

Hello and welcome to what we hope will be a regular monthly newsletter from Ludlow 21. As we haven't been able to get together in person for quite some time we wanted to find other ways to keep in touch. Thanks to those who have contributed items - if you have something you want to tell everyone about, we'd love to hear from you - please email it to [secretary@ludlow21.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ludlow21.org.uk) and I'll try to include it in a future newsletter. - Megan

## Incredible Edible Seed Swap

Well...we didn't expect that nearly a year on from the first no-contact swap that we would be running it again this way!

But here we are and the sowing season is upon us. Supplies of seed aren't quite as hard to come by as last year but it's still tricky getting hold of seeds if you are isolating and we especially love sharing saved seed. Last

year well over 100 swaps or deliveries-for-donation of seeds and plants were made and lots of new people starting growing their own fruit, veg and flowers. What a wonderful outcome in such tough times



So we have listed all the seeds from our regular swaps for you to order and collect/swap/donate from a no-contact location in Ludlow or by post.

Members of the Incredible Edible group will be taking turns manning the swap, so when you get in touch to order seeds, we will let you know how you can receive them. Some of us live in town and some don't but we hope to have the wheelbarrow out with plants, once the weather is warmer, as we did last year.

If you have seeds to donate, please could you put the date they were packed/collected, if known, on the packet. This helps us with judging seed viability. If they are organic, please put this on the envelope/packet, as well.

Further details are in this online document <https://bit.ly/ludlowseedswap>

The list gets updated as we run out of things or new stuff comes in so keep checking, if what you want isn't listed. You might want to bookmark the link! Feel free to ask for advice too, if you haven't grown anything before, or are just starting out. There are lots of us in the group with plenty of knowledge to share

To order seeds please email [IncredibleEdibleLudlow@outlook.com](mailto:IncredibleEdibleLudlow@outlook.com) or message us on Facebook. It may take a few days to get back to you and varieties are, of course, only available until they run out...

Happy growing everyone!



## Follow Ludlow 21 on Facebook

If you use Facebook please check out our page <https://www.facebook.com/ludlow21> and like and share some of our posts. It would be great to try and get more conversation going in our local community about all things green, so if you post anything about what you're doing, you can use the hashtag [#gogreenludlow](https://www.facebook.com/ludlow21)



## Ludlow 21's Bird of the Month for February

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the first of, I hope, a monthly series of avian thumbnails. We hope they will encourage you to look and listen when you are out walking or taking your permissible exercise.

As winter slowly turns to spring those of you with perceptive hearing may well have been noticing the gradual increase in birdsong. Birds that keep going through winter with their weaker winter songs, such as Robins and Blackbirds, now give way as the orchestra begins to tune up for the first performances of the year.



On wet and windy early spring days, from the very top of a windswept tree, the bold song of the 'Stormcock' carries great distances. *Turdus viscivorus*, the Mistle Thrush, is one of 6 thrushes seen in the British Isles. Three are resident, Blackbird, Mistle and Song Thrushes with the Fieldfare and Redwing joining us in winter and the Ring Ouzel in the summer. Mistle Thrushes are the largest of the six with a strong spotted chest, paler olive brown back and bold flight. The more familiar Song Thrush tends to skulk near the ground in hedges and woodland.

For a bird unfamiliar to many, it is widely distributed and is found breeding in 86% of 10 km squares throughout the British Isles. Its early powerful and clear song precedes early breeding. Like our other thrushes it feeds on hedgerow fruits and berries as well as invertebrates, and, yes, mistletoe. Its Latin name *viscivorus* means 'mistletoe eater'. They are known to defend these plants from other birds. There is a large tree at the entrance to Betjamen Lodge in Corve Street with several clumps of mistletoe and Mistle Thrushes can be seen feeding there on occasions.

It nests in trees, as opposed to hedges, making a nest out of grass placed in a fork between a branch and the trunk, usually above head height. It has a harsh alarm call sounding very like an old football rattle. Egg laying begins in late February so birds are holding territories a month before, hence the singing males we hear now. Like many song birds its population is declining.



### Fairtrade Fortnight is in full swing!



The Fairtrade Foundation's free online festival, 'Choose The World You Want' is happening throughout Fairtrade Fortnight from 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March.

There are live events happening every day, from cook-alongs, to panel discussions, and opportunities to speak to the important people who produce the commodities we rely on - live from Ghana to Palestine.

You can also hear from Fairtrade farmers and workers in the Storytelling Tent, explore poems and art created by young campaigners in the Exhibition Hall and take part in competitions to win fantastic prizes.

Join in the fun at <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want/>

See the website <http://www.ludlow21.org.uk/> for more news, information and campaigns including the Climate and Ecological (CEE) Bill and North West Relief Road (NWRR)

