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MAGAZINE



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APRIL 2021  
Issue 48

Monthly Business & Community magazine delivered in & around Chester

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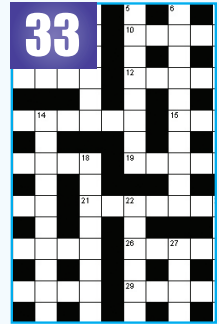
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Cover Photo:  
Christleton Village



### Dear Friends,

The lighter evenings are finally here - although I don't like losing an hour's sleep!

Hoping for a beautiful spring like last year. Our non essential shops are soon opening as our roadmap out of lockdown begins, just keep doing

what we are doing and hopefully we will see the back of this pandemic.

Love Chester magazine is all about promoting our lovely part of the country. It's important that we use our local tradespeople and shops to keep it that way, more importantly than ever if we want to keep our high streets, villages and the city centre alive.

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Maxine & Mike



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# DO YOU KNOW?

1. Finland is the world's happiest country, according to the 2019 World Happiness Report.

2. Drinking more coffee may reduce the risk of developing gallstones, a study found.

3. People develop first impressions of you in a tenth of a second.

4. Florida was the first part of the continental U.S. to be visited by Europeans. Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de Leon gave it its name, meaning "flowery land."

5. Washoe, the chimpanzee, was the first non-human to learn American Sign Language. She also passed on her knowledge to other chimpanzees.

6. One pint of donated blood can save up to 3 lives.

7. The smell of chocolate increases theta brain waves, which triggers relaxation.

8. English words "I", "we", "two" and "three" are among the most ancient, from thousands of years.

9. The longest common English word without vowels is "rhythms".

10. A group of giraffes is called a tower.



11. McDonald's first menu items were hot dogs, not hamburgers.

12. Tap water has a shelf-life of 6 months, after which chlorine dissipates and bacteria starts to grow.



13. California has been the birthplace of the film industry, the hippie counterculture, the Internet, and the personal computer.

14. At its peak, the Roman Empire comprised only 12% of the world's population.



15. When babies are born they have no bacteria in their bodies.

16. Elvis Presley didn't write any of his songs.

17. The type of music you listen to affects the way you perceive the world.

18. In 15 years of conquest, Alexander The Great never lost a battle.

19. Al Pacino was the first "face" on Facebook.

20. All of the pandas, in the world, are on loan from China.



21. Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of long words.

22. In Spanish, the word "esposas" means both "wives" and "handcuffs."



23. Ronaldinho's deal with Coca-Cola ended after he was caught sipping a Pepsi in a news conference.

24. In Greek mythology, it was believed that redheads turn into vampires when they die.

25. When Montenegro became independent from Yugoslavia, its Internet domain name went from .yu to .me.

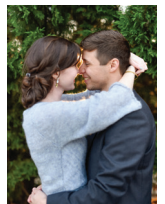
26. Shakira was rejected from the school choir because the teacher thought she sounded like a goat.

27. A group of owls is called a Parliament.

28. In the UK, all horses, ponies and donkeys must have a horse passport.

29. Flowers can grow faster by listening to music.

30. The average age in the UK for a first kiss is 15.





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# OUR ZOO

## What's happening at Chester Zoo.

### Lockdown birth! Rare 'African unicorn' born at Chester Zoo



The female calf, born to mum K'tusha (7) and dad Stomp (17), arrived safely following a 14-month-long pregnancy.

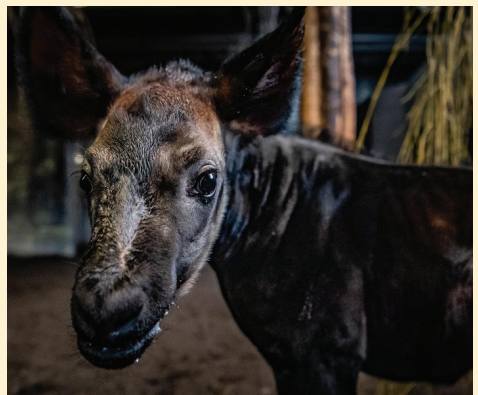
The zoo's CCTV cameras captured the calf's first wobbly steps as she was gently encouraged to her feet by mum, shortly after birth. Now, the shy new arrival has stepped outside for the first time after spending the first few weeks of life snuggled up in a cosy nest.

Zookeepers have named the adorable youngster 'Nia Nia' in homage to a small village that is in the centre of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve,

a place where the zoo's field partners are based, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – the only country in the world where okapis are found in the wild.

The okapi's zebra-like stripes on its back legs allow offspring to easily follow their mothers into the dense forests in the DRC, keeping them well hidden from predators.

Its elusive nature, paired with its impressive sense of hearing and unique camouflage, led to the species being nicknamed the 'African unicorn' as the animal went undiscovered until as recently as 1901.





To save Chester Zoo head to: [www.chesterzoo.org/saveourzoo](http://www.chesterzoo.org/saveourzoo)

## Okapi fact file

The new calf at Chester Zoo was born on 28 December 2020.

Zookeepers have named the female calf Nia Nia after a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo – the only place in the world where okapis are found in the wild.

Okapis are one of the oldest mammals left on Earth. Despite its long existence, its discovery was only announced by scientists in 1901.

It is a national and cultural symbol of the Democratic Republic of Congo (where it lives in dense, lowland forests).

The okapi is the only living relative of the giraffe.

Male okapis have short horns on their foreheads that are covered in skin and called ossicones.

They have scent glands on each foot that leave behind a tar-like substance to mark their territory.

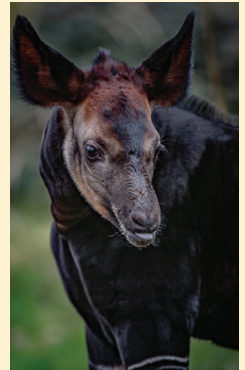
They can lick their own ears! The okapi's tongue measures between 14 and 18 inches long – that's long enough to clean its ears and wash its eyelids

Newborns don't take their first poo until they reach one month old!

The zoo is also a long term supporter of the Okapi Conservation Project that is based at the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Ituri Forest DRC.

Chester Zoo's experts, along with its partners at the Uganda Wildlife Authority, have conducted surveys for okapis in Semuliki National Park, Uganda, which borders the DRC and contributed to a 10 year IUCN conservation action plan for the species.

The zoo is also a long term supporter of the Okapi Conservation Project that is based at the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Ituri Forest DRC.







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# THIS MONTH'S HISTORY

This feature each month will give true interesting facts from years gone by. See what you remember that happened in your lifetime.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL



### APRIL 1 1918

The Royal Air Force (RAF) was formed with the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). The RAF took its place beside the British navy and army as a separate military service with its own ministry.

### APRIL 2 1977

Red Rum the diminutive horse with the heart of a champion galloped into racing history by winning the Grand National for a record third time.

The steeple chaser won the race in 1973 and 1974 and came home second in the following two years.

Before the race concern was expressed that at 12 the horse was too old for an event widely regarded as the most dangerous on the jumping circuit.



## APRIL 16 1953

The Queen launches the Royal Yacht Britannia.

For over 44 years the Royal Yacht served the Royal Family, travelling more than a million nautical miles to become one of the most famous ships in the world.



On 17 January 1986 The Britannia evacuated about 350 people of 42 nationalities Friday night and early Saturday and took them to Djibouti, about 160 miles across the Gulf of Aden from South Yemen's capital.



**April 12, 1961** - Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space. He traveled aboard the Soviet spacecraft Vostok I to an altitude of 187 miles (301 kilometers) above the earth and completed a single orbit in a flight lasting 108 minutes. The spectacular Russian success intensified the already ongoing Space Race between the Russians and Americans. Twenty-three days later, Alan Shepard became the first American in space.

**APRIL 4 1949** - April 4, 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.

**APRIL 23 1564** - William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was born at Stratford-on-Avon, England. Renowned as the most influential writer in the English language, he created 36 plays and 154 sonnets, including Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet and The Merchant of Venice.

**APRIL 30 1967** - Boxer Muhammad Ali was stripped of his world heavyweight boxing championship after refusing to be inducted into the American military. He had claimed religious exemption.





The Neuro Therapy Centre is encouraging people from across the region to sign-up to its first Easter Walk.

The walk is aimed at people of all ages and can be carried out at a location chosen by the participants. "We know from our supporters who took part in virtual events last year that being able to choose their own distance, location and challenge date, really helps people to take part and makes an event so much more accessible," said Shannah Goodrick, Community and Corporate Fundraiser at the Neuro Therapy Centre.

"We'd love as many people to take part as possible and we have even created a fun downloadable set of bunny ears so that they can be created to wear either during the walk or as part of the celebration on completion. If lockdown has taught us anything it's how we can all benefit from taking exercise, especially outside on a spring day. Exercise is a big part of what we offer to people with neurological conditions at the Centre, and through taking part in our Easter walk people will be helping to support this work," added Shannah.

Over the last year the Neuro Therapy Centre has continued to support people with neurological conditions such as MS and Parkinsons Disease across North Wales, Cheshire and the Wirral through creating telephone and online services, as well as continuing face-to-face support when restrictions allowed. "Each week the Centre costs £10,000 to run and our events and fundraising challenges play a big part in helping the Centre to continue to offer its services. We are just asking for a small registration fee for this event, as we know that raising sponsorship can be a challenge during lockdown, but we hope that people will come together to help us raise as much as possible to help support our life-changing services," said Shannah.

People can take part in the walk between 29th March and 11th April. The price of registration is £5 for adults, £2 for children and £2 for dogs. To sign up for the walk and receive the downloads people should go to the Neuro Therapy Centre website at [www.neurotherapycentre.org/Event/easter-walk](http://www.neurotherapycentre.org/Event/easter-walk)

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Serves 4  
people

Marsala cooking wine is a worthy addition to your pantry; it's dry and sweet without being overpowering, and can cut through the richness of cream or stock. The alcohol will cook off as the sauce simmers. Adding butter at the end, a classic technique, gives the sauce its body and gloss.

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 large skinless chicken breast
- 3/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Packet of pre sliced mushrooms
- 4 sprigs of thyme
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 2/3 cup unsalted chicken stock
- 2/3 cup Marsala wine
- 2 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Serve over polenta, mashed potatoes or rice. If you have leftover thyme, try steeping in chicken stock before making a risotto, tossing with roasted vegetables, or adding to a frittata.

### How to Make It

#### Step 1

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large deep nonstick frying pan. Sprinkle chicken with 1/2 teaspoon pepper and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add chicken to pan and cook. Remove chicken from pan (do not wipe out pan).

#### Step 2

Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil to pan. Add mushrooms and thyme sprigs; cook, stirring occasionally, until mushrooms are browned, about 6 minutes. Sprinkle flour over mixture; stirring constantly, 1 minute.



#### Step 3

Add stock and wine to pan; bring to boil. Cook until slightly thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove pan from heat. Stir in butter, remaining 1/4 teaspoon pepper, and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add chicken to pan, turning to coat. Discard thyme sprigs before serving. Sprinkle with chopped thyme, if desired.



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# AutoReview by Tony Yates

Keeping you motoring

## Alfa Romeo Stelvio Veloce 2.0 Turbo 280HP



This month's review is so easy. What Alfa has done here is made another perfect car that has an engine more powerful than you can comprehend – plus it's utterly brilliant. And, I'm not just saying that either.

### On the road

The Stelvio feels very good on all road surfaces – and there are no dramas to talk about here because it's well balanced and settled even on some of our most demanding roads.

All this means you will have less to worry about if you decide to start planting the Stelvio briskly into the corners. Of course, you may want to just press the 'snooze' button and cruise along the motorway without a care in the world. I mean after all, it's an Alfa Romeo – it's a pure driver's car.

On the Alfa subject, there is something special about how an Alfa makes you feel once you get behind the wheel.

For instance - the Stelvio tells you exactly what's going on beneath you - while Alfa's onboard safety features do their job keeping everything present and correct, meaning you really can feel the Alfa DNA at its heart.

## Power and efficiency

The version I currently have on test is powered by a 1995cc turbocharged petrol engine with 280HP and 400Nm of torque which makes the Stelvio move along like a rocket.

So, big & powerful engine usually means bad fuel economy - well actually it's not - and you can easily achieve around 30.4mpg (combined) Plus, you have the addition of an eye wobbling top speed of 143mph and a 0-62 time of 5.7s. Of course, I understand that speed needs to be kept on the track, but the big Alfa loves to ruffle a few feathers - not only in its appearance - but also in how well it gets down the road. All I can say is 'bring it on'.

## Safety & technology

Trim levels on the inside of the Stelvio are lovely and everything was bathed in leather and soft touch material - but for me, the Stelvio is a long-distance mile muncher and a car that can accommodate a large family and pretty much everything you can throw at it.

Plus, it's fitted with lots of safety features to keep you and your family safe - which makes me feel all warm on the inside.

With technology now being one of the most important factors most people look for when buying a new car - the Stelvio needed to offer a lot of toys - and it does.

Some of the equipment starts with; 8 Speaker Audio System, Alfa Connect 3D Nav 8.8" Multitouch Infotainment system (radio, 3D Nav, Mp3) Wireless Charging Pad, Alfa Dynamic Suspension, Ambient LED lighting - front & rear, Autonomous Emergency Brake (AEB) Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC -ABS+ASR+Brake Assistant) with Hill Holder, Dark tinted rear windows, Leather Sports Steering Wheel and Gear Knob.

Plus; Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, 7" Colour TFT Instrument Cluster, Active Cruise Control, Start&Stop, Steering wheel paddles, Lane Departure Warning (LDW) Headlight washer system, i-Xenon headlights, Body Colour Exterior trim, Leather dashboard, door panels and central armrest and 20" Dark V-spoke alloys.

## To sum up

What a brilliant car - and a massive 5 stars from me.

Price (from) £49,755

*Where will you go?*



## Vehicle Emissions

Millions of vehicle owners, previous vehicle owners and people who lease vehicles could claim thousands of pounds against car companies in relation to a "cheat device" fitted to their vehicles similar to that of Volkswagen.

Affected vehicles include VW, Mercedes, Renault and Nissan with more being investigated.

Our Director Alisha Butler is involved in the VW Group Litigation as a consultant and she states that: "Owners / previous owners may have claim similar to that of the VW group litigation claimants.

These large manufacturers should not be deceiving the public with these cheat devices. People often buy their cars based on claims made by the manufacturers such as "environmentally friendly" or "Cleanest Diesel Cars Ever" but these vehicles have been shown to

have cheat devices which change the results of the emission tests so they show a reduction in emissions when being tested but then revert to higher emissions when back on the road. This is fraudulent and the general public are having the wool pulled over their eyes by companies they trust and we are here to fight their corner"

If you own / did own / lease or did lease an affected vehicle then you could claim and receive thousands in compensation.

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## CHESTER RAMBLING & HILL WALKING CLUB

### Dotted green lines

For walk leaders in Chester Rambling & Hill Walking Club, it's quite exciting when the time comes to submit

walks for the following season's programme. With so much cancelled last year due to the pandemic, there is a glut of un-led walks available. In addition, new walks have been created, as many of us tried new footpaths during lockdown, some within a few miles of home and others further afield when Government rulings allowed. My other half and I were 'trapped' in Wales for much of last year, so whilst we didn't explore anything new over the border in Cheshire, we did tread some unfamiliar ground in parts of North Wales. One of the new routes we put together, at Llandudno, will see its debut in this year's summer programme. Our other new walks, at Penycloddiau in the Clwyds, and Halkyn Mountain, near Holywell, need a bit more reconnoitring before they are finally ready for release to Club members. With a plethora of dotted green lines on the OS map for these areas, it's a case of finding the most pleasant route, with the best views and the least amount of tarmac!



On the subject of green dotted lines, it's worth noting that while there may be plenty of these showing on the map, trying them out can prove to be a challenge. To put it bluntly, what's down on paper isn't always visible on the ground. Some footpaths shown on the OS maps may have disappeared or possibly had to be re-routed. Others could have been recently smeared with a layer of tarmac, less easy on the knees and hips than a grassy track, and as far as I'm concerned, to be avoided whenever possible. Yellow arrows, much loved by ramblers, are not always where you expect to see them. Stiles on less popular footpaths can quickly become smothered by ivy, holly or brambles, rendering them impassable to anyone not armed with a machete. We carry secateurs in our rucksacks but draw the line at anything more lethal, even if such weapons were readily available at our local outdoor shop. Having said that, we did manage to procure a folding miniature handsaw some time back - a useful gadget for those odd occasions when we're faced with something tougher to cut through than a holly twig. Thankfully this particular piece of kit comes with an equally handy safety cover!

Most well used public rights of way don't require such extreme measures to enable safe passage. Signposting on named trails is generally well maintained and enough people walk these routes to keep the vegetation down. For some reason, John and I seem to be strangely and unintentionally attracted to underused and unspeakably overgrown footpaths rather than more well trodden ones. Many of these we've ultimately incorporated in walking routes for Club members, though by the time we lead them anything resembling the Amazonian rainforest has been suitably obliterated! Rest assured, our Club walks are nothing if not well planned and led, by committed leaders who love what they do.

The 2021 summer programme is almost ready to print, before being sent out to Club members towards the end of March. This wonderful little booklet is the end result of much effort, not only by all our leaders, but by our Walks Organiser, whose job it is to collate the programme so that walk destinations are in a reasonably varied order, and offer something to suit all abilities.

We're chomping at the bit to restart group walking, and fervently hope that our summer walking programme, put together with love, care and the occasional use of cutting implements, goes ahead without interruption.

Check our website for updates: [www.chesterwalkingclub.com](http://www.chesterwalkingclub.com) or take a look at our Facebook page to see what we're up to.

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This page is dedicated **FREE** to all registered Charities who wish to advertise.



A large structure will be built in the shape of a rainbow at the Countess of Chester Hospital to commemorate and remember 2020/2021 and all those who played a part in taking care of others.

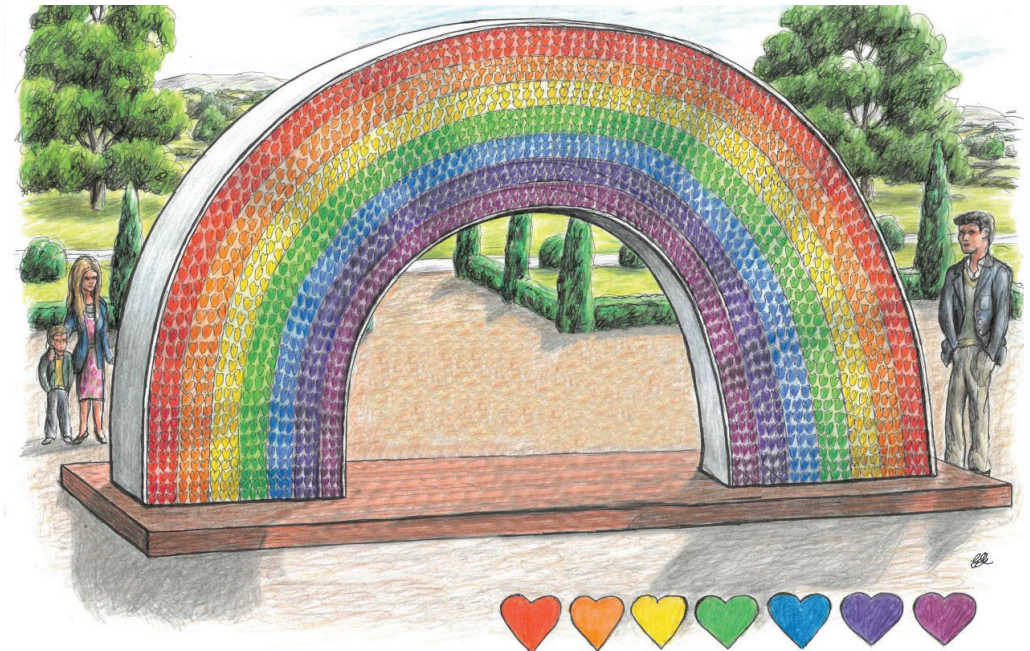
We have all loved seeing the rainbows on display in windows, on roundabouts and on t-shirts so we thought it would be a great fundraising idea to create something that will last! Our good friends at Medicash are sponsoring the structure and we are inviting everyone to buy one or more of the thousands of coloured hearts we need to create this structure and raise funds for our ICU. The Blue Skies Balcony Appeal aims to create an outdoor garden balcony on ICU for our patients, a place where they can breathe fresh air & see blue skies above, outdoor therapy has been proven to aid recovery.

This will be a lasting tribute to all key workers who worked so hard during 2020/2021. Each heart can be sponsored for a minimum of £10 - we will send you a favour to keep in your purse or pocket about the colour you choose.

We hope to complete the Rainbow in the summer of 2021.

I hope that I have interested you in joining us to raise funds for our amazing NHS.

Thank You



# Put a heart in our Rainbow



Choose your colour (tick as appropriate):

Red: Orange: Yellow: Green: Blue:

Indigo: Violet:

## Your Details:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I wish to donate £ \_\_\_\_\_

(tick as appropriate)

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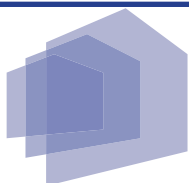
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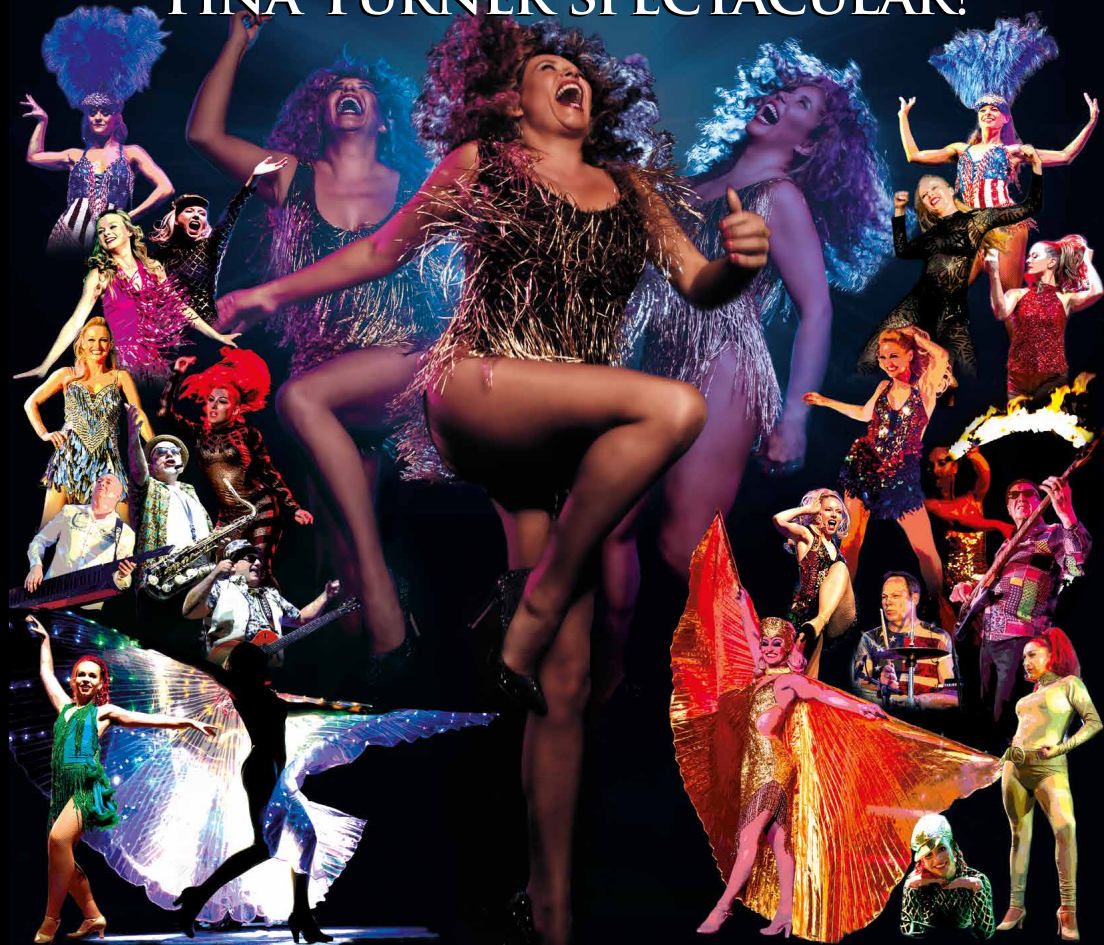


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