

LOCAL NEWS

from your neighbourhood



Hair stylist named as Barber of the Year

A Billericay hair stylist won a prestigious award at this year's Salon Awards recently.

Jim Shaw, from Billericay Essensuals and Essensuals Men salons, was named Barber of the Year at the event held at Five Lakes Resort in Colchester.

The award-winning salon director and barber won several accolades in 2019 alone but mentions that the Barber of the Year award holds an extra special place in his heart.

He explained: "I've had a really good year. I've swept the board this year. I won International Hairdresser of the Year in February, which was amazing, and then I won Best Collection of the Year with another competition. And most recently, I won British

Hairdresser of the Year.

"It's been an absolutely amazing year, but it's real special and lovely to win the Essex one, because I like to put Billericay on the map, so winning Barber of the Year was the icing on the cake."

Jim has already been announced as a finalist for the Best International Men's Commercial Collection at the International Hairdressing Awards® 2020, being held in Madrid on February 16.

If he wins, he will be the first hair stylist to win the award two years in a row.

He also hopes to pass on his award-winning skills by mentoring people, in the hope that they too can one day enjoy the same success.

Timeless DENIM



FASHION



*Trends will come and go...
...but denim is forever*

Here are just a few staple denim pieces that men and women should have in their wardrobes, safe in the knowledge that they will never go out of style...

THE DENIM JACKET

As practical as it is en vogue, the denim jacket will never fail you. Women, make a floral spring/summer dress edgier by teaming it with a light denim jacket. For a more casual aesthetic, go for distressed denim. For a rock chick vibe, stud detailing will be your best friend.

Men, relive the early noughties and brave the double denim like Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears at the 2001 AMAs. Alternatively, wear a dark-coloured denim jacket over a casual white shirt and chinos for a subtle nod to the trend.

SLIM AND SKINNY JEANS

Slim and skinny jeans aren't going anywhere.

Ladies, jeans and a blouse teamed with a chic

blazer and an oversized tote is a perfect smart/casual look that will take you from office to cocktail bar with ease. Mix things up by opting for white denim during the warmer months.

And gents, dark-coloured jeans with a shirt in a bold hue – the more daring, the better – complete with your favourite loafers, are great for standing out from the crowd. Team with a crisp white shirt and a sharp blazer for a smarter aesthetic.

BOYFRIEND JEANS

Slim fit jeans are in, but that doesn't mean their comfier and more voluminous cousins are out. Au contraire, boyfriend jeans are hotter than ever, and can be enjoyed by men and women alike. Sometimes, if you're lucky, the very same pair.

Girls, make like an off-duty supermodel and pair yours with simple tank tops, trainers and oversized sunglasses. Timberlands, flip-flops, wedges and even sky-scraping heels are all approved footwear choices.

DIY

Mother's Day GIFTS

HERE ARE SOME GREAT HOME-MADE MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS THAT ARE SURE TO PUT A SMILE ON MUM'S FACE...

HOME & DIY



Inspirational Tea Towel

You will need: A stencil • Washed and ironed tea towel • Access to a printer • Acrylic paint • Dura-Lar/Mylar • Foam brush • Masking tape • Iron • Craft knife • Cutting surface, e.g. cardboard

How to make:

- Decide what the tea towel will say. Perhaps an inspirational quote or mum's iconic catchphrase? Then, print from your computer to use as a stencil.
- Tape the stencil onto the cutting surface. Put a piece of Dura-Lar on top of your stencil. Then, cut out using a craft knife. Children should always be supervised by an adult whilst using the knife.
- Place the cut Dura-Lar stencil over the towel. Using a foam brush, dab the stencil with acrylic paint.
- Once completely dry, heat-set with an iron on a cotton setting for 10–15 minutes.
- To make this more child-friendly so the whole family can get involved, use fabric pens instead, and decorate the tea towel with messages and drawings.



Ombre Tie Dye Tote

You will need: Plain white tote bag • Rit dye • 1 cup of salt • Gloves • Clamp

How to make:

- Pour the Rit dye into a clean bucket of hot water. Add salt and stir.
- Wet the entire bag with water. Then, lower it into the dye about halfway, or as far as you want the ombre to start.
- Clamp the tote in position, and leave for a few minutes to set. Move the clamp up 1–2 inches every few minutes to create the ombre effect.
- Rinse with cold water until the water runs clear. Then, machine wash.



Mason Jar Photo Vase

You will need: A photo • Mason jar • Paint and brush • Painter's tape • Clear spray paint • Paper cup

How to make:

- Put painter's tape on the area of the jar you don't want painted. Then, paint your desired colour.
- Remove the tape before the paint dries.
- Attach your picture to the inside of the jar using painter's tape.
- Spray the jar with clear spray paint to seal the paint.
- Place a paper cup inside the vase and fill with real or artificial flowers.



Hot off

THE RUNWAY

FASHION

OUR FAVOURITE AUTUMN/WINTER TRENDS FROM FASHION MONTH

Fashion Month is over, which means that the Autumn/Winter 2020 trends have officially been unveiled. Here are some of our favourites, along with ways in which you can sport the trends instantly...

EMBELLISHMENTS

Good news for magpies, as embellishment is one of the biggest trends of the AW20 season. Embellished accents are a great way to liven up existing autumn/winter pieces, especially since colour palettes tend to be more muted and understated. Adding some embellishments in the form of a sequined belt, a decadent brooch, or even a glittery strap à la Self-Portrait is an AW20-approved remedy for a dull autumn/winter wardrobe.

PRINTS

Another great way to add some punch to your autumnal wardrobe is to pile on the print. Leopard print isn't going anywhere, as it stormed the world's runways in all forms; our favourite being a stunning floor-length coat by Tom Ford. Tailored suits – which

also dominated the catwalks – were given an AW20 makeover thanks to subtle and not-so-subtle print detailing, meaning you can rock two trends in one if you so dare.

90S STYLE

Don't get rid of your 90s wardrobe just yet. Victoria Beckham resurrected Spice Girls era platform boots, while *Clueless* style tartan skirts and slip dresses reigned supreme throughout Fashion Month. And thankfully, these are all available to buy right now. Wear tartan skirts with warm polos, tights and knee-high boots while there's still a chill in the air, and save the slip dress for your next girls' night out.

PONCHOS

The poncho is back, but did it ever really leave? Rag & Bone, Longchamp, Carolina Herrera, and a host of other designers debuted their reimagined ponchos on the runway, proving that the poncho is here to stay for another season. Dress it up or dress it down – the styling options are virtually endless.

Photo credit: ASOS.com, chcarolinaherrera.com

