## Feeling hot hot!

### Beauty products that will keep you warm on the inside

HE festive season is over and chances are you're feeling dreadfully run-down and tired. Why not pep yourself up with selfheating products, which are sure to melt away stress and revive your spirits?

They're also comforting on chilly winter days. After a few rounds of partying and late nights, skin can become clogged and congested easily with blocked pores, blemishes and blackheads. But the warming action works like a mini sauna, gently opening up pores for deeper cleansing. Use a few of these treatments and you'll be ready to bounce out of the bathroom and back into the party scene.

### Face up to it

Products that heat up when applied to wet skin are ideal for using post-party, because they help to draw out the skin's impurities and sweep away excess oils — without getting too hot.
Olay Regenerist Thermal Skin Polisher, £7.50,

Clinique Pore Minimiser Thermal Active Skin Refiner, £22 and Shiseido

Pureness Pore Warming Scrub, £16.50, will free skin of dull, dead cells.

Try also Biore Warming Blackhead Fighting Cream Cleanser, £4.99, contains Zeolite, a refined natural clay to target pore-clogging dirt and oil. For something that works a little harder, try Philosophy's The Microdelivery Peel. Containing active vitamin C crystals, the two-step facial, £57 from John Lewis, Space NK and Hqhair.com (0870 990 8452), will de-age and brighten skin. Face masks are ideal if you want a soothing treatment after festive excesses. Detox with The Sanctuary's Warming Charcoal Detox Mask, £7 from Boots, or Origins' You're Getting Warmer purifying clay

mask, £15. Christy's Wild Peach and Cranberry and Oil of Avocado face masks, 99p each at Boots and Superdrug, are great for dry skins and sensitive skins respectively, while No7's Deep Cleansing Purifying Mask, £7.50 for four at Boots, is suitable for all skin types. All are cheap so you can afford to indulge as often as you like. Biore's Self Heating Mask, £7.99 for eight, contains clay that heats up when mixed with water. It turns blue when you massage it into the skin, so make sure you're not expecting any visitors. The shade indicates it's working, as it absorbs oils and cleans away dirt and toxins. MD Skincare Intense Hydra Mask, £48 at Space NK (020 8740 2085/www.spacenk.com), needs to be massaged into the face for a minute to activate the heat. Leave on for 10-15 minutes, then remove with a warm cloth to see a spa-worthy results in the comfort of your own home.





### Stay healthy and grow your own veg

### Now is the perfect time to get organised

f your New Year resolution was to have a go at growing your own vegetables and eating seasonally, there's never

been a better time to have a go.

The Royal Horticultural Society will show you how with the start of the Grow Your Own Veg Campaign 2007 which coincides with a new BBC and RHS TV series, Grow Your Own Veg, which began on BBC Two on January 5. It is presented by horticulturalist and award-winning garden writer Carol Klein, accompanied by a book of the same name, published in January (Mitchell Beazley, £16.99). For the past year RHS Gardens Harlow Carr in Yorkshire and Rosemoor in Devon have been the inspirational locations for the new series which aims to get beginners growing their own fresh produce.

Carol Klein swaps tips on produce ranging from salads and roots to brassicas and legumes and follows the progress of the experts as they attempt to grow a successional harvest in a small 3m by 3m vegetable plot, and shares the highs and lows of novice vegetable growers throughout the

Guy Barter, head of the RHS advisory service, said: 'Nowadays, growing our own food has never been more pertinent with concern over freshness, food miles and healthy eating, and the taste and satisfaction of eating something grown by yourself is second-to-none

'I would urge anyone to give it a try, even if they have previously been a stranger to a trowel. The RHS will be here to help you through your first growing year and hopefully inspire you to continue growing your own, to be brave and try new

'To all those seasoned gardeners, the upswelling of enthusiasm for vegetable growing has led to a great variety of new crops to try and new ways to grow them. There has not been such an interesting time to be a veg grower for years."

The RHS campaign runs throughout the year and will feature a series of events, the first of which is the Grow Your Own Veg Day on February 10 when all four RHS Gardens will be offering free entry and providing a programme of talks, demonstrations, children's activities, guided walks and free advice Visitors will have the chance to see the vegetable plots in their very early stages and meet the RHS experts that have featured in the BBC series at RHS Gardens Harlow Carr and Rosemoor.







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### ew Year, NewYou



# Feel good in 2007

T'S New Year and we're all determined to improve our lives. But what's the problem with a new gym membership, enrolling on a career course, or trying hypnotherapy to quit smoking? They all cost money. And after indulging over the festive period and in the January sales, most of us don't have the spare cash to fork out on resolutions that will probably hit the rocks by mid-January anyway.

Yet there is another way. If you get down to your local Volunteer Centre, they'll show you how volunteering is an easy and cheap way to reach your New Year goals.

Spokeswoman Jane Heath, from Volunteer Centres, said: "There's a huge rush at the start of the year to join a gym or commit to new hobbies as we all make an effort to improve our lifestyles. But these activities involve long-term financial investment, and more often than not we quickly lose interest even though we've committed a lot of money. "Volunteering can help you achieve many popular resolutions

- from getting fit to gaining new skills or spending more time with your loved ones. We've even got new research that shows almost 90 per cent of people would feel happier and more fulfilled if they were making a difference in their community.

'At your local Volunteer Centre, there's someone on hand to help you find the best volunteering opportunity to improve

So, if you're tired of making and breaking the same old resolutions, try something that comes with a much better guarantee of success.

#### Get fit and lose weight

Instead of spending £50 a month on a gym membership you rarely use, get active in the great outdoors. By joining a BTCV Green Gym in your area and helping out with conservation and gardening activities, you can burn almost a third more calories in an hour than you would in a step aerobics class.

#### Get less stressed

A course of acupuncture or regular massages are out of most people's budgets. Why not try volunteer counselling or mentoring? Providing a listening ear to someone genuinely in need of your time can be a good way to get a new perspective on your own problems and is a truly rewarding

If you can't afford a career break or training course, there aré plenty of organisations that need your help. Writing a newsletter for a local charity can give you experience for a career in journalism, or organising fundraising activities can help you get a foot in the door in events management. If fashion is your dream job, why not help design the window displays or customise clothes for your local charity shop?

### • Spend more time with people you love

A few pizzas, cinema tickets and drinks make for an expensive night out. Instead rally the family, escape the rat race and help out on a farm. Taking care of the animals is a fun way to spend time and bond with your loved ones.

#### Take up a new hobby

Volunteering is a great way to make unaffordable hobbies a reality. Riding centres for disabled children want volunteers to help teach lessons and look after the horses; youth charities call for volunteers to teach adventure sports; while theatres need your help to work with groups of children on plays and musical productions, and even costume design.

To get in touch with your local Volunteer Centre, call 0845 347 9360 or visit www.volunteercentres.org



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# G WEIGHT HAS

What the members have to say...

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Linda - Exclusive Fitness member for eight weeks

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Jackie - Exclusive Fitness member for 6 weeks





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## Waging war on the troublesome germs



### Tips to help you keep the winter bugs at bay

on't be fooled by the unseasonably warm weather – that flu and cold hazard remains. Travelling on crowded buses and or working in over-heated office buildings are all situations that expose us to bugs. It's not just coming into contact with people coughing and sneezing. Some strains of the cold and flu virus survive outside the body for a day or more, so everything you touch - from a toilet door handle to a lift button could be teeming with invisible germs. Flu cases normally peak towards the end of December through to March, and on average over nine million Britons battle colds. But Dr Alyn Morice, professor of respiratory medicine at the University of Hull, believes there are ways to minimise the risk of contracting winter ills.
He said: "At the moment the number

of cases is lower than normal because of the mild weather. Viruses like the nose to be cold as it is easier for them to implant in the mucous membranes, so a cold snap will see

"Until then people still have time to use common sense and a few hygiene rules which could minimise their chance of getting ill." He added that studies have shown that improved hand hygiene can reduce illness by up to 20 per cent and days lost from work and school by up to 40 per cent. Dr Morice, who's also head of Hull Cough Clinic, said: "Wash hands

contaminated surface - - in an office that could be a telephone, keyboard, or even the communal microwave and then touching your face can allow germs to get into your system. "On average we touch our faces about three to four times a minute allowing germs to enter through the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and eyes."

Sitting next to someone suffering an infection means you're more likely to be infected - one cough can spread 10,000 infectious viruses over 20 ft. Dr Morice says: "Try to move away from an infected person if possible, and also avoid shaking hands with them. If you have to, always wash hands afterwards."

With the help of Dr Morice and other experts we've devised a flu-guard package to help you ward off and beat those germs

#### Flu facts

Flu is highly infectious - about 15 per cent of us suffer from it. meaning 150 million working days are lost as a result in Britain annually. The virus changes every year so just because you haven't caught it before doesn't mean you'll be ok this time. The virus is so small that 3,500 flu viruses can fit onto a pinhead. People can pass it on even before they show symptoms. Every day we inhale 10.000 litres of air and 100,000 flu particles can be projected into the air with one sneeze.

Wash your hands
It's estimated that more than half of all colds are transmitted by hand-tohand contact. Viruses can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours. American research reveals that one of the germiest things in a public space is the ground-floor lift button, while

desktops harbour 400 times more hacteria than a toilet howl Dr Morice added: "To kill hacteria and viruses on hands, use warm water and soap or an anti-bacterial handwash and rub it on the hands for at least 15 seconds."

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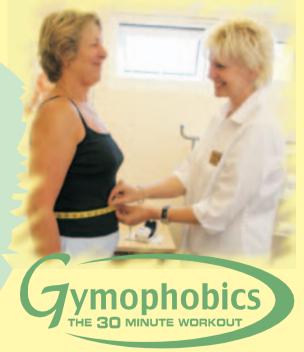
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