

# Living

ESSEX

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## FRANKIE BRIDGE

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## Fashion refresh

The Lakeside stylist saving your look

## Clifftown chic

Southend's new £125m development launches

## 1970s SASS

Inside model's award-winning Thorpe Bay garden bar

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# GARDEN GROW-HOW

Keep your garden's beauty growing through autumn with this advice from Leigh-on-Sea's **Katrina Kieffer-Wells** MSGD, of Earth Designs

**T**he heady summer days of flowering and growth in the garden may be over, but there are still plenty of ways to keep your green fingers busy this autumn.

As you put the garden to bed for winter and plan ahead for next year, bring a little of that garden magic inside with you. It will help you through the long winter days ahead.

## Last chance gardening

October is the perfect time to renovate or redo your lawn in time for the autumn rains to give it a good watering. It's also often your last chance to prune the hedgerows, harvest fruit and mow the lawn before the cold weather arrives. And make sure timber fences or furniture are weatherproof for winter.

## Keep the garden with you

While pruning the garden, plan ahead for Christmas. Grasses and berries, for instance, need cutting back around now. They also make wonderful Christmas decorations. Cut long stems and dry them in a cool, dark place.

Holly and mistletoe can also be dried, but get in quick to beat the birds! A dried hydrangea flower head looks fabulous too. Simply place it in a vase with a tiny amount of water and leave to dry.



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## Indoor gardens

Indoor plants are proven to improve wellbeing, so get your indoor greenery sorted for winter. Orchids, cacti, succulents and ferns all make happy house plants and a rise in demand means there's a range to choose from. Add pretty pots to complement your interior.

## Growing the perfect Christmas gift

Thinking about making gifts this Christmas? Why not grow them? Amaryllis and hyacinth bulbs, for instance, should be planted around now to flower in time for Christmas.

## Does your garden work for you?

Now is the time to focus on your garden. Once all the flowers and foliage die back you get a blank canvas. Think about what you actually want from your garden. Did you get the most out of it this year? Does it work for you?

**Award-winning Earth Designs are members of the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Association of Professional Landscapers.**

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