Inside Chingford and Highams Park

March & April 2024

inside this issue:

Dalking: White chocolate, Pistachio and Rose Ring

travels Summer holidays without the heat



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Inside Chingford and Highams Park

Welcome to the **March/April** edition of Inside Magazine, the local magazine for Chingford and Highams Park.

Anyway, we were talking about manners. (You remember – April 2017 – don't say you've forgotten already.) Because there seems to be a new set of manners prevailing, and this became apparent to me recently in a restaurant, where the young man who served us said "No worries," when I proposed that we might order in another five minutes.

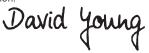
His blithe reply should not have troubled me, but my inner grumpiness suggested that he should have had some worries, at least. Not necessarily worrying about my dallying over the menu, but he had specifically told me that he had no worries, where I felt that he ought at least to have worried about the prospect of world war, the cost of living, and the recent dip in form of a famous football club.

I kept quiet, however, and tipped him handsomely after our meal, on the basis that he had brought us dishes that corresponded fairly well with what we'd requested, and he hadn't tipped it down my shirt.

"Thank you," he said, showing a rather old-fashioned concept of language.

"No worries," I replied, "Except for those relating to geo-politics, socio-economics, and the day to day grind of existence. And thank you."

"Er...you're welcome?" he said, with that annoying upward inflexion.



NB. Copy deadline date for our next issue (May/June) is April 12th

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THE GREATEST STAR

or Bigness, Betelgeuse and Brown Bins

STORY: DAVID YOUNG IMAGES: OPEN SOURCE

"O oh, look at that lovely sunrise," my wife said to me as we walked together, hand in hand, to put the bins out.

Ever keen to educate and inform, I squeezed her hand and said, "Yes. And did you know, it's really really big?"

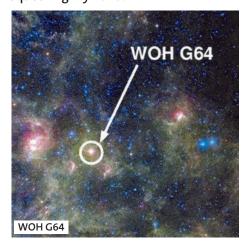
"How do you know all this stuff?" she asked, squeezing my hand in turn as she deftly steered the green bin alongside the brown one.

"The university of life," I said smugly. "And the green bin goes next to the black one. Just so you know."

"And is the sun the biggest thing that there is?"

"There are larger things," I said.

"And where are these bigger things?" "I'll let you know later. And stop squeezing my hand."





Annoyed to have been found lacking in the department of knowing stuff about the universe, I decided to find out what was the biggest thing ever. I thought back to my early studies in astronomy (that was one heck of a nursery school) and tried to remember what we'd learned, but the memory was hazy. The only way to find the real truth was to search the internet.

So what sort of amount of bigness are we looking at? A quick sum tells me that I can fit about a billion trillion houses inside our planet, and a million planets inside the sun, so the sun can take a thousand trillion trillion houses. I had conclusively proven that the sun was indeed big. The sun has immense bigness (or 'size', as scientists call it). And plenty of room for new builds.

The next bit of research was to find where our sun rated in the league of star sizes. Premiership? Whatever the other divisions are called? A few old boys on Sunday? Me in my back garden doing keepy-uppies? (I can't.)

Our sun is very average. Even in our own average galaxy, there are billions of bigger stars and billions of smaller stars. Some teeny ones and some whoppers. Tell me if I get too technical, won't you?

One of the bigger stars in the Milky Way is Betelgeuse. Its diameter is about 750 times that of the sun. We could fit about 400,000 of our suns inside it. It's a red giant, nearing the end of its life, and will probably become a supernova within the next... hold on to your hats... thousand or million years. If you put the Betelgeuse where our sun sits, it would engulf our planet.

Enough bigness? No. There are bigger monsters lurking out there, beyond what the naked eye can see.

For decades, the prize for Greatest Star, or Star with Most

Bigness, went to UY Scuti. This romantically named star was calculated to have about 1,700 times the diameter of the sun. It was first spotted in 1860. But recent observations now estimate it to be less than half that size. It's nearer than we thought.

When I was young, I thought that the sun must be smaller than my football, because the latter could obscure the former. Patiently, my parents explained to me the laws of perspective.

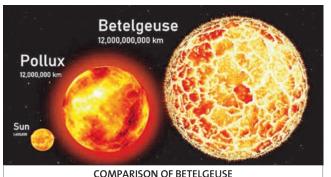
I sucked thoughtfully on my lollipop before saying, "So I guess you two are actually larger than my little finger."

"Bless him," my mother said. "He won't go far in life. Now get back in your cot."

Scientists have a theory that no star can hold itself together if it is more than 1,500 times the diameter of the sun, and the reduction to the size of poor old OY Scuti seemed to fit the theory. This means that, should a star be found that reached that limit, it would probably be the Star of Biggest Bigness.

The Large Magellanic Cloud is a nearby galaxy that is about a hundredth the size of ours, with a laughably meagre 20 billion stars. But mock it at your peril as this galaxy is due to collide with ours in a couple of billion years. Then you won't be laughing, clever clogs.





Inside this Large Magellanic Cloud lurks a red supergiant of a star. Its name makes our UY Scuti sound imaginative, as it is known as WOH G64. It's 1,500 times the diameter of our sun, and a quarter of a million times as bright.

I can't be bothered figuring out how many houses we could shove into it. I'm told this is no longer the criterion used by top scientists. But who are they to talk? After all, they called it 'WHO G64'. Me, I'd have called it 'Red Giant of Biggest Bigness'.



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Summer holidays without the heat

When we think of summer holidays, our minds automatically envisage a sizzling sun and temperatures over 25°C. However, summer across Western Europe is becoming increasingly stifling – with 2023's being the hottest on record. The result? Crowded beach areas and lots of hot and bothered – not to mention sweaty – tourists.

If you're not a fan of heat, humidity and heaving crowds, but still want a change of scenery this summer, here are some ideas for a cooler summer holiday outside the UK.

Stockholm, Sweden

Sweden's capital is notoriously chilly for much of the year, but come summer the city becomes a playground for outdoors enthusiasts. The long sunlight hours definitely help. In July the sun doesn't set until 10:00 pm, so you'll see locals picnicking, boating and partying into the night.

With temperatures hanging around the low 20s, the weather's perfect for cycling. Then there's the Stockholm archipelago to explore, a cluster of over 30,000 islands and islets, many of which are just a short ferry journey from the city centre.



Vancouver, Canada



Where else can you museum hop in the morning, hike in the mountains after lunch and be sailing by sundown? Vancouver's harmonic blend of urban and rural make it one of the most liveable cities in the world.

To top it off, Vancouver is mostly mild and dry throughout the summer months. Hit the beach, explore Stanley Park's forest trails and time your visit around festival season (between June and August) to soak up some of Canada's biggest music and multicultural events.

Zermatt, Switzerland

Sitting in the shadow of the world's most recognisable mountain, the Matterhorn, the town of Zermatt is renowned for being one of Europe's most popular ski resorts in winter – although its appeal extends all year round.

Whether you're hiking through meadows to the sound of cowbells or admiring the view from a cable car, Zermatt is the ultimate base for a summer adventure. Temperatures at this time of year rarely climb above 20°C, generally hovering at around 15°C.



Lake Bled, Slovenia



If you're looking for a blue-sky break without the extreme heat, Slovenia is a winner. This Balkan beauty's mountains, caves and lakes keep the region cool in the summer.

One of its more famous bodies of water, Lake Bled, is a particularly popular spot. With its shimmering lake, picture-perfect church, medieval castle and some of the highest peaks of the Julian Alps, Bled draws everyone from honeymooners to backpackers, who come for the hiking, biking and water sports opportunities.





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Solution on page 26

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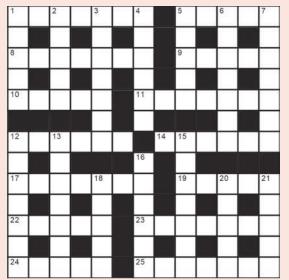
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CROSSWORD

Solution on page 26



Across

- 1 Maybe (7)
- **5** Bike (5)
- 8 Cleaning liquid (7)
- **9** Precise (5)
- 10 Additional (5)
- 11 Cooking area (7)
- 12 Truthful (6)
- 14 Moves smoothly (6)
- 17 Dried grapes (7)
- **19** Aristocratic (5)
- 22 A small fruit (5)
- 23 Graceful (7)
- 24 Countryside (5)
- **25** Large jug (7)

Down

- 1 Ski run (5)
- **2** Cook in a hot oven (5)
- **3** Becomes visible (7)
- 4 Scares (6)
- 5 Trunk (5)
- 6 Collided (7)
- 7 Makes larger (7)

- **12** Marina (7)
- **13** Louder (7)
- 15 Tolerant (7)
- 16 Not awake (6)
- **18** Perfect (5)
- 20 Overbearing (5)
- 21 Go into (5)



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The purpose-built home is designed for enjoying a luxury lifestyle, with en-suite rooms and facilities including a café, pub, hair and beauty salon, and comfortable lounges and dining rooms. The home also boasts a lovely garden with wheelchair friendly pathways – the perfect place to spend some time when the weather allows.

Whether your loved one enjoys a quiet cup of tea in bed before starting the day, loves going for strolls in the landscaped grounds, or enjoys a chat over a glass of wine, the team at Ivy Grove will spend time to enable them to continue living life the way they want to.

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We thought of things that annoy us when going away; the first was arriving to pick up a rental car, only to be told we have to get a bus 15 minutes away, and then fill in endless forms. So we decided to make no charge for Bertie, our wonderfully reliable and fuel-efficient automatic car, and garage it close to the airport, delivered when you get off the plane.

Then we considered having to rent parasols and sunbeds at the beach, which for a family of 6 adults can cost ϵ 100 per day (parasol and sunbed each), so we provide everything to take down there. This attitude is everywhere at the villa; a real home from home with everything catered for.

Families are welcome, but as the pool is not fenced and the villa has an exterior staircase, sadly, we can only offer the villa to those with children of at least secondary school age (11+).

For a brochure with prices, please email: Marilyn.MaD@outlook.com

Our villa has 3 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a 10 metre pool Rates start from £120 per night, depending on season Check out our 360 Virtual Tour to get a real flavour of what it's like, visit tinyurl.com/villa360



This pretty ring cake is aromatic and full of class. It makes an impressive centrepiece and has the added bonus of being extremely simple to make – the perfect treat for Mother's Day or to enjoy at Easter.

Ingredients

- · 250g soft butter
- · 200g caster sugar
- 5 eggs
- · 2 tsp rose water
- 100g white chocolate, melted and cooled
- 200g ground pistachios
- 175g self-raising flour (plus 1 tbsp for dusting the tin)
- 1 tsp baking powder
- A pinch of salt

To decorate

- 75g white chocolate, melted and cooled
- 35g unsalted shelled pistachios, finely chopped
- 1-2 tbsp edible dried rose petals

- 1. Preheat the oven to 160°C, fan 140°C, gas mark 3. Lightly grease and flour a 25cm Bundt tin.
- 2. Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Whisk in the eggs, one at a time, followed by the rose water and white chocolate. Fold in the ground pistachios. Sift in the flour and baking powder, and add the salt before folding the dry ingredients into the mixture.
- 3. Spoon the mixture into the prepared cake tin and bake in the oven for 50–55 minutes, or until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Leave the cake to cool in its tin for 10 minutes on top of a wire rack, before turning out and leaving to cool completely.
- 4. Once cold, place the cake on a serving plate and drizzle the white chocolate over the top, before sprinkling with the chopped pistachios and rose petals. Leave the chocolate to set at room temperature before serving.



Recipe extracted from Deliciously Chocolatey Cakes & Bakes by Victoria Glass, published by Ryland Peters & Small, priced £20, with photography by Dan Jones © Ryland Peters & Small.

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CONCERT

Saturday May 18th, 7.30pm.

Chingford Parish Church, The Green, Chingford E4 7EN The London Forest Choir with soloists

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CONCERT

Saturday July 6th, 7.30pm. Chingford Parish Church, The Green, Chingford E4 7EN South West Essex Choir Will Todd: MASS IN BLUE & Edward Nesbit: The genuine History of the life of Richard Turpin

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and what's on...

Lunchtime Organ Music **1.10 - 1.50pm** July 24th – Michael Emerson (Director of Music, Chingford Parish Church)

July 31st – Simon Hogan (suborganist, Southwark Cathedral) August 7th – Joel Colyer (Organ Scholar, Chingford Parish Church)

August 14th – William Layzell-Smith (Organ Scholar, St Mary's Nottingham)

August 21st – John Rippin (Organist Emeritus, Chingford Parish Church)

August 28th – Tammas Slater (Organ Scholar, St Michael's Highgate) Admission free. Collection in aid of music funds.

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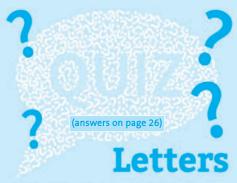
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- 1. The 15th of February in 1971 is often referred to as D-Day in the UK and Ireland. What did the initial letter D stand for in this name?
- 2. What colour is the letter "E" in both the Google logo and the eBay logo?
- 3. Which 2013 film, which was nominated for a Best Picture Oscar, set a Guinness World Record for most swearing in a feature film, including 506 instances of the f-word?

- 4. In which sport are competitors scored by reference to a line known as the K-point or K-line?
- 5. Which author added the middle initial M to his name for novels he wrote in the science fiction genre, such as The Player Of Games, Use Of Weapons and Look To Windward?
- Who played Q when the character was reintroduced to the James Bond film series in the 2012 film Skyfall?
- 7. What colour is the letter "S" that Superman wears on his chest?
- 8. "Dominating the T" is a key strategy in which sport?
- 9. What colour is the triangle that represents a U certificate film in the UK, indicating that it is suitable for all audiences?
- 10. Which real life person did Josh Brolin star as in the 2008 film W.?

Quiz error, January/February

Q4, re the coronation of King Charles III; the answer was incorrectly given as February, when of course it was actually held in May.

Thank you to all those who contacted us about this.

Peter Atkinson, E4 Publishing.







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PUZZLE SOLU Si

Crossword page 14

Across:

1 Perhaps, 5 Cycle, 8 Shampoo, 9 Exact, 10 Extra, 11 Kitchen, 12 Honest, 14 Glides, 17 Raisins, 19 Noble, 22 Olive, 23 Elegant, 24 Rural, 25 Pitcher.

Down:

1 Piste, 2 Roast, 3 Appears, 4 Shocks, 5 Chest, 6 Crashed, 7 Extends, 12 Harbour, 13 Noisier, 15 Lenient, 16 Asleep, 18 Ideal, 20 Brash, 21 Enter.



	5	6	8	1	7	4	9	2	3
NY	3	4	2	6	9	5	1	8	7
	7	9	1	8	2	3	5	6	4
Sudoku page 12	2	5	4	7	1	8	3	9	6
1.0.	9	7	6	3	4	2	8	5	1
	8	1	3	9	5	6	7	4	2
	4	3	5	2	8	7	6	1	9
	1	8	7	4	6	9	2	3	5
	6	2	9	5	3	1	4	7	8

Ouiz page 24

- 1) Decimal (it was the day these countries decimalised their currencies)
- 2) Red
- 8) Squash
- 3) The Wolf of Wall Street
- 4) Ski jumping
- 5) Iain Banks
- 6) Ben Whishaw
- 7) Red
- 9) Green
- 10) George W. Bush





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The Front & Back Green and SS Peter & Pauls Church, Mornington Hall/Gardens, The Green, Station Road, & The King's Head Pub, Kings Head Hill. North Chingford E4 7EN

ON

Saturday 15th June 2024 from Noon to 7.00pm - (7.30 in the pub)

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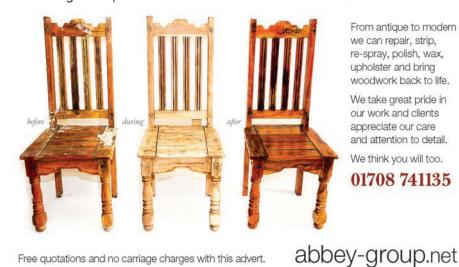
*A community event -something for everyone of any age - come and enjoy the array of craft, food, charity, business stalls, licenced bar, kid's games & rides & of course *the music* which is the beating heart of this event.

Where possible please come by public transport

LOOKING FOR: A venue near the green to host a poetry event, A Face Painter, Magician, Dance/Sports Clubs, & Stall Holders: Inc. Health/Well Being, Kid's activities & helpers at the event (must be aged 16+),

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w: www.al-anonuk.org.uk e: enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk Family Groups Ltd., Registered Charity.



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