

WINTER 2023/24

FREE

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# Craven & Valley Life

Made by Yorkshire folk, for Yorkshire folk

THE BIG  
GARDEN  
BIRDWATCH

HAVE YOURSELF A  
DIY CHRISTMAS

THE  
YORKSHIRE WITCH

NEW WORDS  
of 2023

NATURALLY  
*Neutral*  
CHRISTMAS  
DECOR

Winter  
WHAT'S  
ON  
GUIDE

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## EDITOR'S LETTER

Christmas is almost here and we have plenty to get you in the festive spirit without splashing the cash when we show you yuletide decorations you can make at home. And let's not forget our delicious festive recipes, perfect for the sharing season. As always, we also have our popular What's on Guide, the ideal companion full of events to help light up the 'dark' months.

As the nights draw in, we investigate the legend of the Yorkshire Witch, Mary Bateman, a Leeds local famed for her mysterious magical eggs that proclaimed the coming of Christ, and with the new year fast approaching, we look back on the neologisms, or new words, of 2023. We wonder if you will find it cromulent...

The world's largest garden wildlife survey returns in January, with hundreds of thousands of people watching and counting the UK's garden birds over the last weekend for the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. So, grab a brew, blanket, and binoculars and get twitching; see page 12 for a list of the top five birds to spot!



Merry Christmas  
from everyone  
here at  
**Craven&ValleyLife**,  
and here's to a  
happy new year!

*Karen*

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Issue 57

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## MARY BATEMAN

# 'The Yorkshire Witch'

BY JOSH SWARBRICK

**T**he turn of the 19th Century marks the beginning of a time notoriously rife with criminal activity – with theft, fraud, and murder (sometimes even all three at once) frighteningly commonplace. Yorkshire was, of course, no exception, thanks in large part to the work of a single crime-loving lass. Almost every aspect of Mary Bateman's extraordinary life is coloured by her long (and almost unbelievable) list of crimes – from your typical robberies and frauds, right down to the forging of prophetic eggs foretelling the coming of Christ...

Born in 1768 in the quiet little town of Asenby, about 26 miles north of Leeds, Mary's early life was rather ordinary to say the least – she learnt to

**"A couple of minor thefts in her late teen years sparked an apparent passion for crime that showed no signs of stopping"**

read and write at a young age, was raised by her farming family for a life of domestic work, and eventually began work as a servant girl, age 13, in the neighbouring town of Thirsk. She would later move to York to pursue work as a dressmaker. This perfectly normal upbringing, however, began to be muddled by flashes of Mary's tendency for criminal activity. A couple of minor thefts in her late teen





*Mary and the Perigos - 1960s book illustration*

years sparked an apparent passion for crime that showed no signs of stopping.

In 1789, mere months after first arriving in York, Mary fled to Leeds after being involved in a burglary. Whilst she put her dressmaking skills swiftly to work - taking on a job making mantuas (a jacket-like bodice made of elaborately patterned fabric) - pay was poor, and Mary turned to the highly profitable trade of fortune telling to make ends meet. Mary became what locals referred to as a 'wisewoman' - a woman well versed in charms, fortune telling, and who was available for consultation to remove spells or bad omens from an inquirer. Yet in spite of the newfound local fame this trade brought, Mary's secretive life of crime only continued to grow.

Perhaps most worryingly, many of these crimes started to actively target members of the public, from stealing the possessions of lodging house residents to committing acts of fraud by making purchases in the name of established customers. A particularly well-documented incident followed a devastating fire in Leeds, with Mary roaming the streets begging for money and goods to support

the victims, only for her to pawn off the items she received for her own profits.

Mary left Leeds for a short time after her husband, John, enlisted into the army. When the couple returned to the city near the turn of the century, Mary's work as a wisewoman resumed. There was certainly a market for it - Yorkshire folk's deep-rooted beliefs in magic and highly superstitious natures meant the business was lucrative. Mary herself became incredibly popular.

But this popularity seemingly drove her to perform criminal activity on a grander scale than ever. Arguably the most famous (or, perhaps more accurately, infamous) example of this came in 1806, where Mary turned her attention to the world of apocalyptic prophecy - perhaps she was bored of plain old theft. What soon became known as the 'Prophet Hen of Leeds' was created when Mary 'discovered' one of her chickens had begun laying eggs inscribed with a simple, only slightly ominous message - 'Christ is Coming'. By exploiting both the general feeling of unease in Yorkshire at the time, and many of the public's strong Christian beliefs, Mary was able to enjoy fame on a newfound scale (no doubt largely fuelled by the magical protection from the forthcoming end times that Mary herself alleged she offered). The one penny charge she put on viewings of the prophetic eggs also functioned as a quick and easy way to make money, and make money fast. The hoax was eventually uncovered when the hen was taken away from Mary to a new home where it - mysteriously - stopped laying the inscribed eggs. The revelation that Mary had personally inscribed the message on the eggs before



*Mary Bateman with her prophetic egg*

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An illustration from 1809 of Mary Bateman mixing poison

reinserting them into the hen's oviduct certainly shocked locals though it, perhaps surprisingly, did not land her any punishment.

And this fraudulent activity would be the least of her crimes that year.

At the same time as the egg hoax, news of Mary's magical talents was spreading far and wide, eventually reaching the ears of Bramley resident Rebecca Perigo, a woman in her mid-40s plagued with an undiagnosed pain that, according to county doctors, had been caused by an evil wish laid on her. Incurable from the doctor's perspective, Rebecca and her husband William turned to Mary in the spring of 1806.

Mary kindly referred Rebecca to 'Miss Blythe', another talented (entirely fictitious) wise woman who would be able to help the Perigos provided they send her regular monetary payments. Naturally, all the money went straight to Mary. Over a 10-month period, the couple supplied 'Miss Blythe' with around 70 guineas, as well as clothes and other general household goods that, again, went straight to Mary.

In May 1807, 'Miss Blythe' informed the couple that they were to fall sick from an illness that, were they not to perfectly follow her instructions, would end in their certain deaths. Mary supplied the couple with 'special powders' from Miss Blythe to be sprinkled into their puddings, promising them that this was guaranteed to save their life so long as they didn't consult with doctors, let any one else taste the pudding, and ate every last bit. Both Rebecca and William experienced swollen tongues, discoloured

## "Both Rebecca and William experienced swollen tongues, discoloured features, and violent internal pains"

features, and violent internal pains, but persisted, trusting both Mary's talents and her words. After a few weeks, however, Rebecca died.

For two more years, William continued to rely on Mary and the fictional 'Miss Blythe' – even as they asked for more and more money. But his faith eventually dwindled. The final straw came when he decided to unpick the stitches on the silk purses Mary had sewn into the couple's bed (she had told them they were filled with the Perigos' money to act as charms). Instead of gold and guineas, William found pennies and scrap paper – he went straight to the authorities, accusing Mary of poisoning his wife and defrauding them of money.

Mary vehemently protested her innocence to little avail – her home was searched, and both poison and personal belongings of the Perigos were uncovered. Her claims that William had planted these in an attempt to entrap her were dismissed, and Mary was tried the following March. She was found guilty for the murder of Rebecca Perigo and was sentenced to be hanged.

A crowd of 20,000 came to visit her execution – many of whom had undoubtedly been a victim to her various fraudulent prophecies. Following her death, Mary's body was publicly displayed (and, in a sort of grim twist on her hen hoax, could be viewed by the public at few pennies cost) and then, shortly after, dissected at the Leeds Infirmary where members of the public, medical students, and 'respectable gentlemen' could witness the 'three-day event' performed by surgeon William Hey. In another grim twist, strips of Mary's skin were later tanned into leather and sold as magic charms to ward off evil spirits.



Up until 2015, a large portion of her skeleton was on public display in Leeds' Thackray Medical Museum, serving as a morbid reminder of one of the most cunning criminals Yorkshire has ever known. It now resides in private storage at Leeds University. ☹



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# neologisms

## 2023

/nɪˈblɒdʒɪz(ə)m/

noun. plural noun: **neologisms**  
**a newly coined word or expression**

BY ISOBEL GOSTLING

Every year, new words enter the dictionary, and 2023 is no exception, with a tidal wave of words being added to help define new and evolving concepts. From words shaped by the news of today to strange, little words relating to cake, aliens, and words themselves, here's a selection that made it into the dictionary this year.

### The internet:

**The place where we all create new things every day, the internet of course, has provided us with loads of new words in 2023.**

**Deepfake** – a word that has grown drastically in popularity recently due to the fast growth of artificial intelligence. A deepfake is a video of a person created by AI, where their face and/or body have been digitally manipulated so that they look like someone else. These fake videos are hard to distinguish from real videos, so the technique is most commonly used to spread false information online. However, the technique was originally created to be used in art and cinema.



**Finsta** – short for Finstagram, it is a mash-up of the term 'fake Instagram'. It is used to refer to an Instagram account that is kept secret, usually so that a person can limit their interactions to only a close group of friends, making their Instagram posting more private.

**Doomscroll** is a word you may be familiar with from the days of lockdown. Despite being popularised in 2020, it is only this year that doomscroll entered the dictionary. The verb means constantly scrolling through social media and news sites, compulsively reading sad or anxiety-inducing content.



**Smishing** – ever received a scam text message?

Now, there's a word for it. Smishing is the practice of sending texts that pretend to be from reputable companies, with the intention of tricking the receiver into giving out their confidential information, such as credit card details.

### Sexuality, identity and relationships:

**Our understanding of sexuality and relationships is always expanding, and here are some new terms to help clarify things for you.**

**Abrosexual** – the newest addition to the dictionary regarding sexual identity. It refers to a person whose sexual orientation is fluid or varies over time, with the prefix 'abro' coming from the Greek, meaning graceful and delicate, perhaps in reference to the fluctuation of their sexuality.

**Folx** – a variation of the word 'folks', folx has been used since the 90s as a gender-neutral term, but only very recently has it made its way into the dictionary. The X as a suffix can be seen in many LGBTQ+ words, such as the honorific Mx. rather than Mr. or Miss, and signifies gender inclusivity. (If you're wondering how to pronounce it, the x in folx stands in for the 'ks' sound).

**Nearlywed** – copying the well-known term 'newlywed', nearlywed means exactly what it sounds like it means: a person in a relationship who is not yet married. It can be used to refer to an engaged couple, or simply a couple who don't plan to marry but live together in a committed relationship.



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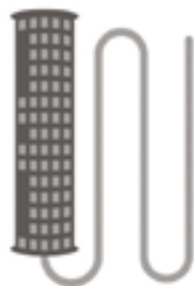
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### Climate crisis:

A topic that looms large on the news, climate change has made its mark on our words.

**Climate fiction** – a new genre, dubbed cli-fi, that explores themes of climate change: fluctuating temperatures, rising sea levels, and the need to prevent these things can be found in these books.

**Forever chemicals** – chemicals that maybe don't last forever, but certainly a long time. This term is used for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS for short, which has also just been added to the dictionary). These chemicals are everywhere: in fridges, nonstick pans, and flame-retardant furniture. They degrade very slowly, lasting for hundreds of years in our environment.

### Lifestyle:

On a lighter note, here are some words you might have heard at home or around the office.



**Cakeage** – modelled on corkage, a word that means a fee charged by a restaurant for bringing wine brought from outside; cakeage is its fun cousin: a fee for bringing cake the restaurant has not supplied itself. Ever had to pay for the waiters to serve your supermarket-bought birthday cake? Yep, that's the cakeage fee.

**Cape** – a verb that is being used to mean acting as a defender/supporter of someone/something. Presumably, this comes from the idea of a superhero.

**Quiet quit** – a term that means doing the bare minimum amount of work for your job, never exceeding expectations or volunteering for extra work.



### Fun extras:

**Tifo** – coordinating banners, flags, or signs at a sports event to spell out a group show of support. The word originates from Italian, meaning 'typhus', a fever, because of the passionate (or feverish!) way people cheer their team on.

**Antigram** – like an anagram, except opposite. Antigrams are pairs of words or phrases that are anagrams of one another but which hold opposing meanings. 'Listen' and 'silent' are antigrams because they share the same six letters but mean contradictory things. Longer examples include 'true lady' and 'adultery', and 'real fun' and 'funeral'.

**Cromulent** – an old-fashioned sounding word that is new to the dictionary in 2023. Cromulent is a neutral word, meaning acceptable, adequate, or satisfactory. So if those three words aren't satisfactory enough, you might want to mix it up and use cromulent.

**Aestel** – more technical than the previous few words, an aestel is a kind of pointer used to keep a person's place when reading a manuscript.

### And finally, a change to an old classic:

**UAP** – this abbreviation stands for an unidentified aerial phenomenon; if you didn't know, it's the updated term for UFOs. UAPs are, as you might have guessed, mysterious flying objects assumed to be spaceships. UAP doesn't have quite the same ring to it, does it?

### Words, words, words!

The new words of 2023 help us to understand one another and the world around us better. Here's hoping that 2024 has more wonderful words around the corner.

# The BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

Britain's annual **Big Garden Birdwatch weekend** is returning in January 2024, from the 26th to the 28th, for a weekend where the nation looks out onto their gardens to spot the birds that regularly visit.



**T**he Big Garden Birdwatch not only allows people to connect with our little flying friends, but the project is invaluable to the RSPB (The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), who use it to check up on the condition and numbers of our garden birds. The RSPB is the UK's largest nature conservation charity, dedicated to looking after our wildlife. If anything is amiss, you and your fellow birdwatchers can let them know!



If you're new to birdwatching, the RSPB can guide you weekend with five quick tips:

## 1. Feed the birds

Firstly, it's a great idea to put up bird feeders. This will ensure the birds stay longer in your garden so you get a better look at them, but it will also encourage them to keep coming back. You will attract different birds with different food, so mix it up and see which birds come to visit. Remember - it is important to keep bird feeders and baths clean so our garden birds can stay healthy.

## 2. Early to rise

The best time to birdwatch is in the morning, so wake up with the birdsong and watch them while you have your morning cuppa.

## 3. ID please!

If you're having trouble identifying your garden birds, don't fret. You can find the RSPB's handy bird identification guide on their website, which picks out key features like colour and size to help you give a name to the various birds you see.

## 4. Say cheese!

Take a picture of the bird to identify it with later. Unlike other birds, garden birds usually hang around long enough for you to snap a reference pic, so starting off your birdwatching journey with the Big Garden Birdwatch is the easiest way to do it!

## 5. Share on socials

Sharing your picture with the hashtag #BigGardenBirdWatch will let @RSPBEngland see it - the expert birdwatchers will be watching to help out with bird identification if you get stuck telling your garden visitors apart





To set you off on the right track, here are five bird species most commonly seen in the wintertime, and that you will most likely get an up-close look at:

### 1. House sparrows -

The house sparrow is one of Britain's most well-known and best-loved birds. Males and females are easily distinguished as males have a grey head and black bib whilst females are pale brown with a pale stripe behind the eye. House sparrows are noisy and gregarious, often sticking together in small flocks, and they'll repeatedly congregate in big hedges where they can all hide together. They socialise by taking dust or water baths, as well as 'social singing' where they call together in bushes.



### 2. Blue tits -

Streaked with a colourful mix of blue, yellow, white and green plumage, blue tits are one of our most attractive garden visitors. This species feeds on a diet of insects, caterpillars, seeds and nuts. They will happily take all kinds of bird food too, so keep an eye on your bird feeders for this vibrant garden bird.



### 3. Robins -

Singing nearly all through the year, the nation's favourite bird is often one of the first to start in the morning and found to be one of the last singing at night - sometimes near a street light too. With its red chest that earns it the name 'robin redbreast', look out for this garden favourite darting through shrubs or perching on tree branches this winter.



### 4. Long tailed tits -

Often arriving at your feeders in large groups, long tailed tits are sociable birds with extended tails which have earned them their name. With grey and pinkish feathers, these birds are particularly fluffy at this time of year too. Primarily feeding on insects, autumn and winter sees them feed on seeds as well, which could bring them to your garden bird feeders, so keep your eyes peeled for a small flock of this species.



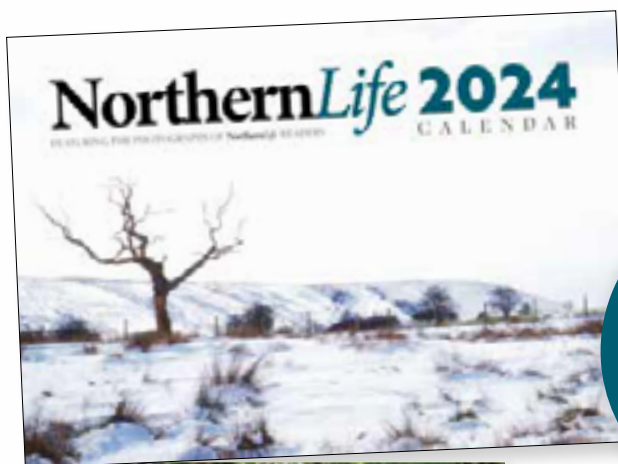
### 5. Goldfinches -

A much-loved little bird, the goldfinch announces its arrival with a tinkling, trilling call. Vibrantly coloured, goldfinches have red faces, black crowns and bold yellow wing patches. If you're lucky, you may even be visited by a small flock of them, appropriately known as a 'charm'.

To take part in the RSPB's birdwatching weekend you only need to spend as much as an hour in your garden, or even just looking out your kitchen window. Record what you observe, whether that be many birds or not many at all, to inform the RSPB of the goings-on of our garden birds. And most importantly, remember to register to take part in the world's largest garden wildlife survey at: [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) Happy birdwatching!



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## DECK THE HALLS WITH DIY

# Unique Christmas Decorations You Can Make at Home

Christmas can be a costly time so it's time to get crafty and get creative



**1 HANDMADE ORNAMENTS** Get creative and make your own ornaments using paper, felt, or fabric. You can personalise them with photos or hand-painted designs. To make paper ornaments, cut out shapes like stars, snowflakes, or Christmas trees and decorate them with markers, glitter, or stickers. Cut out shapes and sew or glue them together for felt ornaments, adding embellishments like sequins or beads. For fabric ornaments, cut out shapes and sew them together, stuffing them with batting or adding a ribbon for hanging.



**2 WREATHS** Use natural materials such as pine cones, berries, and branches to create a unique and festive wreath for your front door. Gather materials from your yard or local park, and attach them with a wire wreath frame or a foam wreath base. You can also use artificial materials such as ribbons, ornaments, or tinsel to create a more colourful or whimsical wreath.



**3 GARLAND** String together popcorn, cranberries, or dried citrus slices to create a beautiful and natural garland for your tree or mantle. Pop plain popcorn and thread it onto a needle and string to make popcorn garland. Use a needle and thread to string fresh or frozen cranberries for cranberry garland. For citrus garland, slice oranges or lemons thinly and dry them in the oven before threading them onto a string.



**4 MASON JAR LUMINARIES** Use mason jars to create beautiful and cosy luminaries with tea lights or LED candles decorated with holiday-themed silhouettes or stencils. Use a stencil or freehand cut a silhouette out of black paper, tape it to the inside of the jar, and fill it with sand or rocks to stabilise the candle.



**5 ADVENT CALENDAR** Make your own advent calendar with envelopes, paper bags, or even repurposed baby food jars. Fill them with small trinkets or treats like candy, stickers, or small toys. Number each envelope or jar for each day leading up to Christmas.

**UPCYCLED DECOR** Turn old sweaters into cosy Christmas stockings, or use old books to create a unique tree topper. To make a sweater stocking, cut out a stocking shape from the sweater, sew it together, and add a ribbon for hanging. To make a book tree topper, fold the pages of a book into a cone shape and decorate with glitter or ornaments.



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**FABRIC BUNTING** Use scraps of fabric to create a festive bunting to hang across your mantle or window. Cut out triangles or other shapes from fabric, sew or glue them together onto a ribbon or twine, and decorate with glitter or holiday accents

**8 GINGERBREAD HOUSE** Get the whole family involved in creating a delicious and festive gingerbread house, complete with icing and candy decorations. Use a gingerbread house kit or make your own gingerbread dough from scratch, cut out and assemble the pieces, and decorate with colourful icing and sweet treats.



**9 RECYCLED CARDBOARD** Use cardboard to create unique and eco-friendly holiday décor, such as a cardboard Christmas tree or gift boxes. Cut out shapes from cardboard, like a tree or box, and decorate with paint, glitter, or wrapping paper.

**10 DIY CANDLES** Create your own scented candles with essential oils and natural wax, and decorate them with holiday accents such as cinnamon sticks or dried flowers. Melt wax in a double boiler, add essential oils and dye if desired, and pour into candle moulds. Add accents like cinnamon sticks or dried flowers before the wax hardens.



**CENTER PIECE** Consider using a combination of candles, ornaments, and greenery to create a beautiful centerpiece. You could also make your own place cards using festive paper and glitter.



**WOOD SLICE DECOR** Use wood slices to create rustic coasters, tree ornaments, or a unique mantelpiece display. Slice branches into thin rounds, sand the edges, and decorate with paint, markers, or wood-burning tools.

12



# \* Christmas around the world

Christmas is a time for love, giving, and togetherness. Whether gifts, meals, or decorations, it's a time of celebration, reflection, and goodwill towards all. All countries celebrate it differently, acknowledging their traditions and customs; here's a glimpse into how some countries celebrate the Yuletide season.

**7 FRANCE** 'Noël' nativity scenes, called 'crèches', are displayed in churches and homes. A unique tradition in the region of Provence is the 'Santons' handcrafted clay figurines used in nativity scenes. The French also enjoy a festive meal on Christmas Eve called 'Le Réveillon,' featuring dishes like foie gras, oysters, and various sweets. Children look forward to receiving gifts from Père Noël, the French Santa Claus.

**2 GERMANY** Famous for its Christmas markets, Germany hosts a wealth of stalls where visitors can shop for handcrafted ornaments, toys, and traditional treats like bratwurst and mulled wine. The Christmas tree, or 'Tannenbaum,' is a cherished tradition believed to have originated in Germany. Advent calendars are used to count down to Christmas. St. Nicholas, or 'Nikolaus,' brings gifts to children on December 6th, and Christkind, a child-like angel, is the traditional gift-bringer on Christmas Eve.

**3 ITALY** Italy has a unique Christmas tradition called 'La Befana.' According to folklore, La Befana is a kind witch who delivers gifts to children on the night of January 5th, the eve of Epiphany. Italian families also enjoy a festive meal on Christmas Eve called the 'Feast of the Seven Fishes,' featuring a variety of seafood dishes. Nativity scenes, or 'Presepe,' taken from the Latin word 'manger', are set up on December 8th, along with all the other Christmas decorations. Still, traditionally, the baby Jesus is not introduced into the crib until Christmas Eve. The 'Presepe' stays until 'Epiphany' on the 6th of January.



*"IN GERMANY  
CHRISTKIND, A  
CHILD-LIKE ANGEL,  
IS THE TRADITIONAL  
GIFT-BRINGER ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE."*

**4 SPAIN** Spanish Christmas celebrations are marked by a unique tradition called 'La Nochebuena' celebrated on Christmas Eve. Families gather for a late-night feast, often featuring roast lamb, seafood, and traditional sweets like turrón. Nativity scenes, known as 'belénes,' are displayed in homes and churches. The Christmas season continues through January 6th, known as 'El Día de los Reyes' or Three Kings' Day, when children receive gifts from the Three Wise Men.







**5 SWEDEN** St. Lucia's Day celebrated on December 13th, marks the beginning of the Christmas season in Sweden. A young girl is chosen to portray St. Lucia, wearing a white robe and a crown of candles. She leads a procession of children, each holding a candle while singing traditional songs. Families observe St. Lucia's Day in their homes by having one of their daughters (traditionally the eldest) dress in white and serve coffee and baked goods, such as saffron bread (lussekatter) and ginger biscuits, to the other family members.

*"NORWEGIANS HAVE A TRADITION OF HIDING BROOMS ON CHRISTMAS EVE TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS."*

**6 NORWAY** In Norway, the holiday season is known as 'Jul.' Traditional Christmas dishes include lutefisk (dried fish) and ribbe (pork ribs). On Christmas Eve, people attend church services, and children look forward to the arrival of Julenissen, the Norwegian Santa Claus. Norwegians also have a tradition of hiding brooms on Christmas Eve to ward off evil spirits.

**7 RUSSIA** Orthodox Christmas is celebrated on January 7th in Russia, following the Julian calendar. Elaborate church services, festive meals, and the singing of carols mark the holiday. Grandfather Frost, or 'Ded Moroz', is the Russian equivalent of Santa Claus. Unlike the rather rotund Western Santa of the West, Ded Moroz is slender with a wizard-like flowing beard and wears a long robe in different colours, such as blue and white. Snegurochka, his granddaughter, often accompanies him, delivering gifts to children on New Year's Eve.



**8 JAPAN** Christmas is not a religious holiday in Japan but is widely celebrated as a secular event. Christmas lights and decorations adorn cities, and families exchange gifts. A popular Christmas tradition is eating KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) on Christmas Eve, thanks to a successful marketing campaign in the 1970s that associated KFC with Christmas.

**9 MEXICO** In Mexico, Christmas is a colourful and vibrant celebration. The 'Posadas' are a series of reenactments of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging, held over nine nights before Christmas Eve. Piñatas, filled with candies and fruits, are broken during these celebrations. A late-night 'La Nochebuena' feast on Christmas Eve features traditional dishes like tamales and bacalao (salted cod). The holiday season culminates on January 6th with the celebration of Epiphany, known as 'Día de los Reyes,' when children receive gifts from the Three Wise Men.



**10 ETHIOPIA** Christmas is known as 'Genna' in Ethiopia and is celebrated on January 7th, following the Ethiopian Orthodox calendar. Colourful processions, church services, and traditional songs and dances mark the holiday. On Christmas Eve, people dress in a thin white cotton garment called netela and attend an overnight church service, usually starting around 6 p.m. and finishing at 3 a.m. People line up surrounding a church and begin a long, looping procession around the circumference of the church. ●




  
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*These branch trees are great if you don't have a lot of space, or prefer not to have a Christmas tree. They are excellent for the environment, because they are foraged and can be kept for many years, or put back for bees and bugs to live in.*

*You will need*

## MATERIALS

- A selection of branches around
- 1.5–3.5cm (5/8–13/8in) in diameter
- Ball of cotton string

## TOOLS

- Scissors • Handsaw or electric mitre saw
- Tape measure • Ruler
- Pencil • Sandpaper
- Stiff brush



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SPECIAL

## Decoration ideas

- Wind fairy lights around each branch
- Tie baubles or homemade decorations along each branch
- Hang lots of paper snowflakes in different sizes from each level
- Peg advent pouches to the string
- Peg up your Christmas cards
- Make a huge string of tassels to fit along each branch
- Wrap foliage around each level to make it come alive.

The Eco-Christmas Craft Book  
Marianne Miall £12.99 Search Press

## STEP 1



Using a handsaw or electric mitre saw, cut nine branches to the following lengths: 75cm (29½in), 65cm (25½in), 55cm (21¾in), 45cm (17¾in), 35cm (13¾in), 25cm (9¾in), 15cm (6in), 10cm (4in) and 5cm (2in). Remove any dirt and sand the cut ends so they aren't too rough. Lay the branches out on the floor in size order, with the largest at the bottom. Allow roughly 15cm (6in) between each branch. If you plan to peg decorations to the tree, you can tie some string to one end of the individual branches and wind it around a few times before securing at the other end. This step is easier to do now than it is after you've attached the branches to each other.

## STEP 2



Cut pieces of string to lengths of 1.3m (1½yd). Take one length of string underneath one end of the bottom branch so that you have equal lengths either side. Tie a double knot 2–3cm (¾–1¼in) in from the edge, making sure the knot is on the top aspect of the branch; then wrap either end once around the branch in either direction and tie another double knot on top of the last. Repeat on the other end of the same branch.

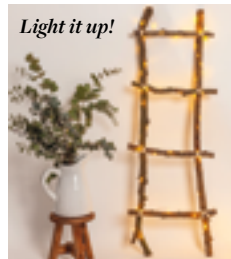
## STEP 3



Repeat step 2 on both ends of every branch except the top one. Starting with the bottom branch, take both strings from one side up and tie a double knot through the middle of the two strings on the branch above. Have a ruler handy and measure 15cm (6in) between the branches as you go. Once you are satisfied with the spacing, wrap either end of the string once around the branch and tie another double knot on top of the last. Repeat on the other end of the branch and then continue in the same way all the way to the top branch.

Once the tree is assembled, cut a 25cm (9¾in) piece of string for the hanger and attach it securely to the middle of the top branch. Now decorate your tree as you please.

## Light it up!



Using a similar technique, you can cut two long pieces from a straight branch and attach smaller lengths as ladder rungs. Use a crisscross pattern with the string to secure the ladder rungs onto the vertical pieces. This will make it more stable. Please note this is for decoration only and must not be used to climb on!

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12 Pigs in Blankets



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2kg Beef Joint  
Sleeve of Sausage Meat  
1kg Pork Sausages  
1kg Back Bacon  
24 Pigs in Blankets  
1 Large Stan Pie



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# FOOD & DRINK

SHARE COCKTAILS

## SHARE THE CELEBRATION

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opiesfoods.com

*Pickled Walnut Celebration Bread Wreath  
Recipe on following page*

# Pickled Walnut Celebration Bread Wreath

*from previous page*

**Serves 10** Preparation time *2hrs* Cooking time *45 mins*



opiesfoods.com

## INGREDIENTS

500g strong white bread flour, plus extra for rolling/kneading  
1 tsp salt  
1½ tsp fast action yeast  
1 tsp caster sugar  
350ml lukewarm water  
3 x Opies Pickled Walnuts, finely chopped  
75g sun dried tomatoes, drained and finely chopped  
60g parmesan cheese  
1 tsp finely chopped fresh rosemary  
2 tbsp butter, melted  
1 tsp sea salt  
1 round camembert, to bake  
1 garlic clove, thinly sliced  
Fresh rosemary sprigs

## METHOD

Sift the flour and salt into a mixing bowl or into the bowl of a stand mixer. Measure out the lukewarm water, stir in the yeast and caster sugar, then leave the yeast to develop for 10 minutes until frothy. Pour the yeast water into the flour and mix until a dough is formed. Knead the dough by hand on a lightly floured surface for 10 minutes or by using a stand mixer. Cover the bowl with a clean tea-towel and leave in a warm place until doubled in size. Knock back the dough then knead in the pickled walnuts, sun dried tomatoes, all but 1 tbsp of the parmesan and finally the chopped rosemary. Divide the dough into 18 even sized pieces. Roll each piece of dough into a ball, adding a little more flour if the dough feels too sticky. Place a large ramekin or bowl into the centre of a baking sheet (this has to be the size of the camembert or slightly bigger). Place the balls of dough around the ramekin leaving a 5mm gap between each ball. Make a second ring of the dough around the first, again leaving a 5mm gap to allow room for the dough to rise. Cover with the tea towel until the dough has doubled in size. Pre-heat the oven to 190°C / 170°C fan / gas 5. Just before baking, brush the bread rolls all over with melted butter then scatter over the remaining parmesan cheese, sea salt and a little extra rosemary and bake for about 30 minutes or until golden. When you are ready to serve, stud the camembert with garlic and warm in the oven for 10-12 minutes until melty. Place the bread wreath onto a board and carefully position the camembert in the middle, still in its wooden box, then decorate with extra rosemary sprigs and serve.



fabflour.co.uk/easy-peasy-baking/



# Tear 'n' Share Stollen Swirls

**Serves 12** Preparation time *20 mins* Cooking time *125 mins*

## INGREDIENTS

85g unsalted butter  
165ml milk + 2tbsp for glaze  
2 eggs  
500g strong bread flour  
1 tbsp mixed spice + ¼ tsp for glaze  
1 tsp salt  
1 packet dried yeast (7g)  
200g dried mixed fruit, soaked in 250ml boiling water  
50g glace cherries, chopped  
200g white marzipan  
150g icing sugar

## METHOD

Place the marzipan in the freezer while you prepare the dough.

In the saucepan, gently heat the unsalted butter and 165ml milk until the butter has fully melted. Remove from the heat and set aside to cool until tepid, mix in the eggs, then add in the yeast.

In the large mixing bowl, combine the flour, 1 tbsp mixed spice and salt. Pour in the liquid mixture and bring together to form a dough. Tip out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 5 minutes to form a smooth dough then return to the bowl, cover with cling film, and leave in a warm place for at least 30 minutes or until doubled in size.

Knock back the dough and roll out into a large

rectangle (approx 5mm thick) on a lightly floured surface. Drain any excess water off the soaked mixed fruit, then scatter evenly, followed by the chopped cherries.

Take the marzipan out of the freezer and grate over the top of the fruit in an even fashion. Roll up the dough to form a long sausage shape, divide into 12 and arrange in a 20cm x 30cm traybake or roasting tin (3x4).

Heat the oven to 180°C (fan) and bake for 20-25 minutes until risen and golden on top. Allow to cool.

Make the glaze by combining the icing sugar with 2 tbsp milk and ¼ tsp mixed spice, drizzle over the rolls and serve.



fabfour.co.uk/easy-peasy-baking/

# Gingerbread Traybake Cake

**Makes one 20cm x 30cm traybake** Preparation time *15 mins* Cooking time *25 mins*

## INGREDIENTS

200g unsalted butter + 40g for icing  
150g light brown sugar  
4 tbsp black treacle  
2 eggs  
300g self raising flour  
1 tbsp ground ginger  
150ml milk  
75g cream cheese  
200g icing sugar  
Crushed gingerbread men, to decorate

## METHOD

Preheat the oven to 160°C (fan).

In the mixing bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add in the treacle and eggs, followed by the flour, ginger and milk, mixing after each addition until a thick, smooth batter is formed.

Pour the batter into the prepared tin and bake for 25-30 minutes until risen and springy to the touch. Allow to cool completely.

Make the icing by combining the 40g butter, cream cheese and icing sugar until no lumps remain. Using a palette knife or the back of a spoon, spread evenly on top of the ginger sponge and sprinkle with crushed gingerbread men.



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*The rich essence of Ethiopian coffee meets the comforting warmth of gingerbread, creating a unique and indulgent concoction that's perfect for those seeking a truly decadent taste adventure.*

### INGREDIENTS

75ml Amarula Ethiopian Coffee  
50ml gingerbread liqueur  
10ml sugar syrup, 25ml vodka

### METHOD

Pour all ingredients in a shaker. Add 6-8 ice cubes into the shaker. Shake rigorously for 10-15 seconds. Double strain into a chilled coupe



## MAGICAL MERMAID COCKTAIL

*This whimsical concoction captures the allure of the ocean and the beauty of mythical mermaids, offering a delightful and refreshing drink that sparkles with a touch of magic.*

### INGREDIENTS

50ml pineapple juice  
Juice of 1 lime  
100ml ginger beer  
50ml magic gin

### METHOD

To make your magical mermaid cocktail, fill a highball glass with ice and add the pineapple juice followed by the lime juice. Top with ginger beer until 3/4 full, then add the magical gin and see the colour change from blue to purple. Stir briefly before serving.

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### INGREDIENTS

50ml Warninks (Dutch Advocaat Liqueur)  
1 shot of espresso, 150ml milk  
A selection of toppings

### METHOD

Pour Warninks (50ml) into a warmed latte glass. Brew the espresso. Heat the milk to approximately 60 degrees, in a milk pan and pour over the coffee mixture. Garnish as desired with a selection of toppings and serve immediately. ☕



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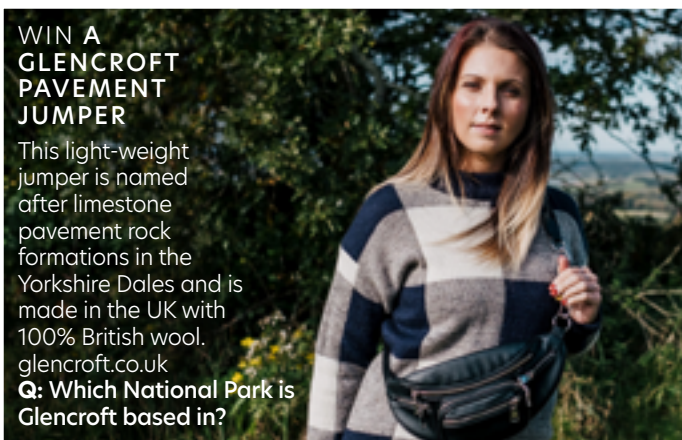
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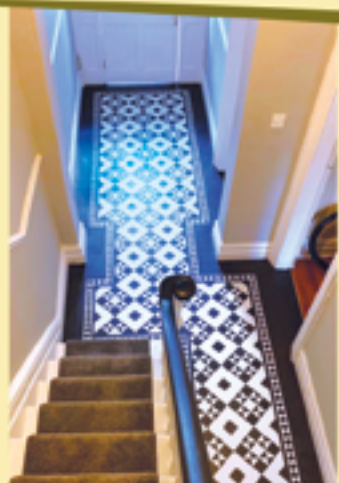
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# Cosy on UP



You don't need lots of space (or money) to play with when it comes to making cosy living room ideas a reality, just the willingness to make a few changes to your space.

## Opt for a warm colour palette

When it comes to cosy living room ideas, one of the quickest ways to make a space feel more inviting is to employ the warmest of living room paint ideas. Warm colours can make you feel like you're being greeted by a comforting hug every time you enter the space. Go for paint colours like yellows, oranges, pinks and reds.



## Try your hand at scentscaping

Many people have been inspired to give their home a signature scent of late – so why not make the most of this sensory experience to add some oomph to your cosy living room ideas? Cinnamon, nutmeg, frankincense, and sandalwood inspire warmth and cosiness. If you don't have a fire or aren't a fan of candles, opt for reed diffusers and room sprays.

## Set the scene with candlelight

Nothing creates a cosy ambience quite like candlelight. If your living space doesn't have a real working fire, fill a central focus point with lanterns and assorted pillar candles to create a warming glow. Always be fire-safe when using candles in the home, and never leave them unattended.



## Create a sofa cocoon

One of the cosiest of cosy living room ideas, Mrs Hinch's sofa cocoon has inspired all of us to try to transform our humble sofas into hibernation destinations. You'll need blankets, fluffy socks, cushions, and a footstool to prop your tootsies up.

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The company, based locally, offers homeowners the opportunity to maximise their storage space with a loft ladder, 50 sq ft of boarding and a light all fully fitted in less than a day from just £277 + VAT. But it's not just the affordability of the package the company offers that makes Yorkshire Loft Ladders stand out as manager Mark Hodson explains:

"Our watchwords are Quality, Integrity and Value.

Quality in the materials that we use for all our installations and the fact that all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesmen so our customers are assured of the best job. Integrity in that we will turn up at the time we say and make sure the house is spotless when we leave, and Value in that we offer our services at a price people can afford. Our business relies on referrals and we got a huge amount of our calls from people who have been referred to us by our existing customers – that simply wouldn't happen if we didn't adhere to our overriding principles.

At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers

lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for every installation we carry out!"

So, if you want to make use of your loft space, however

big or small, call Mark on 0800 612 8359 and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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# Low-cost hacks for lazy gardeners



## 1. Planting on a budget

Perennials are an excellent choice for those looking to add a splash of colour to their garden while keeping costs low since they regrow every spring.

### • Lavender

You can find lavender plants online for less than £4 or a pack of seeds for less than £2. Considering that a lavender plant can last 10 to 15 years, the cost per year is around 27p if you buy a plant or 13p if you grow it from seeds.



### • Geraniums

You can introduce these vibrant plants to your garden for around £2. While they provide consistent bursts of colour and charm for up to three years, they can become a bit woody and yield sparse blossoms as they age. Keeping geraniums for at least five years costs around 40p per plant per year.



### • Echinacea

Known for their daisy-like blooms, young Echinacea plants can be acquired from garden centres for less than £5. Echinacea has a remarkable lifespan of up to 40 years in natural settings, which means these plants can cost as little as 2p per year if well cared for. It's advisable to divide it every four years in garden settings to ensure they flourish.



## 2. What Goes Up...

Hanging planters can become mini gardens for herbs such as basil, rosemary, and mint. Pallet gardens are also great for growing fruits and vegetables with a backyard or balcony. For vibrant décor in smaller spaces, consider climbing vines such as wisteria.

## 3. Potted plants

Potted plants are the answer for those looking to introduce versatility and ease into their garden. They not only allow gardeners to play around with arrangements but having the ability to move these pots means plants can always get optimal sunlight.

## 4. Thank you very mulch

Mulch, a gardener's secret weapon, is a material spread atop the soil. It is used to conserve moisture, improve soil health, and combat weed growth. Mulches are made from many things, such as straw, wood chips, plastic and even rubber, but an eco-friendly, cost-effective tip is to use banana peels.

## 5. Hardy holly

Shrubs like boxwood or holly are resilient, can withstand the UK's unpredictable weather, and demand very little care, and their evergreen presence ensures the garden looks lush year-round.

## 6. Lead the way

Beyond visual allure, gravel stands out for its affordability and functionality. The advantage of gravel is that it also promotes excellent drainage and is easier to lay than concrete or stone.

## 7. Reuse

These bottles can shield young seedlings from chilly spring breezes when placed upside-down. Alternatively, fill them with warm water and use them as mini hot water bottles for your plants. ♻️

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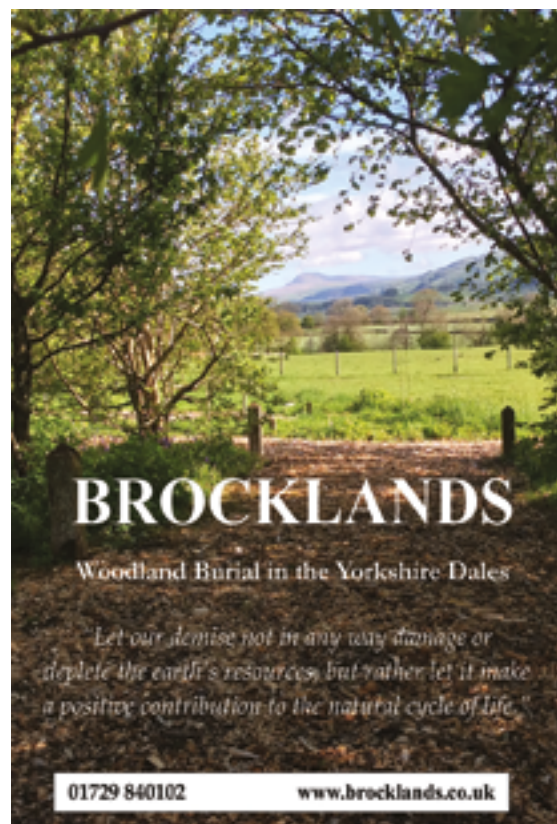
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# WHAT'S ON



## Aladdin

Fri 12th – Sun 21st January  
 Tickets from £23



## Johnny Cash Roadshow

Thursday 22nd February  
 Tickets from £27



## Barry Steele & Friends

Friday 2nd February  
 Tickets from £27



## Great Expectations

Fri 23rd & Sat 24th February  
 Tickets from £14



## Essentially Cher

Friday 16th February  
 Tickets from £27



## The Greatest Magician: An Evening of Wonders

Tuesday 27th February  
 Tickets from £14



## Sing-a-long-a Matilda

Saturday 17th February  
 Tickets from £16



## Crooners - Uncaged

Saturday 29th February  
 Tickets from £27.50



## Sing-a-long-a Rocky Horror

Saturday 17th February  
 Tickets from £16



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to see all upcoming shows.



Look out for this symbol  
to see which shows offer  
pre-theatre dining.





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# WHAT'S ON GUIDE

DECEMBER - JANUARY - FEBRUARY

## DECEMBER



Fri 1st

### SALTAIRE LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

*Saltaire Village, Shipley*

Since 2006, the Saltaire Living Advent Calendar has become a real highlight for Saltaire and Bradford and attracts visitors from further afield and followers online from across the globe. With its quirky window designs in picturesque settings, this magical event sees windows light up daily throughout the month in houses, schools, shops and churches until Christmas Eve. At 4 pm. Free.

Sat 2nd

### LIGHT UP HAWORTH WEEKEND AND ARTISAN MARKET

*Main Street, Haworth*

The lights across the village will be

switched on this weekend, so it'll be your first chance to see Haworth's magical lights, shop window displays, and the artisan market in Central Park on both days. There is no switch-on event, but music will be along the cobbles throughout the weekend. 2 to 3 Dec.

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

*The Broadway, Hall Ings, Bradford*

This festive occasion is perfect for the entire family. Start your morning by indulging in a delicious breakfast feast, followed by a visit from Santa Claus himself! Every Saturday in Dec and Friday 22nd Dec. Tickets cost £5 per child and will be reimbursed with a £5 Bradford City Centre gift card on arrival. [broadwaybradford.com](http://broadwaybradford.com)

### FESTIVE STORYTELLING WITH MRS CLAUS

*East Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley*

Families can join Mrs Claus for storytelling in the Great Hall this

year. Take a seat and enjoy a festive tale! Visit the Discovery Room and try out some Christmas crafting. Don't forget to write your letter to Santa so Mrs Claus can deliver it to the North Pole. 10 am – 3 pm. Sat and Sun throughout Dec. Free event. Usual admission price. [visitbradford.com](http://visitbradford.com)

Sun 3rd



### REAL FOOD ILKLEY MARKET

*The Grove, Ilkley*

Real Food Ilkley offers produce from fresh bread, cakes and gluten-free bakes to curry sauces, cheeses, condiments and crepes. Stalls include organic meat and veg, brownies, truffles and herbs from local producers and independent retailers. First Sun of every month. 3 Dec - 1 Sep. [realfoodmarkets.co.uk](http://realfoodmarkets.co.uk)

### ILKLEY ANTIQUES, VINTAGE & COLLECTABLES FAIR

*Clarke Foley Centre, Ilkley*

24 Stalls sells various antiques, >

vintage and collectables and has a cafe with delicious refreshments. 1st Sunday of each month (ex. Jan). £1. 9 am.

### SKIPTON CHRISTMAS MARKET

*Skipton High Street, Skipton*  
A fantastic festive day is planned for you all this year! Over 100 fabulous stalls in this festive market feature some of the region's favourite artisan makers, producers, and crafters! [welcometoskipton.com](http://welcometoskipton.com)

### SKIPTON ARTISAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

*Skipton Canal Basin, Coach Street, Skipton*  
If you are looking for a relaxed, friendly market, then come along and browse around the Christmas Market, based at the Canal Basin, just a short walk away from the Super Shenanigans happening on The High Street. 10 am – 4 pm. [welcometoskipton.com](http://welcometoskipton.com)

### HAWORTH ROTARY SANTA FUN RUN

*Central Park, Haworth*  
The Haworth Santa Fun Run will start from the top of Main Street at 11 am.

**Mon 4th**

### DEAD OF NIGHT

*Keighley Playhouse, Devonshire Street, Keighley*  
Thriller by Peter Whalley - Jack has just been acquitted of manslaughter and regales his girlfriend Maggie and their neighbours with a disparaging account of the trial. £10. 4 - 9 Dec. [keighleyplayhouse.co.uk](http://keighleyplayhouse.co.uk)

### THE GINGERBREAD CHRISTMAS TRAIL

*Skipton Town Centre*  
Welcome to the Skipton Gingerbread Christmas Trail. Find the ten gingerbread characters and the selfie zone marked on the map; the location is marked with a gingerbread character symbol. Until 3rd Jan. [welcometoskipton.com](http://welcometoskipton.com)

**Tues 5th**

### DEAR SANTA LIVE!

*King's Hall, Station Road, Ilkley*  
The Christmas cheer continues, with the opportunity to meet Santa in his grotto after the show, where every child will receive an extra special gift! £16. Tues 2 pm, Wed 10.30 pm & 1 pm. 5-6 Dec. [bradford-theatres.co.uk/](http://bradford-theatres.co.uk/)

### DANCE FITNESS FUN!

*Silsden Town Hall, Main Street, Silsden*  
A one-hour dance/exercise class using movement to music. Come and join in the fun and dance your way to fitness. The class is suitable for the over 50s and is a great way of meeting new people and making friends. No need to book. Just come along. Every Tuesday. Tel: 07879886612. £5. 11 am to 12 pm. [silsdentownhall.org.uk](http://silsdentownhall.org.uk)

### CAT'S CRADLE BY LESLIE SANDS

*Skipton Little Theatre, Clifford Street, Skipton*  
To revive his faltering career, Detective Inspector Jack Frost revisits a haunting, unsolved case from his past – a kidnapping and potential murder. With fresh evidence, Frost returns to the small village where the crime occurred. 7.30 pm. £12. [welcometoskipton.com](http://welcometoskipton.com)

**Wed 6th**

### ECO-FRIENDLY WREATH WORKSHOPS

*Bolton Abbey Estate, Skipton*  
Join us at our festive Christmas village in Strid Wood to enjoy a half-day workshop with Vanessa Wellock (RHS Chelsea silver medalist and florist to The Devonshire Arms Hotel) to create your own Christmas eco-friendly wreath. £60. 9:30 am & 1 pm. All day. [boltonabbey.com](http://boltonabbey.com)

**Thurs 7th**

### SETTLE WRITERS GROUP

*Settle Stories, Market Place, Dawsons Court, Settle*

Settle Writers group is a monthly meet-up for writers of all abilities. You can join us via Zoom in the comfort of your own home, or you can come along to the Joinery here in Settle. The choice is yours. Everyone is welcome! £5. 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. [settlestories.org.uk/whats\\_on/settle-writers-group/](http://settlestories.org.uk/whats_on/settle-writers-group/)

### THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

*Ilkley Playhouse, Ilkley*  
Tickets £5 to £13. 7 - 16 Dec. 7.30 pm. Matinee: 9th Dec 2.30 pm. Relaxed Performance Matinee: Saturday 16 Dec 2.30 pm. [ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk](http://ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk)

**Fri 8th**

### CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT: BRONTË TREASURES

*The Bronte Parsonage, Haworth*  
In this intimate event, you will experience a rare glimpse behind the scenes at the Museum Library, getting a closer look at some of the most precious treasures from the collection, personally selected by curator Sarah Laycock. Tickets include a glass of sherry on arrival. £50. 6.30 pm to 8 pm. [bronte.org.uk](http://bronte.org.uk)

### BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BRASS BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton*  
The World-famous Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band are coming to Skipton for a fabulous festive concert you won't miss! The multi-award-winning British Open Champions will play a mix of traditional Christmas pieces, medleys and carols to get you into the Christmas spirit this December. Tickets will likely sell fast for this event, so book now to avoid disappointment. Adults £22. Under 16 £18. 7.30 pm. [welcometoskipton.com](http://welcometoskipton.com)  
Sun 10th

### JACK AND THE BEANSTALK PANTO

*Settle Victoria Hall, Kirkgate, Settle*  
This year's gigantic professional pantomime is set to have more



sparkle, dazzle, and magic than you can ever imagine. Adults £10.50, children £8.50. 2 pm to 4.30 pm. [settlevictoriahall.org.uk/eventsandsHOWS/jack-and-the-beanstalk-101223](http://settlevictoriahall.org.uk/eventsandsHOWS/jack-and-the-beanstalk-101223)

### SANTA FUN RUN

*West Craven Sports Centre, Barnoldswick*

Join hundreds of others in a Santa fun run! It should be a jolly event whether you run, jog or walk around the 5k route ending at the Rotary Gazebo in the Town Square. Adults £10, children £5. 11 am.

### Tues 12th

### SKIPTON TOWN HALL TEA DANCE

*Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton*

Bring your dancing shoes to the spring edition of our ever-popular Town Hall Tea Dance! Blackpool Tower resident organist John Bowdler will entertain you. Tickets include sweet treats and unlimited tea and coffee from the friendly staff. 1.30 pm – 4 pm. £8. [welcometoskipton.com](http://welcometoskipton.com)

### Thurs 14th

### RADIO GAGA - QUEEN TRIBUTE

*King's Hall & Winter Garden, Ilkley*

Have your finest hour or two as you experience the live show Radio GaGa. Be part of a night like no other with the ultimate celebration of one of the biggest bands to have graced the stage - Queen. £29 to £32. 7.45 pm. [bradford-theatres.co.uk](http://bradford-theatres.co.uk)

### Fri 15th

### ROBIN HOOD CHRISTMAS PANTO

*Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton*

This inclusive family show promises festive fun for all the family with silliness, songs and a good old showdown between the goodies and the baddies. 2 pm and 7 pm. Adults £12.50. Under 18s £7.50. 15 – 17 Dec. [welcometoskipton.com](http://welcometoskipton.com)

### Sat 16th

### 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS – FESTIVE TRAIL

*Bolton Abbey Estate, Skipton*

As you enjoy a walk through Strid Wood, clues connected to the popular '12 Days of Christmas' carol will help you to solve the festive mystery on the trail sheet. This event is included in the car park entry fee. 16 Dec - 3 Jan. [boltonabbey.com](http://boltonabbey.com)

### VOICES OF CRAVEN AND SETTLE AND GIGGLESWICK BRASS BAND

*Settle Victoria Hall, Kirkgate, Settle*

The Giggleswick and Settle Brass Band and Voices of Craven are delighted to come together to bring you a selection of your favourite musical Christmas Crackers! £13.50. 7 pm to 9.30 pm. [settlevictoriahall.org.uk](http://settlevictoriahall.org.uk)

### Sun 17th

### CHRISTMAS MARKETS

*The Grove, Ilkley*

From fruit gins to fruity jams, fine art to bakery masterpieces, there is a wide selection of traders to visit at this monthly market. 10 am to 3 pm. [realmarkets.co.uk](http://realmarkets.co.uk)

### POSITIVELY CHRISTMAS

*King's Hall & Winter Garden*

A charity Cabaret for Jacqui's Million that will get your Christmas off to a 'positively' flying start. £20 to £22. Performances at 1 pm and 5 pm. [bradford-theatres.co.uk](http://bradford-theatres.co.uk)

### Thurs 21st

### THE SNOWMAN (1982) + CRAFT ACTIVITIES

*Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton*

Watch the Christmas classic 'The Snowman' (1982).. 10.30 am. £5. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)

### Fri 22nd

### SWING INTO CHRISTMAS – THE NORTHERN SWING ORCHESTRA

*King's Hall, Station Road, Ilkley*

Yorkshire's premier Big Band promises a night of the very best Christmas songs and traditional festive favourites. £25. 7.30 pm. [bradford-theatres.co.uk](http://bradford-theatres.co.uk)

### MATT BAXTER: WITH ARMLEY RIDGE SOUL

*The Mess Room Microbar, The Old Fire Station, Skipton*

Matt Baxter is a guitarist and singer from Leeds. He performs solo acoustic material with original and cover songs in a blues/soul/folk style. 8.30 pm to 12.30 am. [bandsintown.com/e/104665474](http://bandsintown.com/e/104665474)

### THE SANTA CLAUSE (1994) PYJAMA PARTY

*Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton*

Get ready to don your cosiest pyjamas and embark on a magical journey to the North Pole! You're invited to their special screening of the holiday classic, 'The Santa Clause' (1994). 7 pm. From £8.50. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)

### Sat 23rd

### NATIVITY PROCESSION

*Haworth Main Street, Haworth*

Meet at the bottom of Haworth Main Street for a festive nativity procession, including donkeys! 23rd to 24th December. 1 pm.

### THE POLAR EXPRESS (2004) + TRAIN JUNK MODELLING

*Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton*

Engage in a junk modelling activity and craft your miniature trains using recycled materials. From cardboard boxes to bottle caps, let your imagination run wild as you assemble your unique trains to sit in while watching this modern Christmas classic. 1 pm. £8.50. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)



## JANUARY



Wed 3rd

### Craven Museum Store TOUR JANUARY 2024

High Street, Skipton

Book one of the behind-the-scenes tours at Craven Museum and discover how it looks after all the amazing collections. Visitors will be able to get close to more items from the museum collection that currently aren't on display – covering everything from Roman archaeology to 1900s costumes! 10 am. £2. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)

Thurs 11th

### GUZ KHAN LIVE!

St George's Hall, Bridge Street, Bradford

By popular demand, Guz Khan adds more opportunities for you to see him on his tour! This loveable, funny guy is known for bringing his big-screen persona and BAFTA-nominated hilarity to the stand-up stage. 7:30 pm. From £22. [bradford-theatres.co.uk](http://bradford-theatres.co.uk)



Fri 12th

### STEVE HARLEY ACOUSTIC BAND – UNCOVERED

King's Hall, Station Road, Ilkley

Widely considered one of the most charismatic performers on stage, Steve Harley continues to play sold-out venues across the UK and Europe. £32. 7:30 pm.

### LEEDS CITY STOMPERS

Thornton-in-Craven Village Hall, Thornton-in-Craven

1920s & 30s blues, swing, jazz, ragtime and folk. £8. 8 pm to 12 am. [bandsintown.com/e/104798552](http://bandsintown.com/e/104798552)

Thurs 18th

### THE HAUNTING

Ilkley Playhouse, Weston Road, Ilkley

Set in the late 19th century, antique book dealer David Filde is sent to the crumbling ancestral seat of the Gray family to catalogue its library for the latest scion, Lord Gray. 7:30 pm. Tickets £13, £11, £6, £5. Until 27 Jan. [ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk](http://ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk)

Tues 23rd

### SKIPTON MUSIC PRESENTS: MELIORA COLLECTIVE

Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton

£25. Under 30 £10. Under 19 £2. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)

## FEBRUARY



Sun 4th

### OMID DJALILI: WORK IN PROGRESS

Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton

Come and see Omid Djalili work on new material. Legendary festival favourite, stand-up comedian, film and television star Omid Djalili guarantees you an evening of experimentation. £18. 8 pm. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)

Fri 9th

### KIKI DEE & CARMELO LUGGERI

Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton

For over 25 years now, Kiki and Carmelo have been touring their spellbinding acoustic live show across the UK and Europe. £23.50. 7:30 pm. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)

Thurs 15th

### ADAM ROWE – WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

King's Hall, Station Road, Ilkley

Adam Rowe, the host of the global smash-hit podcast Have A Word and the star of Live At The Apollo, is hitting the road with his brand new stand-up tour. £22. 8 pm. [bradford-theatres.co.uk](http://bradford-theatres.co.uk)

Fri 16th



### THE ALEX VOYSEY BLUES BAND PRESENTS 'OLD DOGS, NEW TRICKS'

Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton

A rising star in the blues world, The Alex Voysey Blues Band brings together four stunning musicians, breath-taking grooves and riffs, and a deep passion for blues. Their new show, 'Old Dogs, New Tricks',

is a travelogue through the very best of blues history. 8 pm. £12.50. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)

Tues 20th

### SKIPTON MUSIC PRESENTS: PALISANDER

Skipton Town Hall, High Street, Skipton

Described as 'Early Music's very own Spice Girls', Palisander recorder quartet bring their signature blend of movement, spoken word, percussion and singing to a programme of music inspired by the unfortunate stories of the six wives of Henry VIII. £25 | Under 30 £10 | Under 19 £2. 7:30 pm. [skiptontownhall.co.uk](http://skiptontownhall.co.uk)

Sat 24th

### JON PALMER ACOUSTIC BAND

Ilkley Playhouse, Weston Road, Ilkley

A high energy 6-piece folk, roots and rock & roll band based in West Yorkshire, they have been described as "a cross between The Pogues and The Oyster Band, with a bit of The Waterboys, The Saw Doctors and the Bruce Springsteen Seeger Sessions Band thrown in". 7:30 pm. £10. [ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk](http://ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk)

Thurs 29th



### DIRE STREETS

King's Hall, Station Road, Ilkley

Dire Streets brings to life the classic songs of one of the world's greatest guitar bands with a level of musicianship and attention to detail that makes them stand out as the Dire Straits tribute in the UK. 🎸





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Onion Bhaji, Chicken Pakora, Sheek Kebab,  
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# BILLY PEARCE

National treasure, and without doubt one of Britain's most talented and best loved comedians and performers. Multi-award winner, Billy has won just about every comedy award going. Billy has performed in five Children's Royal Variety Shows and three Royal Variety Shows, and on almost every stage in Britain.



SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

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## the WASHBOARD RESONATORS

Foot-stomping blues, ragtime, swing and folk music. The Washboard Resonators hail from Leeds in and can be described as sounding and looking like "a ragtime street band meets a Hollywood musical on a theatre stage somewhere around 1932".



SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2024

THE EURO TRIP'S JAMES ROWE PRESENTS AN AUDIENCE WITH EUROVISION WINNER

# NIAMH KAVANAGH

Voice to one of the best selling soundtracks of all time, The Commitments, Niamh Kavanagh is one of Ireland's national treasures. Having won the Eurovision Song Contest for her country in 1993 and represented them a second time in 2010, Niamh's international success has seen her perform around the world.



IRELAND'S 1993 WINNER OF THE  
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