

LOCAL LINKS

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ISSUE 114

FREE

EASTER FEAST

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LOCAL LINKS



Dear Readers,

Brrr! As we write it's cold and the chill is set to continue for a while. Spare a thought for the poor little birdies bobbing about your garden. With the ground frozen and little fruit left on the hedgerows, they find it difficult to get the food they need. Save the day by making some fat balls to feed the birds! Read our article on page 7.

If you're feeling a little glum like the birds with all this grey weather, we've got some lovely things coming up for you to celebrate! Easter, jazz, children's books, family. If that doesn't perk you up we don't know what will!

So snuggle up with a brew and your March issue of Local Links and take your mind off all things grey...

The **LOCAL LINKS** team

ISSUE 114

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Next issue deadline:

Tue 10th April

Next issue out from:

Wed 18th April

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Fradley, Yoxall

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Brizlincote Valley, Walton on Trent
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Backyard Buffet



With the recent cold snap our poor birdy population are probably feeling it. To give your feathered friends a helping hand this month pop out some extra food.

BASIC FAT BALL

Ingredients:

450g to 700g fat or animal suet
3/4 cup millet (red and white mixed, if possible)

1/3 cup cracked corn
3/4 cup bird seeds
3/4 cup raisins or crab apples
1 to 2 tablespoons of honey (optional)
mesh bags, or small plastic containers (margarine, sour cream, yogurt, etc.)
waxed paper
glass jar

Directions:

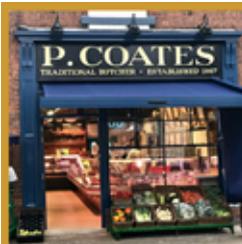
Chop the fat into small pieces and melt in a saucepan over low heat until it turns to liquid. Once the fat is melted, strain and remove any floating particles, including any remaining traces of meat.

Let the liquid fat cool slightly and stir in the other ingredients. Don't worry about exact

measurements. Just add in whatever you think is needed.

Line small plastic containers with waxed paper and pour in the mix.

Refrigerate containers until they start to harden, and then store them in the freezer until ready for use. For ball-shaped feeders, remove the suet from their containers while still slightly warm and shape it into balls with your hands. Gently poke a hole through the centre of the ball with a chopstick and thread with string to hang it up with. Place the balls in plastic bags and store them in the freezer.



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Easter Eats

Easter is almost upon us and for a lot of us it's that next cheeky indulgent time after Christmas! Hot cross buns and chocolate galore! Unless of course your diet restricts you. Yes, sad faces all 'round. Whether you're gluten intolerant or vegan, there's a whole heap of Easter treats that you just can't touch... or can you? Here are some lovely 'free from' options that might just put that smile back on your face!

Freefrom Hot Cross Buns Sainsbury's

Suitable for coeliacs and vegetarians, these buns are free from gluten, milk and wheat but do contain eggs.



Hot Cross Buns Tesco

These aren't gluten free but are suitable for vegans.



Plamil Organic Milk Chocolate Alternative Egg Holland and Barrett

Plamil's factory is completely vegan and free from nuts, gluten and fish, and its products carry the Vegan Society logo. Its organic milk chocolate alternative egg comes in plastic-free packaging, fitting with the company's ethical standards, and the product is Fairtrade-certified.



Booja Booja Almond & Sea Salt Caramel Chocolate Truffles Holland and Barrett

It is honestly hard to believe these truffles are completely dairy-free. These truffles are nutty, salty, and chocolaty, and the ideal Easter gift for someone who deserves to be spoiled – especially as they come in a wooden egg box that has been hand-painted by artists in Kashmir, India!



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30
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By The Barn *by Angela Sargent*



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Oh Happy Day

The 20th March is International Day of Happiness! The day is an initiative of Bhutan, a country which recognized the supremacy of national happiness over national income since the early 1970s and famously adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product.

Everyone wants to be happy, and increasingly, following Bhutan's lead, countries around the world are looking at happiness as an indicator of national well-being and considering happiness in policy making. As this year's World Happiness Report states, "Happiness is increasingly considered a proper measure

of social progress and a goal of public policy."

So how can we add to world happiness? Here are a few ideas for you to try!:



1 Step outside your front door. Casual encounters are sometimes the best kind. Meet neighbours while tinkering in the garden or try walking to a nearby shop instead of driving, when possible, and you're more likely to run into others on the way and strike up friendly conversation!

2 Play out front. Put your picnic table or lawn chairs out front and hang out; as you read or watch the world

go by, people will stop to chat and introduce themselves. If you have kids, host a lemonade stand on a hot day and you'll make friends with the neighbours.

3 Plant a community garden. If you have a common grassy area or someone who is willing to donate part of their land, you can create a community garden where lots of hands, big and little, can create something beautiful together.

4 Establish a book-lending cupboard. Imagine a tiny little library on your street! If there's a disused phone-box, this is perfect to use.

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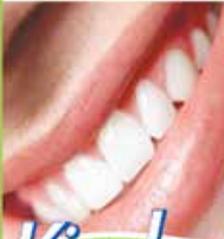
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Enjoy Jazz

Jazz... it's that musical equivalent of our world famous Marmite. Love it or hate it, April is Jazz awareness month!

Created in 2002 by the well respected Smithsonian Museum, Jazz Appreciation Month is intended to stimulate and encourage people of all ages to participate in jazz - to study the music, attend concerts, listen to jazz on the radio and recordings, read books about jazz, and more.

Jazz is a music genre that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans, in the US in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and developed from roots in blues and ragtime. Jazz is seen by many as 'America's

classical music'. Since the 1920s Jazz Age, jazz has become recognized as a major form of musical expression.



You might be surprised to realise quite how much jazz you actually do know!...

'Take Five' - Dave Brubeck

With it's cool train-like piano intro and playful saxophone melody this is probably the most famous jazz track of all time, this instrumental piece has been used in numerous adverts and films, you'll remember it from the Cadbury's 'Twirl' chocolate bar commercials.

'So What' - Miles Davis

This finger clicking laid-back classic just makes you want to sit in a bar and lose yourself in

the cool trumpet notes. Miles Davis' career spanned five decades and his music still influences artists today

'Strange Fruit' - Billie Holiday

Try listening to this song without feeling goose bumps all over. Can't do it? We don't blame you. That's because this track is quite easily one of the most haunting pieces of music ever recorded. The lyrical content is just as compelling. Originally a poem penned in 1937 in protest of American racism, particularly the lynching of African Americans.

Their influence can be heard in some of today's biggest acts including Adele, Lady Gaga, Lana Del Rey, Katie Melua, Jamie Cullum & Kendrick Lamar to name but a few.



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Spring Into Summer *by Deb Walker*

After what has seemed like a very long winter, here at the gallery we are showing 'Spring into Summer', a mixed exhibition, featuring watercolours big and small by resident artist Deborah Walker RI, ARSMA, with jewellery by Lynn Kendall, ceramics by John Stroomer from Australia, glass by Kim Bramley from France and a selection of original prints. Deb welcomes visitors to her studio gallery Thursday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm, throughout the year.

Deb Walker is an elected Member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours and an Associate Member of

the Royal Society of Marine Artists, both of which are based at the Mall Galleries, just off Trafalgar Square in London. To view paintings by Deb prior to visiting 'the gallery' please visit: www.walker-art.co.uk

The annual exhibition of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours at the Mall Galleries runs from 6 – 21 April this year, open daily from 10am – 5pm. Deb's RI Collection features a huge watercolour of the view from The London Eye, alongside winter sunlit views through the trees at Branston Water Park.

Workshops at Ridware Arts fill up fast, but you can view the

current workshop programme by visiting the website's Workshop page. Alternatively you can call 'the gallery' for details on 01889 504102.

For further information about the current exhibition, please contact Deb at 'the gallery' by telephone or by email at deb@walker-art.co.uk

For directions to 'the gallery' from the A515 Kings Bromley to Yoxall road, turn left at the roundabout to Hamstall Ridware and continue to turn or bear left to Blythe House Farm.

the gallery@Ridware Arts

Blythe House Farm, Hamstall Ridware, Staffordshire, WS15 3QQ

T : 01889 504102

E: deb@walker-art.co.uk

W: www.walker-art.co.uk



Spring into Summer

a mixed exhibition of paintings, ceramics, jewellery and glass

Opening Saturday 17th March

Gallery open Thursday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm
(at other times please call 01889 504102 - if we're in, we're open!)

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Celebrating their 30th Anniversary of keeping lawns green, our competition for this month is in partnership with lawn treatment service **GreenThumb**.

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For those who have never experienced the delights of a professional lawn treatment, **GreenThumb**, covering Ashbourne and Burton on Trent, is offering one lucky winner a whole year of free treatments, courtesy of **LOCAL LINKS**.

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Alternatively, you can e-mail your details to:

local@locallinksmedia.co.uk

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The closing date for entries is the 17th of April, and the winners will be announced in our May edition. Good luck to everyone!

** Prizes are for lawns up to 400 square metres.*

In addition to the First Place and Runner-Up prize, every **LOCAL LINKS** reader who contacts **GreenThumb's** team on **01283 735675** can have a free, no-obligation lawn survey and soil analysis.



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V.A.R. Here to Stay!

by Perry Deakin

Well we complained constantly about poor refereeing decisions, we vented into our beer after games when dissecting exactly how our team had managed to lose against 'that lot', we couldn't blame the managers' tactics, couldn't blame the players for lack of effort or ability and couldn't bring ourselves to admit that 'that lot' may just have been the better team on the day – there must be another reason we lost today, there just has to be! And it comes to us in an instant, every single week – THE REFEREE! 'He cost us the game, – its his fault!'

Football governing bodies around the world, including our own FA and Premier

League began trialling various systems at lower level games and tried to work out the best format and match protocol to introduce to the biggest games in the world.... We're not there yet because the V.A.R. (Video Assistant Referee) systems don't seem to have solved all of our problems, who knew!

Football does not contain natural breaks in play and this results in referees having to stop play and await information from VAR control (which is in London by the way and not at the actual game itself) to confirm whether his decision was correct – this is causing incredible frustration for fans and players alike who stand around without any idea

whatsoever of what is being discussed, what the issue might be or indeed, why the game has even stopped!

FIFA have recently announced that VAR will be in operation during this summers World Cup in Russia so look out for the very regular sight of referees at the worlds largest and most prestigious sports tournament standing in the middle of the pitch with their finger to their ear piece trying to ascertain if that goal can stand, or that red card is appropriate – I predict utter confusion because we simply haven't got the system right yet!

Interestingly, The Premier League are not introducing VAR yet, perhaps their cautious approach is the right one just now!



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What's On Guide

TUESDAY 20TH MARCH

Art Classes

Weekly classes at The Horseshoe, Tatenhill following a programme of skills development with a focus on drawing and observation, then we will be drawing with colour and using water colour paints and mixed media. Lessons will cost £10, or £8 if paid a half-term in advance. Please email or phone for further details or to reserve your place. Contact: Helen Tarr Tel: 07791 228 881

Ladies Badminton Club

Meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2 'til 4pm at Tutbury Village Hall. All abilities welcome. Ring Prim on 01283 327591 to arrange free visit.

WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH

Priory Art Group

We are a small friendly group of artists meeting at the Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton, every Wednesday morning, 9.30 to 12. New members are always welcome, whatever your level of experience, so why not come and have a chat to see what we have to offer. Contact: Sandra: 01283 329743

THURSDAY 22ND MARCH

Dementia Walking for Health

Every Thursday, meeting at 10:45am at Oaklands village in Swadlincote for an 11am start. All participants must be accompanied by a carer/dementia friend on this walk. For more information on any of our Health Walks call Judi Whileman on 01283 563483

FRIDAY 23RD MARCH

Choral Concert - Lichfield Gospel Choir
Concert organised by Brethry Rotary Club to be held in Riverside Church, High St, Burton at 7.30pm. Admission by ticket £10 to include refreshments. Tickets from Club members or Riverside Church.

SATURDAY 24TH MARCH

Rolleston Scouts Easter Bingo

Easter Bingo, so lots of chocolate and great prizes to be had. Doors open 6.30 pm and Eyes Down at 7 pm. Fun evening, free entry, parking and refreshments available. Great night out for all the family. At Rolleston Scout HQ, Station Road, Rolleston on Dove, Burton on Trent DE13 9AA

SUNDAY 25TH MARCH

Morris Dancing

Ryknild Rabble meet every Sunday morning 10:30 am at the King's Bromley Village Hall, to practice the Border Morris dances. From January to April, anyone is invited to come along and try out border morris dancing. The team have over 20 years experience of teaching these traditional dances. We are a lively group and in summer perform the dances locally and nationally. For more information call Nigel Moss 01283 790088 or visit the web site www.risa.demon.co.uk.

MONDAY 26TH MARCH

Red & Ginger's Lindy Hop Dance Class

Monday nights during term time 8-9pm. Learn to Lindy hop, Charleston and swing dance at Tutbury Castle! Our relaxed, friendly and welcoming lessons are suitable for all ages and abilities, for those with a partner or without. Monday nights, 8-9pm term time at Tutbury Castle. www.dancewithredandginger.com
Contact: Red & Ginger by email at hello@dancewithredandginger.com

Watercolour For Beginners

At Tutbury Village Hall, every Monday morning during term times 10am - 12noon. A foundation course designed for Beginners that takes place in a friendly relaxed atmosphere, with a professional artist/tutor who is sympathetic to the needs of those who have always wanted to paint with Watercolour but have possibly been a little afraid to try. Contact Ann Stringer-Paget on 07816 118776 anytime. Admission is by prior registration only.

TUESDAY 27TH MARCH

Burton Dance & Social Club

We invite and welcome anyone over 18 years of age. We meet every Tuesday Evening 8-11pm at Marstons Sports and Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent. Activities include sequence, ballroom and line dancing to professional live music, bingo, raffles and food nights. Come along and join us and meet new friends. For more information contact Pauline: 01283 519159

Stretton 60+ Group

Every Tuesday 12.45 to 3.00pm. Social for all aged 60 and over. Join us for a friendly chat, a cuppa, a short game of bingo and occasional trips. Just come along - you will be very welcome. Fresh faces and new ideas needed. Everyone welcome. £1.50 paid weekly. Bingo 25p for 3 games. Contact: Mrs Jane Brooks Tel: 01283 531748

WEDNESDAY 28TH MARCH

Priory Art Group

We are a small friendly group of artists meeting at the Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton, every Wednesday morning, 9.30 to 12 noon. New members are always welcome, whatever your level of experience, so why not come and have a chat to see what we have to offer. Contract Sandra: 01283 329743

Kraftiz

Rosliston Forestry Centre - 10am-12noon - Join Julie for a craft activity including stamping and card making. Adults and children welcome. Please call 01283 480272/ 07971 268943 for more details.

THURSDAY 29TH MARCH

Whist Drive

Every other Thursday afternoon, held in the Methodist Hall Alrewas start 2pm £1 with tea & biscuits at half time. Contact: Georgina Rowlands Tel: 07977912752

FRIDAY 30TH MARCH

Friendly Fridays

Friendly Fridays, aimed at those living well with dementia and their carers. Brehouse's cosy cinema space at 1.30pm. We enjoy music with low lighting and controlled sound levels with tea and biscuits.

SATURDAY 31ST MARCH

Disco & Street Dance Classes

Fun classes and expert tuition for 3 - 8 years in Branston Village Hall every Saturday. Call Pat Miller for more information: 07973 478444

SUNDAY 1ST APRIL

Burton Ramblers

Walks most Saturdays, Sundays and every other Wednesday. All walkers welcome to join this friendly local group, walking in Staffs, Derbys and Leics. Please visit our website for more information. www.burtonramblers.org.uk Contact: Burton Ramblers Tel: 07724 352529

TUESDAY 3RD APRIL

Burton Hospitals Friends Bingo

First Tuesday of every month. £1.00 admission this includes refreshments at half time. Raffle and Tombola available to add to the fun of the evening. All proceeds are directed to Queens Hospital to provide the extras for patients and staff. Contact: Julie Hammond Tel: 07517126935

WEDNESDAY 4TH APRIL

Burton Abbey WI

Meeting at the Brehouse on the first Wednesday of the month at 10am to 12 noon. Good Speakers, refreshments, also days out organised. New members welcome. For more information contact Pauline Gaskin 01283 565620

Barton-Under-Needwood WI

1st Wednesday of every month at The Village Hall, Strawberry Lane. Meeting 7.30-9.30 with good speakers, refreshments and fun. Organised events and trips throughout the year. New members and visitors always welcome.

THURSDAY 5TH APRIL

Burton Friendship Club

Meets the 1st Thursday in every month 10am for 10.30am in the Rolleston Club. Join us for speakers, quizzes, games, lunches, coffee mornings, day trips and holidays. Phone Stuart and Penny 01283-716626

Find more events on our website

Friendship Circle

Meets at 7.30 pm on the first and third Thursday of every month in the schoolroom at the rear of Stretton Methodist Church. We meet for activities, speakers, trips and friendship. All are most welcome. For further information contact Iris on 01283 546909.

FRIDAY 6TH APRIL

Burton Flower Club

Meeting at the Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton on the first Friday of most months at 7.30pm. Enjoy flower arranging demonstrations, workshops, flower themed outings and more. Visitors £4. Find us at www.flowersnorthmidlands.co.uk / phone 01283 704180

SATURDAY 7TH APRIL

French With Songs

French with songs, games and fun for children nearly 4 - 9 years, Saturday morning classes in Lichfield at the Tesco community room. Baby and toddler class too - learn to sing 'Wind the Bobbin up' in French! Email juliesfrenchclasses@gmail.com.

SUNDAY 8TH APRIL

Burton Greyhounds Monthly Walk

Greyhounds love to meet their own kind! Our monthly social walk is on the first Sunday of the month starting at 2pm. The venue is variable, but within about a 5 mile radius of Burton. We usually finish somewhere we can have refreshments. Usual polite dog-walking rules apply. For more information email: woodlandslulu@yahoo.co.uk

MONDAY 9TH APRIL

Disco & Street Dance Classes

Fun classes and expert tuition for 8 to 12 year olds in Burton every Monday. Call Pat Miller for more information: 07973 478444

TUESDAY 10TH APRIL

Branston Womens' Institute

Our meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. We are a friendly group and try to mix our meetings with interesting talks, craft, trips and social events. It is for ladies of any age. Visitors are most welcome. Contact Mrs Barbara Reeves, President, tel. 01283 546536

Walton-on-Trent WI

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm Walton - on- Trent WI. We are a small friendly group who meet in Walton Village Hall. Come and join us for fun, friendship, learning and sharing. For more information contact Joan on 01283 713380

WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL

Quiz

Every Wednesday evening at Rolleston Club. Weekly free quiz, open to members and non members. Prize is six drinks tokens. There is a play your cards right game for £1 entry. Contact: Claire Tel: 01283 01283 812072

Stretton & Claymills Women's Institute

From 7.15pm-9.30pm in the Priory Centre in Stretton. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month. First meeting is free and we are a friendly WI which has super trips and events and new members are warmly welcomed.

THURSDAY 12TH APRIL

Burton Belles Women's Institute

From 7.15pm-9.30pm. We meet at the St Chads Centre DE14 2SS on the 2nd Thursday of the month. First timers can visit for free and then you can decide whether to pay £4 a month or £41 a year. The October meeting is a Craft Workshop. There will also be refreshments and a raffle. Come along, make new friends, try something new and have fun. Contact: Wendy Plant Tel: 07772548230

FRIDAY 13TH APRIL

Latin In-line Dancing Class

No partners required! Enjoy cha-cha, salsa, mambo, rumba etc. Friday 13th, 20th April, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th May. Improver level 10.30-11.30am and Beginner level 11.45-12.45pm £4.00 each class at the Priory Centre Church Rd Stretton DE13 0HE. Ring 07598159744 or email larhiney@hotmail.com for more details.

SATURDAY 14TH APRIL

Needwood Singers Spring Concert

Performing Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle at 7.30pm. in the church of St. John the Baptist, Shenstone, WS14 0JB. Tickets £12 in advance or £15 on the door (under 16s free) and will include interval refreshments. Tickets available from Phil on 07973239693, any member of the choir or on the door.

SUNDAY 15TH APRIL

Burton Vintage Retro & Craft Fair

Live entertainment & refreshments with over 70 stalls. Open 11am - 3pm at Burton Town Hall, DE14 2EB. £1 entry, under 16s free. Contact Olive: 07588 816987

MONDAY 16TH APRIL

Three Spires Lace Group

Every Monday, informal group learning various styles of lacemaking with a qualified tutor. At Curborough Community Centre, Lichfield. Very sociable and friendly. Contact: Anita Toohill: 01283 791301

THURSDAY 19TH APRIL

Rangemore & Tatenhill WI.

Third Thursday monthly, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Henhurst & District Recreational Club, Henhurst Hill, DE13 9TB. Friendship, refreshments, excellent speakers, trips, events, craft club. Not just for ladies of a certain age, and certainly not just "Jam & Jerusalem"! Visitors most welcome. Contact: Lesley Walker Tel: 01283 561337

COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to our **Delhi Divan** competition winners, each winning a £50 voucher:

**Graham Fisher, Stretton
Jessica Peltier, Burton-on-Trent
Shena Scarratt, Barton
Christine Jamieson, Brilzincote**

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2	1	4	7	9	3	8	6	5
9	6	5	2	7	1	3	4	8
8	2	3	4	6	9	5	7	1
7	4	1	3	5	8	9	2	6
1	9	8	6	3	7	2	5	4
5	7	6	9	4	2	1	8	3
4	3	2	1	8	5	6	9	7

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	2			9	6			3
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3		5						
			7	1	2			
						8		9
			3				1	7
1			8	4			3	
9			1			5	6	

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