

# BELIEVE IN SOLIHULL THIS CHRISTMAS



Solihull brings you into the festive season with a traditional and warm welcome. This year the town centre will showcase a brand new 14-day Christmas market (**23rd November – 6th December**) with a variety of Christmas gifts, food and drinks on offer. It doesn't just end there, the town centre will be alive with 3 wise men and their camels, balloon modelling elves, Dickensian characters, stilt walkers, choirs, a grotto in Touchwood, a charity gift wrapping service in Mell Square and much more.

Keep an eye on our website for dates and times.

[WWW.SOLIHULLBID.CO.UK](http://WWW.SOLIHULLBID.CO.UK)

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SOLIHULL BID

**MR**  
Events

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— AT BERRYFIELDS —



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Join us in our fantastic first floor restaurant with stunning views over rolling countryside. Serving Breakfast and Lunch daily as well as Dinner Thursday to Saturday and our traditional Roasts on Sunday afternoon.

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The Barn . Berryfields Farm . Meriden . CV7 7LB

Tel: 01676 522 155

### Restaurant Opening Hours

Mon - Wed 9am to 5pm  
Thurs - Sat 9am to 11pm  
Sunday 10am to 5pm

[eat@thebarnatberryfields.co.uk](mailto:eat@thebarnatberryfields.co.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Farm Shop Opening Hours

Mon - Fri 9am to 5:30pm  
Saturday 9am to 5pm  
Sunday 10am to 4pm

[shop@thebarnatberryfields.co.uk](mailto:shop@thebarnatberryfields.co.uk)

[thebarnatberryfields.co.uk](http://thebarnatberryfields.co.uk)

### Festive Menu

Visit our website  
to see our Christmas menu  
& to book a table

Available between  
23rd Nov - 23rd Dec 2017

### Winter Warmers

Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
from 4pm to 7pm

Buy two drinks & enjoy the  
cheapest drink free!

\* Offer available on all draught  
beers & wines served by the glass



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today from The  
Barn At Berryfields  
Farm Shop

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# christmas is coming

## Welcome to the November issue of The Knowle & Dorridge Directory.

By the time this arrives Christmas will only be 6 weeks away! Check out page 6 to see what local Christmassy events are on. If you fancy treating yourself to a night out before the main event, find out what's on at the cinema and the Core theatre in November on page 11. Have a look through the magazine too as some of our advertisers are holding their own local Christmas events and would love your support. You've just about got time to make any last-minute changes to your home in time for Christmas so remember to support local businesses as they really value their customers – we have a great collection of local tradespeople and businesses who are local and are looking for your custom. Here's hoping the pre-Christmas build up isn't too hectic and that you find the time to relax, maybe over a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

*Zoe*

**Zoe Reece**

**Tel: 07557 220585**

**Email: [zoe@dorridgedirectory.com](mailto:zoe@dorridgedirectory.com)**

**[www.knowleanddorridgedirectory.com](http://www.knowleanddorridgedirectory.com)**



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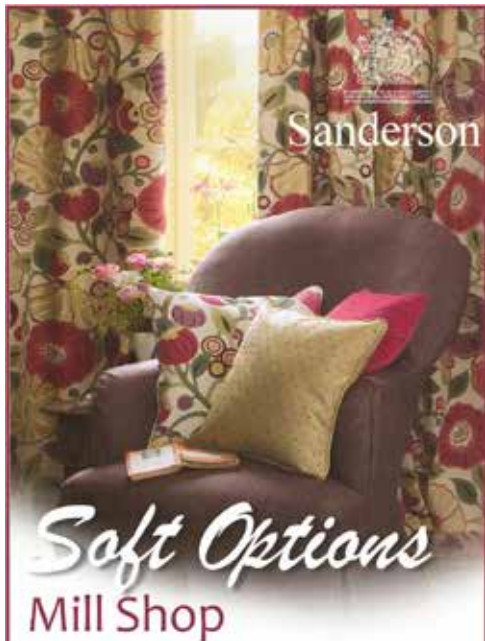


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Sanderson

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# Mindbenders

Can you find the hidden phrases?

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Answers on page 60

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# community events

## Christmas Craft Fair

**Saturday 18th November,**

**10.30am – 4.00pm**

**Bentley Heath Community Centre, B93 9BQ**

There will be a selection of stalls selling Christmas gifts and decorations, as well as a Cake and Home Produce Stall, Tombola and Bottle Stall. Refreshments will be available all day. Father Christmas will be visiting too! In aid of St. Philip's Building For the Future Project.



## Knowle Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum (KDBH) Discover YOUR Neighbourhood Plan!

**Arden Academy, Station Road, Knowle**

**Saturday 25th November  
10am – 2pm**

Two years in the making, 1,000's of inputs from local residents and businesses and 10,000+ hours of in-depth analysis on our villages - the Plan will shape all development in the community. See what is being proposed and add your comments by attending an Exhibition at Arden Academy on Saturday, 25 November 2017 - visit anytime between 10am-2pm.

## Christmas Party Nights

**St Johns Hotel, 651  
Warwick Road, Solihull  
1st – 31st December**

Bring your party to our party at the St Johns Hotel! 3 course meal with a glass of sparkling wine on arrival. Only £35 per person. Call 0121 711 3000 for more details.

## The Strolling Players

**Knowle Village Hall**

**Saturday 9th December 7.30pm**

Presenting a concert of "Songs, Old and New". There will be songs from the shows, folk songs, and old and new favourites to enjoy. Tickets £8 each from David Duggins - 01564 772071 - or from any of the Players. The Players are supporting the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association at this concert.

## 25th Lions Festive Walk

**Baddesley Clinton House**

**Wednesday 27th December**

Walk off your Christmas pudding. Bring your friends and relatives, just turn up and make a donation – that's the invitation from Knowle and Dorridge Lions. This year's special 25th FREE Festive Walk from Baddesley Clinton National Trust House offers a choice of 3, 6 or 9 mile signed circular routes and an opportunity to help the Lions raise funds for the new Solihull Breast Haven Centre, Headway (Birmingham & Solihull), and other local causes. Details & registration form online at [www.KnowleandDorridgeLions.com/](http://www.KnowleandDorridgeLions.com/) walk or call 08458 335 894.

## KNOWLE LIBRARY

- **Jellybeans** - held monthly on a Thursday morning for story-time and rhymes for the under 5's
- **Alphabet Club** - and story-time session for the under 5's, held on alternate Mondays at 2 - 2.30pm
- **Knowle Readers Circle** - meet monthly on Fridays at 2.15pm
- **Knowle Society** - available each Saturday morning for

local history enquiries

- **Under-fives Rhyme Time** - every Friday at 2pm
- **Coffee mornings** - on the first Thursday of the month at 10.30 - 11.30am
- **New monthly Saturday Craft Club** - for ages 10 - 12 years at 11am – 12noon

[www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Libraries/Find-a-library/knowlelibrary](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Libraries/Find-a-library/knowlelibrary)





[www.progressionarchitects.com](http://www.progressionarchitects.com)

01564 730 191

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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.



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[info@progressiontownplanning.com](mailto: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.



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# Enjoy Party Nights

in *Rick's* & *THE MARQUEE*  
at Nailcote Hall Hotel



## NOVEMBER 2017

<b>Sat 11th</b>	<b>MOTOWN DIVAS SHOW with THE DREAMETTES</b>	<b>£32.50</b>
<b>Sat 25th</b>	<b>THE SNOWBALL PARTY NIGHT with THE SOUNDATIONS</b>	<b>£39.50</b>

## DECEMBER 2017

<b>Fri 1st</b>	<b>THE 'TAKE THAT' SPECTACULAR with 'TAKE@THAT'</b>	<b>£39.50</b>
<b>Fri 1st</b>	<b>THE XMAS 'MAMMA MIA' PARTY with BOOTLEG ABBA</b>	<b>£37.50</b>
<b>Sat 2nd</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS 'MOTOWN' PARTY with THE BROTHERS OF SOUL</b>	<b>£42.50</b>
<b>Sat 2nd</b>	<b>BACK TO THE 60'S PARTY with THE REVOLVERS</b>	<b>£37.50</b>
<b>Fri 8th</b>	<b>SWINGING 60's &amp; MOTOWN PARTY with THE KRYSTALETTES</b>	<b>£37.50</b>
<b>Fri 8th</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS 'BACK TO THE 80's' PARTY with 80's EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>£42.50</b>
<b>Fri 15th</b>	<b>The BEST 'PARTY ANIMALS' NIGHT with RANG A TANG</b>	<b>£39.50</b>
<b>Fri 15th</b>	<b>THE ULTIMATE SOUL PARTY with THE BOOZE BROTHERS</b>	<b>£42.50</b>
<b>Sat 16th</b>	<b>'HITS OF THE DECADES' PARTY with JARZINO</b>	<b>£39.50</b>
<b>Sat 16th</b>	<b>THE XMAS SOUL AND FUNK PARTY with 'MARKS BROTHERS'</b>	<b>£42.50</b>
<b>Tue 19th</b>	<b>OLLY MURS &amp; BRUNO MARS PARTY with ROBBIE GLENN</b>	<b>£35.00</b>
<b>Wed 20th</b>	<b>GEORGE BENSON - STEVIE WONDER PARTY with NAT AUGUSTIN</b>	<b>£35.00</b>
<b>Thu 21st</b>	<b>THE No.1 ROD STEWART TRIBUTE with GARRY PEASE</b>	<b>£35.00</b>
<b>Fri 22nd</b>	<b>'BACK TO THE 80's' XMAS PARTY with GR80's</b>	<b>£35.00</b>
<b>Sat 23rd</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MOTOWN DIVAS SHOW with THE DREAMETTES</b>	<b>£35.00</b>
<b>Sun 31st</b>	<b>NEW YEARS EVE 'BLACK TIE' MOTOWN BALL with THE BROTHERS OF SOUL</b>	<b>£85.00</b>

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# a taster of what's on in november & december ...

## CINEMA



### A Bad Mom's Christmas from 3rd November

The bad moms are on a mission to reclaim Christmas. We reunite with Amy, Kiki and Carla for 'A Bad Moms Christmas', which finds them sick of the challenges of the holiday and keen to actually enjoy it for once.



### Murder on the Orient Express from 10th November

Hercule Poirot must solve a murder on a luxury train. A lavish, luxurious train journey through Europe turns deadly in 'Murder On The Orient Express', forcing legendary detective Hercule Poirot to solve the case and find out whodunit.

### Only the Brave

from 10th November

The Granite Mountain Hotshots were an elite team of firefighters who specialised in dealing with wildfires. And in June 2013, they met their match with the Yarnell Hill Fire. Sparked off by a lightning strike, the fire quickly grew and threatened to consume everything nearby. The Hotshots leapt into action to try and stop it from destroying their home, and many of them gave their lives to protect other people from the fire.



To book please visit  
[www.cineworld.co.uk](http://www.cineworld.co.uk)



### The Summer of Love

Friday 17th November

With original 1960s film footage, The Summer Of Love also features a full live band performing songs such as 'California Dreaming', 'San Francisco', 'Turn Turn, Turn', 'Somebody To Love', 'Happy Together', 'Brown Eyed Girl', and over 40 more classic songs from the summer that changed the world.



### 80's Mania

Saturday 18th November

Europe's Official 1980s Multi-Tribute Concert featuring 25 chart topping pop icons authentically recreated with live band and awesome dancers. Performing over 35 chart topping smash-hits live in concert, with tributes to Duran Duran, The Human League, Kim Wilde, Culture Club, Madonna, Wham!, Nena, Toni Basil, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Bananarama, Dead or Alive, Madness and many many more!

To book please visit [www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk](http://www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk)



## THEATRE

The Core Theatre, Solihull  
(formerly Solihull Arts Complex)

### Jack and the Beanstalk Various dates between 8th and 31st December

Solihull's own 'Mr Panto' Malcolm Stent is treating audiences to one final dollop of sparkling fun and silliness as he takes to the stage in his panto finale... Jack & The Beanstalk - after an amazing 27 year pantomime run.

# Christmas & New Year at The Bell Inn



## FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

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## TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER

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## TUESDAY 26th BOXING DAY



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## WEDNESDAY 27th

**Just a Little In Be-Tweeners Party** with DJ Ritchie Jones • Prosecco £15 a bottle all night

## THURSDAY 28th

**Christmas Jumper & Curry Night**

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- From 7pm

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## NEW YEARS DAY

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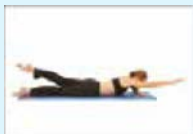
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### ***FOR FURTHER INFORMATION***

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Fundraising & Marketing Officer

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[cmundell@leveson.org.uk](mailto:cmundell@leveson.org.uk)

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# Lady Katherine Housing & Care



**The Foundation of Lady Katherine Leveson is pleased to announce that our care home, Lady Katherine Housing and Care, has been rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission during their recent inspection visit. This is a wonderful achievement as fewer than 2% of care homes nationwide achieve this rating.**

Master of the Foundation Reverend Kathy LloydRoberts said: It is truly refreshing to have the hard work and dedication of our wonderful team here recognised.

At Lady K we believe that we make a real difference to the lives of the older people living here in our thriving community. Not only do we provide full residential care but also respite care, re-ablement care and sheltered housing for older people.

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Lady Katherine Church of England Primary School, St Mary the Virgin Church of England church and the Old Hall, former headquarters of the Knights Templar from the 12th century, all form part of this wonderful place.

If you would like to pay us a visit and meet the team or to request a brochure please contact...

**Chris Mundell**  
**Fundraising & Marketing Officer**  
**01564 772415 / 01564 772850**  
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# the poppy factory

**Major George Howson was an engineer. He was a man of great energy and determination. He won the military cross in WWI. He was addicted to strong Turkish cigarettes and bought them 10000 at a time. He was also the founder of The Royal British Legion Poppy factory!**

**T**hrough the work of Anna Guerin of France and Moina Michael of the USA, both very practical women who took Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's famous poem, "In Flanders Fields", and devised a way of raising vital funds for wartime charities. The British Legion had been set up the year before and the very first French Poppy Appeal – using silk poppies made by widows - had raised £106,000. In 1921 the first British Poppy appeal was held. In the first year the poppies were imported from France and there was huge demand as poppies quickly became the icons of remembrance. The Major made a connection; Remembrance Day needed poppies and wounded ex-soldiers needed work. In a letter to his parents he spoke of using a £2000 cheque he had been given to set up a factory to, '...give the disabled their chance.' He wrote that he felt the project would probably not be successful but that he ought to attempt it anyway.

He set up The Disabled Society in London with just five injured ex-servicemen, and in spite of his initial lack of optimism, in few years that had grown to 350 men. He set up a sister factory in Edinburgh to supply poppies to Scotland, and the London factory moved to larger premises near the Thames in Richmond and was renamed The Poppy Factory.

As time went on the needs of veterans changed. They wanted to work in their own communities, closer to their families and to use the many and varied skills they had acquired during their careers in the armed services, prior to becoming injured.

In 2010, The Poppy Factory began to actively help disabled ex-Service find the work they wanted in the places they wanted to be. It continues to build on its strong historical foundations to provide an employability service that supports hundreds of ex-Service personnel with varying health challenges into meaningful employment with businesses across the country every year.

Moina Michael was an American professor. She wrote a response to McCrae's poem in 1918 entitled *We Shall Keep The Faith*. She vowed to always wear a poppy as a symbol of Remembrance for those who served in the war.

She realised the need to provide financial and occupational support for ex-Servicemen after teaching a class of disabled veterans at the University of Georgia, and so she pursued the idea of selling silk poppies to raise funds for them.





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# who invented... duct tape

**If ever you doubt whether one person can make a difference then you need to know the story of Vesta Stoudt.**

In the 1940s Vesta, who had two sons in the Navy, went to work in a US ammunition factory in Illinois to do her part for the war effort. Her job was to inspect and pack cartridges used to launch the rifle grenades used by soldiers in the Army and Navy. The cartridges were packed eleven to a box, and the boxes were taped and waxed to make them waterproof and damp-proof. The box flaps were sealed with thin paper tape, and a tab of tape was left loose so that it could be pulled to release the waterproof wax coating and open the box. But the thin paper tape wasn't strong enough, so the tabs frequently tore off when soldiers pulled on them. This left them frantically scrambling to claw the boxes open while under enemy fire, which put lives at risk, including those of Vesta's sons.

So Vesta came up with a solution: seal the boxes with a strong, cloth-based waterproof tape instead of thin paper tape. She raised the issue with her supervisors but, as is often the way with such things, nothing was actually implemented.

Now Vesta Stoudt was not a woman to think, 'Oh well at least I tried...' She took matters into her own hands and wrote directly to President Roosevelt, outlining the problem and explaining her idea about how to fix it. She appealed to the fact he was a father himself, stating that this would help his boys as well as her boys.

Roosevelt sent Vesta's letter to the War Production Board in Washington, D.C., and a few weeks later in March, she received a series of replies culminating with one which told her that



the recommendation for the new tape had been approved and was "...of exceptional merit."

Because of Johnson & Johnson's long experience making surgical adhesive tapes, The War Production Board asked Johnson & Johnson to make the new tape. It was originally called 'Duck Tape' because of the fact it was waterproof and made with a heavy woven type of fabric called cotton duck. Vesta Stoudt received a letter from President Roosevelt and earned the Chicago Tribune's War Worker Award for her idea and her persistence.

Mostly today our lives don't depend on duct tape but we still find it indispensable for all manner of tasks.

.....

*Duck tape or Duct tape: Although it started life as Duck Tape, it gradually became known as duct tape because it was so often used in the construction industry to wrap around air ducts!*



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# a good read

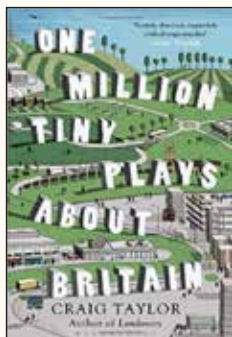
reviews By Willow Coby

## Plays About Britain

by Craig Taylor

How often do you hear someone complain that they never have time to read? Too often? Or are you guilty of this yourself? If so, Craig Taylor's superb book is a godsend. The title is more or less an accurate description of the contents – although there are slightly fewer than a million of Taylor's carefully crafted snapshots of British life: 'dramatic haikus', perhaps, as Richard Eyre suggests in his introduction. The format of each play is the same: a brief sentence to set the scene, then the dialogue takes over. The longest runs to three or four pages, the shortest to one sentence. A range of scenes is covered – from two women in a queue at a Surrey bank, to a farmer in Kent speaking on his mobile phone from a tractor, to a late night on Newcastle Quayside. The characters are diverse too – young and old, drunk and sober, flippant and serious. However, it is the perfectly observed sharpness of speech that makes this book stand out. At first, you could believe that Taylor has merely been in the right place at the right time and recorded everything that he heard. Lines like 'I once took Diana Rigg's coat – in her pocket was a packet of Polos. That's an elegant mint' ! And 'There's more to it all. More than Swansea,' sound so authentic that you believe in the speakers and their lives, however brief and insignificant their conversations seem to be.

Some of the plays rely on a growing sense of unease - the nervous customer in the barber's shop: others are out and out funny - two Wonder Women fighting in the street. Every ending is well judged and either rounds off the play with a



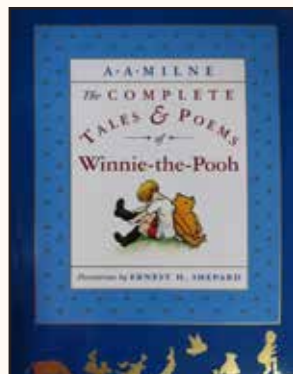
'reveal' or a cliff-hanger – always showing, never telling. Ideal for reading in short bursts or longer chunks – well worth a look.

## The Complete Tales and Poems of Winnie-the-Poo

by AA Milne

The recently released film 'Goodbye Christopher Robin' painted a less-than-rosy picture of the dysfunctional upper class Milne family. Yet the stories are still compellingly charming from the opening lines, 'Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin.'

Milne may have been a traumatised war veteran but his storytelling has so much warmth and depth. At times the tales are laugh out loud funny – Rabbit in particular makes me giggle every time he replies to a knock at the door – and children will quickly read along with you, even if some of the sentence structure and vocabulary is complex. Every child deserves to have this book read aloud to them at least once before they are six and I bet you anything you will be asked for it again, and again. The word classic is sometimes used lightly: here, it is truly deserved.



# stir up sunday

Stir Up Sunday is on  
Sunday 26th November.

The tradition dates back to Victorian times, when the family would gather together to stir the Christmas pudding the Sunday before advent began. The opening words of the Book Of Common Prayer, read on this Sunday before Advent, are 'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord', which is probably where the name came from. Originally Christmas pudding contained 13 ingredients said to represent Jesus and his disciples. It is stirred by each member of the family from East to West, to remember the Wise Men that visited Jesus in the Nativity Story. This is the point where you make a wish though no-one knows when that was added to the tradition. Charms were often added to the pud and said to bring luck if you found them in your portion on Christmas Day. Historically the lucky charms were a silver coin for wealth, a wishbone

for luck, a thimble for thrift, a ring for marriage, and an anchor for safe harbour. Later coins were often used instead. As needing expensive emergency dental treatment is definitely NOT considered lucky it might be wise to forgo that particular tradition nowadays or at least give your serving a thorough inspection before you tuck in.

The traditional sprig holly on top of the pud was said to represent the crown of thorns worn by Jesus on the cross. Holly and its berries are extremely toxic so it might be better to stick to artificial greenery. As to why we set fire to the pudding, no-one seems to know. One theory is that the flames represent the power of Christ, another is that Christian traditions mingled with the midwinter festivals of light, and the pudding, with its high alcohol content was simply a good candidate for being ignited!

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# a trip to the seaside...

## vintage style

The London to Brighton Veteran Car Run takes place on November 5th.

We take a look at the world's longest running motoring event.

In these days of motorway mayhem and congestion charges it's difficult to imagine a time when owning a car was considered daring, a little eccentric and beyond the wildest dreams of most British people.

When Jean-Joseph Etienne Lenoir patented the internal combustion engine in 1860 he paved the way for the development of the modern motor car.

Initially progress was slow...literally.

The Government passed The Red Flag Act in 1865. Section 3 of this act required that one person had to walk 60 yards ahead of the vehicle and that he should wave a small red flag to warn others that a car was approaching.

This meant that the speed of the new motor cars was reduced to 4mph in the countryside and just 2mph in town.

Unsurprisingly this legislation stifled the progress of the motor industry for many years.

In 1896 after much discussion The Locomotives on Highways Act was passed which did away with the need for the flag waver.

In order to celebrate, the first London to Brighton Run was organised by Harry Lawson's Motor Car Club. But Mr. Lawson had a hidden agenda. He wanted to control the fledgling motor car industry through master patents held by his British Motor Syndicate. The enterprising businessman managed to extract considerable sums of money from hopeful investors in his new companies. One of these was Daimler which today is Britain's oldest car maker.



It is estimated that at the time of the first Rally there were only around a hundred cars in Britain. Today we have around 500 million!

33 cars took part in the original run but only fourteen made it to Brighton and it's rumoured that one of those was taken by train and had mud splashed all over it before crossing the finish line! Part of the problem was the weather which was dreadful. Rain poured down and the roads became sodden and muddy.

The rally has run every year since with the exception of the war years when petrol was rationed. It is one of Britain's biggest motoring spectacles and attracts entrants from all over the world.

Only cars built before January 1st 1905 are eligible to enter and this year 490 of them have been registered for the run, 85 of them from countries as far away as China, the USA and Australia.

The 60 mile rally starts at sunrise on the 5th so why not have a day out and see British motoring history in action.

**Visit <http://www.veterancarrun.com> for more information**

# first aid

It can take just a few minutes to save someone's life

**Y**our daughter has a nosebleed. Your father chokes on a piece of meat.

Your toddler swallows some floor cleaner. Would you know what to do?

First aid is the care given before the emergency services arrive. A blocked airway can kill someone in three to four minutes yet it can take eight to 12 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. Knowing how to open someone's airway could mean the difference between life and death.

Almost 4000 people per year die because of accidents in their homes and statistically you are far more likely to be called upon to administer first aid to someone you know than to a stranger.

The top ten injuries or accidents in the home are:

*Falls*  
*Strikes and collisions*  
*Cuts and abrasions*  
*Foreign bodies*  
*Over exertion e.g. moving heavy furniture*  
*Burns and scalds*  
*Crush injuries*  
*Bites and stings*  
*Puncture wounds e.g. stepping on a child's toy*  
*Suspected poisoning*

There are many myths and misconceptions about injuries. Here are the most common:

**Butter or cream is good for a burn** NO, immerse the injured limb in cool water.

**If you can move a limb it's not broken** NO, the

only sure way to tell if a limb is broken is to x-ray it.

**Put a bleeding wound under a tap** NO, by all means clean the wound if required but water will wash away the body's own clotting agents so compression with a clean dressing is the best way to staunch the flow.

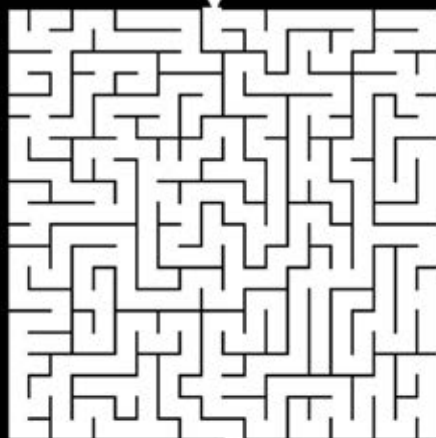
**Make someone sick if they've swallowed poison** NO, this can block their airway or, if the substance is corrosive, damage it further.

Most first aid is common sense but learning some simple skills such as chest compressions (CPR) and the Heimlich manoeuvre will increase your confidence if an emergency arises. There are many organisations which provide short courses, most last just half a day. Your employer might provide training but if not you could enrol the whole family on a course and make an event of it. Even young children will feel empowered to learn new skills and you never know when they might come in useful!



# Kids' Page

Can you get these three friends to the firework display?



Can you find all the firework-related words inside the letter grid?

S	P	A	R	K	L	E	M
W	Z	L	C	L	T	J	F
F	H	B	G	L	O	W	B
Z	I	A	B	M	K	O	
M	O	Z	Z	N	V	S	O
G	P	O	Z	Z	G	P	M
E	Q	O	M	A	L	I	F
G	K	T	P	C	L	N	V

bang  
boom  
fizz

glow  
pop  
sparkle

spin  
whizz  
zoom

*Did you know that fireworks were invented more than 2000 years ago in China!*



Word Grid Solution



Maze Solution



# tequila!

Tequila's was North America's first distilled drink and the first to be produced commercially. Like Mexico itself it is surrounded by myth...

**T**equila is made from cactus juice: No, it's made only from the blue Agave plant which is related to the Amaryllis and the Lily. It is a succulent but definitely not a cactus.

Traditional Tequila has a worm in the bottom of the bottle: The worm in the bottle was never a traditional element and was only introduced into a similar drink, Mescal in the 1940s as a marketing ploy. Some American brands of Tequila followed suit and the myth was born.

All Tequilas are the same:



Heavens no! That would be like saying all single malts are the same. They vary a lot depending on the production process, the growing environment of the Agave plants including the temperature, the soil, the age of the plants and the means

by which they're baked.

Seek out tequilas made completely from agave — they're much smoother and can be sipped neat.

Blanco or silver tequilas are virtually unaged so are zesty and spicy.

Reposado tequilas are aged for 2-12 months in oak barrels. This gives them more of a warm woody flavour.

Añejos tequilas are aged for longer - 1 to 4 years, and are very woody.

Many people consider the reposado tequilas to give the best balance between the agave profile and the wood but it's really down to personal taste.



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# National Tree Week

25th November-3rd Dec

**N**ovember 25th marks the start of National Tree Week, which in turn marks the start of tree-planting season.

Considering that most of us in the UK have fairly small plots we do love our trees. The trouble is we're not always terribly good at choosing them. How many times have you driven through a housing estate and observed an enormous weeping willow or an enormous pine tree completely obscuring a front garden.

It can be tricky deciding what sort of tree to plant on a small, suburban plot but there are plenty of candidates. Generally trees up to 8-10m are considered suitable.

The best urban trees offer year-round interest. Varieties of Acer Palmatum are rather lovely. They are elegant trees which have attractive green or purple foliage and colour beautifully in the winter.

For my money Amelanchier Lamarckii is about as hardworking a tree as you'll come across. During March and April it produces a frothy



show of white flowers, then in June these are replaced by attractive deep purple, and supposedly edible - though I've never tried them - fruits. Then, when Autumn arrives the tree pulls out all the stops and bursts into fiery colour. If you only have room for one tree then an Amelanchier won't let you down.

Another hard worker is Sorbus hupehensis var. obtusa. This tree has a pretty shape and is attractive throughout the year. In the late spring it is covered in white blossom which is followed by masses of dark pink berries. The blue-green leaves turn red in the autumn.

It's just my opinion of course but without at least one tree, a garden can seem flat and a little dull. Trees provide structure and height but are also a haven for birds and

insects, which in turn add colour and life. Why not plant a tree during this week. Our guide has some helpful tips.

## How to Plant a Tree

Dig a hole at least twice the size of the root ball. Make up a mixture of half compost and half soil from the hole. Put a few inches of this mix at the bottom of the hole. Trees need support so drive a support stake into the hole at one edge. This needs to be done before the tree is planted or you risk damaging the roots. Tip the tree from its container and loosen the roots a little. Place it into the hole and fill in with the soil and compost mixture. Firm it down with your heel. Use proper straps to secure the tree to the post. Water well!

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## Lighting Design Tips

The first point of a lighting design is deciding what elements you would like to illuminate. Start with seating areas, pathways, borders, attractive plants, trees and other garden features.

Once you have decided on the features, next consider how they are going to be illuminated.

For patios and seating areas try to achieve a subtle relaxed ambience.

Reflecting light off walls or fences helps soften the light and create a more pleasant environment.

For areas demanding a higher light intensity, direct light onto features and create a play of shadows on the background.



Spotlights are the most versatile light fitting and are perfect for illuminating trees and shrubs. They deliver amazing results.

Diffused light provides a uniform distribution of light and softened shadows.

Pathways through your garden work best at night with well placed post lights to guide pedestrians.

Use post lights in straight lines to enhance depth and perspective along your garden path.

Changes in height such as steps in your garden can be dangerous at night.

Installing small recessed lights into the steps or risers will prevent tripping or falls.



### Next Issue...

How LED's save money, why low voltage is safe and light strength explained.

By James Parnham

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# Pear Tart Tatin

A slightly different take on a traditional tart tatin



**Preparation time: 1 hour 20 minutes**

## Ingredients:

125g caster sugar  
40g cold butter, chopped  
1/2 tsp ground ginger  
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon  
3 large pears, peeled, cored and cut into wedges  
375g all-butter puff pastry  
Double cream, to serve

## Method

Preheat oven to 200C/gas 6. Put a 21cm-diameter frying pan with an ovenproof handle (this bit is important!) on a hob over a medium heat. Add the sugar to the dry pan and heat, stirring constantly until it turns a lovely caramel colour. Add the butter, ginger and cinnamon and stir well to combine.

Place the pears in the caramel and spoon over the mixture. Turn the heat down and cook for 5–10 minutes until the pears are just tender and cooked but retain their shape. Remove from the heat and cool slightly. Arrange the pears to form an attractive pattern in the pan.

Roll out the pastry to about 5mm thick and cut a disc slightly bigger than your pan (about 24cm). Place the pastry disc on top of the pears and caramel, then carefully tuck it snugly around the outside of the pears and down into the sides of the pan.

Bake the pie in the oven for 30–40 minutes, or until the pastry is golden brown and puffed up. Remove from the oven and leave for 10 minutes. Run a knife around the edge, place a large plate over the top and carefully turn the tart onto the plate. Serve with cream.



# COMPETITION



## **WIN 4 tickets**

**to see Lily and the Little Snow Bear**

**Friday 22nd December, 1pm**

**The Core Theatre, Solihull (formerly Solihull Arts Complex)**

For your chance to win these tickets, worth £40, visit the Core Theatre website page for this event - [www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk](http://www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk) - to find the answer to this question:

**What's the name of the theatre company who performs this show?**

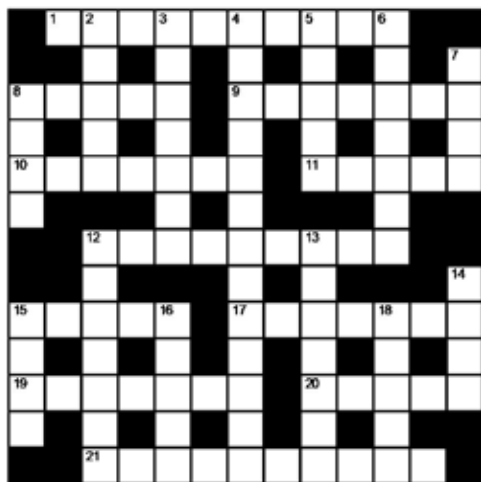
Email your answer to: [thecoretheatre@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:thecoretheatre@solihull.gov.uk) – and please put 'Lily' as the subject line

**Closing date for entries is 30th November and the winner will be drawn at random and notified by email after this date.**

### **About the Show:**

Lily lives with Grandpa in a pretty little cottage somewhere in the countryside. There are just two more sleeps until Christmas and it's snowing already! Lily love SNOW! So, she pops on her coat and sets off to explore. But when she discovers a trail of soft little footprints, she's in for a very big SURPRISE! This funny, heart-warming tale of friendship is the perfect treat for Christmas with exquisite puppets, enchanting music and a magical snowy setting. Little people ages 3+ will love this beautiful new show, but their grown-ups will have lots of fun too!

## crossword

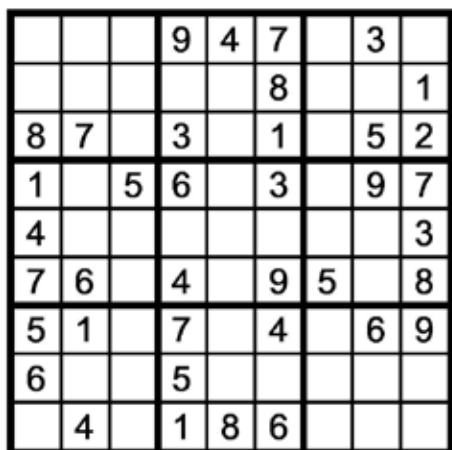


## clues

- 1 Spotty breed of dog (10)
- 8 Popular TV serials (5)
- 9 Ballistic weapon (7)
- 10 Take someone's breath away (7)
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ wave, huge destructive volume of water (5)
- 12 Very poorly (2,1,3,3)
- 15 Return money (5)
- 17 A part of the body that's often pierced (3,4)
- 19 Brides carry one of these (7)
- 20 Smoothly slip (5)
- 21 Exhibiting (10)

### Down

- 2 Astonish, surprise (5)
- 3 Eyelash cosmetic (7)
- 4 Emotional, moody (13)
- 5 Valuable possession (5)
- 6 Rapidly revolve clothes to remove water after washing. (4-3)
- 7 Shout, holler (4)
- 8 Footwear (4)
- 12 Seize and take legal custody of an item (7)
- 13 Lazy, disinclined to get a job (4-3)
- 14 In this place (4)
- 15 Cloak, cape (4)
- 16 Opposite of 'mine' (5)
- 18 Tear-inducing vegetable (5)



## how to play sudoku

### It's simple!

Fill in the grid 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

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49 Athos Business Solutions 0333 400 7876

## Architects

7 Progression 01564 730191

## Bathrooms

37 Kav's Bathrooms and Plumbing 07599 085670

## Blinds / Curtains / Fabric

5 Tudor Rose Curtains 0121 445 2072  
5 Soft Options 01564 783399  
25 Grange Blinds 01564 702036

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16 Crossroads Service Station 01564 703225  
63 Johnsons Cars 01564 454081  
64 Easylease 0121 693 0573

## Care and Childcare Services

17 Hampton in Arden pre-school 07527 006386  
18-19 Lady Katherine Housing 01564 772850

## Carpets

26 Ian Hounsell 01564 772324  
27 Don Mander 01564 700 200

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22 All Aspects 0121 243 3977  
25 Stephen Smith & Son 01564 200119

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62 Wythall Animal Rescue 01564 823288

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40 Merry Maids 0121 340 3150  
41 Dorridge & Knowle Domestic Cleaning Services 07809 567264  
41 Village Domestic Cleaning 07854 071892  
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32-33 A-Plan 0121 733 4848

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27 Knowle Interiors 01564 772544

## Kitchens

26 Cucina Kitchens 01564 783007

## Painter & Decorator

24 Bill Boyce 0121 744 0040

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12 The Bell, Tanworth-in-Arden 01564 742212

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24 C Stevens Roofing 0121 733 1276

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15 Sew To It Sewing School 01564 792083

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50 Wallace Robinson 0121 705 7571  
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30-31 Mainstream 01564 320013  
35 BMT 0121 771 4999  
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2	5	1	9	4	7	8	3	6
3	9	6	2	5	8	7	4	1
8	7	4	3	6	1	9	5	2
1	8	5	6	2	3	4	9	7
4	2	9	8	7	5	6	1	3
7	6	3	4	1	9	5	2	8
5	1	8	7	3	4	2	6	9
6	3	7	5	9	2	1	8	4
9	4	2	1	8	6	3	7	5

**Sudoku Solution**  
from page 59

D	A	L	M	A	T	I	A	N	S
M	A	E	S	P	Y				
S	O	A	P	S	M	I	S	S	I
H	Z	C	P	E	N	L			
O	V	E	R	A	W	E	T	I	D
E		R	R		R				
	I	N	A	B	A	D	W	A	Y
M									
R	E	P	A	Y	E	A	R	L	O
O	O	O	O	N	K	N	I	R	
B	O	U	Q	U	E	T	S	L	I
E	N	R	A	H	O				
D	I	S	P	L	A	Y	I	N	G

**Crossword Solution**  
from page 59



### Solution to Mind benders

1. Pat on the back
2. Forty winks
3. Balancing act

**Mindbenders Solution**  
from page 5

# 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
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## 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

Sergeant Mike Lloyd

Telephone: 101 ext 891 6011

Email: knowledorridge@west-midlands.ppn.police.uk







WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7 – 9PM  
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CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATIONS



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Trading as Wythall Animal Rescue

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send a cheque to  
**Wythall Animal Rescue with  
your details  
or email  
[info@wythallanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@wythallanimalrescue.org)**

If you would like a copy of  
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**Limited availability  
Book early!**

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Proceeds to  
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Norton, Birmingham, B38 0DU  
T. 01564 823288

[info@wythallanimalrescue.org](mailto:info@wythallanimalrescue.org)

[www.wythallanimalrescue.org](http://www.wythallanimalrescue.org)

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