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magazine

April / May 2019

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Welcome to lifestyle

 @GarySkent

Welcome to our spring edition of Lifestyle magazine as we enter our sixth year of publishing - where did the last five years go?

I don't know about you but here at Lifestyle we are looking forward to the lighter nights and mornings as the barmy summer of last year seems a lifetime ago.

The daffodils and spring flowers are a welcome sight and help lift all the gloom and uncertainty being caused by the Brexit debacle.

The sooner Brexit reaches a conclusion the better - every time it comes on the TV or radio I generally switch channels now.

It has divided our country and the sooner it is concluded the better, so we can look forward to the future with a little more certainty.

One thing is for certain, the political system in this country needs a major shake-up.

The scenes at parliament have been almost

comical and whatever creditability our elected representatives across the country had previously, has been shot to pieces.

Speaking to Remainers and Leavers, the one thing they all agree on is they want a conclusion sooner rather than later!

Fingers crossed- but I am not holding my breath!

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Speed Dating evening gets regular spot at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub

Following the success of LiveWire's first ever library speed dating evening at Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub to mark Valentine's Day, it has been announced the session will be returning regularly throughout the rest of 2019 - giving more people the chance to meet new people in the familiar setting of a library.

It follows the very successful inaugural event that was held for Valentine's Day when around 30 people come along to the library in the hope of finding romance.

The free speed dating evenings are to be held on the last Wednesday of June, and September – with a December date to be confirmed.

Following feedback from those who attended in February, different age groups will be invited along to each event.

Wendy Molyneux (pictured), LiveWire's Strategic Library Manager, said: "Following the success of our previous speed dating event we intend to continue to host these evenings as a way of helping to address any potential social isolation.

"Last month's event saw around 30 people who came along to try speed dating in the library. Some people came out of curiosity to see what speed dating is all about, some came because they were hoping to find a 'date' and some came simply because they like meeting new people.

"People who attended told us they liked the idea of being able to meet a large group of other singles. They enjoyed the opportunity to meet people in a library because it is a safe, trusted environment. We did have several 'matches' after hosting our first event and I am hopeful that I will need to buy a wedding hat before the year is out!"

LiveWire's speed dating initiative has been given the backing by Time to Read, the partnership of public library authorities in the North West that collaborate on reader development initiatives.

Ian Anstice, Time to Read co-ordinator, said: "I was blown away by the success of the last Warrington speed dating event and made sure



it was shared regionally and nationally. Public libraries do so many wonderful things and it's great to see one more thing added to the already impressive portfolio of things that LiveWire libraries do."

For more information on LiveWire's library service and events please visit www.livewirewarrington.co.uk/library



Student chefs bring home Gold from Welsh International Culinary Championships

Hospitality & Culinary Arts students from Warrington & Vale Royal College are celebrating after returning from the Welsh Culinary Championships with 22 medals, including the gold medal for the Inter-College team challenge.

The competition, which took place in Llandrillo, North Wales, saw 17 of the college's talented chefs compete against hundreds of entrants to bring home an impressive 8 certificates of merit, 10 bronze medals, 5 silver medals and 7 gold medals.

Professional Cookery course leader Scott Surtees said: "This is the third time Warrington & Vale Royal College has competed in the Welsh International Culinary Championships. The past two years we came home with the silver medal for the Inter-College team challenge so to be able to finally return with the gold medal, as well as an array of other awards too, is a brilliant achievement. It's testament to how passionate we are as a department, and as a college, about ensuring learners gain the essential practical skills, and the knowledge, to go on and succeed in the industry."

This year's Inter-College Team was made up of students Mikolaj Mozul, Dan Jones, James

Tomkins and captained by course leader Scott Surtees. Their winning menu consisted of four delicious courses made with ingredients from Birtwistles, Ribble Farm Fare and M&J Seafood.

Level 2 student Dan Jones said: "I competed in the Inter-College team challenge last year when we won the silver medal. As a team we were much stronger this year - we knew what to expect so were less nervous and determined to bring home the gold medal. Competing in the Welsh Culinary Championships has inspired me to work harder to achieve my goal of opening my own restaurant."

Level 2 student Konrad Krasowski was also awarded two gold medals in the Knife Skills – Fruit Cuts and Butchery Skills - Cut Chicken for Sauté competition, and level 3 student Sara Lang-Harding won a gold medal in the Major Street Food Challenge.

Scott added: "As well as giving our students the chance to prove themselves as chefs, competitions like this further enhance what we are teaching them in the kitchens and the classrooms. It also boosts their confidence massively and it is rewarding for us as a college to be able to see student's personal and professional development."



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Blue Öyster Cult still going strong after more than half a century

Editor Gary Skentelbery takes a trip down memory lane.

Formed in New York in 1967 veteran rockers Blue Öyster Cult are still going strong after more than half a century as they went back to basics at Manchester Academy.

The band's longest-lasting and most commercially successful lineup included stalwarts Donald "Buck Dharma" Roeser (lead guitar, vocals) and Eric Bloom (lead vocals, "stun guitar," keyboards, synthesizers), Allen Lanier (keyboards, rhythm guitar, backing vocals), Joe Bouchard (bass, vocals), Albert Bouchard (drums, percussion, vocals).

The band's current lineup includes Roeser and Bloom, as well as Danny Miranda (bass, backing vocals), Jules Radino (drums, percussion) and Richie Castellano (keyboard, rhythm guitar, backing vocals).

British Blues rockers The Temperance Movement, provided a lively support act before the veteran rockers took to the stage, like a group of old friends gigging in a bar.

I can't recall a time when I have seen a show where the headline band hasn't even got a stage set featuring their name.

It was certainly back to basics for Blue Öyster Cult, which was somewhat surprising as one of the founding father's of supporting videos during the dawn of MTV.

But this set had just the bare basics of the band, their instruments and a few lights as they let their music do the talking.

For an aficionado of the band (and I am sure there were many in the packed audience) I am sure the music was more than enough. But it would have been hard to win over new fans who are used to being far more visually stimulated these days.

Having last seen the band way back in the early 1980s when they were at their peak, I was expecting a little more. I can't fault the music or the musicianship of the band and due to the lack of visual effects, one can only presume the band, after more than 50



Set List

1. Transmaniacon MC
2. Before the Kiss, a Redcap
3. Career of Evil
4. Burnin' for You
5. Dancin' in the Ruins
6. Harvest Moon
(chosen by audience over Shooting Shark)
7. The Vigil
8. E.T.I. (Extra Terrestrial Intelligence)
9. Buck's Boogie
10. Then Came the Last Days of May
11. True Confessions
(Buck on vocals)
12. Black Blade
13. Godzilla
Guitar Solo - (Buck Dharma)
14. (Don't Fear) The Reaper

Encore:

15. OD'd on Life Itself
16. I Love the Night
17. Cities on Flame With Rock and Roll

years, has decided to let their music do the talking – and who can argue with them after producing one of the most iconic rock anthems of all time with Don't Fear the Reaper.

Other stand outs for me where Godzilla and Burning for you, both tunes from that iconic times in the 80s when Blue Öyster Cult were probably at their peak.

Blue Öyster Cult let their music do the talking.



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Christina Aguilera

returns to the UK after 13 years
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Multi-Platinum singer-songwriter Christina Aguilera has announced her first U.K. tour in thirteen years. The vocal powerhouse will take her THE X TOUR to Glasgow, London, Manchester and Birmingham this November. Tickets are now on sale at LiveNation.co.uk

Christina Aguilera is a six-time GRAMMY Award-winning singer-songwriter renowned for her powerful voice and hit songs. Throughout her career, she has sold more than 43 million records worldwide. Aguilera has achieved five No. 1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart making her the fourth female artist to top the chart over three consecutive decades (1990s, 2000s, and 2010s). She has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and holds the prestigious honor of being the only artist under the age of 30 included in Rolling Stone Magazine's list of the 100 greatest singers of all time. In 2011 she entered the world of television as a coach on NBC's Emmy Award

THE X TOUR 2019 - *Christina Aguilera*

November 7

GLASGOW,
SSE HYDRO ARENA

November 9

LONDON,
THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY

November 12

MANCHESTER,
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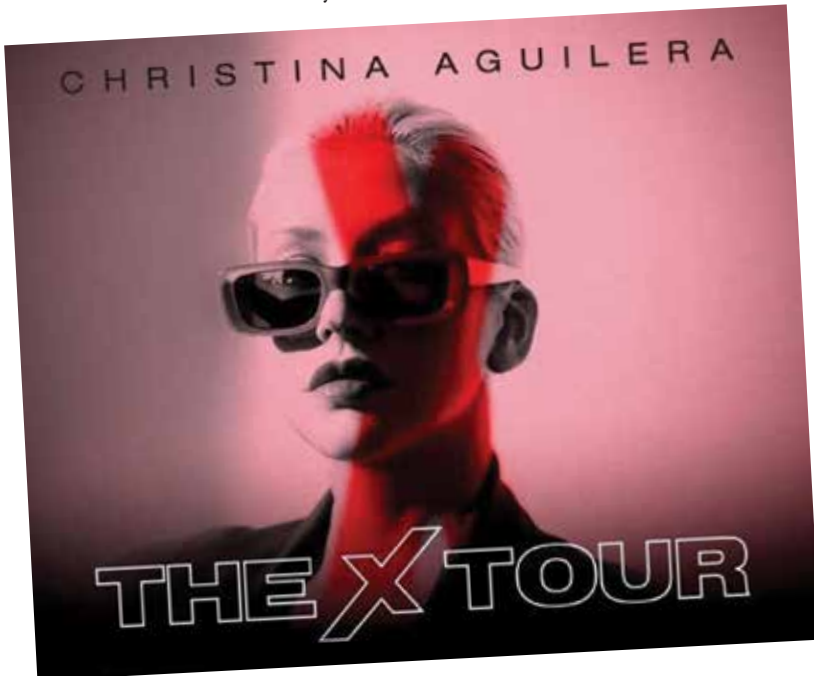
November 14

BIRMINGHAM,
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nominated show The Voice.

Fresh from her exclusive Las Vegas residency, Christina Aguilera will embark on a four date UK wide tour bringing hits such as "Dirrty", "Genie in a Bottle", "Ain't No Other Man", "Fighter" as well as fan favorites from her critically acclaimed 2018 studio album, Liberation.





Spring into bread baking classes at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden

Award winning Room Forty are bringing their mobile baking school back to Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden in April now that Spring has arrived.

The spring/summer programme of baking marks a return to the venue by popular request, following a successful season of classes held there in 2017 and 2018.

The first bread baking class at the Walled Garden will be a beginners class on 23 April starting at 4.45 and lasting 3 hours, further dates include 11 June and 7 July.

Other venues used for the popular pop up classes include Lymm Village Hall, JD Kitchens showroom in Padgate, St James Church Hall and Mossley Hill in Liverpool. Students on the beginner's class will learn how to make the perfect white loaf, wholemeal loaf, pizza and sodabread. Classes are fun, hands on and participants leave with all the products of their labour.

The baking school will also be teaching Italian Breads – Focaccia & Pane con noci e formaggi (cheese & walnut bread) – on 14 May and 25 September, on 21 May they will be running a Tiger Bread & Iced Buns class.

Room Forty won a Silver Award at the World Bread Awards for their bread baking excellence.



Jen Perry (pictured right), proprietor of Room Forty mobile afternoon tea emporium and mobile cookery school said: "We are so very excited about our return to Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden now that the lighter nights are here as we love the venue and on warm nights we spill out into the garden for our tea breaks. The feedback that we have had following our classes has been astonishing. We are back because it is such a wonderful venue and because we have been inundated with requests

"We are passionate about baking, passionate about real, additive free food and delight in passing on our baking skills and knowledge. We have fun teaching and the groups have great fun learning."

Classes cost from £50. Costs include the cost of all ingredients, samples of bread and nibbles to eat and copious quantities of tea and coffee. Class participants also leave with recipes and the breads that they bake.

To book a class log on to the website www.roomforty.co.uk or contact Jen at Room Forty 01925 357940 hello@roomforty.co.uk







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Shelly's grandma's scones

by Michele Butterworth,
of Shelly's Restaurant, Bold Street, Warrington

Ingredients:

500g SR flour
120g butter
120g sugar
Pinch salt
120g sultanas (cover with boiling water. If left to soak overnight they plump up amazing)
2 eggs

Method:

Pre heat oven to moderate
Rub together flour, sugar and butter to a fine crumb and add eggs
Mix in the sultanas add a little water if not quite blended together

My Nan didn't roll her mix out just separated the dough into 12 and put in paper cases in cake patty tin

Easy to clean pan out and looks better to serve later

Bake scones for about 25 min

I place the tin in middle of the oven so they cook in middle before colouring too much

Delicious warm out the oven with jam and cream

Enjoy!

Shelly x

“Brexit certainty” for kitchen company

Warrington based JD Kitchens has been given some “Brexit certainty” by their Germany based kitchen suppliers.

JD Kitchens is a bespoke kitchen company based in Padgate. They specialise in designer German manufactured Schuller kitchens, and are reliant on regular and reliable imports, so the recent uncertainty over trading has been a real concern.

In a letter recently, it is clear that the uncertainty of Brexit is clearly being felt across both sides of the pond, but one thing that has been made clear is how important trade relations with Britain are.

The letter from Schuller to JD Kitchens entitled ‘letter of support instead of waiting for Plan B’ goes beyond a token offer of reassurance. It explains how Schuller will guarantee a quick delivery service and will bear the costs of any additional fees of import, so that there are no effects on the customer purchase price, something that Dave Charlton, the owner at JD Kitchens has been concerned with for some time.

“The changes to the exchange interest rate have been a significant challenge to me as a small business. I’ve almost become an expert in currency. I have been buying Euros for several months in advance to help us manage to hold prices when the Euro/Pound

exchange rates are unfavourable.

“The letter from Schuller was extremely supportive, and has allowed us to reassure our customers, that the sale price of their kitchen will hold steady.

Dave continued; “At the end of the day, we can’t do anything and that’s frustrating. The good news is that we’ve been given reassurances from several of our overseas suppliers and the KBSA that they’ll work with us and get us over the other side as pain free as possible, so we’re remaining positive”.

Richard Hibbert, National Chair of Kbsa reflected on the findings of their recent industry survey on the outcome of Brexit: “A snapshot survey of members views on the current situation found that when asked which outcome they preferred, between leaving without a deal, negotiating a delay or Theresa May getting her deal approved, most Kbsa members voted in favour of Theresa May negotiating her deal. There was a handful of votes to leave without a deal and one vote for another referendum or cancelling Brexit altogether”.

So, it’s clear that it is still business as usual for JD Kitchens in their 18th year, and the future whilst not straightforward, remains positive, with a full order book well into spring.



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