

Homes&Living

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

Livingbargains

Conservatory blinds



● Appeal is offering readers £250 off all conservatory blinds in a special summer offer, and whatever your needs, the company has blinds to suit. For a timeless colonial look there are Original French Pinoleum blinds made from tiny strips of wood which create a beautiful dappled light. If summer heat and glare is a problem, then Appeal offers exclusive Alu-Pleat® and Solar R® blinds – which reflect up to 85 per cent of heat energy. Every blind is handcrafted and available in a colour of your choice. They can also be remote control operated. To claim your free colour brochure and £250 discount voucher, visit appealshading.com/bargainhunteroffer or call 0800 975 5757 quoting Bargain Hunter Offer before August 26.

Oliver Bonas

● Put a little extra pop in your garden with these bright metal garden chairs from Oliver Bonas (which has a shop in Cabot Circus, Bristol). The chairs are reduced from £69 to £39 and some in blue, yellow, green or pink, each with a slightly different design. Made of iron, they are painted and treated for a shabby chic feel. Visit oliverbonas.com or call 020 897 41200.



Slate Top Tables



● From grand dining or garden tables to console, coffee and even pastry tables, Slate Top Tables offers a unique twist on traditional surfaces. Durable and heat resistant, each table is handcrafted in the company's Devon workshop. Personalise your table with a range of woods, finishes and slate tops, or choose from a stunning range of readymade pieces. Readers receive 15 per cent off any farmhouse or garden table. For further information, contact Slate Top Tables on 01404 850881, or visit slatetoptables.com. To claim the offer, quote Bargain Hunter before July 31.

The Bath Business

● Treat your tub to some TLC with The Bath Business's bath resurfacing service. In one day a chipped, stained, rough tub with unsightly tidemarks can be replaced with a smooth, sparkling, high gloss one, with this enamel restoration service. All the work can be carried out in situ, so there is minimal disruption to the plumbing and tiling around the bath and at just £320+VAT, the treatment is much cheaper than buying a replacement. You can take a dip within two hours of completion. Readers receive a £50 voucher to spend in store with every restoration. The Bath Business also stocks a wide range of fine sanitary ware. Visit thebathbusiness.com, or call 01342 324577 and quote BATH10 before July 31.



To lessen the impact of a haphazard edge, I positioned the shed in the back left hand corner, reducing the impact of the painted house behind

Foreground planting includes a large tree fern, Japanese acer, grasses, Sisyrinchium among other specimens, Crocosmia for vibrant colour



An evergreen Eriobotrya japonica tree has been planted, in time, it will obscure the flats completely

Pea gravel between the stepping stones, where thyme and other herbs are starting to spread, soften the hard edges and create a wonderful scent when crushed under foot

Lush planting rules in this quirky oasis

City gardens are often small. Katherine Roper shows how you can also make them beautiful.



Livingoutside

BEYOND the patio doors of this basement flat in the heart of Montpellier is a green oasis of calm and tranquillity. This delightful garden demonstrates what can be achieved in a very small space within the heart of any city. One year on from completing the project, this picture, taken this week, demonstrates how quickly plants can fill out a small garden, creating a lush green backdrop.

The client did not want a temporary design and instead requested a quirky, random look rather than a symmetrical or formal layout. The main feature of note within the existing garden was the beautiful colours in the walls, which were made from local stone in hues of grey and reddy-brown. These colours are picked out in the new patio paving and the stepping stone pathway that leads to it. In the paving design I incorporated red hand-made clay square pavloirs interspersed between traditional pennant slabs, which are also locally sourced. Pea gravel in-fills between the stepping stones, where thyme and

other low-growing herbs are starting to spread, soften the hard edges and create a wonderful scent when crushed under foot. Another important aspect to tackle was the different boundaries to the garden. The original back boundary consisted partly of a neighbouring house, which is painted cream, and partly a wooden fence. In order to lessen the impact of this haphazard edge, I positioned a shed in the back left hand corner, thus breaking up the wall of the house behind. Painting the shed black dramatically reduces its presence within the space and allows the plants to stand out in front of it, particularly the rosemary, in a beautiful ribbed terracotta pot. I also painted the remaining section of fence in the right hand corner blue and repeated this colour on the trellis forming the left hand boundary. This splash of vibrant colour adds excitement to bland boundaries and helps complement the yellow and orange flowers within the planting scheme. The lush foreground planting includes a large tree fern, a Japanese acer, grasses, Sisyrinchium among other specimens, and lastly Crocosmia for vibrant colour. To view more pictures of this garden, including before and during the construction phase, please visit my Facebook page via my 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
RBS	Fixed until 31/07/14	3.49%	4.00%	4.0%	40%	£0
Nat West	Fixed until 31/07/14	3.49%	4.00%	4.0%	40%	£0
Accord	Fixed until 31/08/14	3.29%	5.99%	5.70%	35%	£495
HSBC	Fixed until 30/11/14	2.99%	3.94%	3.7%	40%	£1499
HSBC	Fixed until 30/11/17	3.49%	3.94%	3.8%	40%	£0
HSBC	Fixed until 30/11/17	3.29%	3.94%	3.8%	40%	£999
HSBC	Fixed until 30/11/14	3.59%	3.94%	4.0%	30%	£0
Woolwich	Fixed until 30/09/14	3.74%	3.89%	4.0%	30%	£0
RBS	Fixed until 31/07/14	3.89%	4.00%	4.1%	25%	£0
HSBC	Fixed until 30/11/14	3.29%	3.94%	4.0%	30%	£599
Nationwide	Fixed for two years	3.69%	3.99%	4.0%	40%	£99
First Direct	Fixed for two years	3.79%	3.69%	3.8%	35%	£0

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
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
Leeds	2.49% disc. for two years	3.20%	5.69%	5.5%	25%	£199
Accord	2.69% above until 31/08/14	3.19%	5.99%	5.6%	35%	£495
Norwich and Peterborough	2.74% above for three years	3.24%	4.99%	4.7%	25%	£795
Leeds	2.84% disc. for two years	2.85%	5.69%	5.5%	25%	£999
Woolwich	2.79% above 30/09/14	3.29%	3.89%	3.9%	30%	£999
Leeds	2.74% disc. for two years	2.95%	5.69%	5.6%	35%	£999
Norwich and Peterborough	2.64% above for two years	3.14%	4.99%	4.8%	25%	£795
Post office	2.39% above until 31/08/14	2.89%	4.49%	4.3%	25%	£995