TV'S JULIA BRADBURY
Stepping out for the SW Coast Path Challenge

THE GASTRO BUILDER
Top chef crafting something very special in North Devon

WHERE'S WALLY?
Tales from the life of a Beer beach hut veteran

August 2017 | devonlife.co.uk

DEVON LIFE

Delve into Dartmoor

- Step out on a walking festival
- Restoring a 300-year-old forge
- Take a bite of the Nourish Festival

WIN!
A £500 cottage holiday prize

24 HOURS IN TEIGNMOUTH
Insiders' guide to an artful town

DEVON'S OWN TREE
Revealed: the story behind a very special species

AMAZING EVENTS
Sidmouth Folk Week, Dartington Summer School

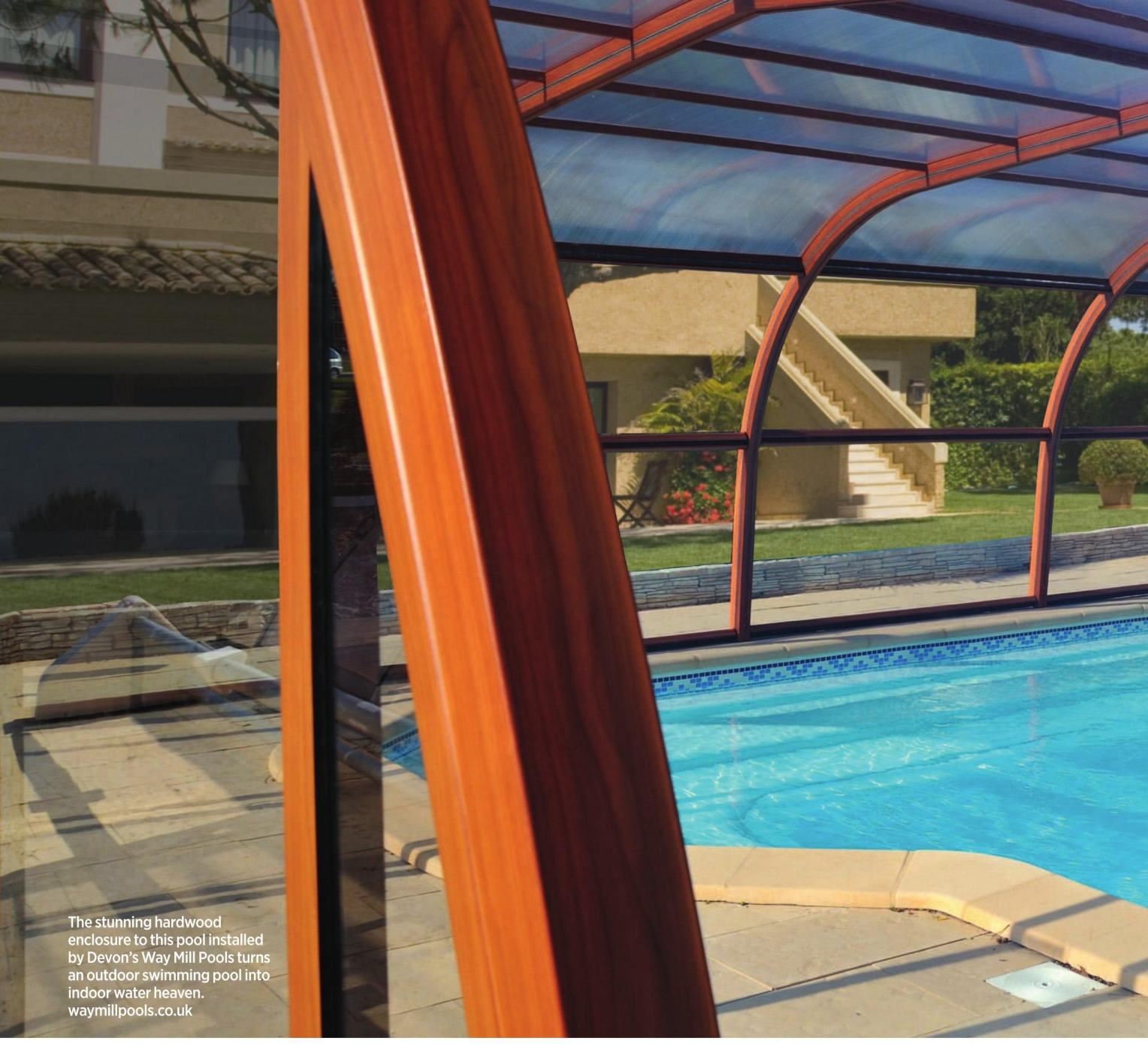
Seek out the SOUTH HAMS

FOODIE FAVOURITES:
YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE IN THE..

DEVON LIFE FOOD & DRINK AWARDS 2017

- All aboard for sailing fun
- Locals' tips for eating out
- Summer events planner
- Walk around delicious Dartmouth
- Special dog walking spots

9 771368 631137 08 £4.20



The stunning hardwood enclosure to this pool installed by Devon's Way Mill Pools turns an outdoor swimming pool into indoor water heaven. waymillpools.co.uk

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Once considered only the preserve of the very rich – swimming pools are finding their way into our gardens and onto our property wishlists, writes Interiors Editor CAROL BURNS

Next to your own pool - few things will match the luxury of a garden room to relax, dry off and take a snooze like this Shenzhou X floating bed. Stockists: sweetpeaandwillow.com

OUR (SOMETIMES) glorious south west weather makes outdoor water play more attractive than other parts of the country – and owning your own pool has never been so affordable – or easy to install.

Outdoor (heated) swimming pools are probably the most popular on our water wishlists. Specialist firms can come in, dig the hole, tile and add any techie bits – but you will need to consider upkeep. A heated pool will need money spent on it for the heating on top of that. The cost will vary depending on size, depth and style. But you can probably budget it at anything from £25,000 (above ground will be more like £2,500). There are all kinds of things to consider – such as environmental control system, air handling unit such as a dehumidifier and quality of tiling. Fortunately Devon is blessed with several great companies to browse. Try Way Mill Pools (waymillpools.co.uk) and Deep End Pools (deependpools.co.uk)

When it comes to adding value to your home, the jury is still out. While for some a swimming pool will add a wow factor that allows the vendor to charge a premium, fears over accidents involving small children, or the perceived cost and hassle of upkeep may put some buyers off. This means that the money may be better invested in an extension, but they are not nearly as much fun. A swimming pool is undoubtedly a great addition for your forever home, or if you plan to rent out as a holiday home.

There's also a new pool on the market – natural swimming ponds that are little more than deep lined garden ponds heavily with planted that help keep the water clean, making them pretty much self-sufficient (see more at clear-water-revival.com). These pools offer a natural lookand ditch chemicals in favour of harnessing the purifying properties of plants.

If a pool isn't for you, how about installing a hot tub? As we discover more and more of these in holiday cottages, the demand to have one at home is on the increase – as we look for ways to make use of our gardens all year round: you've not lived until you've lay back and celebrated the New Year in a sea of bubbles (glass of bubbly in hand, advised but optional).

These wonderful tubs come in all shapes, sizes, and materials – from blow up, plug in and go ones for just a few hundred pounds that can be bought from garden centres, to luxury teak-enclosed spas that can comfortably seat a large family without accidental footsy in the bubbles.

Water doesn't have to be big enough to sit in to be good for your health. The sound of water not only brings a sense of zen-like calm, but can be useful in drowning out unwanted noises. Go for something more dramatic that the classic solar-powered table top types.◆

The modern outdoor spa comes in all shapes and sizes and are easy to fit like this Canadian Spa Toronto 5 - 6 Person Hot Tub.Try softening it with its own deck or lots of lush tropical planting. Stockists: diy.com

'When it comes to adding value to your home, the jury is still out. While for some a swimming pool will add a wow factor, buyers may be put off by costs of upkeep.'

A very cool old-style hot tub: the Naked Flame Eco LovTub is lovingly handcrafted from premium wood with stainless steel. Perfect for small spaces and designed for couples. Installs in 30 minutes and heats in 30-40 minutes. Makers say it will last 20 years. Stockists: boutiquecamping.com

Water features have become more sophisticated and the combination of lighting, possibly colour changing, within the water feature can create an amazing centre piece to your garden. We have often set up these features so that the light gradually increases as darkness falls; a lit water feature outside the living areas can extend the inside space making the outside feel a part of your home regardless of the weather intelligentabodes.co.uk