

## Cost of living – help available on Council hub

With winter approaching, and as the cost of living and energy price hikes continue, households across the Moorlands will be thinking about how to manage their budgets over the coming months.

Advice and support is available to help people with rising costs, managing debt, energy efficiency and schemes to help keep homes warm.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has published a cost of living hub to bring together information about these schemes to make it easy for residents to find what they're looking for - [www.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/CostOfLivingHub](http://www.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/CostOfLivingHub)

Councillor Ross Ward, Cabinet member for Communities, said: "Increasing food and other living costs means balancing budgets will be concerning for many of us as we enter the colder months of the year.

"Support is on offer to help households, and we want to ensure people are aware of what they can access, so we've created this hub on our website to

assist by bringing together information about several schemes in a single place.

"The hub includes links to local support, including help with rent and council tax, alongside national initiatives, such as the cost of living payment and other help for households, and tips on how to look after your mental health.

"If you're worried about managing your finances, please take a look at all this information and make sure you're getting all the help that you're entitled to."



Advice & support is available to help people with rising costs, such as the cost of living payment and other help for households, and tips on how to look after your mental health.



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# Biddulph Town Council Update

You can contact us at: 01782 498480 or email [office@biddulph-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@biddulph-tc.gov.uk)

We also add regular updates to our Facebook page: 'Biddulph Town Council' or Twitter 'BiddulphTC'.



## Dates for your diary

Every month we publish an Events Guide, listing the activities going on within the Town Hall. Pop in for a copy, and join one of the groups that meet here regularly.

Our next Dementia Friendly Cinema session is Wednesday 14 December, 1.30. Please check what Christmassy film we're showing before the day. There will be lots of tea and cake, and festive treats.

These sessions are suitable for people with dementia, those experiencing other illnesses or people who want to spend time with others, in a relaxed friendly environment.

The next Twilight Market and Singalong is Friday 2 December, starting at 3.30pm. The Town Hall steps will be filled with singers; fantastic food, crafts and other treats await you inside the Town Hall.

The Christmas Lights Switch-on is Saturday 26 November, starting at 4pm. The lights will be switched on at 6pm.

## Support Your High Street

There are some lovely businesses on the High Street; please remember to support them over the Christmas period and into the New Year.

Free parking will be available on the Wharf Road car park on:

Saturday 26 November (lights switch on)

Saturday 3, 10, 17 and 24<sup>th</sup> December.

## Biddulph Calendar

Available now, a beautiful stocking filler containing photos from across the town. Buy yours from the Town Hall, Birthday Greetings, Mothershaws and Biddulph Post Office for only £3.50.

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# Biddulph Town Council Update

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We also add regular updates to our Facebook page: 'Biddulph Town Council' or Twitter 'BiddulphTC'.



Accompanying this edition is an additional leaflet with information about the Biddulph Works Together project.

Biddulph Town Council and partners are working to offer warm friendly spaces and free food opportunities, creating a network of places where Biddulph people can come together to try new things and seek support or advice. The timetable shows what's available in the town. All groups offer a friendly welcome, with safeguarding policies and food hygiene rules in place.

There are also many volunteering opportunities available, and all groups would welcome your support. Volunteering can help you learn new skills, meet new people, gain confidence, build relationships and make a difference. Skills and knowledge you acquire could also help you move towards paid employment.

Biddulph Town Council will be providing a number of these events at the Town Hall. We are hosting a new event called 'Feast and Flicks'; a light lunch followed by a film. All activities will be free.

Please remember, if you are struggling, either because you are feeling isolated or if you're having trouble with bills and you don't know where to go next, there is always a warm welcome at the Town Hall. Our friendly team can help you to link in with other people and services.

Our 93 bus (provided in partnership with D&G) will have a reduced fare from 14 November 2022 until Easter. An adult can travel all day on the bus for £2. A young person will be charged £1. We are hoping that this will support people who want to attend 'Biddulph Works Together' events and link them with vital services within the town, at a time when we know that times are hard.

## Grant Scheme

Town Councillors have a small amount of money that they can use to support local groups and communities.



Find out more here: <https://www.biddulph.co.uk/grant-awards-schemes/>

We wish you a very merry Christmas  
and a happy healthy New Year.

*Merry Christmas*

Useful Information: Here are the telephone numbers of other Councils in the area:  
Staffs Moorlands District (Council Tax, bins, Environmental Health) 0345 605 3010  
Staffs County Council (Highways, Social Services, Libraries) 0300 111 8000



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## Biddulph Town Mayor's column

When I last sat down to put pen to paper, or more accurately, fingers to keyboard, we were in that sombre period between the death of Her Late Majesty and the spectacle of her state funeral, considering the fading summer sunshine. Now two months on, we are firmly in the grip of Autumn, having just celebrated Halloween and our more traditional British event of Guy Fawkes night, with two excellent firework displays at Knypersley Cricket Club and Biddulph Moor village hall.

In those two months, as well as showing the world pageantry that we, as a nation, do so well, we have also seen the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of our twinning with Fusignano, with events both in our town hall and in Italy. Later in this edition you will read the details, but a fantastic event was organised last month by our Biddulph twinning committee, bringing together friends old & new from the town, to share memories from over the years; the original exploratory "interview" with the then ruling communist party, the trip to take the red phone box, school exchange visits and many more beside. And we got cake too! Meanwhile, our "shared" town crier, John Robinson, was visiting Italy to represent Biddulph at the parallel event with the "Comitato Gemellaggio Fusignano". Having visited Fusignano for the first time this year, the welcome you get is second to none, and I would recommend taking a trip if you can.



Turning back to the present, when you read this, we will have just completed our Armistice Day commemorations, honouring the many residents of Biddulph and the whole country who gave their lives in the conflicts of the last century. It is not without some irony that earlier this year we gathered at the Biddulph town cenotaph to mark 100 years since it was raised to commemorate the "war to end all wars", yet again

we see a war raging in Europe, that has had consequences for many in our town. Soaring prices and a cost-of-living crisis are upon us, with many people in Biddulph struggling to make ends meet. But yet again, this has brought out the very best in our community, with local churches, community groups and volunteer organisations pulling together, with the help and co-ordination of town councillors and officers, to provide support to those in need. Setting an example to both District and County, we have shown how Biddulph works together.

Looking forward now, we have a host of Christmas events, starting on 26<sup>th</sup> November with our traditional town centre lights switch on, with market stalls and fairground rides, and most importantly, a visit from Santa himself. Supported as part of the "Works Together" initiative, there should be plenty of activities for all the family, with costs kept to a minimum – spreading some seasonal cheer at a difficult time. Then a week later, it's the turn of Biddulph Moor, with a whole host of activities organised at the village hall, and another opportunity to meet the man in the red suit.

Finally, in the week before Christmas, as mentioned in September, we have the first of two winter Mayor's charity events, "Christmas at Biddulph Old Hall". An opportunity to make a unique visit to this fantastic country house and it's ruined English Civil War mansion, with a guided tour of the winter garden and historic hall, all dressed up for Christmas. Tickets are available from the town hall, but they will be limited, only 40 in all, so grab yours while you can and help support our dementia charities, Alzheimer's Research UK & Approach.

Then, in the New Year, another event to look forward to will be the Mayor's Charity Burns' Night Ceilidh, on 28<sup>th</sup> January; an evening of traditional Scottish & English country dancing to the outstanding band, Skimmity, with a Haggis supper included. Again, tickets will be available from the town hall and other outlets, just keep your eyes open for the posters, and we look forward to seeing you there to dance away the winter blues, again raising money for good causes.

Jim & Sue Garvey, Mayor & Mayoress of Biddulph

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# Biddulph Moor Christmas Lights

Biddulph Moor and Rotary lights switch on at the village hall will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



Santa will be at Biddulph Moor lights switch on Broom on 07786 008901. There's a small

charge to help raise funds for the local Scouts. Pitch-up at 4pm till about 7pm, there is a possibility of staying open if enough people want to stay and relax with friends in the hall.

There will be a 'Tractor Run' with a Christmas theme, and if you would like to bring yours then call Rutty or Dukesy. (You'll know who if you've got a Tractor!).

The tree lights will be switched on at 6pm and if you are all good boys and girls then Santa is expected to pay a visit.....

Organisers wish you a very merry Christmas Ho Ho Ho



As the terrible war in Ukraine continues, I would like to say a special thank you to the many people in Biddulph, including so many voluntary groups and charities, that have helped the many refugees coming here or who have donated money and goods to be sent to help displaced Ukrainians abroad.

Having been involved in the initiative between Biddulph Town Council and the town of Bieruń in Poland that was set up to help the many Ukrainian refugees they had there, I am delighted to be part of another project to help Ukraine.

Following a meeting with the Director of PACT, the organisation that represents and supports independent TV production and distribution companies, I was interested to hear how they had launched a YouTube Channel called Sunflower TV, to support the people of Ukraine. Everyone involved has provided their services for free; it is not a charity or a business; the British broadcasting industry has come together to help.

The channel is aimed at pre-school and school age children and has approximately 56,000 hours of content that has been dubbed into Ukrainian. They are currently working on adding some educational content and work with a child psychologist and a group of Ukrainian mothers to make sure they have the best advice.

There are many displaced Ukrainian children, at risk from human traffickers so I arranged a call with PACT, a Ukrainian MP, a Polish Senator and representatives from agencies and charities working on the ground in the Ukraine involved in the fight against human trafficking.

It was a really interesting and productive call and together, we are working on promoting the message of safe migration and safe travelling to children in Ukraine through this channel.

Interestingly, although the highest viewing is in the Ukraine, viewing was also high in Russia, Poland, Germany and the UK.



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# ROTARY SANTA'S SLEIGH ROUTES 2022



Santa will again be touring the Town this Christmas helped by Biddulph Rotary Club and their friends and supporters

SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER SANTA WILL ARRIVE AT THE TOWN LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Santa and his Sleigh will be touring Biddulph on the following nights:

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December,  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December,



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December,  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

BIDDULPH MOOR LIGHTS SWITCH-ON  
SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

Santa will also be in Biddulph on SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup> - outside Weatherpoons, High Street. Between 10am-1pm

And he will also be outside Sainsbury's on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

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## Dougie Mac Christmas cards raise vital funds for the hospice



With the festive season fast approaching, Dougie Mac is reminding supporters that its Christmas cards are now available.

With a great selection to choose from, the cards are just £3.50 for a pack of 10 cards and they're available from Dougie Mac's local charity shops, as well as online at [www.dougiemac.org.uk/shop](http://www.dougiemac.org.uk/shop)

The selection of modern, traditional and funny cards includes an exclusive, original artwork designed by the children and young adults who use

Dougie Mac's children's services.

Liz Clarke, Head of Retail at Dougie Mac, said; *"By sending Dougie Mac cards this Christmas you're not only showing your friends and family that you care, you're also enabling us to be there for local children, young adults and adults facing a life-limiting condition. We have a great selection of new Christmas cards this year, including a lovely card designed by some of the children who rely on our children's services. Our dedicated play team worked with the children to create this special design and they were so proud of the end result, so anyone buying this card will know that it has a really special story behind it."*

In addition to its selection of Christmas cards, Dougie Mac is also selling a range of gifts this festive season. The hospice's gift guide includes Dougie Mac branded gifts and keepsakes, an exclusive limited edition gin, gift vouchers and the hospice's everlasting flowers. The gift guide is available online at [www.dougiemac.org.uk/shop](http://www.dougiemac.org.uk/shop)

## Dougie Mac can take away your real tree, hassle free

Dougie Mac has great news for anyone who is planning to have a real Christmas tree this year but is wondering what to do with it once the festive season is over.

The hospice's popular Christmas tree recycling campaign is returning this January and anyone living in Alsager, Biddulph and Kidsgrove can register their Christmas tree for collection in exchange for a donation to Dougie Mac.

The hospice's volunteers will be collecting the trees on 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and the service will once again cover the ST6, ST7 and ST8 post codes. The green fundraising initiative will see the collected trees be recycled and turned in to compost by H. Brown & Son Recycling.

Donna Adams, Head of Fundraising at Dougie Mac, said, *"Our Christmas tree collection service not only helps people to recycle their unwanted tree in an environmentally friendly way, but also raises vital funds for Dougie Mac. Last year we collected and recycled more than 1,400 trees and raised more than £17,000 thanks to the generosity of our supporters who made a donation in exchange for us collecting their tree. By registering for our tree collection supporters know that they're helping to provide care for local children, young adults and adults with life-limiting conditions in our area."*

Registering for Dougie Mac's Christmas tree collection is so easy. Simply go to [www.dougiemac.org.uk/events/tree-collection](http://www.dougiemac.org.uk/events/tree-collection) and register your tree before midnight on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Trees can be collected from homes, businesses, schools and churches.



## Turn your winter blues green!

Winter is upon us and the outside – and inside – of your window systems are probably in need of a good deep clean.

Gutters and down spouts may be getting blocked with moss and leaves – which will mean big problems if there are heavy frosts. Your conservatory roof is almost certainly developing an algae overcoat – and it's also likely that your paths, driveways and decking will be getting dangerously slippery – which can prove absolutely lethal – especially for older members of our communities.

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On 21<sup>st</sup> October the members of Biddulph Twinning Association were gathered in the Council Chamber of Biddulph Town Hall, to welcome their guests to the event they had organised to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Biddulph becoming twinned with Fusignano in Italy.



Biddulph Twinning Association welcomed guests to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Biddulph becoming twinned with Fusignano in Italy

It was a delight that so many of those who had been lucky enough to be involved with Twinning over all those years were able to be present, and so enjoy a glass of bubbly and a slice of a

spectacular celebration cake created by the renowned 'Cakes by Millrise' of Biddulph.

The fact that the Association's first Chairman Mr Alan Stackhouse, was able to be there, and cut the cake was very special, as was the presence of Mr Gerald Pass whose late wife Stephanie was instrumental in getting the Twinning Association started. Also joining in the event was our Town Mayor Cllr Jim Garvey and the Mayoress Mrs Sue Garvey, who themselves recently visited Fusignano, and spoke of it being a wonderful experience, hopefully to be repeated in the not too distant future!

In a very happy atmosphere it was a real pleasure for Twinning members to hear guests sharing their amazing experiences of the exchange of visits between Biddulph and Fusignano and the warmth of the reception they received,

and the sincere wish was expressed that Biddulph's Twinning Association with Fusignano continues for many years to come. It was noticed that a rather prominent Biddulph personality was missing from this celebration, Biddulph's Town Crier John Robinson, who is also the official Town Crier of Fusignano, where he was joining in their celebration of this very special Anniversary, when John received a warm response to his Declaration delivered in perfect Italian!

There was a one minute silence held in memory of Alfreda Melandri, President of The Twinning Association of Fusignano, who so sadly passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021, and all those involved with Twinning are aware of the huge part Alfred played in ensuring the relationship remained active and strong all through the years, may she rest in peace!

Of course, with the wish that Biddulph's Twinning relationship with Fusignano continues on into the future, it is a fact that it is going to be essential for Biddulph people to express their wish to become involved, and with 2023 hopefully seeing the resumption of the exchange of visits between the students from Woodhouse Academy to Fusignano in May, and then in July they welcome the friends they have made during that visit, this is a real opportunity for the young people to experience an exchange of education and culture, and from students who have made the exchange trips in the past, it is known that this was something of real value to them.

It is also hoped that Biddulph will have the pleasure of receiving adult visitors at some point next year, so exciting times ahead!

The message from Biddulph Twinning Association is that if you think this is something you would like to know more about please do get in touch with our Chair Jacky Nevill on 07787 810447, we are presently few in number and quite relaxed at our meetings, which are really a get together in a local hostelry and you will be made most welcome!

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First of all, I'm really sorry to hear how tough things have been for you. You're doing the right thing in reaching out for support and there are things you can get help with.

As a prepayment meter customer, your energy supplier will be able to give you temporary credit if you can't afford to top up your meter. They might add this to your meter automatically, but if they don't, you can call them and ask them to do this. If you run out of temporary credit, speak to your supplier to explain your situation. They may give you extra temporary credit if you're struggling with living costs.

There are other reasons why they might give you extra credit too, including if you're disabled, have a long-term health condition, or you have children under the age of 5. You'll have to pay back anything extra you get, but you can agree how to do this in a way you can afford with your supplier.

As you say, the cost of living is really high but there is help available. You might also be able to get a fuel voucher, which you can use to add credit to your meter. Contact your local council about this.

There was more government support in October, including a £400 payment to help you with your energy bills. If you have a prepayment meter, you'll be given vouchers in the first week of each month from October, via SMS text, email or post. Make sure your energy company has your up-to-date details.



To help manage other costs, it's also worth checking you're getting all the benefits you're entitled to. There are benefits calculators you can use online. On the Citizens Advice website, there's advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income.

The school holidays can be a really tough time and we know the food shop isn't stretching as far. Contact your local council to find out what extra support you can get over the holidays. If you can't afford to buy food, your local Citizens Advice can help you get a referral for a food bank.

We know this is an extremely worrying time and everyone's situation is different. Don't struggle alone. If you need further support, contact your local Citizens Advice or call the national advice line: 0800 144 8848



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## Biddulph Swimming Club

We've had a fantastic year with some superb results. At the North Midlands 2022 Championshipse finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place (out of 15) with 655 points which put us ahead of ahead of some big city clubs.

In total our team of 16 girls and 9 boys competed in 183 races across the competition. They were rewarded with 122 personal best times (67%) and amassed a massive haul of 33 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze medals. We came away with 3 trophies. Oliver Nixon picked up the award for 'Top 9 Year Old Boy', whilst Isabella Nixon claimed awards for the 'Top 11 Year Old Girl' and 'Top Overall Girl Aged 9 to 16+'.



The Sunday morning was electric as 11 swimmers competed for a place in the SKINS competition by swimming in the 200IM. It is a super exciting event (with money up for grabs) in which the stroke is drawn at random prior to the race, with one swimmer eliminated after each swim. Each of them gave their all and by no surprise Oscar Devaal and Reece Jackson finished 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior Boys Category, Millie Plumley made it to the last 3 of the Junior Girls Category narrowly missing out after an intense Fly race and Nathan Walker qualified and came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Senior Men's Category.

What a terrific achievement and CONGRATULATIONS to everyone on behalf of all the coaching team! It was a fantastic team effort with each swimmer trying their very best. Their attitude and determination should be commended and you could really see that they were trying to apply what they have been working so hard on in training.



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## Sports News



Year 5 and 6 girls

Well done to the Year 5 and 6 girls who had a great time representing James Bateman at Moorside High School for the Staffordshire Moorlands KS2 football tournament. With a loss to Werrington, a 4-0 win against Great Wood and a draw against St Johns, they narrowly missed out on the final which St Johns went through on points. Congratulations girls, a great performance!



Year 7 and 8 footballers

Well done to all the Year 7 and 8 footballers who have fought so well in the Staff Moorlands League. Y7's have made it through to the Semi-Finals of the Staffs Moorlands Cup beating Endon 3-1 on penalties after a hard-fought draw in normal time. Year 7 will play the next round of the cup in the New Year. Congratulations to everyone!

A huge well done to all of James Bateman's cross-country runners, who ran in the Staffordshire Moorlands Cross-country this year. You have made the school very proud!



Cross country runners

James Bateman Inter-house Competition Results			
Year 5&6 Inter-house competition!		Year 7&8 Inter-house Competition!	
Year 5 & 6 Football Results:	Year 7 & 8 Football Results:	Year 5 & 6 Football Results:	Year 7 & 8 Football Results:
1st Place: Jupiter	1st Place: Mars	1st Place: Jupiter	1st Place: Mars
2nd Place: Neptune	2nd Place: Mercury	2nd Place: Neptune	2nd Place: Mercury
3rd Place: Mars	3rd Place: Jupiter	3rd Place: Mars	3rd Place: Jupiter
4th Place: Neptune	4th Place: Mercury	4th Place: Neptune	4th Place: Mercury
Football Results Inter-house Competition!		Handball/Basketball Results Inter-house Competition!	
Joint 1st Place: Neptune	Joint 1st Place: Mars	Joint 1st Place: Mars	Joint 1st Place: Neptune
2nd Place: Jupiter	2nd Place: Mercury	2nd Place: Neptune	2nd Place: Jupiter
3rd Place: Mars	3rd Place: Neptune	3rd Place: Mercury	3rd Place: Mars
4th Place: Neptune	4th Place: Jupiter	4th Place: Mars	4th Place: Neptune
Overall Results Inter-house Competition!			
1st Place: Jupiter			
2nd Place: Mars			
3rd Place: Neptune			
4th Place: Mercury			

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully been chosen to represent their houses as this year's Sports Captains.



Sports Captains

Well done to all the Year 7 netballers who have played as part of the Staffordshire Moorlands League.



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## Dont just take it from us...

**J** Joe Goodwin  
3 reviews

★★★★★ 4 months ago

Amazing, above and beyond expectations, by far the best estate agents in the area... and during our search for a property we unfortunately had to deal with the realty.

We were not sure if we wanted to sell our home, but Carters made the whole process so easy, there is no pushy sales pitch, just an honest valuation. None of this 14 week contract fee as the other agents, no ticky percentage fees to work out or hidden costs, just a great value fixed cost service that really left us in control as the seller.

Carters came out to value our property and we were instantly put at ease and given everything we needed to make an informed choice about marketing our property.

Selling a property can be stressful, but the team at Carters were really supportive. Sarah kept us updated on our sales progression throughout the process, and has been able to provide useful advice where we have really needed it, ensuring my solicitor hasn't even crossed my mind, as Sarah has often had the updates and passed them on before the solicitor has had a chance to contact us.

The communication has been absolutely fantastic, we have been respected and valued as customers and the service has been top notch. They were just a phone call or email away. We're not experts at house buying and selling, but there has never been a fully question or anything we haven't felt like we could ask, there's no judgement, just good honest advice.

Well done Team Carters, you've done an amazing job and we will always recommend you.

**T** Trevor Leese  
7 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ 3 months ago · NEW

Absolutely fantastic company to deal with, Gemma and Sarah were brilliant, Sarah was like a 'dog with a bone' when it came to dealing with the sale of our home, we had weekly updates regarding the progress of the sale, timely gets to deal with and a great company too, they are an asset to their business owners.

**D** Dawn Roberts  
2 reviews

★★★★★ 4 months ago

Absolutely fantastic.

**S** Sheila Jeffries  
4 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ 5 months ago

I highly recommend these estate agents, and a special mention to Gemma for her professionalism and friendly service. Excellent communication and information throughout. Super speedy sale of our property. Would definitely use again.



Staffordshire

• Staffordshire Moorlands

• Cheshire



Hi, I'm Noreen, Slimming World Consultant at Brindley Ford Village Church.

I have been a Consultant now for over 17 years and I'm very passionate about my job, over the years helping members to lose weight by food optimising and getting active with our body magic programme. Losing weight and being active is vital to your health and wellbeing, self

esteem, self confidence, helping to lower blood pressure, cholesterol and reducing medication for diabetes or even coming off medication altogether.

So far this year our members have lost an amazing 4,998 lbs that's 357 stones.

Come along to one of our fantastic groups to be part of the magic that's food optimising, just real food, no pills, potions, or quick fixes.

We can't wait to meet you.



Hi, I'm Cathy, Slimming World Consultant for the Biddulph Groups which meet at St Lawrence's Church Hall.

I have been a Consultant for 3 years and at my target weight for almost 3 years now because food optimising has become a way of life. There is absolutely no need to feel deprived.

This is not a "diet" - it's just a wonderful way of eating with lots of flexibility, no need to ever feel hungry and delicious meal ideas for all the family to enjoy. And it WORKS!!! There are no gimmicks!!! it naturally reduces calories. Slimming World has changed my life very much for the better which is why I became a Consultant.

In my groups every member is appreciated and valued. Weights are never disclosed, and there is never any shame if anyone has a difficult week and a gain, everyone is supported and we have a lot of fun in the process.

We have fantastic weight losses so far this year 4,868lbs that's 347½ stones, every pound lost takes 4lbs of pressure off our knees!!

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14 July	Llandudno 3 nights	£315
4 August	London - inc. Hampton Court and Kew Gardens 3 nights	£385
21 August	Grantham - inc. Burghley House 4 nights	£430
3 September	Guernsey - inc. day to Herm and Sark 6 nights	£930
17 September	Ireland - County Cork 5 nights	£680

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**Budilph and the Giant Fogey**



This is the story of a dragon named Budilph and his friend Dor, who set off on a dangerous journey to rescue the sun from Mow Cop Castle. Written by local artist and author Janice Deane, it is set in the Biddulph Valley and seeks to encourage children and their parents to explore the countryside around the town and as far away as Lud's Church near the Roaches which is called the Green Gorge in the story.

The book is designed for children around the ages of five years to eight but can be enjoyed at any age. There is a picture on every page in this delightfully illustrated story.

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CRY have a screening day Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February at Biddulph Youth and Community Zone in memory of Jordan Burndred.



Full details are yet to be finalised but for more information closer to the event see Jordan's Memorial Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JordanBurndredCRY>

## Christmas Fayre & Open Day at Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre will host a Christmas Fayre and Open Day.

During the day there will be the opportunity to see Santa and visit various stalls in our sports hall to pick up those last minute Christmas gifts and goodies. Also there are various free activities for families/ adults to enjoy..

### Activities:

- Free gym sessions all day (inductions need to be booked)
- Free public swim
- Visit Santa
- Local stalls 09:00-14:00
- Bouncy castle
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- Raffle
- Fitness challenges

Entry is completely free of charge and all proceeds raised will support local charities.



## Woodhouse Academy visit to St Georges Park



This term a selection of students from Woodhouse Academy represented Port Vale FC Foundation in a football tournament to celebrate 10 years of St Georges Park.

The students were buzzing as they met Three Lions boss. A certain Mr Southgate even came over to say hello!

Amber and Mr Baddeley even had the chance to meet HRH Prince William, where Amber presented HRH with a gift bag containing oatcakes on behalf of Woodhouse Academy & Port Vale.



Students had an unbelievable time at St George's Park! Both teams did extremely well and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in their competitions. Mr Baddeley couldn't be prouder of all the students involved. Their teamwork, behaviour, and effort have been superb, and they have proven exactly how great our students are!



## The Biddulph Ramblers

Working for Walkers

25 members of the group enjoyed the planned 5 day break in Penrith in early October.

The only disappointment was the appalling weather on the final day, so the decision was taken to cancel the last walk, and make our way home in the torrential rain. This was our final holiday of the year, but we already have more to look forward to in 2023.

As we move from the more colourful days of autumn into winter, we need to be outside to take advantage of the daylight hours as much as possible. Our website [biddulphramblers.org.uk](http://biddulphramblers.org.uk) gives details of our walking programme, which is continually updated, so please take a look, and come along to enjoy a "taster" walk with our friendly group, to stave off those "winter blues".

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Biddulph High School, Conway Road, Kippendley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST8 7AR  
Main switchboard: 01782 521877

## Prize Crossword Competition

### Across

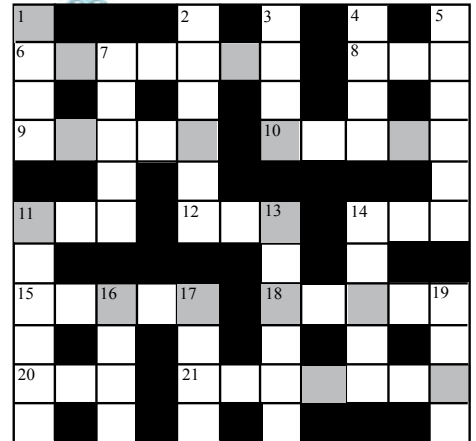
6. LUNA RAT is not man made (7)
8. TOIL to extract black gold (3)
9. Dream of this colour at Xmas? (5)
- 10 & 14. MICE PINE for this festive treat (5,3)
11. OPT for highest position (3)
12. One of Santa's helpers (3)
14. See 10 (3)
15. Santa's in pole position! (5)
18. RUN IS spoiled (5)
20. First woman's night before? (3)
21. Here for gift (7)

### Down

1. OWNS frozen rain (4)
2. Solidify ice cold liquid (6)
3. LUMP of pudding for Xmas (4)
4. ICON uses legal tender? (4)
5. ELVES don't quite cover arm (6)
7. PORT I find ancient crustacean (5)
11. ENLIST garland for Xmas tree decoration (6)
13. RED FOG is faked (6)
14. EMPIRE falls short at peak (5)
16. Spool sounds genuine (4)
17. Faith and Charity lose optimism? (4)
19. Find TEAS satisfactory (4)



Many thanks to all who entered our last Crossword Competition. The correct answer was 'HALLOW-EEN'. First correct reply to be picked from the bag was Mrs Fairbanks of Biddulph who wins a £10 gift voucher which she has chosen to spend at Hollinsheads Coaches - congratulations! This issue we are again offering a £10 voucher to be spent in a shop or business



advertising in Biddulph Times (please state on your reply). The first correct answer drawn on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 is the winner. Just complete the crossword and re-arrange the letters found in the shaded squares to make a new word or words, send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and telephone number to:- **Good News, 128 High Street, Harriseahead, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 4JX.**

**Answers to last crossword:** Across: 6. Invalid 8. Apt 9. Eerie 10. Lodge 11. Hoe 12. Tic 14. Dam 15. Comic 18. Pores 20. Eon 21. Present **Down:** 1. Pine 2. Slyest 3. Idol 4. Wand 5. Stream 7. Verse 11. Hacker 13. Copper 14. Dirge 16. Mine 17. Cape 19. Sate



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