Issue 26 | January 2025

# Eden Together

Health & wellbeing magazine

#### **Happy New Year!**

Step into a healthier, happier 2025.

#### Big Energy Saving Week

Helping you save money on your energy bills in 2025.

# The Big Garden > Birdwatch > >

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey.



Sustainable living and better choices for a healthy mind and healthy planet.







# Welcome to our 26th issue of Eden Futures' monthly health and wellbeing magazine.

Mental health problems exist in our lives, families, workplaces and communities, impacting everyone. In our magazine, we talk about mental health in general, how we need to look after it and how important it is to talk about things and get help if you are struggling.

We aim to bring you information about where you can find support. You don't need to struggle alone - please let us know if you need help or support.

#### Inside this issue:

- Action for Happiness
- Dry January
- Veganuary
- The Big Garden Birdwatch
- Brew Monday
- Big Energy Saving Week
- World Braille Day
- EcoEden
- Eden Kitchen Recipe
- Financial Wellbeing
- Key Contacts and Helplines

Please share your photos and stories to Marketing at: marketing@edenfutures.org



#### **Dry January**



#### **Veganuary**



## The Big Garden Birdwatch



**Brew Monday** 



**Big Energy Saving Week** 

#### **ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**

# January calendar



#### **Happier January**

Action for Happiness are a movement of people taking action to create a happier and kinder world, together.

The mission of Action for Happiness is to help people create a happier world, with a culture that prioritises happiness and kindness.

They do this by helping people get together regularly (face-to-face where possible) to learn evidence-based skills for happier living, feel a sense of belonging and commit to personal action to create more happiness, both for themselves and others.

They have no religious, political or commercial affiliations and welcome people of all faiths (or none) and all parts of society. Members of the movement make a simple pledge: to try to create more happiness in the world.

For more information visit:

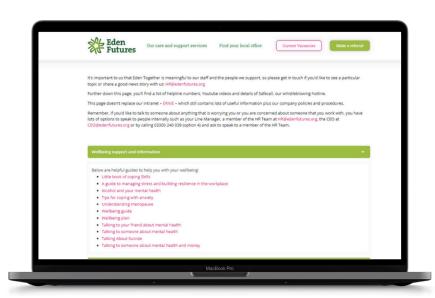
www.actionforhappiness.org







Scan to visit the wellbeing page on the website



# Wellbeing support and information

The Wellbeing page of our website contains guides, helpline numbers, Youtube videos and details of Safecall, our whistleblowing hotline.

We also have downloadable mental health information guides under 'Wellbeing support and information'.

#### Wellbeing and support guides:

- · Little book of coping skills
- A guide to managing stress and building resilience in the workplace
- · Alcohol and your mental health
- Energy Bills Advice Booklet
- Tips for coping with anxiety
- · Wellbeing guide
- Wellbeing plan
- Talking to your friend about mental health
- Talking to someone about mental health
- Talking About Suicide
- Talking to someone about mental health and money
- · The self-kindness toolkit
- Understanding Grief



Our people are at the heart of everything we do, and this new policy reaffirms our commitment to ensuring an inclusive working environment where everyone feels supported and understood.

We recognise that the menopause and its symptoms can be a challenging time and we want to ensure that we have the resources available for our staff and managers.

On our **wellbeing page** you will find a section dedicated to the menopause: what it is, why it's important for us to have open conversations about it and what help and support is available to you if you're struggling with symptoms, or you would like to support someone who is.



As part of our Eden Evolve leadership programme, all our managers are assigned the Menopause at Work learning module, which aims to give our leaders the confidence, tools and knowledge to effectively and compassionately lead their teams who may need some additional support if they're experiencing menopause symptoms.

#### Menopause support:

- For Eden staff A menopause support guide
- Menopause support information
- Understanding the psychological impact of the menopause
- Menopause How to talk to someone at work
- Menopause Getting the most of our your doctor's appointment
- Menopause Common misdiagnoses
- Menopause The myths vs the facts
- Menopause symptom checker
- Menopause and brain fog
- Know your menopause support pack
- Menopause The effects of longterm hormone deficiency
- Living well through your perimenopause and menopause
- The benefits of HRT
- Alternatives to HRT
- FAQs about the menopause and HRT



Scan to visit the wellbeing page on the website



#### Vote for veggies this January!

www.veganuary.com are urging everyone to cast a vote for a greener planet, lower food bills, better health and kindness to animals. When you sign up for Veganuary, you'll get plenty of free resources, including a celebrity cookbook, meal plans, nutrition guides and more. Visit their website for more information: www.veganuary.com.

#### **Nutrition Tips**

"Not all vegan food is automatically healthy. You could eat a dozen delicious flavours of vegan ice cream for breakfast, a stack of pancakes doused in syrup for lunch, and a dinner of cakes, cookies, meringues and cheesecakes.

It's great that we can make or buy all these wonderful vegan treats but no one would think for a moment that they are healthy."

A healthy diet must include putting plants at the centre of our meals, though this does not mean we have to sacrifice pleasure or flavour. And if we choose

fruit, vegetable, legumes, nuts, fruits, spices, herbs and some of the 20,000 edible plants that exist in the world, we can experience an incredible improvement in our health while enjoying some wonderful flavours.

Dr Michael Greger is an internationally recognised speaker on nutrition, food safety, and public health. He has devised a list of foods we should all aim to eat every day for optimal health. This is Dr Greger's 'Daily Dozen'. See our next page on how to get started!

#### **Vegan recipes**

Discover delicious vegan recipes from all over the world...www.veganuary.com/recipes



#veganuary

#### VEGANUARY

THE DAILY DOZEN

#### BEANS OO

Baked beans, soyabeans, chickpeas, peas, kidney beans, lentils, tofu, or hummus etc.

#### BERRIES (

Grapes, raisins, blackberries, blueberries, cherries, raspberries and strawberries etc.

#### **OTHER FRUITS**

Apples, tomatoes, avocados, bananas, oranges, grapefruit, melon, lemons, or limes etc.

#### **CRUCIFEROUS VEGETABLES**

Broccoli, cauliflower, kale, rocket/arugula, or brussels sprouts etc.

#### **GREENS**



Spring greens, kale, young salad greens, rocket/arugula, spinach, or swiss chard etc.

#### **OTHER VEGETABLES**



Carrots, sweetcorn, courgettes, garlic, mushrooms, onions, pumpkin, or sweet potatoes etc.

#### **NUTS & SEEDS**



Peanut, almond, brazil, walnuts and sunflower or pumpkin seeds etc.

## HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

= number of servings

tick 'em off when you've eaten 'em, done 'em or drunk 'em





One tablespoon a day is enough

#### SPICES



A quarter of a teaspoon of turmeric, plus any others you love

#### WHOLE GRAINS



Brown rice, wild rice, quinoa, oats, or whole-wheat pasta etc.

#### **DRINKS**





Water, coffee, green tea, white tea, black tea, earl grey, hibiscus tea etc.

#### **EXERCISE**



Ideally 90 minutes a day of moderate activity, such as walking

'Daily Dozen' used by permission from Dr Michael Greger *How Not To Die* (Macmillan 2016)

#### **Eden Kitchen**

### Chilli, Tomato and Basil Baked Beans on Toast

Simple vegan recipe for you to try at home

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 red onion, diced
- 2 cans mixed beans (or any beans of your choice), drained and rinsed
- 1 can chopped tomatoes (or 400g of fresh chopped tomatoes if you prefer)
- 1-2 chillies, chopped
- · Handful of chopped basil
- · 2-3 cloves garlic
- · Splash of olive oil
- · 250ml water
- · Sliced bread of your choice
- · Salt & pepper to taste

#### Method:

- 1. Fry the onions in a pan with some of the olive oil. After a few minutes, add the chillies and garlic.
- 2. Once the onions, chillies and garlic start to brown, add the beans.
- 3. Add the chopped basil and stir well, then add in the tomatoes. Season
- 4. Add half the water, before bringing to the boil then turning down to simmer.
- 5. Keep on a low heat, stirring occasionally, topping up with water when needed, until the beans are cooked through.
- 6. Spray or drizzle the bread with olive oil then grill until crisp. Load the beans on top, season again if you wish, and garnish with any remaining basil.

Please share your photos and recipes to Marketing at: marketing@edenfutures.org

- Prep time: 2 mins
- ( Cooking time: 12 mins
  - Serves: 1 portion



Recipe: https://veganuary.com/recipes/chilli-tomato-basil-baked-beans-toast/

# World Frover Day 2nd January 2025

"World Introvert Day is a time to bring awareness to introversion — and to show the world that being a "quiet one" is something awesome, not shameful." introvertdear.com

An introvert is someone who generally prefers quiet, low-key environments and enjoys spending time alone or with a few close friends, rather than in large groups or busy social scenes. They often find that socialising can be draining, and they recharge their energy by having time to themselves. Introverts are typically more inward-turning, focusing on their own thoughts and feelings rather than seeking external stimulation. This doesn't mean they are shy or anti-social; rather, they simply find their comfort zone in more serene and less crowded settings.

According to introvertdear.com, it's no coincidence it falls immediately after New Year's Day; the idea behind this special day is that introverts take time to recharge their energy after the busy festive season.

So, let's celebrate "quiet ones" today (and really, every day of the year)! Head over to the introvertdear.com website to read their '12 reasons to celebrate introverts'.



## Join the introvert revolution

When you subscribe to introvertdear.com emails, you'll get weekly tips and relatable stories to help you embrace your introversion or sensitivity — and thrive. Feel empowered and see your nature as a good thing!



Dry January

1st - 31st January 2025

As we step into the New Year, we are thrilled to embark on a journey that promotes health, wellbeing, and a renewed sense of vitality.

January marks the onset of a tradition celebrated worldwide – Dry January® It's an opportunity for all of us to join hands and embrace a healthier lifestyle by abstaining from alcohol for the entire month.

What is Dry January®, you ask? It's a movement where people voluntarily refrain from consuming alcoholic beverages for the entire month of January. It's not just about abstaining from alcohol; it's about embracing the benefits that come with this choice. By choosing sobriety for the month, you'll likely experience improved sleep, increased energy levels, better concentration, and a general sense of wellbeing.

#### Did you know....

- Alcohol misuse is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health and disability among 15–49-year-olds in the UK.
- In 2020 there were 8,974 alcoholspecific deaths. This is a 18.6% increase in deaths from 2019.
- In England, there are an estimated 602,391 dependent drinkers, of whom 82% are NOT receiving treatment.
- 60% of people in alcohol treatment also need mental health treatment.

Continued...

#dryjanuary





#### ...continued.

# The impacts of drinking alcohol

Psychological: Alcohol has been described as 'the UK's favourite coping mechanism' and many of us drink to try and help manage stress, anxiety, depression and other mental health problems. This is sometimes called 'self-medicating' with alcohol.

**Physical:** Over time, excessive alcohol use can lead to the development of chronic diseases and other serious problems including high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, digestive problems, cancer of the breast, mouth, throat, oesophagus, voice box, liver, colon and rectum.

**Social:** Long-term alcohol misuse can lead to social problems for some people, such as unemployment, divorce, domestic abuse and homelessness.

## But how much alcohol is too much?

In reality, the line between sensible drinking and alcohol misuse is much blurrier and many of us cross it from time to time. The guidelines for both men and women advise to drink no more than 14 units per week. This means about six pints of normal strength beer or a bottle and a half of wine per week.

If you are interested in checking how healthy your drinking is, you can use the **Alcohol Change UK drinking quiz**. Or if you want to check how many units you're drinking, use Alcohol Change UK unit calculator to work out your average weekly consumption. You can find these by visiting: **alcoholchange.org.uk** 

Research shows that 70% of people who take part in Dry January® have significantly improved wellbeing and lower alcohol health risks six months later. – So why not try dry this January?

Continued...

#dryjanuary



## ...continued.

#### Remember...

People who are clinically alcohol dependent can die if they suddenly stop drinking. If you experience fits, shaking hands, sweating, seeing things that are not real, depression, anxiety, or difficulty sleeping after a period of drinking and while sobering up, then you may be clinically alcohol dependent and should **NOT** suddenly, completely stop drinking.

But you can still take control of your drinking. Talk to a GP or your local community alcohol service who will be able to get help for you to reduce your drinking safely.

# How can I participate?

Here are some ways you can participate:

- **1.Commit to Sobriety:** Take a pledge to abstain from alcohol for the entire month of January. Your commitment may inspire others.
- **2.Stay Connected:** Share your experiences, challenges, and successes. Let's support each other throughout this empowering month.

#### 3. Explore Healthier Alternatives:

Discover a variety of non-alcoholic beverages! Alcohol-free beers, ciders, wines, and spirits are now widely available.

- **4.Practice saying 'No':** Plan what you will say if you are offered a drink and say it with confidence.
- **5.Ask for Help:** Ask for help if you feel your drinking is getting out of control.
- **6.Record:** Record what you drink for a few weeks will help you understand your drinking pattern, so you can decide if you want to make a change. Download the free **Try Dry** app to help you keep track.

Participating in Dry January is a personal choice, and we encourage everyone to respect each other's decisions. Whether you choose to participate or support those who do, your involvement makes a difference.

See our Eden Futures Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy for more information about support available to you.

Alcohol Change UK have some brilliant resources and interactive tools to help you stay dry this January.

Let's make January a month filled with positivity, healthier choices, and a shared commitment to wellbeing!

#dryjanuary





World Braille Day is a reminder of the importance of accessibility and independence for people who are blind or visually impaired.

According to brailleworks.com, we celebrate World Braille Day every year on 4th January because it's Louis Braille's birthday. He's the inventor of braille!

Louis was born in 1809 in France and became blind after a childhood accident. But he quickly mastered his new way of living. When Louis was only 15 years old, he created a reading and writing system based on Charles Barbier's night writing system. We know Louis' system today as braille. Adjusted over time, braille is now easier to read and used worldwide!

Today's reality is that many establishments, such as restaurants, banks, and hospitals, don't offer braille versions of their print materials like menus, statements, and bills. Because of this, people with blindness or visual impairments often don't have the freedom to choose a meal on their own or keep their finances private.

This day spreads awareness about braille and other accessible forms of communication.

Everyone deserves (and is legally entitled to) the same accommodations and services, regardless of ability.

This tactile reading and writing system provides the opportunity for literacy to millions of people around the world. Because of that, we celebrate braille!

#### Did you know....

- Braille used for maths is different than braille used for writing the alphabet. 'Nemeth' is the name of one system for writing math in braille.
- Sheet music also has its own version of braille. Instead of letters, the dots represent parts of music.





17th - 23rd January 2025

Big Energy Saving Week helps people save money on their energy bills through education and understanding. This is a partnership between Citizens Advice and the Money Saving Trust.

#### Struggling to pay your bills?

If you're struggling to pay your energy bill, you should speak to your supplier as soon as possible and let them know. Your supplier should put you on a payment plan and take into account how much you can afford to pay.

#### Grants and benefits to help pay your bills

- Energy suppliers have grants to help customers pay off their debt. You should contact your supplier to ask for this.
- You might be able to get a grant from a charitable trust to help pay off your energy debt. You can find out more at: turn2us.org.uk/get-support



We believe everyone in the UK should have financial security so they can thrive.

Turn2us is a national charity that provides practical information and support to people facing income shocks and financial insecurity.

Explore what financial support you can get through welfare benefits and grants based on your circumstances.

www.turn2us.org.uk

#### **energy saving** trust

The Energy Saving Trust is an independent organisation dedicated to promoting energy efficiency, low carbon transport and sustainable energy use. We empower householders to make better choices, deliver transformative programmes for governments and support businesses. They aim to address the climate emergency and deliver the wider benefits of clean energy as we transition to net zero.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk



We can all face problems that seem complicated or intimidating. At Citizens Advice they believe no one should have to face these problems without good quality, independent advice. That's why they're there: to give people the knowledge and the confidence they need to find their way forward – whoever your are, and whatever your problem.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk



We have a Energy Bills Advice Booklet to our Wellbeing resources page on our website.



On Brew Monday, Samaritans is reminding everyone to reach out for a cuppa and a catch-up with the people you care about.

#### Why 'Brew Monday'?

The third Monday in January is sometimes referred to as 'the most difficult day of the year' but this is a myth. Samaritans tell us that there's no such thing as 'Blue Monday' – we all have our good days and our bad days, and those aren't for the calendar to decide.

So we say it's time to stop this myth about Monday being 'blue' and instead start a conversation over a brew! Reach out and connect with family, friends, colleagues and loved ones.

Any day can be a Brew Monday. It doesn't matter if it's a Monday morning or Saturday night, or if you're drinking green tea, black coffee or orange juice. If you're sharing a cuppa and listening, you're doing it right.

Get everyone together for a cuppa and raise money for Samaritans so someone having a tough time has somewhere to turn when they want to talk. Head over to www.samaritans.org for downloadable resources and everything you need to stay connected this Brew Monday

**Need support?** Call 116 123 to speak to a Samaritan at anytime, from any phone for FREE.

Sometimes writing down your thoughts and feelings can help you understand them better. **Email:** jo@samaritans.org Response time: It may take several days to get a response by email

#### Self-help

Keep track of how you're feeling, and get recommendations for things you can do to help yourself cope, feel better and stay safe in a crisis.

#### **How does Samaritans Self-help work?**

**Track your mood:** Record how you're feeling, see patterns in your mood and get suggestions for things that could help.

**Try techniques:** Practise a range of techniques to help you challenge and cope with difficult feelings.

**Create a safety plan:** Make a plan for how you could keep yourself safe in a crisis.

**Keep track of helpful activities:** Remind yourself of the things that make you feel better, and get ideas for new things to try.



www.selfhelp.samaritans.org





24 - 26th January 2025

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.

#### **Every Birdwatch counts**

Across the UK, over 600,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2024, counting a whopping 9.7 million birds!

House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch.

#### How to take part

- Sign up online and get your free guide.
- Spend an hour watching the birds in your patch, between 24 and 26 January, and record the birds that land.
- Tell the RSPB what you saw (even if that's nothing at all)! You can submit your results online or by post.

#### Sign up online to take part:

<u>www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-</u>birdwatch



## Most spotted in 2024:



House Sparrow 1,442,300



**Blue Tit** 1.094.401



Starling 879,006



Woodpigeon 835,408



Blackbird 708,004



# Tub/Pub Is back for 2025!

Greene King is running its Tub2Pub initiative again in the new year so customers can recycle their empty plastic confectionary and crackers tubs, saving waste from landfill and raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

From 1st January - 16th February 2025, its pubs, restaurants, and hotels will accept your clean and empty:

- Confectionery tubs
- Biscuit tubs
- Cracker tubs

We're all guilty of indulging in chocolate, sweets and crackers over the festive period, and in the UK we are buying tens of millions of these plastic tubs every year. The annual Tub2Pub campaign has become more popular over the years, offering a simple recycling solution for the hundreds of thousands of polypropylene sweets and biscuits tubs sold over the festive period. Last year alone, around 150,000 plastic tubs were collected in Greene King pubs.

People can take their clean and empty plastic sweets and biscuits tubs to 1,600 participating Greene King managed pubs nationwide between Wednesday, 1st January and Sunday 16th February, 2025. Over the last five years, Tub2Pub has collected 26,253kg of plastic, which is around 230,000 tubs, raising £23,908 for Greene King's charity partner, Macmillan Cancer Support.

These tubs cannot always be recycled at kerbside waste collections, so the network of pubs provide convenient dropoff points for customers looking for a recycling solution and doing their bit for the environment.

Macmillan Cancer Support is one of the largest British charities and provides specialist health care, information, and financial support to people affected by cancer. It also looks at the social, emotional, and practical impact cancer can have, and campaigns for better cancer care.

To read more about Macmillan Cancer Support, go to: www.macmillan.org.uk

To find your local Greene King establishment taking part, you can use the pub finder here: www.greeneking.co.uk/pubs-near-me





# Eco Eden Initiative

## Embracing sustainable living for the wellbeing of ourselves, our communities and the planet.

EcoEden is our initiative aimed at embracing sustainable living for the wellbeing of ourselves, our communities and the planet. As we continue on this journey, we're inviting our staff and people we support to join us in making mindful, earth-friendly choices. We are committed to learning and improving together.



#### Give and get items

Avoid buying new by sharing and finding items locally.



#### Help the planet

Give your items a second life. Less waste = less damage to the planet.



#### Help each other

Build community and save money by sharing with fellow locals.

We believe in the power of collective action — each small, sustainable step we take leads to a healthier life and a thriving world. EcoEden isn't just an idea; it's our promise for a more sustainable and caring future.





#### **Recycle your Christmas tree**

If you had a real Christmas tree, you can replant and use it next year or check for local recycling services where the tree can be used for other environmental purposes.

#### Re-use gift wrappings

Save any reusable wrapping paper, gift bags, and ribbons for next year. It's a simple yet effective way to reduce waste.

#### **Donate unwanted gifts**

Instead of throwing away any gifts that aren't to your taste, consider donating them to charity shops or offering them to friends and family.

#### Plan meals to avoid food waste

Use up any leftover food from Christmas in creative ways. Make soups, stews, or casseroles to use up leftover meats and vegetables. See our Eden Kitchen recipes for ideas!

# Coming up in February

Here are the topics and awareness days that we'll be covering in our next issue.



Time to Talk Day



**LGBT History Month** 



Helplines Awareness Day



Random Acts of Kindness Day



**World Cancer Day** 



**Emotional Health Day** 

#### Let us know...

Let us know if you would like us to cover any special awareness days or topics by contacting marketing@edenfutures.org

Our next issue of Eden Together goes live on:

1st February 2025



#### Don't struggle in silence

If you're worried about debt, you don't need to struggle alone. Speaking to a trained and experienced debt adviser about your situation can help you see what the best decision for you might be.





www.nationaldebtline.org

#### **National Debtline** cost of living hub

If you are struggling to make ends meet at the moment, you aren't alone. Millions of households are finding it hard to pay for everyday items as prices for essentials like

food, gas and electricity have rapidly increased.

You can use the hub to find out if you can pay less for your costs of living and find out about any extra help that might be available.



**NATIONAL** 

**DEBTLINE** 





#### Health & wellbeing

#### **National Domestic Abuse Helpline**

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk Tel: 0808 2000 247

#### **Samaritans**

www.samaritans.org Tel: 116 123

#### **Shout (text service)**

www.giveusashout.org Tel: 852 58

#### **National Suicide Prevention Helpline**

www.spuk.org.uk Tel: 0800 689 5652

#### Money & household

#### **StepChange Debt Charity**

www.stepchange.org.uk Tel: 0800 138 1111

#### **National Debtline**

www.nationaldebtline.org **Tel**: 0808 808 4000

#### **Citizens Advice**

www.citizensadvice.org.uk Tel: 0808 223 1133

#### Money Advice Service (Money Helper)

www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en

#### Depher

(Disability and Elderly Plumbing and Heating Emergency Repair) www.depher.com 01282 420 678

#### Did you know...

Eden Futures website has a wellbeing page with advice and support to improve your mental health.



Scan to visit the wellbeing page on the website



Peromoting positivity...

If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way

Martin Luther King, Jr.



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