



# The Green Scene

Issue 20

The newsletter of the Seacroft Green Residents Association

Winter 2012

## Marvellous Mistletoe

Mistletoe is probably the most mysterious of the plants we use to decorate our homes at Christmas, with a folklore dating back into prehistory.

Mistletoe is a parasite plant which relies on the host tree for its water and minerals. This parasitic habit, as well as its unusual form, may account for mistletoe's place in mythology as the 'plant that lives in the sky and never touches the ground'. The Druids linked mistletoe to new life and fertility - hence our tradition of 'kissing under the mistletoe'!

Mistletoe is an evergreen with unusual winter ripening berries. Pliny the Elder (23-79AD) reported that the Druids grew mistletoe on their sacred oaks and its winter greenery was seen as particularly special.

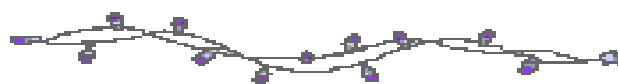
Some of the world's mistletoes grow on just a few host species. It needs hosts to be in an open situation so won't grow well in deep woods or forests.

It grows typically in hedgerows, open parkland, gardens, churchyards and orchards. However, here in the UK it appears to have an unusual geographic distribution with a strong bias to Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Gwent and Somerset. In these counties it is often plentiful in all suitable habitats, to the extent that it can become a pest!

*continued on page 2.*

## SEACROFT CHRISTMAS JUBILEE GALA

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2012  
3.00pm. - 6.00pm.



Twinkling lights and stilt walking elves will be there to guide you round the activity trail on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2012 when Seacroft Christmas Jubilee Gala takes place.

From 3.00pm until 6.00pm there will be family activities and lots of seasonal fun centred round St James Church, Seacroft Village Hall, The Cricketer's Arms, Seacroft Methodist Chapel and King George's Garden.

The fun starts at 3.00pm at the Christmas tree on the village green (weather permitting) followed by a short parade to St James Church and then following the opening by Major Stan Hardy, the Deputy Lieutenant for West Yorkshire, there will be Christmas Carols with local school choirs and later, a music extravaganza, hosted by East Leeds Music Centre.

The five venues will host lots of free family activities along with community stalls, offering Christmas ideas and gifts for everyone with Christmas cooking workshops hosted by ShelfLife and Leeds Markets.

The Dog's Trust will be providing free dog micro-chipping and there will be a prize for the best dressed Christmas pooch.

Low cost refreshments will be available as well as free mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine.

Complete the activity trail and enter your programme into a prize draw for the chance to win a fabulous prize!

**For more information contact:**

**Jo on 0751 300 1502 or email: [jo@ls14trust.org.uk](mailto:jo@ls14trust.org.uk)**

*Look out for your flyer - coming through your door very soon!*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Marvellous Mistletoe: Seacroft Christmas Jubilee Gala:
- 2 Mistletoe continued: Free Christmas Toy Distribution:
- 3 Christmas Services: What is Community First?
- 4 Committee: Leeds City Credit Union:
- 5 Christmas Quiz: Seacroft Book Club: Competition:
- 6 Grandparents' Association: Little Angels: Tyrannosaur: Christmas Quiz answers:

*continued from page 1.*

This distribution pattern is probably natural and due to mistletoe's climatic preferences and not as is often assumed, the reduction in the many apple orchards in other parts of Britain.

However, evidence of a wider distribution change is beginning to emerge and recent studies have found that mistletoe in Britain is spreading and computer modelling predicts an eastward shift. The reason could be partly climatic but another possible cause is bird populations. Only a few birds feed on the sticky white berries but they are crucial to the plants survival and spread.

In Britain the mistle thrush was the main consumer (*hence the name*). It swallows the berries whole and excretes seeds that are part digested but these may never hit a branch! However, European blackcaps are more efficient, squeezing seeds out of the berries and wiping them onto tree branches. Britain's overwintering blackcap population has increased to may thousands in the past 20 years and their efficiency may be why the plant is spreading.

### **Growing your own.**

Mistletoe flowers in February and March. Small green flowers are borne on separate male and female plants and are pollinated by insects early in the year. This is also when the seeds, one in each berry, become ripe - a full 12 months *after* pollination.

If you want to grow your own on a suitable tree in the garden, early spring is the best time to sow. Berries from Christmas plants can be used, if stored in cold and light conditions, but fresh berries are better.

Choose a young outer branch of a suitable host tree. Squeeze a seed from the berry and press it onto the branch; on the side or underside is best as seedlings need light and can dehydrate.

Stick four or five seeds to each of several branches to maximise your success and your chance of getting both male and female plants as neither males, or isolated female plants produce berries. Germination is fairly rapid but you will see no change for about 18 months.

If all goes well a shoot will appear and you should see a slight swelling and the first leaf growth the following year. But you do need patience as it will be at least four years before your plant produces berries!

Mistletoe really is the ultimate in winter plants, to be admired indoors and out - and not just at Christmas.

*Summarised from an article in RHS magazine The Garden.*



**Parish of Seacroft**

## **Free Christmas Toy Distribution**

### ***Who is the distribution for?***

The distribution is for families in need at Christmas. This may include:

- Being on benefit or a low wage
- Single parent/carer families
- A family who just need help because they have been through a difficult time recently

### ***Referral details:***

Priority will be given to referrals from services that work closely with families - for example:

- Support workers
- Housing officers
- GPs
- Church leaders
- Other professionals who work with families

Self-referrals, with evidence, may be accepted.

We are particularly keen to reach those families who fall outside all the usual support networks. Do you know of such a family?

Each family will receive one large and one smaller toy per child at NO cost. However, there are also a number of toys available at a very small cost.

### ***Appointments can be made to collect toys from:***

St. Richard's Church Crypt, on Ramshead Hill, LS14  
by contacting either:

**Martine Hinchliffe on 0113 265 4236**  
**or Revd. Heather Jamieson on 0113 273 2527**

### ***December 2012 collection dates and times are:***

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> from 11.30am to 1.00pm
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am to 12.00 noon
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm to 3.00pm and 6.00pm to 7.00pm
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am to 1.00pm
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 11.00am to 1.00pm
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 11.30am to 1.00pm
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 10.00am to 12.00noon
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am to 12.00noon



**You are warmly invited to our  
Christmas Services at  
St. James Church, Seacroft Green**



**Christingle**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm.**

A lovely children's service remembering Jesus, light of the world at which we will be taking a collection for the **Children's Society**.



**Community Carol Service**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm.**

A traditional carol service for all the community.

**Family Nativity Service**

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm.**

Especially for the children - bring them along to dress up and we'll tell the Christmas story together.



**Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30pm.**

Candlelit Carols and Communion - everyone welcome.

**For more information you can contact:**

**Reverend Fiona Harrison-Smith**

**Tel: 0113 2733 555**

**or email [fiona@seacroftparish.org.uk](mailto:fiona@seacroftparish.org.uk)**

**or go to - [www.seacroftparish.org.uk](http://www.seacroftparish.org.uk)**

**What is Community First?**

**Community First** is a £30m government funded small grants programme, established in some of the most 'deprived' areas of the country.

The Killingbeck and Seacroft ward has been allocated £101.730 over four years. The Community First panel wants to encourage more local groups to apply for funding to deliver projects within the community.

The allocations for Killingbeck and Seacroft are:

- Year 1. 2011/12 = £17,294 (*all now allocated*)
- Year 2. 2012/13 = £25.433
- Year 3. 2013/14 = £25.433
- Year 4. 2014/15 = £33.570

Applications can be made for amounts between £250 and £2,500. However, all schemes must have at least 50% match-funding of the total costs and this must be from a non-government source. For example, you cannot match the grant funding with another grant from Leeds City Council or East North East Homes Leeds.

Match-funding must be from a private source such as your own fundraising, some other non-government grants programme or volunteer time. Currently, any application submitted needs to fit in with at least one of the following priorities. However, some of these may change later next year.

- Improving the environment.
- Reducing crime and increasing community confidence.
- Reducing levels of worklessness and \*NEETs.
- Improving physical and emotional wellbeing.
- 2012/13 priority - delivery of community events or activities linked to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and/or Olympic Games.

*\*NEET (not in education, employment or training)*

**The following grants were approved by the panel for the year 2011/12**

South Seacroft Friends and Neighbours - £2,500  
North Seacroft Good Neighbours - £561  
Seacroft Village Hall Management Committee - £2,500  
Leeds Tigers - £2,500  
Seacroft Parish Children/Young People's Programme - £2,500  
Seacroft Green Residents Association - £300  
Seacroft Gala Committee - £1,675  
East Leeds Youth Theatre - £2,500  
LS14 Trust - £2,450  
**Grand total allocated was £17,486.00**

**For more information contact Joanne Buck at [Joanne.Buck@enehl.org.uk](mailto:Joanne.Buck@enehl.org.uk)**



## SEACROFT GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Who's who on the committee?

Lily Woods	<b>Chair</b>	26 The Green
Ann Little	<b>Vice Chair</b>	4 Church Approach
Rita Berry	<b>Treasurer</b>	51 The Green
Diane Marsden	<b>Secretary</b>	49 The Green
Christine Bandawe		St. James Church
Roger Berry		51 The Green
Janet Cordwell		1053 York Road
Mick Firth		5 Courtney's
Tim Jones		44 The Green
Keith Nichols	Mayfield Farm	69 The Green
Thelma Sierwald		28 The Green
John Wheatley		34 Hansby Place

If you wish to contact the committee you can either  
phone the Chair on: **07951785845**  
or alternatively contact the secretary  
by email at [marsden858@btinternet.com](mailto:marsden858@btinternet.com)

You can find out more about us at  
[www.seacroftgreen.org.uk](http://www.seacroftgreen.org.uk)

### Farewell:

It is with an element of sadness that we bid a fond farewell to our good friend and committee member, Shirley Crosby. Shirley, an original founder member of the residents association, has been with us for a full five years and has helped to represent the residents of Redmire Court throughout her time on the committee.

Shirley has moved to 'pastures new' but we don't think she will be retiring from 'being involved' any time soon!

We wish Shirley all our very best and hope she's now well settled in Settle!

### Road issue:

For your information, representatives of the residents association are keeping a close 'watching brief' on the deteriorating condition of the road which runs in front of 24 to 28 The Green and the Cricketer's Arms.

A meeting was recently held with the road contractor and the site manager for The Grange development, along with a representative from Leeds City Council Highways department to ascertain liability and/or responsibility for the eventual repair of the road.

We will continue to liaise with all parties concerned and keep residents informed of the outcome.

## Leeds City Credit Union Putting people before profit

*The financial climate is really tough at the moment; money is scarce for many of us and with Christmas coming up this only adds to the pressure. However, don't be driven to using 'doorstep lenders' or loan sharks to get you through. **There is another way!***

**Leeds City Credit Union** is a financial cooperative set up to give members access to affordable loans at a fair rate of interest and competitive savings plans.

**Leeds City Credit Union** is a 'mutual', meaning we are owned by our members for the benefit of our members alone. We are also a community-focussed organisation with over 25,000 members and are one of the largest credit unions in the UK.

### Personal loans:

We offer three types of loan, all at a very fair rate of interest, offering a real alternative to credit cards, banks and doorstep lenders.

### The options are:

- Handilans up to £750
- Personal loans up to £15,000
- Secured loans

*We would let you know which loan is the most suitable for you when we assess your application.*

### Why get a loan from LCCU?

- 1) Interest is calculated on a daily basis. This means that as your loan balance decreases, the interest it attracts will decrease too! Therefore, the faster you repay your loan, the cheaper it will be.
- 2) There are no early redemption penalties. So if you decide to pay back your loan early, you will only pay the outstanding balance of the loan. The interest that you would have paid over the remainder of the full loan will not be applied.

### Bill paying/budget account:

We can help you manage your money, to ensure you have enough to pay your everyday bills. If you receive benefits then the bill paying account will help you to budget before the changes to benefits come into force.

### Rent direct account:

This account helps you manage your money by allowing you to pay rent directly to your landlord.

**For more information and/or an application form, contact the head office on 0113 242 3343. Or you can go to [www.leedscitycreditunion.co.uk](http://www.leedscitycreditunion.co.uk)**

# Christmas Quiz



Here's a simple 20 question quiz for you to do over the Christmas break. It's easy enough for all the family. Maybe it's something you could do after lunch on Christmas Day? You know, just before everyone falls asleep in front of the TV!

1. Who sang about 'mistletoe and wine'?
2. Who 'looked out' on the Feast of Stephen?
3. Who introduced the Christmas tree to England?
4. Father Christmas was first dressed in red and white to promote which American product?
5. What did the shepherds watch, while seated on the ground?
6. What did 'my true love bring to me' on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas?
7. What is a manger?
8. Who had a Christmas hit with 'Thank God it's Christmas'?
9. Who had a 'very shiny' nose?
10. Who is 'simply having a wonderful Christmas time'?
11. Which saint is Santa Clause named after?
12. Which country donates the annual Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square?
13. What did the three kings come bearing?
14. Who wrote the story 'The Snowman'?
15. When Santa got stuck up the chimney, what else was in his sack other than presents?
16. What once stood in Royal David's City?
17. Which type of pine tree is traditionally used at Christmas?
18. What kind of transport is it 'fun to ride in'?
19. Who was the first singer of 'White Christmas'?
20. What are the names of all Santa's 9 reindeers?

See how well you did. Answers on page 6.

## Seacroft Book Club

*Do you enjoy a good read?*

*Do you read on average, one a book a month?*

*Do you fancy meeting with others, on a monthly basis, to discuss the previous month's book?*



***Then why not give our new book club a try?***

Come along and join us and get a book on loan to read over Christmas and the New Year.

**Date:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**Time:** 7.30pm.

**Venue:** The Barn, Mayfield Farm, 69 The Green

***Plus tasty mince pies and light refreshments!***

***For more information contact:***

***Anna on 0785 5322 565***

## **Best decorated Christmas window COMPETITION**

Do you live in the area around the village green and any of the venues to be used for the Christmas Jubilee Gala?

Do you want to win a £25 Christmas gift token?

Do you want to enter our best decorated Christmas window competition?

Then all you have to do is to complete the entry form enclosed with this newsletter and get it back to our secretary by the closing date of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

Then you need to decorate a prominent window, with the lights and decorations of your choice, ready for judging which will take place, as part of the Christmas Jubilee Gala on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Judging will be by an independently invited guest and the winner will be notified on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

## The Grandparents' Association

registered charity: 1105977

*working for children since 1987*

### Our mission:

Our mission is to improve the lives of children by working with and for all grandparents especially those who:

- Have lost or are losing contact with their grandchildren because of divorce, separation or other family problems.
- Are caring for their grandchildren on a full time basis.
- Have childcare responsibilities for their grandchildren.
- Are interested in the education and welfare of their grandchildren.

The Grandparents' Association recognises the changes in modern family life and the difficulties experienced by some.

### Membership is open to:

- All grandparents.
- Any individual or organisation who support our aims.
- Other voluntary organisations.

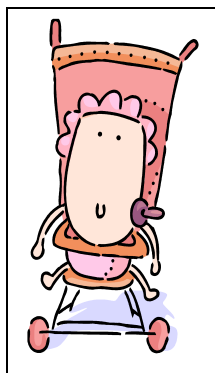
For more information contact 0845 434 9585 or go to: [info@grandparents-association.org.uk](mailto:info@grandparents-association.org.uk)

### Christmas quiz answers:

1. Cliff Richard.
2. Good King Wenceslas
3. Queen Victoria's husband – Prince Albert.
4. Coca-Cola.
5. Their flocks.
6. Five Gold Rings.
7. Container for hay or animal feed.
8. Queen.
9. Rudolf.
10. Pail Mc Cartney.
11. Saint Nicholas.
12. Norway.
13. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.
14. Raymond Briggs.
15. Soot.
16. A lowly cattle shed.
17. Spruce.
18. A one-horse open sleigh.
19. Bing Crosby.
20. Cupid, Comet, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer, Donder, Dasher, Blitzen with Rudolf in the lead!

*The residents association would like to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year. See you again in 2013!*

*Editor.*



## Little Angels

Wednesdays @ 1.00pm.  
St. James, Seacroft Green

Singing and music;  
Bible stories and songs;  
toys, drinks and chat.

***A friendly welcoming  
group for parents with their  
babies and toddlers.***

*(The last group before Christmas will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012. We will re-start on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013.)*

For more information, contact:

Revd. Fiona Harrison-Smith on 0113 273 3555  
or go to [www.seacroftparish.org.uk](http://www.seacroftparish.org.uk)

## Tyrannosaur

***LS14 Trust presents the Seacroft premiere of  
Tyrannosaur the 2011 BAFTA winning British  
drama film written and directed by  
Paddy Considine.***

To be screened 6.00pm. on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at the Moyes Centre, Bishops Way, LS14 6NU (next to David Young Community Academy) as part of the national event '16 days of Action' to raise awareness of domestic violence.

This **FREE** event is strictly for over 18s and will feature a question and answer session with the film's producer, Diarmid Scrimshaw, who said: "Shooting Tyrannosaur in Seacroft was a great experience. People were welcoming, supportive and very good humoured as our film unit descended into their lives. Local people were extras for us, let us into their homes to shoot scenes and generally couldn't have been more helpful. St. Vincent's Community Shop was particularly amazing. It's a very special thing they do there and they were great with us. We have fond memories of our times in Seacroft"

Nicola Greenan for the LS14 Trust said "We are delighted to be screening the film here in Seacroft where the film was made as many residents did not get the chance to see it on the big screen. We are very grateful to the Moyes Centre for supporting this screening for us".

***Tickets available online from Eventbrite at  
[www.eventbrite.com/event/4679278849](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4679278849)***