

Monthly Magpies



Historic Melody:

Did you know that historically, gifts were not given on Christmas day but on the twelfth day of Christmas? This day was traditionally called Epiphany and was celebrated 12 days after Christmas on January 6th. This was the day that the arrival of the three wise men was celebrated, and people gave gifts to remember the gifts they gave in the bible story. Many historians now think that the famous 12 days of Christmas song started out as a bit of a game, rather like the ones you might play on the playground today. The rules were simple. When it was your turn, you repeated all the previously sung lyrics, and added the next one. If you couldn't remember a verse, you owed your opponent a "forfeit," which was usually sweet or something similar. Perhaps we could update the lyrics with ideas of our own and play it with your family over Christmas. What would you change from the lyrics below?

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me
Twelve **drummers drumming**,
Eleven **pipers piping**,
Ten **lords a-leaping**,
Nine **ladies dancing**,
Eight **maids a-milking**,
Seven **swans a-swimming**,
Six **geese a-laying**,
Five **golden rings**,
Four **calling birds**,
Three **French hens**,
Two **turtle doves**,
And a **partridge in a pear tree!**



Composer Central:

This month, rather than celebrating one Christmas compose, we are celebrating all the music that makes this time of year so special. They might be festive carols, fun songs from the charts, or just songs to give you hope in the darkest part of the year. Pick a song that makes you feel good and draw a picture to represent the way it makes you feel. It could be a picture of a place, people or just a mood you feel as you listen. We are choosing Auld Lang Syne (which can be listened to here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acxnmaVTIZA>) This is a song that reminds us that just because we aren't with someone it doesn't mean we don't remember them fondly or happily. This Christmas holiday, you may not be able to see the people you love, but it doesn't mean that they aren't in your heart, and that is very special indeed.



Awesome Artist:

This month we are celebrating the incredible local artist, Jo Sharpe, who works from Studio 9 in Oaks Park. She runs art classes from the park and uses a range of materials to create colourful and textural still-life's, landscapes and coastal scenes in oils, acrylics and sometimes mixed media.



Marvellous Mental Health:

Well-being New Year Resolution. As 2020 comes to a close we can all take a look back on this strange year and think about all the ups and downs we have faced. As we move into 2021, it may be helpful for you to make a New Year's Resolution that will help your happiness and well-being. Maybe you will try to cut down on the amount of screen time you have on your tablet or console; perhaps you will pledge to get outside more and enjoy the fresh air; or why not try to include 10 minutes of yoga, meditation or simple quiet reflection time every day.

Remember, looking after your mind is just as important as taking care of your body.



Super Sportsperson:

Lucy Bronze. The England defender ended an incredibly successful year on a high by Winning the Best Women's Player at the 2020 FIFA awards. She is the first English player to win FIFA's top award. Lucy's win was well deserved after winning the league title, cup and Champions League with French club Lyon, before moving to Manchester City and winning the FA Cup. An incredible year, for a truly incredible player.

[Best Fifa Football Awards 2020: England's Lucy Bronze wins top prize - BBC Sport](#)

[Lucy Bronze wins The Best FIFA Women's Player award for 2020! 🏆 - YouTube](#)