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# Boo!

Welcome to the October edition.

**As soon as October hits we all start thinking about Christmas. But there's Halloween and Bonfire Night to enjoy first. Check out page 6 to see what you can do to get into the seasonal spirit and make the most of your time now that the nights are longer and colder.**

With Christmas approaching, it's a time of year many of us set deadlines – we want the extension finished by then, the carpets professionally cleaned, the gutters cleared... whatever you need help with there are a range of local professionals who advertise in this magazine who are ready and willing to help.

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**22-30 October, Hatton Adventure World**

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**1-5 November, The Core Theatre Solihull**

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## Solihull Round Table Fireworks

**5 November, 4.30-9pm, Tudor Grange Park**



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## Christmas is a Coming

**S**orry to mention this but Christmas is right around the corner. Get ahead of the game with our pre-Christmas-season checklist.

**Clear out the food cupboards** Make room for festive goodies. Throw out all out-of-date items and things you know will never be eaten, even in a zombie apocalypse.

**Clear out the toy cupboards** Encourage your children to sort out toys they no longer play with and donate them to charity. It not only makes space for Christmas gifts, but it will also hopefully teach them compassion.

**Order meat early** Farmers' markets and shops are always packed out by the first week in December.

**Puddings and cakes** These need to be made early to give them time to

mature. Stir up Sunday is traditionally the time when Christmas puddings are made. It's the last Sunday before advent and this year it's on November 20th.

**Write any cards and annual letters** It's less of a chore than it used to be as more people eschew cards in favour of e-cards or texting, but for many people a card with a brief personal message is a welcome arrival in the post. If you get a few written every week in November then come December you can relax and feel virtuous.

**Check guest lists** It's worth checking who might be planning to spend Christmas with you well in advance so you can be prepared. Don't forget to ask whether anyone is vegetarian, vegan or has any allergies or intolerances. Forewarned is forearmed!



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## **DIVORCE TIPS:** **how to avoid going to court**

**If you're going through a divorce and want to keep the process out of contested court proceedings, then a Collaborative Law approach could be the best route for you and your family.**

### **What is Collaborative Law?**

This is where both parties each instruct a collaboratively trained lawyer and work together to find a suitable divorce settlement, including financial and child matters.

### **How is it different to mediation?**

While both approaches are based on the principle of negotiation and co-operation, in mediation an independent third party mediator facilitates discussions between the couple, usually without the presence of lawyers. Often the parties will have their own lawyers advising separately to the mediation process, a Collaborative Law approach includes lawyers in all meetings, which can speed up the process and remove potential miscommunication.

### **What are the benefits of staying out of court?**

Keeping your divorce out of contested court proceedings gives a higher level of certainty for both parties – as decisions are made jointly, rather than determined by a judge.

Taking a less confrontational approach also provides the best chance of an amicable relationship during and after the process.

Collaborative Law can also be quicker and cheaper – as you are no longer dependent on court timetables or paying court fees.

### **Is my divorce still legal without going to court?**

Absolutely. You will still get the legal separation, divorce and final court agreements and orders you need without using the contested court system.

### **Are there any circumstances where I shouldn't use Collaborative Law?**

While this approach is suitable for a lot of relationship breakdowns, there are some instances it would not be appropriate, such as cases with a history of domestic violence.



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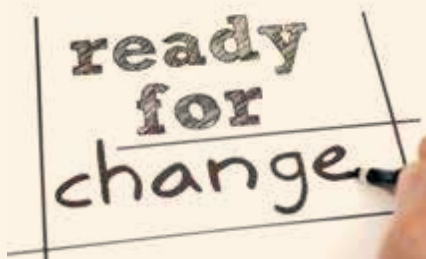
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## Mindbenders

Can you find the hidden phrases?

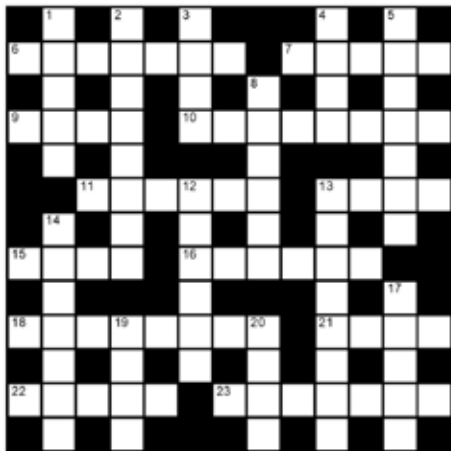


Dutch  
Dutch

Blonde Hamlet

answers on page 36

crossword



Down

- 1 Last, ultimate (5)
- 2 Ill health (8)
- 3 Water, air or oil \_\_\_\_ (4)
- 4 Flat circular object (4)
- 5 Wrap around (7)

- 8 One of the seven dwarves (6)
- 12 Successful or dominant person [informal] (3,3)
- 13 Building material (8)

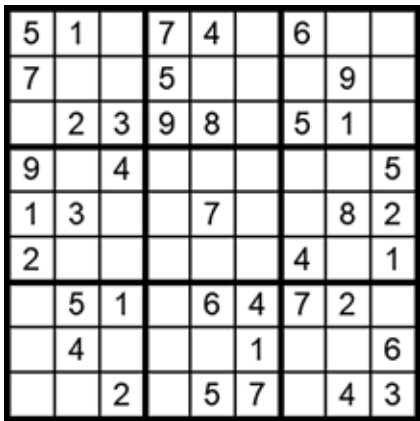
- 14 Brought back to health (7)
- 17 Mass gathering to support a cause (5)
- 19 Every one (4)
- 20 Bound, printed work (4)

clues

Across

- 6 Small multi passenger vehicle (7)
- 7 Musical instrument with 88 keys (5)
- 9 Ground dwelling songbird (4)
- 10 Sudden uncontrolled fear (8)
- 11 Be quietly furious (6)
- 13 Effortlessly charismatic (4)
- 15 Short pins used to secure a tent (4)
- 16 Furtive enquiring (6)
- 18 Attack by swooping down toward a target. (4-4)
- 21 Street (4)
- 22 Burp (5)
- 23 Cold and unfriendly (7)

answer on page 36



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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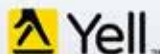
Clay & Block Paving - Tarmacing (red or black) -  
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The winner will be notified by email after this date. Please note there is no cash value nor exchange for this prize so please don't enter if you cannot attend the date shown above.

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

Sudoku Solution  
from page 28

Solution to Mind benders

1. Up against the clock
2. Double Dutch
3. Fair play

mindbenders  
from page 27

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

Crossword Solution  
from page 28

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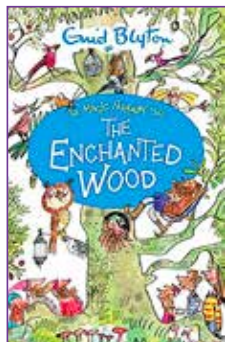
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## a good read By Natasha Donovan

### The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton

For those of us of a certain age Enid Blyton was a childhood favourite. Through the eyes of an adult there is no doubt that she was a deeply flawed human being, though arguably she was simply a product of her upbringing. Her books drifted out of favour for many years, but many have recently been modernised for today's children...after all, a good story is still a good story several decades on. The Enchanted Wood is the first in the Faraway Tree series, in which three children find themselves living close to the most amazing



tree you have ever seen. It grows different fruits at different points, depending on how it is feeling. It is inhabited by all manner of strange folk – Silky the fairy, the old Saucepan Man, Dame Washalot, and the Angry Pixie. At the top lives Moonface, in a perfectly round little house with a slide that runs right to the bottom of the tree. And best of all, there is a small ladder through the clouds which leads to a different magical land every time... Joe, Beth, and Frannie (the names have been updated from Blyton's originals) have all manner of adventures there. Sometimes the lands are full of fun – The Land of Birthdays, for example – while others are slightly more threatening – Dame Snap may no longer be Dame Slap, but her school is still somewhere no-one would like to visit! The Enchanted Wood was a favourite of mine as a child and this slightly tweaked version is a perfect chapter book for independent reading.

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