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# ISSUE 115 FREE

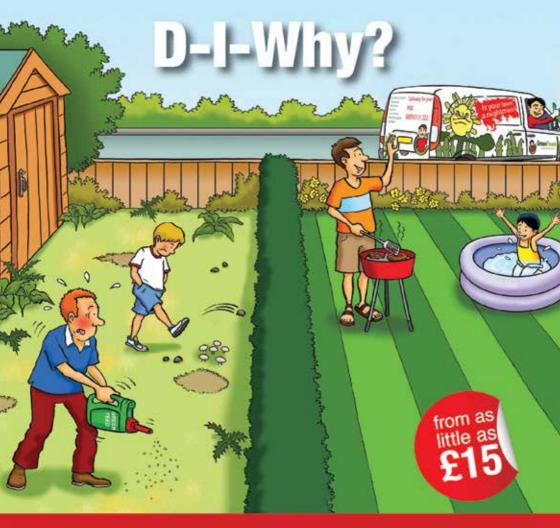
WELLY WONDERS Repurpose your leaky boots

EARTH DAY Clean up your plastic act

# WIN a PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION with Lucinda Smith

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Dear Readers,

The weather is so crazy changeable in April! Rain, sunshine, wind, who knows...snow? If you're in need of some new rainboots and are stuck for an idea of what to do with your old leaky ones, have a peep at our upcycling article this month. It's bootylicious!

With May just around the corner, we hope it brings with it some better days. There's nothing that heralds the summer more than May Day, with maypoles and festivals up and down the country, have you ever given a thought to those beautiful ribbon patterns?

We've also got some fab ideas of birthday gifts for those extra special milestone birthdays, so this month you won't be stuck for gift ideas!

Now run outside and enjoy the sunshine when it appears!

## The LOCAL LINKS team



Next issue deadline: Tue 8th May

Next issue out from: Wed 16th May This magazine delivered free to: Branston, Brizlincote Valley, Rolleston,

Stretton & Walton on Trent We also deliver a magazine free to:

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ISSUE 115

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## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Including: Angela Sargent, Molly Maid, Lucinda Smith, Alan Parsons



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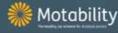


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## **Welly Wonders**

With the cold weather behind us and the rainy April days ahead of us, this is the time when most of us find out we have a hole in our wellington boot! The one soggy foot walk home after a day out is not the most pleasant experience and can leave you hating that traitorous boot!

Well, rather than throwing the traitor out, why not repurpose them into a useful garden object?

## PLAYFUL GARDEN PLANTER



## You'll Need:

Scissors Pebbles Newspaper Compost Plants

## What You Do:

Puncture or cut some small holes around the base of the boot to allow some drainage. That darn boot was good at letting water in but it might not drain away quickly so just add to the hole problem!

Fill the bottom of the boot with about 3" deep of pebbles, this will help drainage.

Scrunch up some sheets of newspaper and pad out the bottom of the boot on top of the gravel leaving about 6" of space at the top. If you've got short ankle boots you may not need this step.

Fill the rest of the boot with compost to the top. Plant your flowers or grasses in the top of the wellington boot according to the plant instructions and water in well.

Create several colourful planted wellies and line them up near your door or attach them to a fence for height!

## BOOTY BIRD HOUSE



You'll Need: Off-cuts of wood Screws Scissors

## What You Do:

Cut a 1" hole in the front of each boot that you are using.

Screw each boot from the inside to a plank of wood and attach this shelf to a fence or tree high up where the birds will feel safe from predators.

Attach two sections of wood big enough to shelter the top open part of the boot (approximately  $6'' \times 4''$ ) together at right angles. Cut a piece of wood angled at each end to fit in the larger right angled pieces. Attach to the larger roof part (these pieces will help to keep out wind and rain and help the roof hold on to the top of the boot).

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## **Earth Day**

🥆 pring is a time when we can <u>almost feel the</u> countryside coming to life, from insects and appearing, birds buzzing and chattering, to buds appearing on the trees. Everything feels vibrant and full of lively potential. It is more important than ever to work to protect the planet and leave as little an imprint on it as possible. After all, it is our only home!

Recently there have been proposals to introduce a plastic bottle recycling scheme in the UK with a refundable deposit paid on each plastic bottle bought. Whatever your thoughts on the idea, something needs to be done about our reliance on single use plastics and the horror they are creating in the oceans.

On April the 22nd it's Earth Day with a focus this year on putting an end to plastic pollution. From

injuring poisoning and marine life to disrupting from human hormones. littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet. In response, Earth Day 2018 is dedicated to providing the information and inspiration needed to fundamentally change human attitude and behaviour about plastics.

Earth Day Network's mission is to diversify, educate and activate the environmental movement worldwide. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world. They work through a combination of education, public policy, and consumer campaigns. The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. Twenty years later, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage.

So this Earth Day, why not gather a group of friends and family together and pick up litter in your local community. Every small thing will help to repair the damage we've done to this now plastic planet.



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## 10 LOCAL LINKS Issue 115

safe

## By The Barn by Angela Sargent



pril is here and spring has sprung – the days are getting longer, the birds are singing, the Bees are buzzing and the trees are opening their leaves. How wonderful after such a cold, late winter!

Our arable fields will receive a dose of fertiliser. Although the land was mucked before sowing, the growing crop needs to be fed in order to vield for us, both in seed and straw. This application will be artificial fertiliser, the main

nutrients being Nitrogen, phosphate and potash in whichever ratio we think our crops need, in consultation with our agronomist.

Potash (potassium) is mined in places like Canada, Russia and China, Phosphate can be obtained from animal manures or crushed rock and nitrogen fertiliser is made from ammonia. Growing crops take much nutrient out of the soil and this needs to be replenished. In this country, we use much less than France and other countries.

Crops need taking care of if they are to supply us, be it as flour or vegetables, with a significant harvest and that includes keeping them pest and weed free.

One way of doing this is to use chemicals, such as Glyphosate, in a highly researched and regulated environment. Using Glyphosate, for example, allows low tillage for conservation, whereas using mechanical tillage destroys habitat for Lapwings and other ground nesting birds and Bees and insects. In fact, almost three guarters of all farmed land is covered by a nutrient management plan - which limits the amount and type of soil nutrient. Soil health is important to all sectors of agriculture and that is one of the reasons why we house our cattle over winter - it stops the ground getting trodden up and the structure of the soil being damaged, which means our grass will grow better to feed our animals.



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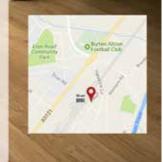
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## **Marvellous May**

hat could be more quintessentially and quirkily English than our traditional May Day celebrations on May the 1st? Chocolate box villages with the friendly gathering of the community and a maypole adorned with vibrant streaming ribbons in the centre of the green.

Well it may surprise you to learn that the earliest May Day celebrations appeared with the Floralia, festival of Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers. The celebration is also associated with the Gaelic Beltane, and was a traditional summer holiday in many European pagan cultures.

**Europe became Christianised** and the pagan holidays lost religious character. their May Day changed into a popular secular celebration. secular versions The May Day, of observed Europe and North in America, are be best known

for their traditions of dancing around the maypole and crowning the Queen of May. Fading in popularity since the late 20th century is the giving of "May baskets," small baskets of sweets flowers, usually left or anonymously on neighbours' doorsteps.Did you know that different maypole dances result in different ribbon weave patterns around the maypole?

## The Barber's Pole

This produces a lovely twisted stripe pattern in one direction around the pole.



## The Spider's Web

Not all maypole patterns are tight to the pole, the spider's web forms a tented ribbon canopy reminiscent of a spider's web.



## **The Plait**

This is the most complex maypole dance and involves dancers moving in both directions weaving in and out between each other. It creates a beautiful braided rope like pattern around the pole.



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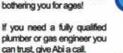
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## **Best of Birthdays**

r irthdays are a must for us have started to 'settle down', celebrating. Don't let any of these marvellous milestones pass you by without having some fun. Birthdays different significance have for different people and cultures. Whether you choose to have a party or just a quiet celebration, here's how to make them memorable for all the right reasons!

## 1st Birthday

First birthday parties point to the future. Inscribe a copy of a favourite childhood book of yours, for him or her to enjoy in years to come.

## 18th Birthdau

Turning 18 officially marks the end of childhood. Now you're an adult, you can make your own decisions, you can vote and you can drink down the pub! Traditional gifts, such as keys and tankards, symbolise this new stage of life.

## 21st Birthday

Twenty-one was once the age of majority, and although this changed to 18 way back in 1969, the 21st is still the 'important' birthday for many people, as Prince William's much publicised bash at Windsor Castle demonstrated. As a gift, buy the birthday boy or girl a copy of the newspaper from the day they were born.

## 30th Birthday

Thirty is an age when many of

making fancy household items a good gift choice. Why not throw a 1930s party to celebrate your new decade, with big band music and classic fashion styles. Base it around a Chicago gangsters theme, or get your dancing shoes, Fred and Ginger style.

## 40th Birthdai

You're only young once, but you can stay immature indefinitely! A' great gift idea is to club together to buy the birthday person an 'experience'. It could be a weekend at a health spa, hot air ballooning, or a day's gokarting. Give them something they've always wanted to do.

## 60th Birthdau

For many, turning 60 means swapping full-time work for full-time fun. Why not learn a new skill to celebrate your newfound freedom? Try dancing, art, cordon bleu cooking or a language - anything you've always wanted to do, but never found the time for before.

You don't have to slow down at 60. Playing to a crowd of 80,000 fans was part of famous granddad Mick Jagger's 60th birthday celebration. Proof, if any were needed, that you're never too old to rock 'n' roll...

## tOth Birthdau

Jenny Wood Allen started running at the age of 71, broke the London marathon record for the oldest female over 70 and took part in the race at the age of 90. Her achievement shows that it's never too late to take up a new experience.

## 80th Birthday

'Youth has no age," said Pablo Picasso, and he should have known. The artist produced 140 canvases in his late 80s and carried on painting right until the end of his 91 years. Why not splash out on an art course for an octogenarian?

## 90th Birthdau

Reaching 90 is a major achievement. The average life expectancy in the UK is 75 for men and 80 for women. Ninety years of memories means an enormous collection of photographs. Some elegant photo frames could be just the thing. Or how about compiling a family tree?

## 100th Birthdau

Congratulations! Don't miss out on your message from the Queen! To receive yours, you need to complete a form and send it no sooner than three weeks prior to the anniversary date to: The Anniversaries Office, Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA. You can download the form from the Internet at www.royal.gov.uk.

How ever many years you've got, we hope you always feel young at heart!







or this month's competition, one lucky reader can win £200 worth of photography at Lucinda Smith Photography, with studio session prizes for a Runner-Ups, too.

Lucinda Smith has been bringing a sense of fun and spontaneity to family, baby, newborn, cake smash and lifestyle portrait photography for over a decade. Lucinda offers a wonderful portrait experience followed by beautiful photographs that you will always treasure.

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beautiful village of Tatenhill, Burton on Trent which is surrounded by magnificent countryside, making the perfect location for relaxed outdoor lifestyle images.

Our lucky First Prize winner will receive a complementary studio photo session, plus £200 worth of product vouchers, while our Runner-Ups will receive not only a studio photo session, but also a complementary 7" by 5" print.

To enter this month's competition, all you have to do is put your *name*, *address and daytime telephone contact* 

number on a postcard and send it to: Local Links Media, Suite 29, Anglesey Business Park, Anglesey Road, Burton-upon-Trent

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Alternatively, you can e-mail your details to: local@locallinksmedia.co.uk

The closing date for entries is the 15th May and the winners will be announced in our June edition. Good luck to everyone who enters!

No cash alternative is available to vouchers. One entry per person.



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## **Newcomer of the Year!**



OLLY MAID, the UK's leading professional home cleaning company, has just returned from their National Convention entitled "Excel and Exceed" following an

inspirational three days where Gill Dawson, from MOLLY MAID Burton On Trent truly shone. This year, MOLLY MAID turned Rookery Hall Hotel in Nantwich, with its impressive setting, into its home for three days.

The Convention was concluded with a MOLLY MAID star-studded Gala dinner and awards ceremony where Gill Dawson, who runs MOLLY MAID Burton On Trent, was awarded the prestigious title of New Franchise of the Year Award 2017. Gill said, "I am thrilled to be winning this award. Our teams do a fantastic job at keeping homes sparkling, and our loyal customers are a testament to that. I believe in the strong brand of MOLLY MAID and am determined to continue in my quest to become even more successful in the future.

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## What's On Guide

### TUESDAY 24TH APRIL

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 25TH APRIL

### 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 26TH APRIL**

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 27TH APRIL

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

### SATURDAY 28TH APRIL

Central Stage Academy

Performing arts class in Barton under Needwood. We will be offering both drama and singing classes for young people as well as performance opportunities, LAMDA speech and drama exams and LCM singing exams. Please contact us to book your child's place on either: 07957 461 569 or info@central-stage.co.uk. For more information please visit www.centralstage.co.uk or find us on Facebook at Central Stage Academy.

### SUNDAY 29TH APRIL

### 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. 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 30TH APRIL

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

### **TUESDAY 1ST MAY**

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

### Bingo

Held on the first Tuesday of every month at Burton Town Hall. Doors opén 6pm, Eyes Down 7.30pm. Admission £1, with Tombola and Raffle. Free Refreshments.

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 2ND MAY Burton Abbev W

Meeting at the Brewhouse 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, Crowberry 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 3RD MAY

**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

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 4TH MAY 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 5TH MAY

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 6TH MAY

### 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

### **Claymills Victorian Pumping Station**

Come and see four giant beam engines and more than 20 other stationary steam engines in action. Children's activities, other attractions, great café! May 6th and 7th, 27th and 28th, and August 26th and 27th

### MONDAY 7TH MAY

### 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 8TH MAY

### 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

## Find more events on our website

### WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY

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.

### 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

### THURSDAY 10TH MAY

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. Come along, make new friends, try something new and have fun. Contact: Wendy Plant Tel: 07772548230

### FRIDAY 11TH MAY

### Bingo at Barton Bowls Club

On the 2nd Friday of every month. Members guests and new members always welcome . Eyes down at 8pm followed by Kids Chocolate Bingo. Come and have a laugh! The more there are, the bigger the prize!

### SATURDAY 12TH MAY

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 13TH MAY Burton Parade

The Burton and District Section of The Vintage Motorcycle Club have the 36th annual running of the Burton Parade on May 13th. Starting from Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton at 10:30am.The old motorcycles will pass through many villages in Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire before returning to Marston's around 1:00pm. Public welcome to view start and finish free of charge.

### MONDAY 14TH MAY

### 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 15TH MAY

## 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

## WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY

### 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

### 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 17TH MAY

Rangemore & Tatenhill W.I.

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

### FRIDAY 18TH MAY

### Latin In-line Dancing Class

No partners required! Enjoy cha-cha, salsa, mambo, rumba etc. Friday 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 19TH MAY

Derby Cats' Protection Fundraising St Peter's Street, Derby on Saturday 19th May from 10 am till 4 pm. They sell cat catalogue items, donated toiletries and a good selection of cat related books both fictional and factual. They also have general cat welfare information including how you can have your cat neutered for £10 if you are on a low income AND a fun tombola. For further info, contact enquiries@derbybranch. cats.org.uk

### SUNDAY 20TH MAY 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

### MONDAY 21ST MAY

### Stapenhill W.I.

3rd Monday of Every Month Stapenhill WI meet at Immanuel Church Hawthorn Crescent. Meeting 10am – 12 midday with good speakers and refreshments and fun. Lots of outings and other groups too - Everyone welcome. For more info. contact Rosemary Marsden 01283 561959 or email t.rbmarsden@ tiscali.co.uk

### 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

## **COMPETITION WINNERS**

Congratulations to our **Swiftsure Travel** competition winners, each winning a £50 voucher:

### Miss. N. Parker, Stapenhill Sally Baulk, Stretton Christine Walton, Barton Mrs. Beverley Wells, Barton

Look out elsewhere in **LOCAL LINKS** this month to win XXXXXXX

## LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU PUZZLE SOLUTION

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







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## Spring is Here - Really, it is! by Alan Parsons

You might be forgiven for thinking that this is January or February with cold winds, snow and heavy rain for much of the last few weeks. But it is in fact April when, according to the books, new life should be bursting forth in the garden. So how do we combine such terrible weather with our love of gardening?

The trick is to make the most of the dry spells to do the essential work in the garden and prepare ourselves for warmer and drier days. If your garden is anything like my own then the lawn and beds are totally sodden and should not be walked on as it will damage the structure. There is no point in trying to dig over a bed at present, but there are several jobs we can do.

If you are fortunate enough to have a greenhouse or sun house then give it a good spring clean getting rid of all the pests that have overwintered in it, and wipe the glass to let more of the weak spring sunlight in. It is not too late to start seeds of tomatoes and many brassicas for planting out when the weather improves, and if you have spring cabbages in the ground then a feed with a high nitrogen fertiliser will give them a lift.

This is the time of year that many vegetables that you have grown from seed, including potatoes that have chitted, would normally be put into the ground. However, wait if you can until the water has drained away, and the weather has warmed a bit, or they may just rot. It is always a judgement call as to when to plant out, but in general late planted crops will catch up and often overtake those planted in cold wet conditions.



One thing that you can try, especially if you have limited space, is a herb ladder. You can buy these (or if you are handy make one out of decking) and they are ideal for herbs and flowers plus hardening off trays of produce before they are planted out. Put one against a sunny wall and it will make an attractive addition to your garden.

If you have an allotment or a vegetable area in your garden then a covering of horticultural fleece, or black plastic if it is not too wet, will help the ground to warm up and will also keep the weeds at bay.

Finally, don't forget our feathered friends. The birds in our garden get through a lot of seeds from our feeders each day, but I consider it an investment as they will then be around to feed on the caterpillars and insect pests we will get when the weather warms up.

So, do not despair! Warmer weather will certainly come, we can take this time to prepare for better days.

If you are interested in growing more, and live in Stretton, then Stretton allotments have some that have come available. Email strettonallotments@hotmail.com

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## **Decades of 'dos**

he 20th century saw the emergence of many of today's iconic hairstyles for women. With retro & vintage fashions falling in and out of favour, many of these styles can be seen on the high street today! Here's

a few of the most memorable...

## The 1920s

Following from the World War in 1918. many women were wearing shorter, more practical haircuts but this didn't mean there was a lack of style. The bob haircut, was worn by French fashion designer Coco Chanel and became popular during the 20s. It was considered a shocking hairstyle in more reserved social circles.

## The 1930s

During this decade women's hair got longer and softer waves became the fashion.

Barrel curls and pin curls were often worn with a sleek side parting. German actress Marlene Dietrich showed off this style in particularly spectacular fashion.

## The 1940s

Despite the rationing and hardships of the Second World War,

women continued to style their hair in elegant ways. Swedish actress Ingrid Bergman wore one of the hottest styles of the era victory rolls. This style was named after a World War Two aerobatic maneuver, and was characterized by voluminous curls that framed the face. Later, victory rolls would come to be closely associated with the pin-up look.

## The 1950s

The big, bold bouffant was one of the most popular women's hairstyles of the 1950s and

reflected a return to big lavish hair after plainer wartime styles. The beehive first surfaced in the mid-1950s.lt went on to be worn by Jackie Kennedy, who was no doubt responsible for its continued fashionable status into the 1960s.

## The 1960s

In the 1960s the sharp cut bob was seen on all the most fashionable heads. The '60s were a high point

in the hair timeline, with an abundance of strong looks, but it's hard to think of a more spectacular hairstyle than this.

The 1970s Long hair made a comeback with a bang in this decade. Styled with a fringe and an outward flick framing



face. The most iconic example of this was Farrah Fawcett's feathered flick . In contrast to the sharp looks of the previous decade, Fawcett's free-falling locks were parted and gently teased back, creating a stylish yet natural-feeling look.

## The 1980s

Big, big, big was the order of the day. The bigger the hair the better! Massive



perms, teasing and

enough hair spray to create a hole in the ozone layer. With the advent of the MTV generation this style got a lot of exposure throughout the world quickly.

## The 1990s

The biggest hair craze of this decade, and who can forget it, was the 'Rachel' hairstyle, worn



by Jennifer Aniston in the the hit TV series 'Friends'. This style was a long layered shoulder length hairdo with bounce and a side swept fringe.

## The 2000s

Self-styled fashionista Victoria Beckham is responsible for the iconic haircut of

the noughties the inverted bob, sleek and manageable this was the ideal haircut for a professional mum.





the

## LOCAL LINKS SUDOKU

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

Sudoku is a logic puzzle where you follow one simple rule:

Simply fill in the boxes so that the nine rows, the nine columns, and the nine 3x3 squares all contain every digit from 1-9. LLS-65-22





DURHAM CITY & WEARDALE Also visiting the Bowes Museum & Hexham. DBB at the four-star Radisson Blu Hotel on the riverbank. Friday 11th May 2018 for 4 days. £296 pp.

## COASTAL CORNWALL

Visits to Falmouth, Padstow, St Ives and The Lizard DBB at the highly-rated Rosemundy House Hotel in St Agnes Monday 21st May 2018 for 6 days. £405 pp.

## LYTHAM: 'Transport of Delight'

Blackpool Tram, East Lancs Railway & Lancaster Canal DBB at the popular St lves Hotel in Lytham St Annes Monday 4th June 2018 for 5 days. £292 pp.

EASTBOURNE. Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park Gardens & Bentley Motor Museum & Wildfowl Reserve. DBB at the Lansdowne Hotel on the sea front at Eastbourne Monday 11th June 2018 for 5 days. £352 pp.

BOURNEMOUTH. Compton Acres Gardens, The New Forest and the Swanage Railway. DBB at the Sundiff Hotel on East Oiff, overlooking the bay. Monday 18th June 2018 for 5 days. £325 pp.

## DAY TRIPS

HIGH PEAK TOUR via Millers Dale, Castleton & Ladybower Wedn. 25th April. QUICK TRIP from New Street only. £16 CHESTERFIELD on Market Day, plus visit to Matlock Bath. Monday 30th April. Adult £14.30 Senior £12.80 LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS & WOODALL SPA Friday 4th May. QUICK TRIP from New Street only. £16 BRIDLINGTON B/Hol. Monday 7th May. Adult £22.30 Senior £19.80 FOR A LIST OF ALL OUR





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