

HANDY HINTS

I was recently leafing through one of those “hints” books and I thought the following might inform (or amuse):

For those fun power cuts that seem to happen on a regular basis:

- Keep spare candles in the fridge or freezer – they’ll burn more slowly and evenly. Store them in Kitchen roll tubes, to prevent them breaking in the freezer.
- If you run out of candles, dip a cotton swab in some petroleum jelly and light it. Use the jar as a convenient holder.

For those (like me) who are not so bendy:

- If you don’t have a shoe horn, a large spoon will do the trick (though I imagine it could be rather painful!)

When spring cleaning:

- To slide furniture more easily and protect your floor, flatten some wax milk or juice cartons and put one under each leg.

If your finger swells and your ring gets stuck:

- Take some thin string and wind it evenly around your finger so that it covers and compresses your knuckle. Run the end of the string under your ring and then slowly pull it through. This serves to unwind the string, at the same time easing the ring off your finger.

And to clean all your diamonds:

- Place them in a tea strainer and dip them into a pot of boiling water containing several drops of ammonia and a spoonful of soapflakes. Hold for a few seconds, then remove and rinse in cold water. Soak for 5 minutes in alcohol (*I’d rather drink it!*), and finally rinse and pat dry.