

S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

TALLISTON

T I M E S



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All the right noises

How Talliston's rooms and gardens became wired for sound

House & Gardens

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Food & Drink

A taste of the exotic with this mouth-wateringly good South-East Asian dish

And introducing...

Rose Meirion: The Housekeeper



This is Rose, the new housekeeper at Talliston House & Gardens. Friend her on Facebook to unlock more of the house's hidden secrets...



Welcome to the *summer edition* of our quarterly chronicle

Naturally the news this season past has been the launching of the Saving Talliston campaign. Many thanks from all of us here at the house for your shares, likes, tweets and retweets – and indeed for everyone who has pledged on Indiegogo, a huge thanks for your generosity. Work has continued for all items we have already sourced and hopefully the recent article in The Sunday Times will be just the showcase we need to raise awareness of our time of need...

Save the date

Photography Day

Saturday 19th July

An unforgettable photograph portrait for you, family or friends with professional photographer, GilesG

WWI Poetry

Friday 1st August

A special night celebrating the work of the First World War poets and their 100-year-old legacy

A Grand Day Out

Sunday 24th August

A day out to visit our newly planted oaks in Heartwood Forest, a BYO picnic or pub lunch – and writers' challenge



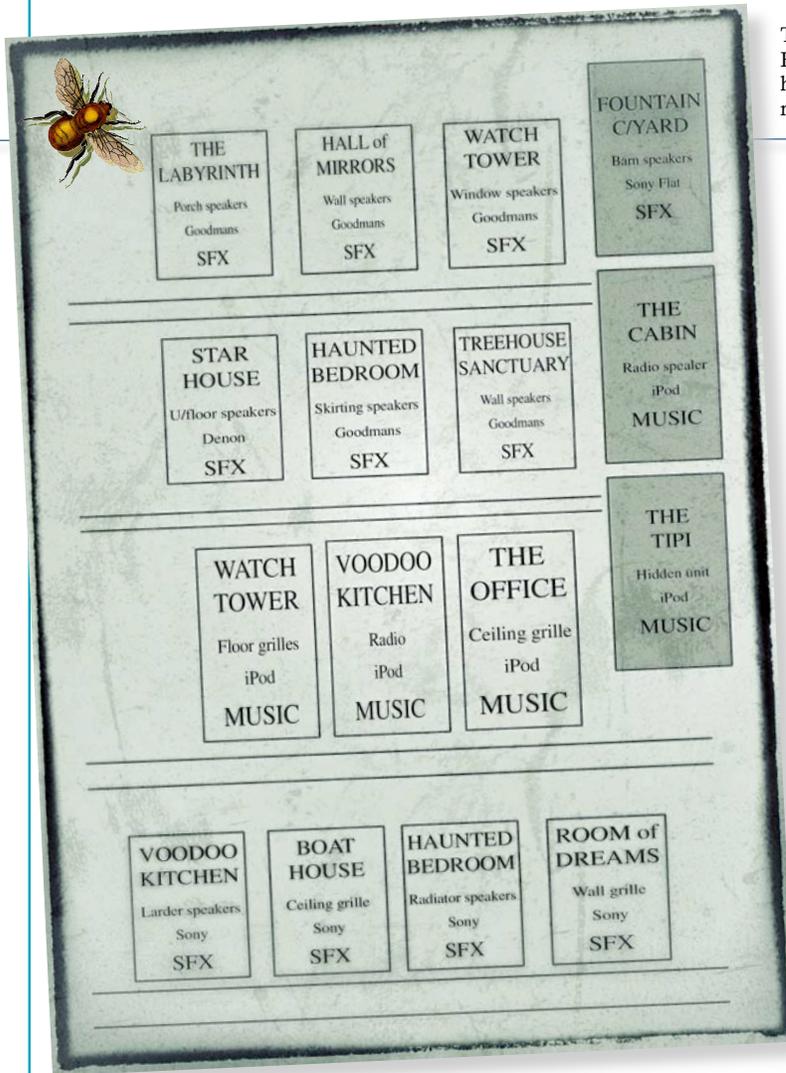
Senses make life meaningful. In fact, it can be said that what is experienced through the senses is life itself. Seeing and hearing are the basic fundamentals of life and as much a necessity as human nourishment as food and water. Though both of the higher senses may seem to be of equal importance, it is not often realized that hearing has the greater effect in determining the character of our lives. In fact, hearing has traditionally been regarded as the highest, most powerful of the senses which is probably why music is arguably the highest and most influential of the arts to many people.

Patrick Drummond, Ardmore's veteran sound editor with over 30 years experience, summed up the joys and motivations of working in the (often unfairly overlooked) sound department, saying: "The last creative brushstroke that is put onto a film is the soundtrack. A real joy can be felt as life is breathed into a film story conceived of many years before..." Films show clearly that sound is undoubtedly a vital element not only in movie production, but also in our life's at large. Can you imagine *Jaws* without John Williams' score? *Psycho* without those grating strings as Janet Leigh is mercilessly knifed in the shower? And the most important aspects of sound are those qualities which convey emotions. It is through the different expressive qualities of sound that we learn the various nuances and subtleties of emotion. This enormous range of gradations in our emotional experience is communicated most often through the sonic arts, thereby saving us the need to have corresponding real-life experiences.

The Sound of Music

There are various reports exploring the effects of ambient noise on creative cognition. Research suggests that it's harder to be creative in a quiet space, while loud workplace can be frustrating and distracting. But there is such a thing as having enough noise to work and the mix of calm and commotion in an environment like a coffee house is proven to be just what you need to get those creative juices flowing. There are even companies like Coffitivity who provide an app that plays coffee house murmur – and I'm listening to it now as I type these words in the race to meet the *Talliston Times* deadline!

Being a little more technical, here's some more info on how ambient noise can affect creativity. Results demonstrate that a moderate (70 dB) versus low (50



dB) level of ambient noise enhances performance on creative tasks and increases the buying likelihood of innovative products. A high level of noise (85 dB), on the other hand, hurts creativity – with different music structures affecting different types of creativity activity (such as writing and painting). And as Talliston was designed specifically to inspire creativity, sounds were always going to be integral to that storytelling palette.

TALLISTON'S SOUND SYSTEM

Hidden in the Victorian Boiler Room is the sonic nerve centre for the entire house, allowing multiple levels of ambient SFX and music to flow into every room and location of the house – including the gardens

A World of Sound

In each location of the house and gardens, great pains have been taken to mix both hidden speakers and visible period pieces to create the various levels of sound required. A good example of this is the Treehouse Sanctuary, where quadrophonic speakers surround guests with the noises of birds, creaking tree trunks and the village noises below, while also incorporating a reproduction 1960s stackable three-speed record player/radio from Steepletone Products. Based on original 1960s designs and with a red leatherette finish, this item had to look new to the period rather than buying an authentic antique. Below sit a variety of easy listening vinyl albums to bring a little Bacarach into the ambience. For variety, the sound effects (SFX) can be interchanged to create a high wind scenario and also rainstorm (for the wet season). Visitors have commented that the room actually feels like it is moving in the wind – and a great illustration of how persuasive the element of sound is.

Outside, secreted in porchs, lantern bases and even a bird box external speakers provide sounds of the Canadian wilderness, village life and folk bluegrass to blanket and compliment life outdoors. In this way, an underlying mood is created, and if you do explore further inside the Boiler Room (our coal-black cupboard under the stairs in the Victorian living room), you'll find drawers of individually created CDs and iPod players crammed to the gills with music and SFXs ranging from Big Band anthems through Nordic folk to spine-tingling creeks and scuttling noises that come as if from nowhere in the Haunted Bedroom.

The entire final effect completes the journey of senses through the house – a journey that starts every morning at 06:45 when the entire house switches on for our unique version of the morning alarm call...

Battling the elements: the opposing room designs at Talliston

EARTH vs WATER

The Labyrinth vs The Fountain Courtyard

AIR vs EARTH

The Hall of Mirrors vs The Voodoo Kitchen

FIRE vs AIR

The Watchtower vs The Starhouse

WATER vs AIR

The Boathouse vs The Treehouse Sanctuary

EARTH vs FIRE

The Cabin vs The Office

FIRE vs WATER

The Haunted Bedroom vs The Room of Dreams

SHADOW

The Tipi





Spring project news

21ST MARCH | APRIL | MAY | 21ST JUNE

We look back over what's been happening at the house during the past three months.



The Labyrinth

FRONT GARDEN | EARTH



Due to one of the wettest winters on record, work on the lowered Vegetable Garden was delayed from November all the way through to late March. Despite that, recent weeks have seen the entire area cleared of all the rubbish, unwanted soil, rocks, slabs and weeds. With a sterling effort at our last volunteer weekend and a human bucket chain out to a six-yard skip, the central red brick paver pathway has now been laid and the eight bridges that will eventually form the labyrinth layout are in place.

Needing to reach a point where we can plant the box hedge spires, herbs and main vegetables for late summer, the final elements of the entrance to the house include finishing the irrigation and channels and sumps that will allow water to be pumped through the gullies and irrigate this area.

Progress has also been made to the porch, coldframe and organising the vintage cloches and lighting for the final garden.



The Starhouse

CONSERVATORY | AIR

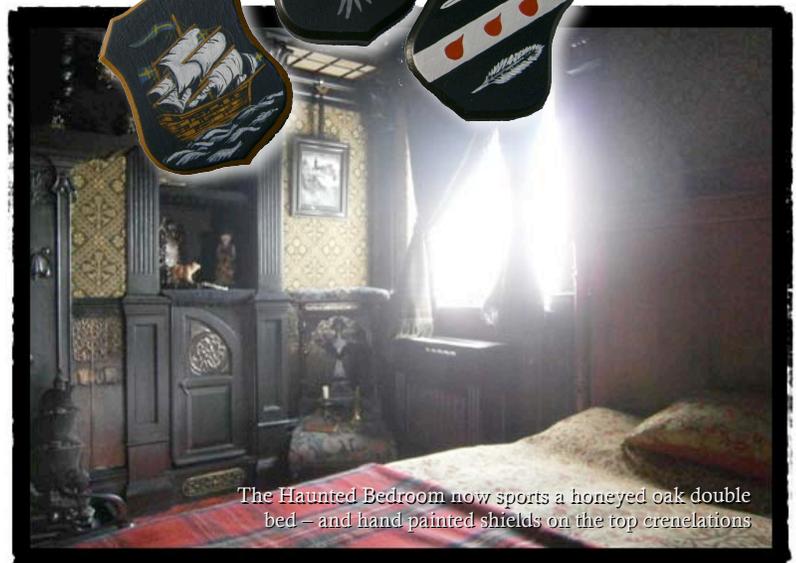
In the Japanese tearoom inspired conservatory the focus has been on flooring and adding the main posts and railings to the room. As this interior will be a mirror of the Watchtower, we are copying various elements from the medieval tower – with a twist. Instead of the gnarled crown posts, black latticed panels will grace the room divide, while on the floor handcut hardwood hexagons replace terracotta tiles copied from the bay window.



The Haunted Bedroom

MASTER BEDROOM | FIRE

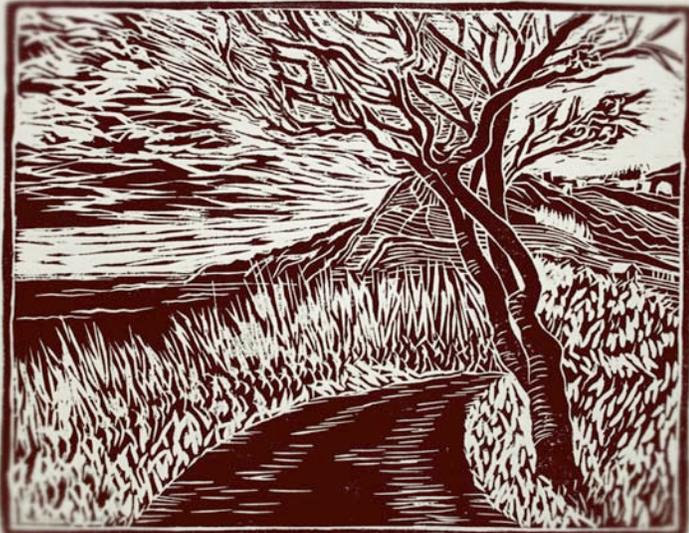
In its final stages, our Scottish Edwardian bedroom has seen the addition of final furniture and fittings – including over half the hand painted heraldic shields sponsored by the Friends of Talliston. Marcus Cotton, our artist-in-residence, has taken the individual and unique designs and produced a fantastical set of miniatures that add a wonderful touch of pure magic to the room. The child's bedchamber also now has a bed, and the past weeks has seen research and purchase of a range of bed linen, goose feather pillows and fabric for the black damask and cardinal red velvet canopy – itself inset with over 250 tiny bronze stars.



The Haunted Bedroom now sports a honeyed oak double bed – and hand painted shields on the top crenelations

THE GARDIENER'S ALMANACK

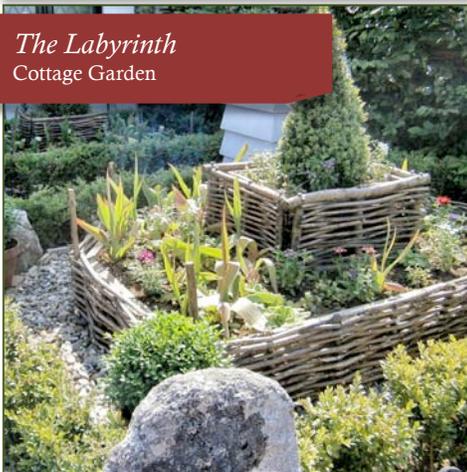
OUR SEASONAL GUIDE TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LABYRINTH & THE FOUNTAIN COURTYARD GARDENS



There are three methods for planting by the moon. The Synodic (waxing and waning) cycle is a simple form of moon planting which divides the lunar cycle into four phases or quarters. This cycle takes 29.6 days to complete. It then groups plants into categories, Root Crops, Foliage, Crops with seeds on the outside, and crops with seeds on the inside. Then it assigns plants to the phases of the moon which best suits their growing characteristics.

The Biodynamic cycle is the more detailed method using the 12 Zodiac signs as a method of position the moon, for more accurate planting. This method was developed by Rudolf Steiner in 1924, and the Zodiac signs used where the actual positioning of the signs in the sky, when the moon passed through them. Lastly, the Sidereal cycle which is very similar to the Biodynamic cycle except only the moon's orbit around the earth is used to define the best times to sow and harvest – and takes 27.3 days to complete.

The Labyrinth
Cottage Garden



Sowings due/Planting out

Hardy annuals of all kinds, preferably in sheltered spot and certainly in favourable weather. Any biennials and perennials grown from seed and over-wintered in the seed-bed or nursery bed. Autumn-sown antirrhinums and other plants in their flowering quarters, violas and pansies.

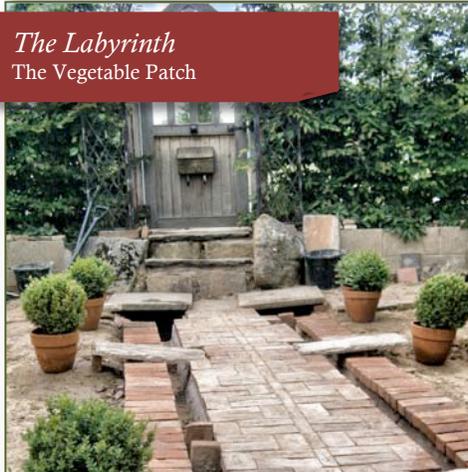
Prepare for/Other work due

Summer bedding displays, clearing out spring plants where finished. Where beds are to be filled in, dig in a manure or compost dressing, or apply light lime dusting, as may be necessary. Continue to prune roses.

Remarks

Watering, mulching and weeding are, as ever, of the greatest importance. The mulch for shrubs should take the form of leaf-mould or soil with fibre in it.

The Labyrinth
The Vegetable Patch



Sowings due/Planting out

Where they are not already in, carrots, parsnips, peas, spinach and turnips. Herbs of all kinds may be set out. Autumn-sown cauliflowers, if available. Early potatoes, in favourable weather.

Prepare for/Other work due

Asparagus, making up for the bed ready for planting next month. Prepare for Brussels sprouts, digging the ground deeply and manuring well, afterwards treading it really firm. Give attention to established asparagus beds, pricking over the surface with a fork.

Remarks

Look out for slugs amongst the young seedlings and be prepared to put down slug bait, as recommended. Look out also for blue aphids on cabbage and treat with derris solution or derris dust.



Sowings due/Planting out

Take a look at wall-flowers, polyanthus, double daisies and forget-me-nots: the frost may have loosened them so that they need re-firming in the soil.

Prepare for/Other work due

Mulching roses and dahlias. These need straw manure as the mulch and the sooner it is applied the better. Bedding plants need keeping in trim by tying and pinching back. Box and yew hedges are due for trimming, choosing if possible showery weather.

Remarks

Greenfly attack the tender young leaves and shoots, curling them; the pest is easily seen. Keep up with hoeing to reduce weeds and maintain an open soil texture. Mulch border plants and all others subjected to any prolonged heat.

SPRING MOONS

21ST MARCH
– to – 21ST JUNE

Sixth Moon | Of Birds | Water | Dark Half of the Year

Eagle Moon

Friday 21st March (Afternoon: 16:57 UTC)
Saturday 29th March (Evening: 18:45 UTC)

No Gods' Days, Lunar events or Anniversaries during these days and nights.

STORM MOON

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

STORM MOON

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Seventh Moon | Of Nature: Land | Water | Dark / Light

Storm Moon

Sunday 30th March (Evening: 18:45 UTC)
Monday 28th April (Morning: 11:14 UTC)

Sunday 30th March: NEW MOON (Seventh Moon – Of Nature/Land). 7 The Cabin | Garden shed | Wisakedjak Lodge (Whiskey-Jack Lodge) | 1948 | Saskatchewan, Canada. GOD'S DAY: Feast of Torngarsuk (Inuit Sky God, The Bear Invisible). Offering of meat and forest fruits. GOD'S DAY: Feast of Horus (The Eye of Horus). Offering of milk and feathers.
Tuesday 15 April: FULL MOON (07:42 UTC. Total Lunar Eclipse).

Eighth Moon | Of Beasts | Air | Light Half of the Year

Hare Moon

Tuesday 29th April (Morning: 06:14 UTC)
Tuesday 27th May (Morning: 08:00 UTC)

Tuesday 29 April: NEW MOON (Eighth Moon – Of Beasts). 8 The Starhouse | Conservatory | The Waystation at Tzu | 2282 | Twelfth Moon, Malorian Starstation. GOD'S DAY: Feast of The Amen (He Who Shall Not Be Named. God of the Land of Shadows and Souls. Of Creation and Destruction. Speaker of the Thirteen Words of Power). Offering of created and destroyed items.
Wednesday 14 May: FULL MOON (19:16 UTC).

HARE MOON

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27				

THUNDER MOON

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	

Ninth Moon | Of Nature: Sky | Fire | Light Half of the Year

Thunder Moon

Wednesday 28th May (Morning: 08:00 UTC)
Friday 20th June (Morning: 10:51 UTC)

Wednesday 28 May: NEW MOON (18:40 UTC). 9 The Haunted Bedroom | Master Bedroom | Master Jack's Bedroom | 1911 | Scotland, United Kingdom. GOD'S DAY: Feast of Pazuzu (King of the demons of the wind, storms and drought). Offering of flesh and urine.
Friday 13 June: FULL MOON (04:11 UTC).



OUR PARTNERS

WONDER CAKES



Wonder Cakes is a small one-man-band company run by Wendy Chapman and based in Great Bardfield just 20 minutes from Talliston. Wonder Cakes came into being after she was made redundant when she had my first son. While pregnant with number two, Wendy decided that she wanted to run her own business, so only a week before she gave birth to her second son, Wonder Cakes was born. That was seven years ago and the business has gone from strength to strength, as she is now the recommended supplier for several hotels and local wedding venues.

"I create bespoke designed cakes," Wendy says, "that range from the simple and elegant to the wacky and wild, all using the best ingredients, so they not only look amazing, but taste it, too." With her real passion for creating exquisite pieces and her skill in baking you can be sure she will do her best to design a cake to your requirements.

To see more wonderful designs visit Wendy's Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/pages/Wonder-Cakes/125178047657616?ref=hl



www.wondercakes.co.uk

AND DON'T FORGET TO MENTION TALLISTON WHEN ORDERING

THIS OCTOBER, TALLISTON IS PLANNING THREE TERRIFYING EVENTS TO DIE FOR... HALLOWEEN AT TALLISTON

- 10th/11th October: Talliston Supper Club: An Affair To Dismember Murder Mystery Dinner
- Saturday 25th October: Talliston Presents: Hallowe'en At Talliston Party
- Friday 31st October: A Night in The Haunted Bedroom



For the entire month of October, we'll be sporting a ghoulish makeover throughout our rooms and gardens

While full details and invites to these events will be posted separately, here's a tantalising taster of what we're planning for October. We kick off with two weeks of dressing the house and gardens for the season, then kick off with two nights of murder mysteries, followed by a Hallowe'en open house party and finishing with a chance for someone to stay in the Haunted Bedroom.

The murder mystery dinner is a haunting whodunnit set in the Castle Von Morgue in Transylvania – and with a guest list that includes: The Mummy of King Aldrinktotat, a Rogers and Hammerstein monster, a kosher cannibal, a deadly dentist, a flamboyant clairvoyant, a wicked witch and more!

Be sure to save the dates in your blood-soaked diaries!

ALL GOOD FRIENDS

Where we ask our Friends a little about themselves, their interests and why they visit the house...

SARAH WRAGG



✿ *Tell us a bit about yourself.*

I work as a freelance copywriter which is wonderful because it enables me to earn money doing something I really enjoy, but my real passion is creative writing.

✿ *Where did you first hear about us?*

My first encounter with Talliston was via the writers' circle. I'm also a regular at the monthly poetry group, and have been to some of the dinners (Marcus is such a brilliant cook!) and parties which are held there from time to time. Having been 'infected' by the Talliston bug, I've also started helping out as a volunteer. It's hard work, but great fun as there's always such a great group of people around. I seem to spend a lot of time digging in the garden, which I strangely enjoy and also means I don't spend so much time in the gym.

✿ *What's the appeal?*

Where do I start! There's the obvious appeal of the house itself which isn't only fascinating as a stand-alone visitor attraction, it's also incredible if you consider the story behind the project. Plus, as a life-long tenant frustrated by being unable to do anything creative to my home but itching to hone my practical skills, it's provided me with a fun chance to learn how to put them to good use. I don't know of any other house where a total novice is encouraged to try your hand at bricklaying, help lay a floor or can lend a hand with putting 'dragon scales' on the walls!

✿ *What's your favourite room?*

It's not finished yet, but I think my favourite room is going to be the Starhouse. It's got everything I like – lots of light, big plants and it's going to have a large, futuristic Chesterfield sofa. I can't wait to requisition the finished room (and the sofa!) in order to write the novel I've just begun working on.

THE HAUNTED BEDROOM



PHOTOGRAPH: MARK BOURDILLON

DARE YOU TRY TO WIN A NIGHT IN TALLISTON'S ROOM OF NIGHTMARES?



As a special introduction to our Hallowe'en 2014 series of events, we're offering one "lucky" couple the chance to win the first ever night's sleep in our newly completed Scottish Edwardian location. The Haunted Bedroom is quite simply terrifying, made more so by its back story.

This room was decorated for the Macpherson's first child. Jack always complained of noises in the night, but it was only after the boy's death that the first true hauntings began. Due to this, the family had the place exorcised by a local priest, then locked the room, sealed it with various holy symbols, and vowed never set foot in it again.

To be entered, just go to our Facebook page and post a review or comment about Talliston. The winner will receive a personal house tour for two, plus supper and then a night's stay in this ghoulish bedchamber.

Date for this prize is Friday 31st October, though other dates during October are possible.



POST YOUR REVIEW AT:
[FACEBOOK.COM/TALLISTONHOUSEANDGARDENS](https://www.facebook.com/TallistonHouseandGardens)



Beef Rendang

A rich South-East Asian curry made with coconut milk and tender beef



Ingredients

Main course from a recent private dinner

- 🍴 2 lemongrass stalks, dry outer leaves removed, chopped
- 🍴 3 medium-sized red onions, quartered
- 🍴 6 garlic cloves, peeled
- 🍴 25g/1oz fresh root ginger, peeled and roughly chopped
- 🍴 75g/2½oz chunk galangal, peeled and roughly chopped
- 🍴 3 plump red chillies, roughly chopped without deseeding
- 🍴 3 tbsp sunflower oil
- 🍴 2 tsp ground cumin
- 🍴 1 tbsp ground coriander
- 🍴 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 🍴 1.5kg/3lb 5oz beef braising steak, trimmed and cubed
- 🍴 400ml/14fl oz can coconut milk
- 🍴 4 fresh kaffir lime leaves
- 🍴 1 cinnamon stick
- 🍴 1 tbsp soft light brown sugar or palm sugar
- 🍴 2 tsp tamarind paste or squeezed lime juice
- 🍴 2 tsp flaked sea salt, plus extra to season
- 🍴 ground black pepper

① In a food processor combine the lemongrass, onions, garlic, ginger, galangal and chillies. Blend to a fine paste (you may need to remove the lid and push the mixture down a couple of times with spatula until the right consistency is reached).

② Heat the sunflower oil in a large flame-proof casserole and fry the paste gently for 3-4 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the cumin, coriander and turmeric and cook for two minutes.

③ Add the beef to the pan and stir to coat in the paste and spices. Cook for five minutes, stirring constantly until the meat is very lightly coloured all over. Pour the coconut milk and 400ml/14fl oz cold water into the casserole. Add the lime leaves, cinnamon stick, sugar, tamarind paste or lime juice, soy sauce and salt and bring to a simmer.

④ Reduce the heat and leave to gently simmer uncovered for about 2½-3 hours, or until the meat is meltingly tender and the sauce is thick. Stir the beef towards the beginning of cooking then more often as the coconut milk reduces. Season to taste.

⑤ Spoon the curry into warm serving dishes, then pick out the kaffir lime leaves and cinnamon stick.





Share the secret...

Support our campaign to save Talliston forever

Here at Talliston HQ we believe that beauty is its own reward. But, unfortunately bank managers and mortgage lenders don't agree. So in this time of financial difficulty, we ask for any and every support to keep what *The Times* called "Britain's Most Extraordinary Home" alive. But this does not have to be a donation: any help to Share, Like, Blog or good old-fashioned talking about the project is just as important.

The Saving Talliston Indiegogo campaign runs until 23rd July 2014. And even a small contribution will make a big difference. Find the link at:

www.talliston.com
info@talliston.com | 07760 171100

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TALLISTON'S TRAVELLING WONDER ^{*}

Now you can experience all the magic of the house in your own home!



Talliston's thirteenth location is a mystical Sioux Tipi – the wandering room that allows all the magic and wonder of the house and gardens to travel anywhere in the world. Created as a way of spreading the secret

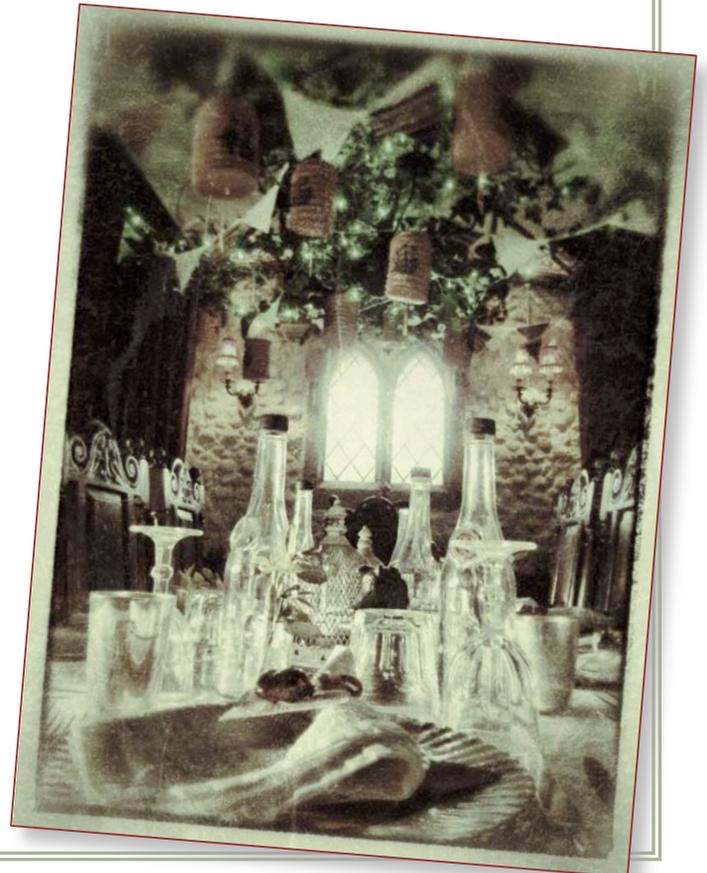
of Talliston, this summer a brand new venture is launched upon the unsuspecting world.

From today, ladies and gentlemen, you will be able to summon the Tipi for your very own grand afternoon tea party or dinner experience. Either indoors or out, Chef Marcus and the supper club crew will be whisked to wherever you are and magically concoct a fabulous feast right before your very eyes.

It's all the handcrafted unique menus, gorgeous presentation, fine china and meticulous atmosphere and experience of the Talliston Supper Club – just over at yours! Truly a travelling wonder!



For an information pack, email: info@talliston.com



* Many thanks to Amy Irving for the inspiration behind this fabulous venture.