

GO KIDSGROVE THIS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON



The 2022 Christmas lights switch on will be on the 26th of November.

A letter has been sent to the North Pole to ensure Santa also has it in his diary and a big thank you to the Rotary Club for again providing his transport whilst he's in Kidsgrove!

Go Kidsgrove will also have a stall at the Christmas Market in the Victoria Hall on 26th November, so do call in and say hello (and maybe pick up a calendar, or two).

The Lantern Parade will again be a key feature of the event! The parade will start from St Thomas' Church at 4pm on 26th November. If you have made a lantern at the workshops held earlier bring it along to St Thomas Church Hall any time from 3pm ready for the parade. If you haven't made a lantern, no worries – there will be several spares that you can pick up.

As usual, the parade will be led by Santa and we're very excited to be joined by a giant reindeer lantern made by local artist Richard Redwin. We will be walking alongside a busy road, and we will have marshals on hand, but please make sure you stay on the pavement.

Remember to wrap up warm (hopefully waterproofs won't be as necessary as last year) and have fun!



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GO KIDSGROVE



GO CRAFTERNOONS

Get creative at the Go Kids Grove Crafternoon on 3rd December, 12-3pm at Kids Grove Library.

Make your own card or decorate a bauble (also pre-printed cards for those who like to colour).

Crayons, glue and glitter aplenty. Bring the family along to make very special Christmas items for the very special people in their lives.



GO NAUGHTY REINDEER TRAIL

Yes, they're back in Kids Grove – Santa's naughty reindeer will be hiding in shop windows around Kids Grove and Butt Lane

and he needs you to find them all before Christmas Eve! The trail launches on 16th December and runs to 24th December. Trail maps will be distributed to all the local primary schools and can also be picked up from the library. We are very grateful, as always, to the kind people who do-



nate the choccy treats to reward the children who have completed the trail. This year the reindeer will be looking extra special thanks to some fantastic designs by children from St Thomas' CE Primary Academy.

GO CALENDARS

The perfect Christmas gift idea – and only £5 (price kept at pre-pandemic levels!).

The calendar features images of the fantastic artwork created by local people for our Jubilee art competition.

On sale at the Christmas Market on 26th November, but also available at the library, or call Josephine on 07734 539210.



The calendar features images of the fantastic artwork created by local people for our Jubilee art com

GO TOWN DEAL

Go Kids Grove is very pleased to still be involved with the Kids Grove Town Deal. It is great to see the Sports Centre doing so well. If you're stuck for a present idea, why not consider giving a loved one the gift of membership to the centre? Find out more on their website www.kidsgrovesportscentre.co.uk

Merry Christmas

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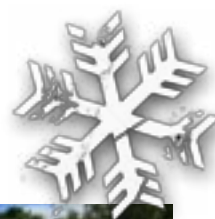


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Why not consider giving a loved one the gift of membership to the centre?

still a lot of planning work going on for the Shared Services Hub project to make sure it reflects the comments made at the event. More information to follow in future articles.

The canal enhancement and the Kidsgrove station refurbishment projects should be starting in 2023 from spring, as soon as the worst of the winter weather is over. There is

if there will be a December meeting, however, the first meeting of the new year will be 6.30pm, Tuesday 10th Jan in the Labour Club. All welcome.

GO VOLUNTEERS

If the next month looks busy, you should see the plans for 2023! That's where you come in.

Go Kidsgrove would love it if you were able to devote a bit of time to helping us out with the many activities we are planning, from favourites like the Little Lost Lamb Trail, craftersnoons and the Kidsgrove calendar to generating new ideas to bring people into our town. Why not come along to one of our meetings or email us for more information?

If you want more information about anything mentioned in this article, please e-mail gokidsgrove@gmail.com or suedunn30@yahoo.com

GO KIDSGROVE MEETINGS



These are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month, starting at 6.30pm – see our Facebook page for details. Anyone with an interest in the economic well-being of Kidsgrove and Butt Lane is welcome to attend, especially local businesses.

Please note, we have a new venue for meetings, which is the Labour

Club at the top of Market Street. At the time of writing, we are not sure



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Jonathan Gullis MP

Standing up for Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove & Talke



Since my last column in September commemorating the reign of Her Late Majesty The Queen, the picture in Westminster has changed significantly.

Rishi Sunak, our new Prime Minister, has brought the political stability this country needs in these immensely challenging times. Around the world, financial volatility means countries must adapt to ensure they can cope with the economic challenges brought about by Putin's invasion of Ukraine.



The Conservatives took decisive action in September to deal with the prospect of £6,000 energy bills through introducing the Energy Price Cap which should mean the average household saves £1000, on top of the £400 per household and £150 for Council Tax properties band A-D. Eligible pensioners and those on means tested benefits will also get an additional £650 to-

wards their energy bills in cash.

I have continued to fight hard for the issues that the people of Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke care deeply about. As you may have seen in the local media, the whole community and I are outraged by the insultingly lenient sentence given to the killer of Charlotte-Sky Naglis in October. I have been working with her inspiring mother, Claire, to challenge this sentence with the Attorney General – the most senior lawyer in the Government.

We have referred the case to the Unduly Lenient Licence Scheme, which chal-

lenges cases that are inadequate. It is a grave insult to Charlotte's memory that Mr Owen was given just six and a half years in prison, with only two and a half years behind bars. Most recently, I have met with the Solicitor General and am looking at securing a meeting with the Prime Minister as early as possible. I am speaking in Westminster Hall to challenge this harrowing sentence. I hope that ongoing pressure will demonstrate to the Attorney General the gravity of the situation and ensure Mr Owen is punished for the abhorrent act he committed.

Furthermore, I am excited that the new and improved CCTV for Kidsgrove I campaigned for will be coming soon. The current CCTV is old and out of date, and we urgently need this new CCTV to deter those criminals who try ruin the area we are so proud of. Stoke-on-Trent City Council have been paid for the system.



New and improved CCTV for Kidsgrove will be coming soon (impression)

I am certain that the new systems will be incredibly useful for the brave members of Staffordshire Police who work tirelessly to keep us safe. Councillor Paul Waring is determined to fix the mess left over by Labour and make streets in Kidsgrove far safer. It is fantastic news, given the overwhelming support the campaign received from residents in Kidsgrove.

Lastly, I hope everyone signs up for the Kidsgrove Sports Centre which opened in July 2022. It is at the heart of the community and has excellent facilities to socialise with family and friends whilst improving physical and mental wellbeing.

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Developing an Appetite for the arts in Kidsgrove

We're delighted that the carved clay bricks and colour banners produced through the Kidsgrove Scavenger project, made by the community and Letting in the Light, are now in place along the canal near to the Harecastle Tunnel entrance. They will act as a vibrant welcome to visitors - make sure you've taken a look.



We've been chatting to members of the community at our drop-ins. Meeting at Jessie's Coffee Shop, Liverpool Road, Kidsgrove, we've been sharing ideas and thoughts together on what's next in the area. We'd love more people to join us. The next meet up is on Thursday 8 December 3pm-5pm so do pop along. These bi-monthly drops-in fall on the second Thursday of the month, with the next one due in February.

Interested in being part of a women's lighting project, working with a lighting artist? We're looking for women to take part in a project which would start early in the new year. Get in touch or head to Jessie's on

8 December if you want to find out more.

Save the Date – Friday 24 & Saturday 25 March 2023. In March 2022 Illuminos and students from The Kings Church of England Academy used the entrance to Harecastle Tunnel as the backdrop to a stunning light projection of magical creatures called Down the Rabbit Hole. Due to the event's huge success and positive feedback from the community, we are bringing this event back and growing it in 2023! Look out for further details.

Appetite are proud to be working in Kidsgrove with partners Canal & River Trust, GoKidsgrove, Newcastle Borough Council and Aspire. Find out more about what we have going on: www.appetite.org.uk

To sign up to our newsletter, contact us about the Lighting Project, or any other questions: askus@appetite.org.uk

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The cost of energy and food is so high now. I'm worried about how I'll put food on the table. I'm on a prepayment meter and I'm really scared we're going to be left without any gas or electric if I can't top up. What can I do?

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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www.kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk



When I wrote my last message to you, it was shortly after the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and I attended a number of events celebrating her life and achievements.

A Civic service was held at St Giles church in New-castle, attended by many Borough Councillors including myself, on 18th September.

Following this, in the evening, we held our own "Time for Reflection" here at the Victoria Hall, in Kidsgrove. As ever, I was pleasantly surprised by how many people attended. In fact the hall was full and there



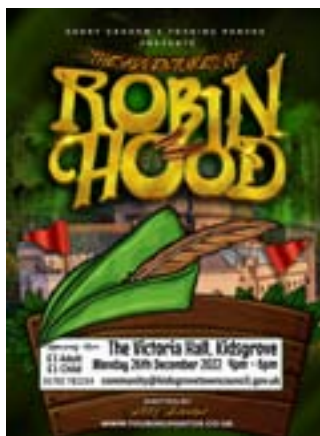
was quite a wait for those wishing to make a contribution to the Book of Condolence. I am frequently a critic of social media, but on this occasion it demonstrated just how powerful a tool for good things it can be, when used in the right way, as without it, it would have been impossible to inform so many people of the events existence in such a short space of time.

Thank you to everyone who came and for your written contributions and conversation, on that suitably solemn evening.

In October, I was invited to the Civic Service and Harvest Fes-

tival of Church Lawton Parish Council and their Chairman Gareth Mitchell. It is part of Cheshire East district so it is the first time I have had any contact with the council there despite it being right on our own doorstep and it was a pleasure to meet some of our neighbours at an uplifting event.

Remembrance Sunday falls on 13th November this year and the parade starts at around 10.30am at the Town Hall. It is usually very well attended and I hope that many of you will join us.



As I mentioned last time, the Christmas Market will be held on 26th November from 10am and we hope that you will come along and also, if possible, join us in the Lantern Parade from St Thomas' church at around 4.00pm along to the Town Hall for the light switch-on at 4.30pm.

If you are interested in the work of the Town Council, then please come along to the council and committee meetings which are notified on the Town Council website. There is usually a period of time set aside for public participation where members of the public can come along and ask questions and it is your opportunity to find out more about a variety of issues. I can assure you that you will be most welcome.

Paul Waring, Town Mayor

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Wow! It is hard to believe that Kidsgrove Sports Centre has now been open for over 100 days and still going strong! The level of support from the local community is truly remarkable and testament to the importance of community leisure facilities, like those which we have at the Sports Centre.

You have probably heard in the media that it is currently a hugely difficult time for community leisure operators, especially those like ourselves who have a swimming pool. Nationally 2 pools a week on average are closing as the cost of energy is having a serious impact on such vital facilities. To put this into context, for ourselves our monthly utilities bill is £35,000 (Yes, THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS A MONTH!!) and as a charity we are solely dependent on the revenue the centre can generate from all of our members and users. It is why we really value the support from our members - because our facility really is owned and operated by our community, for our community! It is going to undoubtedly be a challenging period ahead, however we know our remarkable community will ensure we ride out these challenges.



Bumble Trouble - our swimming pool inflatable

We have had a fantastic Half Term, in which we saw over 150 children take part in at least one of our Half Term Activities. We know how well received these were and we will be looking to offer many more of these in the future. In addition to this, our swimming pool inflatable (Bumble Trouble) made its first appearance this Half Term to much excitement of many children (and adults). We were delighted with the response to these sessions and will be looking to introduce more of these in the future.

It is also amazing to be able to report that all 8 of our trainee lifeguards passed their assessment course and will be poolside in Kidsgrove very shortly. In keeping with our community values, this scheme has focused on volunteers and providing new skills and opportunities. Our lifeguard course was unique, by offering a free qualification for anyone who was willing to then offer some time back

to volunteer as a lifeguard at our swimming pool. It is the power of volunteers which make our facility special and we really value them as an integral part of our facility.

Speaking of new activities, we are excited to announce that we are launching the following at the centre:

Back to Netball (Thursday 6pm)

Walking Netball (Tuesday 11am)

Walking Football (Tuesday 6pm)

We know that many people want to get back to playing the sports they maybe once enjoyed doing, but got out of the routine of playing. So these 3 activities are designed to offer a great fun and social environment to play the game, get active and meet new people. All are free to members or £3 for non members. You can book your space by booking online or calling our reception on 01782 528887.

We are also excited to be announcing that we are going to be launching our new Active Teens membership. This is a specific membership for 14-17 year olds who want to get active and maybe use our gym and swim. It has been designed to ensure that there will always be someone on hand from our team to offer support and guidance in our gym, whilst providing increased access for the younger members of our community. For more information on this, please visit our website (www.kidsgrovesportscentre.co.uk) or call our reception.



We are excited to be launching our new Active Teens membership

Finally, just a reminder that our facility is open to everyone. You do not need to be a member to use our facilities. So whether you fancy a visit to the gym, a swim or even a game of badminton / bowls / table tennis - all can be booked online or via calling our reception. Everyone is very welcome. If you have not visited us yet, make sure you come and see your local community leisure facility.

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Taekwondo Kidsgrove & Newcastle

Kidsgrove and Newcastle Taekwondo kick off (can you see what we did there) the end of the year with a Halloween themed fancy dress class where some of the students did there best to scare the dobok off their instructor. Master Fred Langston remained unphased, commenting, "The only thing that scares me is the quality of these kicks".



End of the year Halloween fancy dress spirit is one of the core tenants of taekwondo and I have no doubt all of my

The event was the first in the final flurry of events that run us up to the end of the year. Master Fred said, "With gradings at all levels, a national competition and the annual Christmas party to look forward to there is lots to work for and look forward to, but an indomitable

students will outdo themselves."

Taekwondo is a Korean martial art that has a range of activities that will help to improve both your physical and mental health. Whether you prefer to perfect the beauty and precision of your pattern, enjoy the discipline and structure of line work, improve your confidence with sparring and self-defence or just want to hit stuff really hard (and I mean REALLY hard - we win medals and everything), there is something for everyone.

The club is a member of the TAGB, the largest martial arts organisation in the UK, and all gradings are undertaken by a panel of Masters, so when you earn a belt with us you know you have earned it. If you fancy trying something new, we run family friendly lessons for anyone aged 4 and up. Contact 07762765417 or info@northstaffstkd.co.uk for details.



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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

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

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 13th – 15th 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 and register your tree before midnight on 8th January 2023. Trees can be collected from homes, businesses, schools and churches.



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Budgeting

He's the UK's leading money-saving expert a journalist and presenter who has kept millions of pounds in people's pockets as well as lifting the lid on the threats and dangers we need to be aware of as consumers.

In this article Martin looks at budgeting.

The challenges that come about where budgeting is concerned is a 365-day thing, and the realities of managing our money are not aided by this simple fact – many people are appalling 'budgeters'!

Sure, we all know what we earn, but we don't know what we spend, and you cannot balance the see-sawing budget without being clear on both.

Budgeting also leads us to make many assumptions. The biggest problem that people have is they look across the month at what they typically pay for things.

So, they'll look at their food bills, their utilities, their mortgage, car lease and all those things, and that's all good and well. But you know what, the average family in the UK spends £600 on Christmas, which is £50 a month. They buy a new sofa every three or four years for maybe £1,000. They buy a television that is £300. They go on holiday, and so on.

The fact is, rarely are these costs factored into monthly spend, but they should be. We need to break down those big amounts into a monthly cost, across the whole year, and add that to our monthly figures.

I have a tool called the 'Budget Planner' which is free to use on my website – it helps you balance the incomings and the outgoings, and factors in these big amounts, as well as the ones we tick off week by week.

Of course, there are many other excellent planners out there, and I'd encourage people to use them.



Ultimately, the way I suggest people manage their money is by using a system I call 'Piggybanking'. It involves moving things into hypothetical 'accounts'.

So, let's say you have your 'Standard Bills' account, which is all the regular bills you need to pay each month; you have your 'Holidays' account – you know you spend £1,000 a year on a holiday and that's about £85 a month. You have your 'Christmas' account and you have your 'Big One-offs' account. Those are examples, but use whatever is personal to you.

Each month when you get paid, you siphon the right amount of money into the Bills account, you put the right amount of money into the Holidays account, the right amount of money in the Christmas account, and so on.

That way, when you look in your bank account it tells what you can truly spend that month.

So rather than spending £800 on a perceived £500 weekend break (£300 of which you cannot afford, but you tell yourself you'll "manage somehow"), your Holidays account will categorically confirm to you that you have, say, £512 to spend.

If you're spending more than £512, you cannot afford it, so you have to cut your cloth accordingly.

Many people swear by this technique, lots of people swear at it too, but it truly works!

In the current climate, budgeting has never been more important, particularly if you can add in another account called Contingency.

We can't compensate for what's around the corner, but being equipped to confront it will make you feel good about your finances, your life, and your prospects of overcoming that financial bump in the road.

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Our groups are all very welcoming and friendly, with lots of social interaction and like minded people. During 2022 our members (of these groups alone) lost a whopping 734 stones, that has made a massive difference in their lives. We have many members who have achieved their Club 10 award which means they are healthier due to losing 10% of their body weight. We have supported members to lower their blood pressure, in some cases

come off their medication, we have members who have lowered their cholesterol and some who have actually avoided the operations they were booked in for due to losing weight. This can be life changing.

Due to the National Obesity crisis, we also have a referral scheme in operation in our area (subject to eligibility), this gives you 12 weeks completely free and full access to our Slimming World services, if you would like more information please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of us.

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Want to know more, please do not hesitate to get in touch, we look forward to chatting to you.



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TALES MY GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME

Well, now that the Kidsgrove book is complete (almost) and being looked at by the possible publishers to see if it's worthy of a special limited edition bound in ecologically friendly artificial bat-leather as well as the cheap paperback version, I and the U3A local history group have turned our attention for a while towards Talke and Butt Lane.

The first item we found in the big blue folder labelled 'Talke and Talke Pits' at the library was a sheet entitled 'Stories and Legends of the Talke Area.' No author. No date.



Folders labelled 'Talke at the library'

This and some other information in there reminds me that one of the biggest problems for a local historian is what I call 'The Unattributed Fact.' Or, more commonly, 'Well, my grandmother told me that.....' She once told someone that Jamage Road was built by the Romans. Have you heard that one?

For most of us, we can go along with that. After all there were Romans at

Chesterton and at Middlewich and Chester, and as Talke is on the route between them, and as Romans marched on Roman roads, it stands to reason that a Roman road ran through Talke. Granny says so, or possibly Bill at the pub. But the historian needs to know who told your Granny (or Bill) this? Was it an actual ancient Roman, who knew every inch of the route because of the bunions on his sandalled feet? Well, no, because Granny was not old enough to have spoken to a Roman (and he'd have been talking latin so she wouldn't understand him anyway.) So there must have been a chain of people who passed the story down, unless Granny made it up. Historians are annoying, picky people who want to know exactly who told who and when. In other words, who told Granny? If we can't find that out, such supposed historical facts count as gossip.



Was Jamage Road built by the Romans?

It's not just the Romans. Did you know that, according to another of these anonymous sheets, Talke is named Talke o'th'Hill because when King Charles I or II was staying at Lawton Hall during the civil war, on hearing that enemy forces were approaching, he suggested that they climb the nearest eminence, and have a talk on the hill (Get it?) so as to be able to see from which direction the Roundheads were coming and thus plan which was the best direction to run away. The story would be more likely if we could find that King Charles ever stayed at Lawton Hall, which we can't, and in any case the name Talke Upon the Hill is mentioned in a document of 1612, which is a while before the civil war. The same goes for the story that crimson tides of blood flowing downhill following a battle were the origin of the name Red Street. Cooling and congealing, it formed a sticky pool at Jammage, too. Except that Jammage started out life as Gem Edge, and there's no trace of this supposed battle.

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KIDSGROVE TIMES WITH PHILIP LEESE



Was Green Lane, a row of houses facing the Birchenwood works on Kidsgrove Bank, so-called because of the number of Irish workers who lived there?

that when I look on the census returns for 1841 and 51, when it was already called Green Lane, there are no Irish present at all. Later on, when there was a sprinkling of Irish workers the name may have been more appropriate, but as an origin story, it won't wash. Ditto for the well-known fact that when James Brindley was living in Turnhurst Hall he built himself a model canal lock in his back garden. People used to recall seeing it, and it's shown on maps. The trouble is that the long thin pool was shown on maps dating to before when Brindley lived there. Still, you can't keep a good story down. There's now a pub called Brindley's Lock, so it must have existed!

It is possible that some of these undatable, unattributable facts are true, or part true, but historians have to be very careful about allowing them to stand. Amongst the information in the Talke File, are statements that Harecastle Farm (now the Miller and Carter) used to be surrounded by a moat, that there was a set of stocks by the cross at Talke, and that Bishops Field was so called because a horse named Bishop was buried in it at some time or other. Maybe these things are true, but if you have any proof of any of them, please get in touch. There is a lot of history we will never be able to confirm or deny, simply because the facts were never recorded, or, if they were, the documents have been lost.

Perhaps the best example of the problem of Attributable Datable Information as regarding Talke's history, is the stone market cross standing opposite the

Local history is littered with such 'facts' as these. They arise because of the strong human tendency to find direct common-sense explanations for whatever is around them. Green Lane, for instance, a row of houses facing the Birchenwood works on Kidsgrove Bank was so-called because of the number of Irish workers who lived there at one time. Trouble is,

Queen's Head and the Swan. Talke, according to an unimpeachable source in 1252 was granted the right to hold a weekly market, and a posher three-day market every year near St.Martin's Day in November. To prove it we still have the base of the old market cross, which was restored in 1887. But did the farmers from round about bring their ducks, geese, hens, sheep, cheese, bacon and onions every week to spread out in the open space by the Church and public houses? And was there a regular three-day event every November with travelling showmen, ballad sellers, and journeymen with more exotic goods like ribbons, lace, linen, saddlery and so on?

Well, except for a brief mention, in the newspaper accounts of a gunpowder explosion nearby in 1781, when it was reported that fewer people died in the blast because many of them were at the market at the top of the hill, there is no other known mention of markets at Talke between 1252 and 1781, about 500 years. So perhaps the original market only lasted a few years, or maybe folks just got quietly on with it all those silent centuries without every telling anyone in a letter, or newspaper report or other document. I wonder whether Granny knows... Or I could ask Old Bill, if he still goes into the Swan.



Talke's stone market cross

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Kidsgrove Rotary Bonfire and fireworks night raised thousands for the community



Thousands of local people turned out for a fantastic night with amazing fireworks by Monumental Fireworks company, Warwick's funfair and lots of stalls around the Clough Hall Park site. Thanks to Paul Sergeant for his First Aid support and security people.

Thanks to the stall holders, people who came to Marshall such as our Rotary Community Corps, Go Kidsgrove and our Rotarians themselves. We raised in the region of £16,000 for local community groups and charities.

As you are all aware this is Rotary's busiest time of year!

We are now concentrating on our Santa runs alongside our usual charitable work and community support. Here are just some updates on the ongoing and upcoming events...



Kidsgrove Rotary Food hub

Our food hub continues to support those in financial and social need as well as providing a community social opportunity. We have free fresh food daily and also run a small shop where food and household items can be purchased at a heavily discounted price. No voucher or referral is necessary. Please bring your own bags. (See our Facebook page for regular updates on what's going on.) We

would like to thank all those businesses, individuals and community groups who support us on a regular basis. We would like to give a special mention to St. Saviour's Academy, St. John's Rc Cp School and Star Academy for their very generous harvest donations. We would also like to thank the staff at the Labour Club for their continued support and all our volunteers who give up their time and work hard to ensure a warm welcome and enjoyable experience to all our service users. If you think you may be able to support the Food Hub in any way, or if you are experiencing food hardship, financial difficulties or would like to see a friendly face, have a chat and a hot drink, please call in to see us Tues-Fri 11am -1pm or contact president@kidsgroverotary.co.uk EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Kidsgrove Rotary Family Christmas Event

We are delighted to announce that Kidsgrove Rotary are the winners of this round of Tesco community tokens appeal. Many thanks to those who voted for us in store. The overwhelming response in votes is a testament to the community support that Rotary receive and we are truly grateful for this. On Saturday 10th December we will be holding a family fun day at King Street car park. There will be fair rides, Christmas market stalls, refreshment stalls, Rotary Santa and LIVE REINDEER! The event will take place throughout the day and reindeer will be on site 12pm -3pm. Please keep your eye out for upcoming advertisements for this event.

Kidsgrove Rotary Community Corps

We are privileged to have a fantastic group of volunteers who work extremely hard to support the Food Hub regularly alongside other Rotary events and planning, organising and putting on their own events for the community. The most recent event was a children's Halloween Party which many of you may have attended. This was a fantastic success with the children from our community enjoying a disco, party games, refreshments, fancy dress competition and much more... Anyone wishing to find out more about this amazing group please contact corps@kidsgroverotary.co.uk or see Kidsgrove Rotary Corps Facebook page.

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Rotary Reindeer Routes for Christmas 2022

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Friday 2 nd	Dec:	Gloucester Road & Miners Estate.....6pm
Saturday 3 rd	Dec:	Butt Lane Co-op.....9am to 4pm
Sunday 4 th	Dec:	Kent Green to Lawton Avenue.....3pm
Monday 5 th	Dec:	Talke Pits Village.....6pm
Tuesday 6 th	Dec:	Mount Road to Parklands.....6pm
Wednesday 7 th	Dec:	Birchenwood CP to Shelley Close.....6pm
Thursday 8 th	Dec:	Weir Grove to Whitehill.....6pm
Friday 9 th	Dec:	Oldcott Drive to Stonebank Road.....6pm
Saturday 10 th	Dec:	King Street.....9am
Sunday 11 th	Dec:	Rookery to Harriseahead.....3pm
Monday 12 th	Dec:	Woodshutt Street to Bluebell Croft.....6pm
Tuesday 13 th	Dec:	Church Street to St Saviours Street...6pm
Thursday 15 th	Dec:	Unity Way to Wedgwood Road.....6pm
Friday 16 th	Dec:	Monument Road & Talke Pits.....6pm
Saturday 17 th	Dec:	Home Bargains.....9am
Sunday 18 th	Dec:	Harriseahead to Whitehill.....3pm
Monday 19 th	Dec:	Springbank to Mount Pleasant.....6pm
Tuesday 20 th	Dec:	Cedar Avenue to Maple Avenue.....6pm
Wednesday 21 st	Dec:	Whitehill Coop.....10am to 4pm
Thursday 22 nd	Dec:	Clough Hall to Springfield Drive.....6pm
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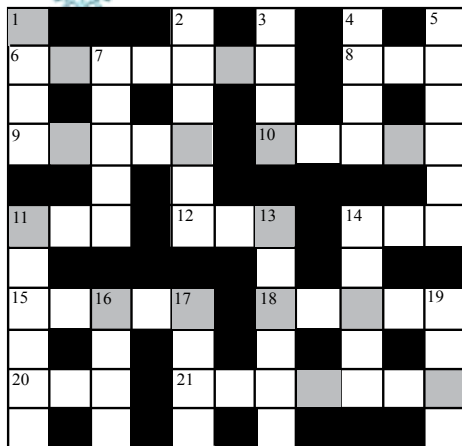
Prize Crossword Competition

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 'HALLOWEEN'. First correct reply to be picked from the bag was Mrs Hearson of Kidsgrove who wins a £10 gift voucher which she has chosen to spend at MrGees - congratulations! This issue we are again offering a £10 voucher to be spent in a shop or business advertising in Kidsgrove

News (please state on your reply). The first correct answer drawn on January 8th 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, Harsiehead, 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

Community Choir Christmas Concert

The proceeds from all Kidsgrove Community Choir concerts go to charity, this year's it's Teen Challenge which helps adults in dire need. In these difficult economic times it is even more important to raise vital funds for charities, so with this in mind the Choir hope to sell as many tickets as possible. Their Christmas concerts are always enjoyed by all who attend and are a highlight of the Christmas calendar.



Christmas at Mow Cop Community Hall, St Thomas Church Mow Cop

- 10th December : Carols around the tree 6-30 pm start.
- 18th December Traditional Carol Service. 6pm.
- 23rd December Crib Service 6pm.
- Christmas Eve 11pm - Midnight Mass.
- Christmas Day -10-30 Holy Communion.



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Model shown is MY22 Aygo X Exclusive 1.0 VVT-i Manual £18,895 including optional Chilli Red bi-tone Pearlescent paint at £320. Prices correct at time of being published. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): combined 55.9 (5.0) - 57.6 (4.9). Combined CO₂ 114 - 110 g/km. Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. Fuel consumption and CO₂ produced varies significantly depending on a number of factors, including the accessories fitted (post-registration), driving style, conditions, speed and vehicle load. All models and grades are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are full WLTP figures. More information can be found by visiting: www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/tcb/wltp.asp. *6.9% APR Representative and £1,000 Finance Deposit Allowance only available on new retail orders of Aygo X between 4th October 2022 and 19th December 2022 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 31st March 2023 on a 42 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. Toyota AccessFlex payment breaks are not available. Toyota Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Participating Toyota Centres. Affordable finance through AccessToyota (PCP). Terms and conditions apply. Toyota Financial Services may pay the Toyota Centre a commission for introducing you to them. Commission may be calculated based on either a fixed amount relating to the vehicle you are financing, a percentage of the amount you borrow, or a combination of both. Toyota Financial Services may also make other types of payment to the Toyota Centres for introducing you to them. Any such amounts will not affect the amounts you pay to Toyota Financial Services under your finance agreement.[^]Subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. See www.toyota.co.uk for details.