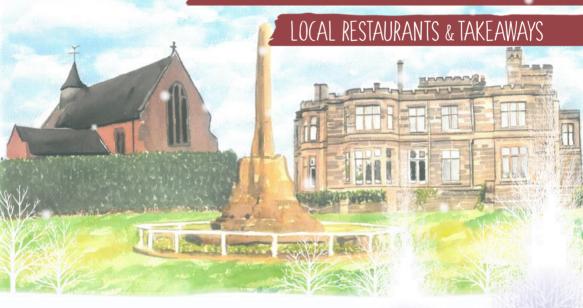
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a note FROM THE FOITOR

Hello and welcome to our December/ January edition, your trusted source of local businesses, community news, discounted offers available exclusively to our readers, inspiration for all things home, garden, gifting and more.

As 2021 is coming to an end and we are getting ready to celebrate Christmas and New Year's, it is time to reflect on the year we've had: many events have taken place in 2021 and it was great to see the love and support people have showed to local businesses. A big thank you to all those who have chosen to shop locally and support their locally based tradesmen. We hope to see our community coming together to support each other and those who might be alone this Christmas. Please do remember to check in on your neighbours, your elderly relatives and friends. A kind word, a shared cup of

all goes a long way and what better time to be kind and charitable than Christmas! As always, we have all your useful listings here: Local Restaurants and Takeaways, Telephone Numbers, Horoscopes and Articles etc.

tea and a minced pie, a help to do their food shop, a Christmas card - it

More and more local groups are resuming their meetings. If yours is one of them and you would like a free listing on the What's On page please get in touch with Ksenia by dropping an email to

info@stonesthrowpublications.co.uk Here are some dates for your calendar:

24th of December - Christmas Eve 25th of December - Christmas Day 26th of December - Boxing Day (Bank Holiday) 27th of December - Substitute Bank Holiday for Christmas Day

28th of December - Substitute Bank

Holiday for Boxing Day
31st of December - New Year's Eve
1st of January - New Year's Day (Bank

Holiday)

3rd of January - New Year's Day observed

Have a great couple of months and whatever you do - keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Yours, Stonesthrow Publications 01926 8000 84 / 075 111 222 45



CONTENTS



















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The Misty to Clear website allows total transparency of the customer experience. You can log into the website and view work that I have carried out. You can also leave feedback on social media. Therefore, I give a 5 year guarantee on all new double glazed units fitted by Misty to Clear.

This is a genuine guarantee which does not come as an extra to my price.

I started Misty to Clear mindful that the cost of repairs is probably key to most people's budget when using tradesmen to do work on their behalf in their homes.

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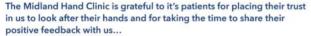
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"My thumb is already back to normal and you can't even see the scars from either operation. I cannot thank Mr Shyamalan enough for what he has done for me, osteoarthritis is not a pleasant thing to have and it's nice to know there are Specialists out there such as Mr. Shyamalan that try their best to make life more bearable for sufferers of this awful condition."

The Team at The Midland Hand Clinic would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy festive season.

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Graham Jenkins

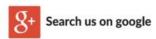
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WHAT'S ON

Balsall Common Country Market

Date: every Saturday / Time: 10am—11.30am / Venue: Balsall Common Village Hall, 112 Station Road Balsall Common CV7 7FF

We are more than just a place to shop — we are a place where people meet and belong. Come and have a cup of tea or coffee with us along with home-made cakes and goodies. Our range of foods includes cakes to die for, savoury meals you can pop in the freezer for later in the week and jams and marmalades in a class of their own. We have splendid flower arrangements, plants for your garden that include both the unusual and old favourites. Our fruits and vegetables are home grown and wholesome.

Coffee Together

Date: first Saturday of every month / Time: 10.30am - 12noon; Venue: The Jubilee Centre, 225 Station Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7FE Organised by Churches together in Balsall Common and Berkswell. Entry fee is £2. this includes coffee and pre-wrapped biscuit. All profits go to charity. Enquiries to Clare Laland at clmap18@gmail.com

AgeUK Solihull's Christmas Raffle

Date: 9th of December

We have books of five tickets available, which we can send you to sell among your family, friends and colleagues. Each ticket in the book costs £1 (so each whole book costs £5). There are ten fabulous prizes up for grabs, including a voucher for a Christmas turkey, a family travel pass on Chiltern Railways, and afternoon tea for two at the Crowne Plaza Solihull. Please email events@ageuksolihull.org.uk if you would like us to send you some tickets. Ticket stubs and payment to be returned by Thursday 9 December.

Jingle Bells Christmas Bake Sale

Date: 10-12 of December / Time: all day Enjoy your favourite treats and spread some festive cheer while helping raise funds for Age UK Solihull by organising a Jingle Bakes bake sale. Whether you want to bake your own treats or nip to the supermarket and sell what you've bought, every penny raised will help Age UK Solihull to be able to give older people the support they need at Christmas, and beyond. For more information and a ho-ho-hosting pack including recipes, a poster, decorations and games, visit ageuk.org.uk/solihull/jingle-bakes.

Kenilworth Christmas Market

Date: 11th of December / Time: 10am - 4pm / Venue: Talisman Shopping Centre, Warwick Road, Kenilworth. CV8 1JB

Soak up the Christmas market atmosphere as you browse around 30 stalls offering a wide range of Christmas gifts and decorations – you'll be sure to find perfect presents for your loved ones.

Vintage Themed Christmas Market

Date: 11th - 12th of December / Time: 10am - 5pm / Venue: Hatton Estate, Hatton, Warwick CV35 7LD

Browse our Vintage Themed Christmas Market. This special themed Market will showcase our Vintage Tractor, beautiful Vintage Christmas singing and delicious Christmas Vintage tea's in Alfie's Café. Dress up – Vintage Style – to see if you can win the best dressed competition. Hatton Shopping Village – Shopping as it should be! Free admission.

Leamington Christmas Market

Date: 12th of December / Time: 10am - 5pm / Venue: The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4BT The Royal Leamington Spa's Christmas Market is a must-visit destination for all those wishing to experience a traditional Christmas. Join us to get your Festive preparations off to a cracking start! Within the stunning surroundings of the historic Regency architecture and under the twinkling Christmas lights, you'll find over 60 attractive stalls brimming with goodies, unusual gifts, stocking fillers, decorations and artisan food and drink.

Balsall Common U3A Core Meetings

Date: 6th of January / Time: 2pm / Venue: St Peter's Hall, Holly Lane, Balsall Common CV7 7EA This talk is titled "To see the beginning of Time" (Using the Hubble Telescope to see how Earth began) given by Andrew Lound. There is no charge and prospective members are welcome to attend.

Cinema Organ Society - Live Concert on our 1935 Mighty Compton

Date: 6th of February / Time: 1.30pm / Venue: Fentham Hall, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, B92 OAH

Our guest organist today is Andrew Nix.
Admission £10 on the door, including refreshments and parking. Doors open 1.30 pm. Curtain up 2.30 pm. Please telephone 01564 794778 for more details.

www.facebook.com/COSMidlandsCompton, or www.cinema-organs.org.uk

BALSALL COMMON LIONS

DECEMBER / JANUARY

Santa's Sleigh is coming to Balsall Common

Date: 15th - 23rd of December

Santa will be visiting Balsall Common and some of the surrounding area over a period of nine nights between Wednesday 15th and Thursday 23rd December.

Check out the details of his visit on Facebook or their website (www.balsallcommonlions.org). Santa and the elves are taking extra steps to make sure that their visit is as safe as it possibly can be, by remaining socially distant, with a slow, steady drive, and a few stops to stop and wave to the children.

Like last year, the elves will not be knocking on doors with collection tins, but you can still donate online to support Santa at Christmas by using the link, or by using the enclosed QR code. www.cafdonate.cafonline.org/18175



Supporting Solihull Young Carers

Balsall Common Lions are going to be busy over the next few weeks and months.

Supporting Solihull Young Carers Gift Collection In the run-up to Christmas, they are supporting Solihull Young Carers again, by organising a Gift Collection Point in the Co-op, Balsall Common Their aim is to give each child who attends the party (ages 5-15) a goody bag to take away - a Selection Box; a nice new reading book; a craft item, eg colouring book, and pens, a bead kit, paints and brushes, hobby kits etc.

Winter / New Year Foodbank Collection

Date: 16th of January

No peace for the Elves, I'm afraid. Lions will be 'borrowing' Santa's Sleigh on the weekend of Saturday 16 January and visiting virtually every home in Balsall Common for the Winter Foodbank Collection

Last year, the response from the residents was absolutely amazing! If some of the residents are anything like me, by New Year and the excesses of the Festive Season, there seems to be plenty left over to give to those in need. Thanks to your support, we were able to support hundreds of families – some of the most vulnerable people in our society, supplying hundreds of carrier bags full of food and essential supplies to four local foodbank charities - Bethany Foodbank, Around Again Foodbank, Carriers of Hope Charity, plus Trussell Trust.

Hopefully, we will see you on our rounds either with the sleigh ... Santa before Christmas, and the Winter Foodbank Collection in January. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a

Happy New Year, from Balsall Common Lions



WHILE WE DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF OUR LISTINGS EVENTS MAY BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CONFIRM WITH THE ORGANISER BEFORE MAKING ANY PLANS FOR ATTENDING EVENTS.

FOR YOUR NEWS EVENTS AND GROUP MEETINGS TO BE FEATURED FREE OF CHARGE ON OUR WHAT'S ON PAGE PLEASE EMAIL KSENIA:
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SOLIHULL TREE WARDENS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Earlier this year an Elm tree was planted in Breuton Park Solihull to celebrate 30years of the Tree Warden Scheme and 20 years of the forming of the Solihull Tree Warden Group.

Solihull Tree Wardens are a group of like-minded volunteers, who are local people with the aim of protecting Solihull's trees and hedgerows for their values within the community, environment and Solihull's Heritage.

The group are part of The National Tree Warden Scheme; a national initiative that was established in 1990 by the Tree Council, to encourage people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees, hedges and woodlands.

Tree Wardens are not expected to be experts, but our training programme allows us to support the Council's tree officers with sensible advice. A genuine love & passion for trees and the environment is needed.

Events and projects are varied they have included tree planting, tree and habitat

surveys, tree walks and woodland management.



Solihull Tree Wardens have been involved in organising local groups with their own tree projects whilst encouraging community Tree appreciation.

Future plans include helping to increase woodlands and hedgerows throughout Solihull, and also to improve aftercare for the trees that have been planted in recent years. With new housing developments throughout Solihull, we need more volunteers to be "eyes and ears" monitoring the condition of our local trees

If you would like to find out more about the Tree Wardens please contact: solihulltreewardens@yahoo.co.uk
The Wardens can be found on Facebook.
Their web page is:
www.lovesolihull.ora/solihull-tree-wardens



RESTAURANTS

& TAKEAWAYS

Balsall Common, Berkswell

BENGAL BRASSERIE Indian

349-351 Kenilworth Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7DL 01676 533 883

MASALA (LUB Indian

235-239 Station Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7EG **1676 533 210**

THE BRICKMAKERS ARMS Gastropub 307 Station Road, Berkswell CV7 7EG 01676 533 890

THE WHITE HORSE British, European Kenilworth Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7DT 01676 533 207

THE GEORGE IN THE TREE Gastropub Kenilworth Rd CV7 7EX 01676 533 118

(AFE TAMARINDS Pan-Asian 376 Kenilworth Rd CV7 7ER 01676 533 308

BALSALL (OMMON FISH BAR Fish & Chips 207 Station Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7FE 01676 533 576

LA DELICIA British, European
231 Station Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7EG

ORIENTAL EXPRESS Chinese Takeaway 176 Station Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7FD 01676 535 900

(OSTA (OFFEE Café unit 2 Station Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7FE 01676 529 277

MCKEES BRASSERIE British, European 273 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common CV7 7EL 01676 533 004

OAKES FARM SHOP & CAFE Cafe
Balsall Street, Balsall Common CV7 7AQ
01676 535 537

YE OLDE SARA(ENS HEAD Gastropub Balsall Street, Balsall Common CV7 7AS 01676 533 862

DOMINO'S PIZZA Takeaway Pizza 209 Station Road, Balsall Common, CV7 7FE 01676 530 099 THE RAILWAY Gastropub 547 Station Rd, Balsall Common CV7 7EF **01676 533 284**

THE OAK ROOM AT NAILCOTE HALL HOTEL British,

European

Nailcote Lane, Berkswell

02476 466 174

BEAR INN Gastropub Spencers Lane, Berkswell CV7 7BB 01676 925 562

Meriden

THE BARN AT BERRYFIELDS FARM Cafe
The Berryfields Farm Shop, Berkswell Road,
Meriden CV7 7LB
01676 522 155

MAR(O PIERRE WHITE European
The Manor Hotel at Meriden, Main Road,
Meriden CV7 7NH
01676 522 735

STRAWBERRY BANK HOTEL & RESTAURANT British Main Rd, Meriden CV7 7NF

01676 522 117

THE BULLS HEAD Gastropub Main Rd, Meriden CV7 7NN 01676 523 798

HAMPTON IN ARDEN

THE LAKE AT BARSTON Global Grill Marsh House Farm Ln, Barston B92 OLB 01675 444 890

THE WHITE LION INN Gastropub High Street, Hampton-in-Arden 01675 442 833

BEECHES BAR & GRILL Gastropub Hampton-in-Arden B92 OAH 01675 442 277

PEEL'S RESTAURANT British, European Hampton Manor, Shadow Brook Lane, Hampton in Arden B92 0EN 01675 446 080

TOBY CARVERY British

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HOROSCOPES

DECEMBER / JANUARY

ARIES MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Jupiter arrives in Pisces at the end of the month, your intuition is heightened and you should start to feel that big changes are beginning to emerge. First you need to sweep out the old in order to create space for these exciting new prospects. Mars, your ruler, arrives in pivotal position from the 13th and the powerful Sagittarian new moon on the 4th will have ensured that your optimism is at its strongest. Your ambitions and your highest goals are in the spotlight during January as you plan for what could turn out to be a transformational year. Dynamic Mars, your ruler, is strong in fiery Sagittarius, emphasising the need for you to connect with your higher mind. Excellent opportunities are now available, providing that you use your confidence and courage!

TAURUS APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Finances and resources are about to arrive in the spotlight as the radiant Sagittarian Sun with business minded Mercury light up this area of your chart. December brings some necessary but positive re-structuring ideas to the surface and at the end of the month flamboyant Jupiter suggests that a new friendship group is about to emerge offering some innovative ideas that will broaden your horizons. January: The line-up of planets at a pivotal sector of your chart ensure that further education. travel and romance are seriously linked together this month. Your ruler, love planet Venus, is currently in down-to-earth Capricorn, moving back to direct motion on the 29th. A relationship issue that has been concerning you for months could at last present the practical answer you seek.

GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Relationships are highlighted during December as the Sagittarian Sun and outgoing Mercury emphasise this area of your chart. Communication should be good and that special someone could have a surprise in store for you. Expansive Jupiter, arriving in Pisces at vour career sector, reveals that 2022 will be a positive and successful year offering some wonderful opportunities. Be practical and optimistically cautious as you push yourself forward. January: Dynamic Mars and the emotional moon are a powerful combination in Sagittarius at the start of the month. Partnership issues are concerning you and it's now time to put your point of view across and win support from an unexpected quarter. Finances arrive in the spotlight after the Cancerian full moon on the 17th, take full advantage of any opportunities that come your way.

CANCER JUNE 22 - JULY 22

Romance looks lively during the first weeks of December as dynamic Mars in sexy Scorpio dominates your chart. Work opportunities are also looking rather positive as the Sagittarian Sun and communicative Mercury both shine a powerful light on anything to do with your career prospects. New adventures and socialising are also in the forefront, especially after Jupiter arrives in Pisces on the 29th. January: Your health and wellbeing are high on your agenda at the start of this month as Mars and the moon in Sagittarius urge you to take stock and put more energy into a good life balance. The pivotal full moon in your sign on the 17th offers a challenge, but also helps you to reach a new understanding if you trust your intuition and your instincts.

IFO JULY 23 - AUGUST 23

Events in December hinge around optimistic and expansive Jupiter spending most of the month at the end of Aquarius. This highlights your relationship and partner area and some long lasting decisions may have to be made before Jupiter's move to Pisces on the 29th. Interesting opportunities present themselves around the Gemini full moon on the 19th, it's a positive time for some new friendships and group endeavours, January: As forceful Mars in Sagittarius is now active in a pivotal sector of your chart, you'll find that your focus is changing. The value of broadening your horizons and using your creative talents becomes increasingly important. The full moon in Cancer on the 17th throws some light on an issue that's been troubling you for a while.

VIRGO AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 22

December highlights all things to do with your home and family, the Sagittarian Sun and communicative Mercury highlight the need for spending some quality time here. The new moon Sagittarius on the 4th stirs up your curiosity and your desire to experience something new, could a move be on the cards for 2022? Venus spends all month in Capricorn suggesting challenges in your love life, it's a good time to sort out any relationship issues. January: Relationship minded Venus remains in practical Capricorn all month, continuing the theme of all things to do with love and romance. You might need to let go of any preconceived ideas about trying to solve a recent problem, go with the flow and use your intuition The Cancer full moon on the 17th brings some fresh insight and lucky Jupiter in Pisces also lends a helping hand to whatever is bothering you.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 23

Enthusiastic Mars in intuitive Scorpio is stirring up the financial angle of your chart during December, anything that needs your attention should be dealt with now before Mars changes sign on the 13th. Expansive Jupiter offers you some creative and innovative ways to boost your earning potential during the last few weeks of Aquarius. Capricorn Venus suggests that home renovations could also surface this month. January: Vibrant Mars in Combination with the fiery Sagittarian moon ensure a dynamic start to the month. Your communication skills are the main focus and anything that's not working will have to be scrutinised and changed. Jupiter and Neptune highlight your health and wellbeing as new and exciting ways of keeping fit present themselves, particularly around the Cancer full moon on the 17th.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Dynamic Mars, your ruler, has two weeks left in your sign suggesting that whatever projects need finishing should command your full attention. Mighty Jupiter arrives in a pivotal position on the 29th, possibly highlighting a period of expansion, particularly in your creative endeavours; the emphasis is on how you communicate your ideas to others. The Gemini full moon on the 19th offers a new perspective for making long term plans. January: The Sun. Venus. Pluto and Mercury are all activating the communication sector of your chart offering a new sense of direction concerning some important interaction. Future plans look rosy so don't be afraid to take the initiative. The Capricorn new moon on the 2nd is significant as it highlights the possibility of linking your creative ideas with some firm foundations.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 21

December is your birthday month, the Sun and Mercury light up your sign and with the new moon arriving on the 4th this couldn't be a better month for you. It's important to take stock on how successful you have been over the past year, the emphasis is now on how you value yourself and making sure that you stay with a positive vibration. Dynamic Mars arrives in Sagittarius on the 13th, bringing some extra vitality your way. January: A busy month is indicated as vibrant Mars aligns with the moon in your sign. Four planets in Capricorn suggest that rearranging some financial issues will become a central theme. You may feel the need to break free from old ways of doing things, but if you keep an open mind, you can learn a great deal. The full moon in Cancer on the 17th offers you a sense of changing priorities.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 20

The Venus Pluto conjunction on the 11th heralds a time of great change and transformation. This important cosmic event ensures that some great achievements are possible. It's vital that you use your intuition when making decisions and trust that your selfconfidence will pave the way forward. Jupiter's arrival in your communication sector on the 29th adds potency to this dynamic, bringing you a sense of deep satisfaction. January: Four planets in your sign appear to be marking the beginning of a new chapter in your life, just right for the start of the New Year! Jupiter is strong in Pisces, encouraging you to be flexible about the future and to be prepared to change your plans. The new moon in your sign on the 2nd offers you some extra powers of persuasion.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 18

Bountiful Jupiter is about to leave your sign after a one year stay. Arriving in Pisces on the 29th this change will ensure that your sensitivity, empathy and intuition are at their peak and your main objectives may involve helping and serving others. The planets are stirring up the more adventurous sector of your chart, new ideas involving innovative groups of friends are forming so get ready for change and a new lease of life. January: Dynamic Mars in Sagittarius gives you great enthusiasm and a buoyancy when it comes to achieving your goals. New contacts can arrive out of nowhere and your networking skills will be at their very best. Wise Saturn in your sign gives you staving power for new projects as you leave recent problems behind and win the recognition that you deserve.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

It's all change at the end of December as mighty planet Jupiter joins mystical Neptune and arrives in your sign. This move should give you a positive boost as optimism takes over from some rather unhelpful thoughts. Your career also gets a boost as the Sun and Mercury strengthen this area of your chart. Romance is also looking positive with a view to a long term partnerships becoming more serious. January: Expansive Jupiter is now firmly in your sign filling you with hope for a rewarding vear ahead. Big ideas lead to remarkable results, so be sure to make your thinking optimistic and forward-looking. The new moon in Capricorn on the 2nd highlights friends and group activities that are connected to your personal aims and goals, teamwork is the way forward!

NAVIGATE YOUR WAY THROUGH these challenging times, discover your unique birth map and take a refreshing new look at your year ahead. Find out when positive and productive planetary cycles are working in your favour. Reach your fullest potential in 2022 by booking an astrological reading now - Consultations are available on Zoom, WhatsApp or telephone.

CHRISTINE CHALKLIN, INSPIRATIONAL ASTROLOGER AND LIFE COACH,







COVID DISCALIMER:

Although we are hoping for a 'normal' Christmas this year, we will be continuing to follow any government guidelines plus our own company Covid policies throughout the coming months.

DEADLINE
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