

Welcome to your Almshouse News

CREATIVE EDITION

DURING CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN 2

WELCOME

Caption
Competition

Puzzles

Christmas
Recipes

Make Your Own
Gifts

Christmas Drinks

Make Your
Own Christmas
Decorations

Poetry

Meet the Artist



Let's Get
Creative!

Welcome to New Resident

We offer a warm welcome, into our community, to the new resident who has recently moved in.

Jonathan Cooke

A Huge Thank You

A huge thank you to Anne Speak at Richmond Good Neighbours this year and all their volunteer shoppers for their time and kindness shopping for residents. We would also like to thank The Sheesh Mahal and Cook who kindly donated meals this year along with food that people and businesses donated at the food bank.

We would all like to wish Anne Speak and all the volunteers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021.



Credits

Editor: Juliet Ames-Lewis

Design: Chantal Richards

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Juliet Ames-Lewis Chief Executive



Letter from Juliet

Dear Residents,

I hope that you have all been keeping well throughout Lockdown

2. At the time of writing, we do not yet know into which 'tier' we will emerge at the end of lockdown but we will await news from the government on this.

We hope very much, that whichever tier we are in, it will be permitted for us to hold our Christmas Celebration at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Richmond, on Thursday 17 December. You will all have received information from Stuart about this. Due to social distancing and therefore limits on the number of people allowed in the church, it is important please that if you would like to attend that you book a place with your Scheme Manager.

The Head Office for The Richmond Charities has for many decades been on Richmond Green. However, on 7 December 2020 we will be moving our Head Office to a new location at 95 Sheen Road, Richmond TW9 1YJ.

The office is mid-way between Houblon's

and Church Estate, on the Houblon's side of Sheen Road. The new office is going to give the charity more space for staff expansion as we continue to expand by acquiring and building more almshouses. Due to the office move, Head Office will be closed on 7 and 8 December.

I hope you enjoy this special Christmas and Craft edition of the Almshouse News and I send you my very best wishes for the

Winner - 'Caption The Photo' Competition

**Congratulations to
Susanne Munslow-Adair**
at Bishop Duppa's, for her winning caption. She wins free home delivery of a Lucky Dip Brownie Box from Richmond Bakes

www.richmondbakes.co.uk

Thank you for all your funny entries!

"It says on the label that it is full bodied and fruity and will make us feel 21 again. Shall we get another bottle Deidre?"



A Brain Teaser for those who remember pounds, shillings and pence!

Below are 12 clues and the answer to each of them is an amount in £ s d. These answers will add up to £33 7s 81/2d. Have fun!

No	Clue	£	s	d
1	A Stone			
2	A Bicycle			
3	A man's name			
4	A singer			
5	A kind of pig			
6	A leather worker			
7	Part of a chimpanzee's leg			
8	The Sun, Moon and Pluto			
9	Royal headdress			
10	50% of panties			
11	Hit repeatedly			
12	Unwell sea creature			
		£33	7s	81/2d

Dennis Church celebrates his 100th Birthday!



by Jo Davison

Dennis Church who has been a resident at Bishop Duppa's since 1993 recently celebrated his 100th Birthday!

Sadly, we were unable to celebrate with Dennis as we would have liked due to the Covid restrictions but we were able to have a doorstep celebration with cake and balloons.



Meet the Artist: Maria Merca



by **Chantal Richards**

Maria is a relatively new resident having moved into Bishop Duppa's

in August this year. She is absolutely delighted with her new home, explaining that it feels like a palace compared to her last abode. She no longer feels isolated and is so happy to be part of our peaceful community. Now, within her 4 walls, she is able to expand and continue her creative practices. Whilst working at home, Maria explains, 'your space is very important', and 'my mental health has greatly improved'.

Maria trained as a stained glass designer and is an accomplished artist and painter too. She paints designs and pictures onto mirrors with solvent paint. Most of them have a sparkly effect too. The work is labour intensive and time consuming but the results are stunning. The pictures on page 7, show the current designs of Maria's hand painted mirrors along with illustrated mirrors showing the deer in Richmond Park, and a London montage that includes The London Eye, St Paul's Cathedral and the iconic red buses.

The mirrors require a lot of patience as they take so long to dry. Maria says 'I often have about 30 mirrors on the



go at any one time. Moving from one to another to add another layer of paint. My house is full of mirrors - but I never look at myself!'

As a stall holder at Covent Garden market for the last 25 years, Maria has been grateful every day to receive feedback about her work. This gives her the motivation to keep working, keep creating new designs. Many of her clients are Americans and people from the North of England, who have not seen unusual

Make Your Own Christmas Gifts



by Chantal Richards



Reindeer Drinks

Who doesn't love the gift of alcohol at Christmas. Jazz it up a little with this great idea. Wrap brown pipe cleaners around the tops of the bottles, and twist smaller pieces around to make antlers. Then use hot glue to stick on googly eyes and red pom poms. Easy Peasey!

Stove Top Potpourri Gifts

Memories are strongly linked to smells. So what better to give this Christmas than a whole pot of happy memory smells! These Stove Top Potpourri gifts are easily assembled, wrapped and make wonderful gifts for your family, friends and neighbours!

1. Muster up some glass jars (recycled are good!).
2. Make some gorgeous sticky labels for your jars, with these instructions:

STOVE TOP POT POURRI JAR.

DIRECTIONS: PUT ALL THESE INGREDIENTS IN A SMALL PAN. ADD WATER TO COVER. SIMMER UNTIL YOU CAN SMELL CHRISTMAS!

3. Put various ingredients inside. Here are different suggestions:

*2 cinnamon sticks + 2 sprigs of pine tree + 2 peppermint/candy sticks

*1 sprig of rosemary + 2 cinnamon sticks + peel of one lemon (tie lemon to top)

*2 cinnamon sticks + 2 sprig of pine + 1tbsp of whole cloves + 1 whole nutmeg + 1/3 cup cranberries + 1 star anise pod + 1 orange

4. Wrap with ribbon and attach a gift card. Ready to give!



Make Your Own Christmas Gifts

by Linda Prendergast



Knitting and Crocheting for Christmas

I have another challenge for all our wonderful Almshouse residents.

The last time I asked for help you were all amazing and did so much more than I could ever have wished for. You knitted so many wonderful Doctor bears, Nurses, Hearts, Thank You Pillows and much more, and all were donated to NHS Front line staff and their children.

This time I thought it would be such a special and personal thing if you could knit or crochet some Christmas decorations to hang on your very own Almshouse Estate Christmas trees or perhaps a Christmas gift for your friends and neighbours within the Almshouse Community.

I have put together some simple Knitting and Crochet patterns that you can use. The pictures are an example of a few. There is also a crochet hanging star, Furry Fairies which are little knitted hanging fairy mice, a lovely knitted hanging heart, a knitted bell or knitted Christmas Baubles all to hang on the tree.



If you would like to take up the challenge please contact your Scheme Manager and they will organise a copy of your choice for you.

Meet the Artist: Ian Heath



by Chantal Richards

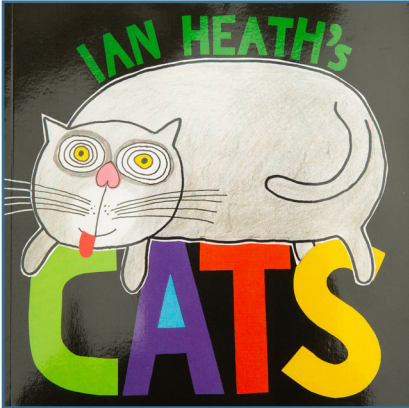
If you are a creative person your energy never seems to dwindle. Well, not always. But it is certainly the case for Ian Heath who is a relatively new resident at Manning Place in Richmond. Widely known as a cartoonist, Ian worked professionally for 30 years filling newspapers and magazines like Punch, The Evening Standard, Penthouse, Daily Mirror, News of the World and The Times. He gained a great reputation for his work whilst simultaneously fulfilling his creative career in so many other directions.

Ian grew up in the countryside of Wiltshire, drawing everyday, he wanted to be a cartoonist from about the age of 10. After leaving Swindon College, Ian went to St Martin's School of



Art in London. In his mid-20's, after several years of working, Ian got his first cartoon accepted by Punch. Here was the holy grail of cartoonists. The pinnacle of his career at such a young age.

Whilst working as a cartoonist, Ian's career went in many different directions. He worked for Tie Rack, designing ties and socks and gift boxes. One of his ties was even purchased by The Queen's household! Pictured left, is a tie with multiple Queen's Guards Bearskin hats. Ian told me 'this unique



tie was once worn by a royal guard during a royal party. He was standing about 4 rows back when the Queen passed by. She noticed the tie and had someone order her one from Tie Rack!

During the 1990's, Ian created a very successful series of horoscope books with zany illustrations. Such was his knowledge of horoscope characteristics, Ian quickly identified my own star sign! (I'm a Taurus). In addition, there is also a range of children's books and a wonderful book about *Cats* (shown above) which Ian still has copies of for sale. The book has 80 full colour pages and is available to buy from Ian for £10.00. Ian also has also designed a

huge catalogue of greetings cards with over 300 designs.

I asked Ian where he gets his inspiration from for so many projects. Without a moment's thought, he replied 'it's 99 per cent perspiration not inspiration!' The hardest moments for a creative is not being in the mood or the creative zone. However, to achieve his goals, Ian said that he used to start on a Monday with 100 sheets of A4 paper and aimed to fill each one by the end of the week. That's 20 designs a day, which is very impressive!

Ian's hobbies are, of course, more creative musings which include painting

Meet the Artist: Ian Heath.. continued

and papier mâché sculptures. Working with acrylics, Ian works on about 3 paintings at once. Giving each painting time to dry before coming back to it. The subjects are abstracts and nudes.

Filling almost every surface in Ian's home are the papier mâché sculptures. They are either finely tuned and perfect for sale, in construction or in the 'repair shop'! There are cats, chickens, mice, enormous vases, and a stunning 4ft tall naked woman (seen below). Every sculpture exudes character and a little bit of cheekiness! Again, they are all time consuming projects but the end result is a true work of art.

For the last 15 years Ian has had an annual exhibition of his paintings at



various venues including Marbella and Ronda in Spain, Bournemouth, central London, Chiswick and Notting Hill. Hopefully there will be another one soon!

Over the last 5 years, Ian has developed a love of travel and has explored many remote parts of the world. In all, he has visited 48 countries, keeping a daily journal; and during lockdown has managed to add 1600 more photos into his superbly illustrated scrapbooks. His favourite destinations are Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, Borneo, Bali, Philippines, Sri



Lanka, Thailand and a 4 month trip driving through 21 countries in Europe.

Ian has so many travel stories that he has been approached by a book

publisher to create a book on the quirky tales of his findings. There just isn't room here to repeat all those stories, so instead we will be publishing the best tales in each AlmsHouse News beginning in the New Year. Look out for Ian's Travel Blog in 2021.

If you would like to purchase Ian's book of *Cats* - please contact him via email: ianheathart@gmail.com phone: 07832 135100

Make Your Own Christmas Bunting

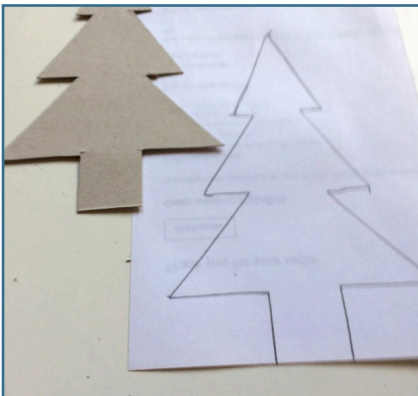


by Irene Donovan

I have made this Christmas tree bunting for the entrance at Manning Place. Maybe you would like to make some too. Here is a step-by-step guide to help you. Have fun!



1. Cut out a card template in the shape of a Christmas tree.



2. Trace around to make a paper template.



3. Pin the paper template to a 'sandwich' of fabric, backing, wadding, then top fabric.

YOU WILL NEED:

- cardboard
- paper
- pencil
- pins
- christmas fabric
- backing
- wadding
- (sewing machine)
- needle
- cotton
- pinking shears/scissors
- ribbon or tape

Make Your Own- ALMSHOUSE NEWS



4. Stitch around the template.



5. Cut out using pinking shears.



6. Attach to ribbon/tape with a button.



Make it as long as you need! Other shapes can be used e.g. robin, bell, star or angel, or even a mixture.

Creative Courses from Age UK Richmond

The Creative Wellbeing Project

collective arts

The Creative Wellbeing Project is an uplifting, self-development programme designed to enrich emotional wellbeing for adults.

It combines creative activity, art therapy and positive psychology and explores meaning, self-compassion, transformation and strengths.

It is aimed at people who feel isolated or need a boost to their wellbeing.

The course is run by a local non- profit organisation called Collective Arts who are taking bookings for January 2021.

Currently the course will run on zoom and the course is grant funded and includes art materials, no artistic skills or talents required!

If you are interested contact:

website: <https://collective-arts.org/the-creative-wellbeing-project/>

email: info@collective-arts.org

phone: 07711 938 921

“The Creative Wellbeing Project is a lifesaver, it helps you take stock when you’ve been through a difficult time and to redefine your life.”



Spark Wellbeing Course (no computer required)

Spark is a seven-week wellbeing course that aims to spark joy, connection and creativity in your life. Through weekly themes, selected readings and a choice of activities you'll discover (and often re-ignite) the things that bring you delight.

The course is hand delivered to your door in a box and supported with a weekly group telephone conference call (optional but good fun!).

Art Journaling with Turner House (no computer required)

A three-week art journaling course from Turner's House created by Rita Piglionica, Activities & Interpretation Officer at the House and delivered in collaboration with Age UK Richmond Wellbeing Services.

Participants learn about JMW Turner, local history and art while engaging in weekly activities aimed at enhancing wellbeing and feeding curiosity. Participants receive an art pack (with all the materials required) in advance.



Age UK Richmond Writing Challenges (no computer required)

AGE UK Richmond will shortly be announcing a winter writing challenge. Sharpen your pencils and raid your memory banks. Details to be announced shortly.

If you would like to know more about these activities or would like to participate in the next round of Spark, email mt.keegan@ageukrichmond.org.uk phone: 020 8744 1965

Zoom Courses

Lecture and Q&A: How DNA and ageing affect the taste of food.

-Delivered by Dr Yiannis Mavrommatis, St Mary's University.

-Wednesday 11th of November, -2pm to 3pm. FREE.

-Via Zoom

How to do your supermarket shop on the internet.

-Thursday 19th of November, -12pm.

Tickets are £5

-Via Zoom

If you are interested in getting some support in using your computer or tablet then you can contact Carol Horne via email: carol.horne@ageukrichmond.org.uk

phone: 020 8744 1965

Make Your Own Christmas Gifts



by Gennie Thompson

In a year where we may be prone to having more free time than usual, you may enjoy making a Christmas gift for a loved one or friend. These gifts can be made with minimal trips to the shops, using materials you will likely have in your home and would otherwise go to waste. All of them can be stored in a jar of your choice, add a ribbon and gift tag and finish to your taste.

Home-made terrarium

A beautiful, entirely customisable gift you can easily make (even for those that aren't green fingered)!

Plants help to beat winter blues, and terrariums are low-maintenance and can survive almost indefinitely with little water. You can use old jars lying around in your kitchen. You can leave them either open or closed, the choice is yours.



What you'll need:

- A clear glass jar (you can use the jam one), vase, bowl, glass, or any exciting container you have on hand in your recycling or cupboard.
- Rocks, pebbles or recycled glass chunks
- Activated charcoal (you can pick this up in Boots or Waitrose)
- Potting soil appropriate for your plants
- Any decorative items, moss and/ or figurines, sticks (optional)
- A small plant
- A spoon
- Scissors and gloves

Instructions

STEP 1: Prepare the Container: Wash both the interior and exterior of your vessel, to make sure there's no nasty residues that may impact your plant's health. Imagine how you want your plant arranged inside the jar.

STEP 2: Add Your Drainage Layer: When your container is ready, fill the bottom with rocks and pebbles to create a draining system to ensure the plant doesn't get flooded. The depth of the drainage layer depends on your jar – aim for at least 4cm.

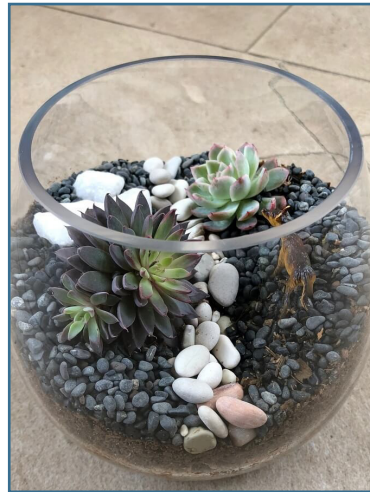
STEP 3: Add the Activated Charcoal: Caution, charcoal is messy! You can use powder or granules, whatever you find first. Add a light dusting to the rocks is enough to improve the plants lifespan and reduce fungi and bacteria.

STEP 4: Add Soil: Choose a soil that's appropriate for the type of plant you are using, add enough soil to cover the plants roots and give them room to grow. Try to get the depth slightly higher than the height of the plants pot.

STEP 5: Plant: Remove the plant from the pot and break up the soil ball until you get down to the roots – be gentle. If the plants roots are particularly long you may want to trim them – they will grow back. Using your fingers or a spoon dig a hole to place your plants roots in. Add soil to the top and push down so it is compact. Try to give the plant as much room as possible in the container.

STEP 6: Add Accessories: When you have finished planting you can add all the little accessories you want and get landscaping. You could include any little trinkets, blanket of moss (dried or living), stones, sticks, shells, any little figurines, glass beads – be creative.

STEP 7: Clean and Water: Wipe the sides of your vessel down and give the terrarium a few drops of water to get it started off.



How to make your own Christmas Wreath



by Claire Sanecka

Christmas Bauble Wreath

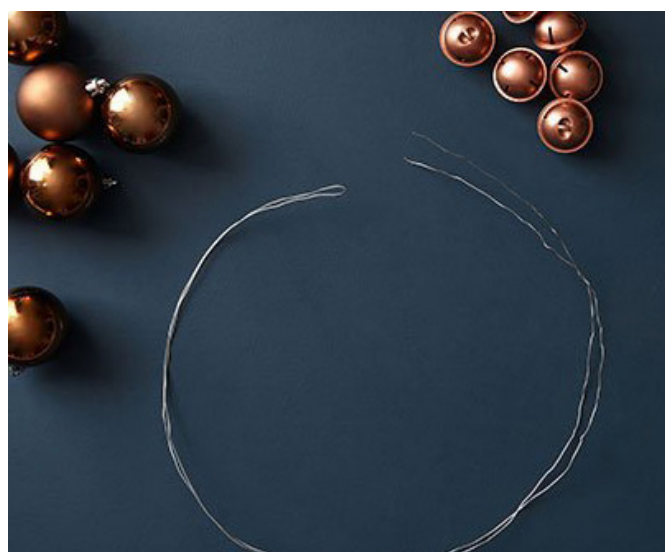
Ready for festive decorations with a personal touch this year? Get your front door or your home looking extra Christmassy by learning how to make a bauble wreath.

Tools and materials: Pliers, wire, different sized baubles and battery-operated fairy lights.

Method:

1. Plan out the size

How big a wreath are you after? Start by working out the space you want the wreath to fill, and then measure wire that's twice that circumference length, plus an extra 60cm. Then fold the wire



in half. Alternatively, a spare wire coat hanger will do!

2. Thread the baubles



Keeping the two ends of the wire separate, start threading baubles onto each end – alternating larger and smaller baubles for a nice layered effect.

Top Tip: Twisting the wire on each side between baubles helps hold it all together.

3. Keep it circular

Continue threading the baubles, keeping to a circular shape as best you can. For the fullest wreath, try and in-fill any gaps with differently sized baubles as you go.

Make Your Own- ALMSHOUSE NEWS

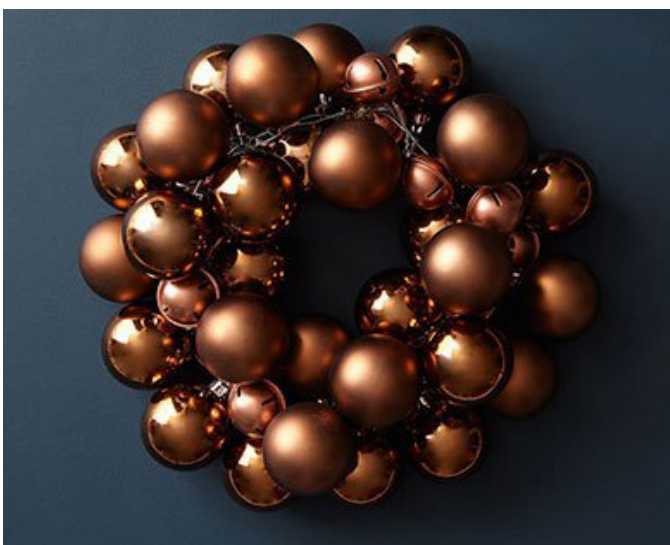


4. Secure your baubles

Once all the baubles are on, twist the two wire ends together to secure your wreath. With one strand of the wire left over, create a small loop – this will let you hang it up later.

5. Wrap in fairy lights if you like

Weave some battery-operated fairy lights in and around your wreath for a layered lighting effect. Then you can use the other wire strand to secure the battery pack to the back of your wreath.



6. Hang up finished wreath.

Finished? Place your hand-crafted wreath wherever you fancy showing it off – on your front door, on the wall or even above the fireplace, then stand back and enjoy!

.....Feeling more creative? Why not try the above method using a variety of recycled goods found in and around your home?



Below are some ideas to get you started! Happy wreath making!!

- Buttons of any shape or size
- Dried fruit
- Natural Foliage
- Thread, twine and cotton reels
- Scarf / material
- Ribbon and bows
- Memory wreath with photos of loved ones
- Upcycle old wine corks
- Knit or crochet

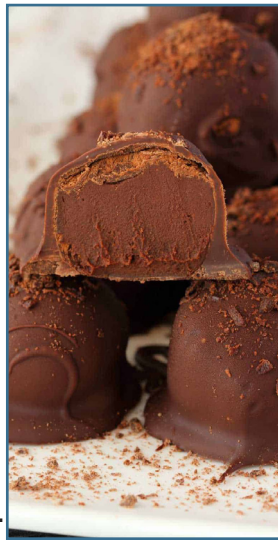
How to make your own Christmas Gifts



by Gennie Thompson

Home-Made Truffles.

The base of this recipe is vegan and gluten free and you can be creative with adding in flavours or décor of your choice or suited to the recipient.



What you'll need:

- 255grams or 1 1/4 cups of dark chocolate (chop/ break very finely)
- 7 tablespoons of canned coconut milk (shake well before use)
- 1/2 teaspoon of rum or vanilla/ almond/ extract(optional) For dusting truffles (just ideas)
- 1/4 cup of cocoa or cacao powder, icing sugar
- Crushed nuts of your choice
- Melted/ crushed chocolate of your choice
- Crushed biscuits (use your choice)

Recipe

STEP 1: Crush/ chop (with a rolling pin or similar) or chop your chocolate into fine pieces and put into a medium sized mixing bowl.

STEP 2: Melt - In a separate mixing bowl, add coconut milk and microwave until very warm but not boiling – around 25 seconds (or heat in a small saucepan over a medium heat until it just starts to simmer)



STEP 3: Stir - Pour coconut milk into the bowl with the chocolate in, cover with a towel or lid to trap the heat and leave to stand for five minutes.

Then use a spoon to gently stir, trying to prevent air getting into the mixture.

Continue to stir until the chocolate is fully melted, creamy and smooth. If you find some un-melted chocolate pieces, you can microwave the mixture in 10 second increments until all is melted but be careful not to overcook!



STEP 4: Mix – Add the rum, vanilla or alternative extract at this time (optional).

STEP 5: Chill - Put the mixture in the fridge to chill uncovered for 2-3 hours, or until almost completely solid. A good test is dipping a knife into the middle of the bowl to see if any chocolate sticks, if it comes out mostly clean its ready to scoop. If its still wet chocolate, leave it in the fridge a while longer.

STEP 6: Crush - Once the mixture is chilled, prepare a bowl with your chosen topping to roll the truffles in, ie nuts, cocoa powder, crushed biscuits (if using make sure crushed very fine)

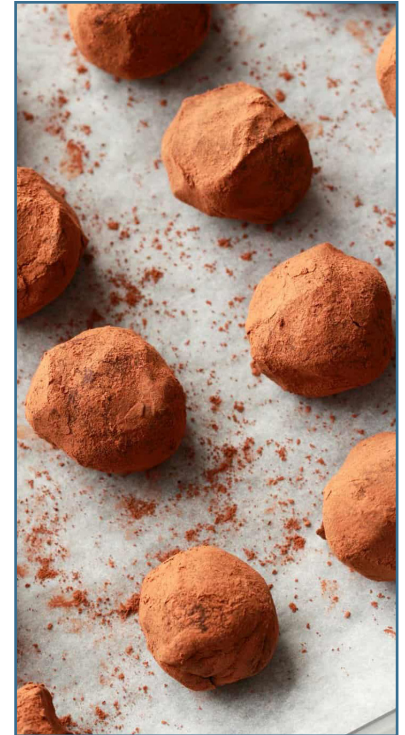
STEP 7:
Scoop - Use a tablespoon to scoop out small balls of the mixture, then use your hands to gently but quickly form/ roll the chocolate into balls.



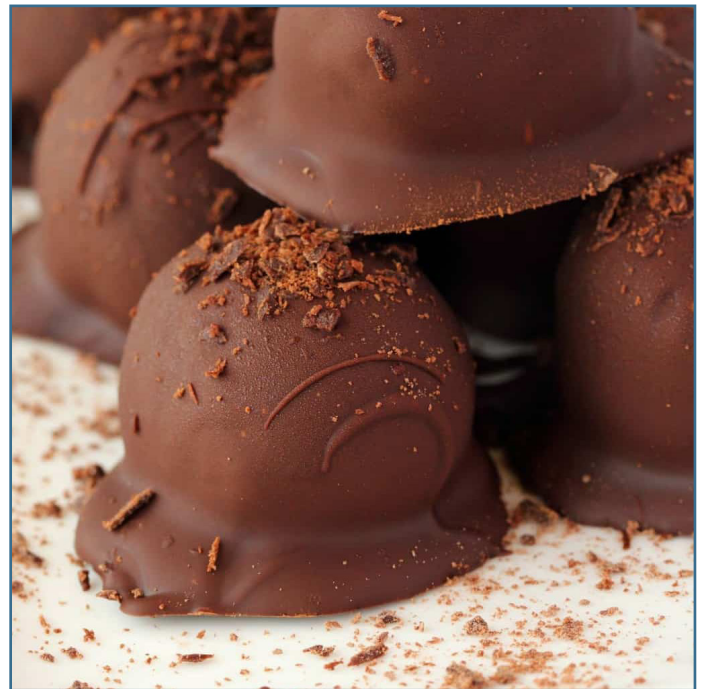
STEP 8: Toss - the truffle in the bowl of your topping (using 2 teaspoons to do this may help), then shake

off the excess and leave on a tray lined with greaseproof paper

Enjoy immediately or store in the fridge (it will probably be easier to cool the truffles before transferring them into a gift jar/ box).



Store truffles in fridge (will last about 3 days) and remove them 10 – 15 mins prior to eating for optimum creaminess.



Christmas Drink Recipes

by Lorraine Bradley



Mulled Rose Wine



Ingredients:

- 750ml rose wine
- 1 star anise
- 1 ball sliced ginger, sliced
- Half teaspoon black peppercorns
- 5 allspice berries
- Quarter pink grapefruit, sliced
- 2 tbsp crème de cassis

Method:

Pour the rose wine into a large saucepan with the star anise, stem ginger, black peppercorns, allspice berries and pink grapefruit.

Bring to a simmer over a medium heat then stir in the crème de cassis. Strain into a jug then serve in heatproof glasses or cups.

Non-Alcoholic Mulled Wine



Ingredients:

- 500 ml pomegranate juice
- 25g golden caster sugar
- Handful of frozen blackberries
- 250 ml apple juice
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 star anise
- 4 cloves
- 3 black peppercorns
- 1 orange, quartered

Method:

Put the pomegranate juice, sugar, blackberries and apple juice in a saucepan. Add the cinnamon, star anise, cloves, peppercorns and orange. Heat gently until simmering. Taste for sweetness, then strain into heatproof glasses.

Choc Orange Hot Chocolate



Ingredients:

- 150 ml milk
- 50 ml double cream
- Zest of half an orange
- 50g dark chocolate, chopped
- 25ml orange liqueur

Method:

Heat the milk, cream and orange zest together in a saucepan until simmering then remove from the heat and pour through a sieve into a jug to remove the orange zest. Pour the infused milk mixture back into the pan and add the chocolate, stirring gently until the chocolate has melted and is really smooth.

Put the pan back on the heat to warm through then add the orange liqueur. Pour into a mug and serve.

Orange Russian



If you like Irish cream liqueurs such as Baileys, this gin cocktail could be on your list of favourite drinks.

Ingredients:

- 20 ml Gin
- 15 ml coffee liqueur
- 15 ml triple sec or similar
- orange liqueur
- 50 ml cream

Method:

Fill a glass with ice – the larger the cubes the better. Add all your ingredients and stir until combined. Garnish with a fresh slice of orange and serve immediately.

*Merry
Christmas*

How to make your own Christmas Gifts



by Gennie Thompson

Home Made Bath Salts



Homemade bath salts: only two steps to making these and they are entirely customisable to the recipient's personality.

Salt makes our bodies more buoyant in water, which helps us to relax. Salt baths are associated with many therapeutic benefits, such as decreasing stress, helping us sleep and calming inflamed skin. Epsom salts can help relieve muscle tension, aches and pains and reduce inflammation due to the magnesium and sulphate ions released when they melt in hot water. Baking soda helps to break down oils on our skin and can act as softening agent.

You will need:

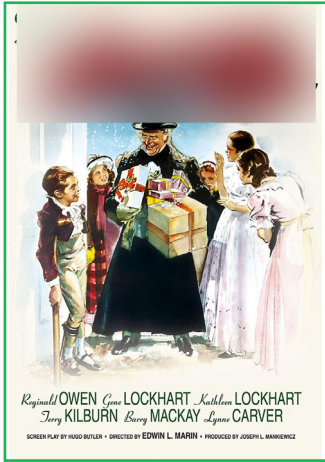
- You can use regular sea salt or Epsom salts or a combination of both.
- Sea salt
- Epsom salts (optional) – available at supermarkets and health stores
- Dried herbs, flowers or petals. Note: these will be floating in the water so will require after bath cleaning, but certainly add to a relaxing feel.
- Essential oils (for example, lavender, bergamot and orange)
- Baking soda
- Glass jar or similar for storage/ presentation

Instructions

STEP 1: Mix - In a large bowl, mix to combine (rough guide): 6 parts coarse sea salt; 3 parts epsom salts, and 1 tbsp baking soda, add any other items to the mixture, ie 4 tbsp dried herbs / flowers/ petals and add between 1 -4 drops of your chosen essential oils and combine (optional).

STEP 2: Present – Ladle your bath salt mixture from your mixing bowl into your chosen jar. Add finishing touches, labels and décor.

Christmas Films. Can you name the film and the year it was released?



1.



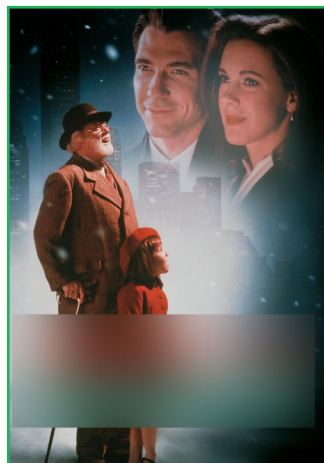
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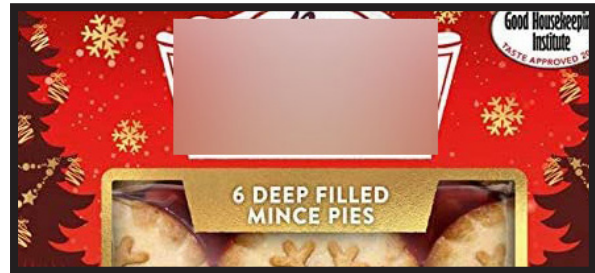
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Answers on page 30.

Puzzle: Guess the Christmas-related brand



1.



7.



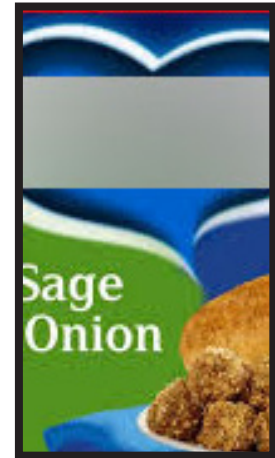
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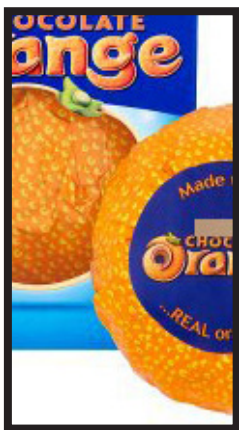
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4.



5.



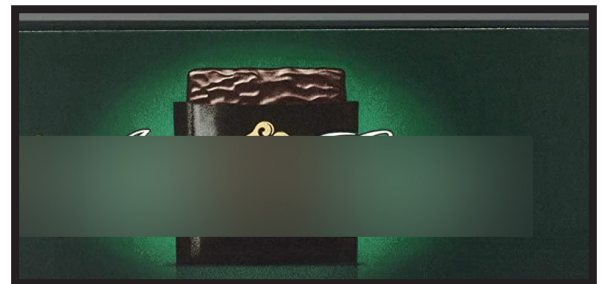
10.



11.



6.



12.

Answers on page 30.

Caption Competition



Caption The Photo Competition

The above photo was taken at Hickey's Summer Party in 2019. It needs a funny caption! The funniest caption will be the winner. Good luck!

How to enter:

Submit your caption for the above photo.

Email your answer to:

g.thompson@richmondcharities.org.uk

OR give your answer, in an envelope, to your scheme manager.

The winner will be announced in the next issue.

The Prize!

Maria Merca's beautiful hand painted mirror is this week's prize. (see below). For more details about Maria's work see pages 6 and 7. Good Luck!



Page 27. Christmas Films. Can you name them? 1. A Christmas Carol (1938) 2. Elf (2003) 3. Home Alone (1990) 4. It's a Wonderful Life (1946) 5. Miracle on 34th Street (1994) 6. The Polar Express (2004) 7. Last Christmas (2019) 8. The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) 9. The Santa Clause (1994)

Page 28. Guess the Christmas related brand. 1. Coca-Cola. 2. Baileys. 3. Moët & Chandon. 4. Jacobs. 5. Terry's. 6. Anchor. 7. Mr Kipling. 8. Lindt. 9. Paxo. 10. Cadbury. 11. Quality Street. 12. After Eight.



Wordsearch - ALMSHOUSE NEWS

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

artistic

genius

imaginative

skill

craft

gifted

inspired

talented

expressive

ideas

original

visionary

Poetry Corner



by Nigel Davis

At the time of writing this, it looks as though we will not be able

to have a traditional type of carol service either in the chapel or in someone's home where friends and neighbours can gather round the fire and join in singing the old favourites. A great pity. Speaking for myself, I think Silent Night is my absolute favourite (what is yours?). But another one I have always loved is In the Bleak Midwinter – lovely music and lovely words.

That was written by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). She was of a rather solitary and mystic nature as well as being intensely religious. Her lyric poetry is often wonderfully moving and deep and shows true poetic craft in being usually set in careful rhyming and metric structures whilst retaining a sense of total simplicity.

This beautiful poem can be read at many levels. At its simplest – and why not read it at its simplest? – it clearly represents the long slog through the journey of life. Note the subtle alternating question and answer structure in each verse – the anxious traveller at the start of the journey asks his/her worried questions and the wise old hand

gives calm and reassuring answers. But the poem can be read at another level too. There are, for example, surely, for those who want to find them, echoes of the Pilgrim's Progress and of Bible references in the answers (knock and the door shall be opened unto you; In my Father's house are many mansions etc.). And beds and night-time indicate not just rest but sleep: alluding also to the eternal sleep.

And if we are reading this at Christmas time surely, too, we are reminded of that time when there was no room at the inn.

A very happy Christmas from Poetry Corner to one and all in the Almshouse Community!

Uphill by Christina Rossetti

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?

A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.

May not the darkness hide it from my face?

You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?

Those who have gone before.

Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?

They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?

Of labour you shall find the sum.

Will there be beds for me and all who seek?

Yea, beds for all who come.