



Monday 10th December 2012

Dear Customer,

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES ARE NEXT WEEK SO PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.....THANK YOU

I don't know where autumn went. It's less than two weeks to the winter solstice marking the turning point and days lengthening again. Isn't that great !

Leeks are thin on the ground this winter but we have some in the bags this week – the savoury pancakes are well worth a go:

Leek and Oat Savoury Pancakes

<i>1 tbsp olive oil</i>	<i>1 leek, thinly sliced</i>
<i>4 sun-dried tomatoes, chopped</i>	<i>100g rolled oats</i>
<i>250ml milk</i>	<i>3 eggs, beaten</i>
<i>50g plain flour</i>	<i>2 tsp baking powder</i>
<i>1 tbsp sunflower oil</i>	<i>pinch salt</i>

Put the oats into a large bowl and add the milk. Let them soak for a minimum of 30 minutes but a few hours or even overnight is better. Mix in the eggs, flour, baking powder, salt and sunflower oil using a hand-whisk to get a fluffy mixture. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan and add the leeks and cook until soft, approximately 5 minutes. Stir in the sun-dried tomatoes, cook for a further minute, then stir into the pancake mixture. Heat a griddle pan to medium-high heat. Oil the pan and take a ladle of the pancake batter to drop onto the griddle. When golden on the under-side, flip it over and cook on the other side until golden or dark golden. Serve

I haven't drunk any alcohol since I nearly died laughing when I was in my early twenties. Homebrew. I've barely touched it since, and then, only the odd sip. I had a dinner party a few nights ago (I can't believe that either)and a friend brought a bottle of Moet. I used to love champagne. When everyone had left and I was clearing up... filling the dishwasher..... I took a sly swig from the bottle which was still ¼ full. It didn't go well, it fizzed up my nose and all over the carpet – not much went in my mouth. I put it in the fridge with a spoon in it.

My car is off the road at the moment. I asked Ernest if he would come round and take me and Myfa to the moors for her blow out. I'm not a good passenger. In fact I will never be a passenger. On the way back I sat rigid, he was going like hell. "Jesus Christ" I thought. I had to bite my tongue. Approaching a left-hand bend, my heart was pounding, would he brake in time, would he be able to steer it. I don't know how, but we managed to stay on the road. Then to my horror I saw headlights in the distance, a car was coming towards us on the same road. And then Ernest started to talk. I was about to say " for heavens sake Ernest will you just slow down – don't talk, just concentrate on the road" – then I looked across at the speedometer. He was doing 24 mph. I took a deep breath, shut my eyes and got home unscathed - surprisingly. When we got back I made him a cheese and beetroot sandwich and poured him a glass of Moet. It seemed a shame to waste it. He doesn't drink, had never had champagne before. As he emptied his glass, I kept refilling it. He went off sloshed.

I remember a Christmas dinner not long after my mother died. We were at my brother's remote house in Alston. My parents never really drank but my brother Greg, had bought some good wine for the occasion. "More wine dad" he kept waving the bottle, followed by me saying " I don't think you should have any more dad", as Greg topped him up. Retired to the living room and a roaring fire, he was in a hell of a worrying state, flaked out on the sofa – woozy and with bad heartburn.

Anyway, I am so pleased James won the X Factor. Not only did he 'make them his own', he improved on all the original versions of every song he did which was remarkable. It even crossed my mind to go and see him when he returned to his native, and nearby, Saltburn - that was until I remembered how old I am. A bit like a cheap version of the midlife crisis' red sports car. Jahmeine was lovely and had an amazing voice, loved the soul songs but not very keen on the new Messiah bit.

We are delivering your Christmas orders next week on your normal delivery days. On week commencing the 23rd December, if your normal delivery day is tuesday, Christmas Day, you will receive your delivery on Thursday 26th, if your delivery day is Wednesday, your delivery will be on the Friday and if your delivery day is normally Thursday, your delivery will be made on Saturday.

The following week, week commencing 31st December, your deliveries will be made as normal on your normal days.

No milk will be delivered on week commencing 23rd December or week commencing 31st December but will resume as normal on the 7th January.

Kind wishes and on to Christmas,

Isobel

We have some great Christmas bargains on our new Izzy Lane cashmere and knitwear collection - www.izzylane.com