

# Cottingham Times

and District

Issue 249 - December 2022



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## Christmas Dinner

by *Stephen Hanson*

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### A word from our chairman

We've had an especially busy few weeks at Magnolia House, enjoying a lovely and cosy Autumn, and gearing up for the end of the year.

We celebrated Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night with traditional spooky decorations, sparklers, and delicious treats.

Our local branch of the Royal British Legion came to visit on Armistice Day, and our residents took a moment to remember those who fought for our freedom.

We had a delightful intergenerational gathering with some local nursery children, thanks to Debutots - Hull. Youngsters always make our residents bright eyed and bushy tailed, and this occasion was no exception.

If you want more information about Magnolia House, please contact our registered manager Lindsay Altoft, who will be happy to help: [lindsayaltoft@parklanehealthcare.co.uk](mailto:lindsayaltoft@parklanehealthcare.co.uk)

*Chris Mitchell, Chairman,  
Park Lane Healthcare*

## Magnolia's hot to trot!

Giddy up! We had a visit from some wonderful "neigh"-bours when Furry Friends Animal Therapy trotted in to see us.

Thera-ponies Buttercup and Daisy came for cuddles and love, and our residents cherished brushing their manes and soft fur.



Pauline, who used to be a hairdresser was plaiting Daisy's mane. Here she is giving it a good brush before she starts. Pauline

really enjoyed her appointment with Daisy, and it made for a very memorable day.

In addition to the miniature ponies, the Furry Friends team brought along a not-so-fluffy guest; Rita the iguana.



Here is Paul, who currently is learning to draw iguanas, with Rita. His time with Rita has helped his drawing no end.

## Residents are young at heart

We had a wonderful event with children from our local nursery, Little Acorns. This was an autumn-themed occasion hosted by Debutots - Hull.

With our little friends, we played the autumn-leaf parachute game, took part in sensory activities, and helped Henrietta Hedgehog do the 'snuffle shuffle' at story time. Here is Pam (l) and Audrey (r) having a thoroughly good laugh playing the leaf game.

The residents adore when the children visit, so we hope to see them again soon for another lively session.



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## THE COTTINGHAM TIMES

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## In Cottingham and District

The deadline for entries in the January 2023 "What's On" section, is no later than the 13th December 2022.

### Hull Alpha Probus

Club for retired or semi-retired professional people meeting on alternate Thursdays - new members welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01482 348270 or 07542 959314

Thursday 1st December at 12:30 Lunch (Fish & Chips) & Quiz at The Blue Bell.

Thursday 15th December at 12:30 Christmas Lunch at The Blue Bell (ticket only – contact Secretary)

### Yorkshire Countrywomen s Association Skidby Branch

Thursday 1st December - It is our Christmas Party Evening at 7.30pm everyone Welcome. Contact no. Celia on 841370.

### East Yorkshire Hardy Plant Society

Friday 2nd December - Home Grown. Quiz, short items, chat and good company. Meet at Lund Village Hall, at 7.30 pm. Members £2.00 per session. Guest £4.00 includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

### Hull and East Riding Glaucoma Group.

Friday 2nd December 2022. 11am- 1pm at Sight Support (formerly HERIB) on Beverley Road, Hull, when we invite you to join us for some Christmas cheer and social interaction. For more information and to book your place call Sight Support Hull & East Yorkshire on 01482 342297.

### Hull Savoyards

Friday 2nd December - commencing at 7.30pm at the Cottingham Civic Hall – 'Gilbert's Magical Christmas'. A topsy-turvy world of imaginary characters influenced by the Sorcerer John W. Wells (something in the tea). Enjoy some of your favourite Gilbert and Sullivan music and characters along with a mix of Christmas carols for the season. Tickets £8.00 Adult and £5.00 under 16's. Tickets available online at [ticketsource.co.uk/hullsavoyards](http://ticketsource.co.uk/hullsavoyards), Barkers on Hallgate or at the door (subject to availability).

### Bulgaria Relief

Saturday 3rd December - Annual Christmas Craft Fair at the Civic Hall. The Fair will run from 10am to 2.30pm and be a good opportunity for Cottingham residents to shop for unusual and interesting Christmas presents as we have a wide variety of handmade goodies on offer.

### Arterian Singers

Tuesday 6th December - The Arterian Singers are holding their Christmas Carol Concert at Hallgate Methodist Church, Hallgate, Cottingham at 7.30pm. We welcome everyone to come and enjoy regular favourites and new carols. Cost £6 accompanied children free.

**Front cover: Bacon Garth.**

**Photo: Paul Lakin.**

### Beverley Gardeners' Club

Tuesday 6th December - for a talk on Carnivorous Plants by Peter and Hellenkje Walker at St Mary's Parish Hall, Beverley for 7.45 start. PLANT sale after. Annual fee £20 provides free admission to all talks or guests £5 per talk Further information 01482 863996.

### Cottingham Local History Society

Wednesday 7th December - The East Riding Yeomanry "Wenlocks Horse", Neil Huty. In Cottingham Civic Hall, Doors open 7.15 pm. Meeting starts 7.45 pm. Members £2; Non-members £3. Contact Peter Mclure 845734, email. [cottinghamhistory@gmx.co.uk](mailto:cottinghamhistory@gmx.co.uk).

### Cottingham u3a

Thursday 8th December - at 2 pm in the Darby & Joan Hall. There will be no speaker but there will be Christmas celebrations and refreshments!! For further information or queries visit [www.u3asites.org.uk/cottingham](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/cottingham).

### Hull Choral Union

Saturday 10th December- Messiah Highlights at 4.00 pm. Hull Choral Union with the Hull Choral Ensemble and soloists. Conducted by Paul Dewhurst.

Monday 12th December - Annual Carol Concert at 7.30 pm. Hull Bach Choir conducted by Julian Savory. Events take place in St. Mary's the Virgin. Tickets for both concerts will be available on the door via the choir websites or from Gough and Davy.

### Cottingham Catholic Women's League

Monday 12th December - at 7 30pm in the Garden room at Holy Cross RC Church, Carrington Avenue. Christmas Party.

### East Yorkshire Woodturners:

Tuesday 20th December - 7pm, Skidby Village Hall, (doors open 6.30pm): Woodturning demonstration by registered professional woodturner Rick Dobney, from Chesterfield. (No need to book - £3.50 on the door for guests). For information about the Club, please contact David Taylor, 01482 876702 or visit the Club's website: [eastyorkshirewoodturners.org.uk](http://eastyorkshirewoodturners.org.uk).

### Hull and East Riding New Stitchers

Tuesday 20th December - Christmas Party. Meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at The Darby and Joan Hall, Finkle Street Cottingham, HU16 4AZ, 7.15pm-9.15pm.

### Cottingham Bowling Club

Indoor Carpet Bowls have started at Cottingham Bowling Club. There are several daily sessions, mornings 10.00am until 12.00pm, afternoons 2pm until 4pm, evening 7pm until 9pm. The club is at the junction of Thwaite Street and New Village Road. We welcome members. For more information ring L. Davy 846611.

### Alternative Aquatics

Is a local charitable, self-help group providing gentle exercise & relaxation for people with back pain and associated mobility problems, in warm water and a friendly atmosphere. Thursdays, 5-6 pm during term time, at the hydrotherapy pool, Frederick Holmes School. The cost is £39/school term. Places available, so for more information please ring Karen on 807072 or Steve on 826873.

### Skidby Village Hall

Coffee Mornings - join us for a cuppa and a chat, all welcome! Light refreshments on sale, every Friday, 10am - 2pm. Visit [www.skidbyvillagehall.com](http://www.skidbyvillagehall.com) or @SkidbyVillageHall on Facebook for updates and information..

*Continued on page six*

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## Christmas Storytimes at East Riding Libraries

A little (lady)bird has said that Christmas is coming, and East Riding Libraries have got just the thing to get young residents in that festive spirit.

Join East Riding Libraries for joyful Storytimes and Bounce & Rhymes with the wonderful 'What the Ladybird Heard at Christmas' and 'Peppa and the Christmas Elf'.

Will Peppa's wish for an adventure with a Christmas elf come true, and will the cleverest little ladybird save Christmas from the sneaky stocking-stealing criminals?

With themed activities too, these free events are perfect for entertaining little ones through the Christmas holidays.

Librarian Hannah Gibbs said: 'What the Ladybird Heard' has always been a particular favourite of ours, so we are really excited to be showcasing the new Christmas version with our littlest library-lovers, and of course everyone's favourite pig, Peppa, is always a hit too!"

Councillor Mike Medini, portfolio holder for culture, leisure, libraries, and customer services, added: "Our school holiday Storytimes and Bounce & Rhyme sessions are always hugely popular, and our libraries team always look forward to running them, and especially at Christmas! They are a great way to keep little ones entertained during the festive season."

Find your nearest event, and full details of timings and possible bookings, here: [www.eastridinglibraries.co.uk/half-term](http://www.eastridinglibraries.co.uk/half-term).

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### Cottingham Food Bank

Is organised and funded by Cottingham residents and based in the Annexe behind Zion Church, Hallgate, Cottingham. We are open every Wednesday from 10am to 11.30am and we offer a warm welcome to anyone in need of our help. We are available for anyone to use and we do not ask for vouchers or proof of eligibility. Every visitor will be given a bag of food and toiletries to take away and have the opportunity to stay for refreshments. Email: [cottinghamfb@gmail.com](mailto:cottinghamfb@gmail.com) or tel: 845920.

### North Ferriby Short Mat Bowls Club

Village Hall, 50 Church Road, North Ferriby. HU14 3AA. Tuesdays and Fridays, 10am-12noon, and Thursday Evenings 7pm-9pm, except the second Thursday each month, with a qualified coach. All are welcome to any session and can borrow woods and play in stocking feet if need be. For information please contact Mike on 07889 007005.

### Cottingham & Hull Folk Dance Club

Tuesday 7pm-9-30pm at the Darby and Joan Hall Finkle St., Cottingham. No experience necessary come on your own or bring a friend for light exercise in a friendly environment everyone one welcome. For further information please contact Jan Gray on 01482840637 or Keith Alexander on 01482 509751.

### Cottingham Tennis Club (off Hull Road)

A friendly club looking for new members at all levels including absolute beginners. We have excellent facilities including three floodlit, all-weather artificial grass courts. Lots of opportunities for social and competitive tennis and a dedicated coaching team. Contact Matthew Fletcher on 07814 495931 for more information and to arrange to visit the club.

### Christ Church Cottingham

Coffee Mornings 9am-1pm Monday to Thursday, full cafe menu and all proceeds for the Ukraine Aid Effort. 31a Endyke Lane HU164QD. [www.cccottingham.org.uk](http://www.cccottingham.org.uk) for more detail.

### Christ Church Cottingham Play Cafe

Family cafe environment with play area and reduced cost cafe menu. Every Thursday 9am-1pm, all welcome. All proceeds to support the Ukraine Aid Effort.

### Cottingham Badminton Club

Badminton Tuesday/Thursday evenings, 8.00pm while 9.30pm. Cottingham High School. £3 per session. No booking required, just turn up and play. Fun and friendly. Open to all levels and abilities. Steve Baker 07795 680912 or 870906.

### The Arterian Singers

Are looking for new members. Do you enjoy singing? Then come and join us. Rehearsals are held in The Methodist Church, Hallgate, Cottingham on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. All vocal parts, male and female would be welcomed. We sing a wide repertoire to suit all tastes. Contact Maureen Holwell, telephone 845363.

### Swimming Therapy Club

HULL OPTIMISTS is a Swimming Therapy club for disabled Children & Adults. It is held on Monday Nights from 6pm for the Childrens class and 7pm for the Adults class in a warm Hydrotherapy Pool at The Frederick Holmes School on Inglemire Lane HULL, HU6 8JJ. We are looking for new Members and/or Helpers. If you are interested in joining a friendly and welcoming club please contact Chris Hart on 01482 849124 for further details.

## 'Fakes!' – A new exhibition at Skidby Windmill

Throughout history, people have copied things, sometimes for amusement or education, but more often for deception and monetary gain. This exhibition, which was recently seen at Sewerby Hall, now has a new venue at Skidby Mill.

'Fakes' features items as varied as contemporary forgeries of Roman coins, a Victorian 'Meissen' tea set, modern copies of Prehistoric flint tools and copies of designer goods such as Louis Vuitton handbags and mugs with football club branding. Objects come from East Riding Museums' own collections, as well as loans from the council's Trading Standards team (seized in raids), North Lincolnshire Museums and private collections.

Said Dr. David Marchant, museums registrar with the council: "Fakes are all around us, both in a physical and now in a digital sense too. The exhibition looks at some notorious archaeological fakes, such as 'Piltown man', who was thought at one time to be the missing link in human evolution.

"An early 19th century banknote was clearly designed by a local eccentric as a joke. We cover much more recent copies produced as part of organised

crime and the art trade. The exhibition also looks at some of the techniques that have been used to try and deceive."

The exhibition will run until Sunday, 14 May, 2023.

Skidby Mill is open Saturdays and Sundays only, 10.00am-12.30pm and 1.00pm-5.00pm, closed for lunch between 12.30pm and 1.00pm, last admissions 4.15pm. Modest admission charges apply.

For full details, visit: [https://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/find-a-museum/?entry=skidby\\_mill](https://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/find-a-museum/?entry=skidby_mill).



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## Cottingham Parish Council



Welcome to our section of the Cottingham Times that keeps our residents updated with some of the projects that Cottingham Parish Council is involved with.

### Word from the Deputy Clerk

We hope you will come along to our Christmas Festival on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am – 4.30pm. This year we have over 120 traders attending along with face painters, children's rides, entertainment, synthetic ice rink, snow globe, Santa sleigh, snow machine, reindeer and a visit from Santa Claus! There will be a free park and ride bus setting off from Cottingham High School on Harland Way, the first pick up will be 10am and the last pick up back from the village at 5pm.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

*Nicola Pape*

Nicola Pape, Deputy Clerk to Cottingham Parish Council,  
[deputyclerk@cottinghamcouncil.org](mailto:deputyclerk@cottinghamcouncil.org)

### 2023 Meetings

Cottingham Parish Council Meetings are open to members of the public to watch proceedings. They are not, however, public meetings and public participation is limited to a 10-minute session during our Full Parish Council meetings or when invited to speak on specific agenda items or planning applications. Usually our Full Parish Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, except August and December. Dates for our Planning meetings will vary - please visit our website [www.cottinghamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cottinghamparishcouncil.org.uk) for dates of our upcoming meetings.

The contact details of all our Councillors can be found on our website and are contained in all our Noticeboards.

### Grants

The Parish Council can provide grants to local organisations and we encourage local groups to contact us. During 2022 we have given grants to the Cottingham Community Gardening Group, Cottingham Cricket Club, Cottingham Bowling Club, Cottingham Christmas Lights, Cottingham Folk Festival and the Cottingham Detachment Humberside & South Yorkshire Army Cadet Force. A further grant has been provided to the Cottingham Village Trust to meet the costs of operating the toilets on Market Green. During the Summer we also gave small grants for Jubilee Street parties.

### Around Cottingham

Sadly litter, and now clothes, are still being left in the Memorial Gardens. Please can all litter be placed in the bins provided to ensure everyone can enjoy the gardens. Please can you also pick up after your dogs as we are receiving many complaints of dogs fouling on the grass. Thank you.



## A chance to explore the inner workings of Skidby Mill

Skidby Windmill will soon be offering a glimpse into one of the usually unseen areas of the building, with a series of special openings. The stone floor at the mill is one of the key parts of the structure, where massive sets of stones were used to grind grain into flour when the mill was operating.

Volunteers will be offering the opportunity for small numbers of visitors to go up to the stone floor and hear more about the workings of the mill. The stone floor openings will take place on Saturday, 3 December 2022, and Saturday, 7 January, 2023. Morning sessions will run from 10.00am-12.30pm and afternoon sessions from 1.00pm-3.00pm on each of these dates.

The rest of the mill will be open as normal on each of these Saturdays and normal admission charges to the site will apply. Please visit <https://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/> for further details.

Said Dr. David Marchant, museums registrar with the council: "As the mill is currently not working, whilst we await the return of the sails, we wanted to offer visitors a little extra 'behind the scenes'. So we are trialling some Saturday openings of the stone floor over the winter period initially.

"Because of the limited size of the space, groups are limited to four people at a time and we advise all visitors to wear appropriate footwear, such as boots or trainers, as the visit will involve climbing a steep ladder. I'd like to thank members of the Skidby Mill / Hessle Mill volunteer team who have generously given their time to make these visits possible."

## The Phoenix Walkers

We invite you to walk with us this autumn/winter. Fares are £11 per seat Bookable in advance

All you need is good waterproofs/boots and a packed lunch to enjoy a day out with like minded people. Walks are 5 to 7 miles and 7 to 10 miles. Finish the day with a social in a pub/ cafe before returning home

Our dates for our Sunday coach walks are

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We pick-up Hull Truck, Greenwood Ave, and Cottingham green.

For further information and booking your seat contact

Sid and Sue 01482 701325 or email [phoenixwalkingclub@oulook.com](mailto:phoenixwalkingclub@oulook.com).



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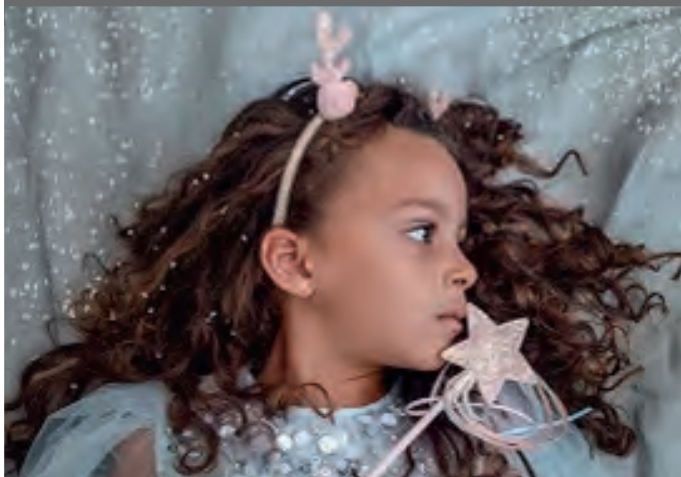
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## Funding available for organisations and community groups to establish welcoming places across the East Riding

**W**elcoming places are being established across the East Riding to provide somewhere warm for residents to visit during the colder months.

As part of East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Help for Households campaign, which has been established to support residents and businesses through the current cost of living crisis, organisations and community groups will be able to apply for grants to open their venues as welcoming places while East Riding libraries will be opening their doors to people to offer a warm and welcoming place.

As part of the Do it for East Yorkshire community grant, organisations and community groups, including those who have previously received funding from the scheme, can now apply for grants between £1,500 and £5,000 specifically to open their venues on a regular basis to provide welcoming places.

These venues can include village halls, community centres and food banks but they must provide activities and/or refreshments such as a lunch club or exercise group in order to be eligible to apply for the grant to go towards energy costs of staying open.

The funding cannot be used to go towards costs associated with venue hire or staffing costs relating to running this type of activity.

Libraries across the East Riding will also be open for people to drop in during the colder months and will offer a wide range of activities to support health and well-being throughout the cost of living crisis.

Libraries offer free access to wi-fi and a range of digital services while library staff can help people get online while there will also be a range of activities such as games and jigsaws and the offer of a warm drink and support.

East Riding libraries are located at: Anlaby, Beverley, Bridlington, North Bridlington, Brough, Cottingham, Drifffield, Flamborough, Goole, Hedon, Hessle, Hornsea, Howden, Leven, Market Weighton, North Ferriby, Pocklington, Snaith, South Cave, Stamford Bridge, Swanland, Willerby and Withernsea.

Residents are also welcome on the mobile libraries that visit 157 locations across the East Riding.

Councillor Jonathan Owen, leader of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, said: "We know it's going to be a particularly hard winter with the cost of energy going up meaning some of our residents will struggle to heat their homes.

"Welcoming places are open to all residents and will provide a warm welcome to all people from all backgrounds and circumstances.

"These welcoming places can be found in our libraries as well as venues within local communities and they are places where people can gather to relax, engage in activities, socialise as a community as well as access support during this cost of living crisis.

"I'd also encourage local groups and organisations who are considering opening up their own venues as welcoming places to have a look at the funding available via the Do it for East Yorkshire Community grant to see if they are eligible and able to provide some help for their communities."

\* For more information on the Do it for East Riding Community Grant go to <https://eryc.link/grant>.

Residents, households and businesses can access a wide range of help and support via the council's Help for Households webpage - <https://eryc.link/helpforhouseholds>.

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# 6,000 tonnes of unflushables removed at Yorkshire Water's wastewater treatment sites every year

**6,000** tonnes of unflushable materials, such as wet wipes, nappies, plastics and other foreign objects are screened out and removed from Yorkshire Water's wastewater treatment works every year – the equivalent of 1,000 male African elephants.

Many of these materials are responsible for blockages that develop within the sewer network, but those that do not cause a blockage eventually make their way to treatment sites where they are removed by screens.

The vast majority of material removed is made up of wet wipes, sanitary products and other unflushable items. Clothing, driving licences, false teeth, mobile phones are some of the more unusual objects removed at Yorkshire Water's treatment works.

Ben Roche, director of wastewater at Yorkshire Water said: "Every year we spend millions of pounds removing blockages in our sewers across the region caused by wet wipes, fats and other unflushables being put

into the network. Many items incorrectly disposed of into the sewer network do not form blockages and make their way to the treatment works, where they are removed by screens before the wastewater is treated.

"We would urge all our customers not to flush anything but pee, poo and toilet paper – the 3Ps – down their toilets. Removal, recycling and disposal of foreign objects that reach our treatment works incurs costs – money that could be better spent in other areas of our operations."

Yorkshire Water has previously backed calls for a ban on plastics in wet wipes and all single-use sanitary items.

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**Wordsearch - A Christmas Carol**

Can you find the hidden words. They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

P	A	N	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	D
E	S	U	O	H	G	N	I	T	N	U	O	C	S	M	O	A	S	T	N
T	O	L	D	F	E	Z	Z	I	W	I	G	I	E	N	Y	T	I	O	E
E	H	W	E	M	O	T	I	H	C	T	A	R	C	S	R	M	D	M	O
R	A	O	G	B	N	E	P	H	E	W	R	B	S	E	M	N	O	F	T
E	B	N	U	B	E	R	J	V	C	Y	I	S	E	R	O	C	F	S	E
C	D	S	B	O	G	N	O	A	C	I	N	N	S	L	O	I	O	C	C
I	N	D	M	B	T	B	E	H	C	I	T	F	T	T	C	H	L	H	I
R	W	Y	U	C	E	S	R	Z	A	O	E	S	T	E	G	Y	K	A	T
A	O	R	H	R	N	I	A	T	E	Z	B	E	U	S	R	D	N	R	N
V	G	G	S	A	S	O	R	P	Z	R	Y	M	Y	A	S	E	O	L	E
A	G	N	U	T	S	U	I	I	S	S	S	E	A	S	C	E	C	E	R
T	N	A	M	C	C	P	W	T	A	A	L	C	S	R	B	R	K	S	P
U	I	A	E	H	V	I	I	M	P	R	M	N	R	E	L	G	E	D	P
R	S	E	R	I	G	N	T	R	A	M	I	T	L	O	Y	E	R	I	A
K	S	O	N	T	Y	S	E	M	I	A	E	L	S	D	O	G	Y	C	C
E	E	O	D	T	I	B	L	E	H	T	E	D	E	I	S	G	S	K	L
Y	R	U	I	R	F	O	G	C	S	E	S	B	E	V	R	E	E	E	E
R	D	M	H	N	I	G	H	T	C	A	P	M	A	R	T	H	A	N	R
Y	H	C	T	U	R	C	O	A	D	N	I	L	E	B	N	E	C	S	K

Find the words in the letters above:

Angry, Apprentice, Avarice, Bah, Bed, Belinda, Belle, Bob Cratchit, Caustic, Chains, Charles Dickens, Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas Yet To Come, Clerk, Counting House, Crutch, Curtains, Dressing Gown, Ebenezer Scrooge, Fog, Greedy, Humbug, Jacob Marley, Knocker, London, Marley's Ghost, Martha, Merry Christmas, Mrs. Cratchit, Mrs. Fezziwig, Nephew, Nightcap, Office, Old Fezziwig, Peter, Redemption, Snow, Spirits, Tiny Tim, Turkey, Winter.

Wordsearch courtesy of <http://www.puzzles.ca/wordsearch.html>

**Sudoku No. 185**

This is an easy challenge this month - Answer on page 29

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

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We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year and also for your advance bookings for 2023 & beyond.

We will be having a couple of breaks this month when our door will be closed to visitors but **Telesales will be available as usual** (except for Christmas & Boxing day). **Friday 9th - Friday 15th December** we are away on our escorted Christmas Market River Cruise.

**Friday 23rd December - 1st January 23 inclusive.**

This Christmas, if you are stuck for a present then why not give the gift of travel it can be anything from a day outing, a luxury break or an adventure in a far flung destination. Many of us having had our wings clipped during covid are now making the most of life.

Have you got places on your bucket list? If so then get in touch and let's get you booked then you sit back and enjoy looking forward to your treat.

**Northern Lights**, we now have our special departure on sale for 2024, our hotel has just 23 rooms and we are selling these quickly. There are other hotels but the location is not so preferable. This is such a bargain very little spending money is needed as other than drinks it is very inclusive.

**North West Passage of Canada.** Anyone thinking of an expedition? This is my next adventure having enjoyed Antarctica several years ago. Why not join me in August 2024? Call for details it will be a fabulous adventure.

**Our face book page** shows odd offers along with other news, a bit like our shop window! We also add bits on our website blog plus send out emails with news. If you are not on our mailing list call and we will gladly add you. The best way to communicate is via the telephone, it is easy to explain & us to find what you are looking for.

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& for a happy & healthy 2023. *Marion & Emma*

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05 May	A Taste of Scotland, for foodies who appreciate premium wine, scenery or even a nice walk 5 days	£595
23 May	Regent Seven Sea's cruise ex Southampton all inc. luxury 6 star 10 nights from your door starting price	From £6669
14 Jul	Welsh Adventure - 7 nights two centre 3 nights at the Min Y Mor Barmouth + 4 nights at the Tynedale scenery, seaside, train rides, castles & more	£ 975
16 Sep	West Ireland Atlantic Way, our journey continues, another adventure to enjoy. 9 days a great itinerary	£1165
07 Oct	Northern Belle, Britain's most Luxurious Train. Full day outing to Carlisle travelling the iconic Settle to Carlisle route. Brunch outbound, 5 course dinner return journey. <b>MAKES A GREAT SPECIAL GIFT</b>	£ 495
22 Oct	Fred Olsen 10 night cruise visiting the lovely ports of Lisbon, Gibraltar, Cadiz, Malaga & La Coruna. Sails from Liverpool. Emma will be sailing with you.	From £1299
16 Nov & 2 Dec	Thursford Christmas Spectacular, the best seats in the house & a super hotel close by 1 night Dinner B&B. Limited single rooms + £10	£245
2024 27 Sep	Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia 14 days a small group guided tour of 3 countries: call for details.	£2695

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## Crossword - Solution on page 29

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9										10				
11										12				
13										14		15	16	
17														21
22		23				24				25				
26														
28										29				

### Across:

- 1 Shiver (7)
- 5 Drops (7)
- 9 Instances of hard physical labor (9)
- 10 Absorbs written material (5)
- 11 French country house (7)
- 12 Saliva (7)
- 13 Making better (9)
- 15 Detected (5)
- 17 Writing tables (5)
- 19 A short yet extended fictional work (9)
- 22 Too old (7)
- 25 Corroding (7)
- 26 Primp (5)
- 27 Revering (9)
- 28 Gabled extensions in a roof (7)
- 29 Blameless (7)

### Down:

- 1 Pale cane syrup (7)
- 2 Some women bat these (9)
- 3 A small brown heron (7)
- 4 An expert manner of speaking (9)
- 5 Electrical safety devices (5)
- 6 Borders (7)
- 7 The smallest amount (5)
- 8 Temporarily expel (7)
- 14 State leaders (9)
- 16 Derived from hunches (9)
- 17 Let fall (7)
- 18 An Algonquian people (7)
- 20 Homosexual woman (7)
- 21 Engrosses wholly (7)
- 23 Chieftain (5)
- 24 Modifies written material (5)

*Crossword courtesy of [www.crosswordpalace.com](http://www.crosswordpalace.com)  
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[www.cottinghamtimes.co.uk](http://www.cottinghamtimes.co.uk) - December 15



## Adam Loubani has been selected for the Special Olympics Summer Games in 2023

We can finally announce that a local Cottingham young man, Adam Loubani, a member of Special Olympics City of Hull Swimming Club, has been selected as one of only six swimmers of Team GB at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 in Berlin. The first 58 athletes of Team GB squad were announced on November 17th. Special Olympics City of Hull is incredibly proud of Adam and are certain he will be a great ambassador for the club, the Yorkshire and Humberside region and Great Britain.

Special Olympics Great Britain, the largest UK provider of year-round sports training and competitions for children and adults of all abilities with intellectual disabilities, is delighted to announce its first 58 athletes who will compete at next year's Special Olympics World Games.

The 16th Special Olympics World Games, which are due to take place in Berlin, Germany for the first time next summer (17 – 25 June). It will be the world's largest inclusive sporting event in 2023 with more than 7,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities competing across 26 sports over nine days.

The first 58 competing athletes will represent Team Special Olympics GB in athletics, basketball, bocce, cycling, equestrian, unified football, golf, artistic & rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, table tennis and tennis. Additionally, the athletes will be supported by 28 coaches and a further 22 support and medical staff.

Colin Dyer, CEO of Special Olympics GB, said: "Huge congratulations to all of our athletes who have been selected to represent Team SOGB at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Berlin 2023. To represent Team SOGB as an athlete with

intellectual disabilities deserves the highest praise and recognition. Given the incredibly challenging circumstances that we have encountered in recent years, winning a place in the Special Olympics World Games squad is not only an incredibly proud moment for our athletes, but for their loved ones and our fantastic team of volunteers who make Special Olympics GB happen."

The Special Olympics World Games are the largest inclusive sports events in the world and Berlin 2023, which follows on from Abu Dhabi 2019, is aiming to achieve greater recognition and social participation of people with intellectual disabilities.

Stephen Walker, head of delegation for the Special Olympics World Summer Games, said: "Huge congratulations to all the athletes who will be representing Team SOGB at next year's Games."

"For our athletes making up Team SOGB, representing your country is a massive honour and we are very much looking forward to working with them all over the next few months to ensure they are ready to have the best possible time at the Games. The Special Olympics World Games 2023 will be a celebration of inclusion, and we cannot wait to see our athletes in action doing their country proud."

During the selection process some of the key considerations were qualifications, experience, ambassadorial qualities, training and participation in competitions, all of which Adam has showcased throughout the last 10 years. Adam trains consistently with his main club Special Olympics on Saturdays and with Kingston Upon Hull Swimming Club Masters on Thursdays.

*Adam is pictured with a selection of medals he has won at Special Olympics local, regional and national competitions. He is hoping that in June he will be able to add some world Game medals to his already impressive collection.*

## Free Christmas parking in the East Riding

Parking charges across all council-operated car parks will be suspended for the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

For the last 14 years, parking has been free on the four weekends leading up to Christmas at the council's on-street and off-street parking locations in a bid to boost trade and visitor numbers in towns across the East Riding.

Free parking will also be in force for Small Business Saturday, which this year takes place on Saturday, 3 December.

This year, parking charges in the council's on-street and off-street parking locations will be suspended on the following weekends:

Saturday, 3 December and Sunday, 4 December

Saturday, 10 December and Sunday, 11 December

Saturday, 17 December and Sunday, 18 December.

Saturday, 24 December (Christmas Eve).

The free parking period will be between 8am on Saturday to 8am on Monday and pay and display machines will be clearly marked to let people know there will be no charge.

While parking charges are suspended, motorists are advised that normal parking rules still apply, such as those around disabled parking bays, maximum stays and controlled parking zones (CPZ).

Councillor Jonathan Owen, leader of East Riding of Yorkshire Council said: "Christmas is a very important time for local high streets and free parking will encourage people to come into our town centres and shop locally and help boost our economy."

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## Melanie Watson of Skidby Livery Stables with the latest of her monthly articles

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## Understanding imprinting

Has it ever occurred to you how you even learned a particular thing? How does that particular thing make you feel? Does it frighten you or make you happy and relaxed? Perhaps that thing is something you seem to have always known, or did you study the subject or watch a YouTube video so you could master that thing?

How we learn and how we feel about learning is always contingent on how it makes us feel during and after the learning process.

Horses (and all animals) basically learn the same way and how that learning feels will then dictate the outcome. However, life-long learning through experience is one thing- imprinting is quite another. It is instant in some cases and can never be unlearned.

Imprinting is learned from the earliest moments of life. Foals imprint on their mother in the first 24 hrs of birth. The mare will lick her baby all over, not just to dry it off but to create a mutual bond. That foal needs to stick to mum like glue in its earliest life in order to survive predation. They bond immediately. When outside in the fields or out in the wild, that foal will keep up with mum at all times wherever she goes to graze or drink and will lie down with her when she rests. It's only later on when

that foal is much older, will it start to wander away from her for short distances as it explores its new world. Mum will insist on it staying close until she relaxes as she feels her foal is more able to stay safe away from her immediate proximity.

Imprinting is why some baby animals will latch onto another species. Famously, imprinting was brought to the public notice with zoologist Konrad Lorenz. He discovered that goslings imprint on the very first thing they see move when they hatch. His lifelong study of the subject earned him the Nobel prize. There is a famous TV documentary of a microflight pilot Bill Lishman who reared imprinted goslings. It is understood that birds learn so much from their parents- even how to fly! He taught his to fly by slowly but surely flying his microflight across the surface of a lake. He studied the subject so enormously that he then taught his goslings how to migrate by following wild geese as they migrated naturally across the world! The film is called Fly Away Home.

Birds in general seem to have the quickest and strongest innate imprinting mechanism in their brains. The world over has people with a particular hen, goose or duck as their imprinted pet. That creature follows them wherever they go. It is a hard driven genetic response for survival and one which humans have manipulated to their advantage. It can work against us badly too. When one is forced to bottle/bucket rear a lamb or a foal then that animal will automatically imprint on that human. This can create big problems as that animal grows up and becomes an adult, leading to much emotional trauma to that animal as it grows up. The human must decide to be there for all of that animal's life which is never possible.

With orphaned foals we try hard to find a foster mother as soon as possible. A hand reared foal becomes a very damaged individual later on. They will never learn the concept of boundaries with humans because we are associated with milk, and maternal nurture. Sadly so many become hugely aggressive and conflicted adults when it comes to their relationships with humans.

A triplet lamb will be given to a ewe who only has one surviving lamb. A cade lamb will only ever be a pet. They do not return to the flock well because they do not realise they are a sheep. That is because they never learned that from a sheep mum.

There was a controversy created many years ago with an American who decided to create an imprinting plan with new born foals. He intervened massively during those early hours and days of a foal's life, in order to imprint himself alongside the dam. His name was Robert Millar, a veterinarian who then went on to write a book on Imprint Training foals. It was controversial and very damaging. An absolute case of bad practice with science. This interference inevitably proved to cause so much conflict throughout those horse's lives. However at the time of publication it was jumped on by the horse owning population who thought it was marvellous.

We can have a good solid relationship with our foals just by ordinary, sensible quiet handling and interacting without damaging its learning pathway into conflict.

Humans as a species become bonded over a very long time period purely because we are so very slow to develop. As babies and young children we are vulnerable for so many years. We nurture our children for at least 16 years. It is different with birds and herbivores. To survive in the wild they must be able to run, hide and stay close from birth.

Imprinting is a very big subject and I have only scratched the surface of this subject.

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## A shoulder to lean on

Christmas is nearly upon us. This is when I reflect over the year, thinking of events, good or bad, and look forward to what the New Year may bring. Also, at this time, we tend to reflect on loved ones who are no longer with us to share and enjoy these precious moments. In fact, I feel it has been more poignant during the last three years due to COVID and more recently the passing of our dearly beloved Queen. The feeling of solitude and isolation has taken its toll and magnified any loss that we may have sadly endured. Luckily, I have my close-knit family of daughters, son-in-laws and grandchildren around me, plus a job I thoroughly enjoy, to keep me going, not forgetting Tali of course. Sadly, there are many people who have no close family or relatives and rely totally on their pets for companionship. Whether it is a dog, cat, rabbit or even a tortoise they have chosen, it has become their soul-mate and confidant for many years. Someone they trust, never be criticized and is always there for them. Therefore, who are we to judge that they too, cannot reflect on their missing loved one?

I know I have mentioned in previous articles of the way some, but not all, people approach this delicate subject. If they are not animal 'lovers' or have no pets of their own, then it is



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quite often we hear "Well it is only a dog, cat, rabbit etc. You can get another ". Would they say that if it was a relative or someone close, we are grieving for "You can get another friend?". If only, we can step back a few paces, 'walk a mile in their shoes' and then reflect, I think we would hear it less often. Life is not that simple, so we just have to accept that everyone is not the same and they grieve in different ways.

My family have had many pets over the years and when it has been the time to say goodbye, we have been faced with the sometimes-difficult decision as to whether or not to request for their ashes to be returned from the crematorium. We came to the decision to say our goodbyes in the surgery, or at home and to commemorate their life by planting a patio rose with a snippet of fur buried in the soil along with an apt saying applying to that particular pet. We have an engraved plaque dedicated to all our lost family pets, placed on the remembrance garden wall at the crematorium. Also, many photographs of our beloved pets are dotted around the house taking pride of place amongst family photos...after all, they were our family.

What happens after our 'soul-mate' leaves this life and crosses over? Are they still around, watching over us as if they haven't left at all? Once again, who is to say. I have had my doubts in the past, secretly hoping in the meantime that I could sense them being nearby. Was that our old cat, Suiki, I saw going up the stairs to only find nothing there when I followed? Or the feeling of Tammy, my long and trusted friend, laid on my feet at the bottom of my bed? Both of these occurrences happened within months after they had passed away. To me, they are not sinister happenings but warmer and comforting in the knowing they are not far away.

It doesn't matter what we do or how we do it to find comfort in remembering our faithful friend, as long as it gives comfort to those who are left behind.

We at KINGSTON pride ourselves not only on compassion but also empathy during this most difficult time. If you are struggling to come to terms with your loss, please do not hesitate to call any of our branches, where we will be on hand to offer any advice needed and that most precious shoulder to lean on.

### AND FINALLY... TALI.....

My poor Tali has been in the wars. Why? Well, as most of you know by now, my lovely girl has only two speeds (three if you count her Tigger impersonation, bouncing on a coiled spring) and they are stop and full speed. It was the latter whilst on a field chasing her favourite item, MORE than food, a ball that the damage occurred. Now to look at her you wouldn't realise she can be so fast but from afar she could be easily be mistaken for a racing greyhound at full stretch. There she was, full speed, caught the ball and did a sharp about turn. I did not notice anything wrong until she came close and the strange angle of the dew claw was visible and bleeding. I knew instantly that a trip to work was on the agenda and that was where I spent my day off. Luckily after a few days of pain relief and feeling sorry for herself, she was back to true Tali form. Lesson learnt? Wrap up her front dew claws whilst chasing tennis balls. Until the next time.....

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We pick up at Bilton, Holderness Road, Hull City Centre, Beverley Road, Greenwood Avenue and The Green, Cottingham.

We have one walk planned for December.

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For further information and to book a place on the coach please contact Joint Rambles' Secretaries, [Sue O'Leary on sue@sueoleary.co.uk](mailto:Sue O'Leary on sue@sueoleary.co.uk) or telephone 07767420646 or Pauline Borger on [paulineborger48@gmail.com](mailto:paulineborger48@gmail.com) or telephone 07929933323.

Check out our website <http://hull-cha-rambling.wix.com/hull-cha-rambling>

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NEW WALKERS WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOME.

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (HUTH) will offer jobs to third-year degree students, providing they achieve their degrees, as part of its "Remarkable People" recruitment campaign.

Around 90 per cent of student nurses at the University of Hull now come to work at Hull Royal Infirmary and Castle Hill Hospital since the launch of the campaign five years ago.

Simon Nearney, Director of Workforce and Organisational Development at HUTH, said: "In the past, students completed their studies in Hull but then some chose to move away and work elsewhere.

"Our programme means we can offer local people jobs in their home city, giving them the security of knowing they have a job when they qualify. Instead of trying to find work, they can then concentrate on their studies knowing they will start their careers with us."

Since the programme began five years ago, 564 newly qualified nurses have joined both hospitals from the University of Hull. While other hospital trusts around the country have struggled to recruit, Hull is bucking the trend and has a nursing vacancy rate of just one per cent compared to the national rate of 10.3 per cent.

Student nurses promised jobs with the trust are supported by nurse educators at the trust, given help with their studies to help them achieve the best possible results.

The trust will host a recruitment event at the University of Hull next month with the view to attracting future staff. Interviews will be held in February with job offers made to successful candidates well in advance of them sitting their final exams. They will then begin work at the hospitals as newly qualified nurses in September.

## Recruitment programme brings more newly qualified nurses to Hull's hospitals

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ON THE GRAPEVINE



WITH ROY WOODCOCK

The Champagne season has begun

Champagne season is now officially open and although anyone knowing me well will testify I enjoy any excuse, any time, to partake of a glass, the fact is, apart from Valentine's Day, we buy more of the stuff for Christmas and New Year than at any other time.

It's a great party drink, of course, and we Brits do tend to drink it on its own, chilled as an aperitif, but it does prove to be an extremely versatile wine to pair with most special meals; although do avoid heavy food like roast meats (none with the turkey, then!)

I'll be starting off on Christmas morning with a glass of Champagne while opening presents with the family - a "posh" breakfast of Eggs Benedict and Champagne is a real treat - and I'll certainly be popping a few corks in the run-up to midnight on New Year's Eve, but in between there will be plenty of other chances to enjoy a glass of fizz.

It's well suited, for instance, to a plate of fish and chips - Champagne has a lot of acidity in it and helps cut through the oil in the batter and chips. And fizz can be a great when snacking - try a rose variety with crisps, for instance, or Jaffa Cakes, where the combination of bitter orange and dark chocolate sits really well with the bubbles. Ideal as you prepare to doze off in front of the Christmas TV.

It doesn't have to actually be Champagne, of course, as sales of other types of fizz testify. But what's the difference?

Unlike other sparkling wines, Champagne may only be produced in the Champagne region of north-eastern France where the chalky soils are perfect for growing Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier - the varieties that make up this sophisticated fizz.

Producers follow very traditional methods to ensure the exclusivity and premium quality of Champagne. Grapes are picked by hand, not machine, and the wine is always aged for a minimum of 18 months.

Also, the second fermentation always takes place in the same bottle that the wine is sold in; this is called Méthode Champenoise.

Prosecco is a popular sparkling wine from northern Italy with gentle bubbles and a clean, distinctive apple-like finish. The key to Prosecco's international success lies in its easygoing friendly drinkability.

Like Champagne there is a secondary fermentation, however the difference with Prosecco is that this happens in stainless steel tanks under pressure rather than in the bottle. The result is a much purer expression of the Prosecco grape, and less of the bready, yeasty, biscuit aromas associated with Champagne.

Cava, meaning "cellar" in Catalan, is a delicious sparkling wine from Spain. Similar to the production of Champagne, secondary fermentation takes place in the bottle. Known for its rich citrus flavours and creamy notes, try a glass of cava with traditional tapas for an authentic Spanish experience.

Finally, English fizz is enjoying huge popularity at the moment and some of the very best, such as Nyetimber, can be more expensive than non vintage Champagne. Many English vineyards benefit from chalk soils similar to those found in Champagne and the result is a very similar wine.

Forgetting fizz for a moment, Burgundy, both red and white, will definitely figure over the festive period; either would partner with turkey or duck; my preference would be for a light Pinot Noir - having very little tannins this red won't overwhelm the delicacy of the meat tastes.

In the case of duck, however, you will need to be careful if it is to be cooked in any sort of fruit sauce, such as orange or cherry, in which case an off-dry or sweeter white, such as a German Riesling, will balance the fattiness of the duck.

Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are the two great grape varieties of Burgundy, a region which runs from Auxerre in the north to Lyon in the south, and Pinot is really one of THE food friendly wines, suiting everything from roast ham with mustard to those Burgundian favourites like coq au vin and boeuf bourguignon.

White Burgundies are all produced from Chardonnay grapes and include famous examples like Chablis and Pouilly Fuisse; we'll certainly be drinking some of the former with our smoked salmon over the festive period - the two seem like a match made in heaven to me; equally it's a wine that will match well with prawns and other rich shellfish, including oysters.

Later in the Christmas meal I'll definitely be passing the port (an aged Tawny would be a good choice) to go with the pudding as well as the mince pies. Simply a delicious combination.

Port also works well with chocolate puddings and cheese; a vintage port with Stilton is unbeatable in my opinion. But for that other great Christmas indulgence - sherry trifle - I've grown really partial to a glass of sweet Sherry; Pedro Ximenez being mind-blowingly good.

Just a flavour, then, of what I will be drinking at Christmas.

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Edouard Delaunay Septembre  
Chardonnay 2020

Where: Majestic  
When: Now

Why: Christmas isn't complete without some Burgundy and, like the Pinot Noir, this offers typical Burgundian character. Citrus, lemon and orange blossom aromas mix with a hint of barley sugar and white chocolate, followed by notes of melted butter, frangipane and hazelnut on the palate

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Where: Aldi  
When: Now

Why: A complex, concentrated and citrusy tippie. Well balanced with an elegant and fruity finish - it's sure to be a Christmas hit. Try it with seafood or goat's cheese.

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Calvet Fitou Le Grand Roi  
2019

Where: Ocado  
When: Now

Why: Made from a blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre grapes aged for 8 months in French oak, this deep purple wine has intense blackcurrant aromas and smoky notes and is ideal with a warming beef stew.

£10.50



## The Treasure House in Beverley unveils its 'Brick City' competition winner

In the summer, the Treasure House in Beverley ran a Minifig-a-gram Competition alongside the very popular 'Brick City' LEGO exhibition at Beverley Art Gallery.

The competition was also a huge success, with over 1200 entries. The winner was randomly selected from the hundreds of qualifying entries by Chris McKnight from Brickbox, based in Hull.

The Treasure House is delighted to announce that the winner is four year old Emma from Cottingham, pictured here with her mother. Emma won three CITY LEGO sets, which she is looking forward to building.

Congratulations to Emma from the team at the Treasure House!

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## Motoring - with Roy Woodcock



### Citroen has added the X factor to its C5 range and the result is a truly luxurious big car. Roy Woodcock reports . . .

I'd almost given up on cars having a stand-out personality all of their own; if there is such a thing as an I-Spy book for cars any more (the sort you might hand in desperation to your kids to prevent the "are we nearly there yet?" questions on a long holiday journey) then you'd have to admit confusion of what they'd actually seen would have you questioning your own sanity.

I guess I'm sort of saying that with so many cars now having a generic look you might have a hard job to pick one out in an identity parade. Then along comes the Citroen C5 X.

It doesn't quite rival the days when Renault unveiled the likes of Avantime and Val Satis in the early years of the new Millennium, but for me, it evokes that sort of spirit.

Is it a Crossover, a luxury large hatchback or a big estate; perhaps a bit of all three? What this car certainly is is big and luxurious; something you might want to do the Grand Tour in. Officially launched at the end of July, Eurig Druce, managing director of Citroen UK, told us: "New C5 X represents a long-anticipated return to the prestigious D-segment for Citroen, and we're proud to offer customers a completely unique model. There's nothing like New C5 X on the market today, not only in terms of its looks and dimensions, but also the way New C5 X combines the most advanced comfort features with the latest technologies to deliver unrivalled comfort and serenity."

Having had the car on test for a week I can certainly testify that it had everyone searching for their I-Spy books - no one had seen one before and its stretched-limo looks drew countless admiring glances.

So, let's flesh out the story a bit . . . With a starting price of well below £30,000, the C5 X is a roomy, interesting and - most importantly - comfortable family car regardless of how you choose to categorise it. Thanks to a wheelbase stretching to 2,785mm, there's an enormous amount of space in the back of the car (both for passengers and luggage).

It's a true five-seater with space to really stretch out. And the feeling of luxury and comfort is immediately obvious when you get in the car, thanks to Citroen's "Advanced Comfort" seats that feel more like armchairs.

New C5 X is available in "Sense Plus", "Shine" and "Shine Plus" trim from launch with petrol and Hybrid powertrains, and prices starting from only £26,490 on the road for the lead-in Sense Plus petrol model.

24 December- [www.cottinghamtimes.co.uk](http://www.cottinghamtimes.co.uk)

The entry-level trim features a wealth of equipment as standard, including 19-inch alloy wheels and LED headlights. Inside, there's part leather-effect covered seats, whilst infotainment comes in the form of a 10-inch central touchscreen that incorporates Connected 3D Navigation, wireless smartphone mirroring functionality and a Hi-Fi speaker system. To aid parking, "Sense Plus" models also feature front and rear parking sensors, and a reversing camera.

On "Shine" models the multi-function steering wheel is heated, while the door handles, front foot wells and driver instrument panel all feature subtle LED lighting. Significantly, the 10-inch central touchscreen is upgraded to a 12-inch unit, while drivers also benefit from an extended heads-up display and wireless smartphone charging. Radar Controlled Active Safety Brake is also standard, helping improve safety still further.

Range-topping "Shine Plus" versions, like my test car, then add extra tinted quarter-panel windows at the rear. Inside, there's leather seats and both the driver and front passenger seats are electrically operated and heated, while comfort is further improved via acoustically-insulated front and rear windows, along with a tinted gloss appearance.

A motorised tailgate enhances convenience, while safety is assured via extended blind spot detection and a 360-degree reversing camera.

From launch, customers have a choice of PureTech petrol or ultra-efficient plug-in Hybrid models. Petrol-powered variants are available with either a 1.2-litre PureTech 130, or the more powerful 1.6-litre PureTech 180 engine. All models sold exclusively with a smooth eight-speed automatic gearbox.

Hybrid models combine the PureTech 180 petrol engine with an 81.2kW electric motor and a 12.4kWh Lithium-ion battery pack, for a combined power output of 225hp and 360Nm of torque. Capable of up to 34 miles in full-electric mode, New C5 X Hybrid models emit just 30g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> - making them eligible for an 11 per cent Benefit-in-Kind taxation rate.

The flagship model, as tested here, is the 225hp plug-in hybrid. Fully charged, it accelerates briskly and effortlessly with noticeably low levels of engine noise - 0-62mph comes up in 7.9 seconds and the maximum speed is 145mph. Comfort levels are amazing, thanks to the hydraulic active suspension system.

In short, if you want a big family car to stand out from the crowd, then the C5 X is for you.

More information: [www.citroen.co.uk](http://www.citroen.co.uk).



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## Four top tips to care for hedgehogs this Winter

As the weather gets colder and the evenings turn darker, much of the local wildlife has settled into hibernation season. As such, many people will be looking for ways to protect the UK's wildlife at this time. Barratt Developments Yorkshire East shares its top tips on how homeowners can protect hedgehogs within their local areas this winter.

Research from RSPB has found that hedgehogs are in rapid decline, with a shocking estimated 30 mil decrease in the furry critters since the 1950s, across England, Scotland and Wales.

There are many reasons for the decline, from pesticides and fertilisers used in farming, traffic on the roads, or the lack of wildlife corridors for hedgehogs to safely move around the landscape. But there are also many ways in which people can support, as Barratt Developments Yorkshire East reveals.

### Leave a little mess

A little mess never hurts, and in fact for hedgehogs, it can save lives. Providing hedgehogs with cover will help to protect them when they wake up from hibernation and search for food. A pile of leaf litter in particular is well received - so don't be hasty throwing away your leaf piles!

### Avoid pesticides

Avoid using pesticides and fertilisers as not only do they cause severe damage to hedgehogs and other forms of wildlife, but they're also not needed - hedgehogs love to snack on slugs and snails, which means that they're also managing the pest control for you!

### Hedgehog Highways

Did you know that hedgehogs can travel up to 12 miles a night? This often involves crossing busy roads, and scurrying around gardens. Homeowners can help to protect them as they travel around by creating 'hedgehog highways'. Simply create a small hole at the bottom of the fence to allow hedgehogs to feed and find a mate - roughly 13 x 13cm (the size of a CD case) will do the trick!

### Hogging the food

Hedgehogs love to eat, but they have sensitive stomachs, with milk and bread often causing digestive issues. Instead, try placing down some fresh water and canned pet food to keep their bellies healthy and full. This will also help them to achieve the ideal weight before they go into hibernation, which is crucial for hoglets born later down the line.

Barratt Developments has a long-standing partnership with RSPB, and has worked closely with the organisation to identify key research and advice on how to nurture the local wildlife this winter season.

For more inspiration and guidance on how to help your local hedgehogs and other wildlife, please visit the RSPB's Nature on Your Doorstep.

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For centuries, Christmas has been celebrated by bringing nature into the home. Plants offer natural beauty and wonderful fragrances. As well as the real Christmas trees and exotically coloured houseplants on sale at our garden centre, you can decorate your home with bowls of pine cones or colourful leaves, twisted stems or teasels in a vase, garlands of ivy, holly and mistletoe, and natural tree decorations such as cinnamon sticks tied with ribbon and studded oranges. So for a greener Christmas, why not add a little natural country charm to your decorations – and get the kids to help!

Selecting and decorating the Christmas tree is one of the key festive traditions, and nothing compares to the wonderful fresh pine scent, appearance and texture of a real Christmas tree.

The traditional Christmas tree is the Norway Spruce which we have available 3ft-10ft, but as an alternative we

also have the beautiful Premium Nordmann available in 5ft-8ft and Fraser Fir available in 6ft-8ft. Just remember to give your tree plenty of water and follow our simple steps to ensure that your beautiful natural tree takes pride of place in your home this Christmas.

Before you buy your Christmas tree, make sure you know how much room you've got to house it. Measure the ceiling height and width of the space and take a tape measure with you.

- Look for a green tree with no sign of brown needles. Check that the trunk is sturdy and straight and the tree has a good, even shape with well-spaced branches and no obvious gaps. Needles should stay fast if you gently run your fingers down one of the lower branches.

They are easy and rewarding houseplants, provided you meet their requirements – a cool spot (12-15°C) that's brightly-lit, but out of direct sunlight. Over-watering is one of the chief causes of their demise. When the compost surface feels dry immerse the pot in a bowl of rain water for 20 minutes then pour the excess away.

- Once home, place your tree in a cool, dry place out of the wind in a bucket of water until you're ready to decorate.

- Before you bring it into the home, saw 2.5cm (1in) off the end of the trunk.

- Place the tree in as cool a position as possible – ideally well away from radiators and open fires.

- Christmas trees keep best in plain water rather than soil or sand, which block the pores in the bark, so use a specially designed Christmas tree stand.

- Top up with water with a little sugar added – you may find your tree needs as much as 2 litres (3 pints) a day.

## 10 Jobs for this month

1. Check greenhouse heaters
2. Protect any tender plants with horticultural fleece
3. Prune acers, birches & vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding
4. Reduce water for houseplants
5. Increase feed and provide plenty of fresh water for the birds
6. Continue to deadhead pansies and violas to encourage flowering through the mild weather
7. Plant Winter flowering shrubs to add colour to your garden
8. Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining crops
9. Check that your Winter protection structures are set up and in place
10. Clean up and cover you garden furniture to protect over the Winter

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## FESTIVE PLANTS

Flowering and colourful plants are always a joy to give and receive at Christmas. Their bright, cheerful appearance, especially those with red flowers, bracts and stems, lifts the spirits and epitomises the season.

Follow these simple guidelines to help your festive plants perform superbly right through the Christmas season and well into the new year.

### CYCLAMEN

Cyclamen are one of the most charming winter-flowering plants with exotic-looking swept-back flowers in intense shades of red, purple, pink and white with heart-shaped, silver-veined foliage.

### CHRISTMAS ROSE

Said to have sprung from the tears of a young girl who had nothing to offer the Christ child, the Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*) blooms in the darkest months of the year, making them a valuable asset to any garden. Native to Europe, the Christmas rose grows 38cm (15in) high and bears single white flowers about 8cm (3in) in diameter from December to March. Grow in a sheltered position, in soil with plenty of added organic matter.

### AMARYLLIS

Hippeastrum or amaryllis is an indoor plant producing large, colourful showy flowers on tall stems in winter. Give plants



plenty of light so the stems don't become too leggy. Support stems with a short stake to keep them upright under the weight of the flowers. After the blooms have faded keep the bulbs in a warm place and resume watering the next autumn.

### POINSETTIAS

Their name comes from Joel Robert Poinsett, who introduced them to the USA from Mexico, about 1828. And even though poinsettias now come in different colours, the red and green classic is the most popular. Poinsettias are easy to care for. To enjoy them as long as possible put them in a bright, warm spot, around 20°C without draughts. Do not overwater by leaving water in the saucer – water only when the potting mixture is almost dry.

### FORCED HYACINTHS

Bowls of forced hyacinths that

have been grown in the dark to encourage them into early flower add a delightful scent to the home. To prolong flowering, place in a sunny spot away from draughts and radiators. Stand the pots on shallow trays of moist gravel. Cut off the flowers when they die and give the bulbs some liquid feed until the leaves begin to fade. Gradually dry off the bulbs and plant them out in the garden to enjoy in years to come.

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## Your Stars for December 2022

By Kay Gower

### Aries (Mar. 21- April 20)

The end of the year is approaching rapidly, chances are that since you are an Aries, everything that can be done in advance has been done. As a result, the only thing that remains is to begin enjoying yourself.

### Taurus (Apr. 21- May 21)

This month is all about preparation, working quietly and objectively, you'll finish off what needs to be done in good time to enjoy the party atmosphere.

### Gemini (May 22-June 21)

The full moon will enter the quicksilver sign of Gemini on December 8th. This can be a good thing but only if you're not already overworked or have a lot on your plate. A time of heightened sensitivity, creativity and inspiration.

### Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Whatever has worked best for you in the past will continue to work best for you this month. Do things when you're ready to do them. Don't jump just because someone else is telling you to. Go at your own pace, there's no rush.

### Leo (July 23-Aug 22)

Your dreams have a knack of turning out exactly as you planned, even if you have to take a tortuous rout in order to get them. Rather than causing you irritation, one situation in particular will turn out to be funny.

### Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept. 23)

Trust your instincts. A month of optimism and enthusiasm. New responsibilities could be offered, be open minded and focus on the future and its possibilities

### Libra (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

It may feel as if family wants to be generous and you would be wise to accept their kind offers. Treat yourself to days of rest and relaxation and be willing to let others to take some of the strain.

### Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Make the most of this month by forgetting your responsibilities for a while and having some fun. Don't expect to achieve much during the last two weeks of December, just take it easy and enjoy the ride into 2023.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

A problem shared should be a problem halved, not doubled. Much depends on with whom you share the problem. Confide in someone prone to drama and you'll get what you signed up for.

### Capricorn (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

With Jupiter the great benefactor moving into your 10th house on the 21st December, the outlook for work and business is positive. An excellent time for getting things done. A promotion could be on the cards in 2023.

### Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Whatever you decide to do, the stars give you the thumbs up. Using an old talent could bring financial good fortune. Expect surprises.

### Pisces (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You'd love it if everyone wanted the same as you this month – peace and quiet. But some people thrive on drama and noise. You wouldn't want to deprive them of their life's driving force, now would you? Leave them to get on with it.

# Maureen Hunter Singers "Christmas Voices" concerts to take place in December

The Maureen Hunter Singers will be presenting their "Christmas Voices" concerts at the Bricknell Avenue Methodist Church on Saturday 10th December and Sunday 11th December at 3.00 pm each day respectively.

The programmes of both Senior and Junior choirs, and that of the soloists and ensembles are chosen to provide something for everyone, with the ultimate aim of sending the audience home full of seasonal joy.

Tickets are priced at £8.50 (including refreshment) and are available from Mr. Paul Newman, 102 Carr Lane, Willerby HU10 6JX. Telephone 01482 655318 or via choir members.

There is free parking at the Kelvin Hall Sports Pavilion, a short walk from the church in Bishop Alcock Road, HU5 4RR.

### Crossword solution from page 14

T	R	E	M	B	L	E		F	U	M	B	L	E	S	
R		Y		I		L		U		A		E		U	
E	X	E	R	T	I	O	N	S		R	E	A	D	S	
A		L	T		C		E		G		S		P		
C	H	A	T	E	A	U		S	P	I	T	T	L	E	
L		S		R		T				N				N	
E	N	H	A	N	C	I	N	G		S	P	I	E	D	
		E			O		O							N	
D	E	S	K	S			N	O	V	E	L	E	T	T	E
R				H				E		E		U		N	
O	V	E	R	A	G	E		R	U	S	T	I	N	G	
P		M		W		D		N		B		T		A	
P	R	E	E	N		I	D	O	L	I	Z	I	N	G	
E		E		E		T		R		A		V		E	
D	O	R	M	E	R	S		S	I	N	L	E	S	S	

### Sudoku Answer from page 12

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

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## Sit down with Stephen Hanson, one of Artmarket Gallery's favourite digital artists.

Hanson's collection, titled Toby and His Red Ball, has caused many of you to gaze through the gallery windows with admiration. Toby's adventures are very relatable, the fun-loving, lovable dog always up to mischief, but always forgiven...

Stephen's artist journey is one of excitement, success, and versatility. Before leaping into his newest fine art venture, Stephen excelled in his craft working within film and animation on major films such as



Danger Mouse, Count Duckula, Despicable Me, Arthur Christmas, and Flushed Away. Quite the collection, right!

Stephen studied at Batley Art College in West Yorkshire, where he graduated with a distinction in Graphic Design and Illustration and found a huge passion for film animation. Upon graduating, Stephen scored a job at a greetings card company that was not quite filling his creative passion. Working around the clock, Stephen began to piece together a portfolio to present to a groundbreaking animation studio to explore his animation career. Success after success, Stephen's talent was recognised and he began worked on the famous feature animation film, The BFG!

With such a fantastic portfolio of previous animation projects, Stephen's brilliance as a Visual Development Artist took a new turn: computer game design.

Stephen advanced with the times and excelled at digital animation, considering the digital turn one of "a necessity as much as a choice." Efficiency was crucial to keep up with the animation world, and his

expertise influenced his venture into the fine art world.

When deciding what medium to create fine art in, digital art just felt right for Stephen. A medium that Stephen likes to call "Tradigital," traditional drawing techniques with a digital twist. Rather than his paintbrush strokes appearing as a pigment, they appear as pixels!

Toby and His Red Ball paintings first began when Stephen was immersed in the animation world, creating Arthur Christmas. Toby was Stephen's partner's dog. The first time Stephen met Toby is a story in itself; muddy dog paws, running around his dog unfriendly home, sounds familiar? Toby is the ultimate "lovable dog, always getting into trouble," and very quickly forgiven, ready to plot his next mischievous mission!

Stephen's collection takes us to 'Toby World' where Toby chews the mail, hates going into the sea, and loves cake! The imagination stems from observations of real life, perfectly captured through his digital technique of painting.

Toby has his own little quirks. The red ball can be seen in all of his paintings, because dogs and balls go hand in hand, and Stephen's art is the perfect depiction of the universal, loveable dog.

See the full collection of Toby and his Red Ball online, or visit us in the gallery for a coffee and a browse!

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