

Assuming you've received this in time, the Village Hall is the place to be on Saturday 1st December for the lighting of the village Christmas Tree. Organised by Dickens Heath Church, the event starts in the hall at 17:00, where the School Choir will perform, "Solihull Pop Chorus" will lead the singing, and Dickens Heath Scouts will present the decorations they have made for the tree. Then it's outside [*so dress up warm – Ed.*] to count down the switching on of the tree lights and perhaps some carol-singing. Afterwards, back inside to enjoy warm refreshments. A great way to start the Christmas season and meet up with friends.

If you're interested in tracing your ancestry back to the time of Henry VIIIth, or intrigued by your uncanny resemblance to Ross from "Friends", you might be interested in joining the Dickens Heath Family History group, which meets in the Library at 15:00 on the first Monday in every month.

For those in retirement with time to spare, the "Tuesday Club" Coffee Mornings are held between 10:00 and 11:30 every week at the Parish Council Rooms, Waterside. Just turn up for a chat and a drink.

The now traditional Christmas Carol singing will take place outside Tesco on Thursday 13th December, starting at 18:30. Church leaders Reverend Theresa Jones and Andrew Simpkins will lead the singing, and of course everyone will be welcome – the more, the merrier. [*Let's hope Tesco have some figgy pudding in stock – Ed.*]

On Sunday 16th December, there'll be a Christmas family disco in the Village Hall, in support of the Acorns Children's Hospice. Running from 16:30 to 19:00, admission is £3 per person, or £10 for a family (2+2), with hot-dogs, cakes, sweets, party games, disco dancing and refreshments for all. Acorns provides emotional and practical help to families with children having palliative conditions; the disco proceeds will go towards supporting their care at the most difficult of times. More details are available from katie.washbourne@gmail.com.

A little further afield, if you're a budding thespian or a dab hand at lighting, scenery painting, or even tea-making, Wythall Theatre Company meets from 20:00 on Mondays at Wythall Village Hall on Alcester Road, and on Wednesdays at Park Hall (Wythall Park Community Association) on Silver Street. All you need to bring is enthusiasm [*perhaps a little talent wouldn't go amiss – Ed.*]. Not sure? - contact Estelle at estelle@shutkever.com.

Solihull buses - not stopping



More tidings of good cheer - the threatened changes to the local bus services have been overturned, and buses will continue to operate between Dickens Heath and Solihull in the new year. Some small changes to the route are envisaged, and both services are expected to terminate in Solihull rather than going through to Dorridge, but the S3 and S3W routes will continue to provide a half-hourly service to Dickens Heath. The U-turn by Transport for West Midlands

follows tireless campaigning by Parish Councillor Trevor Eames [*and Worcestershire County Council's decision to subsidise the S3W might also have helped a little – Ed.*]

Solihull Council's decision on the closure of Braggs Farm Lane to through traffic is keenly awaited. As you might be aware, the Council have plans to "gate" the road just to the West of the farm, with only farm and emergency vehicles permitted to pass. They contend that the road is not suitable for the increasing traffic which is causing damage to both vehicles and the road. Consultation on the plan ended in early November, and the Parish Council objected, arguing that improving the road instead of closing it would be a much better idea.

Finally, a reminder that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 8th January, starting at 19:15.