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December
2017



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Dear Reader,

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and loyalty to The Directory Group throughout this year. Local companies, who advertise their great services within our monthly magazines, really do appreciate the business which you pass to them. Keeping business local is important!

We are passionate about helping our community, as well as charities, and this year we have been working continuously with both. We have dressed up, baked cakes and generally made fools of ourselves to support worthy causes.... It has been a brilliant year.

We finish the year with our Reverse Advent Calendar campaign, which is all about supporting people who may be less fortunate, by offering food and other practical items this Christmas. Everything donated will go to local food banks and directly to anyone requiring it. If you wish to get involved see our Facebook page for details or call us 01730 260746.

Furthermore, our article on caring for your neighbour reminds us to ensure those around you, who may be lonely, are supported in whatever way necessary – so let's all be kind this winter and call on a neighbour to check they are okay.

Make sure you have a go at our new Suduko section. There is also a competition by Blue Bell where you can win a 2-course meal for two people, plus a bottle of house wine, so get involved with that.

Have a very Merry Christmas and celebrate the New Year in style. Barney, our office dog, is equally as excited as us all.

Happy reading!

Denise Lloyd



Area Editions:

Alton & Alresford Edition

Dist: 16,000

Petersfield Edition

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Rowlands Castle & Havant Edition

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Clanfield & Horndean Edition

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Cowplain Edition

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Waterlooville, Denmead, Purbrook & Widley Edition

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Farlington, Drayton & Cosham Edition

Dist: 11,200

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Emsworth Edition

Dist: 11,200

Meon Valley Edition

Dist: 9,500

November's Competition Winners

Beatons Tearoom

Janet Reilly
Glynis White

Find Barney

Graham Webster

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before



after

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www.houzz.co.uk/pro/happykitchens

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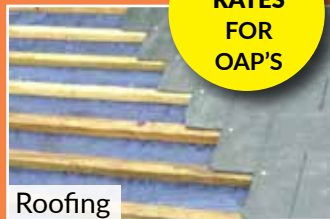
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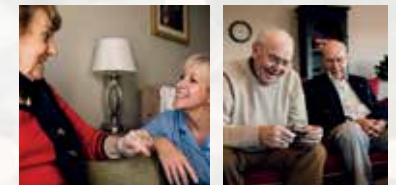
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POPULAR FARMERS' MARKET SET TO PLEASE CROWDS THIS CHRISTMAS

The Hampshire Farmers' Market promises to be another busy event welcoming crowds to the Alton area on the 10th December, from 10am to 2pm.

Held on the High Street hundreds of people will enjoy seasonal favourites and other food on offer. Ranging from turkeys, Christmas trees, cheeses, pies, quiches, fudge, games, poultry, beer, gin and more there will be something for everyone.



Interesting food gift ideas will be available with other local produce making ideal presents. A jar of local Sinah Common Honey produced from bee colonies on Hayling Island is a suggestion. And for those who enjoy a drink can appreciate an English Rose Finest Dry Gin, or stock up on a case of six bottles for the festive period.

There will also be a selection of beers and



glasses from the Mash Brewery with their pale ale being highly recommended.

Alternatively, if you prefer something more fragrant than the Lavender Fields has

some gorgeous oils, soaps and special festive gift sets all put together from their base at Selborne.

Purchase a bag of mouth-watering Fordingbridge Fudge as a treat or something to accompany your coffee when you have concluded tucking in to a Christmas meal.

Alex Handford, Business Manager at Hampshire Farmers' Market, says purchasing local produce offers freshness. He said: "Visitors to our markets love the fact they are buying local and especially the freshness of the fruit and vegetables, often picked just the day before the market.

"We're looking forward to seeing all our regular customers leading up to Christmas and lots of new ones too."

The Hampshire Farmers' Markets are certified to the National Farmers Retail and Markets Association. They strive to be a service to the community and is a not-for-profit company.

Excellent local produce with guaranteed freshness is certain to impress. With plenty happening for the whole family this continually growing event presents tradition and festivities.



To find out For further information go to the Hampshire Farmers' Market website at: www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk
Speak to a member of the team at 01420 588671.

GARDENING



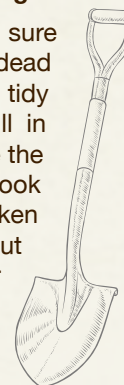
Under the Mistletoe

As Christmas approaches, our to-do lists unfortunately don't contain many gardening tasks. Luckily, you can take it a little easier this month without any risk to your garden - maintenance is the most important thing until spring.

Speaking of maintenance, make sure you are clearing borders of dead or dying plants to help create tidy displays, showing off those still in bloom. Prune harshly to improve the shape of your trees and shrubs, look out for flaws such as split or broken branches, and make sure you cut them back so they are healthier next year.

Why not try to grow your own mistletoe this Christmas? If you are lucky enough to have one of the host trees - apple, hawthorn, lime or poplar, growing mistletoe should be fairly easy. Simply collect some berries from a mistletoe plant and rub them into the cracks of the bark then let the mistletoe flourish from your tree's nutrients! This really is such a simple way to provide festive cheer this year.

Lastly, hang fat balls and keep bird feeders and water topped up to make sure the little birds don't go hungry!



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BANG!

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Is your neighbour okay this winter?

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With an aging population loneliness is on the rise across the Hampshire area.

One in eight people across the UK have no friends or family to talk to. For hours, days, and even weeks, individuals may not see anyone to engage with.

This ultimately has a huge effect on those who are lonely making them feel excluded and isolated.

Together, communities can eradicate this issue and work to ensure those alone have someone to communicate with.

If you know of anybody who may be alone this Christmas, you can do simple things to support.



• Care through conversation

Just five minutes of your time investing in speaking to someone can make a huge difference.

• Be selfless and shop

Support someone who may be alone by taking them shopping or even offering to collect for them.

• Keep your neighbour warm

Ensure those on their own are warm throughout the colder months.



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Christmas Cut Backs

TIPS AND TRICKS TO AVOID OVERSPENDING IN THE FESTIVE SEASON

Everyone knows December is renowned for being the month of spending. So as we creep closer into the festive season, we wanted to show you how you can spread Christmas cheer without breaking the bank this year.

Do your research before your food shop. Everyone wants to have the best at Christmas but make sure to taste with your mouth, not the packaging. Some of the best Christmas cakes, wines and mince pies are not the most expensive. Buy what you prefer, not what you're told is the best.

Cut back on unnecessary extras. In order to budget at Christmas time, you must know when to stop. Better planning can stop huge food wastage, by simply calculating how much food you will need prior to shopping you can save money whilst still providing your guests with an impressive spread.

Write a shopping list for your Christmas shop and set a budget for food and presents. Be realistic with your budget - it is important to plan for affordability, not desirability.



Before you buy, think about what you're giving and why. Although everyone wants to be spoilt, don't buy masses of unnecessary, thoughtless gifts.

Think outside the box. Organise day trips out for parents and friends; even simply exploring a city or place you've never been to before. This doesn't need to cost a lot of money; it's all about the experience. Make vouchers for friends or families - evenings of babysitting, walking the dog, mowing the grass or caring for their cats whilst they are on holiday.



Make it yourself. Something homemade has a personal touch that cannot be compared to something generic bought from a shop. Make personalised Christmas gingerbread biscuits, decorate your own Christmas cards, frame their favourite photo or make a scrapbook full of your greatest memories. Gifts like these are the most memorable and treasurable.

Christmas is all about spending time with family and friends. Research free events you can all go to locally - think the Christmas lights turn on, go on winter walks, visit a midnight mass service or go carol singing. And none of these will leave you out of pocket.

Make sure to check out our What's On page for the perfect pastimes locally this December.

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Entry Deadline: 20/12/2017

Winner Drawn: 21/12/2017

November's Winner: Graham Webster

PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Hello everyone, it's Barney here!

I am excited for Christmas this year; not only do I get lots of lovely treats and presents to play with I will have more time to go on walkies and sleep.

With the chillier and darker months upon us it is important to understand two things. The first being you may lose little animals like me in the dark, when allowing us to run around outside, and the second is that us furry canines also feel the cold.

There's two simple ways in which our owners can look after the dog population this winter.

1. The Warm Winter Coat

Available at many shops these can prevent us from catching a cold. They are perfect for walkies with some on offer protecting us from the rain. Now there is something to bark about! Locally, you can find the perfect coat at the Jollyes Pet Store in Waterlooville. See www.jollyes.co.uk

2. The Flashing Collar

There are numerous flashing and reflective collars on offer up and down the county. There's the Best Pals Pet Shop in Drayton, Pets Corner at Havant and Pets at Home stores across Hampshire.

These can make brilliant presents around the Christmas tree on 25th December. But if you think we need them sooner then we won't complain.

Enjoy your festive season guys!

Woof, Barney



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This Christmas*



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PAY IT FORWARD this Christmas

An act of kindness can make a huge difference in the lives of those receiving the special gesture. The Directory Group has launched its Pay It Forward Christmas campaign where somebody responds to a person's kindness to oneself by being kind to someone else.

Here are some ideas on what you can purchase to bring a smile to another person this festive season.



Cystic Fibrosis Trust

The Cuddle + Kind Doll

Each doll is ethically produced and lovingly handcrafted. When you purchase one doll it provides 10 meals to children in need.
www.cuddleandkind.com



Christmas Card

Encourage someone with a handwritten Christmas card. From around £3 from the Charity Card Shop proceeds go to charities such as Cystic Fibrosis support.
www.charitycardshop.com



Angel Tealight Candle Holder

This tealight candle holder is £15 on the Breast Cancer Care website with all profits going back to the charity.
www.breastcancercare.org.uk



Fill the cupboards

Fill a cupboard this Christmas. We all need food – so help someone who may need support the most.



Faith in Nature Beauty Bag

These bathroom gift sets from Faith in Nature is ethically produced using naturally derived ingredients. Purchase at the RSPCA store at £21.99.
www.shop.rspca.org.uk





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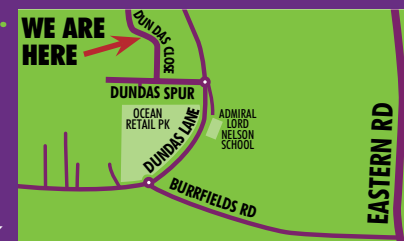
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New Year's Resolutions: Don't let them fail!

This month's Business Buddies article comes to you from our good friend and business coach, Ian Dickson...

Here's why your New Year's Resolutions are destined to FAIL! Plus, some things you can do to ensure they DON'T!

So, be honest, how many of your New Year resolutions did you achieve this year?

My guess is not many, if any at all... Statistically nearly 90% of us FAIL to achieve our New Year Resolutions.

No surprise then that **NOT** setting New Year's Resolutions is nearly as popular as making them in the first place! Here are just five of many common reasons why we fail to achieve them.

1. Being vague

By not being specific and by being deliberately vague we are able to "let ourselves off the hook" when we are failing to achieve our goals.

2. Setting too many

It's hard enough to make one change in our behaviour and habits, so making a long list of changes and resolutions is doomed from the start.

3. Setting complex resolutions

Even the simplest resolutions (like weight

loss) can have many layers of complexity. Breaking complex goals down is the key.

4. Being over ambitious

It's great to get excited and fired up about wanting to change the world. But there is nothing worse than setting unachievable goals. Better to not set any at all!

5. Expecting willpower alone will get you through

Willpower is our very limited ability to deny what we want now to get what we want in the future. It is greatly overestimated. It wears out easily, recovers slowly, and you always need more of it later.

My five simple ways to make your New Year's Resolution stick:

1. Pick only one resolution at a time
2. Take small steps – break the habit change down into smaller, bitesize chunks
3. Hold yourself accountable for what you want to change: tell others or write it down
4. Focus on the carrot not the stick – positive feedback and rewards will increase your chance of success
5. Focus on the present. What's the one thing you can do today, right now, towards your new habit?

Follow these simple steps and have an AWESOME 2018

ian dickson
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Markets in: December

Sunday 3rd Petersfield Christmas Festivities

Saturday 9th Alton

Sunday 10th Winchester

Saturday 16th Emsworth

Sunday 17th Southsea

Saturday 23rd Ringwood Christmas Market

Sunday 24th Romsey Christmas Market/Petersfield Christmas Market

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The Victory Lounge
13/12/2017

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Public Service Plaza
14/12/2017

Hayling Island

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18/12/2017

Waterlooville

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26/12/2017

Thank You

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**Treloar's
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Support Treloar's for an evening of Christmas Sparkle and Festive Fun

As Christmas fast approaches, it is finally time to start getting festive and what better way to do this than by eating mince pies, drinking mulled wine and singing Christmas carols at Treloar's Christmas concert. Our Christmas concert will be held on Thursday 7th December at the Alton Malting's centre, Alton, GU34 1DT where we will be joined by the Hart Male voice choir and 12 of Treloar's students. They will perform a medley of well-known Christmas songs that everyone can sing along to, which will definitely leave you feeling festive and Christmassy.

On entry there will be a complimentary mince pie and a bar selling soft and alcoholic drinks and a chance to win some fantastic raffle prizes. Plus some fabulous Christmas gifts which you can purchase.

The concert will start at 7:00pm and finish at 9:30pm. U16s cost £5 and adults cost £10. This price includes the complimentary mince pie on entry. Tickets can be purchased online, at the Treloar's reception, the Alton Malting's centre and Waterstones in Alton.

For more information and to book your tickets call 01420 547 447. Alternatively, email charlotte.thomas@treloar.org.uk
We look forward to seeing you there!

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WHAT'S ON & WHERE

Hambledon Folk Club Christmas Event
Wednesday 13th December, Hambledon,
Godalming, GU8 4HQ. 8:30pm. Entry:
£10 with members at £8 and students
and under 18s £5. Magpie Lane is a five-
piece folk band from Oxford, specialising
in traditional English songs and tunes. For
reservations call 02392 632719 or email
folkclubhambledon@hotmail.co.uk

Bugsy Malone
Alton Maltings Centre, Maltings Close,
Alton, GU34 1DT. Bar opens at 6:45pm
with the show commencing at 7:30pm.
This gangster musical had a twist in its
tale, where instead of firing real bullets, the
gangsters used 'splurge guns' that cover
victims in cream - a crowd pleaser. Various
dates. £7 for over 16s, £5 for under 16s.
Information at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/strictlyshowtime

Mulled Wine Weekend
Gilbert White and the Oates Collections,
Selborne, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 3JH.
Free event. From 10:30am and 4:30pm
on both 2nd and 3rd December. The
relaxing weekend of festive merriment, will
consist of a raffle, music and more. See
gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk

Alton Town Walks
Guided tours around Alton,
starting at the Curtis Museum,
on various dates. Adults cost £3
and children, ages 5 to 16, 50p.
Dates and times for the walks can be found at
www.alton.gov.uk

Pamper, pottery and shopping
The Pottery Pantry, Unit 6, Soldridge
Business Park, Medstead, GU34 5JF.
Friday 22nd December, from 6:30pm until
9:30pm. Free entry. A night of relaxation and
fun - catching up with friends with a glass of
mulled wine, mince pies, pamper treatments,
Christmas shopping and pottery painting all
under one roof. Call 077 8853 6822 for more
information.

Alresford Artisan Craft Show
Saturday 16th December at West Street,
Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9AG. A high-
quality craft show, every exhibitor makes their
craft by hand, from start to finish. Entrance is
free. 10am to 4:30pm. Call 01252 724968 for
more information.

Advent Concert
Saturday 9th December at Alton Abbey,
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TIMEAS MARIA" The a cappella singers -
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following their wonderful performance last
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The programme will be mainly early music, to
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2					4	8		
	3				1	2	6	
	8			7	2	9	4	1
	5		2		6			
	2	8			9	4	1	
	7	9	1		8	5	3	

Can you complete our new Sudoku section?

The popular Japanese puzzle game is based on the logical placement of numbers. No special math skills are required. All you need to exercise is your brain and maintain concentration.

The goal of Sudoku is to fill in a 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, row, and 3x3 section contain the numbers between 1 to 9. At the beginning of the game, the 9x9 grid will have some of the squares filled in.

The answers will be provided in The Directory for January.

Have fun!

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YOUR COMMUNITY

News



Alton & Alresford

• December 2017 Edition

HAMPSHIRE FARE TAKES LOCAL FOOD TO THE CLASSROOM



Youngsters learn about the importance of Hampshire produce.

Schoolchildren have been encouraged to explore local produce by the Hampshire Fare.

The county's local food group work strategically with Hampshire County Council, along with the other corporate partners, to promote local food and drink.

Pupils at the Berrywood Primary School in Hedge End were able to inspect an array of fresh fish brought to the school by J&S Fish.

The fishmonger shared different fish facts to the young people.

The session then went on to a presentation about strawberries and local fruits. New

Forest Fruits told of how strawberries are grown in Hampshire and help make jams.

Chris Reilly, headteacher at the school, says the sessions were received well from the children.

He said: "The children had a fantastic morning learning about British produce.

"As a school we are trying very hard to promote healthy eating from environmentally friendly and sustainable sources. This is an excellent project!"

For more information about the involvement of Hampshire Fare in your community go to: www.hampshirefare.co.uk

A SUCCESS! AWARDS RECOGNISE AMAZING INDIVIDUALS ACROSS HAMPSHIRE



A charity celebrated working with schools, businesses, volunteers and young people at their annual Amazing People Awards last month.

The event, which took place at The Solent Hotel and Spa, on November 9, recognised 16 people for inspirational achievements.

Categories were split in to schools, businesses, volunteers and young people, ensuring a wide range of different people received recognition.

Cath Longhurst, EBP South CEO said the event was positive and encouraging.

She said: "It has been heart-warming to hear some of the stories about how encounters with business have really inspired and motivated young people

"We hope to see even more businesses involved in the future."

With more than 150 people in attendance those enjoying the ceremony was enjoyed by other volunteers and sponsors who help young people between 14 and 16-years-old.

Winners' and nominees spoke with passion highlighting the prime reason they volunteer is to help the next generation achieve their full potential.

Business and educational winners included Portsmouth Water, BAE Systems Maritime Services, The Solent Hotel and Spa and The Cowplain School and The Polygon School. Kieran O'Toole, from Portsmouth College and Rock Clothing, won the Amazing Student (Entrepreneurial) accolade.

The event ties in with EBP celebrating their 20th year of inspiring young people.

RAISING MONEY FOR LOCAL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

A charity which runs a wild hospital held an event on November 29 to raise cash for its ongoing operations.

Hart Wildlife Rescue, based in Alton, lead a talk at Chawton Village Hall raising awareness of garden creatures.

The event which was split in to two talks educated people on the importance of preserving local wildlife.

Marina Christopher spoke on 'Wildlife Gardening' with the second presentation by Chris Matcham on 'Hedgehogs' which are in decline due to loss of habitat.

Further information on the work of the charity can be found at: www.hartwildlife.org.uk

TO SHARE...

This is about YOUR community, so if you have a story you would like to share with us, please send it in to: sam@thedirectorygroup.co.uk

We cannot guarantee all articles will be published. The closing date for the next edition is 12.12.17

YOUR LOCAL

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cms. Very good condition. For sale £45.00 **Tel. 02392 486657**

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MISC.



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- Hampshire Fire & Rescue 02380 644000
- Crimestoppers 0800 555111
- British Transport Police 0800 405040

GAS, ELECTRIC AND FLOODING

- National Gas Emergency Service 0800 111999
- Electricity Emergency 0800 404090
- Floodline 0845 9881188

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- Hampshire Dental Helpline 111
- NHS Blood & Transplant 0300 1232323

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- Chase Community Hospital 01420 488801
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- Domestic Violence Advice 24hour Free 0808 2000 247
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- RSPCA Cruelty Line 0300 1234999
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- Hampshire County Council 0300 555 1375
- Alton Town Council 01420 83986
- New Alresford Town Council 01962 732079

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