

Doing it for yourself

Become a DIY master with TV presenter Martin Roberts.

Many TV presenters have had to stop filming their shows because of the coronavirus outbreak. One of these presenters is Martin Roberts, who hosts BBC One's *Homes Under the Hammer*.

Instead, he has started making a brand-new series at home for his YouTube channel called *DIY for Kids*. DIY stands for "do it yourself", and means making something for your home yourself, rather than paying someone else to do it for you.

Speaking to *The Week Junior*, Roberts says that he learnt a lot of DIY skills from his father. "If a job needed doing, he would do it," remembers Roberts. Now he wants to teach his own children, Scott and Megan, some DIY skills and share those lessons with others online.

So far, Roberts and his children have made a bike jump, a cloud light, a musical instrument and a swing ball. All of the projects

on the show were made from objects lying around the house. Making the videos, Roberts realised how much you can learn from DIY.

"The first rule is safety," he explains, and all videos start with a safety briefing. Following that, there are lessons about

design and how different objects interact with one another. "It's not just a case of screwing a screw into a piece of wood," he says.

Roberts says that once people have learnt some basic DIY skills, they can let their imaginations run wild and build whatever they want. Of all the things that

Roberts has made, his favourite is his treehouse. He says, "I built it for the kids as a spaceship. It's got a launch panel and rocket motors, but I end up playing in there more than they do now."

You can watch *DIY for Kids* on Martin Roberts's YouTube channel at tinyurl.com/TWJ-DIYforkids



Martin Roberts on YouTube.



Martin Roberts

DIY DJ
Martin Roberts has presented a radio show live from the treehouse he built in his garden.



Bette Williamson (circled).

Our VE Day cover star

When Bette Williamson's son told her that she was going to be on a stamp, she didn't believe him. However, a photo featuring her is on one of 12 stamps released by Royal Mail to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. VE Day was held on 8 May 1945 and marked the end of the Second World War (1939–1945) in Europe. Williamson was 14 years old at the time and was celebrating in London, where she had her picture taken with a man holding a UK and a US flag. As well as being on a stamp, this picture is on the cover of this magazine. Williamson is now 90 years old. She says that people across the country are showing a spirit like that of VE Day, because everyone is "coming together to help one another".

ROYAL MAIL - HENRY SHUTTERSTOCK

A new way of teaching

A teacher from London is helping people to learn more about wildlife by writing on the pavement rather than on her blackboard. Rachel Summers usually teaches people about the natural world but this is not possible for now because of the coronavirus outbreak. Instead, she decided to write the names of trees and facts about them on the pavement using chalk, to make people's walks more interesting. "I wanted to help people make a connection with the wild spaces where they live," Summers told the BBC. Images of her chalk writings have been posted on social media and have become popular. One user was happy to see them, writing that it made their "heart sing today".



Rachel Summers

THEY SAID IT!

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"People keep saying what I have done is remarkable. However, it's actually what you have done for me which is remarkable."

Colonel Tom Moore thanks those who helped him raise more than £30 million for charities supporting the National Health Service (NHS).



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Once you have read the article, try any of the following activities...

Hold a debate with your family

Using chalk to write on pavements about trees is a lovely way to help children learn while out on their exercise walks. There have been other ideas to catch the eye as well, such as leaving painted stones or creating small fairy houses in woodlands. But has the time come to set some limits? Should we insist that all such initiatives must have a scientific or factual basis? Are they actually a form of littering or graffiti, which should be banned? Or do you think that we should welcome anything that brightens these dark days, as long as it is not taken too far. Further more, is it wrong to limit these ideas to factual topics? After all, children need to have their imaginations developed as well as their appreciation of nature. What do you think?

Investigate

Identify the five nearest tree species to where you live. For each one, list three to five interesting facts about it.

Writing challenge!

Choose one of the following writing warm-ups.

1 Write a pretend diary entry as if you had found a tree in a lonely wood that had a tiny door in it. Describe the scene in as much detail as you can, including what you hear, smell and feel as well as what you see. (Do not include any mythical creatures – this is just about setting the scene.)

or

2 Write a two-verse poem from the perspective of a tree growing beside a road in a town or city. You can use any rhythmic or rhyming structure but try to capture a change of mood between the two verses where the first reflects the bustle of the street in normal times and the second is the eerie quiet during lockdown