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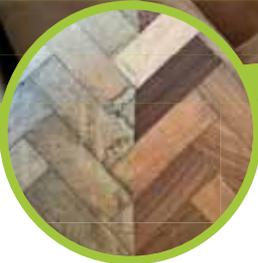


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Hello.
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April edition of The
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Oakmere Wealth are inviting you to join them in their golf day. Taking place on 13th May at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club you can enjoy a relaxed day of golf, great company and a two course dinner. The day is in aid of raising money for St Luke's Hospice and the St James' Place Foundation. If you would like to enter, please see page 4 and use the QR code for more details and bookings.

Local professional florist Rebecca Roberts is running a Spring wreath making class on Friday 17th April at St John's Church Hall, Sandiway. £40 per person which includes full tuition, all materials, glass of fizz and cake. You are required to bring your own gloves and secateurs.

Spring sing-along is back again this year with Paul & John. The popular event takes place 2-4pm on Thursday 9th April. Tickets are £5 per person. More details on all of the events can be found on the community pages.

If you are involved in a local club, non-profit making event, charity or have local news and would like to feature on the community pages free of charge, please feel free to get in touch to find out how you can do so. Any upcoming events are always welcome to feature in the publication!

Have a great month!

Best Wishes,
Charlie

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR
THE MAY EDITION IS 17th
APRIL

For advertising information please contact Charlie on:

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Some of the articles included
in this edition

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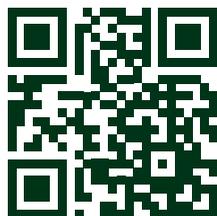
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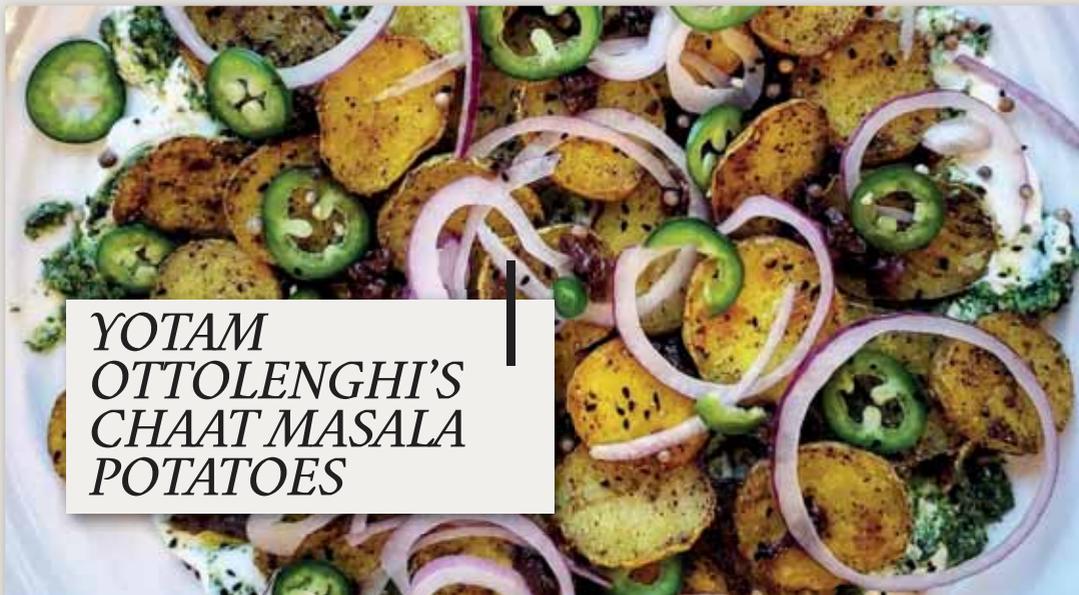


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YOTAM OTTOLENGHI'S CHAAT MASALA POTATOES

These spicy Indian-inspired potatoes are served with a fresh coriander chutney and sweet tamarind dressing.

Ingredients

Method

For the chaat masala potatoes

750g/1lb 10oz baby new potatoes, cut lengthways into 1cm/1/2in thick slices
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp chaat masala
1/2 tsp ground turmeric
250g/9oz Greek-style yoghurt
1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced on a mandolin or by hand
1 green chilli, thinly sliced
1 1/2 tsp coriander seeds, toasted
1 1/2 tsp nigella seeds, toasted
Salt

For the coriander chutney

30g/1oz fresh coriander
1 green chilli, seeds removed and roughly chopped
1 tbsp lime juice
4 tbsp olive oil
Salt

For the sweet tamarind dressing

1 1/2 tbsp shop-bought tamarind paste
1 1/2 tsp caster sugar
1/4 tsp chaat masala

To make the potatoes, preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Put the potatoes and 2 teaspoons of salt in a saucepan and top with enough cold water to cover by about 4cm/1 1/2in. Place over a medium-high heat, bring to the boil and simmer for 6 minutes, until the potatoes are almost cooked through but still retain a bite. Drain and pat dry.

Line a large baking tray with baking paper and add the potatoes. Add the oil, chaat masala, turmeric, 1/3 teaspoon of salt and a good grind of pepper. Toss to mix thoroughly. Roast in the oven, stirring once or twice, for 35 minutes, or until deeply golden.

Meanwhile, make the coriander chutney. Put all the ingredients and 1/4 teaspoon of salt into a food processor or blender and blitz until smooth. Set aside.

To make the tamarind dressing, whisk together all the ingredients in a small bowl with 1 1/2 teaspoons of water until the sugar is dissolved. Set aside.

Spread the yoghurt on a large round serving platter. Top with the coriander chutney, swirling it through without completely incorporating. Drizzle with half of the tamarind dressing, and top with the potatoes, onion and chilli. Drizzle over the remaining tamarind dressing, then sprinkle over the seeds and serve.

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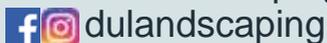


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Planning A Wedding



A wedding is a wonderful day to remember forever, and getting it just perfect takes plenty of effective planning.

With the average wedding costing around £24,737 this year, and in many cases taking anywhere from 12 to 24 months to arrange, it is one of the biggest events of our lives, so effective planning is key with a timeline to keep to, steps to take, and advice to seek.

Where to begin

With the best venues getting booked up well over a year in advance, starting early is key, knowing your budget, what sort of wedding you want, be it a religious or secular ceremony, and working out from there how you can achieve your perfect day. Working out your budget before almost anything else will help you achieve your dream wedding. A budget will determine which venue you can afford, how many guests you can invite and maybe how much you can arrange yourself, or with help from your close family.

Wedding planning professionals

Hiring a professional wedding planner does come at a cost, but it may well save you money in the long run as many professionals have long established relationships with venues and can negotiate the best prices. They also have relationships with other wedding professionals and suppliers. Wedding planners also take a lot of stress out of the wedding organising process giving you more time to enjoy the whole experience. If you have very little free time yourself and the wedding is large and complex, then you should consider professional help.

Over 12 months in advance

Once you have determined your budget and booked your dream venue obtaining the dates you want well in advance, the other wedding professionals such as photographers, cake makers, florists, and possibly entertainment should be booked. Again, if these are the ones that you have set your heart on, they are probably in high demand with other people too, so early booking is vital.

12 to 6 months before

Wedding outfits can be chosen next; you might consider setting up a wedding website and getting in touch with guests and sending 'save the date' letters or possibly even sending invitations. If people are invited well in advance, they can make any arrangements required to be part of your big day. Hair and makeup professionals will need to be contacted and booked, and you can also liaise with your venue on menus and details for the day.

6 - 1 month before

As the big day draws closer there are the legal requirements of a wedding to be sorted and these must be done three months before a marriage. It is important at this point to be in regular contact with your venue to discuss and arrange seating plans and finalise the ceremony.

The final month will require all final payments to be made, final fittings to be attended and any loose ends tied up. But, with thorough planning it should be a day to remember for the rest of your lives.

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Gardening In April

This month is a busy one out in the garden as gardeners sow, plant and prepare their plots in preparation for summer.

Perhaps the busiest month in the garden, April is a delight to behold as the vegetable plot begins to take shape, the flower garden has fresh blooms and lawns are a beautiful baize inviting workers to stop a while and smell the early flowering roses like the tough but stunning *Rosa rugosa*.

Vegetables

If you have been forcing some delicious rhubarb there should be plenty of sweet pink stems to harvest this month, and your late winter crops of leeks, spring greens, kale and broccoli should still be providing a lot for the dinner table. And, towards the end of the month early potatoes will be succulent and delicious eaten on their own with just a little butter.

This month you can begin sowing outdoors in earnest, including peas and broad beans, spring onions, beetroot and carrots. But make sure you don't risk sharing these precious seeds with the birds! Cover them with sticks, twigs or by making use of cuttings from blackberry bushes. Fine netting is probably the best thing to use to keep your plants safe, but you could try items like hanging foil and old CDs to scare birds away. Feeding the birds their favourite food might also help to reduce their interest in your tender plants.

Frosts are not unheard of in April so keep an eye on the forecast and make sure you have clothes and fleeces ready to protect tender shoots. Also, protect early potato shoots by regularly hoeing up soil.

Flowers

Because spring weather and temperatures can veer unpredictably from cold and wet, to an early heatwave as in April 2025, only hardy annuals should be sown directly into the soil outside. These include cornflowers and poppies, fragrant sweet peas and sunflowers. Half-hardy annuals such as cosmos and tobacco plants should not be risked outside and only planted inside, or under glass this month. They can be transplanted outside later.

Lawn

Lawns are growing fast and will need feeding this month. Choose a feed product with a high nitrogen content as this will encourage plenty of green growth – there are numerous dedicated spring and summer granular feeds will have the right nutrient balance for your spring lawn. Wait to feed until you have mowed the lawn a few times and after you have done your thorough spring moss raking.

Other work

As well as plants, weeds are also growing fast this month, so regular hoeing is required to keep on top of the problem in the vegetable and flower garden. Mulching can reduce weed growth and helps to keep moisture in the soil as the sun gets stronger and the temperatures rise.

If not already done, April is a good time to check, repair or replace any parts of your water retention system, check gutters and water butts, or consider investing in upgrading your system, to make the most of any April showers!



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A photograph of a dog sitting on a chair in a room. The dog is looking out a window with blinds. There is a lamp and a plant in the background.

A Cure For Lonely Pets

Is your pet lonely? Find out by exploring the subtle signs that a lot of us miss.

They're fed, walked, stroked and adored, so how could your pet possibly be lonely?!

In truth, loneliness in pets is one of the most common and misunderstood behavioural issues vets and trainers see, and it often hides in plain sight.

Part of that is because it doesn't present itself in the same way as it does for us humans – after all, loneliness doesn't look like your dog staring sadly out of the window all day!

Instead, it looks like 'naughty' behaviour. It looks like a suddenly chewed shoe, an accident on the carpet, a cat that's gone aloof, or a dog that won't settle even after a walk.

Animals are social creatures. They are wired for routine, stimulation and company, and after a long winter of darker evenings, cancelled walks and shorter days, many pets quietly slip into emotional hibernation.

Come spring, that bottled-up restlessness starts to show. So with that in mind, here are the signs most owners miss:

- following you from room to room
- whining
- pacing or excessive grooming
- sudden clinginess or, conversely, withdrawal
- destructive behaviour that comes out of nowhere

- oversleeping
- loss of interest in toys
- increased barking or vocalising.

As discussed, this isn't naughtiness, it's communication. The good news is, the fix doesn't need to be dramatic, and it certainly doesn't need to involve guilt.

Start with stimulation, not miles. Ten minutes of sniffing, training games, puzzle feeders or gentle agility work can tire a dog out more effectively than a long walk.

For cats, rotating toys weekly and introducing short, high-energy play bursts can completely change their mood.

Next, change the day, not just the evening. Many pets are alone for long stretches while we're at work. Local dog walkers, pet day-care centres and home-visit sitters can transform behaviour with just one or two mid-day interactions a week. It's often cheaper than repairing skirting boards!

Finally, add social variety. Dogs benefit hugely from regular contact with other dogs, even quiet ones. Cats may prefer human interaction, but they still thrive on predictable routines and gentle novelty such as a new perch, a different window view, a heated mat, or a feeder that makes them think.

Ultimately, loneliness in pets doesn't mean you've failed. It means your animal is asking for something, and usually it's not more treats! Instead, it's connection, stimulation, rhythm and reassurance.

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P U Z Z L E S

Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Careless, offhand (6)
- 4 Stadium (5)
- 8 Excuse (5)
- 9 Ordinary, mediocre (7)
- 10 Resident of Birmingham (slang) (7)
- 11 Add (4)
- 12 Perch (3)
- 14 Heroic (4)
- 15 Cereal, porridge (4)
- 18 Belongs to him (3)
- 21 Finishes (4)
- 23 Disclose, reveal (7)
- 25 Gym shoe (7)
- 26 Vapour, exhaust (5)
- 27 Arrive, get there (5)
- 28 Aggravation, difficulty (6)

Down

- 1 Tetchy (6)
- 2 Ramp used in winter sport (3,4)
- 3 Unreasonable, unfair (idiom) (1,3,4)
- 4 Elderly (4)
- 5 Digital message (5)
- 6 Comfortable, relaxed (2,4)
- 7 Raises arm in friendly fashion (5)
- 13 Back and forth (2,3,3)
- 16 Victory (7)
- 17 Clown (6)
- 19 Frighten (5)
- 20 Not as big, smaller (6)
- 22 Play, production (5)
- 24 2.54cm (4)

Blackcap, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Coal Tit, Coot, Crested, Tit, Cuckoo, Great Tit, Hawfinch, Hoopoe, Jackdaw, Jay, Linnet, Magpie, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Peregrine, Pheasant, Quail, Raven, Redstart, Redwing, Robin, Rook, Serin, Siskin, Starling, Swallow, Swift, Waxwing, Wren

C	O	A	L	T	I	T	T	A	S	S	W	I	F	T
U	R	E	D	W	I	N	G	E	L	E	P	N	J	P
C	M	R	H	F	A	M	A	L	L	A	R	D	L	E
K	O	A	B	S	Y	H	O	O	P	O	E	I	I	R
O	O	V	A	A	V	B	U	Z	Z	A	R	D	N	E
O	R	E	J	U	E	W	G	W	A	X	W	I	N	G
U	H	N	V	I	O	J	A	C	K	D	A	W	E	R
P	E	I	P	L	B	Q	U	A	I	L	K	R	T	I
N	N	G	L	B	L	A	C	K	C	A	P	E	J	N
H	A	A	M	H	U	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G	E
M	W	N	C	R	E	S	T	E	D	T	I	T	V	N
S	G	R	E	A	T	T	I	T	C	K	Y	H	I	R
Q	H	A	W	F	I	N	C	H	S	O	H	B	P	O
N	U	T	H	A	T	C	H	I	G	K	O	R	L	O
J	Y	J	M	R	E	D	S	T	A	R	T	T	G	K

Mindbenders

Find the three hidden phrases

BLONDE 

GROUND LONDON

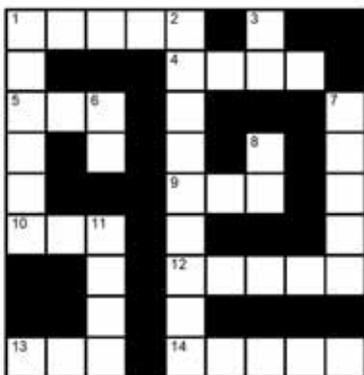
Often
Often
Often Not
Often
Often

1		2		3			4		5		6	
					7							
8					9							
10										11		
					12		13					
	14							15		16		
17				18		19						20
21		22				23						
				24								
25										26		
27							28					

Sudoku

		1		6				
2	4			9	7		6	
		7	5		4			9
4								
			9					
5			6		2		9	3
7			2	5			1	
					8		2	
1	3							

Kids' Page



OPPOSITES

The answer to each clue is its opposite, e.g. If the clue was 'up', the answer would be 'down'.

Across

- 1 before (5)
- 4 west (4)
- 5 stand (3)
- 9 woman (3)
- 10 walk (3)
- 12 friend (5)
- 13 him (3)
- 14 serious (5)

Down

- 1 question (6)
- 2 forgets (9)
- 3 isn't (2)
- 6 fro (2)
- 7 cloudy (5)
- 8 off (2)
- 11 far (4)

Puppy Prize Puzzle

Dotty, Spike, Patch, Roly and Scruffy took part in a dog show. Dotty did better than Spike, but not as well as Patch. Roly did better than Scruffy, but not as well as Spike. Now can you draw a line between each puppy and their trophy?



Spike



Roly



Patch



Scruffy



Dotty



Puppy Prize Solution

Why do you never see elephants hiding in trees?
Because they are really good at it!



Crossword Solution

Community Events & What's On....

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P U Z Z L E

S O L U T I O N S

Crossword

C	A	S	U	A	L		A	R	E	N	A
R	K	B	W	G	M	T					
A	L	I	B	A	V	E	R	A	G	E	
B	J	T	V	D	I	A					
B	R	U	M	I	E		P	L	U	S	
Y	E	M	U	S	I	T					
	E	P	I	C			O	A	T	S	
J		H	I	S		A	R	L			
E	N	D	S		C	O	N	F	I	D	E
S	R	I	A		D	U	S				
T	R	A	I	N	E	R		F	U	M	E
E	M	C		E		R	P	E			
R	E	A	C	H		B	O	T	H	E	R

Sudoku

9	5	1	8	6	3	2	7	4
2	4	3	1	9	7	8	6	5
8	6	7	5	2	4	1	3	9
4	2	9	7	3	5	6	8	1
3	7	6	9	8	1	5	4	2
5	1	8	6	4	2	7	9	3
7	8	4	2	5	9	3	1	6
6	9	5	3	1	8	4	2	7
1	3	2	4	7	6	9	5	8

Mind Benders

1. Fair and square
2. London Underground
3. More often than not

Word Search

C	O	A	L	T	I	T	A	S	S	W	I	F	T
U	R	E	D	W	N	G	E	L	E	P	N	J	P
C	M	R	H	F	A	M	A	L	L	A	R	D	L
K	O	A	B	S	H	O	O	P	O	E	I	N	E
O	O	V	A	A	V	B	U	Z	Z	A	R	D	N
O	R	E	J	U	E	W	G	W	A	X	W	I	N
U	H	U	V	L	O	J	A	C	K	D	A	E	R
P	E	I	P	L	B	Q	U	A	I	L	K	R	T
N	N	G	L	B	L	A	C	K	C	A	P	E	J
H	A	A	M	H	U	S	T	A	R	L	I	N	G
M	W	N	C	R	E	S	T	E	D	T	I	D	V
S	G	R	E	A	T	T	I	C	K	Y	H	I	R
Q	H	A	W	F	I	N	C	H	S	O	H	B	P
N	U	T	H	A	T	C	H	I	G	K	O	R	L
J	Y	J	M	R	E	D	S	T	A	R	T	I	G



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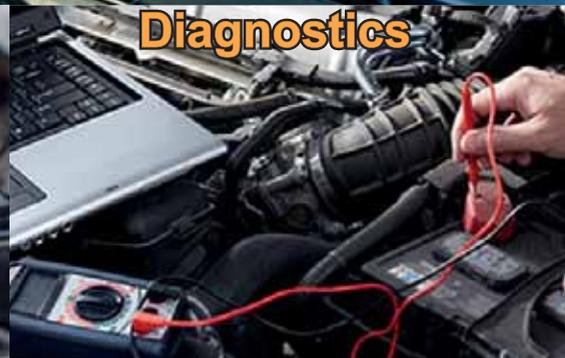
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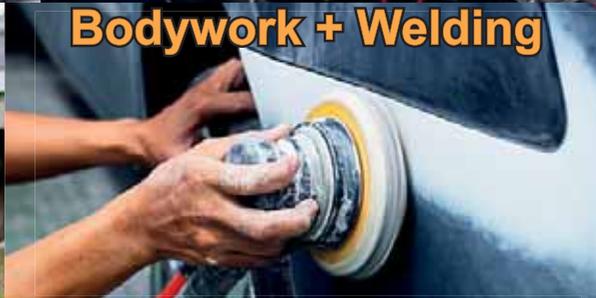
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