

Daily Universal Register



Gadget

Energenie GSM Remote Controlled Power Socket
(www.energenie4u.co.uk;
£129.99)

USP: Control a power socket with your mobile phone

Upside: Switch the GSM socket on or off by sending a text message from anywhere in the world. It has a daily and a weekly timer and will power down devices that are not being used, making it eco-friendly. There are safety mechanisms in place which will alert you by SMS if the power is cut or the temperature exceeds a certain threshold. It is ideal for physically impaired people who cannot reach their power supplies. SIM card included.

Downside: It's one pricey plug
Laura Westcott



Briefing

Charlotte, North Carolina: Democratic National Convention begins with a speech from the First Lady Michelle Obama
London: GQ magazine's Men of the Year awards; world premiere for the film *Anna Karenina*
US: Publication of a book about Osama bin Laden's death by a retired Navy Seal
Beijing: Hillary Clinton visits
Berlin: Chancellor Merkel meets Herman van Rompuy

Travel

London: The Jubilee Line from Waterloo to Stratford, the Central Line from Holborn to Stratford and the DLR will be particularly busy from 7am to 9.30am and 4pm to 7pm. Weymouth and Portland is the only out-of-London venue in session today getaheadofthegames.com

Nature notes



One wild flower that is noticeably abundant this autumn is common fleabane. It has a ring of bright yellow florets with a centre that looks like a lump of old gold, and the soft, woolly leaves clasp the stem. There are gleaming rivers of it now along damp ditches. It has an odd smell, reminiscent of carbolic soap, and it used to be hung up dry or burnt to drive fleas and flies out of the house. Another fleabane that is far less attractive is Canadian fleabane. This is very common in the autumn, growing in allotments, on railway lines, and alongside pavements. It is a tall plant with skimpy leaves that quickly turn yellow, and dull, tiny whitish flowers at the top that look more like seedheads. It is a native of North America, and there is an odd story that the first seeds to enter this country fell out of a stuffed bird that was brought here in the 17th century. It is now found all over the world.
Derwent May

Going out ...

Photography
 ● **Uncertain Bristol**
 The city's industrial landmarks and railways are the subject of this exhibition at the Tobacco Factory, Raleigh Road, Bristol. Until September 30 tobaccofactory.com

Out and about
 ● **Brighton Digital Festival**
 This celebration of Brighton's digital and arts communities takes place across the city until September 30 2012 brightondigitalfestival.co.uk



An evening at Ernő Goldfinger's home



DVD: Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

Book now
 ● **Lates at 2 Willow Road**
 Drink a glass of champagne while exploring the former home of the architect Ernő Goldfinger and his artist wife, Ursula, on September 27 from 6.30pm. Tickets £9. London NW3, 020-7435 6166 nationaltrust.org.uk

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How do you rate today's edition of The Times?

Send your review by 2pm today to YouTheEditor@thetimes.co.uk

Dinner tonight



Greengage vanilla clafoutis
Serves 6 Prep: 20 min plus 15 min cooling **Cook:** 30 min
Ingredients: 25g soft butter; 400g ripe greengages; 300g crème fraîche or thick cream; ½ vanilla pod; 4 large, fresh eggs; 75g caster sugar plus 1 tbsp; 25g plain flour
 Place cream and vanilla pod in a small saucepan and bring to boil. Remove from heat. Give pod a bash to release seeds. Stir, cover and leave for at least 15 mins. Crack eggs into a mixing bowl, add sugar and whisk for 2-3 mins until fluffy. Sift flour into the egg and whisk to make a smooth batter. Heat oven to 200F/gas mark 6. Chose a 1½ litre gratin-style dish. Halve and stone greengages and place cut-side up in the dish. Discard vanilla pod and stir cream into eggs. Pour batter over the fruit. Cook on a middle shelf of the oven for 25-35 minutes until golden and the batter has risen over the greengages. It should feel soft and bouncy yet retain a wobble in the centre. Remove from oven. Serve warm with a dusting of caster sugar.
Lindsey Bareham

... Staying in

TV
 ● **The Midwives**
 The series ends tonight by following three midwives based at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, as they care for new mothers (BBC Two, 9pm)

● **The Great British Bake Off**
 The contestants demonstrate their dessert-making skills with tortes and crème caramels (BBC One, 8pm)

DVD
 ● **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen**
 A fisheries expert is asked to introduce salmon into the waterways of Yemen with unexpected results. Starring Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt and Kristin Scott Thomas

Your choice
 Send your suggestions for the Daily Universal Register to dailyregister@thetimes.co.uk


In numbers

... back to school
£200 the cost of the average secondary school uniform according to the Local Government Association

£160 the average cost of a primary school uniform

You bet

Despite her defeat at the US Open, the British tennis player Laura Robson's bold performance has led William Hill to offer 8-1 that the teenager becomes the world No 1 before the end of 2020. She is 2-1 to win a Grand Slam by the end of 2020 and 7-1 to win Wimbledon in the same timeframe. She is 25-1 to win her first Grand Slam next year



On this day

Events: In 1733 Britain's first lioness died of old age in the Royal Menagerie in the Tower of London; in 1888 George Eastman registered the trademark Kodak and took out a patent for the first roll-film camera; in 1909 the first Boy Scout rally was held at Crystal Palace, London.

Births: Pindar, Greek lyric poet, 518 BC; Alexander III, King of Scotland 1249-86, 1241; François René, Vicomte de Chateaubriand, diplomat and writer, 1768; Richard Wright, African-American novelist, 1908.

Deaths: Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, 1588; James Wyatt, architect, 1813; Edvard Grieg, Norwegian composer, 1907; Albert Schweitzer, missionary, physician, philosopher, theologian and Nobel Peace laureate 1952, 1965; Georges Simenon, novelist and creator of the fictional detective Jules Maigret, 1989.

A dream home



Moffat, Dumfriesshire
Burnside: A Victorian house with three bedrooms
Upside: Plenty of neo-Jacobean detailing, a sweeping drive and beautiful grounds
Downside: One of the bedrooms is downstairs
Offers over: £385,000, Savills (01461 202 866) thetimes.co.uk/property

The last word

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it"
 Aristotle