the chance to take part in the run-up to this summer.

Hundreds of people were welcomed to Manvers Waterfront Boat Club (MWBC) as the group hosted its open day.

Nearly 200 people took to the water to enjoy paddlesports, trying out stand-up paddleboards and kayaks, and getting a taste of the club's thriving paddlesport community.

The lake was a hive of activity throughout the day as people of all ages explored what MWBC has to offer.

The dragon boat section took groups out on the hour every hour, with over 50 people giving dragon boating a go – an incredible turnout that kept volunteers on their toes.

Meanwhile, the angling section held an open match, with James Wood taking first place with 23lb off three bream, and Ryan Lea impressing with a 6.9lb tench.

The club's photographers ran an engaging slideshow in the clubhouse, and other sections set up displays and demonstrations to inspire potential new members.

Another highlight was the return of the sailing section, which is now up and running once more.

After a while without anyone to run it, leaders say they're delighted to have a new section leader bringing this activity to life again.

Mark Benton, club chair, expressed his pride in the club's volunteers and members.

He said: "It was good to see so many visitors attend the open day. The pride and passion from the volunteers showcasing the club was truly humbling."

"I spoke to many visitors about our ethos and values, and I'm sure a lot will join."

"I'm really proud to be chair of MWBC on days like this."

"Massive thanks to all the volunteers that gave up their time to help out."

The open water swimming (OWS) section was also buzzing with activity.

Buddy dippers, including John Nolan, supported newcomers in the water.

He said: "I loved encouraging others to experience the benefits of open water swimming."

"The lake was buzzing with people from young children to mature swimmers, all looking for more adventure in their lives."

"Congratulations to all the volunteers who organised such a successful day."



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ROMANCE BOOK CLUB

By the time you read this our new Romance & Romantasy book club will have begun! Every two weeks, after work on Wednesday, an open club with time to meet and talk. Reading groups are planned for those interested.

We will have more events through the year, including a children's book club coming very soon. Follow us on social media or ask in store to find out more!

We are at 7 Market Street, Barnsley. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @TheBookVault07, on Bluesky, call 01226 281945 or speak to us in store.

Green Fest gave locals a chance to show off creativity

THIS summer saw the start of what is hoped to be a new yearly event – Green Fest.

The village event, which took place at Green Moor Cricket Club, was the first of its kind, and included live entertainment, local business stalls, food vendors and much more.

Popular local groups such as Penistone Women's Institute and Men in Sheds also appeared on the day, which attracted plenty of local people.

Members of the Hunshelf Events and Activities Team organised the festival, and one member, Claire Derrick, thought the event was a real success for the village.

She said: "We needed something like a fair for people to come together, so we found it was a case of booking appropriate acts to get people to come."



"We had some of the usual suspects in the area, and our local cricket team and young farmers were introduced as well."

"Fortunately the majority of who were invited came along and were brilliant."

"The event really gave us a chance to find out what was best and what didn't work so well."

Hunshelf's children also enjoyed the event – partly down to the 'small but successful' scarecrow trail in the village that took place in the week leading up to Green Fest.

The variety of games and stalls at the event were also a hit for them – and Claire is hoping that the festival will have even more next year.

She added: "There were lots of games and music enjoyed by the people that came, and they've asked if we can get even more for next year."



"We had a local pizza stall who said they definitely want to come back next year as they received a lot of positive reviews."

"We even had an ex detective who handles bees come to the event, he brought honey and hives for people to see as well."

There were only a few absentees at the event, including a burger van to provide food – but Penistone's young farmers helped jump in to save the day.

Claire added: "The burger van we invited couldn't come because of illness, but luckily we managed to get around that with the help



of the young farmers.

"They went to Crawshaw's Butchers and bought some food to cook, and saved the day by doing a barbecue for us."

The young farmers were also present to celebrate their recent tug of war achievements, having qualified for the National Young Farmer finals.

Planning has already started for next year's event – and Claire has teased some of the new attractions that could be coming to the second Green Fest.

She added: "We want more stalls and services next year, the team have drawn up a list ready for it."

"We're hoping for girl guides, a tractor show and more places to buy a drink as well, because there was a quite a queue at the club for one."

"That's mainly because we had far more people than we expected."

"But touch wood, we will be back, we've been really encouraged to try and go for it."

"Our intention is to keep the event going if it is popular, and if it goes well we will do it year on year."

The date has been set for next year's Green Fest – with it set to return on Sunday June 28.

There is still an opportunity to grab some late summer sun

THINK you might have left it too late to soak up some sun?

Well there's still time to get on a late getaway and the sun shines right through to September in some parts of Europe.

Here's our guide on where to go.

The Greek Islands: Greece consistently ranks high for late summer sun, and its myriad islands offer something for everyone. Crete, the largest island, maintains warm temperatures well into September (average highs around 27°C) and boasts a diverse landscape from stunning beaches like Elafonissi (known for its pink sand) and Balos Lagoon, to ancient Minoan ruins like Knossos Palace. Santorini and Mykonos remain popular choices, offering iconic white-washed villages, breathtaking sunsets, and lively atmospheres, but with fewer throngs than in peak season. The sea is still beautifully warm for swimming and water sports.

The Algarve, Portugal: Portugal's southern coast is renowned for its golden beaches, dramatic cliffs, and charming fishing villages. In September, the Algarve still enjoys warm, sunny days (around 20-25°C) and less rainfall than later in the year.

The summer crowds have dissipated, allowing for more serene enjoyment of its picturesque coastline, surfing spots, and world-class golf courses. Explore hidden coves, take a boat trip to the Benagil Sea Cave, or simply relax on Praia da Marinha.

Southern Spain (Andalusia & Balearics): Spain's southern regions are consistently warm in September. The Costa del Sol, with

its popular resorts like Marbella and Malaga, offers plenty of sunshine and vibrant nightlife that continues into the autumn.

The average temperatures hover around 27°C. For island charm, the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Ibiza, Menorca) are fantastic.

While Ibiza is famed for its nightlife, in September, its quieter, northern coves and stunning beaches become more appealing, with temperatures around 24°C. Mallorca, the largest of the Balearics, also offers a delightful mix of beautiful coastline and charming inland villages, perfect for hiking or cycling in milder conditions.

Malta: This small archipelago in the heart of the Mediterranean is a fantastic choice for late summer warmth. Malta enjoys average

September temperatures around 25°C and boasts a rich history, stunning architecture, and crystal-clear waters.

Explore the UNESCO-listed capital of Valletta, take a boat trip to the famous Blue Lagoon off Comino island for unparalleled swimming, or wander through the ancient city of Mdina. The mild temperatures are perfect for exploring its many historical sites on foot.

Sicily, Italy: The largest island in the Mediterranean, Sicily offers a captivating blend of ancient history, stunning coastlines, and delicious cuisine. September brings pleasant weather, with average temperatures around 27°C, making it ideal for exploring archaeological sites like the Valley of the Temples, hiking Mount Etna, or simply relaxing

on its beautiful beaches. The crowds are significantly reduced, allowing for a more authentic experience.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly: These south-western gems are arguably the top contenders for extending your summer. Cornwall, with its dramatic coastline, golden beaches, and thriving surf culture, benefits from the Gulf Stream, resulting in a milder microclimate.

Porthcurno and Kynance Cove are often cited as some of the warmest beaches even into autumn.

You can still enjoy coastal walks along the South West Coast Path, explore charming fishing villages like St Ives and Padstow, and even catch an open-air performance at the spectacular Minack Theatre.

Just off the coast of Cornwall lie the Isles of Scilly, a truly unique archipelago that feels a world away from mainland Britain.

With their subtropical gardens, white sand beaches, and incredibly clear waters, these islands often experience even warmer temperatures than the Cornish mainland, making them ideal for a late-season escape. Think tranquil strolls, boat trips between islands, and spotting exotic flora.

September offers the best of both worlds.

There is reliable sunshine without the intense heat or the peak summer crowds, often accompanied by better value. Whether you're seeking a beach escape, cultural exploration, or active outdoor pursuits, these destinations provide the perfect setting for a memorable late summer holiday.



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Day Trips

Date	Trip	Adult	Sen/Ch
AUGUST 2025			
Mon 4th	Blackpool	£17.00	£16.00
Tues 5th	Manchester Concord & Afternoon Lunch ♦	£49.95*	£48.95*
Tues 5th	Bridlington	£17.00	£18.00
Wed 6th	Beamish Museum (Summer Fun)	£20.00	£19.00
Wed 6th	Durham	£20.00	£19.00
Fri 8th	Blackpool	£17.00	£16.00
Sat 9th	Blackpool Airshow	£19.00	£18.00
Sat 9th	Whitby Regatta	£19.00	£18.00
Sun 10th	Whitby Regatta	£19.00	£18.00
Mon 11th	Blackpool Hot Ice Show	£37.00*	£36.00*
Mon 11th	Blackpool	£19.00	£18.00
Tues 12th	Twycross Zoo ♦	£34.00*	£33.00*
Tues 12th	Cleethorpes	£17.00	£16.00
Wed 13th	Bridlington	£17.00	£16.00
Wed 13th	Skegness	£19.00	£18.00
Thurs 14th	Alnwick & Bamburgh	£21.00	£20.00
Thurs 14th	York	£17.00	£16.00
Thurs 14th	Eden Camp	£17.00	£16.00
Fri 15th	Southport Flower Show	£45.00*	£44.00*
Fri 15th	Southport	£17.00	£16.00
Sat 16th	Lytham 1940's Weekend	£19.00	£18.00
Sat 16th	Whitby	£17.00	£16.00
Sun 17th	Morecambe	£17.00	£16.00
Sun 17th	Blue Planet Aquarium & Cheshire Oaks ♦	£39.00*	£38.00* Child £35.00*
Sun 17th	Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet	£17.00	£16.00
Mon 18th	Heights of Abraham & Matlock ♦	£36.00*	£35.00* Child £30.00*
Mon 18th	Blackpool	£17.00	£16.00
Tues 19th	Skegness	£19.00	£18.00
Tues 19th	Cadbury World ♦	£45.00*	£44.00*
Wed 20th	Scarborough	£17.00	£16.00
Wed 20th	Bury Market	£17.00	£16.00
Thurs 21st	Whitby, Redcar & Saltburn	£19.00	£18.00
Thurs 21st	York Races	£19.00	£18.00
Fri 22nd	Drayton Manor Theme Park ♦	£44.00*	£43.00* Child £32.00*
Fri 22nd	Blackpool	£17.00	£16.00

Date	Trip	Adult	Sen/Ch
Sat 23rd	West Midlands Safari Park	£40.00*	£39.00*
Sat 23rd	Stratford-upon-Avon	£21.00	£20.00
Sat 23rd	Bridlington	£17.00	£16.00
Sun 24th	Knowsley Safari Park	£29.00*	£28.00*
Sun 24th	Mablethorpe	£17.00	£16.00
Mon 25th	Blackpool - Bank Holiday	£19.00	£18.00
Tues 26th	Alton Towers	£20.00	£19.00
Tues 26th	Scarborough	£17.00	£16.00
Wed 27th	Skegness	£19.00	£18.00
Thurs 28th	Trentham Gardens & Monkey Forest ♦	£40.00*	£39.00*
Thurs 28th	Carlisle ♦	£25.00	£24.00
Fri 29th	Whitby Pirate Festival	£19.00	£18.00
Sat 30th	Southport Airshow	£20.00	£19.00
Sat 30th	Chatsworth Country Fair ♦	£17.00	£16.00
Sun 31st	St. Anne's Kite Festival	£17.00	£16.00
SEPTEMBER 2025			
Mon 1st	Bakewell Market (Early Return)	£17.00	£16.00
Tues 2nd	Lichfield & National Memorial Arboretum ♦	£19.00	£18.00
Wed 3rd	Kendal & Windermere Cruise ♦	£33.00*	£32.00*
Fri 5th	Whitby via Goathland	£18.00	£17.00
Sat 6th	Beamish Museum	£20.00	£19.00
Sat 6th	Durham	£20.00	£19.00
Sun 7th	National Space Centre ♦	£39.00*	£38.00*
Tues 9th	Fleetwood Market & Cleveleys	£17.00	£16.00
Wed 10th	Bury Market	£17.00	£16.00
Fri 12th	Richmond, Hawes & Leyburn	£19.00	£18.00
Sat 13th	Liverpool	£17.00	£16.00
Sat 13th	Scarborough	£17.00	£16.00
Sun 14th	Whitby Bay & Tynemouth	£21.00	£20.00
Mon 15th	Beaumaris & Anglesey	£19.00	£18.00
Wed 17th	Northallerton Market & Barnard Castle Town	£18.00	£17.00
Fri 19th	Newby Hall & Gardens Flower Show ♦	£39.00*	£38.00*
Sat 20th	Grassington 1940's Weekend ♦	£19.00	£18.00
Sun 21st	Tropical Butterfly House ♦	£33.00*	£32.00*
Fri 26th	Robin Hoods Bay & Whitby	£18.00	£17.00

* Includes Admission ♦ Barnsley Interchange only



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WATH-UPON-DEARNE – Bus stop on Church Street • **BRAMPTON** – Outside The Bulls Head
WOMBWELL – Summer Lane car park • **PLATTS COMMON** – Sammys (former WMC)
HOYLAND SOUTHGATE – Bus stop / behind town hall • **HOYLAND COMMON** – Opposite the Co-op
BIRDWELL – Working Mens Club • **WORSBOROUGH** – Ship Inn Vernon Road
BARNSELY INTERCHANGE – Stand 23 / 24 (See ♦ key below)

Holidays & Short Breaks 2025

Date	Tour	Days	Price
AUGUST 2025			
2nd - 3rd	ABBA Voyage	2	£209.00
3rd - 4th	Black Country Living Museum	2	£179.00
3rd - 9th	Fort William	7	£659.00
4th - 8th	St. Mawes, Cornwall	5	£659.00
4th - 8th	Isle of Wight	5	£659.00
7th - 11th	Isle of Man	5	£689.00
10th - 12th	Liverpool	3	£169.00
10th - 15th	Bournemouth & Dorset	6	£529.00
15th - 18th	Edinburgh Tattoo	4	£429.00
17th - 18th	Lake District	2	£159.00
23rd - 27th	Weston-super-Mare	5	£419.00
25th - 29th	Weymouth	5	£489.00
31st - 4th Sept	Southport	5	£379.00
SEPTEMBER 2025			
1st - 5th	Blackpool	5	£469.00
4th - 8th	Newquay	5	£499.00
8th - 12th	Llandudno	5	£369.00
10th - 14th	Eastbourne	5	£479.00
15th - 19th	Torquay	5	£419.00
15th - 19th	Basingstoke	5	£399.00
19th - 22nd	Bromsgrove	4	£349.00
20th - 21st	ABBA Voyage	2	£209.00
22nd - 26th	Luxury Scottish Borders	5	£659.00
22nd - 26th	Great Yarmouth	5	£439.00
27th - 1st Oct	Dunoon & Trossachs	5	£379.00
29th - 3rd Oct	Lake District Autumn Colours	5	£469.00
29th - 3rd Oct	Southend & Essex Coastlines	5	£499.00
OCTOBER 2025			
3rd - 6th	Whitby	4	£299.00
5th - 11th	Cromer	7	£519.00
5th - 6th	Liverpool	2	£99.00
6th - 10th	Suffolk Autumn Colours	5	£599.00
11th - 15th	Fort William	5	£359.00
12th - 14th	Buxton	3	£209.00
13 - 17th	Perthshire	5	£379.00

Date	Tour	Days	Price
17th - 20th	St. Anne's & Blackpool Illuminations	5	£379.00
20th - 24th	Skegness	4	£299.00
20th - 24th	Folkstone	5	£419.00
24th - 27th	Llandudno	4	£299.00
27th - 31st	Perthshire Autumn Gold & The Enchanted Forest	5	£519.00
29th - 30th	Blackpool Illuminations	2	£109.00
31st - 2nd Nov	Bridlington	3	£249.00
NOVEMBER 2025			
1st - 2nd	London	2	£149.00
2nd - 3rd	Blackpool Illuminations	2	£99.00
3rd - 7th	Porthcawl Turkey & Tinsel	5	£389.00
3rd - 7th	Sidmouth Festive Getaway Turkey & Tinsel	5	£599.00
7th - 9th	Southport	3	£179.00
10th - 14th	Llandudno Turkey & Tinsel	5	£399.00
10th - 14th	Longleat Festival of Light	5	£499.00
10th - 14th	Blackpool Turkey & Tinsel	5	£499.00
14th - 17th	Llandudno Turkey & Tinsel	4	£319.00
23rd - 24th	The Coronation Street Tour	2	£169.00
24th - 28th	Scarborough	5	£359.00
24th - 28th	Sand Bay Holiday Village	5	£319.00
27th - 28th	Thursford Christmas Spectacular	2	£259.00
30th - 1st Dec	Liverpool	2	£109.00
DECEMBER 2025			
1st - 5th	Torquay Turkey & Tinsel	5	£349.00
1st - 5th	Southport Turkey & Tinsel	5	£329.00
7th - 9th	Thursford Christmas Shopper	3	£369.00
7th - 8th	Birmingham Christmas Shopper	2	£129.00
8th - 12th	Bournemouth & Dorset	5	£349.00
15th - 19th	Blackpool Turkey & Tinsel	5	£389.00
14th - 15th	London	2	£179.00
22nd - 27th	Torquay Christmas on the English Riviera	6	£669.00
23rd - 27th	Scarborough Christmas on the Yorkshire Coast	5	£499.00



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LEARNING DAYS:
Alex Oldale is
pictured at both
Tankersley St
Peter's and The
Ellis schools.



Alex stayed cool over the summer with school visits

PROFESSIONAL ice hockey player Alex Oldale has been using the summer months to try to inspire the next generation of players and fans of the sport.

Alex is originally from Hoyland but made the grade at Manchester Storm in England's top-flight as a goaltender.

But he moved back home over the summer months to sign a two-way contract with the Sheffield Steelers and their affiliate club the Steeldogs.

Alex, 20, wanted to do some work within his local community over the summer and has called in at a number of local schools to show off his kit and do some training drills with the pupils.

Nicola Cook from The Ellis School in Hemingfield was pleased to welcome him.

She said: "We've recently hosted a careers day in our school and it was great to see another good example of a local lad starting out on an exciting new career."

"Alex talked to the children about the hard work it had

taken to get to where he is and how you have to be resilient when faced with failing at times.

"The children were really engaged and loved seeing and trying on the different pieces of equipment that he has to wear.

"We're hoping Alex will come back soon to take part in a skills session with the children."

Michaela Crossley from Tankersley St Peter's added: "It was fantastic to have Alex giving up so much time to visit our school. He spent time visiting classrooms and talking to the children about his kit, and experience and allowing them to try it on and ask questions.

"He was also willing to coach a hockey session which was fantastic.

"Alex spent time dribbling and passing with every player, teaching them tricks, and even allowing them to score past him.

"We had a brilliant morning and hope to welcome Alex back in the future."



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Angie Hardwick.



Something for everyone this summer...

THERE are a host of events taking place across the town this summer and they promise to keep all the family entertained throughout the holidays.

Here is a quick guide to some of the highlights

Wentworth Castle: Summer of Play

Date: July 23 – August 31

The gardens of Wentworth Castle are the perfect setting for the smaller members of the family to enjoy their summer holidays. The activities include a fairy-tale castle, secret gardens and a messy garden play space. Spaces are free and gardens are open from 10am-6pm every day of the holidays.

Worsbrough Mill: Open Studio Sessions with Angie Hardwick

Date: August 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22

This pop-in session as part of the WorsbroughMill400 celebrations allows people to meet ceramic artist Angie Hardwick at one of her studio sessions. They can view her final piece, ask for ceramic tips and also have a go at making their own with clay.

Worsbrough Bridge: Wild at Worsbrough

Date: August 7

Wild at Worsbrough is a family-friendly craft session in the Learning Hut beside Worsbrough Mill. Its hands-on activities are suitable for children of all ages, and there are plenty of crafts for everyone. It's also a free drop-in session, with no booking required.

Barnsley Lamproom: One Night Stand With Musicals

Date: August 7-9

After a successful run in 2024, Lee Semley Theatre Productions are back by popular demand, with another hit show featuring songs from the stage and screen. Expect to hear songs from Moulin Rouge, Hairspray, The Lion King, and many more. Tickets are available from barnsleylamproom.ticketsolve.com.

26 SUMMER LIVING



Emily-Mae Walker.

able from barnsleylamproom.ticketsolve.com.

Bark House Lane, Cawthorne: Make Your Family

Date: August 8

Make Your Family is a clay workshop that allows participants of any age to mould clay sculptures of family, friends and even pets. No prior experience is needed for the workshop, as friendly instructors will be on hand to help out and teach. Admission is free.

The Academy Theatre: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Date: August 9-17

This new production of the classic fairytale features endearing characters, catchy songs and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. With plenty of singalong moments as well, it's the perfect summer holidays activity for young children. Tickets cost £10, and family tickets can be bought at the box office.

Barnsley Civic: An Audience with Emily-Mae Walker

Date: August 10

Barnsley-born star Emily will talk about her journey from Darton High School to starring in a West End production of Hamilton, in front of a live audience. Dan Winder, Barnsley Civic CEO, and Young Civilian festival programmers will be on hand to ask the questions on the day. Tickets start from £5.

Barnsley Civic: Summer School: Play in a Week

Date: August 18-23

Join Barnsley Youth Theatre, for a fantastic class targeted at children aged 13-18. Over the course of the week, participants can develop a range of skills in physical theatre, exploring how to use movement, energy and creativity to produce powerful performances. Ensemble theatre piece 'Maleable' will be on

hand as well to show how our environment shapes identity and perception. The week-long workshop ends with a dress rehearsal and performance at the Civic on Saturday August 23.

Elsecar Heritage Centre: Young Inventors

Date: August 20

Children are invited to 'step into the world of invention' this summer, with the chance to design their own wild machines with the help of Elsecar's helpful facilitators. This session will allow kids to use a mix of everyday materials to fuel their creativity and build a range of contraptions. Admission is free, with multiple classes running throughout the day.

Barnsley Town Hall: Experience Barnsley Sports Day

Date: August 22

Join the team at the Experience Barnsley Museum for a day of classic sporting fun, with a chance to learn about and play sports games from years gone by. This event is suitable for families and children of any age.

Barnsley Lamproom: Whole Lotta Shakin' – The Shakin' Stevens Story

Date: August 29

Fully endorsed by Shaky's own family, this tribute night to the UK's biggest-selling single artist of the 1980s is a nostalgic celebration, full of feel-good rock 'n' roll. West End star Rebel Dean stars again in this highly popular show.

Glass Works: Family Hub Summer Event

Date: August 30

This event promises family fun and entertainment from 10am-4pm, with a variety of activities and performers. There will also be a chance for families to meet with professionals from local support services, who will be on hand to give guidance and advice.

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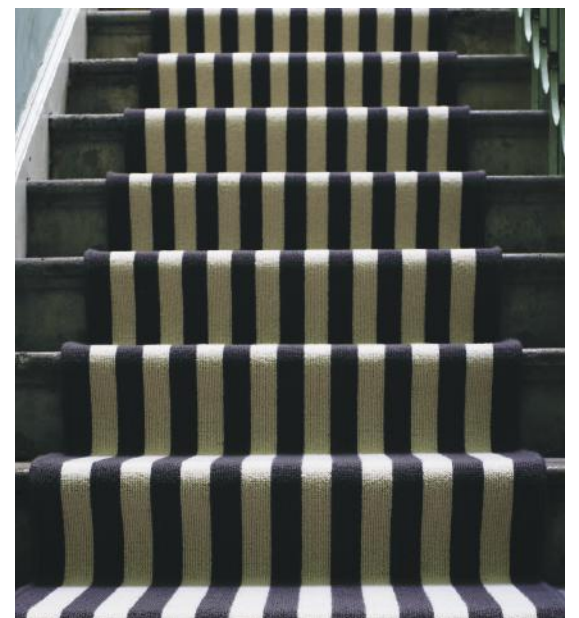
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How to prepare for future droughts...

DROUGHTS are becoming an unfortunate reality for gardeners.

While we all hope for an end to the dry spells, adapting our practices is crucial for the survival and thriving of our beloved plants. Here are some essential tips to help you navigate a drought and keep your garden vibrant.

Water Wisely, Not Wastefully

The most critical aspect of drought gardening is efficient water use.

Ditch the sprinkler – it's incredibly wasteful due to evaporation. Instead, focus on targeted, deep watering.

Use a watering can or a hose with a trigger nozzle to deliver water directly to the base of plants.

Water in the early morning or late evening to minimise evaporation.

Prioritise established, thirsty plants and young seedlings; mature, drought-tolerant plants will cope better with less. Consider using greywater from your bath or washing-up bowl (ensure it's free of harsh chemicals) for non-edible plants.

Improve Your Soil's Water Retention

Healthy soil is your greatest ally in a drought. Amend your beds with plenty of organic matter like compost or well-rotted manure.

This improves soil structure, allowing it to hold onto water more effectively and release it slowly to plant roots.

A good, loamy soil acts like a sponge, whereas sandy soil drains too quickly and clay soil can become compacted and impermeable when dry.

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch!

This simple practice is a game-changer. Apply

a thick layer (at least 5-10cm) of organic mulch – such as wood chips, bark, straw, or compost – around your plants.

Mulch acts as an insulator, reducing water evaporation from the soil surface by up to 70 per cent.

It also suppresses weeds, which compete with your plants for precious water.

Choose Drought-Tolerant Plants

Prevention is always better than cure. If you're planning new additions to your garden, select plants known for their drought resistance.

Many Mediterranean plants like lavender, rosemary, sedums, and euphorbias thrive in dry conditions once established. Native British wildflowers are also excellent choices, as they are naturally adapted to our climate's variations.

Look for plants with silver, hairy, or small leaves, as these are often indicators of drought tolerance.

Harvest Rainwater

Start collecting rainwater now if you haven't already.

A water butt attached to a downpipe can provide a significant supply of water, free from the chemicals found in tap water, which your plants will appreciate.

Even a simple bucket placed under a dripping tap or eave can collect valuable water.

By implementing these strategies, you can significantly increase your garden's resilience to drought, ensuring it remains a place of beauty and productivity even when the heavens aren't as generous.



Here's our story of how we came to be...

I set the business up from scratch in June 2015 - never been in the flooring industry before this time. My husband is a floor fitter.

I opened the shop with a 2 week old baby - the baby came to work with me full time for a year or so as I was exclusively breastfeeding, among with a new puppy. I was also studying for my management degree.

My husband at the time was contracting and self employed so for the first seven years of the venture The Floor Barn was my baby!

I was based at Harborough Hills for 7 years, the store not much bigger than my office now but managed to build the customer base, source reputable suppliers etc to the point I had people queuing out of the door to get int the store literally.

I moved premised 3 years ago to Worsbrough and business is growing steadily. This year is my 10th year in Business and The Floor Barn Ltd now is Trade Marked.

The main focus of the business is to offer customers a unique retail experience, a home from home shopping experience, no sales pressure, just good honest guidance.

All our fitters work directly for the store we don't subcontract out. Thus ensures continuity of high service level, excellent fitting service and 5 star reviews.

We have our own Quickstep Master Fitter and fitters that have worked in the industry for many years who are highly skilled in bespoke fitting. We offer additional services inhouse such as uplift and dispose, moving of furniture, supply and fit of new skirting boards, or taking off old and refitting, kick plinth trims and door trims.

We have direct accounts and work in partnership with Karndean, Quickstep, Associated Weavers, Penthouse, Axminster, Ulsters, Mastercraft Rugs, Ted Todd, Hugh Mackay, Abingdons



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Review by Josh Timlin

My time at the wheel of a Tesla was cherished

I TEND to shy away from manufacturers' ingratiating press releases when they land in my inbox.

There's seemingly an award for everything these days, whether it's safety-related or to do with customers' satisfaction but, on the whole, the gushing praise means my brain switches off after about five seconds. They're always so biased but one was emailed to me earlier this year which made me read further, and it was to do with the Tesla Model Y.

Global sales in 2023 reached a staggering 1.22 million, becoming the first EV to reach best-seller status. Impressive, no doubt, but I've formed many opinions about Tesla and the people who buy them over the years in which they've taken over our roads.

They're ten-a-penny as those outrageous sales statistics suggest, but why? They're cold, geeky, dull and

bought by people who pay for their poncey, overpriced coffees with their Apple Watch, no? They're fast, no doubt, but they're about as exciting as a fridge-freezer, right?

Yet, when one arrived for a week-long test, I strangely felt slightly excited. Despite petrol most definitely flowing through my veins from a very young age, I was oddly intrigued about the Model Y, which is basically a jacked-up Model 3. Its design is minimalistic and yes, it's 'just another Tesla' – you'll no doubt see 15 of them on your commute – but I didn't mind it up close.

Getting inside it isn't as easy as you'd think. You're given a key card – which is the exact same size as a debit card and a bugger for getting lost – and you hold that against the B-pillar to gain entry.





When you finally find its sweet spot, the mirrors pop out and it's unlocked; open the frameless doors and that minimalistic theme continues inside.

It's light and airy – helped massively by its brilliant, roof-long panoramic sunroof – and there's lots of space. Settle into its driver's seat and you've got a nice, chunky steering wheel, a drive selector to the right and a huge, iPad-style infotainment system which houses everything. I mean everything, too, as there's no buttons on the dash.

Thankfully, that screen is large, concise and very simple to use. Sure, given it controls all of the Model Y's features – even its mirrors' positioning and the headlights – you're advised to spend a bit of time cycling through its menus, but I found it to be intuitive and far from a chore. Handily, if you're not the most tech-savvy, there's a search bar that, when

selected, brings up a keypad so you can type out things such as 'lights' or whatever you need to find.

Move the selector into 'D' and away it goes: it's remarkably supple, it's well-damped and its steering is quite nice. Who'd have thought it, eh? I don't quite know what I was expecting, really, but everything feels perfectly admissible. The regenerative braking is a pain at first and is seemingly impossible to switch off but even that, after time, is something you learn to meter out.

There's a decent amount of body roll through the corners but it's its remarkable turn in that's quite a shocking thing to behold – I was expecting a cold, dull appliance, not something that can entertain someone as fussy as I am. The thing handles well, and not just in an average way.

There's 384bhp at your disposal but, as is

the way with EVs, that feels much punchier because it's delivered in one big hit – there's no lag and that power's there within a millisecond of moving your right foot downwards. It's good enough for a 4.8-second dash to 60mph in this non-Performance spec.

Tesla's been way ahead of its competitors in the charging stakes and it was interesting to see that first-hand; the firm's 'Supercharger' network is beyond easy to use and the Tesla app has everything you'd ever need to know about them, from locations to how busy they are at any time of the day.

They're by far the fastest open-to-all charge points I've used, but the claims of going from next to no miles to 80 per cent in half an hour appear to have been plucked from the sky. I've no doubt that it's possible, but there are so many variables to the claim: you'll need the other charging points to be vacant,

especially, and if they're not, you'll more likely go from a handful of miles to 80 per cent in about an hour.

A range of 373 miles is claimed, but realistically you're looking at 300 with mixed driving, especially in a sub-zero cold snap.

So, all in all, the Model Y – and my first experience of a Tesla – was a pleasant surprise.

It looks good, its interior is great, it's fast, it's more entertaining than I ever envisaged it would be and Mr Musk's firm's cracked charging.

Sure, there are niggles: the key card is sometimes lackadaisical and you're perplexed how a car this technologically advanced can't remember that you do not want lane-keeping assist (at all, ever, no thank you) but that – truly – is it. I'll hold my hands up; I was wrong about Tesla.



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