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Santa Jolly holding Wollaton Hall Deer cards by Marysia Zipser. She is a linocut artist of Wollaton Hall, White Hare, Thisbe and Pre-Raphaelite Lady.

Marysia likes to reference Nottinghamshire's historic sites, nature and wildlife. Stockists: Beeston Canalside Heritage Centre, Wollaton Hall Shop, Nottingham Tourist Information Centre and Locally Made. **To purchase directly please email marysia@artculturetourism.co.uk or via social media @artculturetourism.**



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Janet Shipton (Barnes)

Is an artist living, and working in her studio by Beeston Lock, where she also exhibit and sells her work.

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Oksana is a textile designer who produces upcycled traditional hooked rugs with a contemporary theme. She uses recycled and scrap fabric and each design is completely unique.

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Pam Miller, international fine artist, creates artwork, small to large - oil/acrylic/mixed media on canvas and panel; works on paper and card (mono prints, paintings, drawings, watercolours). Sources of inspiration: worldwide travel, resulting in representational and abstract landscapes of her memories. More recently, flower/still life/portrait drawings and paintings.

Please see www.pammiller.co.uk for more information and or call Pam on 0775 4422 405. For Pam's current solo exhibition at Cath Ray Gallery and Studios, please contact Cath on 07803 204424

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Local artist Julie A Turner creates detailed ink drawings and vibrant watercolour washes. She is passionate about nature and wildlife and donates a percentage of her sales to wildlife charities. Julie's paintings are currently part of The Winter Collection, a group exhibition at Attenborough Nature Reserve, throughout December. Her paintings are also available as prints and cards from her website www.artbyjulieaturner.com



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Happy Holidays from Beeston Film Festival! by Sam Kurd



It's December, and to many of us that means Christmas, Hanukkah or Yule, a time of celebration and joy.

We need joy right now. Times are tough, and with the cold winter now here it can be easy to feel the gloom pressing in. But let's not forget that we have each other, that we can support and uplift the people around us in a hundred little ways every day. It's a sense of community that gets people through hard times, and we at the Beeston Film Festival are proud to be part of Beeston's community.

We're nearly closed for submissions now, having had nearly 700 entries at the time of writing. There are all sorts of films to sort through, many of which are full of conflict and drama that reflect the troubled state of the world. But my favourites are often the ones that put a smile on your face and remind you that there is good and beauty in the world after all.

Here are just a few of the uplifting and inspiring submissions we've had:

Between Wings and Swings is about a little girl who must learn to let go of things she loves when her friend moves away. It's sweetly charming, 3D animated in a way that suggests the characters are hand-felted dolls.

In **Free**, a young refugee in Sicily is caught trying to steal fish from a local market, and a kind stranger comes to her aid. It's a story of compassion, childhood innocence and the importance of helping others.

There's plenty of superheroes in Hollywood films flying around thwarting villains and protecting justice – but who's there to help with kids' problems like lost footballs and family strife? Enter **SuperHero** with a positive message and a surprise twist!

Dateleap tackles love in the digital age – a couple trying out a revolutionary virtual reality dating app dance all night in a simulation of the 1930s, but when technological mishaps lead to a misunderstanding, can love prevail?

And finally there's **Empress ClawScream**, a geeky 90s nostalgia-fest in which a young woman must find the strength to stand up to a nerdy bully and declare her love for her best friend, thanks to some mystical help from a flamboyant cartoon villainess she wished into existence. It's as moving as it is silly, and it's very silly!

Happy holidays, everyone!

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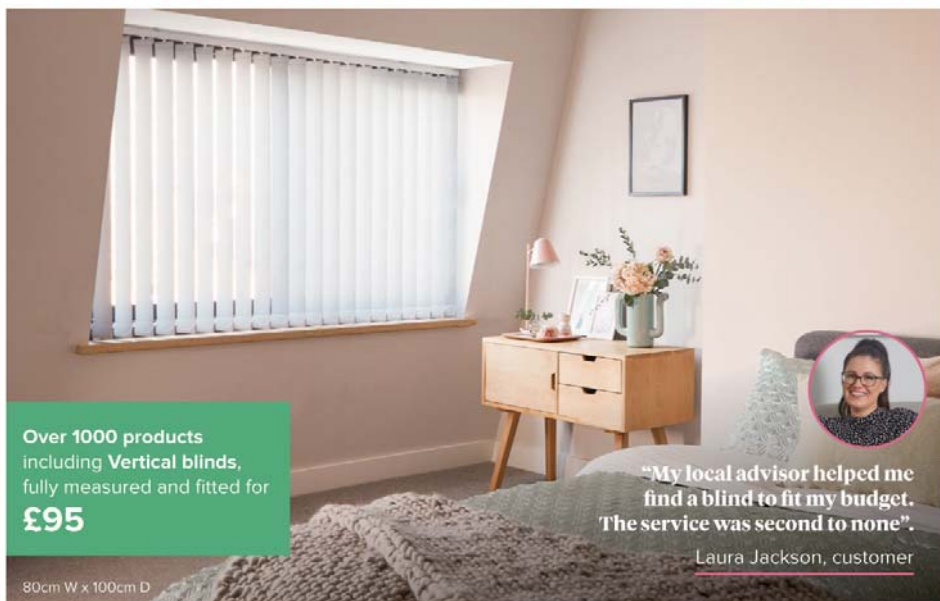
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The Plane Tree on Beeston's High Road has recently arrived in the centre of the community. The perfect place to buy local art and handmade gifts or join an art workshop. However, The Plane Tree loves browsers as well as buyers as the main purpose of the shop is positive social engagement.

The shop has been started by the supported internship team at Nethergate Academy in Nottingham. Having spent twelve years as head of Upper School, Shelly Wood and the team have been driving to create better life chances for young people with additional needs.

"The number of adults with a learning disability who are in employment is below 5% locally," Shelly explained. "Community engagement and being able to contribute positively to society is so important. Without this people are prone to mental health problems and all kinds of social disadvantage."

The Plane Tree is a not for profit, community interest company. It aims to improve this situation through a multi-strand approach.

"Firstly, we offer bespoke training for young adults with special educational needs. The training is linked to their needs and may include developing social skills, community experience, systematic work training, whatever that person needs to move forward towards employability. Beyond this we also have to engage local employers and support them in understanding how a young person with an additional need, might benefit their business. We will work in partnership with any potential employer and offer them free training and support them in taking on an apprentice or part time worker. The aim is that both parties benefit and succeed."

The final strand in improving the life chances of people with additional needs is down to us, the public. The Plane Tree asks that we engage with this community more. That's why they are happy whether you're a buyer or not. There is much misunderstanding about those who are different and a certain unhelpful stigma. Shelly sees The Plane Tree as a way of addressing this "It's important to that those with learning difficulties are seen and recognised as the valuable members of society that they are. The shop will, I hope, do just that"

That intent also answers the question on the origin of the name. Shelly explains "I chose the name as 'The Plane Tree' is a very fitting Aesop's fable: 'The travellers sought shade on a hot day under a plane tree. Lying there they considered the tree. 'What use is the plane tree? It has no fruit, no flowers and its leaves just litter the ground' The moral being 'Our greatest assets are easily overlooked'."

To visit The Plane Tree you will find the shop at 76 High Road Beeston, opposite Santander and, by wonderful coincidence, two very tall plane trees! Find out more at www.planetreenotts.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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The Spotted Dog Art Group (SDAG) is run by volunteers. Centred in Beeston, Nottinghamshire the group draws members from surrounding areas.

The group was formed in 1995 by a small group of artists, enthusiastic about their art and wanting to learn more. The group has grown organically over the years. We are a friendly, supportive Group with members from all walks of life. We welcome those who are beginners and hobbyists alike. Some members are professionals with formal training. Whatever an individual's experience of art is, they are welcome!

WORKSHOPS

We meet monthly on a Saturday usually at a local Beeston venue where we hold Professional Tutored Art Workshops (from September to June). Art Tutors include: Stephen Ashurst, Doreen Hunt, Rachel Grigor, Mark Beavan, Claire Botterill, Gwen Scott, Tas Severis and many, many more have shared their artistic knowledge and skills with us enabling us to create our own artwork as we explore different media, techniques and subject matter.

We foster an open mind and experimental attitude to drawing, painting, design and the use of colour. Workshops are always fun and enjoyable! A willingness to have a go is all that is needed!

During July and August, we arrange open-air painting sessions to (usually local) places of interest, like Beeston Marina where there is a lot of interesting things to paint by the Canal. This can be more enjoyable when the weather co-operates of course!



MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the group is only £15 per year. For further information contact: Gwynneth Johnson (Membership Secretary) Email: gwynneth2011@hotmail.co.uk.

EXHIBITIONS

We have exhibitions every year where members' work can be offered for sale. This December (and continuing until January 3rd), we have an exhibition at the CANALSIDE HERITAGE CENTRE in Beeston from SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER to TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY. Open daily from 9.30am - 4.00pm (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day)

For more information and galleries check out our Website: www.spotteddogart.org.uk

SPOTTED DOG ART GROUP EXHIBITION



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TO TUESDAY 3rd JANUARY**

(except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day)

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salvation army band

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A musical treat awaits the audience on Wednesday, December 21st when a famous Salvation Army band presents a Christmas carol concert at Beeston Methodist Church.

The William Booth Memorial Halls Band will bring its big sound to the landmark building and give people an opportunity to hear their favourite carols played during the 75-minute performance.

Bandmaster Richard Ellis said: "We are really looking forward to the concert. During the evening, as part of the programme, we will invite members of the audience to say why a certain carol is their favourite and then we will play it."

The band has a long and distinguished history and is renowned far and wide for its musicianship and Gospel message. It's the fourth oldest Salvation Army Band in the country, having been founded in 1860 when it was known as the Nottingham 1 band.

Under the leadership of bandmaster Ralph Bristow from 1951 to 1986, the band played before the Princess Royal at London's Albert Hall, took part in BBC Radio's Sunday Half Hour programme, appeared on Songs of Praise and toured Switzerland and Norway.

The band celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2005. This is their third appearance in Beeston in modern times, having twice played at Wollaton Road Methodist Church in 2006 and 2012.

Entry to the concert, which starts at 7.30pm, is by donation. Proceeds from the evening will be shared between the band and the Mission Possible Project - a £1.6m redevelopment planned at Beeston Methodist Church in Chilwell Road to enable it to respond better to community needs in the 21st century.

As well as undertaking major improvement



work, the impressive pipe organ, presented to the church when it was built in 1902, will undergo a complete overhaul.

The concert is the latest in a rolling programme of fundraising events and the church is now three quarters of the way towards its £200,000 self-funding target.



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10 essential gardening jobs for December

Green fingered Brits are being offered top tips on the gardening jobs they should be doing ahead of Christmas.

The experts at GardeningExpress.co.uk have put together their list of ten gardening tasks to do this December.

While December may be a quieter month for gardeners, there are still plenty of jobs to be getting on with and preparations ahead of 2023.

Among the tasks are putting food out for the birds, protecting pots and plants and looking after the lawn.

Chris Bonnett from GardeningExpress.co.uk said: "December may be a month to kick back and enjoy the festive celebrations but there's still work to be done in the garden."

"It's a good time to get on top of all those jobs you've been putting off like cleaning garden tools and storing away items like hoses and sprinklers."

"Other important jobs include protecting pots and tender plants ahead of cold weather and feeding the birds and other wildlife coming into the garden."

Image credit: Clever Visuals



GardeningExpress.co.uk's December gardening jobs:

Feeding the birds

Stock up on bird seed, hang up your bird feeders and make sure there's plenty of fresh water for any birds visiting your garden over the colder months.

Protecting pots

If you have terracotta pots in the garden that could crack in freezing weather, wrap them in bubble wrap or put them somewhere warmer. If you have pots dotted around the garden, group them together on a sheltered spot.

Protect tender plants

Protect any tender or young plants in the garden. You can surround them with straw to provide a wintery blanket or wrap them in protective fleece. Alternatively, bring the inside away from the harsh weather.

Storing garden equipment

Store away your hose to stop it freezing and splitting in the cold weather and give your garden tools a good clean down so they're ready to use in the Spring. If you still have garden furniture out, it's worth storing this away or covering up.

Pruning

December's a good time to start pruning fruit trees, although avoid touching stone fruits. These are better pruned in the warmer months. Wisteria and Japanese Maples are also worth pruning now.

Harvest winter veg

Harvest any remaining winter veg and store somewhere cool and away from damp to enjoy during the winter.

Prepare the soil

Dig over the bare soil if you get a chance and clear away any weeds or debris. This important prep will mean your soil's in the best possible condition when the weather warms up.

Take cuttings

Hardwood cuttings are best taken now during the dormant season. Ideal if you want to take cuttings from fruit trees, climbers and shrubs.

Look after your lawn

If it's snowy or frosty, avoid walking on your lawn - this can damage the grass. Try and keep it clear of leaves and spike with a fork to improve drainage.

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(Photo by Nick Sanderson)

Beeston Wildlife Group

We are a group of enthusiasts affiliated to Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust who aim to engage others in the whole wildlife experience by providing access to a range of walks and talks.

Upcoming talk:

The Outer Hebrides with Nigel Slater.

Monday 19th December 2022 at 7.30pm.

This is wildlife on the edge of Britain. Nigel shows us ten islands packed with history, culture, mountains, beaches and weather! Discover more about this haven for eagles, corncrakes, otters and wild flowers.

£3 Adults. Children free. Trent Vale Infant School, Trent Road, Beeston Rylands, NG9 1LP.

If you would like to find out more information or speak to someone about the group please contact Nigel Slater on 0115 916 6518 or visit www.beestonwildlifegroup.org

Beeston Civic Society Winter Talk, 14th December 2022

at Royal British Legion (RBL), Beeston 7pm doors / 7:15pm spotlight / 7:30pm talk. Refreshments available.

All welcome! FREE (members and their guest)
Donation gratefully received (non-members)

Biodiversity Net Gain: What Is It?
by Nick Sanderson / Margaret Crittenden SPOTLIGHT: Incredible Edible Beeston

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) has rapidly become part of everyday planning vernacular. Our Speakers for this talk hope to provide a baseline understanding of what this really means in practice and what we can look for in the future.

About the Speaker

Director of RammSanderson Ecology Ltd, Nick was born in Attenborough and currently lives in Toton.

"Watching Attenborough Nature Reserve burgeon to its international acclaim is where my interests [in Ecology] were sparked."

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Ducks are swimming in 2023...

Age UK Derby & Derbyshire couldn't be happier to announce that after a two year break, due to Covid, our much-loved Duck Race will be back on 1st January.

All our ducks have been keeping fit and are rearing to go!

What a better way to meet family and friends over the festive season than at the Annual Duck Race.

Enjoy a warming cup of mulled wine with a mince pie, tea or coffee or a delicious hot donut. Have a go on our tombola with some lovely prizes to be won, for the little ones we have a Cuddly toy tombola with a prize every time. Some new stalls for 2023, including a face painter for the little ones...definitely worth a look!

What a fantastic start to the new year, socialising and supporting a local charity. This popular event is now in its 32nd year and is always a great fun day.

It takes place at Manor Park Toton. "We will shortly be contacting all local businesses and requesting that they participate in our 'Corporate' race – for just £25 they can sponsor a duck or 2 for the bargain price of £40. They will have a chance to win a prize to share around their employees. This race which takes place immediately before the main race has become a popular and integral part of the day!

We usually gather around 1pm and we aim to launch the ducks by 2pm. There is lots to keep everyone busy during the lead up to the race and we try to make sure that everyone who wants to purchase a ticket at just £1.50 can do so".

Tickets for the race are on sale now. So reserve yours to avoid disappointment. They can also be purchased on line. Visit : www.ageuk.org.uk/derbyandderbyshire

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GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

Written by Anna Wheatley
Music Composed by Jack Quarton
Directed by Hannah Stone

A SPECIAL TREAT FOR YOUNGER AUDIENCES THIS CHRISTMAS
Thursday 8th - Saturday 31st December 2022

"Somebody's been sleeping in my bed" Nottingham Playhouse announces the casting for its brand new adaptation of the classic children's story Goldilocks And The Three Bears.

Packed with original songs and larger than life characters, this specially created show for children ages 3 – 8 is the latest in a long line of Nottingham Playhouse Christmas productions for younger audiences.

The two-hander, written and composed by local artists, Anna Wheatley and Jack Quarton, and directed by Playhouse Associate Artist, Hannah Stone will feature Nottingham actor Julia Bird (The King and I – Nottingham Theatre Royal, Mountain Language – Royal Court Theatre) as Goldilocks and Reece Carter (The Girl of Ink and Stars - The Spark Arts, Terrible Tales of Horrible Horror - Arm and a Leg) as Big, Medium and Small bear and other parts

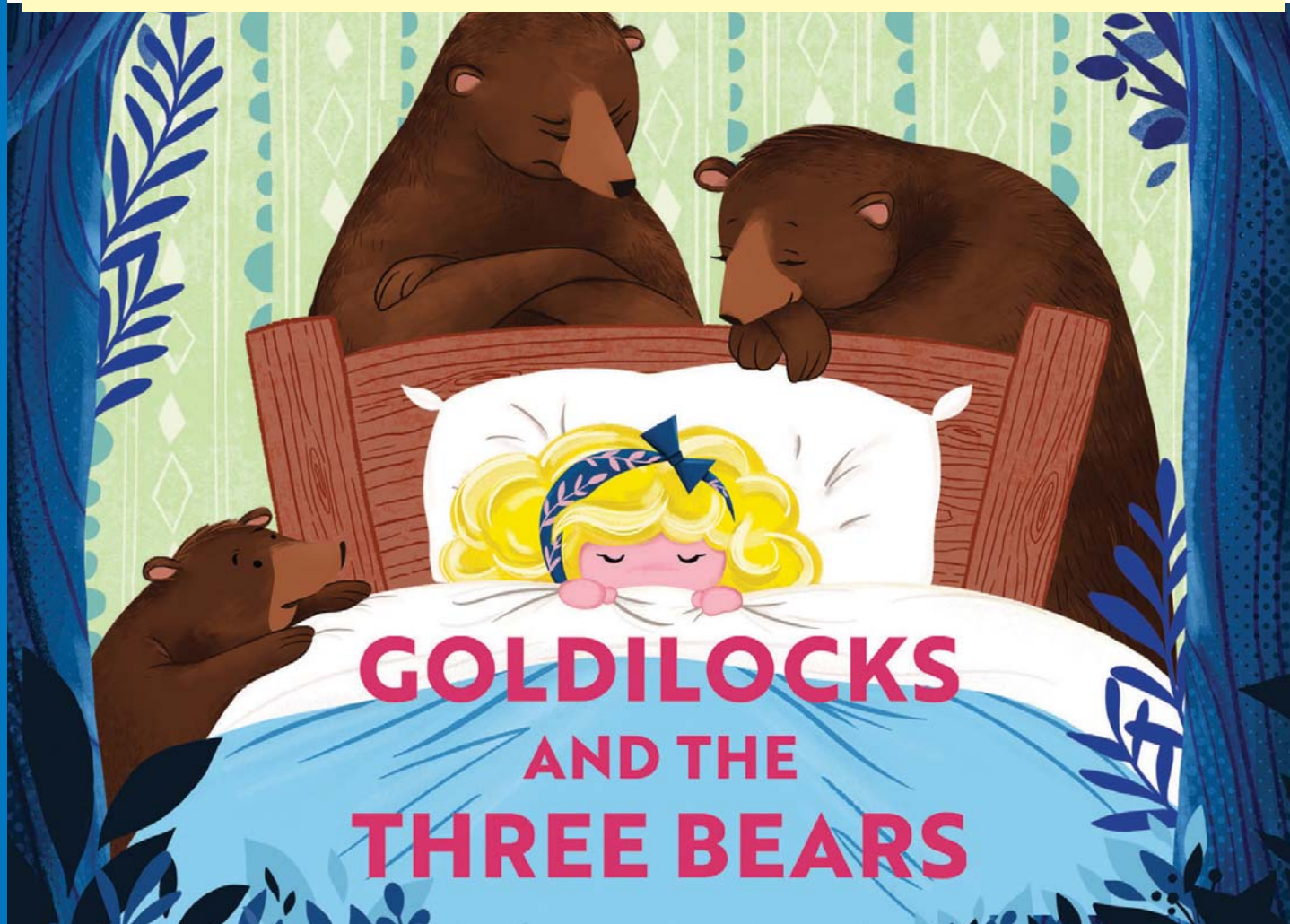
No matter how hard she tries, Goldilocks can't sit still. She just wants to dance but where she's from, it's forbidden. Unable to keep her toes from tap tap tapping, she has no option but to make her great escape.

She runs through busy cityscapes and frosty beaches until she reaches a magical forest and a home like none she's ever known. But what happens when a family of bears return to find that someone has made a right old mess of their lair?

Goldilocks and the Three Bears is a pop-tastic dance-party of an adventure exploring friendship, home and daring to share. With music, magic and plenty of opportunities to join in along the way, this show is 'just right' for little humans and their grown ups.

Goldilocks and The Three Bears sits alongside the theatre's famous panto, which this year is an all-singing, all-dancing version of Dick Whittington. Teddys get in free but real life bears are strictly prohibited!

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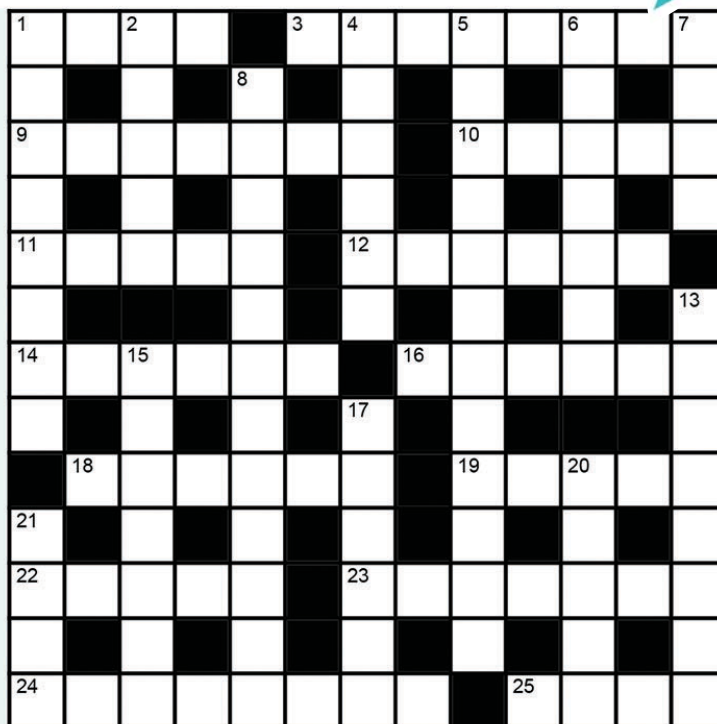
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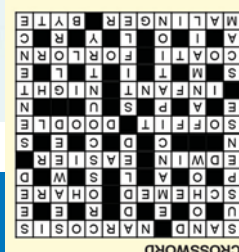
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Across

- 1 Fine grit (4)
- 3 Unconsciousness induced by drugs (8)
- 9 Connived (7)
- 10 Airport in Chicago (5)
- 11 King of Northumbria and Christian saint (5)
- 12 Less difficult (6)
- 14 Underside of a beam or arch (6)
- 16 Draw aimlessly (6)
- 18 Baby (6)
- 19 Time after sunset (5)
- 22 American raccoon (5)
- 23 Desolate (7)
- 24 Feign sickness in order to avoid duty or work (8)
- 25 Computer memory unit (4)

Down

- 1 Excited anticipation of an approaching climax (8)
- 2 Not in any way (5)
- 4 Woolly-headed (6)
- 5 Long race run over open terrain (5-7)
- 6 Marine plant (7)
- 7 Small hard fruit (4)
- 8 Liberation, especially from social or political restrictions (12)
- 13 Judicial punishment (8)
- 15 Letters from devotees to a celebrity (3,4)
- 17 Muffle, suppress (6)
- 20 State of high honour (5)
- 21 Confidence trick (4)



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