

Summertown Monday Bulletin

I have been so impressed with the Bulletins that I felt I should stir my stumps and make an effort. What follows is cooking triumphs, household disasters and a joke and cartoon to round things off.

Each day since lockdown I have cooked a new recipe and we have star graded them. I want to share the fivestar ones and also some South American barbecue hints.

Jansson's temptation is said to have been named after a Swedish opera singer Pelle Jansson of the early 1900's. Coming home one night there was nothing but onions, anchovies, potatoes and cream in the fridge so this dish was created. The singer is long forgotten but the recipe lives on. It is excellent with lamb and fish. (find on Sweden.se).

You may all know Spaghetti a la puttanesca (literally prostitute in Italian named thus as it is so robust and gutsy) but if you don't do try it. This has the advantage of consisting entirely of ingredients from the store cupboard if you are unable to get a delivery slot. Delia has a good version.

I have long wanted to try Salmon en croute with stem ginger and currants but was slightly put off by the odd combination of ingredients. I wished I hadn't waited so long. It is scrumptious. Rick Stein, as always, comes through. You can use frozen puff pastry.

Gustavo, my Peruvian houseguest has taught me much about barbecues. He takes whole peppers and onions and roasts them unpeeled on the barbecue till they are burnt black. When cooked he peels them and chops them up together and they are wonderful. Essence of onions and pepper. He also oils thin slices of aubergine and barbecues them and they are the best aubergines I have ever tasted outside of a Turkish restaurant.

I should mention that by accident (dont ask) I have 45 kilos of restaurant grade charcoal which lights easily and burns evenly. If anyone would like some please get in touch. (01865 728266)

There have however been one or two hiccoughs along the way.

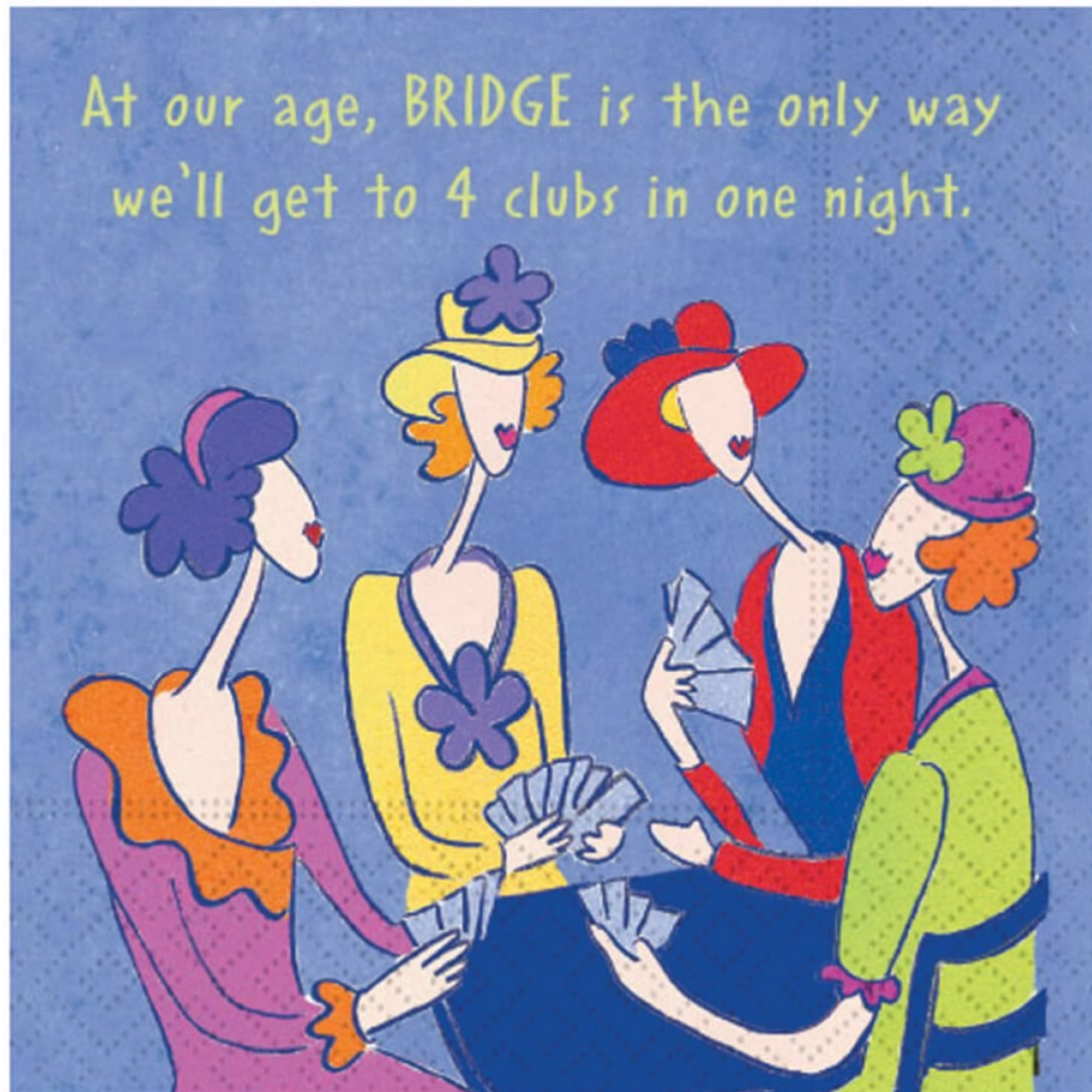
In March proudly ahead of the game I bought seeds and planted them in my greenhouse, marking each carefully with a black permanent pen on white plastic markers. I watered and sat back to wait. After a sunny day I went back to check. All the writing had disappeared so I have had to wait for the plants to grow to know what's what. I have managed to identify some Lemon Grass though courtesy of Marks and Spencers' free seeds.

Biggles my black Labrador is enjoying lockdown. He has lots of company and two walks, one by me at dawn and one by a neighbour in the afternoon. Despite this his claws had become very long and needed cutting. I rang the vet who said they couldn't do them as it wasn't an emergency. I would have to do them myself. I had clippers so I took the plunge. The first

was ok but the second cut to my horror produced spurts of blood which wouldn't stop. Apparently with black claws you cannot see the cuticles inside and this is always a danger. I used yards of kitchen roll and bandage and rang the vet and said I did have an emergency and they gave me an appointment. Biggles however shrugged this off. Two hours later he had removed all the bandaging and the bleeding had stopped.

Now some cheer !

Cartoon:



Joke:

A bridge playing wife learns she is having twins:
"That's just like my husband to double me when I am vulnerable"

Keep well everybody! Mary Bennett