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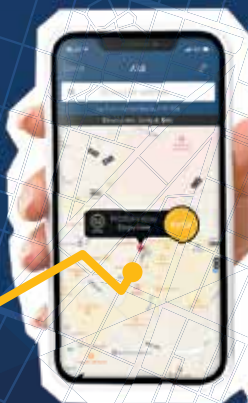
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Festive

Welcome to the November edition

By the time this arrives Christmas will only be about 5 weeks away! Check out page 6 to see what local events are coming up to get you in the festive mood.

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!

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community events

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Christmas Fair

3rd December, 10am - 1pm, Knowle Village Hall 10.00

Browse amongst Christmas decorations and wreaths, Christmas and Greetings cards, Gifts Galore, Books, Competitions and lots more. Refreshments will be available as well. This is a Knowle Village Hall fund raising event.

Mince Pies and Melodies

9th December, 7.30 pm & 10th December, 2.30 pm,

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The Strolling Players invite you to join them at their concert "Mince Pies and Melodies" - a tuneful start to the Christmas season. Tickets cost £10, available from 01564 777634 / 778163.



Beauty and The Beast Pantomime

9 December - 2 January, Core Theatre Solihull

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ABBA Tribute Night

10 December, The Royal British Legion Shirley

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The Poignant Poppy

Why do we wear the poppy? - Scarlet poppies grow wild all over western Europe wherever the soil has been disturbed. The battles of the First World War churned up such vast areas of earth that millions of poppies germinated and bloomed, often around the bodies of the fallen soldiers. A Canadian surgeon called John McRae wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which many of us study in school. The poem is a haunting memorial to those soldiers who have died in any war and the imagery of the poppies is used to symbolise the deaths of those who fought.

Why do we hold a two-minute silence? - On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the guns of World War I fell silent. Four years of fighting and devastation

finally ended. The following year ceremonies of remembrance took place on what was known as Armistice Day. An armistice is an agreement for the cessation of active hostilities between two sides in a war.

An Australian journalist, Edward George Honey first proposed a respectful silence to remember the dead. He wrote a letter to the London Evening News which was brought to the attention of King George V. The king issued a proclamation

which called for a two-minute silence. These days Armistice Day is more usually known as Remembrance Sunday and is a chance to honour the fallen soldiers of all conflicts. In the light of the atrocities going on in Ukraine this year, I hope you'll think even more about your poppy and all it stands for.





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Don't get caught out with joint property

Almost 60%* of those looking to buy a home do not realise that if they die and they are joint tenants with their partner, their partner will automatically inherit the house – regardless of what it states in their will. **Hannah Tait**, partner at Shakespeare Martineau and **Ben Sharp**, associate at the firm in Solihull explain why understanding how your joint property is held is so important when estate planning or making a will.

If you own your home with someone else, there are two ways in which the property can be held: joint tenants and tenants in common.

Joint tenants

Where property is held as joint tenants, on the death of one owner, the property passes automatically to the other, regardless of the provisions of that person's will. While this can benefit the parties if it is their intention for their partner to inherit their house, sometimes, particularly in second marriages, this may not be the case and it means your partner may inherit the property rather than your share passing to children from a previous marriage, for example. The best option is to sever the joint tenancy to create a tenancy in common and then make a will to leave your share to a named beneficiary.

Tenants in Common

Where property is held as tenants in common and one person dies, the share belonging to them passes in accordance with the terms of their will, or if they don't have a will – will pass via the intestacy rules to potentially unwanted beneficiaries. So, if you're an unmarried couple and neither of you has a will, if one person dies, it may be that their share in the house is passed to their family and not the living partner.

How it affects estate planning

Many people wish to benefit people other than those with whom they co-own property in their wills. Subject to the other assets in the estate, this will only work practically if the property is held as tenants in common and not where property is held as joint tenants.

The best option is strictly dependant on individual circumstances and it isn't always easy to identify with the untrained eye which way a property is held, particularly with unregistered titles. Our experts can help with this so obtain specialist legal advice before committing to one option over another.

*Survey conducted by Shakespeare Martineau in 2022



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a good read

By Natasha Donovan

The Book of Form and Emptiness by Ruth Ozeki

This is the most beautiful and unusual book I have read for a while. With themes of love, family, grief, mental health, and substance abuse it sounds heavy, but be assured that though the book is heavy at 548 pages, the story is not.



Benny Oh is a 14-year-old boy whose father dies in an unfortunate accident. Benny and his mother Annabelle grieve in their different ways. Annabelle begins to hoard while Benny starts to hear the voices of the objects in his home speak to him; the socks which want to be with their partner and books which want to be organised on the shelf. Benny finds this constant noise unsettling and intrusive and retreats to the library where all the things use their quiet voices, and where he meets some wonderful off-grid characters who provide

a moving insight into mental ill-health.

The Book actually narrates the novel. The Book is a character in its own right and interacts with Benny directing him to be the hero of his own story. They even disagree over how to tell the family's back story, particularly when it comes to his mother's sex life. Ozeki blurs the line between Benny's hallucinations and the reality of The Book. Do the objects really talk to him?

Infused with warmth and wisdom the novel has some great characters, like the landlady's evil son who is hell bent on evicting Benny and Annabelle, and a Marie Kondo character who Annabelle appeals to for help, shining a light on how our relationships are impacted by the importance we give to material belongings and the clutter we allow in our lives.

This is an enchanting and highly original novel. I read it then listened to the audio book, narrated by Kerry Shale, which I have to say was even better!

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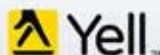
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		1			9		2	7
4				6			5	
	8		7					
		5		7	4	8		
	9						1	
		3	2	9		5		
					6		9	
	1			2				3
5	3		4			1		

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.

answer on page 36

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Space Invaders

How technology developed for space has appeared on Earth

Space has been in the news a lot recently. From the Mars Rover to the James Webb telescope, we've marvelled at amazing images. In the 50th year since man last

walked on the moon NASA is once again preparing a Lunar mission. It all seems far removed from our everyday lives, but did you know that some 2000 or more inventions that we use on Earth every day were actually invented by NASA? Here are my favourites:

Memory foam - Oh how I love my memory foam mattress and bike seat, and development of the 'Tempur' material used was NASA-funded.

Engineers wanted to create better shock-absorbing aircraft seats for test pilots.

Mobile phone cameras - The image

sensors used in just about every modern digital camera come directly from NASA. They were looking for better, cheaper, more efficient cameras for spacecraft, but the

technology was quickly licensed and harnessed by camera and phone companies and is now used all over the world.

Self-driving cars - Not mainstream yet but give it time. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Quantum

Sciences and Technologies group, invented something with the intriguing name of the "whispering gallery mode optical resonator." This was a spherical resonator for light waves, but no-one could think of a practical use for the technology until it was integrated into General Motors' LiDAR systems for self-driving cars.



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

Sudoku Solution
from page 33

Solution to Mind benders

1. See for yourself
2. The big cheese
3. Lickety split

mindbenders
from page 37

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Mindbenders

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Lickety

answers on page 36

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