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may 2022

a community magazine and business directory
for residents of knowle and dorridge



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Wishing you a great month ahead. Until next month...



Zoe Reece

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Dorridge Fun Run

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1,500 so please register asap at stphilipschurchcentre.co.uk

As You Like It

18 June. Packwood House, Lapworth

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Erasure Tribute Night

25 June. Knowle British Legion

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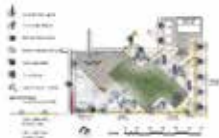
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The Platinum Jubilee

Unless you've been living as a hermit it can't have escaped your notice that a significant event takes place this month. That's right...we all have an extra day's holiday to look forward to. Oh, and Her Majesty celebrates her Platinum Jubilee

Jubilees have always been significant events in the history of our country. Even as I type the shop shelves are groaning under the weight of commemorative mugs, and TV adverts exhort

us to send off for decorative coins. I'd always assumed that Royal souvenirs were a relatively modern invention, but in fact they have been a popular way of marking royal jubilees

and weddings for the last three centuries.

The earliest known English commemorative items date from the Restoration of Charles II, in 1660. They must have been a hit because more followed for his Coronation in 1661 and

wedding in 1662! At first such items were purchased only by the wealthy, but as new manufacturing methods developed the ordinary general public was able to buy a little piece of Royal history too. What they bought hasn't changed a great deal over the

years: the most popular items are and have always been coins, stamps and ceramics, especially mugs. Oh us Brits do love a Royal mug. Maybe it's related to our love of tea!



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a good read

reviews By Willow Coby

The Last Thing He Told Me

by Laura Dave

Before Owen Michaels disappears, he manages to smuggle a note to Hannah, his wife of one year: Protect her. Hannah while understandably scared and confused knows exactly who the note refers to. It's Owen's sixteen-year-old daughter Bailey, who lost her mother when she was very young and wants absolutely nothing to do with her new stepmother. As the FBI arrest Owen's boss and US Marshals arrive her home, Hannah realizes her husband may not be who he said he was. If you love a mystery but crave a reprieve from the usual bloody murder and maverick detective scenario, Laura Dave's novel about a man living a lie and his wife and daughter desperately trying to find out who he really is, might be the perfect solution. The mystery of Owen's past is certainly intriguing, but the strength of this book really lies in the characters. This is not a book about Hannah's relationship with Owen, but about her evolving relationship with Bailey. The mother and stepdaughter are forced to set out to discover what it is Owen was hiding, and quickly realise that it goes way beyond the financial fraud his company is accused of. As the tension builds, they don't know who to believe or who they can trust, so they're forced to depend on each other. In the end, the story deals with what it means to be a mother, protecting a child, and the child coming to terms with her world being turned upside down for the second time in her young life. Anyone who has taken on the role of stepmother will probably identify with Hannah and Bailey's relationship on many levels. This isn't a fast-paced novel, but it moves along nicely. It's told in the present using flashbacks to Hannah's marriage to Owen. Hannah is a strong



character, resilient and compassionate with authentic emotions. She's also immensely practical and is not afraid to take matters into her own hands. There are numerous twists and turns, that take them from their home in California to Austin Texas, and the truth when it comes is shockingly unexpected.

The Suitcase Kid

by Jacqueline Wilson with Nick Sharraff (Illustrations)

Ten-year-old Andrea, known as Andy, is an only child who has always lived at Mulberry Cottage with her mum and dad. But when they split up, Andy has to say goodbye to her childhood home. She's pushed from pillar to post by her mum and dad as they struggle to work out a suitable visitation arrangement. She spends one week at her mum's and one week at her dad's. Suddenly she's coping with the divorce, two new homes, and two new mis-matched families with stepbrothers and stepsisters, not all of whom are nice! She now has five siblings and nowhere to call home. No wonder Andy struggles to feel part of either family and craves her old home and life. Jacqueline Wilson is a consummate storyteller, with a real understanding of a child's inner world. She tells the story poignantly, using Andy as the narrator, confiding her inner most thoughts and fears to the reader in language they can relate to. Can Andy overcome her feelings of not belonging, find new friends, family allies and a sense of belonging?





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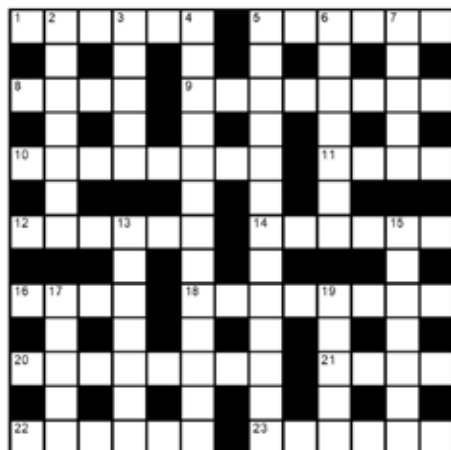
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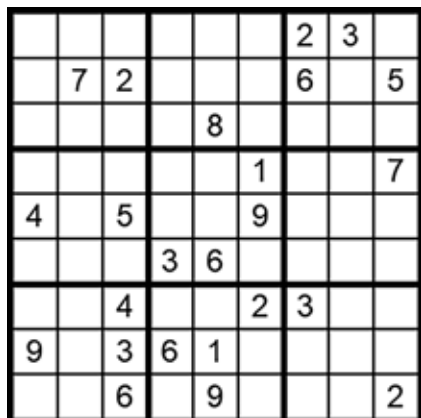
Across

- 1 Dormant, slumbering (6)
- 5 Metallic element symbol Cu (6)
- 8 Drool, saliva (4)
- 9 Doesn't drink (8)
- 10 Copy from the internet (8)
- 11 Small, round salty cracker brand (4)
- 12 Erupting hot spring (6)
- 14 Custody, detain (6)
- 16 Sheath, husk (4)
- 18 Shows, displays (8)
- 20 Classic French loaf (8)
- 21 Arrange, catalogue (4)
- 22 White root vegetable (6)
- 23 Without effort (6)

Down

- 2 Think, imagine (7)
- 3 Chewed and swallowed (5)
- 4 Rest and relax (3,4,4,2)
- 5 Goes well with crackers (7,6)
- 6 Coded instructions for computer (7)
- 7 Precise, accurate (5)
- 13 UV skin damage (7)
- 15 Genuine, real (7)
- 17 _____ Reeves, Hollywood actor (5)
- 19 Fundamental principle (5)

answer on page 45



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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.

answer on page 45

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Mindbenders

Can you find the hidden phrases?

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promise

answers on page 45

Partnership Perfection

When we think about climbing plants, we most often think about growing them to cover a wall or a fence. We might think about growing them over a dead tree stump too, but one of the nicest ways to grow them is through a living tree or a shrub. It's an excellent way of providing more interest in the same space, either by timing each plant's display so they follow on from each other, or by timing the flowering so they bloom at the same time, thus doubling the impact of the display.

There are a few rules you need to follow when you plant a climber with the intention of growing it up a living host. First, the host shrub or tree should be established, woody, and strong enough to hold up the climber's weight when it's fully grown and flowering. Second you don't want to use too vigorous a climber, otherwise it might swamp the host. Finally, avoid fast-growing evergreen climbers because they prevent light getting to the host, and may cause it to develop disease and die. You can certainly use less aggressive evergreens such as the ivy *Hedera 'pedata'* or *Hedera 'Curlylocks'* around the base of well-established trees. These will look beautiful without overwhelming the structure and flowering of the host plant.

Climbers that look good over trees and shrubs are typically, clematis, honeysuckle, and roses. Look for species that grow to 3m or less as these are ideal for growing up most garden trees. Species that are cut back to 15-20cm every winter are also ideal. Clematis '*Abundance*', '*Etoile Violette*' and '*Little Nell*' are all good choices.

Honeysuckle can often be seen (and smelled) growing through trees in the wild. For your garden look for cultivars of the common honeysuckle, such as *Lonicera periclymenum*.



Rambling roses can grow to monstrous proportions, so look for smaller varieties such as '*City of York*' and '*Parade*', which also have a long season of interest.

If you have a cool moist area try growing the perennial nasturtium, *Tropaeolum speciosum*. The jewel-coloured flowers will brighten a darker space.

Tips for successful pairing

Don't plant the climber too close to the base of the host or they will be competing for the same water and nutrients.

Counterintuitively plant the climber on the shadier side of the host. That way the climber will be forced to c=grow towards the light.

If you plant the climber in a large plastic pot with the bottom cut out, it helps contain the plant and reduces competition.



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Car Booty!

A very British treasure hunt

ate spring is the time when car boot sales pop up all over the country. There is something very British about wandering through a field full of cars, poking around in cardboard boxes of other people's belongings hunting for treasure. We probably all harbour a secret fantasy of appearing on The Antiques Roadshow and saying brightly "I bought it at a car boot sale for 10p," just before the expert responds, "Well it's actually a 17th century masterpiece, very rare and if it came to auction it would sell for thousands." Ok that's unlikely to happen but you might be able to refurnish your home and replenish your wardrobe for just a few pounds, and if you want to make a few pounds from your own decluttering and don't mind an early start, holding a car boot sale can be quite lucrative.

If you're buying the best deals are usually found at the beginning and end of the sale. The best quality items are usually found at the start, while the best prices are found as proceedings are wrapping up. It helps to know broadly what items you intend to buy before arriving because it's easy to get carried away. Haggling is expected, but don't insult sellers by offering too little: items are very low-priced to begin with.

If you are going to sell at a car boot sale you need to be prepared. Decide whether you want to clear your clutter or make money: you can't always do both. Remember no matter how cheaply you price your goods, people will haggle. You could have a 'Rembrandt' on sale for a pound and someone would offer you fifty pence. Price labels are useful. Block price some items such as "all books fifty pence, three for a pound". Clearly mark anything not included in the block pricing system. Take lots of change with you, plenty of



carrier bags and some old newspapers with which to wrap fragile items. Going in with a friend is a good idea, both for the company and also to help out when either of you need to nip to the loo, or want to browse other stalls.

Make sure you pack your table in the car last, so it's the first item to come out and not buried under everything else. Be warned; on arrival at the sale ground you may be mobbed by a canny crowd of experienced 'booters' hunting for bargains. These folk tend to be dealers and they can be intimidating. They are after cheap buys to resell. Consider waiting in your car for a while to give them time to disappear before you unpack.

Busy stalls attract more people so pile it high and sell it cheap. Welcome everyone who approaches your table with a warm smile and a cheery greeting. As the end of the day approaches, cut your prices if you don't want to take everything home again.

Whether selling or buying, with the current economic climate, and energy prices soaring, this could be a bumper year for car boot sales.

People are much more clued up about collectables and antiques now, so it's harder to find 'real treasure'. But you never know, there's always a chance we may see you on The Antiques Roadshow!

Carrot Sweet Potato and Feta Fritters

A tasty snack or a light vegetarian meal



Serves: 4

Preparation time: 30 minutes, plus draining time

Ingredients

800g carrots
2 large potatoes
1 large onion
600g sweet potatoes
5 medium free-range eggs
200g feta, crumbled
6 tbsp wholemeal flour
25g fresh coriander, chopped
2 tbsp cumin seeds
300ml vegetable oil
Green salad, lime wedges
and yogurt to serve

Method

Peel and grate the carrots, potatoes, onion, and sweet potatoes. Place them into a colander or a large sieve over the sink with a big pinch of salt, and leave to drain for 30 minutes. Take a large bowl and in it combine the eggs, feta cheese, flour, coriander, and cumin seeds. Beat with a fork until well mixed. Squeeze as much liquid from the grated veg as you can, pressing down hard into

the colander or sieve for 1-2 minutes, then add the grated veg to the egg mixture. Stir to combine well and season generously. Heat the oven to 150C/fan130C/gas 2. Heat the oil in a wok or deep saucepan to 180°C, or until a cube of bread sizzles. Put dollops of the mix into a slotted spoon and lower into the hot oil. Cook 2-3 at a time: fry for 1-2 minutes, then turn the fritters over and repeat until golden. Put on a plate and keep warm in an oven set to low.

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

Sudoku Solution
from page 28

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

Crossword Solution
from page 28**Solution to Mind benders**

1. All in all
2. Sit down and shut up
3. Broken promise

mindbenders
from page 39

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