

Maureen's recipe for Steak and Kidney Pudding. The recipe she got it from states "sufficient for six" but in our house four manage to see it off nicely. Mind you we don't need a sweet afterwards 🍷 Ideal meal for a cold winter day.

For the Suet pastry

100g (3½ oz) prepared beef suet
225g (8oz) self-raising flour
Salt
Iced water

For the Pudding

900g (2lb) chuck, stewing or braising steak, cut into 3cm (1in) cubes
225g (8oz) beef kidneys, trimmed and cut into 3cm (1in) cubes
3 tbsp plain flour, seasoned with salt and pepper
50g (2oz) button mushrooms, cleaned
1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
A dash of Tabasco
A little beef stock or water
Freshly ground black pepper

Method

Suet pastry: Mix the suet, flour and salt in a bowl and, using a tablespoon at a time, slowly add enough iced water to bind. This can be done in a food processor, but don't over-process the mixture. Cover the pastry with clingfilm and chill for 20 minutes. Keep about a quarter of the pastry back to make the lid, then roll out the other three-quarters to a thickness of about 3mm (1/8 in).

Butter the pudding basin. Line it with the rolled-out pastry, leaving about 3cm (1in) of pastry hanging over the top. Set aside.

Now make the filling by rolling the beef and kidneys in the seasoned flour. Mix the meat and pile it all into the pastry-lined basin. Sprinkle with the Worcestershire, Tabasco sauces. Pour in enough beef stock or water to fill two-thirds (or slightly more) of the dish. Season the pudding with plenty of pepper.

Roll out the remaining pastry to make a lid. Cover the pudding and



fold the edges together to form a seal, pressing the edges together lightly.

Cut a piece of foil large enough to cover the top of the pudding loosely: the pudding must have room to expand. Hold the foil in place by tying some string around it, just under the rim of the pudding basin. Make a handle by passing the string across the top loosely two or three times and threading it under the rim-string. Fasten it tightly at one side. Set the sealed pudding aside.

Fill a large pan with a tightly fitting lid with enough water to come two-thirds of the way up the pudding basin. Bring the water to the boil and lower the pudding into the pan. Cover the large pan with a lid. Add more boiling water as it evaporates and boils away and don't worry if the pudding leaks a bit. Continue topping up the boiling water as necessary for 4-5 hours.

Lift the pudding out of the pan and remove the foil. Wrap the basin in a white cloth or napkin with the top crust showing, browned and slightly fluffy, over the top of its white linen collar. If the crust has come in contact with the water, it will be pale and glistening but still excellent to eat. Serve the pudding with a biggest spoon you have - small portions are not allowed.