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Holiday Time!

Welcome to the August edition...

For those of you that aren't jetting off overseas this Summer, there's lots of great things happening locally, including tribute acts and beer festivals.

Check out the local event guide on page 6 to see what takes your fancy. Whether you're staying locally or exploring Europe or further afield, this Summer, have a great month and make the most of the weather and the Summer holidays, while they last!

Zë

Zoe Reece Tel: 07557 220585 Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com www.knowleanddorridgedirectory.com





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community events

Shirley Dining Club

25 August, noon – 6pm Shirley Park

Join in for a feast of award-winning street food, live entertainment, and a buzzing atmosphere that's perfect for the whole family—including your four-legged friends! Whether you're a foodie on the hunt for your next favourite dish or just looking for a fantastic day out, they've got you covered. More info at www. digbethdiningclub.com

Male Voice Choir

6 September, 7pm Knowle Village Hall.

The Knowle Village Hall Association invites you to enjoy a late summer Evening of Song with the Birmingham Male Voice Choir (formerly the Canoldir and the Icknield Male Voice choirs). Tickets £15 from 01564 779898 or 01564 778163 or from the Friday Coffee Morning at the Hall from 10am until noon.

A Tribute to Lionel Richie

6 September

Core Theatre Solihull

Following his appearances with Lionel Richie himself on ITV's 'Sunday Night At The Palladium' and the 'Graham Norton Show' for the BBC,



Malcolm Pitt delivers a powerhouse and breathtaking performance in this high octane show celebrating the music of Lionel Richie and the Commodores. Call 0121 704 6962 to book.

The Lions Beer and Cider Festival

12 & 13 September, noon to 11pm, Shirley Royal British Legion, Parkgate, Shirley

A charity fund raising event organised by Acocks Green, Shirley and Solihull Lions Clubs, featuring 18 different real ales and 10 ciders. Admission £10, including £5 worth of drinks tokens, a souvenir glass and

an event programme with tasting notes. Live music provided by Ray's Open Night musicians. More info at www.shirleylions.co.uk/events/ beerfestival.html

Elvis Tribute Show

19 September Nailcote Hall

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a good read By Natasha Donovan

Small Pleasures

by Clare Chambers

Small Pleasures is a quiet gem of a book that unfolds with the grace of a classic British drama, while packing a modern literary punch. Set in the meticulously rendered suburbs of 1957 southeast London the story follows Jean



Swinney, a journalist approaching her fortieth birthday, and stuck writing lightweight 'women's pieces'. Her life is defined by routine, duty, and the quiet ache of unrealised dreams. When she's assigned to investigate a local woman's claim of a virain birth, she anticipates a hoax. Instead, she finds herself drawn into the lives of Gretchen Tilbury, her charming daughter Margaret, and Gretchen's enigmatic husband, Howard, As Jean's professional curiosity evolves into personal entanglement, Chambers masterfully explores themes of loneliness, desire, and the societal constraints of postwar Britain. The novel's strength lies in its subtlety. Chambers crafts a narrative rich in period detail and emotional nuance, where the most profound moments are found in the quietest exchanges. Jean's internal struggle between duty and desire is portrayed with a tenderness that resonates deeply, making her journey all the more poignant. While the mystery of the virgin birth is central to the plot, it's Jean's personal awakenina and the intricate dynamics between characters that draw us in. Small Pleasures is a novel that lingers, reflecting on the small joys and quiet tragedies that define a life. It's a reminder that the most extraordinary stories often emerge from the most ordinary lives.

The Book of Stolen Dreams

by David Farr

This is a dazzling children's debut that sweeps readers into a richly imagined world where courage and imagination are the keys to survival. Set in the oppressive city of Brava, siblings Rachel and Robert Klein find themselves thrust



into a perilous adventure after their librarian father entrusts them with a mysterious, forbidden book. Their mission: to find the missing final page and prevent the book from falling into the hands of the tyrannical ruler, Charles Malstain. Farr's screenwriting and theatre credentials are very much present as he brings a cinematic flair to his storytelling, defly balancing moments of suspense with real humour and warmth. There are many parallels to be drawn with certain chapters in history as well as more current events. Farr paints a compellinally arim picture of life under highly restrictive rules and regulations where almost every kind of fun is outlawed, and teaching takes place under the tightest of rules. In spite of this, Rachel and Robert's spirits shine like beacons as they embark on their adventures. The Book of Stolen Dreams is more than just a fantasy adventure; it's a poignant exploration of the power of stories and the resilience of the human spirit. The suggested age range is 8-12 but guite frankly this 40-year-old adored it as much as her son.

Salmon Florentine

A lovely supper for summer



Ingredients

2 large salmon fillets with the skin on 1 small onion, finely diced. 1 this olive oil 3 large garlic cloves crushed or finely chopped. 120g fresh spinach 150g mushrooms (any type but wild are great) sliced. 60ml cup white wine 170ml double cream Salt 1/2 tsp chilli flakes (optional)

Method

Preheat the oven to 220C / 200 fan / Gas mark 7 and line a small, rimmed baking sheet with greaseproof paper.

Rub the salmon fillets with oil and place them skin side down on the greaseproof paper. Season the fillets well with salt and pepper. Place the salmon into the oven for 18-25 minutes. cooking time will depend on the size and thickness of the salmon fillets used. While salmon is cooking. heat the olive oil in a large pan over medium heat. Fry the onion aently until soft and translucent. Add the aarlic and mushrooms and cook for another minute. then add the spinach. Cover and let the spinach cook

down, stirring occasionally. Once spinach has wilted, drain off the excess liquid. Return to the stove and add white wine. Simmer for about a minute. Remove from the heat, add the cream, and mix everything well. Season with salt and chilli flakes. Return to a low heat and allow to heat through for a couple of minutes. When the salmon is cooked. remove it from the oven and place it on preheated plates. Pour the creamy spinach and mushroom mixture over the salmon. Serve with a green salad.

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AndyE-230 / 31 Jan 2024



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crossword

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 24 24 24

clues

Across

- 1 Prejudiced (6)
- 4 Whiten, decolour (6)
- 7 Maritime, used on the ocean (8)
 - 8 Rhododendron-like shrub (6)
 - 9 Particle (4)
- 10 Shortcrust, flaky or puff (6)
- 12 Every twelve months (6)
- 14 Socially awkward (6)
- 17 Daredevil (6)
- 20 Ruffian, thug (4)
- 21 Ceramic artist (6)
- 22 Items of jewellery (8)
- 23 People who look after others (6)
- 24 Abrupt (6)

Down

- 1 Church official (6)
- 2 Warning devices (6)
- 3 Delicate, fragile (6)
- 4 Married to two people at the same time (6)
- 5 Mistake in print (6)

- 6 Shrub with waxy scented flowers (8)
- 9 Bowed structure (4)
- 11 Large South American snake (8)
- 13 Welsh name (4)
- 15 Oxen and cows (6)
- 16 The act of leaving a place (6)
- 17 ____ dancing, type of folk dancing. (6)
- 18 Stretched out the body or neck to see better (6)
- 19 Toxic substance (6)

answer on page 20

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

how to play SUCOKU

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.
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answer on page 20

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Crossword Solution

from page 16

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

Suduko Solution

from page 16

useful numbers

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