



Half of the UK's pets go unvaccinated

A WORRYING number of owners are failing to get their animals vaccinated, according to a YouGov poll commissioned at the start of May, which is National Vaccination Month. Some 40% of owners admitted to letting jabs lapse; the cost is cited as the main reason for not getting them renewed. Vets say that more than half of Britain's pets—some three million dogs, six million cats, 1.8 million rabbits and 500,000 horses—are being left vulnerable to disease; there has been an increase of parvovirus, which can be fatal in dogs, and 75% of practices have seen cases of cat flu. 'Animal disease is something that rarely hits the headlines, but this year, we are marking 10 years since foot-and-mouth decimated the farm-animal population,' comments broadcaster Chris Packham, who is spearheading the campaign. 'Without wishing to scare people, pet disease is also lurking; it's the kind of thing that you never think is going to happen, but when it does, it's devastating.' Some 2,000 veterinary surgeries are participating in a scheme (until the end of the month) whereby owners can download a discount voucher worth about £30 from www.nvmonline.co.uk

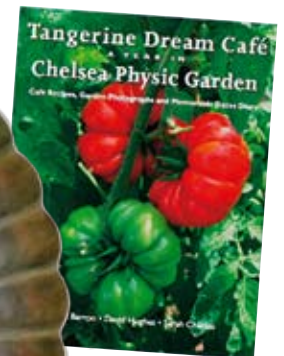
'Without wishing to scare people, animal disease is lurking'

Valley of Light, Newlands Valley, Cumbria by Adam Burton (Commended) from the 2010 Landscape Photographer of the Year competition. Entries have opened for this year's contest, 'Take a View', which carries a first prize of £10,000. Run in conjunction with Network Rail, there is a section for pictures of the British rail network—'Lines in the Landscape'—to reflect the spectacular views that can be glimpsed from a train. The exhibition of winning entries will be at the National Theatre from December 5, and a book will be made. Entries close on July 15 (www.take-a-view.co.uk).



Tangerine dream

THE cafe in the Chelsea Physic Garden, a sanctuary for the foot-weary at nearby Chelsea Flower Show next week, has a new book out. Founded in 1673 to train apothecaries in plant recognition—only the Oxford Physic Garden is older—the garden trialed and named such early exoticas as rhubarb and tomatoes. The Tangerine Dream Cafe, set up in 2005, is more recent; indoors, it resembles an old-fashioned schoolroom, and, outdoors, recalls informal alfresco lunches. The recipes and menu tend to be simple, a mix of English and Mediterranean with lots of seasonal, British food. *Tangerine Dream Café: a Year in Chelsea Physic Garden* by Limpet Barron, David Hughes and Sarah Charles (The Chelsea Physic Garden, £12.95) is a recipe book, diary and photographic essay. The cafe (www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk) is open Wednesday–Friday plus Sundays. It doesn't take credit cards. *Leslie Geddes-Brown*



Asparagus, prosciutto and soft boiled egg is the chosen recipe for June, photographed by Sarah Charles



Barometer

Good week for

Farmers

An NFU campaign launched this week to highlight safer working practices aims to change farming's status as the most accident-prone profession

The Royal Botanic Gardens

Kew has initial support for a £15 million Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the Temperate House; the Geffrye Museum and Hastings Pier are also successful

Livestock auctioneers

The deadweight market is benefiting from record liveweight prices; beef is up 9% year on year, good cull cows are making £1,000 and ewes £100-plus

Bad week for

Biogas

The CLA is 'deeply disappointed' at the caution shown by the Committee for Climate Change towards the use of biogas instead of fossil fuels for transport

Scottish sport

The midge population is forecast to be 800 times more intensive than usual, due to the winter's heavy snow acting as an insulation layer for larvae

Small pooches

The hawks brought in to control pigeons in London's Belgravia have been swooping on unsuspecting small dogs, such as dachshunds and terriers

In praise of elephants

THE calm majesty of elephants is the focus of Lynne Moore's summer exhibition at Frost & Reed, King Street, London SW1. There will also be wild landscapes, grouse moors, powerful waves and the odd antelope and lion, but the glorious blue elephants (such as *Young Mother*, right) steal the show. Last year, Miss Moore stayed at the Elephant Watch Centre at Samburu National Reserve in Kenya with Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton, founders of Save the Elephants. Their camp was all but washed away by a terrifying flash flood when the nearby river burst its banks, and waters rose to 30ft in less than half an hour. The artist lost all her painting equipment, but a battered sketchbook survived, as did her camera, drenched in mud, but with images intact. Her paintings are collected by, among others, Prince Michael of Kent, who writes the introduction to the catalogue for 'Moore in the Wild' (to June 18, www.frostandreed.com).

