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MARCH 2024 ISSUE 130



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Welcome to our March issue.

So we can officially say Spring is here. I personally love this time of year when the days finally get longer with lighter nights ahead and everything starts to come back to life after the winter months.

Spring is often a time when people look to have home and garden improvements, with this in mind please have a look through the magazine where you will find plenty of local businesses who can help you out.

Lots going on in this month's issue, with plenty of competition prizes up for grabs! Places to visit, including The Welsh Mountain Zoo and discover Oswestry. Don't forget mother's day is just around the corner so why not have a look at our mothers day gift ideas inside.

Have you ever been on a cruise?

Have a look at some of the massive ships available this year, they truly are amazing. Lots more going on so please have a look through.

If you're a local business who would like to reach 42,000 homes every month across Flintshire, Chester, Wrexham & the North Wales Coast, then give us a call, we won't be beaten on price or quality.

February Comptition Winner's

£25.00 Cash - Anthony Lake - Cher

Blue & Boyzlife - Laura Troake - Boyzone & Westlife

Awake My Soul - Sheila williams

Until Next Month Reg.

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ARTWORK DEADLINE DATE 16TH MARCH

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Amanda Azzopardi ANP/INP has over 25 years of experience in the healthcare industry, including 11 years as a midwife. She founded her own aesthetics clinic, which is CQC registered and provides treatments addressing the ageing process for both men and women.

With extensive experience and a genuine approach to client care, Amanda Azzopardi stands as a leading provider of aesthetic treatments. The Amanda Azzopardi Clinic has been rated 'Good' in their latest CQC inspection, a testament to the high standards of service and care offered. As an Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Prescriber, Amanda offers tailored treatments with a commitment to ensuring every patient feels their best. Her approach is thorough: starting with an in-depth consultation, she crafts a personalised treatment plan designed to enhance and rejuvenate each patient's natural features.

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At William Aston Hall, Wrexham:

Saturday May 25, 2024

To enter, just send full details, including your address and the date you received the magazine to: insidemagazinegroup@gmail.com
(Closing date: March 20, 2024)

WHO AM I?

GUESS THE IDENTITY OF OUR MYSTERY
CELEBRITY AND YOU COULD WIN £25 CASH!

????? is a fictional character from the BBC sitcom **Only Fools and Horses** and one of the main characters of its spinoff series, **Rock & Chips**.

He was played by David Jason in the original series and was portrayed as a teenager by James Buckley in the prequel. He is often regarded as one of the greatest comedy characters in the history of British television, and is

regarded as an iconic character in British culture. In a 2001 poll conducted by Channel 4 he was ranked fourth on their list of the 100 Greatest TV Characters. Incorporating aspects of Cockney culture (though not an actual Cockney), he is known for his broken French phrases, which are usually completely out of context, and a variety of British and Cockney catchphrases, including: "He who dares, wins!", "This time next year we'll be millionaires", "Cushty!", "Lovely Jubbly!", "You



know it makes sense" (which he usually says to his customers after they have agreed on a deal), "Shut up you tart" and "You plonker!", usually said to Rodney.

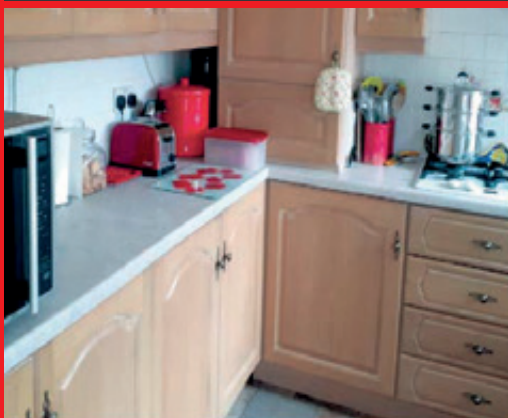
To enter our competitions please send your full name, address and contact details to: insidemagazinegroup@gmail.com (Closing date: March 20, 2024)

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WIN a pair of tickets to see **The Red Hot Chilli Pipers**

at CHESTER
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on Sat 15th
June, 2024

**“The most famous bagpipe band
on the planet... ever!”**

There has never been anything quite like **The Red Hot Chilli Pipers**, from their formation in 2002 and a cameo appearance at T in the Park in 2004 with the Darkness to opening the main stage in their own right in 2014. They’ve since become the most famous bagpipe band on the planet...ever!

The band’s achievements have reached incredible heights with their groundbreaking fusion of traditional Scottish music and rock/pop Anthems which they proudly call “Bagrock”. The Red Hot Chilli Pipers are a genuinely unique experience.

The Chillis have never been more in demand for their infectious style of feel good music which appeals right across the age range to people all over the world. They have collected together an impressive group of musicians, dancers and singers from Scotland and further afield, many holding World

Championship titles and all seriously good players with impressive credentials and qualifications.

In June 2019, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers released a new studio album, entitled “Fresh Air”. An exciting fusion of brand-new songs and carefully selected covers. In a new departure for the Red Hot Chilli Pipers many of the songs include lead vocals. Some of the highlights are “Leave the Light On” featuring Tom Walker on vocals, Leonard Cohen’s “Hallalujah”.

To date, The Red Hot Chilli Pipers have performed live to over 1 million people, and some of their other achievements include:

- A gold disc for over 100,000 UK sales of their first album - ‘Bagrock to the Masses’
- Triple platinum status for the album and DVD ‘Blast Live’.
- Over 4.5 million views on YouTube of their viral cover of the Avici track ‘Wake me up’.
- Sell out gigs and tours in USA, China,



Australia, Germany,
Switzerland and Australia.

- Winner of the BBC TV prime time talent show ‘When Will I be Famous’ hosted by Graham Norton.
- Performances at major sporting events including NBC Olympics Studio and the Rugby World Cup.
- Over 350,000 Facebook followers.

To be in with a chance of winning the tickets, all you have to do is answer the following question:

Which famous Scottish instrument do the Red Hot Chilli Pipers Play?

Please send your full name, address and the date you received the magazine along with your answer to:
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Closing date: Friday, March 22, 2024.

CHESTER STORYHOUSE Saturday 15th June 2024 **Doors:** 7:00pm **Tickets:** From £37.00
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Discover Oswestry

Where Shropshire meets Wales



OSWESTRY is a friendly and traditional market town, well known for its lively street markets, independent shops and year round events.

Among its summer highlights are the unique Oswestry Hot Air Balloon Carnival and July's free Food and Drink festival.



Chirk Castle

Chirk Castle

A magnificent marcher fortress built by Roger Mortimer over 700 years ago – during the reign of King Edward I. It was bought by Sir Thomas Myddelton in 1595, and was then owned by the Myddelton family for over 400 years. Extensive work has been done over generations of Myddelton family ownership to turn the medieval fortress into a comfortable family home.

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

The Unesco World Heritage Site takes in not only Pontcysyllte Aqueduct – Thomas Telford's stream in the sky – but also eleven miles of canals and the Dee Valley.

Dare you cross it? And can you do it without looking down? You can walk across Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, or save your legs and take a leisurely boat ride. Don't forget to bring your camera – the views are something else!

Historic Oswestry

From the 3000 year Old Oswestry Hillfort, one of the best in Britain, to the historic town centre, Oswestry is waiting to be explored. An eclectic mix of architecture brings to life the town centre, and stunning examples of earlier times such as Llwyd Mansion and St Oswald's Church are dotted through the town.

The legend of King Oswald and his grisly end is remembered at Oswald's Well but more of his legacy can be seen in the beautiful Church dedicated to his memory.

Oswestry's railway heritage is fascinating. Thomas Savin, who built much of it, was one of Oswestry's most eccentric characters. Mayor and gun powder enthusiast, his story lives on at Oswestry Town Museum.



Offa's Dyke Path

Following the English/Welsh border for 177 miles alongside the 8th Century is Offa's Dyke Path. This National Trail takes you through changing landscapes offering amazing opportunities to catch a view of our native wildlife.

The path runs right past Oswestry, and takes in some of our most iconic landscapes and heritage sites. Discover some hidden gems. The path runs through Llanymynech Rocks, Porth-y-Waen, into Nantmawr and Jones's Rough nature reserve. Then a climb to Moelydd Hill, before crossing to the Old Racecourse and then Old Oswestry Hillfort. Follow it further through Bronygarth and then up then up the hill to Chirk Castle and further on to Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Old Oswestry Iron Age Hillfort

This spectacular, dramatic & mysterious 3,000-year-old hill fort marks the beginning of one of Britain's oldest settlements, Oswestry. Old Oswestry was built and occupied during the Iron Age (800 BC to AD 43) and is one of the best-preserved hill forts in Britain. It is on the outskirts of town and a short climb will reward you with



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

views of both the town and the county of Shropshire.

It is a mythical place, said to have been the birthplace of King Arthur's Queen Guinevere.

Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway

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Oswestry Food and Drink Festival

Oswestry Food and Drink Festival takes to the streets of Oswestry for 2 days on the **6th and 7th July, 2024**. The usual market stalls rub shoulders with food and drink from all over Shropshire and North Wales. Watch out for the street entertainers and sample the flavours from the local brewery or distillery and don't miss the totally scrumptious cake stalls. Street food of all kinds is just waiting to be enjoyed.

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NEW CRUISE SHIPS FOR 2024



Royal Caribbean's 'Icon Of The Seas':

Its 7,000 passenger capacity makes it the same size as a small town.



A new year brings a whole host of exciting new cruise ships that you'll want to add to your travel wishlists.

Royal Caribbean will finally be launching its highly-anticipated

Icon of the Seas which will be the world's biggest cruise ship when she sails in January, taking the title from fellow Royal Caribbean ship Wonder of the Seas.

Meanwhile, Disney Cruise Line is preparing to launch Disney Treasure later this year complete with a

thrilling new water ride for families, as well as highlights such as an onboard pub and a Coco themed restaurant.

Get inspired for your next cruise holidays with our guide to some of the most exciting ship launches coming in 2024.

ICON OF THE SEAS ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Five times the size of the Titanic, Icon Of The Seas is the world's biggest cruise ship. With the capacity to hold 7,000 passengers, the ship is basically the same size as a small town.

One of the biggest highlights is the world's largest at sea waterpark with SIX record-breaking water slides, including one of the fastest at sea, epic near-vertical drops, and the first family-raft slide at sea. Other perks will include seven pools on offer for guests, as well as EIGHT neighbourhoods to explore.

You can already book sailings at royalcaribbean.com

DISNEY TREASURE DISNEY CRUISE LINE

The new Disney Treasure has heaps of brand new features awaiting passengers, including the likes of a Coco-inspired immersive dining experience, a Zootopia sweet shop, a Star Wars themed kids' club, a submarine pub in tribute to 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, and an epic waterslide adventure where families join Mickey and Minnie in Ancient Egypt as they're propelled in two-person rafts through 760ft of winding tubes.

You can find out more about the ship at disneycruise.disney.go.com

QUEEN ANNE - CUNARD

This elegant ship can host 2,996 passengers, with a glamorous itinerary spanning destinations in the South Pacific and Australasia.

Onboard, passengers can unwind at the luxurious Mareel Spa, indulge with the cruise line's signature Afternoon Tea, or dress up to the nines for the Gala Evening. Those wanting to bask in the sunshine will be spoiled for choice with sun loungers and terraces as well as the aft pool (there's also a

pavilion pool onboard).

Find out more at cunard.com

UTOPIA OF THE SEAS ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Utopia of the Seas (right) has some pretty impressive features for families to enjoy, including five pools, three waterslides, a FlowRider surf simulator, rock climbing



Sun Princess



and mini golf. Meanwhile foodies will be spoiled for choice with 21 eateries and 23 bars onboard too.

Boasting a 236,860 gross tonnage, the "ultimate weekend gamechanger" has capacity for up to 5,668 passengers across 18 decks. Itineraries will also include ports of call at Royal Caribbean's epic private island with gorgeous beaches, water parks and plenty more.

Find out more at royalcaribbean.com

Meanwhile, thrill-seekers will no doubt want to check out Park 19, an activity zone with an overhead ride, climbing course and the Infinite Horizon which allows you to peer over the side of the ship on moving glass walls.

Find out more at princess.com

SILVER RAY SILVERSEAS

The second Nova Class ship for the ultra-luxurious ship will make her debut in summer 2024. A sister ship to Silver Nova which launched in 2023, she boasts a 54,700 gross tonnage and host 728 passengers.

Onboard, holidaymakers will be able to enjoy the likes of fine dining options, luxurious cabins, huge floor-to-ceiling windows for uninterrupted views of the ocean and ports of call, a large pool and an outdoor bar.

Find out more at silversea.com



Disney Treasure

SUN PRINCESS PRINCESS CRUISES

Princess Cruises' biggest ship so far is able to host 4,300 passengers. Highlights will include Spellbound, a venue with a parlour, bar, music room and theatre, as well as 29 eateries, a casino, cabanas, and elegant staterooms.

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Easy cheesy mustard toad-in-the-hole with broccoli

Transform toad-in-the-hole with melting mustardy cheddar and broccoli. Serve with steamed greens and this delicious homemade gravy.

Ingredients

140g plain flour
3 large eggs
300ml milk
2 tsp wholegrain mustard, plus
1 tbsp
3 tbsp vegetable oil
6 Cumberland sausages
100g long stem broccoli
1 leek, cut into thick slices
50g mature cheddar, grated

For the gravy

1 large onion, finely sliced
2 tbsp plain flour
1 tbsp sherry vinegar
3 thyme sprigs
600ml fresh chicken stock

1 Tip the flour and eggs into a large bowl, season and whisk to a thick, smooth paste. Stir in the milk until the batter is the consistency of single cream, then stir in 2 tsp mustard. Leave to rest for 30 mins.

2 Heat the oven to 240C/220C fan/gas 9. Pour 2 tbsp oil into a heavy roasting tin, casserole dish or ovenproof skillet pan and tip to fully coat with the oil, then put on the middle shelf of the oven for 10 mins. Add the sausages, well spaced apart, and cook for 5-7 mins, then add the broccoli and sliced leek, and cook for another

3 mins.

Mash the cheese with the 1 tbsp mustard.

3 Pour the batter over the sausages, broccoli and leeks, then scatter over most of the mustardy cheese. Cook for 15 mins before turning the oven down to 220C/200C fan/gas 7 (don't open the oven door during this time). Sprinkle over the remaining mustardy cheese, then cook for 5-8 mins until melted, and the batter is puffed and golden brown.

4 Meanwhile, make the gravy. Fry the onion with the remaining oil for 10-15 mins until lightly golden, adding a little water if they catch. Stir in the flour until it disappears,

then add the vinegar and thyme. Season well. Sizzle until the vinegar evaporates, then pour in the stock and bubble uncovered for 10 mins, or until the gravy is the thickness you prefer.

SERVES 4

PREP 10 mins plus resting

COOK 40mins



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We are passionate about our Zoo and the animals that live here with us. Conservation remains at the heart of our ethos, and the future survival of animals and their habitats continues to drive us ever forward.

Whilst we want all our visitors to experience and enjoy everything the Zoo has to offer, we also want to share and raise awareness of some critical messages surrounding wildlife, the environment and the impact our actions have on the wider world.

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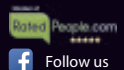
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Pepe le Moko at Pen-y-cae Football Club

16th March

Pepe le Moko return to the Club House for some rock/pop covers.

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22nd March

Live at The Hideaway, Prestatyn

29th March

Join the Twenty on Black frontman, Gav Rasmussen, at The Hideaway, Prestatyn on Friday 29th of March 2024, from 8pm for a night of live music. Free entry.

Wrexham Artisan Market

30th March

Wrexham Artisan Market supports small and independent businesses at our quarterly event in Wrexham City Centre on Queens Square.

From The Jam with The Skids

30th March

From the Jam were formed in 2006 when Russell Hastings and Rick Buckler (ex-The Jam drummer), who were touring as The Gift, joined forces with Bruce Foxton (ex-The Jam bassist and



songwriter), to form From The Jam. Russell Hastings has been the only frontman to work with both Rick Buckler and Bruce Foxton since Paul Weller.

THE HAWARDEN ESTATE GREAT EASTER SHOW 2024 at Hawarden Estate Farm Shop

30th March

Join us for fun and festivities at Hawarden Estate Farm Shop on Saturday 30th March 2024. There will be immense and unequalled attractions, fairground rides, vintage games, market stalls, great food and drink and the return of the annual Hawarden Estate dog show.



TIRED HORSES THEATRE PRESENTS UNDER THE MOON



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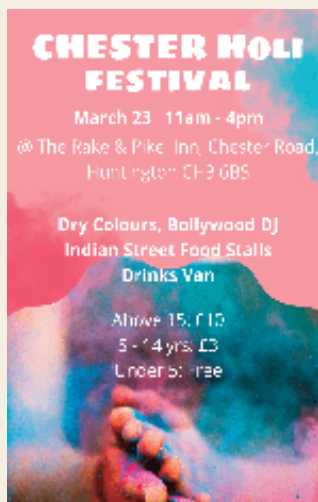
Tired Horses Theatre: Under The Moon 14th March

Bringing you five short new plays developed by artists from the North-West area. We present to you new writers, directors, actors and more to bring you a night of theatre you won't forget! Four new companies/ artists will showcase their new projects alongside ourselves. Each seeking to gain feedback from and network with a like minded community, as they continue to hone their craft.

CHESHIRE DRAMA FESTIVAL 2024

23rd March

On the back of the success of 2023, the Festival returns to Chester for a second year. As part of the All-England Drama Festival, the weekend brings together many of the region's most talented theatre groups, directors, actors and writers, performing short plays, both old and new.



Chester Holi 2024 23rd March

Join us for a vibrant and joyful Holi celebration in Chester on the 23rd of March! This family-friendly annual event promises a great day filled with color, music, and delicious food. Experience the traditional Indian festival of colors with the organic dry colors included in the ticket, along with the infectious beats of a Bollywood DJ. Let the rhythms move your feet as you immerse yourself in the spirit of Holi.

Bingo Bango Chester 30th March

Bingo Bango at the stunning Chester Town Hall. A night of fun and games, party music and prizes.



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Welcome to Wepre Villa Homecare...

We are a Wleoe-based private home care organisation owned and operated by local people. No fancy franchises. No gimmicks. Our private packages start from just 7 hours per week.

Our office is based in Holywell Road, Ewloe, opposite the Car Auctions. Our care team are not there very often because they are out and about caring for the people of Flintshire.

We provide care at home for all of Flintshire. This means we can take the people around to many places in Flintshire, including Wepre Park, local churches, Theatre Clwyd, fish and chips or an ice cream at the beach (our favourite!).

It is a legal requirement that all care provider organisations in Wales are registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales. We have a registered manager who is responsible for making sure that everyone receives care that is safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led.



Do you have to be disabled to receive care?

Not at all. The local authority (Flintshire County Council) provides certain support for people who may be ill or disabled, but this does not mean that care cannot be given to others. For example, some of our service users just need a small amount of help such as going shopping once a week. Others might just need us to drive them to appointments, such as weekly social clubs, or to visit friends and family.

Do you have to be a certain age to get care?

Wepre Villa Homecare is registered to support anyone over the age of 18 who needs help. We've supported young people who were involved in car accidents and need us while they recover from their injuries – we've even cared for a lady who reached her 100th birthday and received a card from Her Majesty the Queen!

What is care?

Within the care industry, Wepre Villa Homecare is registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales to deliver 'Personal Care'. This definition includes many things, but common examples are:

- Help to get dressed or ready for bed
- Help with personal hygiene tasks like washing, bathing, showering, shaving, brushing teeth or cleaning dentures, washing hair, and even applying some make-up!
- Preparing meals and drinks throughout the day
- Supporting people with taking medication
- Changing or maintaining medical devices (hearing aids, toilet aids, care links)

Most importantly, our job is to communicate with our clients to understand their needs and help them to live as full a life as possible... everything they chose from going to feed ducks, or visiting the betting shop or the pub, down to the market to buy groceries, or off to community and faith-based activities in churches or other places of worship. We can do it all.

Have you been inspected?

Yes! We have been inspected and rated as "Good," by the CIW in September 2023. We also contract with Flintshire Council too. We have been providing care since 2003 (23 years this year!)

Do you help people at night, or stay over if needed?

We provide 24-hour care for people who need this. We will provide overnight care in your own home any day of the week.

If you provide care for a family member, how will I know everything happens as it should?

We use an online app so you can check on the care your loved one receives at any time – day, or night. Provided we have consent from the person being cared for, we can share this with family members, medical professionals, friends, etc.

Do all your team have criminal record checks?

Yes, they do – every member of our team must complete an enhanced criminal record check called the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). This used to be called Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). Our checks are very thorough and even show convictions that are 'spent'.

Do your carers have training and experience?

All of our team have at the absolute minimum:

- Care Certificate (recommended requirement)
- Shadow shift training with experienced carers
- Spot checks from managers on calls
- Monthly training meetings
- Access to online training and information 24/7
- Access to on-call managers at all times
- Additional training that is specific to health conditions

What if I need care for more than 6 months?

We are happy to provide care for the long term. Many people need care for a long time, and we are there to support you for the whole time.

I would like to speak to you about care for myself or a loved one.

Fantastic news! You can contact us directly on 01244 537 733 or via email on wepre@beloved-homecare.co.uk

What happens if I need to arrange extra care?

We are a flexible service. This means we can change your care package to suit you.

I would like companionship or respite care.

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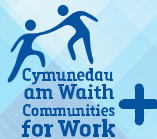
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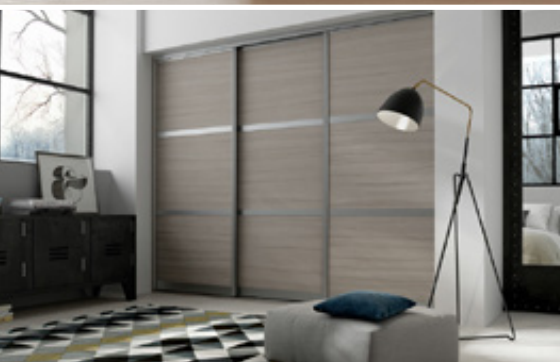
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RECIPE

Easter egg brownies

Loaded with chocolate eggs and chicks, this is the ultimate Easter centrepiece - an 'eggstra' special treat for afternoon tea or dessert



Ingredients

- 185g unsalted butter, cut into small chunks, plus extra for greasing
- 185g best dark chocolate, broken into pieces
- 3 large eggs
- 275g golden caster sugar
- 85g plain flour
- 40g cocoa powder
- 5 fondant filled eggs (we used Cadbury's Creme eggs)
- 150g mini eggs (we used a mixture of Cadbury's and Smarties mini eggs)

To decorate

- You will also need a few fluffy chenille Easter chicks to decorate (optional)

Step by step

1 Put the butter and the chocolate in a medium-sized heatproof bowl and set over a pan of simmering water, stirring occasionally until melted. Alternatively, cover the bowl loosely with cling film and microwave at 30 sec intervals until melted. Leave the melted chocolate mixture to cool to room temperature.

2 Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Grease a 20cm square tin with butter and line with 2 long strips of

folded baking paper or foil – one running top to bottom, the other left to right then line the base with a piece of baking paper. The strips will help you lift it out later.

3 Break the eggs into a large bowl and tip in the caster sugar. With an electric mixer on maximum speed whisk the eggs and sugar for around 5-8 mins or until they look thick and creamy and have doubled in size.

4 Pour the cooled chocolate mixture over the egg mixture, then gently fold together.

5 Sieve the flour and cocoa into the wet ingredients then continue to fold the mixture gently with a spatula just until everything is fully combined, try not to over-mix.

6 Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and carefully level the mixture with the spatula. Put in the middle of the oven and bake for 20 minutes.

7 Meanwhile, cut the fondant filled eggs in half and set aside then place the mini eggs into a pestle and mortar. Crush a few of the mini eggs but leave some whole. After 20 mins take the brownie out of the oven and press in the fondant eggs, cut side up. Scatter over half of the mini eggs too then put it back in the oven for a further 5 mins.

8 Once baked, top with the remaining mini eggs, leave to cool completely then place in the fridge for about 1hr to firm up. Lift it out of the tin using the strips of baking paper and cut into squares to serve. Decorate with little Easter chicks if you like.



Prep: 30 min



Cook: 30 mins



Serves: 9-10



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DUNE: PART TWO

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Director: Denis Villeneuve

Paul Atreides unites with Chani and the Fremen while seeking revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family. Facing a choice between the love of his life and the fate of the universe, he must prevent a terrible future only he can foresee.

In cinemas: March 1, 2024

DRIVE-AWAY DOLLS

Starring: Margaret Qualley, Geraldine Viswanathan, Beanie Feldstein

Director: Ethan Cohen

In search of a fresh start, two uninhibited free spirits embark on an impromptu road trip to Tallahassee, but things quickly go awry when they cross paths with a group of inept criminals along the way.

In cinemas: March 15, 2024



GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE

Starring: McKenna Grace, Paul Rudd, Annie Potts

Director: Gil Kenan

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In cinemas: March 29, 2024



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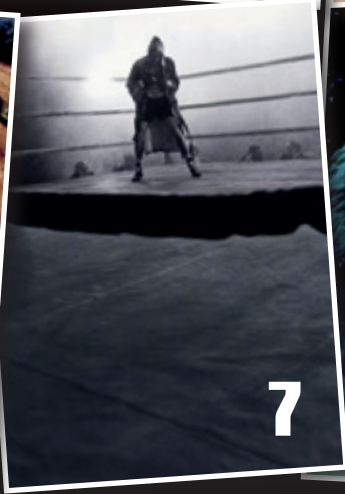
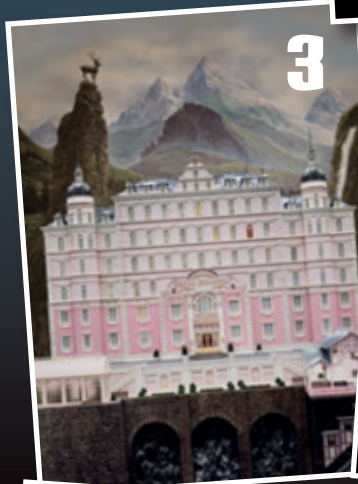
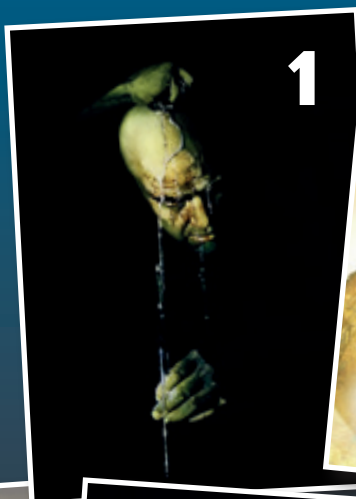
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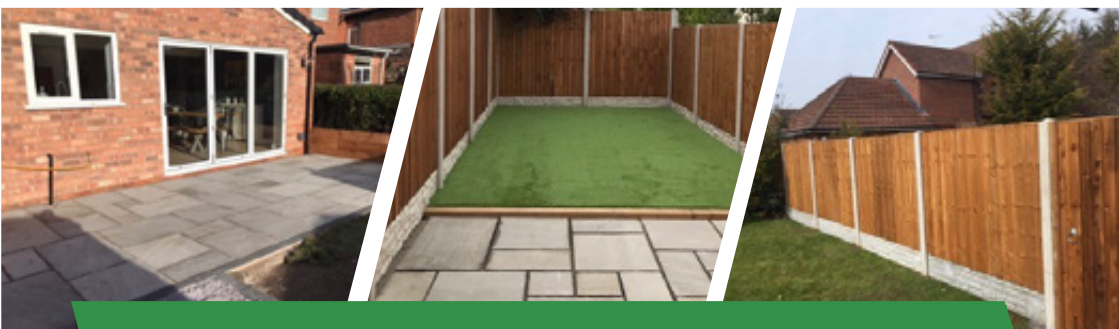
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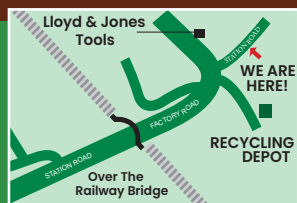
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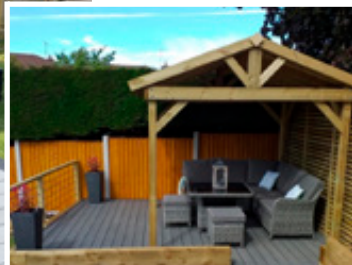
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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
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AS important as the right plants are, they can't do ALL the work for you.

A great garden still requires a lot of preparation and maintenance to develop. Before you begin planting in the spring, here are some tips to prepare your garden for spring:

Get your shed in order

Go over your tools. Sharpen blades, oil hinges, and think about expanding or upgrading your collection. Use a mill file to sharpen blades, then add penetrating oil to remove and prevent corrosion.

Clear out weeds, mulch and debris

Do a spring clean of the area, removing anything in the way until you are back to the bare soil. Dead organic matter can go on the compost pile, but well-composted mulch or organic matter can stay right where it is to be incorporated into the soil.

Prune

Many trees or shrubs can use a good pruning this time of year, especially those that bloom on new wood. Late

How to plant the perfect spring garden

winter/early spring is the perfect time to prune back old wood because you can see the branch structure well and you can shape the plant before the buds break dormancy. Some of the plants you need to prune are: buddleia (butterfly bush), cornus canadensis (flowering dogwood), lonicera (honeysuckle), hydrangea paniculata, cercis (redbud), summer-blooming spirea, lagerstroemia (crepe myrtle), rose and wisteria.

Prepare the soil

In winter, soil tends to become compacted, so the first thing you want to do is loosen it back up by tilling or turning it. Using a tiller or a sharp spade, work the soil to a depth of 12 to 14 inches to loosen it up. Any mulch or leaf litter that is well-composted should be mixed in, but if it is too fresh, you should remove it first. Next add compost and amendments. You can use a soil test to see where you pH and nutrient levels are, which will tell you what type of materials you might want to add. If you have poor or clay-based soil, it is especially important to add a healthy layer of compost.

Early planting

Bulbs and perennials tend to be straightforward to plan. Dig the hole at the proper depth and spacing, add any soil amendments necessary, add

the bulb/root ball and be sure that the crown is right at soil level, then fill in the hole and water thoroughly.

With trees and shrubs, you should dig a hole large and wide enough to accommodate the plant's roots, and add a cone of amended soil for the roots to rest on, then fill in the hole with more amended soil. But before you water in, create a ring of soil



around the plant a bit wider than the original hole. This ring will allow you to really get the deep saturation necessary without turning the whole area into a mud pit.

Apply mulch

Mulch is much more effective at keeping weeds from becoming established if you can get it in before they start sprouting. You might still be waiting to plant in lots of areas, or you might have seeds germinating that you don't want to bury in mulch. You can avoid a lot of this conflict if you have already started your seedlings indoors, if you are working around established plants, or if you buy well-established plants.





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1966: Pickles the dog finds stolen World Cup

On 20 March 1966, four months before the 1966 World Cup in England, the famous trophy was stolen from its case at a public exhibition at Westminster Central Hall, sending London police on a wild chase. Officers dusted for fingerprints, fielded phone calls and even received a ransom note with the lining of the trophy attached.

A week into the search, David Corbett was walking his dog Pickles in their South London neighbourhood when the pup started poking around in some bushes. When Corbett investigated he found a pile of old newspapers and wrapped inside was the Jules Rimet trophy. The trophy was returned and Pickles was regarded as a hero. England



went on to win the World Cup that year and Pickles was invited to celebrate with the team. His owner was awarded £5,000 and Pickles received a silver medal from the National Canine Defence League.

A 2018 Daily Mirror investigation revealed the culprit to be London criminal Sidney Cugullere, with help from his brother, Reg. Cugullere died of cancer in 2005, aged 79, having never been caught.

1977: Tenerife aircraft disaster



On March 27, 1977, two Boeing 747 passenger jets collided on the runway at Los Rodeos Airport, Tenerife.

The collision occurred when HLM Flight 4805 initiated its takeoff run during dense fog while Pan Am Flight 1736 was still on the runway. The impact and resulting fire killed everyone on board HLM 4805 and most of the occupants of Pan Am 1736, with only 61 survivors in the front section of the aircraft. With a total of 583 fatalities, the accident is the deadliest accident in aviation history.

A bomb set off by the Canary Islands Independence Movement at Gran Canaria Airport had caused many flights to be diverted to Los Rodeos, including the two aircraft involved in the accident. Patches of thick fog were drifting across the airfield, so visibility was greatly reduced for pilots and the control tower.



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