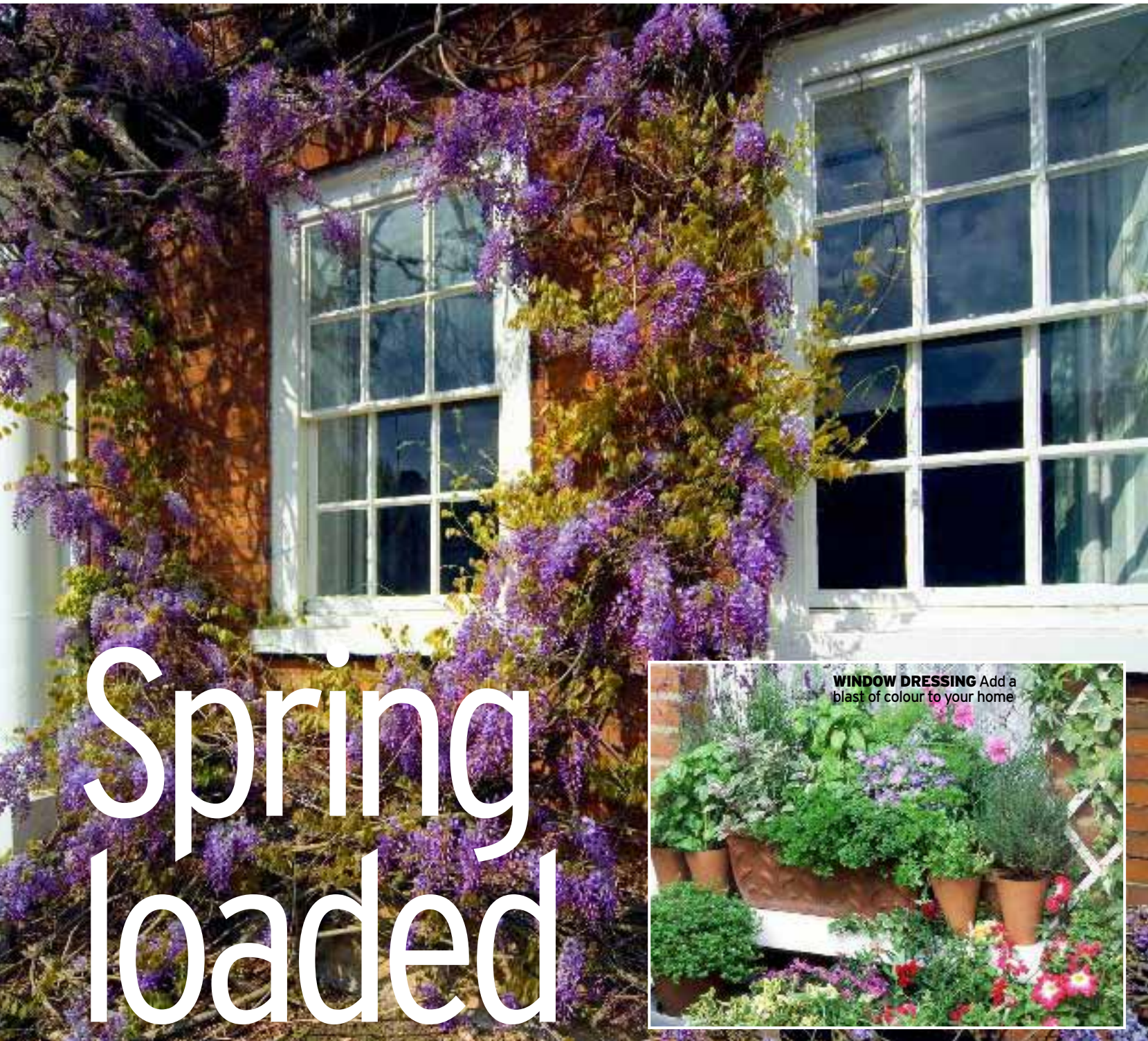


club



with DAVID DOMONEY

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OFFER of the week

With its grey-green spiky leaves, blue flowers and lovely fragrance, lavender is a joy. It is seen as a typical English garden plant but, as it's from the Mediterranean, it will tolerate summer drought conditions and still produce masses of flowers throughout summer. Lavender Munstead is a beautiful dwarf variety which grows into a compact 40cm shrub for a perfect border display. Delivery within 14 days. 5cm module plants supplied. You can buy 6 Lavender Munstead for just £7.99 or buy 30 for £19.97 – HALF PRICE. To order by debit/credit card call 0843 922 5000 quoting SM33474 or send a cheque made payable to MGN SM33474 to Lavender Offer (SM33474), PO Box 64, South West District Office, Manchester, M16 9HY or visit mirrorgardenoffers.co.uk



Spring loaded



WINDOW DRESSING Add a blast of colour to your home

environment so will thrive much more if you give them a light spray of water occasionally or sit them on a plate of gravel with a little water in the bottom to evaporate around the plant.

For a bright and sunny windowsill, why not try hibiscus? Bold, beautiful, full of colour, this tropical plant likes

to be warm and well fed. So fertilise through the growing season from March to October for plenty of blooms. Let the soil dry between watering.

Window boxes are the perfect way to dress your windows from the outside. There are plenty of spring blooming beauties you can use to

brighten up your panes. I love plants that attract bees and butterflies, such as buddleia, lavender, alliums and heather. And if you have a kitchen window you can reach, try a few herbs.

They can look lovely, are there to hand when you are cooking and will fill your kitchen with rich aromas. As

the weather warms you will probably need to water your window boxes daily, but topping the soil with gravel or slate will make them look the business and reduce evaporation too.

A conservatory is often the perfect place to enjoy spring and a lovely spot for breakfast on a fresh April morning. They are a wonderful investment and will add value to your home.

Conservatories are great places to grow plants too. They can create a different growing environment from your house, allowing you to enjoy a different range of plants.

Grow Mediterranean favourites such as olive and citrus trees.

Or for something low maintenance with a tropical feel, go for Monstera deliciosa, the Swiss cheese plant, with its large, holey leaves, and a couple of parlour palms.

So think about how you experience your home from the inside looking out and from the outside looking in, and get ready to embrace the spring with open arms.

GADGET



Your tweet dreams are made of these

With a bit of luck, this beautiful glazed terracotta bird bath will help attract wildlife back into your garden. And as well as providing your local birds with a place to bathe, it will make a stunning focal point.

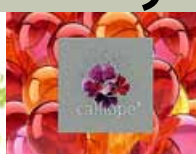
It's robustly built and needs no maintenance other than the occasional water change and clean. I found it for £30 at primrose.co.uk.

get stuck in to brighten school gardens and win

Pupils, teachers and volunteers are all digging in for this year's Cultivation Street competition.

Enthusiastic kids at Comely Park primary in Falkirk, Scotland, hope their garden will be among those to grab prizes in our school category.

We have £7,000 to give away in prizes – £2,500 for our top school and £1,500 and £1,000 for the second and third places. Four runners-up receive £500 each. All our winners land 100 Calliope plug plants from our fantastic new sponsor, Calliope Flowers. In total,



there is £20,500 worth of prizes to be won. Lesley Hendry, of Falkirk Delivers, which is helping Comely Park with its project, said: "The school is fairly new to community gardening. It has planters in the grounds which are a bit unloved.

"The partnership looks to bring children into a group to learn a new skill,

make friends and learn a little bit more about the environment.

"The children are excited about getting their hands dirty."

Mr Hendry is part of Dig in Falkirk, a scheme showing families how to grow fruit and veg in urban spaces. It includes High Street pocket allotments, with town centre planters taken over by community groups.

Follow Cultivation Street on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for free prize draw giveaways of Calliope Geraniums. Go to cultivationstreet.com.