

Homes&Living

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

Livingbargains

● Giveaway of the week

● If you want a little mid-modern style in your home, take a look at the Eames-style DSW chair from Zazous. One lucky reader can win a set of four of these chairs, inspired by the original Eames DSW, an iconic piece that defined an era yet remains timeless. When it debuted, the Eames made effective use of groundbreaking processes to become the first mass produced plastic chair. Charles Eames believed good design should not be the preserve of the rich, but should be “the best for the most for the least”. At Zazous, this idea continues. For more information, visit www.Zazous.co.uk.

To enter, text DESIGN to 83222 (texts cost 50p plus standard network rate). To enter online and for terms and conditions visit homesandbargains.co.uk/comps. Closes March 22. T&Cs apply



● Rigby & Mac

● The stunning stripes of Rigby & Mac's ZigZag Ceramic Vase give any room the look of high tag Italian design, but readers can purchase it for an exclusive 15 per cent off the retail price. Measuring 25x15cm, the vase is normally £19.95, but is reduced to £16.96. Visit www.rigbyandmac.com or call 0208761 1011 and quote RIGBYANDMAC15 in your shopping bag. Offer ends March 12.

● The Lighting Company

● Give smaller spaces some funky glamour with the Lighting Book's Multi-Coloured Jewel Light, offered to readers at an exclusive 20 per cent off (RRP £57). The easy-fit pendant suits a 60-watt or 11-watt low-energy bulb, and fits on to a wire lamp holder so it doesn't require special wiring. The chrome frame and glass beads measure 25cm in diameter. Visit www.lightingcompany.co.uk or call 01643 707 505, quoting SAVE20 before March 1.



● Nelson & Forbes

● Anyone on the hunt for a special gift for a nature lover should consider a limited edition bronze sculpture by Nelson & Forbes. Every piece designed by Jonathan Sanders and Sue MacLaurin is hand-cast in an English foundry and comes individually numbered in a handmade gift box with a certificate of authenticity. Readers can enjoy 15 per cent off with prices starting at £55. The Listening Hare (12cm high, pictured) is one of just 250 and is reduced to £148.75 from £175. Visit www.nelsonandforbes.co.uk or call 01442 256 290 and quote EST2219 before March 12.



Don't let unsightly bins rule the roost

Livinginside

A small front garden in Bishopston that had become an eyesore gets a makeover from Katherine Roper



WHEN I drive around Bristol I am often struck by how many front gardens there are that are crying out for some TLC.

The blight of bins and recycling boxes has turned these on-show areas into ugly and unkempt spaces; hardly welcoming entrances to our homes beyond!

Giving a makeover to these front gardens would make returning home more pleasurable and help transform the street too.

Just adding a window box or two makes the world of difference, brightening up your day and encouraging bees and wildlife into our cities.

These small spaces can be even more rewarding in ways you've never even thought of: fruit and vegetables can be grown in the

smallest of spaces, so create your own herb garden or put plants such as Pieris Japonica, that don't like Bristol's heavy clay soils, into pots.

The garden pictured is on a steep site in Bishopston and is a perfect example of what can be achieved in a small space. It had been landscaped when the house was built in the Victorian era, but little had changed since.

The clay soil had heaved the Victorian pathway, turning it into a trip hazard, and the overgrown hedge at the front was starving the lawn of sunlight, allowing dirt to accumulate and moss to thrive.

The steps were also in bad repair, as was the main retaining wall, pillars and gate.

The client was also fed up with lifting her bins up and down the steps and wanted them to be easily accessed, yet out of sight from the bay window in the front room and

not too obvious from street level. A low maintenance, visually interesting design has helped to transform this urban front garden, providing users with a pleasurable environment to walk through to their front door, rather than an obstacle course.

Retaining walls were built to cre-

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Stepping stones set within the pebbles provide visual interest and lead the way to the new seat, where one can enjoy the sun

Retaining walls were built to create a useable levelled area. These were built in new oak sleepers, but we could easily have used brick or block work and render.

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A bin storage area was excavated just inside the entrance gate to the right, hiding them from sight.

The stepping stones set within the pebbles provide visual interest

and lead the way to the new seat, where one can enjoy the evening sun. I am told that the children who hop along the path often enjoy this element of the design.

Planting is a mixture of predominantly evergreen shrubs and perennials, which provide year-round interest and don't need much main-

tenance. Lavenders, cistus, heucheras and box provide structure to the beds and a specimen acer and a beautiful bowl-shaped planter filled with creeping thyme act as focal points.

For more “before” and “after” pictures of this garden, visit www.katherineroper.co.uk.



● This house has been refurbished by former offenders working for The Restore Trust.

Working for 25 hours a week each under a skilled site manager, half a dozen ex-prisoners got the chance to learn a new trade while being paid the minimum wage.

The result of this latest project is a smart period property with a bay-fronted living room, separate dining room, three double bedrooms, a sleek kitchen with access to the rear garden, a bathroom and separate WC, and children's playroom (restricted headroom).

For sale with no onward chain, the house sits in an elevated position with a great view from the front over

Westbury Hill Westbury-on-Trym

- Three-bed terrace
- £339,950
- Ocean
- 0117 9621973

the city and a private rear garden.

The Restore Trust is a not-for-profit company formed in January 2010, since when it has won Department of Works and Pensions funding to employ up to 100 ex offenders on six-month traineeships. A total of 76 per cent of those trainees have since moved into full-time work.



This week's top ten mortgage deals

from www.thisismoney.co.uk

FIXED

Lender	Scheme type	Initial rate	Subs. rate	Overall cost	Min dep.	Fee
First Direct	Fixed for two years	3.19%	3.69%	3.7%	35%	£0
HSBC	Fixed until 31/05/14	3.29%	3.94%	3.9%	30%	£0
Post Office	Fixed until 31/03/14	3.09%	4.49%	4.3%	35%	£0
First Direct	Fixed for two years	2.89%	3.69%	3.7%	35%	£499
First Direct	Fixed for two years	3.39%	3.69%	3.8%	25%	£0
Chelsea	Fixed until 31/03/15	3.14%	5.79%	5.3%	30%	£395
HSBC	Fixed until 31/05/14	2.99%	3.94%	3.9%	30%	£599
Chelsea	Fixed until 31/03/14	2.94%	5.79%	5.5%	30%	£395
Post Office	Fixed until 31/03/14	2.99%	4.49%	4.3%	35%	£495
First Direct	Fixed for three years	3.49%	3.69%	3.7%	35%	£0

VARIABLE

Lender	Scheme type	Initial rate	Subs. rate	Overall cost	Min dep.	Fee
HSBC	1.89% above base for term	2.39%	2.39%	2.5%	40%	£999
HSBC	1.99% above base for term	2.49%	2.49%	2.5%	40%	£0
RBS	1.99% above until 31/03/14	2.49%	4%	3.8%	50%	£0
HSBC	2.09% above base for term	2.59%	2.59%	2.7%	30%	£599
First Direct	2.08% above base term	2.58%	2.58%	2.7%	35%	£1499
First Direct	2.19% above base for term	2.69%	2.69%	2.8%	35%	£499
First Direct	2.19% above for two years	2.69%	3.69%	3.6%	35%	£0
Melton Mowbray	2.4% discount for three years	2.59%	4.99%	4.4%	40%	£598
First Direct	2.09% above for two years	2.59%	3.69%	3.6%	25%	£499
HSBC	1.95% discount for three years	1.99%	3.94%	3.8%	40%	£1499

KEY: Subs. rate = subsequent rate; Min dep. = minimum deposit

Property snapshot of the city

● Total properties for sale in Bristol: **3,753**

● Properties for sale in Bristol listed in the last 14 days: **459**

● Average price of properties for sale in Bristol: **£230,695**

● Number of properties on the market by price:
Under £100,000 – **273**
£100,000 to £200,000 – **1,962**
£200,000 to £300,000 – **885**
£300,000 to £400,000 – **322**

£400,000 to £500,000 – **126**
£500,000 to £1,000,000 – **155**
over £1,000,000 – **30**

● Figures and prices correct as at Thursday, February 23