



It's the smarter way to pay

IF you're the proud owner of a smartphone, one day soon, it could also be your debit card, writes Craig Campbell.

Britain's big three mobile networks, Vodafone, O2 and EE, are making a service that will let bank, credit and loyalty card details be stored on their phones' SIM cards.

Customers with smartphones will then be able to "swipe" them at the shops, just as they do with cards at the moment.

Other big hitters, like Google, have already come up with similar so-called Virtual Wallets, but their idea didn't catch on.

With the Big Three involved, it's expected more Brits will now adopt the idea, but security experts reckon it still needs a bit more work, including strong password methods.

Family believes in the best of British

THE government, celebrities and eminent business people have all tried in the past to raise the profile of British manufacturing with limited success.

So can a normal British family really hope to succeed where the rich and powerful have failed?

That's the dream of James Bradshaw and his family from Kent.

In January, James (34), wife Emily (29) along with son Lucan, who's two, made a New Year's resolution to see if it was possible for a family to live entirely on British goods and services for a year.

"Since we decided to leave the supermarkets, it's been a lot easier," explained James.

"Now, 90% of our food comes from a local vegetable box delivery scheme.

by Gavin Sherriff

"It's been a lifesaver — more convenient and significantly cheaper than the supermarkets."

But James adds that trips to the High Street can be a minefield.

"Nothing seems to be correctly labelled, so finding the source of anything is really difficult," he said.

"About 90% of what's on sale doesn't seem to be from the UK, particularly clothes and electrical goods.



James, Emily and Lucan Bradshaw.

"We've missed out on very little, but we have to avoid citrus fruits, spices and other exotic foods.

"Our diet is a very seasonal one, rather pre-Victorian.

"However, we do struggle for some household staples — things like nappies, lightbulbs and batteries.

"On the whole, though, if you look long enough, you can find a British alternative."

The family are organising what they

hope will be the biggest celebration of British-only manufacturing and production that the UK has ever seen.

They're inviting British manufacturers, makers, farmers and producers from every sector and every corner of the country to join them in showing the Great British public what we can still make.

Over one weekend, they hope to get over 200 businesses represented and attract in excess of 10,000 visitors.

"It started out as a bit of a get-together for some of the firms we've got to know, but it's grown!" laughed James.

It would be quite a task for a specialist firm, never mind a young family with full-time jobs and a two-year-old (and while still trying to survive on only British-made stuff).

The event, called The British Family Fayre, will be held in the family's home town of Westerham, in Kent, in August.

The venue, a huge

former horse field, will be transformed with a main stage, with marquees and bunting.

Emily has no doubts about the project.

"Feedback we constantly receive suggests that the British public no longer believes that the UK is capable of making anything," she said.

"We hope that our efforts will show them otherwise."

● To follow the progress of the Bradshaws, go to www.britishfamily.co.uk

When style overtakes safety

WE all know motoring is one of the biggest drains on your pocket, writes Alan Shaw.

But on top of fuel costs and road tax, British motorists are spending almost £2bn a year on cleaning their cars, according to new research from Kwik Fit.

We are spending more than £600m a year on valet services, with drive-through car washes costing almost as much again.

And £90m is splashed out on chamois leathers, and the same on sponges.

But what is worrying is that to pay for all this spit 'n' polish, nearly a third of drivers are considering skipping much-needed maintenance.

In fact, the more you spend on cleaning your car, the more likely you are to skip services,



Clean — but is the car safe? with financial constraints being given as the most common reason for missing scheduled maintenance dates.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the research highlights the fact that a car's appearance is most

important to younger motorists, with 20% of drivers aged 18-24 admitting to using a carwash at least 10 times a year.

There are also huge regional variations.

Motorists in the South-West and North-West of England are most likely to avoid maintenance, with Scots most conscious of engine care.

But blowing the budget on cleaning rather than maintenance could be a false economy as regular services can stop minor faults becoming expensive major problems.

Roger Griggs, Kwik Fit communications director, said: "If drivers have to choose, we would recommend they prioritise what's under the bonnet first."

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