

# LOCAL LINKS

A tiger is the central focus of the image, walking towards the viewer. It has orange fur with black stripes and a white underbelly. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and a green fence.

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ISSUE 159  
FREE

## RED NOSE DAY

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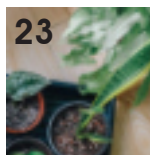
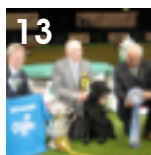
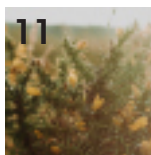
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# LOCAL LINKS



## 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

### FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Heather or Rhian at  
local@locallinksmedia.co.uk

### FOR ARTWORK ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Liona at  
graphics@locallinksmedia.co.uk

**01283 564608**

Local Links Media  
PO Box 8049  
Burton-on-Trent  
DE14 9NQ

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Tues 1<sup>st</sup> March

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Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March

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# Mum's the Word

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

These days the celebration has become synonymous with 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, Mary (the Mother of Jesus) 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!

background: Pixels.com

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# Red Nose Day

Friday 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 year 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.



In 2022 the charity has restated its 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.

## A Safe Place For Everyone

Having a safe place to call home is a fundamental right but a shocking 1 in 5 people don't have the shelter they need.

## A World Where Children Can Thrive And Survive

Every year millions of children still die before their 5th birthday, or grow up in poverty and neglect.

## Gender Justice

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 Davina McCall, Paddy McGuinness, Alesha Dixon, David Tennant and the co-founder 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.

Why not join in and get your fundraising pack from: [www.comicrelief.com](http://www.comicrelief.com)

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# Circus Spectacular *by The Lichfield Garrick*

It'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 very best they can be, mixed with their showmanship and enthusiasm, you will certainly be entertained!"





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# By The Barn *by Angela Sargent*

Here we are already at the shortest month and with Spring just a few weeks away. There 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).

We see 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.

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"!

background: Pixvels.com

A yellow house-shaped graphic with a chimney on the right side. The text is in white and black.

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A collage of four interior photos: a bedroom with a large wardrobe, a bathroom with a bathtub, a kitchen with a white island, and a living area with a fireplace. A red banner at the top and bottom contains text.

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# Hot Dog! Crufts is Back

**T**aking 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.

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 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 heel-work sections of the competition. The popularity of Crufts and the the interest of dog owners who do not own pure-bred animals convinced the Kennel Club (the event organisers) to hold "Scruffs", a show similar to Crufts but solely for crossbreed dogs!



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A collage of four photographs showing different furniture sets: a bedroom with a white bed and yellow blanket, a living room with a wooden dining table and chairs, a living room with a wooden hutch and sideboard, and a bedroom with a white bed and wooden chest of drawers. The text 'TOP FURNITURE' is overlaid in the center. At the bottom, it says 'VISIT US AT STATION ROAD, UTOXETER, ST14 8AX' and 'WWW.TOPFURNITURE.CO.UK • TEL - 01889 560999'.

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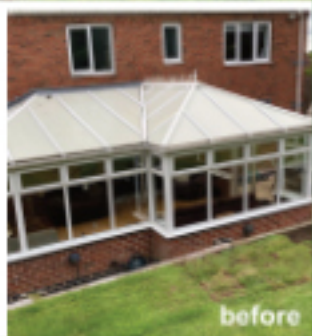
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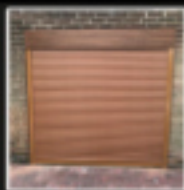
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If you need any further information, you can find it here at:

**[www.midlandkarting.co.uk](http://www.midlandkarting.co.uk)**

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](mailto: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!



Midland Karting  
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Staffordshire  
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# February In The Garden

For 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.

background: Pixels.com



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# 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.support@bbm.co.uk Tel: 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/gcse-yr-11-maths-weekly-top-up-tickets-127886695549?aff=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gcse-yr-11-maths-weekly-top-up-tickets-127886695549?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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-style-online-global-daily-classes-registration-104447912518?aff=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lockdown-tai-chi-lee-style-online-global-daily-classes-registration-104447912518?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/knitting-group-tickets-134008140957?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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-corner-tickets-135709200873?aff=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/weekly-mandarin-corner-tickets-135709200873?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## SUNDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

### Vinaya 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-vinaya-flow-yoga-live-online-tickets-100825465682?aff=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-vinaya-flow-yoga-live-online-tickets-100825465682?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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-online-tickets-5589035558?aff=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kundalini-yoga-and-gong-bath-online-tickets-5589035558?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-monday-meditation-live-online-tickets-100830191818?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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](mailto: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.co.uk/e/virtual-coffee-at-the-castle-tickets-126994992441?aff=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-coffee-at-the-castle-tickets-126994992441?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/abstract-art-workshop-tickets-134217729843?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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/electronics-club-for-children-weekend-session-tickets-135845482495?aff=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/electronics-club-for-children-weekend-session-tickets-135845482495?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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-to-coding-workshop-tickets-103241098906?aff=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/intro-to-coding-workshop-tickets-103241098906?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

## 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=ebdssbonline&search](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-creative-corner-tickets-139512835647?aff=ebdssbonline&search)

# ...helping you stay safe.

## 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-with-brixton-life-drawing-tickets-117373428083?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-life-drawing-with-brixton-life-drawing-tickets-117373428083?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch)

## 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](mailto: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-online-tickets-148335865567?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tahitian-dance-with-hinatea-online-tickets-148335865567?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch)

### 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](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-writing-workshop-tickets-15288203247?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch)

## 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/picknmix-tickets-145439957829?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch>

### 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 0HF - £4.00 per class - please book with Lorraine 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-spirit-cafe-online-free-spiritual-readings-more-tickets-134687009471?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-spirit-cafe-online-free-spiritual-readings-more-tickets-134687009471?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch)

## 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.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-photography-course-for-children-tickets-155498944529?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-photography-course-for-children-tickets-155498944529?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch)

## 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-edition-tickets-138439567473?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drinkdraw-2021-spring-zoom-edition-tickets-138439567473?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch)

## 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](mailto:judithmick.f@hotmail.co.uk) or call: 01283550344

## WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH

### 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-people-ages-16-24-yrs-tickets-141594540081?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-climate-of-change-creative-sessions-for-young-people-ages-16-24-yrs-tickets-141594540081?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch)

## THURSDAY 10TH MARCH

### 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](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-reduce-procrastination-and-sustain-high-performance-tickets-134389696199?aff=ebdssbonlinsearch)

## 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 Lorraine on 07598159744/[larhiney@hotmail.com](mailto:larhiney@hotmail.com) 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.

## LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU PUZZLE SOLUTION

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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
1	8	6	9	3	5	2	4	7

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# Eye of the Tiger!

Chinese 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.

The Spring Festival was 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.



background: freepik.com

An advertisement for Right at Home. It features a woman with short blonde hair and sunglasses, wearing a black top and a long necklace, holding a glass of orange juice and making a 'rock on' hand gesture. The background is dark. In the bottom left is the Right at Home logo with the tagline 'Quality Care in Your Home'. In the bottom center is the text 'We're recruiting CareGivers to help our Clients live the best possible life at home! Call us for a chat about how you can help. 01283 777700 www.rightathome.co.uk/eaststaffs'. In the top right is an orange circle containing the text 'Award winning free training', 'Paid travel time', and '1-hour minimum calls'. A decorative orange vine graphic is in the top right corner.

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Cats will have to be microchipped by the time they

are 20 weeks of age. A microchip is a tiny chip inserted using a needle under the skin between the shoulder blades. For most cats, it will just feel like an injection.

Microchips can be inserted by vets or nurses and the unique numbers are stored on a central database. The chips cannot usually be felt under the skin. However, they may very occasionally migrate or fall out, so vets will check the chip regularly by scanning the cat.

If your cat is not already microchipped, we strongly recommend that you make an appointment to get this done

as soon as possible. Call our Stapenhill practice on 01283 568162 or our Stretton practice on 01283 565333 to book your appointment now.



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## LOCAL LINKS SUDOKU

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

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.

LJL8-66-23



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