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Ingredients

For Banana Topping 120 g brown sugar 60 g butter 1.5 tbsp golden syrup 3 bananas sliced For the Cake 2 ripe bananas 2 tbsp yoghurt 90 g butter at room temperature 180 g caster sugar 1 tsp vanilla extract 2 eggs 180 g self-raising flour ½ tsp cinnamon ¼ tsp nutmeg

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C.Line a 20 x 20cm square baking tin or a 23cm round tin with baking parchment. It's best not to use a loose-bottomed tin but if you do fold the parchment so it goes up the sides of the tin too. Otherwise, the caramel will leak

out into the oven! To make the topping, place the sugar, butter, and golden syrup into a small heavy-bottomed saucepan. Heat until all the sugar and butter have melted. Stir gently and pour into the tin, tilting the tin backwards and forwards so the layer of caramel completely covers the bottom.Slice the bananas into pieces about 2cm thick. Place them in the caramel.

For the cake, mash the bananas with a fork then mix into the yogurt. Set aside.

Place the butter and sugar into a large mixing bowl. Whisk till pale and fluffy. Add the vanilla extract and eggs, one at a time, whisking after each one.

Sift the flour and spices together and gradually fold into the mixing bowl. Then fold in the banana and yoghurt mixture. Spoon the batter into the cake tin on top of the caramel and bananas.

Bake at 180C for about 45 minutes. Test with a skewer to see if it's cooked. If necessary bake for a little longer.

When ready, remove the cake from the oven and let it stand for a couple of minutes. Then place a plate on top of the tin and turn it over to remove the cake.

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What's On

WYTHALL AND HOLLYWOOD LADIES GROUP

Wythall and Hollywood Ladies Group have started up again from Wednesday 30th June at 8pm. The venue is the Wythall Royal British Legion, Houndsfield Lane. New members welcome.

For more information please call Janet tel: 01564 823487

WYTHALL COMMUNITY CHOIR

If you are aged 16 plus and would like to sing, come and join us on Monday evening during term time, no audition necessary. We meet at the Scout Hut in Wythall Park, Silver Street, 7:15pm to 9.30pm.

E: Wythallcommunitychoir@gmail.com

HOLLYWOOD WI

Meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Kingswood Meeting House, Packhorse Lane, 2-4pm. Speakers, activities and more. New members very welcome.

WYTHALL WI

Wythall WI meets 13:30-15:30 at Wythall Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month.

Contact: Rosemary Beeston on 0121 430 7341

COFFEE MORNING

Open to all, the club will meet on the first Thursday of every month from 11am until 1pm, guest speakers, tea, coffee, home made cakes served for small donation. **Contact the library on 0121 744 6078**

BINGO NIGHT

Bingo night at Kingswood, Packhorse Lane on Saturday 13 November at 7pm. Tickets are £10 and can be bought from 01564 823627. All proceeds are for Kingswood.

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and Collaborative Law

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If you would like to discuss any family law issue, our fixed fee divorce offer or find out more about the Collaborative approach, please contact us.

Contact: Kathryn Ferris on 0121 705 7571 email: kathrynferris@wallacerobinson.co.uk

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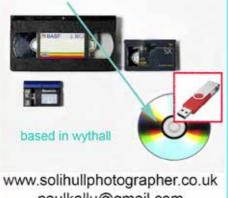
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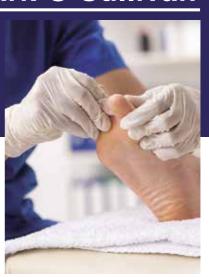
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Prepare for next spring

September is the time to plan your spring bulb purchases. The best selections always sell out quickly and it's frustrating when the prettiest crocuses and tulips are not available.

If you're planting bulbs for the first time, or in a new area of the garden it helps to have a colour scheme in mind. In a boy-dominated house (three sons and a husband) I like to give some areas of my garden a more girly theme. Tulips are great for this purpose (and are some of my favourite flowers). Try 'La Belle Epoque', which is a frothy peony-flowered tulip with pale coffee petals flushed with pink. I would contrast the texture of its showier blooms with another more traditional tulip. Pink Diamond' or 'Apricot Beauty'. If you'd prefer less 'pretty' and more drama try the almost-black 'Paul Scherer', which should flower in late April or early May and makes a good foil to the aforementioned Apricot Beauty, which flowers at the same time.

I garden on quite dry limey soil, and I've mentioned before my love affair with Bath Chatto's planting schemes. Sadly, she died in 2018 but her gardens and trust continue and are well worth a visit. This year on their recommendation I'm trying Ornithogalum pyrenaicum, known poetically as the spiked star of Bethlehem, and more prosaically as Bath asparagus.. It has subtle, green flowers and grows to 50-60cm tall. It pairs well with silver-leaved plants like Stachys, which grows like a weed in my garden, and best of all, once established you can harvest it like asparagus.

I like to plant up a few pots this month, for some late autumn and winter colour. I favour Rust-toned heucheras, paired with miniature grasses such as Carex buchananii; Oxblood-coloured ajuga, silverleaved thymes and small-leaved trailing ivies make great combinations too.

I have sempervivums shoved in crevices all over my garden. They are incredibly hardy and will survive all manner of frost and poor weather. We have a lovely sheltered sunny patio with a small table and chairs which is lovely to sit out on even in the winter. A few years ago, I started planting up shallow terracotta trays and a couple of old tin bowls with differing varieties of house leek. I mix one-part horticultural grit to one part peatfree multipurpose compost for the planting mix, and make sure any container has lots of drainage. Handy tip - top dress with grit or stones if you don't want the birds to start digging around scattering your planting mix and unearthing your plants! I learned the hard way! These little flat planting bowls make a lovely table display and also make wonderful birthday and...erm...Christmas gifts.

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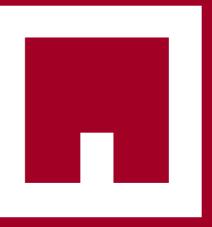
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