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Happy New Year

Welcome to the January edition...

Wishing you all a very happy 2026.

Here's hoping you've survived the mayhem of Christmas and are ready for a healthy and happy 2026.

If your aim for 2026 is to experience more fun events then see what's coming up on page 6, or if you've decided this is the year to get round to updating your house or fixing all those jobs you never get round to, we have a wide range of local businesses in here who can help.



Zoe Reece
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community events



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The MJ Experience

21 February

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Sixties Night

28 February

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Celebrate Chinese New Year in Solihull

After all the festivities of Christmas and New Year, January can leave us all feeling a little flat. So why not look out for the next excuse to celebrate and join in the fun by celebrating Chinese New Year on 17th February?

What is the Chinese New Year?

The Chinese New Year focuses on removing the bad and welcoming in new and good things. In China it's taken quite literally, with the Chinese typically cleaning their houses, getting rid of unwanted items, exorcising evil spirits, and bathing to wash away any bad luck. Once the cleaning element has taken part they focus on new clothing for the festive period, redecorating houses with red lanterns, giving children good luck pocket money in red envelopes, and burning incense to honour their ancestors.

How is it celebrated in China?

It's an important time for family and people working or living far away from their families head home for a New Year's Eve dinner, with firecrackers being set off at midnight to welcome in the New Year. China's a big country so people favour different types of food in the different parts of the country. In the North one most popular dishes for a New Year's Eve meal is dumplings. A fish dish is also usually served as this symbolises plenty of wealth for the year ahead. Whilst in the South a special type of New Year's Cake is popular, based on sticky rice and sugar.

How can you celebrate it locally?

It's a great excuse to head to your local Chinese restaurant in Solihull and have a feast, whether you choose to eat in or take away. In the UK a Chinese is one of the most

popular takeaways we order, with some of the most favoured dishes including sweet and sour pork, chow mein, crispy duck pancakes, spring rolls and king prawns in black bean sauce. If you don't have a favourite Chinese in Solihull we've looked into the some of the most popular ones for you.

- Fortune House Cantonese takeaway on Damson Lane has achieved an impressive 4.9 rating on Google reviews.
- Fortune Inn restaurant in Shirley appears at the top of the list on the Restaurant Guru website.
- Minh's Cantonese restaurant in Dorridge is number 2 in terms of popularity on restaurant Guru and has 4.4 out of 5 on Google reviews.
- Number 3 on Restaurant Guru is Lucky House takeaway in Shirley, followed by Everbright Chinese & Thai restaurant and takeaway on Old Lode Lane in Solihull, with Jade Wok on Station Road in Solihull coming in as the 5th most popular Chinese restaurant in Solihull.

To see a full listing of all the Chinese restaurants in Solihull please visit:
<https://hellosolihull.co.uk/eating-out-in-solihull/>



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The best cafes and coffee shops in Solihull

Sometimes there's nothing like a good cuppa. Whether that's a mug of strong builder's tea, or a delightfully complicated one-shot, extra hot, no foam, latte – it can warm us up, comfort us, or just accompany a delicious slice of chocolate cake.

It's not just the drink and the accompanying treat that's important, it's also the ambience of where you go to sip your herbal tea, or whatever it is that floats your boat. Sometimes we all get stuck in a rut and go to the same old place, so why not have a look through our list

of some of Solihull's finest cafes and try somewhere new.

Top rated cafes in Solihull

If you're looking to meet a friend at a café in Solihull then some of the best ones, according to Google reviews include the following:

• **Black Orange café** in Solihull town centre gets 4.9 out of 5 on Google reviews. They offer a wide selection of hot and cold drinks, including a range of fruit teas, as well as a selection of savoury snacks and desserts.

• **Swan Yard Coffee & Kitchen** in Knowle gets 4.7 on Google and offers full English breakfasts and eggs on toast,

as well as delicious treats such as cinnamon rolls and rocky road – all displayed in a glass cabinet right in front of your eyes to really tempt you!

• **Hallie's Café** in Monkspath also gets 4.7 out of 5 stars on Google reviews and offers sweet treats, milkshakes, ice cream, Biscoff pancakes, sausage rolls, bagels, sandwiches and breakfasts. Is your mouth watering yet?! the menu, as do smoothies, frappes and milkshakes.

To see a full listing of all the cafes and restaurants in Solihull please visit: [hellosolihull.co.uk/ eating-out-in-solihull/](https://www.hellosolihull.co.uk/eating-out-in-solihull/)

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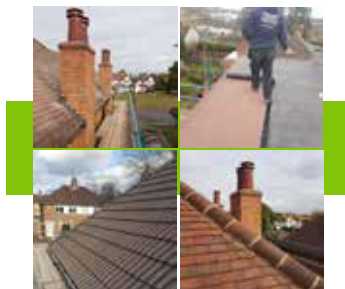


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