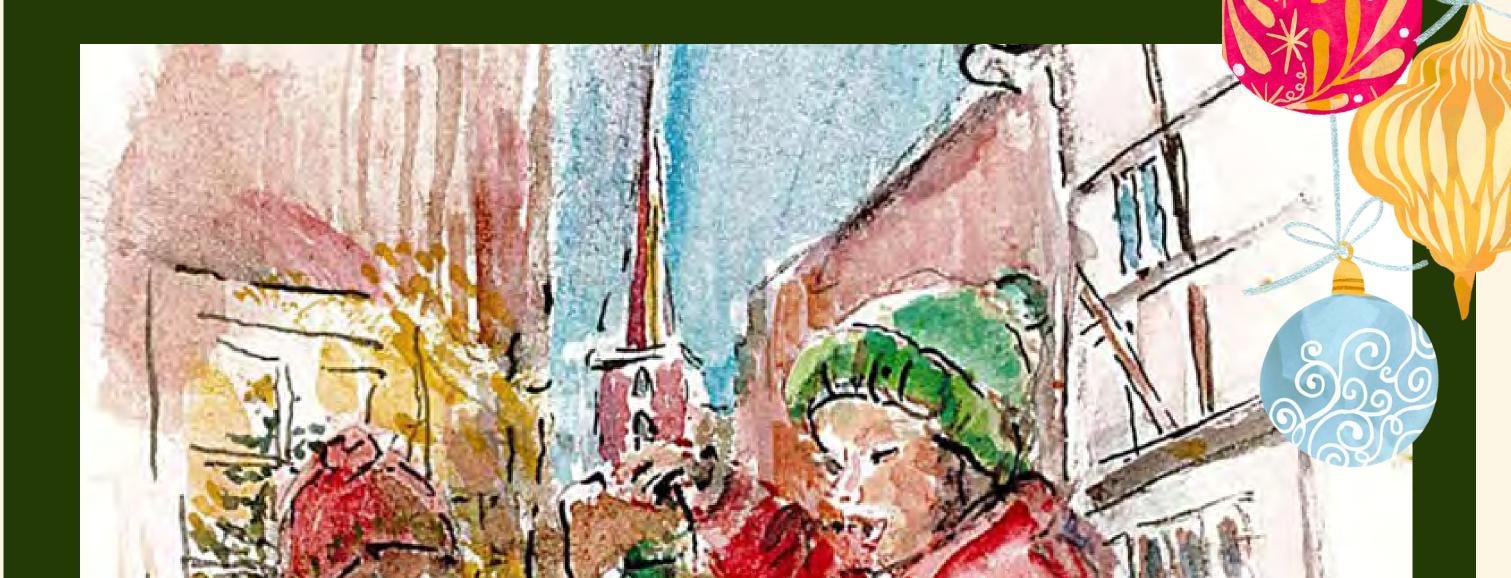
LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER





TAROLS

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

'TIS THE SEASON TO SHOPLOCAL AND INDEPENDENT

Ledbury is flooded with Christmas lights, and everyone is coming into the shops of our lovely town which has been voted the 4th prettiest town in the country recently in the Daily Telegraph.

We have had lots of exciting events take place since the September newsletter, one of them being the Community Litter Pick which took place on Friday, 29th September. Ledbury Town Council joined The Helping Hand Company to help keep Ledbury clean and tidy! We had the pleasure of the lovely crew members from HMS LEDBURY to help us in this event, learning all about the vessel whilst litter picking was very fascinating! We collected 20 bags of rubbish on our journey through town and to the Rugby Club in just 1 hour!

On Monday, 9th October I had the pleasure of opening the annual Ledbury October Mop Fair with Rogers Family Funfair providers. The charter for the fair goes all the way back to 1138, and the reign of King Stephen and it became a Royal Charter in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, in 1584. It was lovely to have so many people present for the October Fair opening ceremony including, The Town Crier, The Deputy Mayor of Ledbury, Ledbury Town Councillors, The Mayor of Stourport, Carnival Prince & Princesses, Herefordshire Ward Councillors, and residents of Ledbury.



At Ledbury Carnival this year the Town Council hosted a competition to design two Hedgehog Homes for the Cemetery in New Street. The winners were invited to unveil their hedgehog homes at New Street Cemetery which was well attended. More information can be found on page 5.

Remembrance Sunday was very well attended this year in Ledbury for the Act of Remembrance and Parade in town. We had the pleasure of Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, Sue Furnival laying the wreath for his Majesty the King and Sir Bill Wiggin also laying a wreath along with many more in my Civic Procession. The addition of the 'cascade of poppies' on the Alms Houses hand knitted and crocheted by local supporters and members of the Royal British Legion was an outstanding display behind the newly refurbished War Memorial.

On Friday, 1st December I held a Christmas Coffee Morning in the Jacobean Room at the Town Council Offices. This event was open for all to enjoy a mulled wine, festive treat and a chance at entering the raffle and winning wonderful gifts donated by local businesses in Ledbury, all in aid of my chosen charities, Megan Baker House and Close House. We also celebrated Ledbury's Late Night Shopping event that evening, where many of Ledbury's local businesses opened their doors to allow residents and visitors to shop for the perfect Christmas gift. It was a merry evening full of entertainment including Ledbury Brass Band, Ledbury Morris Dancers and the carol singers. The Council also invited traders to the Market which added to the festivities.

There was a Town Carol Service on Sunday, 10th December at St Michael & All Angels Church, which was well attended by residents and visitors

Wrapping up my Christmas update I would like to wish all in Ledbury a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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THE MAYOR OF LEDBURY'S PHOTO ALBUM



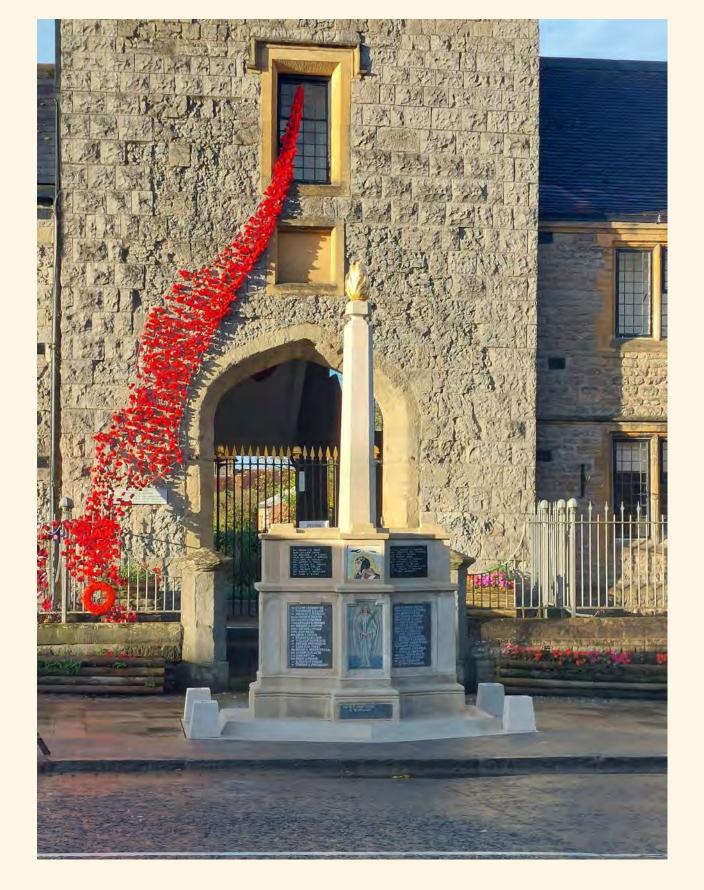
ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AND PARADE 2023

As we are sure many of you have seen, the repairs to the Ledbury War Memorial have now been completed.

The Council would like to thank Ian Bishop and his team, and Caroe and Partners for their expertise and dedication to making sure the War Memorial was restored to such a high standard.

A Blessing of the War Memorial took place on Armistice Day, Saturday, 11 November 2023, ahead of a short Service of Remembrance, which all were welcome to attend.

The wet and windy weather did not stop all those in the town paying their respects on Sunday, 12th November 2023 for the Act of Remembrance and Parade. Ledbury Community Choir and Ledbury Brass Band performed underneath the Market House



during the service and the High Street was adorned by Ledbury locals, The Mayor's dignitaries, veterans, armed forces representatives, Cadets and many more.

The cascade of poppies created by local supporters on the Alms Houses was a magnificent additional display for the event and Ledbury Town Council would like to thank all those involved in the creation of this.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

On Sunday, 26 November 2023 we hosted the Christmas Lights Switch on and Market in Ledbury High Street.

Building on the success of last years event, three areas were utilised so that even more traders could attend and even more fun could be had.

With nearly 50 traders attending the Market and Food Court as well as funfair rides, entertainment, dancers, live music from Mirror Ball, Ledbury Brass Band and Ledbury Community Choir. There were also crafts and face painting in the Burgage Hall this was the largest event of this type in recent years. The Food Court proved to be a popular attraction with the Beefy Boys, Teds Tacos, Mr Gyros, Isabel's Bakehouse and Bakes by Gee providing their delicious wares to the townspeople, whilst Rogers Funfairs supplied two children's rides to amuse and delight the little ones.

Hundreds turned out to see the lights being switched on by the Mayor of Ledbury with the assistance of the Carnival Prince, Princesses and attendants. A little bit of Dr Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" preceded the countdown and then it was lights on to ooohs and aaaahs of delight Feedback from the event has been extremely positive from both traders and attendees which ensures that next years event will be one to remember.

Ledbury Town Council would like to extend their sincerest thanks to all of the Ledbury Companies who have given so generously toward the Christmas Lights Switch On Event and the cost of Christmas presents for children from families who are struggling with the cost of living. We would also like to extend our thanks to Ledbury Repair Café who did an outstanding job of fixing our Christmas Light plunger which had the addition of its own flashing lights on it!

This is the second year where we have asked local businesses to support the Children's gifts and this year we have also asked for support to help make the Children's Craft event at the Lights Switch-on event free to all children, and once again we have been blown away by the generosity of local companies.

This year's sponsors have donated a total of £1,250 and include ABE Ledbury, Eastnor Castle, Grant & Co., Jaga Climate Designers, Past & Present, Redkite Solicitors, Sequani, Specsavers, The Kitchen Cupboard and The Uncommon Touch. All of the money which has been donated will go toward gifts and activities for the Children of Ledbury. This money will most definitely help brighten the lives of many children in Ledbury this Christmas!

from the gathered crowds.





The 2024 event is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 24 November 2024.



HEDGEHOG GRAND DESIGNS

Ledbury Town Council hosted a competition during Ledbury Carnival to design two Hedgehog Homes to be sited in the Cemetery in New Street. The Council were inundated with artistic and imaginative designs, all of which were judged by The Mayor of Ledbury. Although a difficult decision, it was decided that Charlie would win first place with his truck design, and Willow came a close second with her rainbow cottage.

Once the designs had been picked, Ledbury Town Council's Community Development Officer and Mayors Secretary worked closely with the team at Shed's Together to bring the designs to life. Images of the hedgehog houses can be found on the Town Councils Social Media and Website.

To celebrate the work of Charlie, Willow. and The Sheds Together Team, a unveiling Ceremony was held at New Street Cemetery on Saturday, 4th October. Both children and their families attended and were given the opportunity to cut the ribbon and open their Hedgehog Homes. The Ceremony was well attended with members from the Shed's Together team, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Ledbury Poetry, the Mayor with her Deputy, and Ledbury Town Council Officers.

Ledbury Town Council would like to say a huge thank you to all the talented team at Shed's Together who were involved and contributed their time to making Charlie and Willows Hedgehog Homes come to life and to all of the children who provided entries.

We hope you enjoy the poem that the Mayor of Ledbury read at the ceremony :

For thousands of years as darkness falls, And the eerie stillness of night hangs silent, The familiar shuffle, snap and snort, Can be heard in your garden.

What creature is that, Hugs close to the wall, And under the bushes so low?

Trundling amongst long grass and leaves, Snout held high. Sniffing the air so slow?

Ah... I hear you retort. We know this creature so fair, It's loyal and kind, A ball of prickles, that's quite unrefined, Needle sharp quills of brown, black and tan. He means no harm to man.

He is simply there to feast, On all those wriggly, slippery, crunchy beasts. But I need to tell you loud and clear that...

There's a dinosaur in your garden! And if we are too slow to act, That dinosaur in your garden Will be fiction not fact.



Deinogalerix was one of the first hedgehogs to be found in the world. He was around when the dinosaurs were roaming the earth.

Poem courtesy of Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue.



CHANGES TO LEDBURY RECREATION GROUND

Ledbury Town Council is pleased to confirm that a new Timber Climber will be installed at the Recreation Ground shortly. This will replace the existing piece of equipment which is located close to the Basketball Court.

The Council is also aware that the Inclusive Roundabout in the Play Area has been a little difficult to push and so repairs to include a new slew ring bearing will be fitted to the Roundabout to make it easier to push by children.

New play bark has recently been laid about the hexagonal dome climbing frame and hex swings. When the weather is kind, other remedial works will be taking place over the coming months at the Recreation Ground.

We are always pleased to receive your comments, whether good or bad as Ledbury Town Council remains committed to ensuring that the Recreation Ground remains a safe environment for all those residents or visitors that use the amenities.



TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 7.30PM The Journey to Christmas A concert celebrating Christmas music, poetry and fine art

by The Ledbury Singers

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF FINANCE, POLICY AND GENERAL PURPOSES

This a busy time for the Finance, Policy and General Purposes Committee. To the day-to-day monitoring of the Council's accounts and scrutiny of all expenditure we now add the annual round of planning for the next financial year, 24-25. This includes recommending to Full Council a budget for the year, ensuring we have sufficient funds and making a recommendation on the levying of precepts by the Town Council. Given the financially-tight times for the year ahead we have no wish to make even greater demands on residents' household expenses. It is our intention try and keep any increase in costs to a bare minimum whilst still being able to pay our bills and maintain our heritage buildings. Our current work includes determining applications for financial assistance through the grants process and just now, we are pursuing how best to spend available funds on continuing support for the vital amenities offered through the warm places scheme; the town foodbank; services to support youth and family mental health; and those working to preserve our historic inheritance.

and Maureen Schild (The Arts Society Hereford) At the Baptist Church, The Homend, Ledbury

Tickets £10.00 Available from Sue on 01531 636452 and at Take 4 Gallery, The Homend, Ledbury.

(proceeds to Megan Baker House, Ledbury)



We continue to work with our many vibrant local groups and associations to improve services and amenities, and keep Ledbury a great place to live and work.

You may have strong views on how Ledbury can grow and develop sustainably, whilst conserving what is best. You can find my contact details on the Ledbury Town Council website and I welcome you emailing me with your insights and opinions.

Councillor Mal Hughes Chair

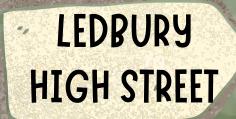
LEDBURY'S FANTASTIC

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024

> AUTHORS WORKSHOPS BEEFY BOYS FACE PAINTING STORYTELLING READATHON ILLUSTRATIONS & MUCH MORE!



LEDBURY'S TOWN OF DELIGHTS

Ledbury Town Council and Ledbury Traders are celebrating the Poet Laureate John Masefield this year and his fabulous story A Box of Delights.

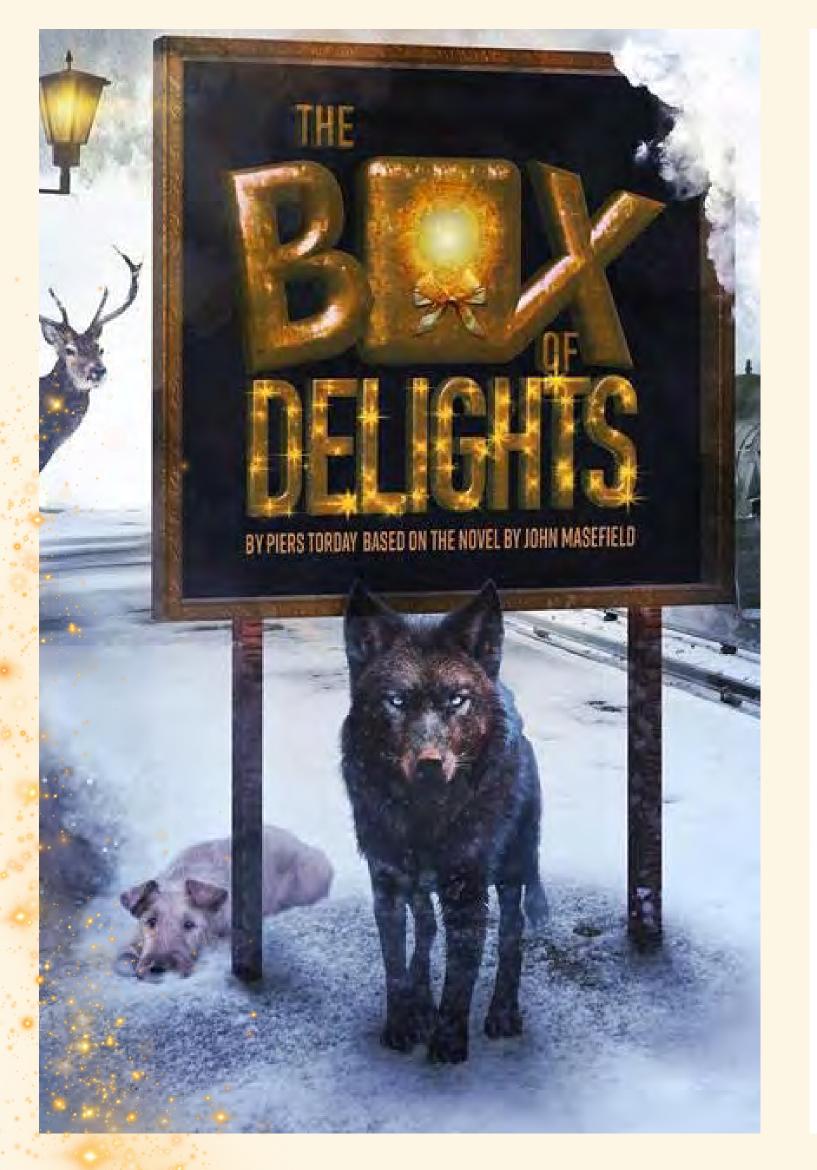
A Box of Delights has been called 'the greatest children's book ever written' by The Times and is packed with adventure. It's a magical tale of wolves, scrobbling and a box that can travel through time which Kay will have to fight to keep!

The Royal Shakespeare Company have created a magical show of The Box of Delights which runs through winter 2023. You can find out more using the following link: https://www.rsc.org.uk/

Many of Ledbury's Traders have decorated their windows with the inspiration of Masefields magical novel and used the theme for their annual Late Night Shopping Event- a fantastic display not to be missed!

Born in Ledbury on 1 June 1878, John Masefield's connection to Ledbury had a profound influence on his poetry. He was appointed British Poet Laureate in 1930 and held the post for almost 40 years until his death in 1967. The town and its surrounding countryside are clearly recognisable in many of his best known works.

Today, Ledbury Town Council is leading an initiative to celebrate and commemorate John Masefield's life through a collaborative and celebratory creative project. The project is run by a working group, comprising representatives from local businesses, cultural organisations, councillors, the John Masefield Society, John Masefield's family and community groups. Our goal is to ensure that awareness of John Masefield is raised, that the community is connected to his work, whilst we explore how his legacy can be commemorated.





The BOX of DEJIGHTS

illustrated by Quentin Blake



LEDBURY & STRÖMSTAD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Greetings to Ledbury from Strömstad!

Christmas is approaching and Strömstad is covered in powderwhite snow. Our small town by the sea is even more beautiful this time of year, all dressed up in lights and Christmas decorations. Last weekend, we kicked off what we call the "Christmas period", starting with the lighting of the big Christmas tree in city's main square. Here, family activities take place every weekend and Santa Claus is frequently seen in the big, red sledge placed in the middle of the square. The city center comes alive, and it's good to see that our local business, shops and companies, has gained almost full strength after the Covid-period. This week we got a receipt of that from the

national banking business – Strömstad has the largest amount of companies showing growth compared to the other 49 municipalities in our region! This no 1-ranking is about the best Christmas present we could get in the hard times the world is experiencing for the moment.

While some of us are getting prepared for Christmas by baking gingerbread houses and cookies, visiting Christmas markets, attending Lucia celebrations etc, others prefers close contact with the North Sea. A cold and refreshing Christmas bath in the sea combined with a hot sauna is a trend growing in popularity. Hope you have the time to visit us in wintertime, we will be happy to show you how to approach the Sea all year round!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Kent Hansson Mayor of Strömstad











LEDBURY & STRÖMSTAD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Christmas in Strömstad

How does a traditional Christmas in Strömstad look like?

Well, it all starts with an atmospheric ceremony in the town square with the lightning of the big Christmas tree - and then the Christmas period continues until the Christmas tree looting in January – a closing ceremony when Christmas is danced out.

During the Christmas period it's really a lot to do and prepare - baking your own gingerbread house and a lot of cookies, preparing all the Christmas food, visiting all Christmas markets, attending a Lucia celebration and enjoying the endless array of delicacies on the Swedish Christmas buffet, 'julbord'...

And of course - don't miss a cold and refreshing Christmas bath in the sea combined with a hot sauna!

Christmas in Strömstad begins traditionally with song, the lighting of the Christmas tree, and evening shopping

Christmas in Strömstad starts on the town square with the lighting of the Christmas tree and evening opening in many shops and restaurants with great offers.

Both young and old gather in the city square on the first Friday evening in Decemberto witness the lighting of the Christmas tree.

Hundreds of small lights illuminated both shops, streets, and squares on Friday evening as the 46th edition of the present hunt began for the first advent. The atmosphere was enhanced by Christmas songs like "Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!" and "Nu tändas tusen juleljus" (Now a thousand Christmas lights are being lit). Around 40 different shops in the merchants' association had evening opening hours during the event. The same weekend, on the first Sunday of Advent, a skyltpromenad is organized. which translates to "promenade with questions" where people take a stroll (promenad) around a city while answering questions with varying topics such as cultural events and local history. During the skyltpromenad people also can enjoy the various Christmas displays and decorations in storefronts and vote for the most "best dressed Christmas windows".

Advent - The Christmas countdown begins

Four weeks before Christmas, the liturgical Advent period begins, and it is customary in Sweden to light a candle each Sunday. The children's excitement mounts as windows pop open on their Advent calendars. It is customary to hang a star fashioned from paper or straw in your window, symbolising the guiding star of the Three Wise Men. At least once before Christmas Eve friends and colleagues gather at restaurants for a "Christmas buffet", which combines traditional Christmas dishes with the riches of a smörgåsbord.



STRÖMSTAD BAKING

Making your own confectionery is an essential partof Christmas preparations. Christmas toffee is common during the Christmas season and is often served in small pieces as part of the Christmas candy buffet. It has a sweet and nutty flavor and is a popular part of the Christmas tradition in Sweden.

The secret is to stir, stir, stir to achieve the sticky sauce. Simmer it at medium heat on the stove. When it reaches 125°C/258°F, the knäck is ready to be poured into small molds. If you boil the knäcke for too long, it will become too hard. The time varies depending on the surface of the pot's bottom, so expect a cooking time of approximately 25 minutes in a pot with a smaller bottom.

"Julknäck"





Christmas Toffee 200 ml whipping cream 200 ml syrup 170 g sugar 2 tablespoons (30 ml) butter 50 g chopped almonds Mix cream, syrup, sugar and butter in a saucepan. Heat up to 125°C/258°F. Add almond and fill the moulds.

















Glögg Mulled wine

1 bottle of red table wine, 750 ml 1/2 bottle port, 165 ml 2 cinnamon sticks 12-15 cardamom seeds Dried orange peel 45-65 g sugar Mix wine, port and spices. Let the mixture stand overnight. Heat the wine gently on low heat (max 72°C/145°F). DO NOT bring to the boil. Season with sugar. Strain off the spices. Serve warm in small cups with blanched, skinned almonds and raisins.









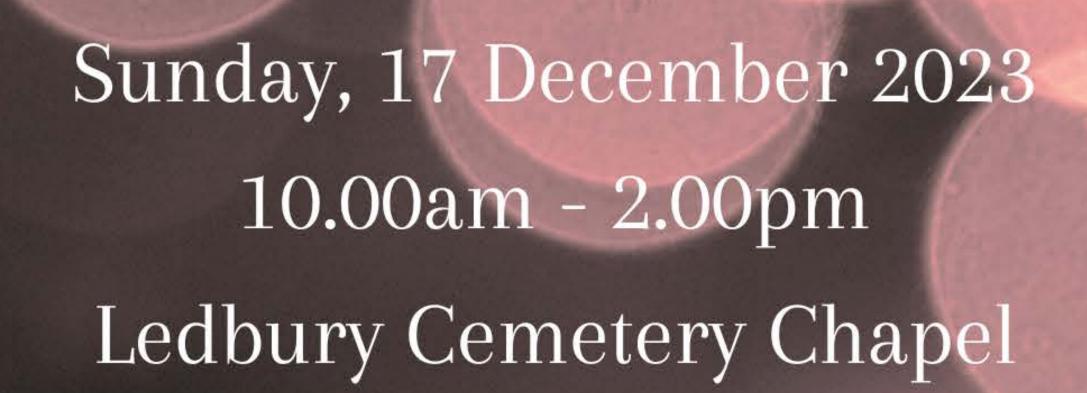








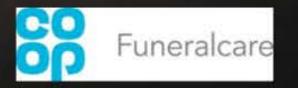
hristmas



andle

Light a Candle in memory of those who have left us and remember them at this special time of year.

Mince pies and light refreshments kindly donated by



For full details visit www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

USEFUL INFORMATION

Bins due to be collected on Christmas Day, Monday 25 December; Boxing Day, Tuesday 26 December; and New Year's Day, Monday 1 January have been moved.

Replacement dates are:

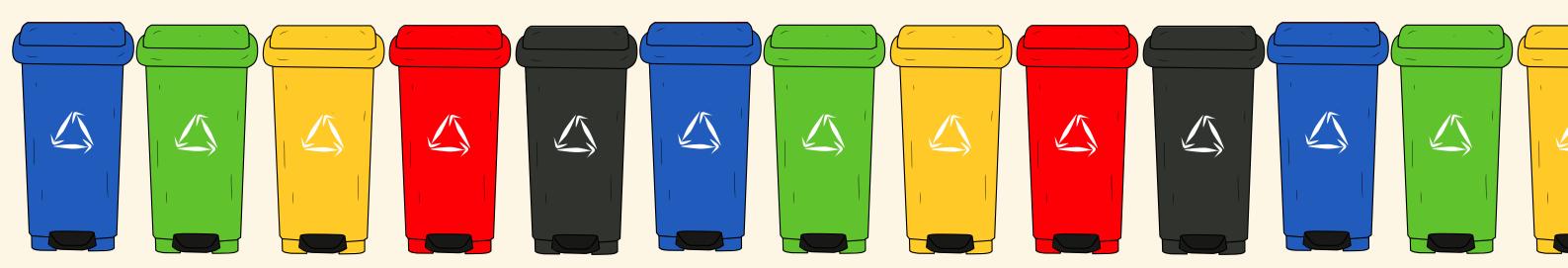
Christmas Day, Monday 25 December will be collected on Saturday 30 December Boxing Day, Tuesday 26 December will be collected on Sunday 31 December New Year's Day, Monday 1 January will be collected on Saturday 6 January All other collections remain the same during the festive period.

Please ensure bins are put out by 6.30am as collections may be earlier than usual over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Council A Seasonal Shift

The bin collections due on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day have been moved. All other collections remain the same. Please put your bin out before 6:30am





CHRISTMAS FUN

Jokes to tell your family & friends

Who is Santa's favourite singer? Elf-is Presley!

What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?

You get Tinselitus!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy!

Christmas Riddle

Santa was having problems with his legs and couldn't walk so he went to the hospital to ask the doctor if he could recommend something for him. What did the doctor give to Santa to help him to walk?



Charades Ideas

- A Christmas Carol
- The Snowman
- Home Alone





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY DEC-FEB 2024

DECEMBER 2023

CAROL SERVICE ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 6:30PM

MEL AND HIM - 80S MUSIC LEDBURY BRITISH LEGION CLUB SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER 8:00PM ONWARDS

LEDBURY BRASS BAND COMMUNITY CONCERT ST MICHAELS AND ALL ANGELS SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 6:00PM ONWARDS

CANDLE LIGHTING LEDBURY CEMETERY, NEW SRTEET, LEDBURY HR8 2EL SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 10:00AM - 2:00PM

JANUARY 2024

THE FIRST WALK OF THE YEAR-LEDBURY TO MALVERN LEDBURY TRAIN STATION SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 9:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

LEDBURY POETRY SALON LEDBURY POETRY HOUSE, HOMEND, LEDBURY HR8 2AA TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 7:00PM-9:00PM

ROBINSON CRUSOE & THE PIRATES THE MARKET THEATRE, LEDBURY, HR8 2AQ THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2024 - SUN 28TH JANUARY 2024

FEBRUARY 2024

MAYOR'S VALENTINE'S COFFEE MORNING TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2024 10:30AM ONWARDS

LEDBURY POETRY SALON LEDBURY POETRY HOUSE, HOMEND, LEDBURY HR8 2AA TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2024 7:00PM-9:00PM

Calendar



JANUARY					FEBRUARY							MARCH										
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31 7 14	1 8	T 2 9 16	W 3 10 17	T 4 11 18	5 12 19	6 13 20	28 5 12	29 6	T 30 7 14	W 1 8 15	T 2 9 16	3 10 17	4 11 18		26 2 9	27 3 10	T 28 4 11	W 29 5 12	T 30 6 13	31 7	1 8 15	
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MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL CO-OPTION

Ledbury Town Council currently have 6 vacancies, 5 of which they can currently co-opt to, and would like to invite anyone who may be interested in becoming a Town Councillor to apply via the Council's CO-option process.

The 6th Vacancy is due to the disqualification of a councillor due to nonattendance at council meetings for a period of more than six months, and this Vacancy is currently being advertised for election by Herefordshire Council.

The current vacancies are as follows:

South Ward – Two North Ward – One West Ward – Two

The Council appreciate that they will not necessarily get enough candidates to fill all five vacancies at once, and therefore welcome applications over the next few months which will be considered at future Council meetings in accordance with their Co-option Policy, or at an extraordinary meeting of Council, dependent on the number of applications received at any given time.

If you are interested in being co-opted to join Ledbury Town Council and would like more information or an application pack, please contact the Town Clerk, Angie Price, on **015831632306** or via email at <u>clerk@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk</u>