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december 2022

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for residents of knowle and dorridge



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Welcome to the November edition

Christmas will be just around the corner by the time this reaches you. So here's hoping you're all stocked up with goodies and gifts to see you through the festive season.

It can be the most wonderful time of the year, but it can also be the loneliest. If you have time why not try reaching out to any local people who live on their own to see if they'd like a cup of tea and a chat. Everyone's had a tough couple of years, but this is still continuing with the cost-of-living increases that are affecting everyone. However you spend your Christmas, here's hoping you have a lovely time and wishing you all a happy and healthy 2023.

Zoe Reece

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Knowle and Dorridge Lions Club 29th Annual Festive Walk

22-23 December,

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On 27th December 2022 the Lions Festive Walk will once again depart from Dorridge Village Hall with the choice of either a 3 or 6 mile walk, returning via Dorridge Cricket Club who will be providing excellent refreshments for purchase. Details at www.knowleanddorridgelions.com

New Year's Eve Reggae Magic Band

31 December,

Akamba, Shirley

Welcome in 2023 with a night of motown, reggae, ska, soul and disco music. Plus live DJ, fireworks and limbo dancers. Entry is £59 per person which includes a 2 course meal and a midnight buffet. Tickets from www.akambavenue.co.uk

What's on at the Land Rover Sports & Social Club



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Christmas Jumper Day!

Thursday 8th December 2022 is Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day!

The charity Save the Children started Christmas Jumper Day in 2012. Every year since then, millions of people don gaudy festive knitwear in their school or office and donate £2 to a good cause.

The Christmas jumper has grown in popularity, going from 'hideously misjudged gift' status to a desirable festive fashion statement. Some 12 million Christmas jumpers are sold in the UK in the run up to Christmas every year.

With the rise of consumer advertising in the fifties and sixties, jumpers had always featured heavily in Christmas adverts. The models' usual suits and dresses were replaced with cosy knitwear to encourage

consumers to buy seasonal goods. These were more conventional woollies though. As Christmas became ever more commercial, 'novelty' jumpers appeared decorated with snowmen, snowflakes, Santas, and popular cartoon characters dressed in festive attire.

There's a Christmas jumper to suit every taste, from 'techno-knits' covered in fairy lights, which connect to your phone and play musical clips, to jumpers bearing whimsical dachshunds in Santa hats, through to elegantly beautiful sparkly numbers that wouldn't look out of place at a cocktail event.

Pull on your Christmas pullover on December 8th and help raise money for a good cause.





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Give us a kiss for Christmas...

So goes the vintage Pinky and Perky song. A kiss under a sprig of mistletoe is a well-known festive tradition. But why?

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant which attaches itself to a tree by means of something called a haustorium, and through this it extracts water and nutrients from the host plant. So how did it become associated with romance?

Mistletoe's medicinal uses can be traced back to Ancient Greece, where they used it as a cure for everything from menstrual cramps to spleen disorders, and the Romans used as for epilepsy, ulcers and as a poison. No obvious romantic overtones there! Enter the Celtic Druids around 1st century A.D. Mistletoe thrives during the coldest winters, so the Druids adopted it as a sacred symbol of vivacity, and used it in both humans and

animals in the hope of restoring fertility. Then there is the Norse myth of Odin's son Baldur, who was prophesied to die, so his mother Frigg, the goddess of love, went to all the animals and plants of the natural world to secure an oath that they would not harm him. But she forgot to ask the humble mistletoe, so the god Loki cunningly made an arrow from the plant and used it to kill the otherwise invincible Baldur. But the gods were able to resurrect him, so (somewhat counterintuitively perhaps) Frigg declared mistletoe a symbol of love and vowed to plant a kiss on all those who passed beneath it.

Do you love or hate the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe?



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Don't let inheritance tax spoil your family Christmas

Giving to loved ones is a Christmas tradition that everyone enjoys, whether a shopping voucher or a car; it always adds a bit of extra cheer to the holiday. However, for people who like to splash out on their gifts, inheritance tax (IHT) can put a dampener on things. Hannah Tait, partner at Shakespeare Martineau in Solihull, explains.

What is IHT?

Quite simply, it is a tax levied on assets acquired through an inheritance or gift.

What's the tax-free limit for gifts and are any gifts exempt?

Annual lifetime transfers of up to £3,000 can be made each tax year without worrying about inheritance tax. Small gifts of up to £250 can also be made to as many people as you like. This can be very useful for Christmas! Donations to charity and some gifts in consideration of marriages or civil partnerships are not liable for inheritance tax, depending on how closely related a person is to the happy couple. Gifts of £5,000, for example, can be made by a parent and £2,500 can be made by a grandparent. All gifts between married couples or those in civil partnerships are generally also exempt, although it is important that domicile is considered here.

What's the seven-year-rule?

Most gifts will initially be considered as 'potentially exempt transfers'. These become totally exempt when the donor has survived seven years from the date of the gift. If you die within seven years of the potentially exempt transfer, the value eats into your Nil Rate Band (currently £325k per person), thus reducing or even eliminating the amount that can be passed to your beneficiaries without IHT implications.

Is there a way to avoid IHT for certain?

No one can predict how long someone will live. However, early planning is recommended and it is always important to consider the capital gains tax implications of any gift as well as the IHT position. One often overlooked option for IHT is the 'normal expenditure of out income' exemption. If a person can prove their income meets all their living costs, and that their standard of living can be maintained after the gift has been made, then it may be possible to claim this exemption for IHT. To qualify, there must be a regular pattern to this gifting and maintaining records is crucial for the claiming of this very useful exemption. People often use this for the payment of school fees.



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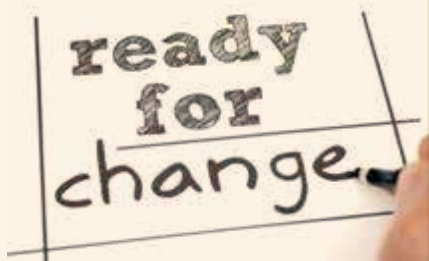
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a good read

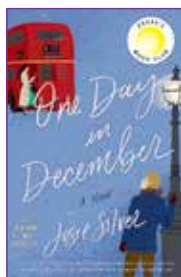
By Natasha Donovan

One Day in December

by Josie Silver

It's the time of year for a feel-good romantic novel, one that can be enjoyed curled up under a blanket with a nutmeg-spiced hot chocolate.

Laurie is unlucky in love and stuck in a career rut. One day she is sitting on a bus when she spots a man reading at the bus stop. He looks up, their eyes meet and somewhere there is a spark. Laurie can't stop thinking about him, wondering if they will ever meet. Her best friend and roommate Sarah is Laurie's opposite. She introduces Jack, her new boyfriend to Laurie, anxious that they will hit it off except... her boyfriend is the man from the bus, the guy that



Laurie has been dreaming about. No surprises here...classic romantic chick-lit so far.

Cue heartbreak and hiccups, and the quest not to hurt a friend while pursuing your own 'happily ever after'. But this novel actually spans a decade (unusual for a romance) of friendship, fate, unrequited feelings, forgiveness, heartache, and love. It's not a typical love story...there's good character development. It's told both from Laurie and Jack's perspectives, with the reader privy to their thoughts and feelings. It has all the nostalgia (and a few of the cliches) of a Richard Curtis film, but the trio of central characters clearly care deeply about each other. Their friendship feels genuine, which in turn makes us care about them and gives the story its heart.

If this book doesn't get made into a film at some point, I'll be surprised.

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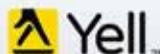
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Christmas Crossword



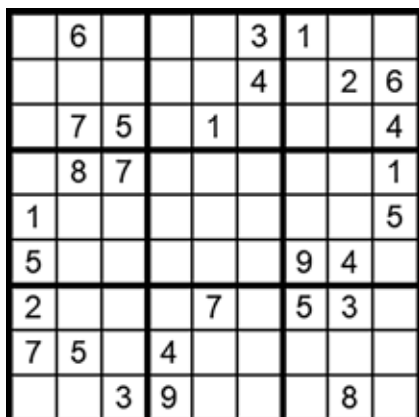
Clues

Across

- 2 Santa's helpers (5)
- 5 _____ Christmas! (5)
- 6 _____ fairy (5,4)
- 8 Frozen rain (4)
- 9 Circular decoration (6)
- 12 Santa's means of entry (7)
- 13 Tree decoration (6)
- 16 Striped sweet (5,4)
- 19 Tree topper (4)
- 20 Film starring Martin Freeman (8)
- 21 Santa's lead reindeer (7)
- 22 Kris _____ (7)
- 23 Dr Seuss's green Christmas villain (6)
- 24 Little _____ Boy (7)

Down

- 1 _____ Bells (6)
- 2 Traditional dairy drink (6)
- 3 Charles Dickens' anti-hero (7)
- 4 The Holly and the _____ (3)
- 5 You might get a kiss under this (9)
- 7 Three Kings Day (8)
- 10 A girl's festive name (5)
- 11 The Christmas ballet (10)
- 14 Used to build festive houses (11)
- 15 Famous snowman (6)
- 16 Christmas song (5)
- 17 Where Santa lives (5,4)
- 18 Santa's transport system (6)
- 19 Hung over the fireplace or at the end of the bed (8)



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 42

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This advert is funded by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) for the purpose of assisting Saqib Bhatti MP in the performance of their Parliamentary duties.

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As a child growing up in the Seventies, I thought socks were the most boring Christmas gift possible until the year my Auntie Glenda bought me a rainbow-striped over-the-knee pair with individual toes. She was the coolest aunt and they were the coolest socks. I was the envy of my friends and my obsession with socks began.

Socks are actually the perfect Christmas gift. They are great for stocking fillers, brilliant for Secret Santa, and just the thing for those awkward relatives and friends.

Everyone needs a pair of socks in the winter, particularly now we're all trying to use the heating less. Bed socks and Hygge-style lounge socks are making a big comeback this year as we all try to keep warm.

And socks wear out, they also have a

propensity for disappearing. It's a rare person who can claim to have too many socks!

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favours designer brands, a pair of socks is usually within budget. Admittedly cashmere socks are super-expensive, but the recipient will love you forever.

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Mindbenders

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YYY blokes
guys
chaps

Sir Lancelot



answers on page 22

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Solution to Mind benders

1. Three wise men
2. Holy night
3. Naughty list

mindbenders
from page 37

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

Sudoku Solution
from page 34

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

Crossword Solution
from page 34



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