## Meet Jeff Sandbrook...

A local roofing specialist with 50 years experience and 15 years service at N. Bird & Son



All roofing work undertaken by Jeff and the team, except chimneys... that would be Jeff's Dad!

"When replacing my roof, Jeff went above and beyond our expectations and he always behaved professionally and honest." Alan Hawkins, via Trustatrader

- Ridge Tiles
- Flashings
- Lead Work
- Chimneys
- GutteringNew Roofs
- FasciasFlat Roofs

## **NO PAYMENT UNTIL YOU ARE 100% SATISFIED**

N. BIRD & SON

**ROOFING** 









0800 195 6946 0121 695 9033



FREE QUOTES FREE ADVICE FREE SURVEY



Part of Quality Homes Investments Ltd



# Knowle Domestic Plumbing Service & Appliance Repairs

All Plumbing Work Undertaken

Burst pipes/leaks

SERVIS

- Taps, Sinks, Waste Units
- Ball Valves, Overflows
- Tanks, Cylinders, Immersions
- Toilets, baths,
   Showers
- 24 Hour Emergency

Appliance Repair Services

- Washing Machines
- Dishwashers
  - Tumble Dryers
  - Electric cookers
  - Vacuum Cleaners

£10 OFF for first time customers with this ad.

12 month guarantee, same day call-out special rates for OAP's

Office: 01564 730183 Mobile: 07770 698196

INDESIL

WHIRLPOOL

WIEFE

DEG

NEFF

CREDA

DYSON

# Spring is in the air (hopefully)!

Welcome to the March issue of The Knowle & Dorridge Directory.

As I'm writing this there's a blanket of soft white fluffy snow everywhere, and so I'm just hoping Spring is in the air by the time this edition reaches you. While it looks pretty, it stops us all from getting out and about as much as we would want to. And there's loads of great things to do on your doorstep, from local events and shows to walks and restaurants. In here you'll find some areat ideas from our advertisers. in the local events section and in the cinema and theatre guide.

We've got 2 competitions on offer this month – tickets for the Core Theatre Solihull to see Jess Robinson, the comedienne who was a semi-finalist in Britain's Got Talent: and a chance to win a meal for 4 at the new Boston Tea Party in Solihull.

And remember Easter Sunday is on 1st April this year, so here's hoping you have something lovely planned (including lots of chocolate!) for the long Bank Holiday weekend.

Until next month,

Zoe Reece Tel: 07557 220585

Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com www.knowleanddorridgedirectory.com





- Local events
- **42** Cinema and theatre guide
- 54 -55 Competitions
- 56 Book reviews
- 57 Useful telephone numbers

**59** Puzzles

60 Index

58 Recipe

Locally designed by: hotlobster design Itd Printed by: Warwick Printing Company

### PLEASE RECYCLE THIS MAGAZINE

# **№** thirtyone

www.nothirtyone.co.uk



Quality British and German kitchens designed, built and delivered...bringing your home to life

Open Mon - Fri 10am to 5pm, Sat 10am - 4pm Ample parking























# № thirtyone 01564 770587

31-33 Station Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 0HL sue\_thompson@live.co.uk

# Sophisticated spaces

where striking designs come together

Pop into No thirtyone for a browse, a coffee and a chat.... you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

## community events

### Fashion Show and Pop Up Shop **Knowle Village Hall** Saturday March 24th

This fund raising event is being held in aid of the Knowle Village Hall Refurbishment Fund, Doors open 1,30pm, show starts 2pm, Tickets £7, to be purchased in advance, including refreshments on arrival. Grand Raffle. Clothing available to try on and buy. Tickets available from Stephen Yeomans (01564 778163), Carolyn Abbott (01564 779898) or Royle's Household, Knowle Shopping Precinct.

### Spring Sing! The Core Theatre, Solihull

Saturday 21st April, 7.30pm Modern community choir Sing! Bentlev Heath invites you to welcome Sprinatime with an evening of popular songs from 'across the pond'. The singers will be sharing favourite hits from stars as varied as Jackson 5, Ed Sheeran, John Denver, Brvan Adams, The Three Degrees and the Beatles. Tickets (£9.50) are available from The Core Box Office (0121 704 6962) and are also on sale at Palmers (school uniform and clothing shop) on Knowle High Street. Kindly sponsored by Standley and Co Solicitors, Knowle. Profits and collections go to this year's charities: The Dyspraxia Foundation and The Men's Shed Group (Marie Curie Solihull).

### Celebratina Shakespeare

**Knowle Village Hall** Saturday 28th April, 7.30pm

www.singbentleyheath.org.uk

A concert of words and music from the Elizabethan Age, presented by the Lachrimae

Consort, directed by Mike Ashlev. This is a fund raising event on behalf of the Knowle Village Hall Refurbishment Fund. Tickets £10, in advance only, available from Stephen Yeomans (01564 778163) or Carolyn Abbott (01564 779898).

### Spring Orchid Show Saturday 31st March, 11am-4pm **Arden School, Station** Rd, Knowle B93 OPT

Solihull & District Orchid Society organises a yearly orchid show in Knowle. Lots of beautiful orchids on display and available to buy along with orchid accessories. As well as the chance to take a look at and buy spectacular orchids that you wouldn't normally see, there will be an hourly raffle with the chance to win an orchid. Tea, cakes and refreshments will be available throughout the day. You can also bring your orchid for an "Orchid Clinic" or learn how to re-pot in one of our Potting Demo sessions. Call 01295 788159 for more details. at www.knowlefunrun.org.uk.

### Bingo & Balti Night

### Arden Academy, Station Road, Knowle B93 OPT Saturday 5th May, 7-11pm

Professional bingo caller, fun prizes and fully stocked bar. £10 pp (includes entry, Bingo card, delicious chicken or vea Balti). Payment by cheque (payable to Arden PTFA) or online at www. iumblebee.co.uk/ardenbinao. Email adminotfa@arden.solihull. sch.uk for more information.

### Knowle Fun Run

### Sunday 20th May

Entries are open for May's 35th Knowle Fun Run. Now with a choice of 5k or 10k, runners have no excuse not to get fit for Solihull's longest running Fun Run with a great community atmosphere on traffic-free streets. Help raise funds for Breast Cancer Haven in Solihull, the brain injuries charity Headway, and half of all proceeds being retained for local causes; or run for your own cause. Enter online

### **KNOWLE LIBRARY**

- Jellybeans held monthly on a Thursday morning for storytime and rhymes for the under 5's 10.45am -11.30am
- Monday Story Times Weekly story time and rhymes for toddlers and pre-school children 10.30am-11.00am
- Under fives Rhyme Times at 2pm every Friday
- Knowle Knit and Natter Group - held monthly on a Tuesday 10.30am -11.30am
- The Reading Café Monthly on a Friday morning 10.30am -11.30am

- Self-Running Family History **Group** - Monthly on a Tuesday 2.15pm -4.00pm
- Reader's Circles Knowle Readers Circle meets monthly on a Friday 2.15pm
- Knowle Library Self Running **Readers Circle** monthly meeting Tuesday 11.00am -12pm
- Poetry Group Monthly on a Tuesday 11.00am -12.00pm
- Scrabble Club Adult Scrabble Club Fortnightly -Monday 2.00pm



www.progressionarchitects.com 01564 730 191

info@progressionarchitects.com

Chartered Architects Gary Winn RIBA and Dean Poulton RIBA are Progression Architects and have been based in Solihull since 1992. They are about to celebrate 25 years in practice.

The practice specialises in the design of domestic house extensions, one off houses and conversions, although they also have some corporate blue chip clients.

They offer an initial free appraisal of your project, within the solihull area, where their wealth of experience can be offered to examine your initial ideas and work with you to progress your ideas into a design.









PDI charter

www.progressiontownplanning.com

01564 730 191

chartered town planners

info@progressiontownplanning.com

At Progression we are also Chartered Town Planners and members of the Royal Town Planning Institute We specialise in dealing with planning applications and negotiating with the Local Authorities. We also prepare, submit and attend Planning Appeals, where applications are refused, putting our case forward from an applicant's point of view.

As we are also Architects, we tend to think through our solutions creatively, at times from a perspective that is not immediately apparent. As Arboriculturists, we work together where tree issues meet planning issues, such as Tree Preservation Orders.



## YOUR LOCAL, INDEPENDENT ONE-STOP GARDEN SHOP

## **PAVING SUPERSTORE**

CONCRETE • SANDSTONE • LIMESTONE GRANITE • PORCELAIN • BLOCK PAVING WALLING • STEP STONES and much more...



Possibly the largest selection of paving & walling in the Midlands at the most competitive prices! Come and view our huge paving display and

## **TURF & TOPSOIL**



1Sq.M Roll from £3.13



Bulk Bag (0.5cu.m) from £39.80

### **COTSWOLD STONE** DECORATIVE AGGREGATES

20mm hard angular chipping Ideal for driveways & paths



Polybag °m £5

Loose Tip

0.5cu.m Bulk Bag from £65.55

### **BRAND NEW PLANT CENTRE COMING SPRING 2018!**



### WE MANUFACTURE.....

speak to our friendly team of experts.



**FENCE PANELS** 





SUMMERHOUSES



**TOOL STORES** 



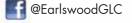
BESPOKE BUILDINGS

CUSTOM SIZES AND STYLES AVAILABLE TO ORDER. ASK FOR FURTHER DETAILS

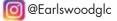
Pop in today to have a look around and stop for a drink and bite to eat at Wedges Cafe

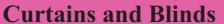
## OPEN 7 DAYS - BUY ONLINE ANYTIME!

EARLSWOOD GARDEN & LANDSCAPE CENTRE FORSHAW HEATH ROAD, EARLSWOOD, SOLIHULL, B94 5JU t. 01564 702 314 www.earlswoodglc.co.uk









designed and made for especially you

Stunning new fabrics for Spring and Summer



No job too big or too small

call for a free no obligation quotation "local interior designer" Sarah J Harper 07518 851063



**Tudor Rose Curtains** 

Mobile: 07518 851063

answer machine: 0121 445 2072

si@tudorrosecurtains.co.uk **NEW WEB SITE** 

www.tudorrosecurtains.co.uk

## Pilates for all



## **Booking for April 2018**

First class free if you book before Thursday 29th March 2018 (applies to new members only)

Thursday 6.30pm Progressive + **Thursday 7.30pm Beginner** 

The Parish Centre Dorridge

Taster sessions available in March

To find out more call 07762 311074 Visit www.centralenglandpilates.co.uk 16 years of Pilates expertise BSc Ba Hons

## MPUTER PROBLEMS



#### CALL NOW FOR IMPARTIAL ADVICE FROM A QUALIFIED IT ENGINEER

- · Virus & Spyware Removal
- · Wireless Broadband Set Up / Repair
- · All Computer Hardware Repair / Upgrades
- · All E-Mail Issues
- · One-to-One Friendly Training
- New Computers / Laptops
- · New All In One Packages
- · Many Other Services Available!
- ✓ QUALIFIED
- ✓ LOCAL
- ✓ INSURED
- ✓ NO CALL OUT FEE
- ✓ 100% GUARANTEE ON ALL HARDWARE
- ✓ DIRECT TO YOUR HOME OR OFFICE



WE ARE BASED IN KNOWLE

recommended by Which? Members on

Which? Local

CONTACT MIKE NASH NOW... Freephone: 0800 077 8301 Office: 01564 330 505

helpme@ontrackcomputers.co.uk

www.ontrackcomputers.co.uk

## ByteSupport

Home and business IT support

PC problems fixed. Virus and malware removal. PC tune-ups. Data recovery. New PC setup. Broadband, email and server problems resolved. Free advice.

For a professional, friendly and dependable service

> Peter Johnston 0790 151 2544

www.bytesupport.co.uk

No call-out fee. 20yrs professional experience





Henley-in -Arden (opp Finest Catch)

## Now Open

Offering courses from beginners to those wishing to enhance their skills in...

- Dressmaking
- sewing
- · Pattern Cutting
- · Lingerie
- · Corsetry
- · Children's Parties

Also available:

After School Club for 8-11 yrs and 12-18 yrs

For more information contact Stephanie Tel: 01564 792083 or 0777 865 0923

> email: steph@sew2it.co.uk or visit: www.sew2it.co.uk



ECO SEAL taking over from "WINDOW SALES" and carrying the good name established for 30 years!

> "Building the future, maintaining the past"

Eco Seal is a family run company based in Hall Green. Not only do we install brand new Upvc windows, doors and conservatories, we also repair your existing windows and doors. From locks, letterboxes, misted glass, hinges and more.....

- WINDOWS
- DOORS
- CONSERVATORIES
- PORCHES
- REPAIRS
- REPLACEMENT CONSERVATORIES TILED ROOFS
- PATIO / FRENCH DOORS
- LOCK / HANDLES
- MISTED UNITS
- 24 HR EMERGENCY BOARD UP
- AND MORE.....



- ✓ Dedicated Aftersales
- ✓ Dedicated Planning Team
- √ No Salesmen
- ✓ No Deposits

certass

Tel: 0121 778 5959 0121 369 1981 Free: 0800 118 2072

info@eco-seal.co.uk

www.eco-seal.co.uk

Visit Our Showroom:

152-154, Highfield Road, Hall Green B28 0HT



**BIRTHDAY**CAKES • **NOVELTY**CAKES

WEDDINGCAKES • CUPCAKES
ANNIVERSARYCAKES

Cakes For All Occasio

Let Us Create A Stunning & Delicious Cake

For Your Special Celebration
Prices start From £18.00

Its So Easy To Order, Simply Call

01564 774 223

Or Pop In To Our Cake Shop

Over 30 Mouth Watering Cake Flavours

All Freshly Baked In Our Cakery

Specialising In

Eggless | Gluten Free | Diary Free & Vegan Cakes

**OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY** 

1707 · HIGH ST · KNOWLE · SOLIHULL · B93 OLN www.sugarblisscakecompany.co.uk



## The Bell at Tanworth In Arden

Located in the heart of the beautiful village of Tanworth in Arden. The Bell has a cosy bar, amazing food and beautiful B&B accommodation right on your doorstep.

We have lots of upcoming events and special offers for Spring...

## St Patrick's Day: Saturday 17th March

Celebrate St Patrick's Night with a free oyster with every pint of Guiness and try our amazing Lamb Stew with Colcannon Mash



Come and enjoy fresh Fish and Chips for £5.95







the side. Booking is essential

### Easter Sunday: Sunday 1st April

Enjoy one of our famous Roasts after all of your chocolate

Pre St George's Day: Saturday 22nd April Ribs of Beef to share...Book now to secure yours

Don't forget 2 for 1 on Pies and Burgers every Monday to Wednesday

> Call 01564 742212 to reserve your

The Bell, The Green, Tanworth in Arden, B94 5AL

01564 742212

www.thebellattanworthinarden.co.uk thebell@realcoolbars.com



## **CROSSROADS SERVICE STATION LTD**

A friendly, family-run business since 1969

- MOT Testing Cars & Motorbikes
- Servicing & Repairs
- Air Conditioning Service & Repair
- Diagnostic Service & Repair
- Laser Wheel Alignment
- Tyres Supplied & Fitted
- Qualified & Experienced Staff
- Courtesy Car or Collection/Delivery available

## **OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK**

MON - FRI 7.30am - 6pm Sat 7.30am – 1pm

**MOT's while you wait!** 



599-601 Tanworth Lane, Shirley, Solihull B90 4JE Tel: 01564 703225

www.crossroadservicestation.co.uk

VAT No.: 113213041

## PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY. PRIVATE HEALTH CARE.

**Equanimity CBT** provides Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) which is the therapy of choice in the NHS for common emotional, behavioural and mental health problems. It is also available privately and through health insurance. Corporate referrals are also accepted.

Work related stress? Anxiety? Depression? Low self esteem? Compulsive behaviours? OCD? Anger management? Emotion regulation difficulties? Adolescent behavioural problems? Aggressive driving? Panic attacks? Phobias? Emotional distress?

## **Equanimity CBT**

New Street, Kenilworth. Wassell Grove Lane, Hagley. Day and Evening Appointments Available

Contact: enquiries@equanimitycbt.co.uk Telephone 0844 693 1282 for a free 15 minute telephone consultation. B.A.B.C.P. Accredited CBT Psychotherapist.

**Approved Health Care Provider for** AXA-PPP, Aviva, Pruhealth, CIGNA, Simply Health and WPA.



www.equanimitycbt.co.uk

## Mind over matter Guruyou



The Knowle and Dorridge Directory is pleased to introduce Rebecca Mander, Henley in Arden business woman, who swapped the world of manufacturing for matters of the mind in 2015 when she founded her now successful coaching business, GuruYou™.

ebecca now does what she enjoyed most at the Dutch owned company, Smartwares and coaches individuals toward their goals and to unlock their potential. "Quite often we lack perspective and lose sight of our strengths. This can hold us back in many aspects of life, be it personal issues, business or in educational and career development. Coaching for me is about facilitating change in someone through exploring new possibilities with gentle encouragement and support.

As well as executive coaching, Rebecca works with people of all ages on personal life matters. Tragically, in 2007 Rebecca and her husband lost one of their children and the following year, her mother died in a car accident. "I guess you could say that has helped me get a good grip on reality and what really matters in life."

Many of her clients are moving on from a life changing event or towards one and her experience in life and business really help her gain insight into the struggles we can face at home or at work.

Rebecca's VIPs though, are pupils aged 9 upwards wanting to reduce anxiety and increase performance as a result of having a more positive outlook. MiniGuru workshops as well as 1-1 work within school settings help prepare children for SATS and exams.

Older students can prepare for important presentations and interviews with Rebecca. Having been on the other side of the recruitment panel, she knows what businesses look for in a



candidate! "I am really proud of my student clients; many are offered the position they have applied for immediately following the interview! 75% of an interview panel's decision is based on evidence of soft skills and the candidate's personal attributes.

For more details on coaching for children and adults in business or in life, contact Rebecca on 07930 147799 or for more information or go to www.guruyoucoach.com.

We look forward to hearing more from GuruYou™ in forthcoming issues for hints and tips from the world of coaching and self-development!

# **April Fool!**

The origins of April Fools' Day seems to be lost in time but like many traditions probably has a number of historical roots.

here was certainly a Roman festival called hilaria around that time of year, to celebrate the vernal equinox. The most popular theory about 'modern' April Fools' Day is that it began to take shape in late 16th century France. At that time, there was a switch to the Gregorian Calendar under Charles IX. Prior to this there had been a New Year's week (March 25th-April 1st), and under the Gregorian system, New year's Day fell on January 1st.



As with any change there was some resistance, and many people stubbornly refused to accept the new system, continuing to celebrate New Year on April 1st.

These people were ridiculed and labelled 'fools' by the general populace and were often the butt of jokes and pranks. They were known as poisson d'avril, or April fish, possibly because a naïve young fish is easily caught.

Over the years the custom of prank-playing spread to the general population and eventually to Britain, where schoolboy pranks are still the order of the day. Watch out!





## The trusted builder



Parkfield Building Services Ltd is a family run building company formed in March 2008 by husband and wife Ernest and Janet Bick and their two sons Dean and Craig.

arkfield Building Services Ltd is a family run building company formed in March 2008 by husband and wife Ernest and Janet Bick and their two sons Dean and Craig.

The family formed Parkfield having all worked across the industry gaining a wealth of experience and knowledge. It was only a matter of time before coming together to offer a comprehensive service based on their family values.

At the heart of the company's ethos is a sincere and honest level of service with a down to earth attitude, complimented by a high-quality finish and a product delivered promptly and precisely. For Parkfield the client is the most important aspect of any project and it is important that all areas run smoothly and within budget and programme.

In 2018 Parkfield celebrates its 10 year anniversary. We are proud to have established ourselves as a 'go-to builder' for a high-end and trustworthy service.

We continue to offer complete refurbishments, renovations, extensions, decorating and maintenance of residential properties but are





increasingly growing our own commercial developments and projects within our portfolio.

We wish to thank all of our customers, suppliers, partners, staff and friends whose support, encouragement and faith has helped us achieve this important milestone. With such a bright and exciting future this is surely only the first decade in business with many more to come.



Parkfield Building Services Ltd 0121 241 2959 sales@parkfieldbs.co.uk www.parkfieldbs.co.uk

# BUILT WITH TRUST START TO FINISH

Your local family-run building company.



piayyirdi

**BUILD. DECORATE. MAINTAIN**Contact us, to see how we can help.

0121 241 2959

or visit us at: www.parkfieldbs.co.uk

Extensions. Conversions. New Builds. Renovations. Refurbishments.

Windows & doors. Decorate, external & internal. Re-fit, bathrooms & kitchens. Roofing. Electrics.

Plumbing. Heating. Carpentry. Tiling. Drives & patios. Architecture Design. Planning Applications. Interior Design.







### **MONDAYS Body Conditioning**

09.20 to 10.20

\*Pilates

10.20 to 11.20 at Downing Hall, Knowle, B93 0JU



### **THURSDAYS** \*Pilates

09.10 to 10.10 & 10.20 to 11.20 at Downing Hall, Knowle, B93 0JU



### **THURSDAYS** \*Pilates

19.30 to 20.30 at Dorridge Village Hall, Dorridge, B93 8QA

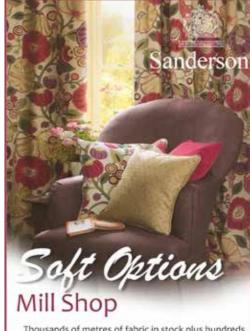
All ages and abilities welcome. Pilates taught at 3 levels: Beginners, Intermediate & Advanced

For fees & term times, go to: www.gkpilates.co.uk

\*Places are limited and should be pre-booked

To reserve a place, contact Gaynor Kunneke Fitness Instructor and Registered Osteopath:

Tel or Text: 07729 712038 or Email: gk.osteopath@outlook.com



Thousands of metres of fabric in stock plus hundreds of samples from all leading manufacturers.



Blinds, Poles & Tracks, Rufflette, Haberdashery and everything for the curtain maker.

Express making service available in our workrooms.

Family run business with over 60 years experience.

FREE measure & quote service.

Fitting service available.

Open 7 days a week



01564 783399

Box Trees Craft Centre, Stratford Road Hockley Heath, Solihull B94 6EA

## Stephen Smith & Son Plumbing & Heating Services

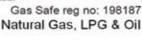


Trusted trade









## Tel: 0121 247 4957 or 01564 200119

7 year manufacturer's warranty on all Worcester Greenstar gas boilers installed

www.stephensmithandson.co.uk

"Family business. Local and reliable."

### Work carried out includes:

- Boilers / Radiators
- Natural Gas LPG and Oil Installation and Repair
- Bathroom Installations
- Landlord Gas Safety Inspections/Certificates
- **Boiler Servicing**
- Hot Water Cylinders (vented and unvented)
- System Powerflushing
- Cold Water Tanks
- Shower Installations / Repairs
- Pipework
- Underfloor Heating
- Solar Installations
- Renewable Energy



Private companionship service for our retired community

F.O.R is here to provide a personal, flexible, friendly service to suit you and your family.

- Companionship
- Appointment chaperone
- Meal preparations
- Leisure activities

- Housework
- K9 companion visits

Plus much more! We are here to enhance people's lives, and support you in every way we can.

To find out more information, please do give me a call or email:

Lucie-Anne Fowkes, F.O.R 07471 933278 / 0121 722 3342 / friends.o.r@hotmail.com www.friendsofretired.co.uk







# Exceptional vision ...



Are you looking for a legal adviser that delivers wise and effective solutions?

## Look no further.

Sydney Mitchell is a trusted Legal 500 law firm that will watch over your legal affairs.

We ensure that you receive quality legal advice.



A professional service dealt with by delightful, helpful professionals..

### Birmingham

T: 0121 698 2200 · F: 0121 200 1513 DX 13054 Birmingham 1

### Shirley

T: 0121 746 3300 · F: 0121 745 7650 DX 13856 Shirley 2

### Sheldon

T: 0121 700 1400 · F: 0121 722 3127 DX 21801 Sheldon

Providing legal advice for generations www.sydneymitchell.co.uk









# Quality care in your own home



Bluebird care (Solihull) is a privately owned local business operating only in the Solihull Metropolitan borough area, with offices in Shirley. Our main aim is to deliver high quality care to vulnerable people in their own homes, so that they can remain as independent as possible and remain in the familiar surroundings that they love. Our service is available 365 days per year and from a half hour to 24 hours per day. In addition all of our carers are trained in Dementia and Alzheimer's.

We provide personal care, for example, washing, bathing, toileting, dressing, getting into bed and getting up in the morning, administering medication. Bluebird care also provides home care such as help with ironing, cleaning, cooking, shopping etc. We can also provide companionship services for people, for instance reading to them, playing board games or taken to a show or a favourite venue.

Our personalised service is provided by very highly trained carers who are recruited locally.All of our carers are CRB checked and multi referenced to give you peace of mind. Our aim is to give you the same care staff so that they can get to know you as an individual and really know what matters to you.

PMJ House, Highlands Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 4ND **T: 0121 7117435 E: solihull@bluebirdcare.co.uk www.bluebirdcare.co.uk** 

## Lady Katherine Housing & Care



The Court Of Lady Katherine Leveson

## Sheltered Housing

(Live independently with the added value of support on site)

## Residential Care

(Have your personal care needs met in a truly unique and vibrant Care Home)

## Respite Care

(Come and have a short break with us or give your loved one a short holiday with us while you have a break)

## **Enablement**

(Spend some quality time with us after a hospital stay, build up your strength for that return home)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

contact

Chris Mundell Fundraising & Marketing Officer 01564 772415 / 01564 772850 cmundell@leveson.org.uk

Temple Balsall, Knowle, Solihull, B93 0AN



## Freephone:

7 days a week on **0800 783 7672** 

Land line:

01675 44 22 26

Dove Home Care Agency Ltd 48 Fentham Road Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull B92 0AY

Established 1993 Fully Independent

## Services include:

 Personal care / washing / bathing / showering / dental hygiene / dressing

- Medication assistance and administration
- Household tasks / light domestic and laundry
- Cooking / preparing meals
- Shopping / companionship / outings / holidays
- Sleepovers / waking nights
- · Help with getting up and going to bed
- Sitting service and respite care
- Accompanying clients to hospital / doctors' visits

## We specialise in:

- Dementia
- Alzheimer's
- Parkinson's
- Palliative care
- Reablement following hospitalisation
- Elderly care

Short visits through to 24 hour live in care

98% of clients recommend us













## Do you need a Helping Hand?

If you are looking for an alternative to residential care or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we're here to help in **Knowle & Dorridge** from **30 minutes per week** to **full-time live-in Care**.

Our care teams have been providing **award-winning quality** home care since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.

Looking for **care**? **01564 454 379** 

**For more information** www.helpinghands.co.uk

# Dimension Landscape & Driveways

- Quality driveways, patios and garden landscaping
  - Competitive prices and reliable service
- Using our own in-house expert contractors and equipment

Call us now for your free no obligation quote and to find out about our New Year Spring Bargains













0121 733 1463 / 07799 428557

www.dimensiondriveways.co.uk barney.dimension@icloud.com

4200 Waterside Centre, Birmingham Business Park, Solihull Parkway, B37 7YN



# Buy online

- . Bathroom Aids . Bath Seats
- . Bath Lifts . Electric Showers . Bath Steps
- . Shower & Bathing Accessories . Bathrooms Deltis
- · Bathmaster Sonaris and more...

Go to www.otbathrooms.co.uk to see our full range of products

We are a trusted and reliable company supplying and fitting specialist bathrooms. We are here to help and advise accordingly, providing our customers with a bathroom that is safe, practical and stylish.

We welcome visitors to our showroom at 53 Warwick Road, Olton Hollow B92 7HS but if you are not local to Solihull, then we are only a phone call away. If you wish to speak to us please call on

### 0121 707 8612

Alternatively, get in touch with us via email at: sales@othbathrooms.co.uk



If you are unable to get to our showroom in Solihull we can visit you at no cost for a no obligation quote

# bathrooms galore.... ... just add water



- Replace your bath with a walk in shower enclosure.
- Easy access low level trays or wet floors.
- No need to replace tiles or sanitary ware.
- Shower seats and grab bars optional.
- Can fit in space of bath.
- Design and installation taken care of by our professional team.
- VAT exemption available.

## 0121 783 9966

Call to book a free home quotation

### Visit our showroom at:

49 Stoney Lane, Yardley, Birmingham. B25 8RF



**BATH OUT – SHOWER IN** 



# Ian Hounsell

CARPET SUPPLY & FITTING SERVICE

## WHY COME TO US? WE WILL COME TO YOU!

- ✓ No Job too big or small
- ✓ Supply & fit or fit only
- ✓ Repairs & re-adaptions



Tel: 01564 772324 Mob: 07831 814 588

Email: hounsellcarpets@gmail.com Covering Solihull & Surrounding Areas 111 Purnells Way, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9ED

A Good Reliable Service Guaranteed

## C.STEVENS ROOFING EST FAMILY BUSINESS

NEW TILED ROOFS•GUTTERS FLAT ROOFS•BRICK WORK LEADWORK•SMALL REPAIRS

UPVC FASCIAS • CHIMNEYS



01564 790008 0121 733 1276

WWW.CSTEVENSROOFING.CO.UK

## Bill Boyce Decorators

## A family run business with over 30 years experience

- Painting & Decorating
- Internal / External
- Offices, Restaurants & Private Houses
- Reliable
- **Excellent Reputation**
- All work carried out to a high standard
- Free Estimates



### Call Bill on 07976 810680 or Dan on 07966 275134

89 Union Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3BY Tel: 0121 744 0040 or fax: 0121 744 0312 Email: billboycedecorators@hotmail.co.uk www.billboycedecorators.com

## D.A. MANDER & SON Ltd

PROFESSIONAL FITTER AND SUPPLIER OF QUALITY CARPETS

Don Mander does not have retail premises. If you need him please call him direct-the only way to buy carpets

01564 700200

**EASIER** – Than walking round lots of shops

**CHEAPER** – No overheads cutting costs **ACCURATE** – See colours in their true light

**CONVENIENT** – View in the comfort of your own home

We can uplift and remove existing carpets and move furniture

Mobile: 07976 778694 FREE ESTIMATES

See our Review's at Freeindex.co.uk

91 Longdon Road, Knowle B93 9HT





## Windows, Doors and Conservatories

Mainstream is a specialist manufacturer of high quality windows, doors & conservatories. We have a huge range of products including bifold doors, orangeries, glass extensions, pvc and upvc windows.











The Personal Touch

Our company is owned and run by three experienced directors that work in a 'hands-on' role. No job is too small or too large for us and if you are looking for something different, we can make bespoke products just for you.





High Quality Standards
We pride ourselves on attention
to detail, and all of our products
are manufactured 'in-house' at
our Head Office in the West
Midlands. And the same goes
for our fitters – they are our own
trusted staff, with many years'
experience between them.

Come and see our new high performance Origin Aluminium Windows and doors.

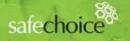
01564 320013

www.mainstream-doubleglazing.co.uk









## A-door-able!

## UPVC & Bifold Doors to Suit All Applications

Mainstream Windows is a leading supplier of all types of replacement domestic **UPVC & Aluminium Bifold** doors. Whether you are looking for a new front entrance, back entrance or garage options, Mainstream's expert team can advise you on the best product to suit your property, lifestyle and budget.

or front entrance and back entrance. there are three main types of products used in homes today wooden, UPVC and composite doors.



### **UPVC** Doors

UPVC doors are available in a wide range of colours and finishes and their comparative lower cost to alternative materials has made them popular in recent years. They also have other benefits. such as a higher resistance to weathering and generally reauire less maintenance



### **Bifold doors**

Bifold doors are built to stack neatly to one or both sides of an aperture when open. This allows people to move freely from inside to outside or from one room to another. These can be used as room dividers or to open onto a balcony or terrace.

### **Composite Doors**

As their name suggests, they are made up from several different materials to produce a robust, secure and attractive-looking to protect vour home. The combination of materials, such as PVC. wood, insulating foam and GRP (glass reinforced plastic) results in a product that is very strong and requires no painting or varnishing to keep it looking good over its long lifetime. An occasional wipe with a damp cloth is all that is needed to keep it clean and retain its smart appearance.

#### **Porches**



## ADRIAN LEWIS

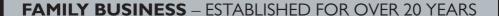
PAINTER AND DECORATOR



With over 40 years' experience in painting and decorating, Adrian Lewis brings a wealth of professionalism and knowledge to your home or business.

Experienced in all finishes including wallpaper, internal and external paintwork, steel and floor painting, and varnishing.

Call: 07811 455 546





For your free estimate just call us on

07977 354323 / 07538 349991 / 0121 680 2248 or email: AdkinsPlasterers@hotmail.co.uk



Why not invest in a new driveway or patio to enhance the appearance and add value to your property?

Approved Drives and Landscapes offer a range of services to help improve all areas of your home, including;

Clay & Block Paving - Tarmacing (red or black) -Patios - Brickwork - Slabbing - Gravel -Landscaping - Fencing - Property Repairs Roofing Repairs - Driveway Maintenance (Pressure cleaning & scaling - weed free)









### Find us in/on







www.centraldrivewayslimited.com

Get in touch today for a FREE quotation

T: 0121 702 1456 M: 07748 577687

Michael.central@icloud.com







## Be Safe, Be Protected, Be Connected,



We will take care of all of your home security needs, from installing a simple burglar alarm to fitting a fully comprehensive monitored home security system.

Our systems can provide early detection of intruders, smoke and carbon monoxide, risks linked to our 24/7 monitored station, notifying the emergency services where necessary.

Based in the West Midlands, we supply, install and maintain all types of home security systems and are well known for our integrity, reliability and high standards of customer service.

Your home is your castle - Protect it now! Special Postcode Promotion

30% off

Audible Alarm Systems - from £399 24-Hour Monitored Alarm Systems - from £499

Just call us and quote reference C4S:2018 to take advantage of this special offer which ends 15th April 2018.

Be Protected. Just contact us today to see how we can help:

0344 324 6020

www.connect4security.com info@connect4security.com







17 Whitacre Rd, Knowle cullenplumbingandtilling@gmail.com
Tel: 07896 862 916
Established in 2005



- Full bathroom and ensuite design and installation to the highest standards with complete project management from start to completion
- Kitchen Sinks and Taps, Dishwasher and Washing Machine Installation
- Central Heating & Radiators
- General Plumbing Maintenance & Repair

- Showroom Finish Wall & Floor Tilling for bathrooms, kitchens, hallways and conservatories
- Specialist in ceramic, porcelain, natural stone tiling
- Business built on recommendation and reputation

All Work Guaranteed
Reliable Honest Service
References and Portfolio of Work Available



# Kav's Bathrooms & Plumbing Specialists

AFFORDABLE LUXURY!



Bathrooms | Tiling | Plumbing | Electrics | Showers | General Plumbing Free Quotations | 15 Years Experience | All Workmanship Guaranteed

Mobile: 07599 085670 Email: deankavanagh200@icloud.com



# Howard Yarnold Windows & Doors Ltd

# Design, Build & Fit Aluminium & PVC-U Windows, Doors & Conservatories







New Bi-Folding Doors

### Now available 'A' rated UPVC energy saving windows

Special offer on our Superb Bi-Folding Concertina doors any colour. Ideal for entrance from lounge to conservatory

- We can offer a style to suit any home.
- · Advanced locking systems coupled with frames which are resistant to bending or the easy removal of glass make our windows less attractive to unwelcome visitors.
- Use of modern materials means our windows are virtually maintenance free, reduce noise pollution and provide thermal insulation in your home.
- Every frame is tailor made so fitting is a quick process with very little disruption to you.

FAMILY BUSINESS OFFERING HONESTY & PERSONAL SERVICE THROUGHOUT



Ashley on:

Call Brian or 0121 414 0808

e: sales@howardyarnold.co.uk www.howardyarnold.co.uk

1 Birkdale Avenue, corner of Heeley Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6UB



Book your appointment today... to see one of our showroom advisors.

Haslucks Green Road, Solihull Call 0121 713 7100

**useful** info

# The Pain of Mother's Day



My mother left home when I was seven. It always struck me as particularly cruel that teachers insisted we made Mother's Day cards.

pointed out once that my mother had left us. "Do you know her address?" teacher asked. When I nodded she told me I could post it. The irony of posting a card to 'The World's Best Mother' notable mainly by her absence seemed lost on Miss Marriot. Three years ago my friend's mother died from bowel cancer, and she said she would punch the next shop assistant who enquired whether she needed a Mother's Day card.

Don't get me wrong, I think Mother's Day is a lovely tradition but many of us may not realise that Mother's Day is an emotional time of year for those who have lost their mother; those who can't conceive, or those who have miscarried or lost a child

Perhaps Mother's Day needs a makeover. Currently it seems to be about wishlists, hints to spouses about booking the perfect restaurant and a barrage of adverts featuring the perfect nuclear family.

Our children, and maybe the rest of us need to understand that Mother's Day isn't about spending lots of money or being pressured into meeting crazy expectations.

In the UK it originated when children, mainly daughters (often as young as ten), who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. This grew from the centuries-old tradition of people

to returning to their home or 'mother' church once a year. The return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions.

As there is no tradition of gift-giving on Mother's Day we are free to invent our own traditions and I think it's the perfect chance to inspire kindness, compassion and giving of time rather than possessions.

I would love to see an 'alternative' Mother's Day focussed on less material things. I want to talk to my children about what Motherhood means to me and what having a mother means to them.

I want all of us to think about the people around us, at school, or work, in our social circle and community who might be having a hard time in the midst of Mother's Day celebrations? How can we reach out and share a little kindness or hope? With a card? A note? A phone call?

Last year my kids and I chose to sponsor a child at an orphanage in Uganda. It gives us pleasure to know that someone who has no mother of her own is receiving care and education.

This year my friend and her children made a food parcel for their local food bank and donated it in her mother's name. Her mother volunteered at a foodbank before she became ill so this seemed a fitting way to remember her.

If you are struggling with Mother's Day this year, please know that you are not alone. Reach out and talk to a friend; look for others with whom to share. Be kind to yourself, and if there is no-one you feel you can share your thoughts with consider starting with you and reach out to others who might need support.



Bright & Beautiful know how difficult it can be to keep the outdoors from getting in during Winter! Muddy feet, paw prints and rain can take their toll.

That's where we can help. Bright & Beautiful is an affordable REGULAR, or ONE-OFF, housekeeping service that ensures your home sparkles all year round. In a bright and beautiful home everything is in its blace, the laundry is done and the ironing is immaculate.

Make the most of the season and leave the CLEANING and HOUSEKEEPING to us...

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

01564 339 967

www.brightandbeautifulhome.com/henley-in-arden **PLEASE QUOTE CODE: AD5** 

\*UP TO 1 HOUR OF FREE IRONING, WHEN YOU SIGN UP FOR A REGULAR SERVICE.



#### **MARCH OFFERS**

off all Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning. Why not take advantage of our great offers:

	Normal	Discount		
Lounge	£50	£25		
Landing				
& Stairs	£50	£25		
Bedroom	£32	£16		
3 Piece				
Suite	£90	£45		

## Classic Carpet Cleaning

For further information please contact

Telephone: 0121 682 7450 or Mobile: 07980 172963

www.classiccarpetcleaners.co.uk



### Cleaning the oven . . .

### It's a dirty job! Why do it yourself?

We combine the use of special tools with completely safe cleaning agents, that leave your oven gleaming. No fuss, no smells, just the great finish that you would expect from a professional company.



0121 249 1724 07758 727 556

We clean all domestic ovens, ranges, aga's, hobs & extractors.



www.sparklyoven.co.uk craig@sparklyoven.co.uk

# **Dorridge & Knowle**Domestic Cleaning Services

- Small established cleaning and domestic help business
- Provide dedicated, friendly & trustworthy local ladies (CRB checked)
- Take pride in high standards and caring for customers' homes
- Regular service or one off spring cleans
- · Ironing service available
- References available
- Comprehensive insurance
- Costs are not subject to VAT



For a FREE, no obligation quote, please call Sue on 07809 567264

#### a taster of what's on in march & april ...

#### **CINEMA**

#### Peter Rabbit from 16th March

Peter Rabbit, the mischievous and adventurous hero who has captivated generations



of readers, now takes on the starring role of his own irreverent, contemporary comedy with attitude. In the film, Peter's feud with Mr. McGregor escalates to greater heights than ever before as they rival for the affections of the warm-hearted animal lover who lives next door.

Tomb Raider from 15th March Lara Croff is

. . . . . . .

the fiercely independent daughter of an eccentric adventurer who vanished when



she was scarcely a teen. Now a young woman of 21 without any real focus, she barely makes the rent. Determined to forge her own path, she refuses to take the reins of her father's global empire and rejects the idea that he's truly gone. She leaves everything she knows behind in search of her dad's last-known destination: a fabled tomb on a mythical island.

#### A Wrinkle In Time

#### from 23 March

This follows the incredible adventures of Meg Murry, who sets out on a time and space-bending journey through the cosmos to try

and rescue her missing father. With the help of three powerful beings called Mrs. Which, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Whatsit, Meg tries to overcome the ancient evil force



that's holding her father prisoner. And the only way to defeat this darkness is to become the light.

To book please visit www.cineworld.co.uk

#### THEATRE

The Core Theatre, Solihull (formerly Solihull Arts Complex)



# Malcolm Stent in the Afternoon Spring 2018 Wednesday 21st March 2pm

His guests vary each show, sometimes singers, sometimes guitarists. His stories will take you back and hopefully make you smile too. Malcolm's warmth and local interest ensures his popularity never wanes and his audiences remain as loyal now as they were 25 years ago!

# HOOT OWL Master of Disguise

#### Thursday 5th April 1.30pm

Hoot Owl is no ordinary owl - He's a Master of Disguise! And he plans



to use his cunning camouflage powers to gobble up the tiny animals of the night. Trouble is, Hoot Owi's prey keep escaping! Original songs, colourful puppets, animation, ridiculousness and rapid costume changes abound in this wildly inventive new show.

#### Ricky Cool and the In Crowd – A Night at the Flamingo

. . . . . . . .

Friday 6th April 7.30pm



Take a trip back in time to Soho's most iconic music venue of the early 1960's, in the company of Ricky Cool and the In Crowd, and be prepared to be entertained by Red Hot Rhythm and Blues with a side order of classic early Jamaican grooves. You'll find yourself in Wardour streets famous Flamingo 'All Nighters' when Georgie Fame and the Blue Flames held sway and Hipsters with their Chicksters danced the night away.

To book please visit www. thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk



# Does your website look old and dated?



Hotlobster Design offers you up-to-date websites to replace your tired ones.

Bespoke content managed websites are cheaper than you think.
Call now for a chat about your website, social media & marketing needs.



studio@hotlobster.uk.com

T: 0121 369 1977

www.hotlobster.uk.com

# Johnsons Cars Trusted, Quality Service

# Johnsons Knowle should be your first stop when looking for a pre-owned vehicle.



Every vehicle we sell has been sourced from within the Johnsons Group and checked over by one of our trained technicians, so you can have faith in the quality of each and every one of our vehicles on the forecourt.

Alongside our showroom on Station Road we also have a state-of-the-art workshop, offering a comprehensive range of aftersales services, from MOTs to fixed-price servicing on all models.

For Sales, Service or Parts enquiries call us today on **01564 454 051**, or if you're passing pop in for a coffee and one of our friendly team will assist you.

#### **Johnsons** Cars

25 Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 OHL

Call us today on **01564 454 051** or visit us at **johnsonscars.co.uk/knowle** 

Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. Johnsons Dealerships LLP trading as Johnsons Cars (partnership No OC383295) is a subsidiary of Johnsons Cars Ltd, (registered in England No 3716766). Johnsons Dealerships LLP (Firm Reference Number: 512460), is an appointed representative of ITC compliance Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486).







#### **FORD FIESTA ZETEC**



Special Offer £175.00 pm **Bluetooth Alloys USB** 

### Helping You Afford Your Next Vehicle.

#### MINI ROADSTER SD



Special Offer £195.00 pm Sat Nav Heated Seats Bluetooth

#### No Deposit! Inclusive of FREE Servicing and MOT's!

#### **FORD MONDEO ZETEC**



Special Offer £200.00 pm **Bluetooth Heated Seats USB** 

#### RENAULT MASTER



Special Offer £250.00 pm **Bluetooth USB Ply Lined** 

No Need to worry about CCJ's or Bad Credit! Visit www.easyleasecars.co.uk To Find Out How or Call Us Now on 0121 693 0573

# Athos

#### **BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**

Chartered Certified Accountants



- Accounts
- Tax Returns
- Payroll and Auto Enrolment
- Bookkeeping and VAT Returns
- Tax Advice
- Management Accounts

Call and make an appointment for a free initial consultation where a bespoke fixed fee quotation will be provided.







#### T. 0333 400 7876

Athos Business Solutions Limited 1623 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9LF www.athos.uk.com



# Specialist Advice



Wills & Trusts
Lasting Powers of Attorney
Probate & Estate Planning
Inheritance Tax Issues
Asset Protection



#### Wallace Robinson &Morgan Solicions works

# A Pre-nuptial Agreement offers protection

A pre-nuptial agreement is a formal document which describes what assets each party owns at the time of the marriage. It also sets out how these assets and finances will be divided in the event of divorce or separation.

Ithough couples marry in the belief that the marriage will be forever, it is an unfortunate fact that almost 50% of marriages now end in divorce and parties need to protect their financial position.

#### Pre-nuptial agreements are important where...

- One party has or is likely to have significant inheritance prospects.
- One party has significantly greater capital or income than the other.
- One party has a successful business that they would like to keep separate from personal finances
- One or both parties are entering into a second marriage and they wish to retain their previous divorce settlement.
- One or both parties have children from a previous marriage and they wish to protect their children's inheritance rights.

#### The court's starting point

In deciding financial settlements, the Court's starting point is a 50/50 split of all the assets. It then considers a variety of factors in deciding whether to move from this position such as whether or not the couple have entered into any prior agreements.

#### Given significant weight by the Courts

Although pre-nuptial agreements are not legallybinding documents, since the landmark Supreme Court case of Radmacher v Granatino in 2010, the courts now give significant weight to them when assessing finances.

If it can be shown that both parties freely entered into the agreement and understood the implications of signing it at the time, then as long as it is not unfair to hold the other party to the agreement the courts should uphold it.Pre-nuptial agreements must be drafted and dealt with carefully to ensure the Court have no reason not to uphold it.



Dipika Mistry and Kathryn Ferris
Wallace Robinson & Morgan Family Lawyers

#### Saving you a lot of time and money

A well prepared pre-nuptial agreement could save you a lot of time and money should your marriage come to an end.

If you are getting married, contact us to talk to one of our family law solicitors who can advise you as to whether such an agreement will be right for you

#### **Co-habitation Agreements**

If you are not getting married but are planning to share a home with your partner, you may want to consider a co-habitation agreement. As the law does not afford the same protection to cohabiting couples, there are a number of things which should be taken into consideration when setting up home outside of marriage, including:

- Whether the home should be held as joint tenants or tenants in common, and how the parties' contributions to the purchase price can be protected
- Whether a life insurance policy should be taken out
- Whether the parties need to make a Will and, if so, what provisions should be made for each other.
   Under the intestacy rules unmarried partners will not inherit upon the other's death, and so this is an important thing to consider.

The legal position regarding any children will also be affected by the fact the parents are not married. A cohabitation agreement sets out arrangements to apply both whilst the parties are living together and on the breakdown of the relationship.

#### How we can help

Wallace Robinson & Morgan Solicitors have the expertise to help draw up an appropriate agreement that both you and your partner are happy with and one that the courts will uphold.

We will make sure that both of you have obtained independent legal advice and fully understand the implications of the agreement.

We will make certain that both of you have given full and frank financial disclosure and ensure that the agreement is realistic and fair. Our specialist family lawyers can advise you as to whether these agreements are right for you.

Head of the Family Law department, Kathryn Ferris is a qualified Collaborative Family Lawyer and offers the benefits of this revolutionary approach to her clients. Dipika Mistry, is an accredited Law Society Family Law solicitor. Kathryn and Dipika are both members of "Resolution," an organisation that promotes constructive, non-confrontational methods to resolve family issues.

If you would like to discuss any family law issues please contact us on 0121 705 7571 or email kathrynferris@wallacerobinson.co.uk











### legal services for your Life&Business

COMPANY & COMMERCIAL LAW • WILLS, PROBATE & TRUSTS • POWERS OF ATTORNEY • LANDLORD & TENANT

EMPLOYMENT LAW • FAMILY & COLLABORATIVE LAW • COMMERCIAL PROPERTY • DISPUTE RESOLUTION • RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Wallace Robinson & Morgan

since 1855

#### Solihull

4 Drury Lane, Solihull West Midlands B91 3BD t 0121 705 7571

#### Dorridge

17-19 Station Approach, Dorridge, West Midlands B93 8JA t 01564 779393

wallacerobinson.co.uk
enquiries@wallacerobinson.co.uk

# **Fertiliser**

#### This month the days get longer and the sun gets stronger...we hope!

owever March is famously temperamental. and if the soil where you are is still wet and cold then it's wise to delay planting and sowing until the temperature rises.

Plant nutrient reserves are low at this time of year so. as the soil warms up, it's time to think about fertiliser.

Many gardeners are a bit frightened of fertiliser. All those chemical symbols on the side of the packet are rather reminiscent of school chemistry lessons. In fact the basics are quite simple.

NPK - This can be observed on the side of most fertiliser packages. The letters stand for:

N - Nitrogen

P - Phosphorous

K - Potassium

Together these are known as the macro-nutrients and each of them has its own use.

Nitrogen primarily feeds the leafy above-the-ground parts of the plants.

Phosphorous promotes



strong roots.

Potassium makes grass hardier, promotes germination and improves vegetable and fruit yields.

The proportions of each macro-nutrient will be printed on the packet. Equal amounts of each nutrient make for a good general purpose fertiliser.

A lawn will need a good balance of nitrogen and phosphorus to guarantee lush green grass with a healthy root system capable of withstanding dry spells. Fruiting plants need higher proportions of potassium.

There are other macronutrients: Carbon, Hydrogen and Oxygen, which plants obtain freely from the air

and water; and calcium, magnesium and sulphur, which should be present in any good general purpose fertiliser.

Plants also need micro-nutrients: Iron. Manganese, Zinc, Boron and Molvbdenum.

Plants take all these nutrients and build everything they need from scratch, including vitamins. What plants cannot do is absorb vitamins directly from things such as pet food, milk or so-called fertilisers which contain vitamins, proteins and fats.

So don't be intimidated by fertiliser. Decide what vour plants need then read the label. It's easy as ABC..or rather NPK!

# PRO LINE

PROFESSIONAL LINE UK LTD

#### REPLACEMENT PVCu FASCIAS & GUTTERS IT'S THE ONLY PROPER WAY

Don't be fooled by cheap prices! Capping over existing Fascias will ruin your home! It causes sweating, will rot away your old boards and eventually put dry rot through your roofing timbers.

Don't be fooled by those who say they cut rotten wood first, and then cap over. OLD WOOD WILL ROT, NO MATTER WHAT!

**CALL NOW FOR OUR MARCH & APRIL DEALS** We promise to beat any genuine quote!

FREEPHONE: 0800 956 1315 TEL: 0121 314 4390 MOBILE: 07776 287035

I will call, survey and explain exactly what the installation entails, with no obligation on your part. We would however be pleased to quote you for any additional areas. If you have had new Gutters & Down Pipes in the last ten years, it is possible to refit them afterwards.

Central Boulevard, Blythe Valley Business Park, West Midlands, 890 8AG

We also install Windows, Conservatories, Porches, Cavity Wall Insulation, Felt & Flat Roofs



We are a family-run business offering a professional, friendly and reliable solution to all of your landscaping & fencing needs.



We're based in Kenilworth but work all over Warwickshire and the West Midlands.



07852 713240 /07891 046187 01926 741835

kenilworthfencing@gmail.com



Installation of shed bases & sheds

# Oakland Group

www.oaklandgroupuk.com

### Complete Outdoor Services & Lighting



Tree Surgery & Hedging



Borders, Turfing & Outdoor Maintenance



Outdoor & Garden Lighting



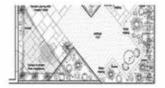
Fencing



**Lawns & Mowing Services** 



Landscaping



Garden Design



Planting & Irrigation Work



**Groundworks & Land Drainage** 



Commercial Works



**Customer Feedback** 



**Emergency Works** 

"Oakland have to be one of the most proactive businesses we have the pleasure to work with... I would highly recommend them to anybody who requires dependable service."



01564 758608 info@oakland-group.co.uk

# <u>Hampton</u>

Gardening & Landscapes Ltd

Patios & Landscaping
Fencing
Lawn Mowing
Hedges & Trees







Office: 01675 446 174 Mobile: 07827 613 168 www.hamptongardening.co.uk

# COMPETITION



## WIN 2 tickets

to see Here Come the Girls Tour

An evening with a multi-award winner and Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist

#### Thursday 19th April at 8pm

The Core Theatre, Solihull (formerly Solihull Arts Complex)

For your chance to win these tickets, worth £36, visit the Core Theatre website page for this event - www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk - to find the answer to this question:

What did Metro say about Jess Robinson?

Email your answer to: thecoretheatre@solihull.gov.uk – and please put 'Jess Robinson' as the subject line

Closing date for entries is 5th April and the winner will be drawn at random and notified by email after this date.

#### **About the Show:**

Join multi award-winner and Britain's Got Talent 2017 semi-finalist Jess Robinson for an evening of spot-on celebrity impressions, musical comedy and stunning vocal gymnastics. Like a wonderfully malfunctioning jukebox, Jess and her incredible vocals will take you on a dizzying journey through hilarious improvised musical mash-ups, serving a feast of styles and genres from Billie Holiday and Judy Garland to Amy Winehouse and Beyonce. Whether your cup of tea is watching Shirley Bassey belt or if you want to see Jess strut her stuff with Hip Hop's biggest rap stars - there'll be something for everyone, from 9 to 90.

This show is rated PG but is suitable for older children.

# Boston Tea Party SOLIHULL

### COMPETITION

WIN A MEAL FOR 4 (INCLUDING DRINKS) AT THE NEW BOSTON TEA PARTY IN SOLIHULL

For your chance to win just email zoe@dorridgedirectory.com by 5th April with Boston Tea Party as the subject header.

The winner will be drawn at random and will be notified by email.









Open Monday - Saturday, 7am - 7pm, Sunday 8am - 6pm. Herbert Road, Solihull, B91 3QE (Opposite John Lewis Touchwood car park).

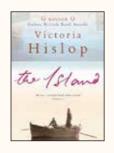
www.bostonteaparty.co.uk

# a good reda reviews By Willow Coby

#### The Island

by Victoria Hislop

It is books like this that remind you, in small ways, how fortunate we are to live in the 21st century when illnesses and diseases that were once considered a death sentence are now curable. One such disease is leprosy which provides the background for this debut novel.



Very often associated with Biblical times, it may be shocking to people to learn that in Europe as recently as 1957, victims of this disease were sent into isolation. The last known leper colony in Europe was the island of Spinalonga off the coast of Crete. This is the island of the novel's title.

Alexis Fielding is a 25-year-old living in London who knows very little about her background other than the fact that her mother comes from Crete. For whatever reason her mother refuses to discuss her past. Frustrated by her silence, Alexis decides to take her own journey to her mother's home village, Plaka, to discover the truth that her mother will not speak of. Through an old family friend, in the heat of the Cretan sun, Alexis learns of her family history. Of her great grandmother, Eleni, and her two daughters, Maria and Anna.

More crucially she learns of the sad past of the now deserted island, just 1km from Plaka. And how her family's past is forever linked to this place where the shunned inhabitants tried to maintain some level of normalcy amidst their pain and isolation. In a culture where family is everything, how can a family continue when it is ripped apart?

### The Monster of Shiversands Cove by Emma Fischel

Ah, a summer holiday by the beach! Hot days playing in the sand. Days full of digging and snorkelling. Sounds like bliss! At least it DID. Stan is fed up. For the last four years his family have holidayed with his best friend, Rory's, family. And this year was supposed to be the same until Rory's parents both got new jobs



and moved away. Now he is stuck in a cottage by the sea with Magnus, his four-year-old brother who is insistent that he is going to spend the whole holiday searching for fairies. Of course, Stan knows that this is nonsense and that fairies don't even exist.

One night he decides he has had enough. Magnus will not stop talking about the fairy he caught and has called Harry. In a moment of anger, he agrees with Magnus that this may be a hot spot for fairies and elves, but that means it is also a hot spot for monsters! Magnus is terrified but of course he has no real need to be. Everyone knows that monsters aren't real.

Or are they?

# useful numbers

#### Health

 NHS non-emergency
 111

 Dorridge Surgery
 01564 776262

 Knowle Surgery
 0121 796 2777

 Solihull Hospital
 0121 424 2000

 Spire Parkway Hospital
 0845 850 1451

#### Council

Solihull Council 0121 704 6000

#### **Utilities**

 Electricity power cut
 0800 6783 105

 Gas leak
 0800 111 9999

 Severn Trent Water
 024 7771 5000

 Severn Trent Water (emergencies)
 0800 783 4444

#### **Travel**

National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50 Network West Midlands (buses) 0345 303 6760

#### LOCAL COUNCILLORS

**DORRIDGE & HOCKLEY HEATH** 

Ian Courts

Tel: 01676 535490 icourts@solihull.gov.uk

**Andrew Mackiewicz** 

Tel: 01564 230294

amackiewicz@solihull.gov.uk

Ken Meeson

Tel: 01564 777772 kmeeson@solihull.gov.uk

#### **KNOWLE**

**Diana Holl-Allen MBE** Tel: 01675 443112 dhallen@solihull.gov.uk

#### **Jeff Potts**

Tel: 01564 774804 jpotts@solihull.gov.uk

#### Alan Rebeiro

Tel: 01564 200047 arebeiro@solihull.gov.uk

**Councillor surgeries** are held quarterly at Knowle Library, please contact the library (01564 775840) for the next date and if you wish to book a meeting with a local councillor.

#### local police contact for knowle & dorridge

ioi knowie & domage

Sergeant Mike Lloyd

Telephone: 101 ext 892 6037 Email: rurals@west-midlands.ppn.police.uk



## **Boiled Fruit Cake**

Fruit cakes don't have to be tricky. This one is simple. Use a teacup for measuring.



#### **Ingredients**

1 cup of water

225g / 8oz unsalted butter

1 cup of soft brown sugar

 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup peel (if you don't like peel, use chopped ready-to-eat dried apricots)

1 ½ cups raisins

1 ½ cups sultanas

1/4 cup chopped glace cherries

1 tsp mixed spice

2 cups plain flour

1 tsp baking soda (bicarbonate of soda)

2 eggs

#### Method

Place the first eight ingredients into a large saucepan and bring it to the boil.

Reduce the heat and simmer gently for 20 minutes, then set aside to cool.

Heat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4.

Line a deep 20cm/8inch circular cake tin with greaseproof paper.

Mix the beaten eggs well into the fruit mix. It's important that the mixture has cooled because if it's too warm the eggs will cook!

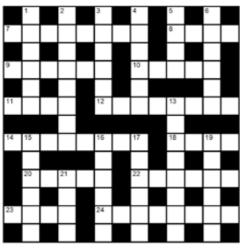
Then sieve the flour and baking soda into the mixture and mix well.

Pour into the cake tin and bake for  $1-1\frac{1}{2}$  hours until cooked through (when a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean). If the cake is browning too quickly reduce the temperature a little.

Remove from the oven and allow to cool in the tin for fifteen minutes, then turn out on to a rack.

The cake keeps really well if it's stored in an airtight tin.

#### crossword



#### clues

#### Across

- 7 Put up for election (8)
- 8 Strong impulse, desire (4)
- 9 Small amount of food, a mouthful (6)
- 10 Snow-block house (5)
- 11 Diary keeper
- 12 Accepted, allowed (8)
- 14 Possible (8)
- 18 Cloak (4)
- 20 Nibble, sample (5)
- 22 Small tower (6)
- 23 Puddling similar to semolina (4)
- 24 Gushing streams of water (8)

#### Down

- 1 Chrysalis (6)
- 2 Beatniks, bohemians (8)
- 3 Pungent bulb used in cooking (6)
- 4 Hand in your notice (6)
- 5 Haul, tug (4)
- 6 Disregard, neglect (6)
- 13 Happened (8)
- 15 Non-speaking actors in crowd scenes (6)
- 16 Gasp, inhale (6)
- 17 Whole, complete (6)
- 19 Lots, abundance (6)
- 21 Excessively studious person (4)

4				8				
	2		ვ		7	5		8
7			9	5			4	2
	5	7		6	9		8	1
		4				9		
8	9		4	1		2	3	
5	7			9	4			3
1		2	5		3		9	
				2				4

### how to play sudoku

#### It's simple!

Fill in the arid so that each row, column and 3x3 box, contains the numbers 1 through to 9 with no repetition. You don't need to be a genius. These puzzles use logic alone. Watch out! Sudoku is highly addictive.

answers on page 60

Accountants

46 Athos Business Solutions 0333 400 7876

**Architects** 

Progression 01564 730191

**Bathrooms** 

26 OT Bathrooms 0121 707 8612 Bathrooms Galore 0121 783 9966

Kav's Bathrooms and Plumbing 07599 085670 38 EH Smith 0121 713 7200

Blinds / Curtains / Fabric

**Tudor Rose Curtains** 0121 445 2072 18 Soft Options Mill Shop 01564 783399

**Builders** 

17 Parkfield Buildina 0121 241 2959 Services

Cakes

Sugarbliss Cake Company 01564 774223

**Car Services** 

Crossroads Service Station 01564 703225 01564 454 51 44 Johnsons Cars 45 Easylease 0121 693 0573

**Childcare and Care Services** 

19 Friends of the Retired 0121 722 3342 21 Bluebird Care 0121 711 7435 22 Lady Katherine Housing 01564 772850

0800 783 7672 23 Dove Home Care 24 Helping Hands 01564 454379

61 The Courtyard Nursery School 07512 107116

Carpets

28 Ian Hounsell 01564 772324 29 Don Mander 01564 700 200

Central Heating / Gas Services / Boilers

19 Stephen Smith & Son 01564 200119 **Cleaning Services** 

40 Bright & Beautiful 01564 339967 40 Classic Carpet Cleanina 0121 682 7450 41 Dorridge & Knowle

Domestic Cleanina Services 07809 567264 41 Sparkly Oven 07758 727556

**Computer Services** 

On Track Computers 0800 077 8301 10 Byte Support 0790 151 2544

**Drives** 

25 Dimension Landscape 0121 733 1463 & Driveways

Central Drives Landscapes 0121 702 1456

**Events** 

12 The Bell at Tanworth 01564 742212 in Arden 62 Nailcote Hall 02476 466174 63 Hatton Country World 01926 843 411

**Fascias & Gutters** 

0800 956 1315 51 Proline

Garden Centres / Services / Landscapina

Earlswood Garden

& Landscape Centre 01564 702314 25 Dimension Landscape & Driveways 0121 733 1463 33 Central Drives Landscapes 0121 702 1456

51 Kenilworth Fencing 07891 046187 52 Oakland Group 0700 598 2828 53 Hampton Gardening 01675 446174

**Graphic Design** 

43 Hotlobster Design Ltd 0121 369 1977

Health & Beauty & Wellbeing

Central England Pilates 07762 311074 13 Equanimity CBT 0844 693 1282 15 Guru You 07930 147799

18 Gaynor Kunneke Pilates 07729 712038

**Kitchens** 

No Thirty One 01564 770587 0121 713 7200 38 EH Smith

**Online Buying & Selling** 

64 ebuygumm www.ebuygumm.co.uk

**Painter & Decorator** 

29 Bill Boyce 0121 744 0040 32 Adrian Lewis 07811 455546

**Plastering** 

32 Adkins Plasterina 07977 354323

Plumbina

Knowle Domestic

01564 730183 Appliance Repairs Stephen Smith & Son 01564 200119 35 Cullen Plumbing & Tiling 07896 862916

36 Kav's Bathrooms

and Plumbing 07599 085670

**Restaurants** 

The Barn at Berryfields 01676 522155 12 The Bell at Tanworth in Arden 01564 742212

Roofing

0800 195 6946 1 N Bird & Son 28 C Stevens Roofing 0121 733 1276

Security

34 Connect 4 Security 0344 324 6020

Sewing

10 Sew To It Sewing School 01564 792083

Solicitors

20 Sydney Mitchell 0121 746 3300 47 Probate Solicitors 01564 758055

48-49 Wallace Robinson

Morgan Solicitors 0121 705 7571

Windows & Doors

10 Ecoseal 0121 369 1981 30-31 Mainstream 01564 320013 37 Howard Yarnold 0121 414 0808



#### **Suduko Solution**

from page 59



#### **Crossword Solution**

from page 59



#### Solution to Mind benders

- Throw in the towel
- Good for nothing
- Wet behind the ears

#### **Mindbenders Solution**

from page 15



The Courtyard, Barston Lane, Eastcote, Solihull B92 0HS Open 7.30am - 6.00pm

Telephone: 07512107116

Email: info@thecourtyardnurseryschool.co.uk
Website: www.thecourtyardnurseryschool.co.uk
Facebook: fb.com/thecourtyardnurseryschool

#### BRING YOUR PARTY TO OUR PARTY!

at Nailcote Hall Hotel



TICKET PRICES INCLUDE 3 COURSE MEAL - WE WILL CATER FOR ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE THE FULL EVENTS DIARY LISTING: www.nailcotehall.co.uk

**BOOKING HOTLINE CALL: 02476 466174** 



f





### SPRING SPECTACULAR

30th March - 15th April 2018

A choc-o-bloc array of Spring Newborns

**Magic and Puppet Shows** 

**Easter Egg Hunts** 

Laser Combat (8yrs+)

Plus... all the usual Hatton favourite activities

**ALL DAY INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT** 



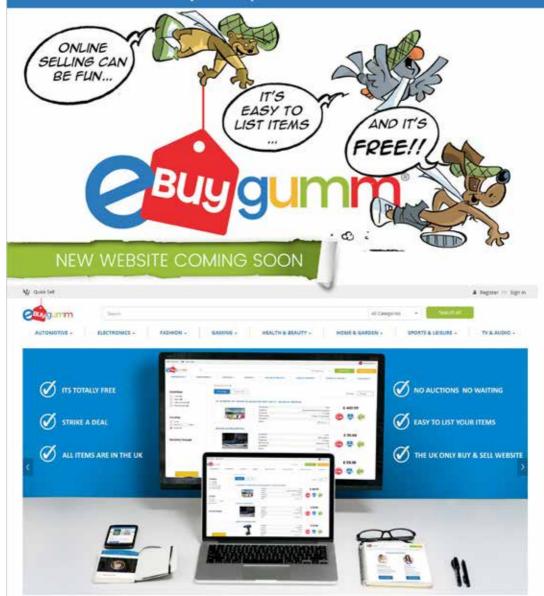
# ONLINE DISCOUNTS

for advance booking at battonworld.com

Terms and Conditions apply - see website for details

www.hattonworld.com

## The UK Only Buy and Sell Website



Want to know why everyone's talking about it?

Go online and check it out