

The Great Indoors

Our homes are in the spotlight as never before — here are some of the things we've been loving and loathing



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OBENCEM/GETTI IMAGES

LOATHE...

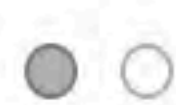
A century after David Lloyd George promised homes for heroes for returning soldiers, it's time to revive the scheme for the new frontline troops: nurses. Nurses in London typically spend 87% of their average net salary on rent, according to Ome, a rental deposit replacement scheme. The least affordable place to

work is the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, in St John's Wood, where the average rent is £3,150 a month — 144% of an average London nurse's salary (£2,187), requiring a deposit of £3,938.

It's just as bad outside the capital — around the Royal Surrey County Hospital, in Guildford, the average rent is £2,037 a month — 105% of the

average nurse's salary in the southeast. Rent accounts for 92.1% of a typical nurse's income near the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham; 91.1% around the Nuffield Health Cambridge Hospital; and 88.1% near St Margaret's Hospital, Essex.

Buying is just as unrealistic. At a hospital in Marylebone, London, where the average



house price is £2.4m, the price-to-income ratio for nurses (salary £26,244) is 91.5. Lenders advise a 4.5 ratio for first-time buyers. The ratio at St Margaret's, Essex, is 32.4 — still well above the affordability threshold lenders recommend. These heroes deserve some help.

LEARN...

Dulux's creative director, Marianne Shillingford is sharing her bright ideas for using up pots of paint on projects around the house online. Over the next few weeks she will be inviting us over to hers for a series of Instagram video classes via [@duluxuk](#). It's probably worth dropping by just to have a quick look at her flawlessly decorated home.

The #MicroMakeovers Shillingford has covered so far in the series include mixing paints, a guide to colour-blocking and how to create a perfect rainbow using a kitchen scourer. You won't need any specialist equipment in order to paint along, and even if you don't join in, the mini craft projects make for a soothing watch.

LOVE...

The majority of Britons feel their communities have come together in the pandemic, according to a survey by the crowdfunding app WhatWeWant. More than half (53%) of the 2,000 people surveyed felt their local communities had become



Learn how to use up pots of paint on projects around the house with Marianne Shillingford
MICHAEL LECKIE

closer during lockdown.

Of those who took part, 41% have delivered food for a friend, family member or neighbour, 27% have sent gifts and 26% have donated to charities. Yet 39% have felt isolated and upset because of the lockdown. Yiannis Faf, chief executive of WhatWeWant, says: "We are living through one of the darkest periods in modern history, but the adversity we are facing is bringing out the best in many people."

LIVE...

We just can't get enough of Pinterest, the scrapbooking platform that allows its 335 million users to search, save and send ideas by "pinning" them on boards. The site has seen usage and engagement hit global all-time highs over the past three weeks, as pinners plan interiors and look for lesson plans, kids' crafts and gardening ideas

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during the lockdown.

British pinners have a particularly voracious appetite, with searches and board creation up by 88% year on year, more of a rise than seen worldwide. As well as interiors ideas and organisation hacks, we're on the hunt for tips on working from home with children (up by 1,657%), and searches for "supporting local business" have increased by a factor of 11 — popular tips include ordering takeaways from neighbourhood restaurants and taking online fitness classes from local studios.

Many of us have been baking in lockdown — banana bread is Google's most searched recipe right now — but pinners are looking for creative ideas such as "no yeast bread". When it comes to baking trends across the globe, New Zealand's most searched-for recipe is "three ingredient scones". Spanish pinners are looking for recipes for churros, while the French are more interested in brioche. ■