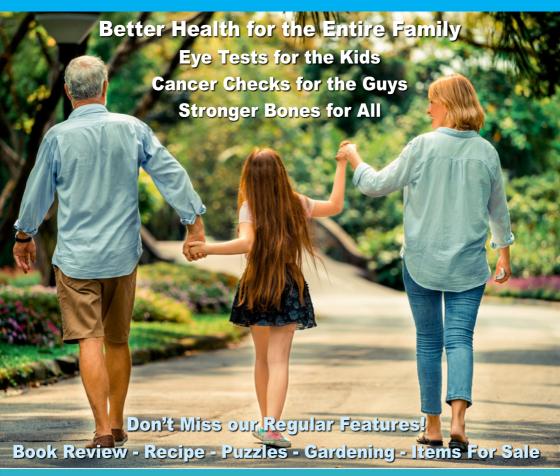
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#### **Editor's Note**

Hello and welcome to September! It's a somewhat sobering thought that Autumn is already on its way when we haven't really had Summer yet! I guess we can all live in hope that the good weather will arrive a few months late and we'll finally be able to enjoy some outdoor time. It has happened before.

Ever the optimist, I will keep my fingers firmly crossed! We have a number of health-based articles this month. Whether young or old, there is never a better time to take care of ourselves, to give ourselves the best chance of good health now and in the future. I remember my brother one day realising that he was approaching the age at which our dad, his three brothers and our two grandads had passed away. He decided to give up smoking, cut down on his alcohol consumption and lose a bit of weight - all in an attempt to maximise his chances of a long and healthy life. Although not without health issues he is still fit and active.

Fiona's article this month touches on the kindness she has observed at her gym. This world can be a pretty rotten place - just watch the news for half an hour if you want your mood dampening. But it can also be a lovely place. I recently read a post on social media about a lady who paid for someone's shopping in a random act of kindness. Each us can make the world a better place for someone! Until next time...

Debbie Singh-Bhatti

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## Keep an Eye on their Vision

When my son was eight his teacher called me to one side. "I'm concerned about his lack of progress lately," she said, "and when I asked him why he hadn't copied the spellings down from the whiteboard this afternoon he said he couldn't see them." This was how we discovered that Callum needed glasses. It had never been on my radar because no-one else in our family wears them, apart from his grandparents. It came as a bit of a shock that poor Callum had been struggling for so long. I'd always taken him for regular dental checks, but he'd never had a sight test!

A comprehensive eye examination ensures that a child has optimal vision, which plays a vital role in their education, participation in sports, and overall confidence. Additionally, eye examinations help identify conditions such as strabismus (where one of the eyes turns in or out), enabling early intervention and appropriate treatment.

Clear vision is essential for a child's academic success. If vision problems remain unidentified then the child may experience difficulties with reading, writing and focusing on classroom activities, as Callum did. Regular eye examinations can identify refractive errors (such as shortsightedness, long-sightedness, and astigmatism) and ensure that the child receives the necessary corrective measures, such as spectacles or contact lenses. With these in place, a child can then fully engage in the classroom and their performance in school should improve.

Participation in sports is a valuable aspect of any child's physical and social development. Poor vision can affect hand-eye coordination, depth perception, reaction time, and ultimately their enjoyment of sport. Regular eye examinations will detect any vision problems that may hinder a child's ability to perform well in sports. In addition, optometrists and dispensing opticians can provide appropriate solutions, such as sports safety spectacles, prescription swimming goggles, or contact lenses.





Strabismus, commonly known as crossed or misaligned eyes, is a condition that requires early identification and intervention. Regular eye examinations from birth can detect strabismus in its early stages, allowing for prompt referral to a specialist. Early treatment can help correct the misalignment and improve the child's binocular vision, depth perception, and overall visual function. Identifying and managing strabismus at a young age is crucial for optimal visual development and can prevent long-term complications.

If, like me, you are fortunate enough to have excellent vision, it doesn't automatically follow that your child will enjoy the same privilege. Children with poor sight do not always know that they have poor sight because they have nothing to compare it with! I could kick myself for not realising this sooner. Callum's performance in school improved dramatically once he had the correct spectacles, and he's gone on to do very well academically. The story might have been quite different but for his observant primary school teacher.

Think of regular eye examinations as an investment in your child's future success. Examinations are free up to the age of 18 for those in full time formal education.

Kate McCarthy



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At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for every installation we carry out!'

So, if you want to make use of your loft space, however

big or small, call Warren on **0800 612 8359** and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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# The Power of the Nanna Nap

In a fast-paced world where productivity is highly valued, the idea of taking a nap during the day may seem counterintuitive. But emerging research suggests that daytime naps can actually have a positive impact on our well-being and cognitive performance.

Studies have shown that a short nap can help restore alertness, concentration and memory recall. When we experience a midday slump or a decline in mental acuity, a well-timed nap can leave us feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. By giving our brains a chance to rest and recharge, we can enhance our ability to process information effectively and make better decisions.

The duration of a daytime nap plays a crucial role in reaping its benefits without experiencing grogginess. Experts suggest that a short nap, typically lasting around 10 to 30 minutes, is optimal for most individuals. This length of time allows us to enter a light sleep stage, known as Stage 2, which promotes alertness and aids in memory consolidation. By keeping naps within this timeframe, we can avoid entering deeper sleep stages, which can lead to sleep inertia-a feeling of grogginess upon waking. However, it's important to note that individual preferences and sleep needs can vary, so experimenting with

Daytime napping has also been linked to long-term health advantages. Research has shown that regular napping can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure. Napping has also been associated with improved immune function, stress reduction and mood regulation. By incorporating short naps into our daily routine, we can take proactive steps toward maintaining our overall well-being.

different nap durations can help identify

what works best for you.

While daytime napping can be advantageous, it's essential to consider potential downsides. Longer naps, particularly those exceeding 60 minutes, can lead to sleep inertia, causing grogginess and difficulty in returning to full wakefulness. Additionally, napping too close to bedtime can disrupt nighttime sleep, leading to difficulties falling asleep or maintaining a consistent sleep schedule. It's crucial to be mindful of nap timing and duration to strike the right balance between recharging and preserving nighttime sleep quality.

If you are prone to insomnia or have irregular sleep patterns it's advisable to consult with a healthcare professional to determine the best approach to incorporate daytime napping without negatively affecting your nighttime sleep.

Nanna naps (so called because of their association with grandmas) can be highly beneficial for our overall well-being and cognitive performance. They can provide a quick recharge, enhance alertness and boost productivity. By understanding the benefits and limitations of daytime napping, we can harness its power to optimize our productivity and enhance our overall well-being.

Louise Addison



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Testicular cancer is relatively rare, yet it is the most common type of cancer to affect men aged between 15 and 44. Factors that can increase the risk include having a family history of the disease, and being born with undescended testicles. Rates of the disease are also five times higher in white men than in black men.

Thankfully, the outlook for men diagnosed with testicular cancer is one of the best for all types of cancer. Over 95% of cases of men with early stage testicular cancer will be completely cured. Even cases where the cancer has spread outside the testicles have an 80% chance of being cured.

As with other cancers, early detection improves your prognosis and can reduce the amount of treatment necessary.

The most common symptom to look out for is a painless lump or swelling in a testicle. Read how to examine yourself below, but be aware that fewer than 4 in 100 testicular lumps are cancerous.

Other symptoms may include a dull ache or a feeling of heaviness in the scrotum.

Sometimes, testicular cancer can spread to the lymph glands at the back of the abdomen, which can cause backache. Lumps can also form in the lymph glands around the neck and

# **Hey Guys!**

# Read this - it might save your life

collarbone.

Testicular cancer can spread to the lymph nodes in the centre of the chest. This leads to swelling, a cough and difficulty in breathing or swallowing. The cancer cells may also spread to the lungs causing breathlessness, but they do not usually affect other organs.

Treatment of testicular cancer involves surgically removing the affected testicle. This should not affect fertility or the ability to have sex, and a false testicle can be put in place so that the scrotum will have a normal appearance. Chemotherapy, radiotherapy or additional surgery may also be required, depending on the type and spread of the disease.

Alex Brown

#### How to Examine Yourself

You should check your testicles regularly – once a month is a good interval. The best time to do this is after a warm bath or shower when your scrotal skin will be relaxed.

Hold the scrotum in the palms of your hands and use your fingers and thumb to gently feel each testicle. Look out for any lumps or swellings, or an increase in size or weight. (You should feel a soft tube at the back of each testicle – this is normal).

It is rare to develop cancer in both testicles at the same time, so you can compare one with the other to see what is normal.

If you notice anything unusual, contact your GP as soon as possible.

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# Bone Up on Bone Health

Our bones are amazing: they provide structure, allow us to move, protect our brain and vital organs, and store essential minerals. However, as we age, our bone density can diminish, causing weak, brittle bones, which can lead to injury. Fortunately, you can preserve and even improve the health of your bones and it's never too early or too late to start taking care of them. So how?



like salmon.

Exercise for bone strength - Weight-bearing exercise can help strengthen bones, maintain bone density, and lower the risk for osteoporosis. This can include walking, running, dancing or any exercise where we're on our feet, and also free weights, weight machines or bodyweight exercises.

Drink plenty of water - Drinking a glass of water first thing in the morning is an important part of bone health as well as overall health. Bones need water to do specific jobs, like storing minerals and making red blood cells inside the bone marrow. Water transports 99 percent of the calcium in foods you eat to your bones, so without proper hydration, you could end up with bone loss or osteoporosis.

Eat a Calcium-Rich Breakfast - Calcium is responsible for making bones hard and strong. Nearly all of our body's calcium is stored in our bones. Choose milk, cheese and yogurt, fortified orange juice, leafy greens, almonds, and fatty fish

Get outside - Sunshine is good for our bones. When our skin is exposed to sunlight, chemical reactions produce vitamin D, which helps with calcium absorption. Too little sun means our body won't have enough vitamin D so starts to leach it from our bones instead, weakening them.

Posture - Practising good posture cuts down on the wear and tear on joints and reduces stress on our muscles and ligaments. We should focus on our posture both when walking or standing, and when sitting in a chair.

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It's not only bustling sweaty bodies and endorphin-powered grins at my gym. Delightful as they are, it is good to note that there is a softer underbelly to the busy gym floor and the torture machines in Testosterone Corner - a kind, thoughtful, understanding side.

One morning as I was sitting (well collapsed if I'm honest) in the gym café recovering from an exercise class with the Recovery Drink and Banana, I noticed an elderly woman dressed in slippers and a bathrobe, sitting at one of the tables at the other end of the room. She looked anxious and confused and was accompanied by two gym employees who were seated on either side of her. They were leaning in towards her, holding her hands and talking to her in soft, soothing voices and occasionally patting her arms reassuringly. Whenever her voice was raised in panic, they worked together to calm her down again. Eventually I observed a carer arrive with a wheelchair, and the confused lady was carefully guided into it and waved off with farewells and kind words. Apparently she had somehow got out of her care home and found herself in the gym. I was so impressed with the care and concern shown by the reception staff.

Another time I was enjoying my loll in the sauna when a code was announced over the intercom. This was followed by a running posse of gym

staff clutching first aid cases and a defibrillator. Three members of the management team chased after them, heading towards the pool. An elderly lady in a swimming costume emerged, helped by the staff members. It transpired that she'd had a "funny turn" in an aqua class, and the instructor and life guard had responded quickly. She was soon seated in the changing rooms, checked over, and calmed and reassured before being handed over to the care of her friend. In the words of my son:

"If you're going to have a funny turn Mum, the gym is probably one of the best places for it as they're all fully trained first aiders."

Duly noted son.

I frequently attend classes led by the bouncy indefatigable Tiffany. She knows so many ways to wear me out! According to my good friend Gloria, Tiffany has not always been the confident, lithe fitness instructor I see. She started off as a slightly plump, quiet girl on reception, but with considerable determination worked hard to qualify as an instructor, leaving reception behind her.

And so I think that everywhere we go, there are little acts of kindness and inspiring back stories, and it is good to recognise and celebrate them.





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#### **Meaningful Part Time Work**

'Deprived of meaningful work, men and women lose their reason for existence; they go stark, raving mad...' wrote Russian author, Fyodor Dostoevsky - one of the first people to get to grips with how people's minds really work. A meaningful life requires meaningful work. That means finding a new 'mission'. The need can feel especially acute when retiring from full time work. Many people can feel guite low otherwise. A balance needs to be struck between winding down and retaining an active mind.

Your original mission was probably to provide for yourself, your partner, your young family and maybe to give yourself further choices in the future. Many people had no careers advice or much choice of career. Family life required cash now and 'prospects' for later. When children leave home, settle down and finally stop coming back, you might have a financial buffer, a small pension, redundancy payment or an inheritance. But even if not you can now reconsider your career and perhaps suit your personality and experiences better - often part time

We are not immortal. Life is short. Maybe you have met



lonely people during your work, as I did, and thought 'That's a big problem. I wonder who will sort it out?'. Perhaps you have supported a loved one through an illness. Now they are gone you miss them and the sense of fulfilment that caring gave? It shows you are a genuinely caring and compassionate person and may be suited to a paid caring role.

You may have other interests and obligations also and flexibility is important perhaps around grandchildren. Unpaid or voluntary roles are a possibility, but if you need payment, a part-time role may be necessary. What are your 'translatable skills'? Being self-employed might be attractive.

For example, if you like working outside, local opportunities exist in garden maintenance. If you have always been handy (not a 'botch jobber') then there may lie remunerative opportunities to be undertaken at your own pace. We all know retired people who have become 'the go to person' locally. They seem busier and more connected in the community than ever. Successful business people might become a coach or mentor.

Learning 'for the fun of it' might appeal. Many organisations operate face to face or online courses. I recall a 90-year-old many years ago, who completed his O Level in German. 'Why?' I asked: 'I was stationed there for a while after the war but never got beyond asking for a beer. I thought it was time to see what it was all about.' Hobbies and interests can also be developed: hopefully one that does not take over the whole house or annoy the neighbours! Nobody cares to hear the Trumpet Voluntary, or the Last Post played loudly and badly at all hours of day and night. You know who you are ...

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#### **MySlimmingDiary**

#### **Keeping it Enjoyable and Sustainable**

My goal last month was to get down to 12st 7lbs in time for my daughter Lucie's wedding. I achieved it three days beforehand and felt wonderful on her big day, dressed in my posh frock with my hair, make up and nails all done!

Although I wasn't at my final goal weight of 11 stones, I still felt really good. Losing the last 7-10 lbs has made a significant difference to how I look and feel. I consider myself a normal size now, even though I'm still carrying a few extra pounds. When I look in the mirror I see a shape at last - with a waistline! I've waited a long time for that.

Straight after the wedding I went away for a ten day break with meals included. I was pleased to maintain whilst away, resulting in a total loss of 4 lbs for this month. I'm delighted with that! My original plan was to quit being the Mystery

Slimmer after the wedding, but as I am making such good progress I wonder if you'll indulge me for a few more months until the end of the year? I am very hopeful I could reach my final target by then!

Right now I am focusing on trying out new recipes to keep me interested and motivated. I'm using an old Slimming World cookbook called *One Pot Wonders*, which has a lovely assortment of quick and easy recipes that can be cooked in a single pot. It's out of print now, but you might be able to find it on Facebook Marketplace or eBay.

One of the Noom lessons explored different eating styles such as intermittent fasting, high protein, low fat, the 5:2 diet and others. The suggestion was to choose a plan that suits your lifestyle and food preferences so that it will be both enjoyable and sustainable. Mediterranean food with lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, poultry, pulses, whole grains and nuts is what I enjoy and am experimenting with right now.

The next date I'm working towards is my

wedding anniversary on 12th September. I would *love* to be half a stone lighter by then but would settle for 4lbs and my 6 stones award! Slow and steady wins the race!

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#### **GCSE Results Day Advice**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August is when the Class of 2023 receive their GCSE results. Opening the results' envelope can be nerve wracking as it contains the key to a young person's next steps. Your child will have worked hard and will be eager to see how well they have done. For many, the day will be filled with joy, squeals of laughter and the proud, delighted smiles of family and friends. However, for some young people, it could be a day of disappointment if they do not receive the results they have anticipated, and they will feel very upset. It is important to support your child carefully and with understanding if they find themselves in this situation. The following advice may prove helpful.

Firstly, don't judge or blame. Whatever your thoughts about how much revision or work your child did, now is not the time to criticise. Instead, listen and let them vent their feelings. Tell them that it's fine to feel upset and that you are there for them. It is important to reassure your child that their GCSE results do not define them.

When they are ready, then encourage your child to reflect on their performance. Help them to understand that dealing with setbacks is part of growing up and they can bounce back from this disappointment.

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If some of their results are better than others, then you can help them to focus on what went right in the subjects that they did well in. This may help to guide them to future success in other areas.

Do encourage your child to seek the support of their school to find out what their options are. There are various pathways to success and many of them do not require a clutch of high grades.

If they have not achieved Grade 4 in English and Maths, then they will have to re-sit either (or both) of those qualifications at school or at college. Again, they need to seek the advice of their school or their intended institution.

Help your child to set new goals for what they want to achieve and, once that has been decided, to embrace any lessons about studying that they have learned from this experience.

Whilst receiving results that are lower than expectations is an upsetting experience, it is important to help your child know that it is a temporary barrier and that with determination and a positive mindset, they can overcome their disappointment and move forward to the future feeling stronger and more resilient.

Gayle Knowles, Mindful Learning





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#### The Great School Uniform Debate

"The British school uniform is an iconic symbol of education, fostering a sense of identity, pride, and tradition." So proclaims the prospectus of one of the state schools we're considering for my son.

Both state-funded and private schools in the UK commonly employ school uniforms. State school uniforms are historically more standardized, perhaps a specific colour scheme and a school badge, alongside more basic attire like plain shirts,

trousers, and skirts. Private schools, on the other hand, tend to have more distinct and elaborate uniforms, reflecting their individual traditions and values. These uniforms may include striped blazers, shirts, kilts, and unique accessories. It's a generalisation though: the state school referred to above insists on below-the-knee pleated plaid skirts for the girls and a bewildering array of ties relating to houses, sports teams, and upper or lower school...I needed a spreadsheet to work it all out!

One major bone of contention surrounding school uniforms in the UK is the issue of cost. Critics argue that the expense of purchasing uniforms, especially from specific suppliers, places an additional and unreasonable financial burden on families. This controversy is amplified in cases where schools require branded items, which are always more expensive. As a result, calls for more affordable uniform options or even a relaxation of strict uniform policies have emerged to alleviate the financial strain on families in the current economic climate.

Proponents of school uniforms highlight several advantages. Uniforms foster a sense of belonging, promoting a shared identity and pride in the school community. They can also instil discipline and a



sense of equality, as students are judged based on their character rather than their fashion choices. Uniforms can help eliminate distractions caused by clothing choices, reducing peer pressure and bullying related to appearance. Additionally, uniforms simplify dress codes, making it easier for students and parents to comply with school policies.

Critics of school uniforms counter with concerns about individuality and selfexpression. They argue that uniforms may stifle creativity and suppress students' ability to develop their

personal style. Some argue that enforcing uniformity can be oppressive and hinder a student's sense of autonomy. They contend that uniforms do not guarantee improved academic performance or behaviour, and instead schools should concentrate on fostering a positive school culture and supportive environment.

In recent years, there have been calls for a more inclusive approach to school uniforms, considering factors like gender identity, cultural diversity, and personal comfort. Efforts to accommodate religious or cultural practices within uniform policies have allowed for greater diversity and understanding.

Despite the ongoing debates and controversies surrounding school uniforms in the UK, they show no sign of going away, but I think that as educational institutions continue to adapt to the changing needs and perspectives of students and families, it is essential to strike a balance between tradition and individuality, and certainly in the state system costs should be kept to a minimum. By considering the experiences of students, parents, and educators, schools can shape their uniform policies in a way that encourages inclusivity, self-expression, and a positive learning environment for all.

Laurence Smith



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#### **YourGarden**

#### **Garden For Free**

Watching The Chelsea Flower Show this year I was struck by how the hottest horticultural trends are budget-friendly, presumably due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis in the UK.

Among the many free and cheap garden ideas was 'weed-styling.' Cleve West's Centrepoint Garden was a masterclass in how to do this. Using 'weeds' or wildflowers is not only kind to your budget but also to the environment. Unsurprisingly, our native wildlife loves our native flora - and dandelions are particularly good for bees. Encourage plants such as wild carrot, yarrow, ivy-leaved toadflax, common fennel, red valerian, and cow parsley.

Another trend on display was using rubble and reclaimed waste (which would otherwise go to landfill) to make a rockery, path, or wall. This look suits drought-tolerant plants such as rosemary, sedums, lavender, sage, phlomis, thyme and oregano.

Chaos gardening is an actual thing! Collect up any seeds that you have lying around and scatter them throughout your flowerbeds. Mix



up annual flowers with vegetables and once established it will produce a potager effect. I have one area of my garden called 'freebie corner.' It is stocked only with gifted plants, or those I've gleaned from cuttings or even (in the case of one rose bush) removed from a skip, with the owner's permission!

Leading on from this, try planting self-seeders. I have loads of aquilegia, meadow cranesbill, poppies, verbena, and forget-me-nots. They pop up all over the garden in random clumps every year.

I've banged on for years about making your own compost. Just do it! Once your compost bin is established you will barely ever have to pay for expensive bags of compost again. You can start any time, and use grass cuttings, shredded paper, veg peelings and eggshells. Your garden will love you.

You can also try wilding your lawn. This is not for everyone because some people like their grass neat. But if your lawn is a bit motheaten or you hate mowing, try letting it grow. You will be amazed at the flowers, and the insects they attract. The trick to making it look like a style choice and not just neglect is curation. You can choose to wild just certain areas, leaving a central space on which to sit or play; or mow a wide meandering path or two through the longer grass, or around the edge like a picture frame, keeping the lawn well edged and the wild area contained to the centre. Try it. If you hate it, it's simple enough to mow it short again.

Your garden is your space. It should work with you and your budget to provide a place where you can relax.

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in a care home or in a household of immunocompromised individuals, you are also eligible. All pregnant women should have the flu vaccine to protect themselves and their baby.

All patients within the above categories will have a vaccine reserved at the surgery and will receive a letter or text inviting them to a clinic. All children aged 2 to 15 years on 31 August 2023 will be offered the

vaccine. Two and three year olds will be offered it in general practice and the rest will be done at school.

Clinics will be held in the week. If you have a mobile phone you will be texted a link for you to book your own flu appointment. If you do not have a mobile phone, you will receive a letter with a date and time slot for you to attend. It is imperative that you make every effort to attend this appointment as we may struggle to provide an alternative. If you really cannot make your appointment you will need to contact the surgery to see if we have any further flu clinics available.

If you are housebound and a family member/ friend is unable to bring you into the surgery we will arrange for a Nursing team member to visit your home to give you the vaccine.

Visit the Practice website for more information: www.dinningtongrouppractice.co.uk

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#### **YourRecipe**

## **Pork Chops with Chunky Apple Sauce**

Preparation time: 20-25 mins Cooking time: 30 mins plus standing Serves: 4

#### Ingredients

4 pork chops on the bone - about 3cm/1.5 ins thick at room temperature 1½ tbsp sunflower oil salt and pepper for seasoning

#### **Chunky Apple Sauce**

450g cooking apples, cored and diced 4 tbsp caster sugar finely grated zest ½ lemon 2 tsp lemon juice

4 tbsp water 1/4 tsp ground of

1/4 tsp ground cinnamon knob of butter

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas mark 6.

To make the apple sauce: Place the chopped apples, lemon juice and zest, sugar and water into a heavy based saucepan. Bring to the boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Reduce the heat and simmer for 15 minutes, until the apples are tender. Add the



butter and the cinnamon and beat the apples until you have a chunky sauce (if you prefer smooth, puree them). Remove the pan from the heat and cover to keep the sauce warm.

Pat the pork chops dry and season

well with salt and pepper. Heat the sunflower oil in a large oven-proof frying pan over a medium-high heat, and fry for 3 minutes each side to brown them.

Transfer the pan to the preheated oven and roast the chops for 7-10 minutes, until cooked through. (The juices should run clear when you cut into a chop). Take the pan out of the oven, cover with foil and let the chops rest for a few minutes. Transfer the chops to a plate, spoon over the pan juices and serve with the apple sauce, mashed potato, and vegetable of choice.

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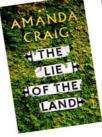
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#### YourBookReview



#### THE LIE OF THE LAND by Amanda Craig

Lottie and Quentin Bredin are a middle-aged couple, living in London. Their marriage is crumbling because Quentin is a serial philanderer, for which Lottie partly blames herself. Despite belonging to what Lottie describes as the

luckiest generation in British history, the couple find themselves financially strained and unable to afford a divorce after losing their jobs since the credit crunch.

In an unconventional decision, Lottie suggests renting a cheap cottage in Devon and letting out their London house. Thus, they move to the countryside in a kind of antithesis of the usual 'escape to country story'. There they grapple with challenges including unwelcoming locals. their daughter being targeted by school bullies, and Lottie's mixed-race son from a previous marriage, being assumed to be an immigrant.

As the family becomes more involved with the local community, the novel explores the

messiness of family life and the absurdities of living in contemporary Britain. Craig skilfully juxtaposes the metropolitan and rural worlds which provides some truly funny moments, but darker elements start to emerge, including a sinister secret within the cottage which is the reason for the exceptionally low rent.

Quentin struggles to adapt to the new lifestyle, frequently returning to London and his affairs. However, as he spends more time with his family, he begins to reflect on his emotional flaws and how they may be intertwined with his own upbringing.

While the narrative provides an energetic exploration of the darker side of countryside living including casual racism and hostile neighbours, the heart of the story lies in the evolving relationship between Quentin and Lottie. The Lie of the Land deftly captures the capacity for change in individuals and the multifaceted nature of human relationships, and endings which are not necessarily neat and tidy.

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## YourSay

#### Bassetlaw Branch Parkinson's UK

The September 5th meeting will welcome guests from the Oasis Project in Worksop. It starts at 2pm at Worksop Cricket Club Central Avenue, S80 1EN.

Weekly activities continue with Pilates on Thursday afternoons, Indoor Bowling on Wednesdays and Singing for Pleasure on Monday mornings. The next Lunch Club get together is on September 19th at The Lockkeeper when members will enjoy a carvery meal, raffle and lots of fun and laughter.

New members receive a warm welcome. There is much to be gained from the friendship and support from a lively group such as this. Just pop in to one of the meetings to learn more about the many benefits or call Chris Coldwell 01909 730629.

#### **Happy New Year!**

September is the beginning of the new u3a year, and it promises to be another busy month. New activities include Walking Football, available from September following its transfer from Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT) to the Ru3a.

Or If the World Netball Championship has grabbed your attention, why not try the Walking version of this game? For both sports Contact Tricia Macredie 01709 370 899

Absolute Beginners' Spanish group is for anyone wishing to learn Spanish "from scratch". An introductory meeting will be held in September at Broom Methodist Church at the junction of Broom Lane and Stag Lane (date and time to be arranged). Details from Michael Garrett.

To explore these and other Rotherham u3a activities, visit our stall in the Voluntary Action Rotherham tent at Rotherham Show on Saturday 2nd September.

Try an activity free of charge on up to two occasions before you decide whether to join.

Browse u3asites.org.uk/rotherham

or Contact Lesley 01709 518 248 or Sue 01709 379 379 for a brochure.

## Litter Picking Locations Dinnington & Anston September 2023

Meet on Thursdays 9am-9.30am/bag drop area: 7th - SR Refractories – Swinston Hill/ next to SR entrance

14th – Church Lane & Athorpe Rd/ at the junction 21st – Plaxtons layby, near rail bridge/ at A57 end of layby

28th - Woodsetts Road/ near OAP bungalows & bus shelter

For more details email len@fowkes42.plus.com

#### **Anston Male Voice Choir**

We are holding our annual concert at 7pm on Saturday 9th September at South Anston Methodist Church Sheffield Road S25 5DT. Local singer Laura Magann will be our special guest. Tickets priced at £10 for adults and £5 children can obtained from Neil on 01909 318190 or email tickets@anstonmvc.co.uk

#### Could You Host a Tea Party?

Via the charity Re-Engage, we are involved in organising tea parties for older people who would like a change of scenery and a chance to meet up with others for an afternoon of conversation and laughter. The group meets up once a month on a Sunday afternoon, hosted by volunteers in their home, at no cost to the guests.

We desperately need volunteer drivers to pick up the guests and take them home safely afterwards. All drivers will need to be DBS checked and this would be organised via https://

www.reengage.org.uk/volunteer/new-volunteers/become-a-tea-party-volunteer/.

Please get in touch email: rotherhamreengage@gmail.com if you think you could spare a few hours once a month to be either a driver or a host we would be very grateful! PS drivers also get to join in with the tea party!

#### Voglia d'Italia

The Italian Society for South Yorks and North Notts presents: "To the Victor the Spolia: the Re-use of Byzantine Statuary and Masonry in Venice after the Fourth Crusade".

Dr Rosemary Morris, Visiting Fellow, University of York, focuses on the re-use of Byzantine sculpture and monumental masonry in and around San Marco including treasures such as the bronze horses.

Friday 1st September 2023, 7.30 pm, Tickhill Parish Room, Northgate, Tickhill, DN11 9HZ. Non-members are welcome. Admission: £4 non-members. Further information: 01709 370895

#### IBIS - Arts and Crafts

English paper piecing – is this new to you or are you an old hand? This month our group is going to attempt this art form, which uses thin paper or card covered in fabric. Once the shapes are complete, the sewer will hand sew the shapes together, one at a time, until the shapes come together in an intricate design – ours will be a needle case. Once the shape is complete, be it a rosette or block or whatever you chose it to be, the paper pieces are removed leaving the fabric item remaining. This practice originated in England in the 1770s – a little bit of history being recreated.

Do you have a craft you could bring to the group? Are you a beginner and need help with a project? We have many talented people ready to offer help and advice. Or are you just looking for a social space with friendly faces and a cuppa? You will find all of this and more at our group on Wednesday afternoons 12-3pm at Anston Parish Hall. Come and join us — your first week is free — and the kettle will be on!

For more information please contact Sue Sayles on roysayles123@btinternet.com or 01909 564891. Or just pop in. See you there!

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## **Dinnington Community Land Trust**

The Land Trust has been very busy over the last few months with a number of projects. The main project centres around affordable housing, which is now reaching a very important stage of legal agreements between Dinnington StJohns Town Council, Dinnington Regeneration Partnership, and the developers.

During this autumn the Land Trust in conjunction with Dinnington Regeneration Partnership, and Dinnington StJohns Town Council, will be inviting all local residents to attend our second "Open Day". During the event you will have the opportunity to discuss our MasterPlan for Dinnington which will include the housing project plus much more. Hopefully we will be able to provide you with some very good news about this and other planned projects. We will inform you through YourMag of the exact date and location of the Open Day.

The Land Trust is also searching for new future project ideas from local residents. You could be an individual or an established group who are working with a range of ages or abilities. Please send an outline of your idea/s along with contact details to the following email:

D.johnston696@btinternet.com







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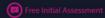
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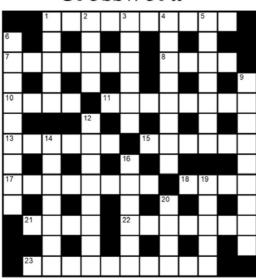
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## **YourPuzzlePage**

## Crossword



## Sudoku

#### How to play Sudoku

It's simple! Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3 x 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repetition. These puzzles use logic alone. Watch out! Sudoku is highly addictive!

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

Solutions on Page 46

#### Across

- 1 Crusade, expedition (10)
- 7 Troubled, dubious (2,5)
- **8** Type of shoe (4)
- 10 Hairless (4)
- 11 Twelfth month (8)
- 13 Bunny (6)
- 15 Duplicate (6)
- 17 Cinderella's were glass (8) 12 Scatter (8)
- 18 Ouick (4)
- 21 Celebrity (4)
- 22 Speculated (7)
- 23 Give the go-ahead (5-5)

#### Down

- 1 Cycle (5)
- 2 Hoodlum (4)
- 3 A little, quite (6) **4** Oily fish (8)
- 5 Adios (7)
- 6 gobbledygook (9)
- 9 Appreciation (9)
- 14 Vesicle, bubble (7)
- 16 Meagre (6)
- **19** Assign (5)
- 20 Complacent (4)

## Word Search

Can you find all the Ancient Greek philosophers hidden in the grid?

**ANAXARCHUS** ANTISTHENES **ARCESILAUS ARCHYTAS** ARISTOTLE **CHRYSIPPUS** DAMO **DEMOCRITUS** 

**DICAEARCHUS** DIOGENES **EPICURUS GEMINUS GORGIAS HERACLITUS PARMENIDES PLATO** 

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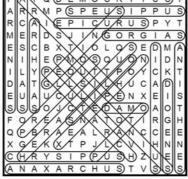
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