



**TODAY**

**1896:** The opening ceremony of the first modern Olympic Games was held in Athens.  
**1944:** Pay As You Earn income tax was introduced in Britain.  
**1965:** Early Bird, the first commercial communications satellite, was launched by the United States.  
**2009:** A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck near L'Aquila, Italy, killing 307.

**TOMORROW**

**1827:** Matches, the invention of chemist John Walker, were sold for the first time.  
**1949:** South Pacific, by Rodgers and Hammerstein, opened on Broadway.  
**1968:** British world motor racing champion Jim Clark was killed in a crash at Hockenheim, Germany.  
**2008:** The Diana inquest ended with a jury concluding she was unlawfully killed because of gross negligence by drink-driver Henri Paul and the paparazzi.



Jim Clark

**APRIL 8**

**1908:** Liberal Herbert Henry Asquith became Prime Minister.  
**1967:** Bare-foot Sandie Shaw won the Eurovision Song Contest for the UK with Puppet On A String.  
**1986:** Clint Eastwood was elected Mayor of Carmel in California.  
**2013:** Former Prime Minister Baroness Margaret Thatcher died at the age of 87.

**APRIL 9**

**1838:** The National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, London, was opened.  
**1969:** The first British-built Concorde 002 made its maiden flight.  
**1983:** Jenny Pitman became the first woman to train an English Grand National winner with Corbiere.  
**2005:** The Prince of Wales married Camilla Parker Bowles.



Jenny Pitman

**APRIL 10**

**1710:** The Copyright Act came into effect, allowing authors to hold exclusive rights to their work for up to 50 years after death.  
**1849:** The safety pin was patented by Walter Hunt of New York – he made it in only three hours and later sold the rights for 400 dollars to pay debts.  
**1924:** The first book of crosswords was published in New York.  
**1998:** The Northern Ireland peace deal was reached, called the Good Friday Agreement.

**APRIL 11**

**1914:** George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion opened in London.  
**1929:** Popeye made his first appearance as a supporting character in a cartoon strip in Hearst's New York newspapers.  
**1961:** Bob Dylan made his first public appearance in New York.  
**1983:** Richard Attenborough's Gandhi won eight Oscars.

**APRIL 12**

**1945:** US President Franklin D Roosevelt died of a brain haemorrhage less than a month before the surrender of Germany.  
**1954:** Bill Haley recorded Rock Around The Clock, the first record to sell a million in Britain alone.  
**1961:** The Russians made the first manned space flight with Yuri Gagarin in Vostok 1.  
**1992:** Euro Disneyland opened in Paris.

**what it's like to...**

**be a professional organiser**

# Tackling chaos in your homes

**Hannah Bradley loves clutter – in fact it's 'the messier the better' for her when it comes to tackling chaos in our homes.**

"I absolutely love messy houses because I can get stuck in and see big changes," says the 28-year-old, who has been working as a professional organiser for almost four years. She offers a helping hand to people who want restore calm and order when they've become too overwhelmed by their belongings. Jobs can range from helping someone who is moving home or downsizing to organising a teenager's bedroom ahead of exam revision season.

Hannah, who is a member of the Association of Professional Declutterers and Organisers (APDO), can also be called upon to help get ready for a new baby's arrival or organising children's bedrooms or playrooms.

"Sorting out a room might not seem like much to someone from the outside but it can really change their life and make someone happier by giving them more time to spend with their family," she explains.

Her love of organising started at a young age, Hannah tells Weekend. "Ever since I was little I've liked things to be neat and tidy. My sister is the opposite but my mum is like me and likes things to be organised," she says.

But it wasn't until she was working as a junior designer and stylist at a showhome company and looking for a change of direction that she discovered being a professional organiser was something she could do for a living.

"An Australian friend told me they have professional organisers over there – I never knew there was such a job. I did some research and became a member of APDO. I decided to give it go and it's been great," explains Hannah.

When she's first approached about a job, she will offer a free consultation to find out what the issues are and how she can help. "I get to their house and find out what the client wants to do with the space they have and if other storage solutions are needed.

"I set a plan in place and then we got through one area or room at a time, getting everything out of drawers and cupboards and putting in to piles of what to keep and what to get rid of. The 'get rid' pile may be things to recycle, donate to charity or relocate to another area in the area.

"I ask questions like when did you last use it or when did you last wear it to get the client to think about the items and whether they want them to stay and have a place in their home

"I also ask people where they use an item as it makes sense to keep it where it's used.

"I know that when people have a big house that it's going to be a big job because if you've got a big house you're going to fill the space. If you've got extra wardrobes you're going to put clothes in them. If you've got a small apartment like I have then you've got less space to fill and you've to keep on top of it more," says Hannah, who has a degree in art history and a masters in art gallery and museum studies.

The job does come with some challenges though. "Sometimes the client's family can be a challenge because they might start going through the stuff they're getting rid of and want to bring things back into the home

"It can be difficult when people want to have a minimalist home but then they aren't willing to get rid of anything. "I never force people to get rid of anything but if you want to make a big change then you will need to part with some things. "But most people are open to it and



Hannah is a member of the Association of Professional Declutterers and Organisers



**What's it like to be you?**  
 If you've got an interesting story email [heather.large@mnamedia.co.uk](mailto:heather.large@mnamedia.co.uk)

The biggest cluttering hotspots tend to be paperwork and clothing

understand the process because they know it's going to make such a difference," Hannah tells us.

Netflix's Tidying Up Marie Kondo sparked a decluttering frenzy across the nation earlier this year and the Japanese tidying guru explained her belief that only things that 'spark joy' should have a place in our homes.

"It's an interesting approach but I don't think you throw away everything that doesn't spark joy because some things that you need to keep are never going to spark joy. My car insurance policy doesn't spark joy because it's really expensive but that doesn't mean I can just throw it away. But you can pick and choose what you take from her method and apply it how you want," says Hannah.

The biggest cluttering hotspots in our homes tend to be paperwork and clothing, she tells Weekend.

"Paperwork is tricky because even though we're moving to paperless there can still be a lot of paper coming into a homes and it doesn't stop.



And it's so easy to go out and buy cheap new clothes and that can get out of control," explains Hannah, who lives in Birmingham and works across the Midlands.

Her tips for keeping on top of clutter and ensuring everything stays tidy and organised is to 'do a little bit everyday'. "It's better to spend say 15 minutes a day putting everything away then doing it all in one as it will be too daunting.

"Also make sure everything has a home because then you won't have to think, you're just know exactly where it goes and that will save you time," she tells us

It's a dream job for the University of Manchester graduate. "I enjoy meeting people and seeing how it makes a difference in somebody's life

"Sometimes I'm the only person to have walked into their house for ages because they've been too embarrassed to have friends and family around.

"It's a real privilege to be able to help them be happier in their homes," says Hannah.

● See [www.hbprofessionalorganiser.co.uk](http://www.hbprofessionalorganiser.co.uk) By Heather Large

**LIFE HACKS TIPS & TRICKS**



To-do list longer than your arm? Chores galore? Weekend is here to help! We're sharing some top hints and tricks that we hope will make your life a little bit easier. . .

**From parallel parking to checking your tyres – there's something everyone wants to avoid when it comes to driving.**

While it's never wise to 'cut corners' too much when it comes to driving, there are a few little tricks you can do with your motor to make life that little bit easier. Here are our tips...



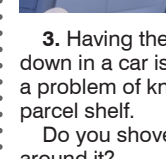
1. No matter how hard you try, if you parallel park on the regular you're almost certainly going to kerb a wheel one day – or if you're not that good at it, every day. You can

avoid doing this with a simple drop of the mirror.

Once stopped safely before the manoeuvre, lower the kerb-side door mirror until you get a view of the rear wheels. Now you'll be able to place the back of the car close to the kerb without having to risk whacking it accidentally. Just remember to be careful at the front.

2. We've all done it on a hot summer's day. You've had your window down to catch some fresh air, parked up and then walked away before realising you've forgotten to wind it back up again. Now you're going to have to head back to the car, turn the ignition back on and put it up again, right?

Not if you drive a recent VW Group car such as a Volkswagen, Seat, Skoda, Audi, to name a few, or a Honda NSX. Take the key fob and just hold down the lock button for a few seconds, and watch as the glass comes back up.



3. Having the ability to fold rear seats down in a car is great, but it does leave a problem of knowing what to do with a parcel shelf.

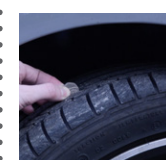
Do you shove it in the boot or just work around it?

No, you slot it between the front seats. It's a simple little trick that's easy to forget about, but having seats folded flat does tend to leave a gap just behind the occupants furthest forward, perfect for sliding the parcel shelf in.



4. For tyres to be legal for use in the UK, they must have a tread depth of at least 1.6mm – and ideally, you'd want a fair bit more than that. Checking this could be an issue for most though, as you'd need a dedicated tool to know how much tread is left.

Step in the humble 20p coin. See that little outer rim?



That's 2.7mm in depth – perfect for ensuring your tyres are in good nick. If the tread stops below it, it's probably a good time to start looking for replacement rubber.

5. Boost your locking range with a key fob to the head This one may seem like a myth, but really, it works! Science suggests it could just be the act of raising the key fob higher, therefore allowing a better range of signal, but there's also some research claiming that your head could effectively be working as a giant infrared signal booster.

Next time you're in the supermarket car park, give this one a go – even if passersby might offer an odd look or two in the process.



● Got a helpful hack? Drop us a line at [heather.large@mnamedia.co.uk](mailto:heather.large@mnamedia.co.uk) or write to us: Weekend Life Hacks, The Star, 51-53 Queen St, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.