# LOCAL

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# **RED NOSE DAY** Are you ready for some comic relief?

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**ISSUE 15**9

FRFF

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# ISSUE 159

#### Dear Readers.

Now that we've got stinky depressing January out of the way hopefully we'll be able to look forward to the lighter evenings and some days of sunshine...if the freak snow we've been getting more frequently at this time of year minds its manners!

If we do end up getting a sprinkling, at least this year we have the Beijing Winter Olympics to make it seem appropriate. With restrictions now eased and life seeming to get back to the new 'normal' you can head out and enjoy it all the more! In fact, you can head outside this month and do lots! Gardening, visit your Mum, do something special to collect money for Red Nose Day, train your dog for Crufts...well, maybe not that. If your dogs are anything like ours that would be a just deserved embarrassment on national TV.

So hello February, be good to us, we think we all deserve it! The **LOCAL LINKS** team

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Tatenhill &

Yoxall

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# Mum's the Word

unday 27th March marks Mother's Day for 2022.  $\bigcup$  As well as in the UK, countries all over the world have their own equivalent celebration throughout the vear.

These days the celebration has synonymous with become honouring our mothers or giving them a special treat: gifts, chocolates, a fancy meal etc. However the origins of Mother's Day are likely to be Mothering Sunday which is more closely tied to the church.

On Mothering Sunday, Christians would have historically visited the church where they received their baptism. The 'Mother' in Mothering Sunday refers just as much to the church. Marv (the Mother of lesus) and Mother Nature as it does to our paternal mothers. It was also seen as a day of respite from fasting, falling halfway through the celebration of Lent. In later times it became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually accompanied by their own mothers.

The making and giving of cakes and buns on Mother's Day, especially Simnel Cake, is a reflection on the day's association with the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. In Bristol and other parts of the world, 'mothering buns' remain a speciality for Mothering Sunday. They are plain buns, iced and sprinkled with hundreds and thousands. normally eaten for breakfast on the day.

Violet flowers are also strongly associated with Mother's Day, the origins for this are thought to have come from an old proverb that says 'He who goes a-mothering finds violets in the lane."

Above all, it's a time to honour the many mothers around the world so that we can show our appreciation for the special place they have in our lives.

Happy Mother's Day!



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# **Red Nose Day**

 riday 18th March marks the annual return of, Comic Relief Red Nose Day, which is probably the UK's highest profile TV fundraising event. Unbelievably, this year will be the 34th year of the event (though there isn't one every year).

The very first Red Nose Day was launched in 1988 by comedian Lenny Henry and comedy writer Richard Curtis in order to raise money for the famine in Ethiopia. Since then it has gone on to raise a staggering £1.1 billion for charities. The highest amount ever raised by the event in one vear was £108 million in 2011.

The event has also been the catalyst of over 25 charity pop records featuring the likes of Cliff Richard, Right Said Fred, Spice Girls, Boyzone, Westlife, Sugababes, The Proclaimers, Peter Kay and Sam Smith.

This year is the second year that the ever-popular Red Noses will be 100% plastic free - a great development as we all try to do our bit to reduce the impact of plastic pollution on the environment and wildlife.

**RED NOSE** 

DAY IS BACK ON

FRIDAY 18 MARCH



In 2022 the charity has restated it's ethos in light of the wide-ranging effects of the COVID pandemic, increasing conflict and poverty in developing countries, child poverty, homelessness and personal agency:

#### **Improving Mental Health**

Every year, 450 million people worldwide experience mental health problems.

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#### A World Where Children Can Thrive And Survive

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#### **Gender Iustice**

Comic Relief works with organisations to help people speak out and seek help so they can escape fear, violence and discrimination.

Events will be broadcast throughout the day with the main evening show broadcast live on BBC One as usual. This year the TV event is hosted by Paddy Davina McCall, McGuinness, Alesha Dixon, David Tennant and the cofounder of Comic Relief. comedian Lenny Henry. With lots of one-off comedy specials 2022 Red Nose Days promises to be as entertaining and as important to good causes as ever!

But it's not just about the TV show and pledging donations; get involved yourself! Every year there are millions of people who organise fundraising events all around the world

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# Circus Spectacular by The Lichfield Garrick

t's time to join the circus on Saturday 26th February, when Shone Productions brings International Circus Acts, Amazing Magic, and Lots of Laughs to The Lichfield Garrick.

Leading the cast of Circus Spectacular is Bippo The Clown, Gareth 'Bippo' Ellis has appeared on TV shows such as Blue Peter, Dick and Dom in The Bungalow, Big Brother, The Sooty Show and even his own BBC3 Documentary 'Send In The Clowns'.

Bippo is joined by his partner Miss Chelsea, who started her circus career at the tender age of 16 where she joined one of Britain's largest touring circuses, she has specialised in many aspects of circus including, aerial cube, aerial silks, solo trapeze and roller skating!

Joining the line-up is the incredible Duo Salsky, with their death-defying routines such as The Wheel of Death, Rolla Rolla and roller skating, keeping it in the family Thomas and Collette's sons Peter and Dommy 'The Salvador Brothers' just in their teens take to the stage with their incredible acrobatic routines!

This show promises to thrill and entertain audiences of all ages!

Producer James Shone says: "Circus Spectacular will be a massive hit with family audiences. The show is packed with great performers from all walks of life, who have worked hard to craft their skills and become the verv best they can be, mixed with showmanship their and enthusiasm, you will certainly be entertained!"



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# **By The Barn**

ere we are already at the shortest month and with Spring just a few There weeks away. is noticeable longer daylight hours and may be the old saying "as the days grow longer the cold gets stronger" will hold true. Also half way between the winter solstice (shortest daylight) and the Spring Equinox (when daylight is the same length as night time).

'February fill dyke' is when we usually notice enough rain causing our lower fields to flood. This used to cause problems in some, which were arable and our crops suffered and yields reduced but through conservation schemes

### by Angela Sargent

we changed their usage to permanent pasture , giving us more grazing and also more plants to soak up the excess water.

We can collect logs from where branches and trees have fallen over boundaries or obstructing our fields and we are seeing many Chaffinches with their 'pink pink' chirp being so recognisable. They are colourful birds, with pink, chestnut and grey feathers and double white wing bars and are very gregarious. It reminds me we have our Farmland bird count this month, too.

The upland parts of our county are also undergoing changes and where hefted sheep roam the moors a slow destocking is happening by policies designed maybe for other reasons, but once lost these can never be replaced and years of heritage and history and experience are also thrown away. We also lose the different breeds and the strong breeding stock needed by the lowland livestock farmers.

Gorse, an evergreen and spiny shrub, can be found on the heaths and moors, with glorious golden yellow flowers like an early February sunrise. It's also known as 'furze' and tends to flower throughout the year, which leads to the saying " when gorse is out of bloom, kissing is out of fashion"!

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### 14 LOCAL LINKS Issue 159

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# **Hot Dog! Crufts is Back**

Taking place between 10th - 13th March, the most famous dog show in the world is back at the NEC this year from 10th to the 13th March!

"Crufts Greatest Dog Show" officially began in 1891, founded by Charles Cruft, a dog biscuit seller from England and but originated in 1886 under the name 'First Great Terrier Show".

In 1891, Queen Victoria's collie Darnley II and two of her Pomeranians won prizes at Crufts. The following year, more dogs were entered by European royals including the Princess of Wales, Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia and Prince Henry of Battenburg!

The competition was officially recognised as the world's largest dog show by the Guinness Book of Record in 1992 - that year 27,000 dogs took part in the event. At the very first show there were 2437 entries. In 2019 there were 21,000 entries from 44 different countries, showing just how Crufts has grown in popularity.

Many people wonder which breed of dog is the most successful at Crufts. In the popularity stakes, the highest number of entries goes to Retrievers. However the breed that has won the most Best in Show Awards is the English Cocker Spaniel with an amazing seven wins over the history of the competition. What's even more incredible is that of those seven wins, six of those dogs came from the same breeder, a Mr Herbert Summer Lloyd.

As well as their impeccable grooming, obedience and agility, many of the dogs are infamous for their exotic names. The winner in 1966 was a Poodle called 'Oakington Puckshill Amber Sunblush' and in in 2019 a Papillon dog going by the name of 'Planet Waves Forever Young Daydream Believers' took the first prize!

Not a lot of people know that Crufts isn't just for pedigree dogs. In fact a great many number of crossbreed dogs are highly successful in obedience, agility and heelwork sections of the competition. The popularity of Crufts and the the interest of dog owners who do not pure-bred own animals convinced the Kennel Club (the event organisers) to hold "Scruffs", a show similar to Crufts but solely for crossbreed dogs.

While you're enjoying the show, spare a thought for the staff who clean up after the event. It's said that about 350kg of dog fur will be removed from the NEC after the dogs have left!

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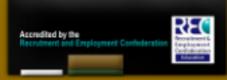
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# **Baby It's Cold Outside!**

The Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games will officially open on February 4th 2022 and come to a close on 20th February.



One for the pub quiz or trivia fans, the official list of sports included in the competition is: Skiing, Biathlon, Alpine Bobsleigh, Cross-country Skiing, Curling, Ice Hockey, Figure Skating, Freestyle Nordic Skiing, Luge, Combined, Short-Track Speed Skating, Skeleton, Ski Jump, Snowboarding and Speed Skating. There are several subcategories in each sport meaning a total of 109 individual events.

The design for the medals changes for every competition and the 2022 concept in based on traditional Chinese astronomy and astrology. This was partly because the games coincide with the 2022 Chinese New Year celebrations. Ordinarily the Summer and Winter games are spaced two years apart but because the 2020 Summer Olympics was postponed to 2021 due to COVID, it's the first time since 1992 that the events are being held less than six months apart.

The budget for this years event is estimated to be about 4 billion dollars. While that seems an astronomical amount of money, that represents onetenth of the cost of the 43 billions dollars spent on the 2008 Summer Olympics which was also held in Beijing.



The official emblem of the games is named 'Winter Dream' and is a stylised representation of the Chinese character for Winter. The emblem was designed by Lin Cunzhen who also created the Nanjing 2014 logo.

Away from the snow and the medals podiums, the competition is once again highly politicised, mainly due to international events, human rights criticisms and diplomatic relations with the Chinese government, with many countries, including the United Kingdom, threatening to boycott the games. Politics aside, and despite the global pandemic contenting to have an impact on teams and organisation, the competition is always highly thrilling to watch and it will be interesting to see if the Norwegians maintain their dominance over the games!

You'll be able to watch the Winter Olympics on BBC Sport, BBC One & Two and on BBC iPlayer.

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So if you want to win these fab tickets, 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 Midland Karting Competition PO Box 8049 Burton-on-Trent DE14 9NQ

The closing date for entries is the 8th of March and the winners will be announced in our April edition.

Good luck to everyone who enters!





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# **February In The Garden**

or those of you with green fingers it's time to shake off those post-Christmas cobwebs and do some important preparation jobs to give your flora and fauna the best start for 2022. So grab your hat and scarf and a pair of good pruning cutters!

#### Prune Buddleja and Elder:

Prune these vigorous shrubs to the base to keep them to a reasonable size. They will become very tatty if not properly pruned and, especially with Buddleja, all you will see is a twiggy tangle of bare stems. If pruned hard in Winter, they will only grow between 2-3m tall by early Summer.

# Ivy, Virginia Creeper and other climbers:

Trim these back if they have outgrown their space to discourage birds from nesting in them.

#### Winter fruit trees and shrubs:

Finish pruning fruit trees and soft fruits including apples, autumn raspberries and blackcurrants. This encourages new stems to grow from the base which will carry the fruit next summer.

#### **Prepare vegetable beds:** Prepare your vegetable beds by weeding thoroughly

and then covering with a thick layer of garden compost.

#### Strawberry plants:

Put cloches or fleece over strawberry plants to start them into growth and encourage and early crop.

#### **Snail hunting:**

Snails are the bane of gardeners' lives. Hunt out overwintering snails huddled in empty pots and hidden corners to cut back the population in your garden. They are a problem all year round but are a particular problem in Spring when there's plenty of young growth for them to eat. You'll never rid your garden of the little beasts but prioritise the most vulnerable plants.



# Virtual & Outdoor Events What's On Guide!

#### MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

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.suppgr@ gmail.com Tele: 07478 88957

#### Watercolour for Beginners

At Tutbury Village Hall each Monday 10am - 12noon. 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 15TH FEBRUARY**

Marstons Club - Over 50s

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

#### WEDNESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

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 2022. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gcseyr-11-maths-weekly-top-uptickets-127886695549?aff=ebdssbonlin esearch

#### THURSDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 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-styleonline-global-daily-classesregistration-104447912518 ?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 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=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### SATURDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 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-cornertickets-135709200873?aff=ebdssbonlin esearch

#### SUNDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 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-onlinet i c k e t s - 1 0 0 8 2 5 4 6 5 6 8 2 ? aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

#### 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-onlinet i c k e t s - 5 5 8 9 0 3 5 5 5 8 ?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### 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-m e d i t a t i o n - l i v e - o n l i n e - tickets-100830191818?aff=ebdssbonlin esearch

#### TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY Tuesdays Art Class

Every Tuesday morning 10am-1pm, during term time. In Tatenhill and online. Suitable for beginners and improvers. £18 paid per session, or £15 paid per half-term in advance. For more information phone or text 0779122888 or email helentarrat@gmail.com

#### WEDNESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 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 24TH FEBRUARY Coffee at the Castle

Free event, every Thursday. Starts 11am. A friendly results driven online networking event. www.eventbrite.c o.uk/e/virtual-coffee-at-the-castletickets-126994992441?aff=ebdssbonlin esearch

#### FRIDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

#### 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-workshop-tickets-134217729843?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

#### 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/elect ronics-club-for-children-weekendsession-tickets-135845482495? aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

#### 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-tocoding-workshoptickets-1032410 98906?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY The Creative Corner

Free event, every Monday. Starts 7pm. Would you like to dedicate an hour out of your week to make that thing you still haven't made? Do you need a little extra encouragement? www.eventbrite .co.uk/e/the-creative-corner-tickets-139512835647?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch



#### TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 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-withbrixton-life-drawing-tickets-117373428083?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH 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 3RD MARCH

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-onlinetickets-148335865567?aff= ebdssbonlinesearch

#### 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-w r i t i n g - w o r k s h o p - tickets-152882023247?aff=ebdssbonlin esearch

#### FRIDAY 4TH MARCH

#### Pick'n'Mix Craft Session

Free Event every Friday. Starts 10am. Pick'n'Mix is a free weekly arts and crafts session for young children, hosted by Shoe Lane Library. https:// www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/picknmixt i c k e t s - 1 4 5 4 3 9 9 5 7 8 2 9 ? aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### Cribbage Club

Stretton Bowls Club, every Friday at 7.30pm

#### Latin-in-Line Dance Class

A new class at a slower pace - Fridays 12.00-12.45pm at the Priory Centre, Church Road, Stretton, Burton on Trent DE13 OHF - £4.00 per class - please book with Larraine on 07598159744 or for more details about the class.

#### SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 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-spiritcafe-online-free-spiritual-readingsmore-tickets-134687009471? aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### SUNDAY 6TH MARCH

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.event brite.co.uk/e/online-photographycourse-for-children-tickets-155498944 529?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

#### MONDAY 7TH MARCH 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-editiontickets-138439567473?aff=e bdssbonlinesearch

#### TUESDAY 8TH MARCH Barton Arts

Every Tuesday 10 til 12.30 Barton Village Hall, Casual Arts and crafts, 'Bring your thing', and join our friendly chatty group, all abilities, just bring your thing. £15 per month. For more information contact : Judith Freeman by Email: judithmick.f@hotmail.co.uk or call: 01283550344

#### WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH A Climate of Change

A Climate of Change

Free event every Wednesday. Starts 4pm for 8-15yrs, 6pm for 16-24yrs. Everyone has had a different experience of COVID-19 and we want to give young people a unique opportunity to express themselves 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-p e o p l e - a g e s - 1 6 - 2 4 - y r s - tickets-141594540081?aff=ebdsbonlin esearch

#### THURSDAY 10TH MARCH Reduce Procrastination Workshop

Free event, every day. Starts 7pm. Join this free 1-to-1 workshop to better under 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-ands u s t a i n - h i g h - p e r f o r m a n c e tickets-134389696199?aff=ebdssbonlin esearch

#### FRIDAY 11TH MARCH

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 Larraine on 075981597744/larhiney@hotmail.com to book a place.to book a place.

#### **COMPETITION WINNERS**

Congratulations to our **Delhi Divan** competition winners, each winning a £40 Voucher:

Terri Thompson, Alrewas Lorriane Bennett, Stretton Joy Jordan, Stretton Julia Swarbrick, Stretton Margret Langford, Barton

Look out elsewhere in **LOCAL LINKS** this month to win a £25 Voucher from Midland Karting.

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6	5	8	4	9	1	3	7	2
2	9	1	3	5	7	4	8	6
5	6	4	1	8	9	7	2	3
3	1	9	7	2	6	8	5	4
8	2	7	5	4	3	6	9	1
9	3	5	2	7	4	1	6	8
7	4	2	6	1	8	5	3	9
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# Eye of the Tiger!

hinese New Year 2022 falls on Tuesday 1st February and celebrations last for up to 16 days, culminating with the Lantern Festival on February 15th.

2022 is the Year of the Tiger and the celebrations mark the transition between zodiac signs: 2021 was the Year of the Ox.

Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival. It remains very wintry in China but the holiday marks the beginning of the end of the coldest days. People welcome the spring and what it brings: planting, harvests, new beginning and fresh starts.

Most people don't know that there is no actual set date for the Chinese New Year. The date is determined by the Lunar calendar. Even though China now uses the Gregorian calendar like the rest of the world, the Lunar calendar is still really important. Some people even calculate their birthdays and ages according to the lunar calendar too!

Spring Festival was The traditionally a time to pray to gods for a good planting and harvest season and also for fighting off monsters! According to one legend, a monster named Nian would arrive every New Year's Eve. Most people would hide in fear but one boy was brave enough to fight him off using firecrackers. That's why firecrackers are a crucial part of the celebrations.

Talking of fireworks, on Chinese New Year's Eve, the most fireworks in the whole world are set off on that one single night! Families also burn fake paper money and printed gold bars on honour of they deceased loved ones. They believe the offerings will bring fortune and good luck to their ancestors in the afterlife.

The Spring Festival also causes the largest human migration in the world. Because of the importance of the celebration, everyone should come back home to their families in China for the New Year's Eve dinner. In 2015, statistics showed that around 1000 train tickets per second were bought by people trying to get home.

On New Year's Day showering or throwing out the rubbish is not allowed. It's thought that washing or cleaning on that day will wash away good luck. In contrast, the day before Spring Festival is dedicated to cleaning. This is to sweep away the bad luck to make way for good luck! It's also taboo to cut your hair, use scissors or knives, to argue or swear, to say 'unlucky' words such as 'death' and 'sickness' and to break things.

It's traditional for children to receive gifts of 'lucky money' in small red envelopes though these days most people use the digital equivalent on their phone or computer.

Food is of utmost importance. Dumplings must be eaten every day, there's a wine that is specifically for the festival and many Chinese desserts have special meanings. For example a cake called 'Fa Gao' is dyed in festival colours and the word 'Fa' comes from 'Fa Cai' which is Chinese for 'get rich'!

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