

Alison Cork, from HomesAndBargains.co.uk, has put together a series of offers especially for Post readers.

Livingbargains

● Thomas Sanderson
● Turn your home into a cosy autumn haven with beautifully made shutters from Thomas Sanderson. As an elegant alternative to blinds or curtains, shutters give a stylish finish to any room. From durable wood to light-weight vinyl, there is an extensive collection of styles, colours, finishes and trims to choose from. Thomas Sanderson is offering its shutter range to readers with a three-for-two discount, plus up to an extra 40 per cent off on selected ranges. A five-year guarantee comes as standard. Call 0800 051 77 11 and quote reference D367S or visit tsreaderoffer.co.uk. T&Cs apply. Limited period only.



● Decoholic
● Innovative online furniture store Decoholic has slashed the price on this highly coveted armchair to just £395. The Oxford is an elegant piece (80x80x85) with a sturdy mango wood frame and upholstered with a linen fabric and antique brass studs. Ideal for curling up with a good book, The Oxford is handmade to order with a delivery of 12-14 weeks. Usually retailing at £795 in exclusive stores, Decoholic saves you £400 on this stylish handmade piece by cutting out the expensive overheads of high street retailers. Only 78 are available, including a limited number in light and dark grey velvet. Delivery is £38 per item. To order, visit decoholic.co.uk/AAH or call 020 3137 2464 while stocks last.



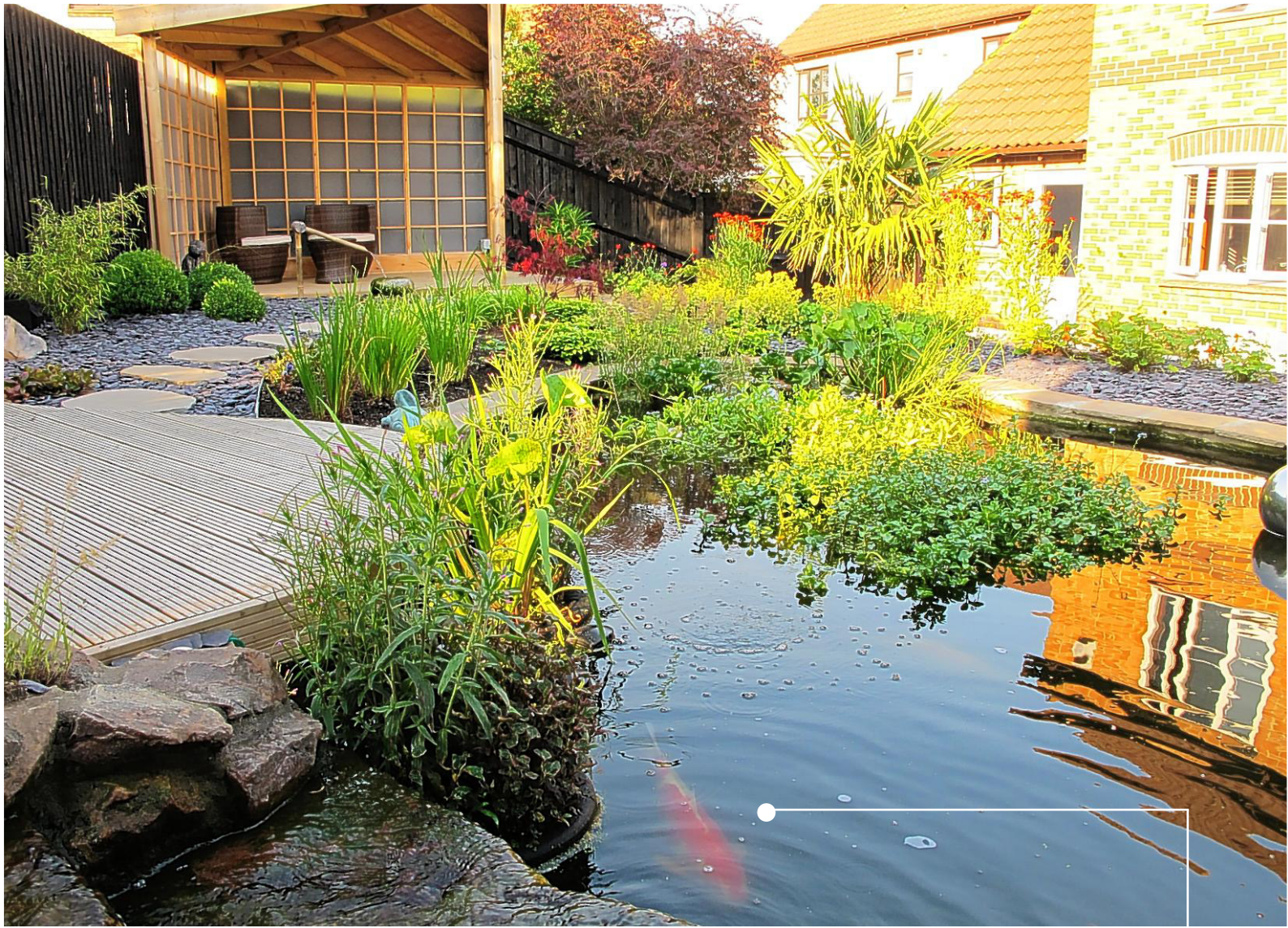
● Ventrolla
● Draughts and rattles are unwanted house guests for any homeowner with traditional wooden sash or casement windows. Ventrolla removes rotten timber while also installing its Perimeter Sealing System (VPSS), virtually eliminating draughts. To make future maintenance easier, it also installs the Ventrolla Sash Removal System, allowing the windows to be safely and easily removed for redecoration. Readers receive a free, no-obligation survey and a free brass Brighton Centre Catch and two brass Sash Lifts with every window renovated (RRP £25 per window). Call 0800 027 7454 or visit ventrolla.co.uk and quote AUGUST12 before September 30.



● Decopulse
● Save on a stylish sleep space for extra guests with over half off on this Beauty sofa bed from Italsofa. Normally £2,000, readers can get it for £900 at decopulse.co.uk. Launched in 2000 by Natuzzi Group, Italsofa specialises in Italian made sofas, loveseats, ottomans and sectionals. This white leather Beauty sofa bed seats three and folds out into a comfortable resting place for guests. Decopulse sources furniture and accessories from top European designers, offering them in the UK at discount price. Only eight sofas are in stock at this price (delivery within three weeks), so go to decopulse.co.uk/bargainhunter or call 0203 384 0899 while supplies last.



● For more deals and discounts, visit homesandbargains.co.uk



Wide steps provide a welcoming entrance to the garden, reducing separation between levels



The curved deck in the foreground was designed to tie the existing summer house (which is out of shot) into the pond area by way of its extension over the pond. This provides vital shade for the carp

It's Zen-sational

A split-level and overgrown garden is transformed into useable space for exercise and relaxation by Bristol-based designer Katherine Roper

WHEN I first visited this garden in Bradley Stoke it was arranged over three levels that were divided by overgrown lawns, large shrubs, narrow steps and pathways. There were two main items to consider during the design process for this site. Firstly, the clients wanted to be able to sit and enjoy their existing Koi carp pond, which they had lovingly designed and

Livingoutside

built themselves. Secondly, they wanted a deck where they could practise their tai chi in private, come rain or shine. The brief also required retaining the existing summer house behind the pond, tackling the haphazard boundaries, removing all lawns and improving the lower level immediately outside the house. This provides vital shade for the carp, one of which you can just about glimpse at the bottom of the photograph heading towards the waterfall.



To help settle the pond into the scheme I edged it with Indian sandstone paving, which matches the stepping stone pathway and patio below. I also created a stone waterfall and shallow planting area within the pond to help bed it further into its surroundings. Repaving the patio with real sandstone paving helped smarten it up considerably. The original brick retaining wall separating the two main levels was rendered and painted a pale colour. Large wooden platform steps lead up from the patio to the upper garden. The steps are purposefully wide and provide a welcoming entrance to the rest of the garden, thereby reducing separation between the two levels. At the top of the platform steps there is an option to head right to the arbour and deck, or left along the stepping stone pathway towards the summer house. The arbour is built from softwood timbers, while bespoke Perspex screens were designed and attached to the back, creating a calming Japanese-style aesthetic. The large deck at the base of the arbour was designed as a tai chi and yoga space that is partially shaded from the elements. It provides an ideal space for exercising outdoors without being seen. However, if one is feeling less energetic it also makes for a good spot to sit, relax and view the

garden, while listening to the sound of running water emanating from the bamboo waterspout and granite bowl water feature. There are large swathes of planting both within the pond and in the surrounding beds. The use of key shrubs, such as euphorbia milifera, box balls, bamboos and Japanese acers add vital structure to the newly planted scheme. At night, the garden is transformed by lighting; the arbour is backlit and creates a stunning area to sit and reflect. View more pictures of this garden, including during the construction phase, at Katherine's Facebook page via the website www.katherineroper.co.uk.

Take your pick from this week's top 12 mortgage deals

from www.thisismoney.co.uk

FIXED						
Lender	Scheme type	Initial rate	Subs. rate	Overall cost	Min dep.	Fee
NatWest	Fixed until 31/10/14	3.29%	4.00%	3.9%	40%	£0
Accord	Fixed until 31/08/14	3.19%	5.99%	5.7%	35%	£495
HSBC	Fixed until 30/11/17	3.29%	3.94%	3.8%	40%	£499
HSBC	Fixed until 30/11/17	3.49%	3.94%	3.8%	40%	£0
Northern Rock	Fixed until 01/11/14	3.29%	4.79%	4.6%	40%	£99
Nationwide	Fixed for 2 years	3.39%	3.99%	4.0%	40%	£99
NatWest	Fixed until 31/10/17	2.95%	4.00%	3.8%	40%	£2495
HSBC	Fixed until 30/11/14	3.59%	3.94%	4.0%	30%	£0
NatWest	Fixed until 31/10/17	3.69%	4.00%	3.9%	40%	£0
Nationwide	Fixed for 5 years	3.59%	3.99%	3.9%	30%	£99
Nationwide	Fixed for 3 years 3.59%	3.99%	4.0%	30%	£99	
Yorkshire	Fixed until 31/12/14	3.34%	4.99%	4.8%	25%	£495

VARIABLE						
Lender	Scheme type	Initial rate	Subs. rate	Overall cost	Min dep.	Fee
HSBC	2.14% above base for term	2.64%	2.64%	2.8%	40%	£999
First Direct	2.29% above base for term	2.79%	2.79%	2.9%	35%	£999
HSBC	2.49% above base for term	2.99%	2.99%	3.0%	40%	£0
HSBC	1.45% disc. for two years	2.49%	3.94%	3.8%	40%	£499
HSBC	2.49% above base for term	2.99%	2.99%	3.1%	30%	£599
First Direct	2.69% above base for term	3.19%	3.19%	3.3%	35%	£499
Accord	2.49% above until 31/08/14	2.99%	5.99%	5.6%	35%	£495
Woolwich	2.49% above until 30/09/14	2.99%	3.89%	3.9%	30%	£999
Accord	2.59% above until 31/08/14	3.09%	5.99%	5.7%	25%	£995
Northern Rock	2.65% above until 01/11/14	3.15%	4.79%	4.7%	30%	£1094
Leeds	2.84% disc. for two years	2.85%	5.69%	5.5%	25%	£999
Halifax	2.49% above until 30/11/14	2.99%	3.99%	4.0%	40%	£995