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A Note From the Editor

Welcome to our June/July edition.

Summer is here, and windows are being thrown open wide to let in the sweet smells of blooming planters, hanging baskets, flower gardens, and wild flower meadows.

June is the first month of summer, and the month where many of us choose to get out and about, locally, nationally and abroad, for a leisurely afternoon walk through the park to a café and the reward of tea and a toasted teacake. Or a weekend away, making the most of the daylight which extends almost to bedtime. Or a vacation in the UK, Europe or further afield before the holiday season gets too busy.

A break for many is energetic - cycling, hiking, climbing or experiencing new activities - or it can be a chance to lounge by a pool or on the beach enjoying a tall drink and a good book or two. This year many people will choose to get creative and test their imaginations and learn new skills like coastal sketching, enjoying painting sessions in a local park, pottery for beginners, or a creative writing or poetry workshop to unleash their inner Brontë or Wordsworth.

Many of us are enjoying our lovely surroundings this Summer bringing home to us how important the environment is. Plastic Free July www.plasticfreejuly.org/ is a very worthwhile campaign that supports the idea of being more sustainable in our daily lives for the good of our planet. Many ideas are free or low cost and just involve being a little more mindful, whilst at the same time helping make a difference. Reusable cups can save on plastic and many café's offer discounts if you use them; and reusable bags have really caught on in the past few years and save thousands of plastic carrier bags going into landfill.

Here are some dates for your calendar:
21st June: Father's Day; 21st June: Summer Solstice.

As always, we ask you to please remember to mention Stonesthrow Directories when calling our Advertisers, so we can keep bringing even more trusted local professionals and quality local stories to your door every other month.

However you chose to spend the next couple of months - please remember to keep your heart and your business local.

Yours, Stonesthrow Publications.

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Stonesthrow
Publications

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NEXT DEADLINE
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EDITION
20TH JULY



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Hi My name is Dave Millidge, let me introduce my company where I repair windows and replace misted up Double glazed units.

The area that I cover is Coventry and Warwickshire. You may have seen me around in your street or even have family and friends who I have worked for in the past ten years, with over 6,000 satisfied customers during that period. I started Misty to Clear to give customers the best value repairs in the current climate.

The Misty to Clear website allows total transparency of the customer experience. You can log into the website and view work that I have carried out. You can also leave feedback on social media. Therefore I give a 5 year guarantee on all new double glazed units fitted by Misty to Clear.

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I started Misty to Clear mindful that the cost of repairs is probably key to most people's budget when using tradesmen to do work on their behalf in their homes.

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Coventry University Hospital	02476 964000
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POLICE

Non-Emergency Police Enquiries	101
Warwickshire Police	01926 415000
Leamington Police Station	01926 451111
Crimestoppers	0800 555111

UTILITIES

Warwickshire Fire & Rescue	01926 423231
Electricity Power Loss	0800 6783105
Transco Gas Leak	0800 111999
Severn Trent Water	0800 7834444
BT Fault Line	0800 800151
Emergency Drainage	01926 315485
Floodline	0845 9881188
RSPCA	0300 1234999

LEISURE & SPORTS

St. Nicholas Park	01926 495353
Newbold Community Centre	01926 882083
Warwick Library	0300 5558171
Warwick School Sports Centre	01926 776466
Warwick University Sport	02476 523011

TRAVEL

Chiltern Railways	0345 6005165
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West Midlands Trains	0333 3110039
Bus Travel Line	0871 2002233
National Express	08705 808080
Coventry Airport	02476 308601
Birmingham Int' Airport	0871 2220072

GENERAL

Tourist Information Centre	01926 492212
Citizen's Advice Bureau	01926 457900
Samaritans	116123
Local Trading Standards	01926 414040
The Family Information Service	01926 742274
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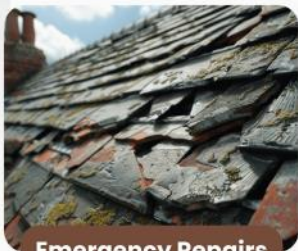
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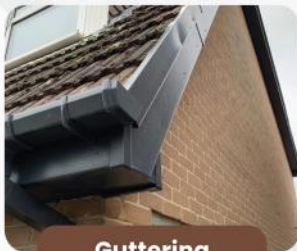
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Local History: Northgate Street, Warwick



The Looking at Warwickshire group of Warwick District u3a looks at all things pertaining to Warwick and Warwickshire. Looking at Northgate Street, Warwick, has been of particular interest. Northgate Street has 12 listed buildings of especial structural and historical interest. Particular favourites are the Old Shire Hall and Law Courts, and the former Warwickshire County Gaol, which stand next to each other on the west side of the street. The two buildings sit together harmoniously, yet are quite a contrast in style and detail.

The Old Shire Hall and Law Courts were designed by the gentleman architect, Sanderson Miller and built by William and David Hiorn of Warwick between 1753 and 1758. Miller was born, lived, and died on the Radway Country Estate bought by his father, a Banbury wool merchant. His interest in antiquarian studies started when he was a student at Oxford, which led him to redesign Radway House in the Gothic style. He built the Castle at Edgehill (now a popular pub) to enhance the view from Radway. Other Warwickshire gentlemen then wanted him to help lay out their grounds, and to design gothic and classical garden features for their estates. His reputation as an architect with the Warwickshire gentry led to him being asked to design the new Law Courts, intended to replace the old Court House on Jury Street, which was

built after the 1694 Great Fire of Warwick. The new building is in a beautifully proportioned classic style, and is gloriously embellished with swags of fruit and flowers, giving it a light and festive feel.

In stark contrast, the former Warwickshire County Gaol is a more austere building. While its design is equally impressive as the Courthouse, it is a more sombre building suiting its status as the County Gaol. It has been described as muscular, and is one of the first buildings in the UK to be in the Greek Doric style. The joyful swags of its neighbour give way to a solemn Greek frieze, and the honey coloured Hollington stone of the Court House is replaced by an elephant-grey sandstone. The architect of this building, Thomas Johnson, was a Warwick based builder, and, unlike Sanderson Miller, would have demanded a professional fee for his work.

Warwick District u3a www.warwickdistrict.u3asite.uk/ has a friendly and enthusiastic membership of over 1,000 retired and semi-retired individuals, who enjoy coming together to learn in a sociable environment. There are 100 different interest groups and activities, which are open to all members – something for everyone! If you are interested in local history, our Looking at Warwickshire group, our History group, and our genealogy group will be of especial interest.

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Date: every Saturday / Time: 9am - 3pm / Venue: Warwick Town Centre, Market Place, CV34 4SA
Warwick Market is a great opportunity to shop in a vibrant open-air setting, surrounded by many independent shops & cafes. On our Market, you will find variety and value, sold by new and experienced traders. You'll find stalls selling everything from fresh fruit and vegetables, plants and cut flowers, to fresh baking, fish and clothing, to gifts, & food specialities..

Recycle your old glasses

Date: every 3rd Saturday / Venue: Warwick Saturday Market

Warwick Lions would like to say a big thank you to all the people who have kindly donated old and broken spectacles to our stall at the Warwick Saturday Market. The glasses are cleaned & refurbished then sent to eye camps in Africa, India & Eastern Europe. We aim to collect redundant glasses on our stall every third Saturday.

Independent South Warwickshire NHS Retirement Fellowship

Date: every 2nd Wednesday / Time: 10am - 12pm / Venue: All Saints Church Hall, All Saints Road Warwick CV34 5NJ

Stratford upon Avon Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

Date: 3rd Saturday of the month / Time: 10am - 3pm / Venue: Stratford Methodist Church Hall, Old Town CV37 6BG
A friendly group, beginners welcome. Talks, workshops. See: www.wsdstratford.blogspot.com
Or: www.wsdstratford@gmail.com

Warwickshire Vision Support Centre

Date: 2nd Friday of each month / Time: 9.30am - 11.30am / Venue: Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club, Abbey End CV8 1LG
Warwickshire Vision Support are a local charity that supports people living with sight loss in Warwickshire. Web: www.warwickshire.vision/
Email: enquiries@warwickshire.vision
Phone: 01926 411331

Warwick Bridge Club

We are looking for new members. We play twice a week at Hill Close Gardens, Bread and Meat Close (Warwick Race Course) 7pm-10pm Mondays and Thursdays. We are a super friendly club who are fortunate to be able to play in these beautiful surroundings. Just to add we also have a couple of times a year Cheese and Wine evening. Contact Ken Mikulsky 07785955805,

skm9inver@aol.com or Jenny Mikulsky: jenwren200@gmail.com

Warwick Lions Club

Warwick Lions aim to provide help and funds for those in need. We assist individuals and families in crisis, provide items of essential household equipment, distribute food parcels and make donations to local schools and other charities. We are all volunteers committed to helping those in need, we are non political, non religious, have no cultural boundaries or gender discrimination. If you would like to know more or to join us in helping others please contact us via our Facebook page or by telephoning 0345 833 5921.

Warwick Probus Club No.2

Date: 1st Wednesday of every month / Time: 10am / Venue: the Pavilion, Hill Close Gardens, Warwick, CV34 6HF
Warwick Probus Club No.2 was formed to give retired and semi-retired business men the opportunity to expand their interests and make new friends over a cup of tea or coffee while being entertained by a guest speaker. We are always pleased to welcome new members. If you think that you may be interested in joining us call our Membership Secretary 07983211467

Milverton Folk Dance Group

Date: every Thursday / Time: 8pm - 10pm / Venue: Budbrooke Village Hall, Hampton on the Hill, CV35 8QS
We are a friendly folk dance club and welcome complete beginners, individuals or couples and equally those rekindling their knowledge. Come and give us a try if you would like to use your memory and be active! For more information, please contact us on 01926 334808 or 07866 961967, alternatively visit our website: www.milvertonfolkdancegroup.org.uk/

Warwick Memory Singers

Date: Wednesdays / Time: 1pm - 2.30pm / Venue: All Saints Church, Vicarage Fields CV34 5NL
Open to anyone living with dementia or other neurological condition, accompanied by their carer. Led by specially-trained musicians, our weekly sessions can help build new friendships and boost confidence, enabling people to feel more positive and supported. £5 per week, carers go free. First Session free! To book a place or for further information, please contact Sarah Riddell: sriddell@armonico.org.uk or call 07722 632242

Thrift Shop

Date: 1st Saturday of each month / Time: 10am - 12pm / Venue: Warwick Methodist Church Community Centre, Barrack Street CV34 4TH
Good quality second hand clothes at bargain prices, typically £1 to £5. Refreshments also available.

Coventry And Warwickshire Schools Liaison

Community

We have speakers on many hot topics and careers. Also activity kits we lend to schools and clubs, all free of charge.

www.schoolsliaisoncommunity.net/CWSLC.htm
01926 490 456

Warwick Woodloes Townswomen's Guild

Date: 1st Wednesday of the month between February and December / Time 7.30pm - 9.15pm / Venue: Woodloes community centre, Deansway, Woodloes Park
Cost £3 for visitors. 40 pence for refreshments. We meet for friendship, fun evenings, and guest speakers, days out etc. For more information contact Sarah on 07984 235005.

Coventry And Warwickshire Retired Engineers

Date: third Thursday of most months / Time: 10:30 for 11AM / Venue: Dunchurch Village Hall CV22 6PN
All events are open to the general public.
www.retiredengineers.net 01926 490 456

Workshop Wednesdays

Date: every Wednesday during term time / Time: 1.30pm - 4pm / Venue: Warwick Arts Centre
Our weekly artist-led workshops allow you to get hands on with creativity, meet new people, and take some time for yourself to unwind. Drop in to learn a new creative skill, and experience clay, printmaking, music, and more! Entry is free, donations gratefully accepted. No need to book, just drop in!

Leamington Market

Date: every Friday / Time: 10am - 4pm / Venue: Holly Walk, Leamington Spa CV32 4LY
Holly Walk is set to host a brand new weekly market in the heart of Leamington Spa! Taking place every Friday, the market will showcase a fantastic range of local produce – from fresh fruit & veg to handmade artisan goods. It's the perfect way to shop local, discover something new, and support the amazing independent businesses in our community.

Repair Café

Date: every 4th Saturday of the month / Time: 10am - 2pm / Venue: The Court House Jury Street
Bring your broken item for our volunteers to mend. Free, donations welcome. Café for refreshments.

Bee Wild

Date: 14th June / Venue: Hill Close Gardens, Warwick
Bee Friendly Event. Annual event to learn about bees and wildlife in the local area. Free event, donations welcome.

Kenilworth Carnival

Date: 19th June / Venue: Abbey Fields
Come and enjoy an action packed event at Kenilworth Carnival, Fete and Funfair. Entertainment, Food And Drink concessions and

music await all! Kenilworth Carnival, Fete and Funfair - New location - Abbey Fields entry off Forrest Road. Please use the event on site parking off Priory Road or any of the local Warwick District Council Car Parks. Funfair - 19th June to 21st June and 25th June to 28th June 2026. Teddy Bear picnic - Saturday 20th June 2026. Carnival Fete - Saturday 27th / Sunday 28th June 2026. Carnival procession - Saturday 27th June 2026 - 3.00p.m to 5.30p.m

Arts, Eats & Treats Festival

Date: 20th June / Time: 11am - 5pm / Venue: Victoria Park, Leamington Spa, CV31 3PH
Join us for a vibrant festival celebrating creativity, flavour, and community, bringing together an exciting mix of arts, crafts, local produce, and delicious street food from talented traders. Whether you're browsing handcrafted treasures, sampling gourmet treats, or discovering new flavours, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Throughout the day, soak up the lively atmosphere with walkabout entertainment, children's rides, face painting, and live performances, creating the perfect family-friendly festival experience. With so much to see, taste, and enjoy, the Arts, Eats & Treats Festival promises a fantastic day out for visitors of all ages.

Pugstock Street Party

Date: 21st June / Time: 12pm - 8pm / Venue: Guys Cliffe Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5BZ
Eat, drink and chill to the vibes of the stage acts at this popular and vibrant Street Party, hosted by the Fat Pug Public House. Much entertainment and food and drink on site to cater for all tastes.

Fake Festival

Date: 4th July / Time: 11.45 - 11pm / Venue: Victoria Park, Leamington Spa, CV31 3PT
The Leamington Spa Fake Festival returns 2026 with Fake Bands to Queen (Flash), Foo Fighters (Fore Fighters), Fleetwood Mac (Fleeting Rumours), Alanis Morissette), (Alanish), The Killers (The Fillers). All held inside the Fake Festivals marquee with a fully licensed bar serving a variety of drinks. Outside the marquee on Victoria Park is the secured fenced garden area housing quality food traders, clean toilets, tables and chairs and some entertainment for the children. For more information and tickets visit: www.fakefestivals.co.uk/events/2026/Leamington-Spa.html

Kenilworth Food and Drink Festival

Date: 26th July / Time: 11am - 5pm / Venue: Abbey Fields, Bridge Street, Kenilworth, CV8 1BP
Be there or be hungry! This year's Food Festival is a feast for all your senses – packed with flavour, fun, and festivities.

While we do our best to ensure the accuracy of our listings, events may be postponed or cancelled without notice. Please confirm with the organiser before making any plans for attending events. For your news, events and group meetings to be featured free of charge on our What's On Page please email Ksenia: info@stonesthrowpublications.co.uk

Spotlight: meet your local heroes

Cheryll Rawbone The Friendship Project for Children Chairman

It does not seem over 40 years since the late Charles Raeburn recruited me as Hon Secretary for the pilot project, Friendship Project for Children. This was a couple of years before it became a registered charity on 12th May 1986.

Charles had a vision of a charity to help local Warwickshire children who are in need to improve their self-esteem, confidence and have some fun, often sadly lacking in their lives. He had seen Big Brother/Big Sister' on his travels in the USA and thought that this would work well in the UK.

Michael Coker, our President, frequently recounts that he thought it was a "brilliant idea but will never get off the ground." He is extremely happy to say he was wrong!

I initially wanted to volunteer as an Older Friend, but Charles had other ideas as his need was for a Hon Secretary. I agreed to do this with support, and it is a role I subsequently held for 25 years. I moved on to be Vice-Chair and then Chairman as my work and family commitments reduced.

We have been fortunate to have had so many volunteers give their time to help local Coventry and Warwickshire children enjoy a positive childhood experience. This may have been as an Older Friend, Group Supporter, Trustee, or giving their expertise on pro bono basis, plus those helping with much needed fundraising efforts. Many of our volunteers continue to keep in touch with their Younger Friends into adulthood.

Our volunteer efforts have been rewarded by various awards over the years, though the most significant was the Queens Award awarded in summer 2019 and presented at the end of February 2020, just before the COVID pandemic, which presented the biggest health challenge in our lifetime. I am extremely proud of the way in which we pivoted, engaged with our volunteers and continued to keep in touch with our Younger Friends through this period.

We are now in a very challenging landscape for fundraising, more so than at any point in our 40 year history.



Our thanks to our funders: including corporate, grant funding, and other local charities and organizations which have helped us to achieve this milestone.

We are looking forward to welcoming both current and previous volunteers, staff, supporters and funders to our 40th Anniversary Celebration Event on Saturday 20th June, 3pm-5pm at Clarion Charlecote Pheasant, CV35 9EW.

There will be fun activities, a BBQ, and of course cake! Please email karen.hoy@friendshipproject.co.uk by 29th May to let her know if you will be coming along!

There is still much to do, and I feel very privileged to have been a part of the charity since its foundation and to hear the various ways in which we have collectively benefited children's lives.

Cheryll Rawbone – Chairman
www.friendshipproject.co.uk
www.facebook.com/FriendshipProj/



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Horoscopes: June



ARIES

(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

It's all change for new beginnings in June as the Sun, Jupiter and Venus are closely linked in curious and restless Gemini. This month suggests that some exciting and innovative communications are about to begin. Mars, your ruler, remains in your sign until the 8th, examine all your inspirational and creative ideas and then implement them as Mars moves into practical Taurus on the 9th.

TAURUS

(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

This month gives you the opportunity to make some important changes in your financial dealings. Jupiter has arrived in this pivotal area of your chart, suggesting that you could pick up some really good ideas about making and managing your money in a more profitable way. The Gemini new moon on the 6th emphasises intuition and offers a positive breakthrough in all areas of communication.

GEMINI

(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

June suggests that Saturn and Neptune at the highest point of your chart and highlighting your career sector could offer an entirely new way of working. The powerful new moon in your sign on the 6th is pivotal; you should be feeling refreshed and energetic, as all of these cosmic indicators open up your intuition and bring you some amazing insights. The Capricorn full moon the 22nd offers an interesting opportunity.

CANCER

(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

Cosmic activity at the highest point of your chart offers the prospect of taking up some new intellectual interests and expanding your horizons. Mercury and Uranus are influencing how you feel about friends and any new group activities that you might have in mind. This will all encourage you to learn new things and go places that you have never been before. The Gemini new moon on the 6th could be a turning point for better times.

LEO

(JULY 23 - AUGUST 23)

Innovative Uranus linking with communicative Mercury at the highest point of your chart bodes very well for any career changes that have recently been on your mind. The strong Gemini energy in June also offers lots of social activity, particularly with any projects that involve groups of like-minded people. Being a creative sign, you'll find wonderful new ways of contacting others and bringing them joy and encouragement.

VIRGO

(AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 22)

June puts your goals and your ambition into the spotlight, you are asked to reflect on what you have learned during the first half of 2024. Now is the time to use your new found confidence and positive thinking to get the very best out of planned changes and social endeavours. Love planet Venus arrives in Cancer on the 17th, new friendships and social connections are on the horizon.

LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 23)

June starts with the emphasis on your partnerships and relationships, impulsive Mars in Aries is in your opposite sign until the 8th, take great care if you want to avoid any confrontations and challenges. Jupiter, Venus and the Sun suggest new ways for broadening your horizons and learning new things. An exciting adventure may be about to begin, take each opportunity as it comes.

SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

The Sun, Venus and Jupiter all in the sign of Gemini shine the spotlight on your finances and resources. Maybe some adjustments will need to be made this month and you should now have the courage to move things along. On the whole the cosmic energies placed here look very favourable for any new investments that you have in mind. The Capricorn full moon on the 22nd looks exciting - be alert to a sudden swing in fortune.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 21)

Love, romance and new partnerships are all in the spotlight this month. Jupiter, your ruling planet and beneficial Venus are both indicating that things are likely to go very smoothly if you put your heart and soul into your endeavours. Forceful Mars arrives at your work angle on the 8th suggesting that new initiatives will be on offer if you take the plunge, it's time to discover inspirational new ways forward.

CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 20)

The radiant Sun, Jupiter and Venus are all powerful in versatile Gemini this month, highlighting that your professional prospects are poised for growth. This powerful energy will set the scene for the winds of change to blow away any cobwebs that have been holding you back. The full moon in your sign on the 22nd illuminates a new unexplored area for potential job-related alterations.

AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 18)

June looks like romantic encounters will be on the cards as the Gemini Sun, relationship planet Venus and expansive Jupiter are all illuminating this area of your chart. Gemini is all about communication, therefore saying the right thing at the right time will be essential for positive outcomes. Business minded Mercury arriving in intuitive Cancer on the 17th suggests new insight concerning a project that you have been working on.

PISCES

(FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20)

The first week of June will be important as energetic Mars in Aries powers through your financial area and an important decision will take up your time. The Sun, Venus and beneficial Jupiter, all in Gemini, light up your home and family life with positive interaction. Now is the perfect time to absorb new information, connect with others and enjoy some wonderful new experiences with those dear to you.

Christine Chalklin, Inspirational Astrologer and Life Coach

Take a refreshing new look at the year ahead by booking an astrological reading now. Consultations are available on Zoom, WhatsApp or telephone.

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Families can soon benefit from Everyone Active's award-winning Learn to Swim Programme at Abbey Fields Swimming Pool in Kenilworth.

Excitement is building as the redevelopment of the swimming pool at Abbey Fields nears completion ahead of its opening date in July 2026.

The brand-new facility will offer a wider range of water-based activities for the community and features park views, two indoor pools and fun water features to engage young children and parents.

Fully accessible changing facilities will also be available, alongside two state-of-the-art Poolpod lifts which are designed to offer wheelchair users or people with limited mobility a comfortable, safe way to enter and leave the pool.



The Swim England accredited swimming lessons at the facility – which is run by Everyone Active in partnership with Warwick District Council – will help children to have fun and stay active over the summer.

The programme offers lessons for all ages and abilities, and includes free access to public swimming sessions for those enrolled. All swimming teachers are Swim England Level 2, or equivalent, qualified.



To find out more or enquire, visit:
www.everyoneactive.com/swimlessons



Following the

Learn to Swim
Programme



Rhubarb Crumble Cake

INGREDIENTS:

Crumble top:

260g plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
300g soft light brown sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
1/2 tsp salt
170g unsalted butter

Cake:

260g plain flour
70g wholewheat flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 1/2 tsps. ground ginger
1/2 tsp salt
300g light soft brown sugar
170g unsalted butter, softened.
2 tsps. vanilla paste
4 eggs at room temperature
225ml buttermilk or natural yoghurt
400g Rhubarb, cut into 1.5-2cm chunks.

METHOD

Crumble Topping: Melt the butter in a saucepan. In a bowl sift together the flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking powder and salt. Stir through the sugar then add the melted butter and mix together with a spoon until it clumps together and becomes crumbly. Set aside.

Cake: Preheat the oven to 180C / 160 fan Gas mark 4. Line a 13x9-inch pan with greaseproof paper so the paper overhangs the sides of the pan.

Sift together the flours, salt, baking powder and ground ginger, adding the bran from the wholewheat flour.

Place the brown sugar, softened butter, and vanilla in the bowl of a stand mixer and beat on medium speed until fluffy and pale.

Add the eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition until well combined.

Fold in one third of the flour mixture gently. Add half of the buttermilk and mix until just combined. Add the next third of the flour mixture and fold in. Add the remaining buttermilk, mix it in then add the remaining third of the flour and fold until just combined. Finally mix everything together gently for another 30 seconds to make a smooth batter.

Place the batter in the pan and spread evenly.

Sprinkle half the rhubarb over the top of the batter, then spread two thirds of the crumb mixture, then the remaining rhubarb followed by the rest of the crumb mixture.

Place the pan so that the top is level with the centre of the oven and bake for 40-45 minutes. You don't need a thermometer to check if it's done but it does make things easier. The temperature of the cake in the centre should be about 95C when it's cooked. Remove from the oven and cool in the pan for 30 minutes. Use the excess greaseproof paper to remove the cake from the pan.

Allow the cake to cool completely. Sprinkle with icing sugar, cut into squares, and serve with thick yogurt or creme fraiche.



Heading away with your pet this Summer?



The number of UK households owning pets has risen sharply over the past decade, and travel decisions increasingly include animals. Around 35% of UK dog owners report taking their pets on holiday at least once a year, and why not... no separation anxiety, no kennel fees, and wonderful shared experiences! Yet the decision is not purely emotional. It requires assessment of stress, safety and practicality.

The good news is that dogs are generally the most travel-adaptable pets. Many cope well with car journeys if accustomed gradually. However, long-distance travel can cause motion sickness, dehydration and anxiety.

Veterinary guidance suggests breaks every two hours during road trips, constant access to water, and, of course, they should never be left unattended in vehicles, even briefly.

Temperatures inside cars can rise above 40°C within 20 minutes, even on mild days.

Accommodation suitability matters. Not all 'pet-friendly' listings provide secure gardens or appropriate space; while noise levels, unfamiliar environments and disrupted routines can elevate stress hormones in animals. Research into canine behaviour shows cortisol levels spike during major routine changes, yet on the whole, your four-legged friend should be happy to share in car and holiday adventures.

Air travel, however, introduces significantly more complexity. While small pets may travel

Cats are typically less suited to travel. Territorial by nature, they often experience significant stress outside familiar surroundings. Short car trips can be manageable; extended holidays are more disruptive.

Rabbits, birds and small mammals require even more caution. Environmental stability is critical for these species. Temperature changes, noise and handling can quickly impact health.

Financial cost is also a factor. Pet passports, vaccinations, travel crates and pet-friendly accommodation premiums add up, with UK pet insurance rarely covering travel-related incidents unless specified.

Ultimately, travelling with pets can be rewarding, particularly for active dog owners planning UK-based holidays, yet animal welfare must be the sole decider when it comes to making a decision. The question is less "can we take them?" and more "should we?".

Naturally, if you do decide to leave your pet at home, there are a number of solutions.

Alternatives such as professional pet sitters or trusted home boarding often provide lower stress for the animal, with in-home pet sitting maintaining routine and environment stability.

in-cabin on select routes, most fly in cargo holds. The British Veterinary Association advises careful consideration due to temperature fluctuations and stress exposure. For many pets, especially older animals, air travel may not be advisable.

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