

freetime

YOUR LOCAL LEISURE GUIDE

Sustainable beauty brands

Last year, a law came into force banning microbeads - the plastic particles used in products like facial scrubs - because they were being ingested by marine life, and the beauty industry patted itself on the back for a job well done.

Of course, eliminating microbeads was a step in the right direction, but take a look at the average bathroom shelf and you'll discover there's still a long way to go, as manufacturers are heavily dependent on plastic packaging.

The UK uses 13 billion plastic bottles each year, according to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee report.

Clearly, we need to be reducing the amount of single-use plastic we use and send to landfill, while also increasing the amount we recycle - and fast.

While it may seem that the beauty industry is doing more harm than good in the battle against plastic pollution, there are a number of companies taking steps to improve their environmental impact.

Lush has just opened its first 'Naked' shop in the UK, with the Manchester store selling only plastic packaging-free products.

French brand L'Occitane has announced a commitment to use 100% recycled plastic for its packaging by 2025, while Urban Veda has partnered with Plastic Oceans Foundation UK, pledging 10% of all online sales to support the charity in its fight against plastic pollution.

Want to do your bit? Here are nine brands that can help make your beauty routine more green...



Lush 'Naked' shop in Manchester. Picture credit: PA Photo/Handout

1. Lush

Lush recently made its Naked skincare range permanent, due to its popularity with fans.

2. Natural World

"Did you know that plastic bottles take 450 years or more to decompose?" says Michael Eggerton, director at Brodie and Stone, where bottles are made from 100% recycled plastic with labels made from sugar cane.

3. Love Beauty And Planet

Unilever has launched new vegan brand Love Beauty And Planet.

Every bottle in the hair, body and skincare range is made from recycled plastic and is recyclable.

4. Dr Bronner

Bar soaps are best in terms of preventing waste and Dr Bronner has a range of those, but even its liquid soaps are eco-friendly, coming packaged in a 100% post-consumer recycled plastic bottles.

5. Bramley

Natural beauty brand Bramley made the switch from traditional plastic bottles to more sustainable biopolymer HDPE, which is derived from sugar cane, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

6. Miild

Lots of make-up companies are lagging behind in terms of packaging improvements, but

there are some notable exceptions, such as Danish brand Miild, which makes allergy and eco certified cosmetics.

7. Cosmydor

Parisian brand Cosmydor makes 'virtuous cosmetics' and has a no plastic policy.

8. Clockface

Yorkshire-based Clockface makes organic vegan products. All its packaging is recyclable, made from either amber glass or fully recyclable plastic.

9. Natural Deo Co

The Natural Deo Co creates cruelty free, vegan approved deodorants packaged in plastic-free jars.

Art society holds spring exhibition



Harrow Art Society are holding their Spring Art Exhibition at the Harrow Arts Centre on Sunday, March 31, to Sunday, April 14. Pictures will be displayed in the White Gallery and the Elliot Hall corridors in the main building and is free to all.

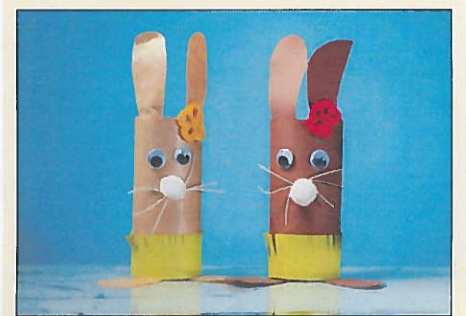
The Society's exhibitions are always well stocked with artworks from their talented professional and amateur members. All kinds of artwork are featured, including landscapes, portraits, still life, life

drawing and painting, and collage. Styles include classical, Renaissance, expressionism, surrealism, plus many more, and materials include charcoal, pen and ink, acrylic, watercolour and oils and more.

Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Wednesday, Sunday, March 31, to Sunday, April 14. Details: 020 3773 7161 harrowarts.com



Half term events for kids

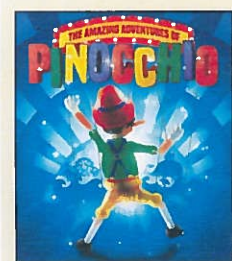


Can't think of what to plan for the half-term? With a packed programme of family theatre, films and workshops, Harrow Arts Centre have you covered.

The week kicks off with the return of Immersion Theatre (Beauty and the Beast Pantomime 2018) as they present a brand new, larger-than-life musical adaptation of the much-loved classic, Pinocchio. Packed with comedy, audience interaction and a completely original score you are guaranteed to have a whale of time. Pinocchio plays at 1.30pm and 5pm on Monday, February 18, and Tuesday February 19.

If film and animation are more your thing, be sure not to miss a special three-day Amazing Animation Workshop with professional animation artist, Gemma Burditt. Give your child the opportunity to develop their artistic skills and make their very own creative animation. Taking place between Wednesday, February 20, and Friday, February 22, 1pm and 4pm daily and with no need for parents to stay this is the perfect way to keep the kids entertained while keeping on top of your busy schedule. This workshop has been designed for children aged 7-12 years old.

If you are looking for something suitable for younger children, HAC's Film Activity Days are just the thing for you. Starting with a screening of hit film Peter Rabbit and a crafty Make Your Own Rabbit Workshop on Thursday, February 21. Then on Friday, February 22, it's time for a Circus Puppets Workshop followed by a singalong version of The Greatest Showman. Film tickets are £4 and pre-film workshops are £3 and for children aged 3+.



Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Wednesday, February 20, to Friday, February 22. Details: 020 3773 7161 harrowarts.com