

LOCAL LINKS



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ISSUE 157
FREE

FESTIVE FUN

Staffordshire events with Christmas cheer

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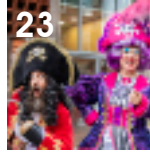
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*Subject to terms and conditions

LOCAL LINKS



ISSUE 157

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Dear Readers,

"We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!"... Trust us, you're lucky you're just reading that and not hearing us sing it!

We've got festive cheer to fill your santa boots with in this issue! Local events, a leftover chocolates recipe, a panto review from our very own Rhian, two sparkly drinks to make.... "and a partridge in a pear tree!"...ok maybe not that. We must be giddy on the mince pies already!

Gosh, now we're exhausted! If like us you'll be looking for some down-time after the festive season why not enter this month's competition to win a voucher from the lovely folks at Delhi Divan. Let someone else do the cooking!

Sending you lots of love and seasons greetings!

The **LOCAL LINKS** team

"JINGLE BELLS! JINGLE BELLS! JIIIIIIINNGLE ALL TH....."

Next issue deadline:
Tues 22nd December

Next issue out from:
Wed 12th January

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delivered free to:

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Brizlincote Valley,
Rolleston,

Stretton &
Walton on Trent

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magazine free to:

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Barton,
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Festive Fun

This year why not make your way to some of the fabulous festive events taking place in and around Burton!



Santa's Best Christmas Ever

17th December 1pm & 4.30pm at the Brewhouse Arts Centre

Join Father Christmas and friends in this brand new, festive, musical and interactive adventure to make 2021 Santa's Best Ever Christmas! It's a family show most suitable for 2-7 year olds, where every child will receive a specially wrapped present from Santa - after the most Christmassy Christmas show ever!

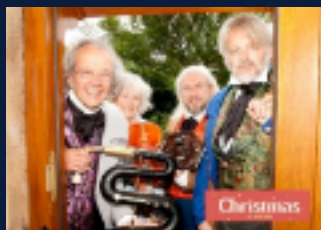


Winter Young Traders Market

18th December from 9am in the Burton Market Hall & Place

Be sure to pay a visit to the Young Traders Market this festive season and discover a wide range of products from

creative and innovative small businesses run by traders aged 16-30, from across the region.



Mellstock Band

20th December 7pm at the Brewhouse Arts Centre

The Mellstock Band presents an evening of genuine sound of the English countryside - merry and majestic tunes, songs of love and laughter, carols and original harmonies. The Mellstock Band offer a unique combination of singing, instrumental music and spoken word, encompassing west gallery harmony, traditional songs, glees, dances, marches, poems and stories.



Illuminated Arboretum

From 7th - 18th December at the National Memorial Arboretum

An evening to remember as they light-up their iconic grounds after hours and begin the festive season with a kaleidoscope of colour. With something to captivate visitors of all ages Illuminated

Arboretum will take place across the 150-acre woodland site with a range of exciting and interactive installations. This year, they have also introduced 'relaxed' sessions, with less prominent lighting and sound features, for those who would prefer this. These sessions take place at 4.30pm on 8th and 15th December.



The Cathedral Illuminated

Thursday 16 December - Wednesday 22 December | 17:30 onwards at Lichfield Cathedral

The Cathedral Illuminated is a stunning light and sound experience with projections onto the Lichfield Cathedral School Palace building and onto the west front of the Cathedral, visitors are then invited into the Cathedral to visit the Crib and walk through the Christmas Tree Festival. This year's event 'The Manger' is composed of beautiful imagery depicting everything 'Christmassy' and a stunning re-telling of the Christmas story, all created by the artistic collaboration Luxmuralis.

So wrap up warm and head on out for some festive fun this Christmas season!

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The logo for 'Home and Trade' is centered in the middle of the advertisement. It features the word 'Home' in a large, blue, sans-serif font, with 'and' in a smaller, italicized blue font below it, and 'Trade' in a large, blue, sans-serif font below that. The entire text is enclosed within a blue outline of a house roof.

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St Stephen's Day

Saint Stephen's Day is the second day of Christmastide and is celebrated in honour of one of the first Christian martyrs, Saint Stephen, who was stoned to death in 36 AD.

It is said he was a deacon in the early Church at Jerusalem who was accused of blasphemy and was stoned to death. His martyrdom was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus, also known as Paul, a Pharisee and Roman citizen who would later become a Christian apostle.

In the United Kingdom and some Commonwealth countries, the 26th December is commonly known as Boxing Day, which takes its name from the practice of giving small gifts to household servants on that day for their work throughout the year.

In Ireland the holiday is sometimes called Wren Day, because in the past a wren would be killed and taken door-to-door by children asking for money in exchange for a wren's feather, which people believed brought good luck. The tradition of going house-to-house on St

Stephen's Day survives in many countries, especially in Scandinavia, where the day is observed by visiting friends and going to parties.



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By The Barn *by Angela Sargent*

End of the year fast approaching and dark nights, short days are now the norm!

Lighting in sheds must be safe so as not to injure any animal (or person) and is obviously used much more. Headlights on machinery are also used much more and anyone working in the vicinity really ought to be wearing hi-viz.

Some farmers will be carrying out field work, particularly on later harvested crop fields where such as maize or field beans had grown.

Hedge laying will begin as the sap stops rising- essential for keeping animals where they

are safe and logs can be retrieved for later use on the fire. Elsewhere in the country where stone walls are the order of the day, these can also be repaired.

If we've had plenty of rain previously, our two old hay meadows may get a soaking from overflow from the boundary brooks. Although this tends to happen mainly during later winter months, it's not unknown for the brook to be out in the morning and gone by lunchtime.

Our Silver birch tree, the 'lady of the woods', is a beautiful tree, branches sweeping in the winds and fronds of leaves whipping round and the leaves

get everywhere- piles blown into every corner, providing cover for little animals go hide in as they search for food.

Ted will be working hard, moving sheep around their grazing and helping to fetch lambs in for weighing.

Follow me on Instagram [angela.sargent61](https://www.instagram.com/angela.sargent61) or Twitter [@bythebarn](https://twitter.com/bythebarn) or visit our website: www.baldfields-farm.co.uk

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Left-over Choc Bites

Just when you think you've eaten all the chocolate you possibly can, along comes a second wind! By this point though, it's likely that it's only 'randoms' left in the chocolate tin! Why not make this fun snack to keep your chocolate cravings at bay and use up the last of the Christmas treats. Every bite is an adventure!



Choc Bites

Ingredients

250g Dark chocolate
200g Milk chocolate
200g Butter
150g Golden syrup
100g Digestive biscuits
75g Mini marshmallows
250g left over chocolates

Method

Line an 8" square tin with baking paper. Grease the tin first with a little butter to help the paper stick to it.

Chop up your leftover chocolates into chunks and bash up your biscuits into pieces.

Put the butter, golden syrup, dark chocolate and milk chocolate in a pan and melt together on a low heat, stirring together as it melts.

Once it's fully melted and combined, take the pan off the heat.

Prepare a bowl with the broken up biscuits, marshmallows and about two thirds of the chopped up chocolates (reserve the rest for decorating the top).

Stir in the biscuits & marshmallows.

Pour about two thirds of the chocolate mixture into the bowl of biscuits etc. and stir to fully coat the fillings with chocolate.

Pour the whole lot into the

lined tin, smooth down then add the remaining chocolate mixture to fill in any gaps.

Add the remaining left over chocolate chunks to the top to decorate.

Put in the fridge overnight, or for 3-4 hours to set.

To serve, remove from the tin and chop into slices using a sharp knife.

If you store the chock bites in an airtight container it can be kept for 1 - 2 weeks, and up to 3 weeks in the fridge. It is best kept in the fridge.

Did you know?

Quality Street is the brand name for a selection of individual tinned or boxed toffees, chocolates and sweets, first manufactured by Mackintosh's in Halifax, West Yorkshire, England, in 1936. It was named after J.M. Barrie's play Quality Street. J.M. Barrie famously also wrote Peter Pan!

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Fun For All The Family *by Rhian Warriner*

A Fantastic night out which would suit any age from smaller children to Grandparents.



Having successfully detached my 10 year old from technology we headed to watch **Peter Pan at the Garrick Theatre**. Laughs are a plenty in this fantastic production and to see my son belly laughing throughout was a joy to behold. The Dame Mrs Smee (Sam Rabone) was undoubtedly the star of the show and was by far my son's favourite character. The whole cast were brilliant and engaged the audience throughout making this a memorable night and perfect for a bit of Festive cheer. Plenty of Boos, 'He's behind you' and 'Oh no he didn't' made this an amazing immersive experience that I will be sure to be repeating each year. The show will be running until the 2nd of January, go on treat yourself you won't be disappointed.

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Murray's Goes Green

Murray's Funeral Directors of Burton, Derby, Swadlincote & Barton, have just taken delivery of their new grey Mercedes hybrid hearse and limousine and are proud to be the first Funeral Directors in the Derbyshire and Staffordshire area to be able to provide a zero-emissions funeral cortege, working alongside a fully electric Nissan Leaf which they introduced last month.

Owner David Barke commented "We understand that families are more aware and concerned about their impact on the environment and now look at ways to reduce this, so we are immensely proud to play our part in this move towards a

greener society. The new vehicles allow us to continue to be at the forefront of both contemporary and traditional funerals."

When Murray's opened in 1999 my wife Sue, was one of a handful of female Funeral Directors, throughout the country, something which is now commonplace. Their drive to Zero emissions funerals is just another example of their progressive outlook. Giving their families choice for their loved one's funeral arrangements, whether that is Green Funeral providing willow coffins and using their zero emissions vehicles, or travelling to the funeral in a speciality vehicle, Morris Minor, VW Camper, Motor bike or Horse drawn

Hearse pulled by white horses.

Murray's ethos: Care, Compassion & Community is at the heart of everything they do. They were proud to win the Best Customer Service Performance Award at the East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire business awards earlier this month, and their new fleet is just another example of putting their customers first, providing the absolute best service they can.

For more information on Green and Eco-Funerals or other funeral enquiries please don't hesitate to contact Murray's Funeral Directors in Burton upon Trent, Barton under Needwood, Findern or Swadlincote.

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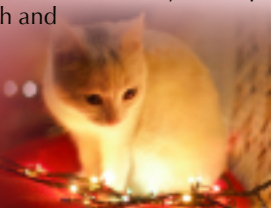
Is Your Christmas Tree Safe?



Cats Protection has lots of ideas on how to make your Christmas tree cat-safe this Christmas. Things you should remember to do include:

- Cover any wires leading to the tree by using plastic or cardboard tubes and making sure you switch your Christmas lights off at the mains when you're not home.
- Any hanging decorations should be hung closer to the top of the tree, out of reach of your cat's paws, and avoid using glass baubles or any decorations that could break easily and cause harm to your cat.
- If you HAVE to use tinsel, make sure you keep it out of your cat's reach and don't let them ingest it.

Have a safe Christmas everyone and a Happy and Healthy 2022.



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For this month's competition, FIVE lucky readers can win a £40 VOUCHER for use towards a sit in restaurant meal from **Delhi Divan, Alrewas.**

Delhi Divan specialise in regional dishes from all areas of the Indian subcontinent. Their chefs have compiled a selection of favourite dishes, and cooking styles that combine meat and vegetables cooked together to compliment each other.

Their chefs take pride in their menu. With particular

attention to detail, they strive to produce quality cuisine from the humble popadom to complex spicy dishes.

The experience and expertise at Delhi Divan means that the menu is deliciously traditional with contemporary options for the adventurous.

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To find out more about Delhi Divan visit their website at: **www.delhidivan.co.uk**

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

local@locallinksmedia.co.uk

Alternatively, you can post your details to:

**Local Links Media
Delhi Divan Competition
PO Box 8049
Burton-on-Trent
DE14 9NQ**

The closing date for entries is the 11th of January and the winners will be announced in our February edition.

Good luck to everyone who enters!



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Lichfield Garrick Recovery by Lichfield Garrick



Lichfield Garrick Theatre are to receive £135,024 from the third round of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund.

This award will help us manage the repercussions of the restrictions and temporary closure caused by the pandemic, as well as to continue our community activities and making our work accessible.

More than £100 million has been awarded to hundreds of cultural organisations across the country including Lichfield Garrick Theatre in the latest round of support from the Culture Recovery Fund, the Culture Secretary announced today.

The third round of funding will support organisations from all corners of the sector as they deal with ongoing reopening challenges, ensuring they can thrive in better times ahead.

Karen Foster said:

"This is the best news we could have had at this time. As a small, independent arts charity which has been closed

during Covid restrictions, this award will help to sustain us whilst protecting our staff, audience and performers.

Christmas came early to the Lichfield Garrick today with this wonderful news enabling us to look forward to a real Christmas with All New Adventures of Peter Pan, Mince Pie Mice and our Santa's Grotto all benefitting from the financial sustainability which this grant brings. My heartfelt thanks to the Arts Council England for this award and to the Chancellor for supporting the arts ecology which brings so much joy and economic benefit to our country."

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Virtual & Outdoor Events What's On Guide!

MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Beginners Watercolour - Uttoxeter

Every Monday at Thomas Alleyne's High School in Uttoxeter from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Ideal for anyone who has never painted before. For details or to enrol contact Ann on 07816 118776. Admission by prior registration only. www.artmoves.co.uk

TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Online Life Drawing

Free event. Donations welcome. Every Tuesday at 7pm and Friday at 10am. Our life drawing sessions are perfect whether you're a complete beginner or the next Picasso! www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-life-drawing-with-brixton-life-drawing-tickets-117373428083?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Priory Art Group

Every Wednesday morning 9.30 to 12. We are a small friendly group of artists meeting at the Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton. New members always welcome. Contact Sandra 01283 329743 or call in and see us.

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Coffee at the Castle

Free event, every Thursday. Starts 11am. A friendly results driven online networking event. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-coffee-at-the-castle-tickets-126994992441?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER

Knitting Group

Free event. Every Friday. Starts 3.30pm. Knitting with others ensures we are not alone and yet we can be productive as well. Whatever your knitting level is, is irrelevant. We pass on tips, show what we are doing and learn at the same time. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/knitting-group-tickets-134008140957?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

Release your inner Strictly!

Every Friday - no partners required for any class - Solo dancing - Dance latin steps in line - learn cha-cha, salsa, mambo, rumba, merengue, samba, waltz, quickstep etc. Intermediate class 9.45-10.45am £5.00. Beginner 11.00-11.45am £4.00. Venue: Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton DE13 0HE. For more information call 07598159744 or email larhiney@hotmail.com to book a place

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

Weekly Mandarin Corner

Free event. Every Saturday. Starts 2pm. Informal conversation sessions at two different levels (Beginner - Intermediate and Intermediate - Advanced) that enable you to get together with fellow classmates, make new friends and discuss Chinese language and culture in a relaxed, friendly environment. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/weekly-mandarin-corner-tickets-135709200873?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Vinyasa Flow Yoga

Every Sunday 10am. Contribution £5-£15 (pay what you can - contact for reduced rate due to financial circumstances). My yoga is for everyone. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-vinyasa-flow-yoga-live-online-tickets-100825465682?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

MONDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Kundalini Yoga & Gong Bath

Free event. Every Monday. Starts 7pm. Evening yoga class designed to inspire and give you the tools to transform your life and those around you. Open to all levels. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kundalini-yoga-and-gong-bath-online-tickets-55890355558?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

Beginners Watercolour - Tutbury

Every Monday at Tutbury Village Hall from 10am - 12 noon. Ideal for anyone who has never painted before. For details or to enrol contact Ann on 07816 118776. Admission by prior registration only. www.artmoves.co.uk

TUESDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Abstract Art Workshop

Donations welcome. Every Friday. Starts 7pm. This workshop is for everyone who wants to relax, who feels isolated with lockdown and wants to enjoy art and explore new ideas. Children, adults, families, all welcome www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/abstract-art-workshops-tickets-134217729843?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

WEDNESDAY 22ND DECEMBER

GCSE Yr11 Maths Top-Up

Free event every Wednesday. Starts 5pm. Supporting you, as you work your way through the Maths GCSE curriculum towards your exams in 2021. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gcse-yr-11-maths-weekly-top-up-tickets-127886695549?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER

Tahitian Dance with Hinatea

Free event, every Thursday, starts 6pm. Through this class, there is no worry over performance. The focus is on feeling good about ourselves, being kind with ourselves and having fun with our body. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tahitian-dance-with-hinatea-online-tickets-148335865567?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

MONDAY 27TH DECEMBER

Monday Meditation

Free event. Every Monday, starts 6.30pm. A free meditation session, online through Zoom, every week. I provide this as a free, spiritual practice to anyone who wants to practice meditation, and pranayama, as a gift. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-monday-meditation-live-online-tickets-100830191818?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

TUESDAY 28TH DECEMBER

Spirit Café

Free event. Every Saturday at 7.30pm. Live Spiritual Readings with our team. A great no pressure way to get insight, healing, and perspective. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-spirit-cafe-online-free-spiritual-readings-more-tickets-134687009471?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

WEDNESDAY 29TH DECEMBER

Reduce Procrastination Workshop

Free event, every day. Starts 7pm. Join this free 1-to-1 workshop to better understand how you can overcome procrastination and fatigue, in order to maintain sustainable high performance and consistency towards your business and life goals. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-reduce-procrastination-and-sustain-high-performance-tickets-134389696199?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

THURSDAY 30TH DECEMBER

Photography for Children

Free event, every day. Starts 7pm. Little eyes, Big stories A photography course for children aged 6+ to encourage them to think creatively and use what they have around the house. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-photography-course-for-children-tickets-155498944529?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

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SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY

Tai Chi Classes

Free event, every day. Starts 10am, 3pm or 7pm. The class starts with warming up exercises, deep breathing or Tao Yin and Kai Men Qigong which opens the energy channels. This takes about twenty minutes, then we have twenty minutes of Tai Chi dance and the beginners class is concentrating on the first ten moves. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lockdown-tai-chi-lee-style-online-global-daily-classes-registration-104447912518?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

MONDAY 3RD JANUARY

Drink & Draw

Free event. First Monday of the Month. Starts 7pm. Drink&Draw is a casual event, run by London ACM SIGGRAPH hosted online every first Monday of each month. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drinkdraw-2021-spring-zoom-edition-tickets-138439567473?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY

Anslow Art Class

Every Tuesday in term-time from 1-3pm. Suitable for beginners and improvers, lessons are project based but one-to-one guidance will help you to achieve your personal goals. £10 per class paid 6 weeks in advance or £12 per class paid weekly. £10 taster rate for first lesson. Please get in touch for more details and to book your place: helentarrat@gmail.com or call 07791228881

WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY

Barton WI

Meeting the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at St James's Hall Barton. For more information email pennycarthy@hotmail.co.uk

THURSDAY 6TH JANUARY

Creative Writing Workshop

Free event every Thursday. Starts 7pm. Flex your creative muscles, let your imagination flow and put your spiralling thoughts to paper in this light and friendly creative writing workshop. All levels and abilities welcome. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-writing-workshop-tickets-15288203247?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

FRIDAY 7TH JANUARY

Cribbage Club

Stretton Bowls Club, every Friday at 7.30pm

Latin In-line Dancing

Get fit, lose weight, have fun! Learn cha-cha, salsa, mambo, rumba, merengue, samba, waltz, quickstep every Friday. Advanced class 9.45-10.45am £5.00, Intermediate class 11.00-11.45am £4.00, Beginner class 12.00-12.45pm £4.00. Venue: Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton DE13 0HE. No partners required for any class - Solo dancing - Ring 07598159744 or email larhiney@hotmail.com for more details

SATURDAY 8TH JANUARY

Electronics Club For Children

Free event. Every Saturday, starts 6pm. 1 hour session every weekend on Electronics during weekends (delivered through Zoom). Each weekly session will have unique content and will build on the knowledge from the previous sessions. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/electronics-club-for-children-weekend-session-tickets-135845482495?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY

Intro to Coding Workshop

Free event. Every Sunday. Starts 1pm. This workshop is intended for those who have little or no experience in coding and want to find out if a career in web development is right for them. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/intro-to-coding-workshop-tickets-103241098906?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

MONDAY 10TH JANUARY

Burton Prostate Cancer Support Group

Every second Monday of each month at the Scout headquarters in Rolleston on Dove DE13 9AB, meetings start at 7pm to 9pm. Everybody is very welcome, Tea, coffee and cake. Contact details email: burton.prostate.cancer.support@gmail.com or call 07478 88957

Watercolour for Beginners

At Tutbury Village Hall each Monday 10am - 12noon starting January 10th for 10 weeks. Fully structured classes, Ideal for total beginners. Friendly and relaxed atmosphere with Ann, a qualified tutor and professional artist. For details contact Ann on 07816 118776. Fully Covid compliant. Admission by prior registration only.

TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY

Marstons Club - Over 50s

Over 50s Bingo every Tuesday afternoon. 1 'til 3pm. For more information contact Christine Adams on: 01283 299833

WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY

A Climate of Change

Free event every Wednesday. Starts 4pm for 8-15yrs, 6pm for 16-24yrs. Express yourself through music and the creative arts, to explore how the environment and social culture is changing around them. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-climate-of-change-creative-sessions-for-young-people-ages-16-24-yrs-tickets-141594540081?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY

Coffee at the Castle

Free event, every Thursday. Starts 11am. A friendly results driven online networking event. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-coffee-at-the-castle-tickets-126994992441?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch

FRIDAY 14TH JANUARY

Latin-in-Line Dance Class

Every Friday, 9.45am-10.45am Intermediate £5 & 11.00-11.45am Beginners £4 or both classes back to back £7. No need for a partner! At the Priory Centre, Church Lane, Stretton DE13 0HE. Contact Lorraine on 07598159744/larhiney@hotmail.com to book a place.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to our **Swadlincote Snowsports Centre** competition winners, who have won a **Family Ticket for Four**:

Mark Gray - Barton

Wendy Huckerby - Burton

Look out elsewhere in **LOCAL LINKS** this month to win a **£40 Voucher from Delhi Divan**

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

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We are currently working on a pre-arranged appointment basis, following the completion of a COVID-19 questionnaire. If you'd like to receive expert legal advice in a COVID-19 secure space, please contact us on **0330 123 1229**, or email info@smithpartnership.co.uk.

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National Champagne Day

As if there isn't enough fizz floating around over the Christmas season... Did you know that December 31st is National Champagne Day? No? Well neither did we... so you can imagine our delight! This is a perfect day to observe this holiday because we are pretty certain you will all be making a New Year's Eve toast with champagne.

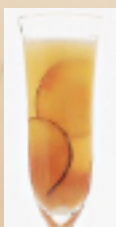
Champagne is a sparkling wine produced in the Champagne region of France under the rules of appellation. The name Champagne is legally protected. However, some use this term as a generic term for sparkling wines. As Champagne can be quite expensive we will allow you to celebrate the National Champagne Day drinking any sparkling wine you like, no matter whether it comes from France, Italy, or California.

Instead of drinking Champagne, you could make a champagne cocktail that will be perfect for New Year's Eve. For instance, Mimosa is a classic Champagne cocktail and here we have two suitably festive flavours for you to try!

Mirabelle Mimosa

(Serves 1)

Ice
20ml Plum Puree
5ml Pernod
130ml chilled
Champagne
2 red plum slices



Directions

Fill a pint glass with ice. Add the Plum Puree, Pernod and Champagne and stir gently. Strain into a chilled flute and garnish with the plum slices.



Peppermint Fizz

(Serves 6)

25g melted chocolate
3 candy canes, crushed
150ml peppermint schnapps,
divided between 6 glasses
1 bottle champagne
6 candy canes, whole

Directions

Pour melted chocolate onto a small plate. Pour crushed candy canes onto a separate plate. Dip rims of champagne flutes first in chocolate, then in crushed candy canes to coat.

Add 25ml of peppermint schnapps to each glass, then top with champagne or prosecco. Garnish with full candy canes before serving.





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Raisins, as well as grapes, sultanas and currants can lead to acute kidney failure and sadly, even death. Even a very small amount can cause severe problems.

Other harmful Christmas dangers include:

- Poinsettia, Mistletoe & Holly
- Chocolate
- Christmas pudding
- Blue cheese
- Onion stuffing
- Alcohol
- Macadamia nuts

If you suspect your pet may have eaten something they shouldn't have, call us:

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Festive Pet Safety *by Scarsdale Vets*

Christmas can often be a busy time of the year. Whether you're out and about visiting friends and relatives, or you have family and friends coming over to your house, the change to your pets' routine can be pretty stressful.

Take a look at our 10 festive tips to ensure your pet remains happy and content during the Christmas period.

Friends and family

Visitors can sometimes be a little unnerving for pets. If your pet is usually concerned with visitors, it's important to ensure your pet has a safe place they can retreat to where they won't be disturbed. Having a familiar sound on such as the TV or radio may help to make them feel much more at ease.

Stick to your routine

Stick to your usual routine as much as possible. Keep mealtimes roughly the same, and ensure your dog gets their usual amount of exercise. If you usually walk your dog twice a day, then it's a good idea stick to this, even during the busy Christmas period.

Travelling with your pet

Travelling can be a stressful experience for your dog. If you are planning to travel with your pet, it's a good idea to take their toys and bedding to provide some extra comfort.

Store gifts away safely

Don't leave presents under the

tree – pets may be tempted to investigate and unwrap gifts. Keep gifts safely stored away until Christmas morning and keep a close eye on your pet when opening and storing your gifts.

Keep pets busy

Kong toys and other interactive feeders are a great way to keep your pet distracted and their mind active, especially if you're expecting lots of guests.

Away for Christmas?

If you're away over the festive period but your pet is staying at home, allow them time to get used to whoever is looking after them before you leave. If your neighbour has kindly offered to look after your cat, let them both meet a few times beforehand.

Tree Tummy Ache

Be aware of the Christmas tree. A real Christmas tree looks beautiful, yet the oils in trees can be mildly toxic if consumed. The needles can also get stuck in your pet's throat or in their paws.

Regularly sweep up any needles that have dropped onto the floor and try not to leave your pet unattended around the tree. Cats climbing trees may also present a risk of injury, so help to keep them safe.

Decorations

Decorations may appear to look like tempting new and shiny toys to play with yet tinsel and angel hair can cause

serious illness if consumed. Instead, help keep your pet's playful side occupied by spending time playing with appropriate pet toys with them.

Lights may also be a very tempting toy. Make sure lights aren't dangling, wires are tucked away safely, and lights are turned off when leaving your pet unattended.

Visiting children

Ensure you supervise children and dogs together at all times. Children can get very excited over Christmas, and to a dog, this can be very unpredictable behaviour and can cause them stress. Ensure your pet has somewhere safe they can retreat to at all times.

Tempting treats

Keep an eye on chocolates, fruit cake and mince pies. Grapes, raisins and chocolate are all toxic to dogs, therefore, avoid leaving any food unattended. If you suspect your pet has ingested something that could cause harm, please contact your vet immediately.

We're here for you and your pet 365 days a year, 7 days a week. If you're concerned about your pet over the Christmas period, call us via 01332 678333.



LOCAL LINKS SUDOKU

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

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-44-28



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