

# the knowle & dorridge directory

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

may 2021

## N.BIRD & SON

### ROOFING SERVICES



## FREE QUOTES

EST 1987 SOLIHULL BASED

- Small Repairs
- Flat Roofs
- New Roofs
- Ridge Tiles
- Chimney Work
- Lead Work
- UPVC Facia, Soffit & Gutters
- GRP Flat Roofs

## 0121 743 6324

LOCAL FAMILY RUN BUSINESS



249 Lyndon Road, Solihull B92 7QP

# Bathrooms Galore

Just add water...

Specialists in Bathroom Installation  
And Bathroom Design

The complete design and  
installation service from  
concept to completion

49 Stoney Lane, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RE

0121 783 9966

[www.bathroomsgalore.co.uk](http://www.bathroomsgalore.co.uk)

# ***Knowle Domestic Plumbing Service & Appliance Repairs***

## ***All Plumbing Work Undertaken***

- ***Burst pipes/leaks***
- ***Taps, Sinks, Waste Units***
- ***Ball Valves, Overflows***
- ***Tanks, Cylinders,  
Immersion***
- ***Toilets, baths,  
Showers***
- ***24 Hour Emergency***

## ***Appliance Repair Services***

- ***Washing Machines***
- ***Dishwashers***
- ***Tumble Dryers***
- ***Electric cookers***
- ***Vacuum Cleaners***

**£10 OFF for first time customers with this ad.**

*Valid until: 10th June 2021*

***12 month guarantee, same day call-out  
special rates for OAP's***

**Office: 01564 730183**

**Mobile: 07770 698196**

# Marvellous May!

Welcome to the May edition...

**May's one of the best months of the year - we're firmly in the Spring, and have all the anticipation of a lovely Summer ahead. Fingers crossed!**

It's also a great time for getting your garden looking lovely and for selling your home. We've got a great range of local, reliable businesses in here who can help you get your garden ready and update any aspect of your home, from your roof to your kitchen, your bathroom to your décor, whether you're getting it ready to sell or just want to update it for your own benefit.

Wishing you a great month ahead.

Zoe Reece

Tel: 07557 220585

Email: [zoe@dorridgedirectory.com](mailto:zoe@dorridgedirectory.com)

[www.knowleanddorridgedirectory.com](http://www.knowleanddorridgedirectory.com)



## contents

**34** Recipe

**38** Puzzles

**46** Kids' page

**48** Useful telephone numbers

**49** Index

Locally designed by: hotlobster design ltd Printed by: Norwood Press

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS MAGAZINE**



# Stephen Smith & Son Plumbing & Heating Services

**WORCESTER**  
Bosch Group  
Accredited  
Installer



Gas Safe reg no: 198187  
Natural Gas, LPG & Oil



**Tel: 0121 247 4957  
or 01564 200119**

**10 years Manufacturer's Warranty  
on all Worcester Greenstar  
gas boilers installed\***

[www.stephensmithandson.co.uk](http://www.stephensmithandson.co.uk)

**"Family business. Local and reliable."**

## Work carried out includes:

- Boilers / Radiators
- Natural Gas - LPG and Oil Installation and Repair
- Landlord Gas Safety Inspections/Certificates
- Boiler Servicing
- Hot Water Cylinders (vented and unvented)
- System Powerflushing
- Cold Water Tanks
- Shower Installations / Repairs
- Pipework
- Underfloor Heating

\*Worcester Bosch terms apply

# SUPERSTITCH

**Professional and friendly sewing and alteration service  
based on Solihull High Street.**

"I set up Superstitch over 12 years ago to provide clothing alterations and a curtain making service. I promise all of my customers an excellent job and am proud to say everyone is really happy with the end result."

*Violetta*

"This place is fantastic. Have had many items adjusted and altered over the past few years and it's fab. Highly recommend!!"

**Natalie Caroline**



**M: 07825 290 772**

[mrspinthin@gmail.com](mailto:mrspinthin@gmail.com) | The Manor House, 126 High Street, Solihull B91 3SX  
(adjacent to the Manor House Tea Rooms)

# FREE PHONES

## FREE VoIP handsets from the telecom titans at Triton Telecom!

Cost-effective and reliable, a **VoIP system** from Triton Telecom provides businesses of any size and type with a bespoke, unified and fully integrated service. With the switching off of traditional phone lines in 2025, there is no better time to drop us a line.

Call us today to future-proof  
your phone system:

**0800 849 8030**



**Triton**  
Telecom



**All aspects of arboriculture work undertaken.**

**Pruning, thinning, reshaping, crown lift, reductions, removals and stump removal.**

- All hedge work
- All waste removed
- All work guaranteed to the highest industry standards
- Fully insured
- Free advice and quotations
- NTPC Qualified Workforce



### **COVID-19 UPDATE:**

We are still working – safely and in line with Government guidelines regarding social distancing

**Freephone: 03335 775733**

**Mobile: 07786 527 729**

Email: [info@solihulltreecare.com](mailto:info@solihulltreecare.com) [www.solihulltreecare.com](http://www.solihulltreecare.com)

# OAKLAND



# GROUP

Service Quality Value

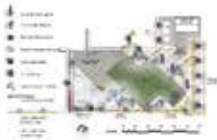
## Professional Outdoor Services



Tree Surgery & Hedging



Landscaping



Garden/Lighting  
Design



Porcelain Garden



Fencing



Planting &  
Irrigation



Outdoor Lighting



Borders &  
Maintenance



Visit us at Rosebourne Garden Centre  
Kenilworth Rd, Hampton in Arden,  
Solihull, B92 0LP

## 01564 758 608

[www.oaklandgroupuk.com](http://www.oaklandgroupuk.com)

[www.12vgardenlights.com](http://www.12vgardenlights.com)

[info@oaklandgroupuk.com](mailto:info@oaklandgroupuk.com)





# What can a garden designer do for you?

The ideal opportunity for clients on a limited budget to achieve a professional garden design masterplan whilst endeavouring to keep the costs low.

Our aim is to provide you, our client, with a service that will add value to your home and create a garden that can be enjoyed throughout the year.

Our services, which have already delighted hundreds of clients, are all independent, cost-effective and personal.

Use our skills and experience to take your garden onto a different level of style, comfort and value.

Projects in Solihull, Warwickshire and Staffordshire  
Call us for an informal discussion



## The Garden Design Studio

07960 772307 [studio.ffcla@gmail.com](mailto:studio.ffcla@gmail.com)

**LOCK FIT**  
24 HOUR LOCKSMITH SERVICES

No call-out charge  
Available 24/7

JUST  
MOVED IN?  
CALL US  
FOR NEW  
HOME  
PACKAGES

**CALL TODAY FOR A FREE, NO-OBLIGATION SECURITY CHECK AND ADVICE**

### Locked Out

We can gain access for you non-destructively

### Emergency Locksmiths

15-30 min emergency response time  
for your peace of mind

### uPVC Door Lock Specialists

Our locksmiths are specialists in uPVC door  
and window locks

### Door/Window Handles Changed & Replaced

Stuck, broken or damaged window  
handles? We can help

### Lost Keys

Lost your keys? We recommend a full lock  
change service for your security

### Locks Changed & Replaced

Lock replacement and upgrades, all with  
a 12 month guarantee

### Home Security

We offer a variety of smart camera and alarm  
systems to protect your property

### Emergency Boarding Up & Burglary Repairs

We can offer a 24/7 emergency boarding  
up and repair service



12 month parts  
& labour guarantee



[lewis@lockfit.co.uk](mailto:lewis@lockfit.co.uk)

[www.lockfit.co.uk/lockfit-locksmiths-knowle/](http://www.lockfit.co.uk/lockfit-locksmiths-knowle/)

**01564 627 020**

# Do you want to grow your business?

**If you want to meet more prospects, gain referrals, and network with other local businesses, then join the Knowle & Dorridge BOB Club.**

We meet for an hour every 2 weeks (online currently) to exchange information, swap ideas, and help each other generate more business.

There's no pressure to give referrals or provide substitutes if you can't make a meeting, it's friendly and informal, and incredibly supportive.

**Join our next meeting for free. To try BOB for yourself, and meet other like-minded local businesses visit:**

**[www.bobclubs.com/Club/Knowle](http://www.bobclubs.com/Club/Knowle)**

**Or contact**

Patrick on 07490 645665

[patrick@yourfinancefriend.co.uk](mailto:patrick@yourfinancefriend.co.uk)



## Join thousands of business owners around the world

at a local club that's part of one of the World's largest business networking organisations.



***“Improving the way you get business”***

# Cullen

Plumbing & Tiling

17 Whitacre Rd, Knowle  
cullenplumbingandtiling@gmail.com

**Tel: 07896 862 916**

***Established in 2005***

**City & Guilds**

**Qualified**

- Full bathroom and ensuite design and installation to the highest standards with complete project management from start to completion
- Kitchen Sinks and Taps, Dishwasher and Washing Machine Installation
- Central Heating & Radiators
- General Plumbing Maintenance & Repair
- Showroom Finish Wall & Floor Tiling for bathrooms, kitchens, hallways and conservatories
- Specialist in ceramic, porcelain, natural stone tiling
- Business built on recommendation and reputation

***All Work Guaranteed***

***Reliable Honest Service***

***References and Portfolio of Work Available***



**Call Alex Cullen**

**NOW on 07896 862 916**

***For a free no-obligation quotation***

# Why We Love an Online Quiz

My friend Sally looked up from her phone and chuckled. 'Look...this is me as a dog!' She proffered her phone. The pic was of a Chihuahua, wearing Ray-Bans, lying on a sunbed next to a cocktail... actually pretty representative of Sal, with her diminutive stature and love of beach holidays.

Why do we find these online quizzes irresistible? Why do we have the urge to know what we will look like as an old lady, a man, or a biscuit?

Most of us are more than a little self-obsessed. We like to talk about ourselves and we like to learn about ourselves. 40% of the words we utter in life are about us!

Researchers in psychology at Harvard University ran a series of studies comparing how people felt when talking about themselves, compared to how they felt when talking about other people. The researchers found that, no matter how the studies were set up the results indicated that the reward centres in human brains were stimulated most during self-disclosure. We actually get a brain buzz from talking about ourselves!

Online quizzes and surveys tend to ask questions such as, 'What is your favourite colour from this selection?' or 'Would your ideal Saturday evening be spent a) dancing in a nightclub? b) camping in the Cairngorms? c) curled up with a good book in front of a fire?' etc. The quiz allows self-expression based on personal preferences. We disclose something

about ourselves which releases the shot of dopamine which makes us feel good.

But we also like to learn about ourselves. Have you or any of your friends every taken part in an online quiz or survey which starts off by declaring, 'Every woman has her own Eighties anthem. Which is yours?' or 'Which celebrity would play you in the movie of your life?'. You click the link, answer a couple of questions and the song title or photo of the celeb pops up, along with, 'Tracey is a hardworking woman. She's been through some tough times but always keeps smiling. She is fiercely loyal and

will stand by her friends through thick and thin. If you hurt her, she may not show her feelings outwardly but rest assured, she'll never forgive you.' We could all probably be described like that, and even though we know it's hokum, like horoscopes, we lap it up precisely



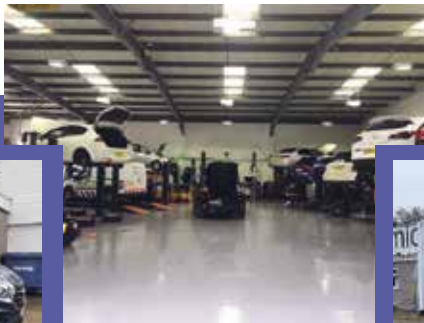
because these online quiz results are relentlessly positive, and while we love learning things about ourselves, we love learning good things about ourselves even more. We share it with friends because it validates the positive things we feel about who we are.

Learning about ourselves is a national pastime. The self-help industry is a £7.5 billion per year business worldwide. Its entire premise is that understanding yourself is the key to a happier, more fulfilled life. People pay serious money to go on retreats, courses or to see a therapist to learn about themselves, which probably explains why a free quiz claiming to reveal our personality type based on which Avengers character we prefer is so alluring.





- CAR, VAN, AND MINIBUS HIRE SPECIALISTS
- MOT TESTING STATION FOR CARS, VANS & MINIBUSES
- SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE TO MANUFACTURERS SPECIFICATION
  - VEHICLE DIAGNOSTICS, REPAIRS, ABS, AIR BAG, TYRE FITTING
  - VEHICLE LEASING AND CONTRACT HIRE
  - VEHICLE SALES • FLEET MANAGEMENT



**TEL: 0121-709-5000**

**MIDHIRE@GMAIL.COM**

**WWW.MIDHIRE.CO.UK**

DRAYTON ROAD, SHIRLEY, B90 4NG



**QUOTE 'HIRE10' FOR 10% OFF YOUR NEXT VEHICLE  
HIRE OR BRING THIS ADVERT INTO BRANCH**





## Room available FOR RENT

Based in Dorridge  
First month's rent free

Please call  
**01564 778777**  
Or 07905 941601  
for more information



**LOVE TO SPEAK GERMAN, FRENCH OR SPANISH?  
NEW TO SOLIHULL AND NEED BETTER ENGLISH?**

**All online courses of 10 hours (including GCSE 'catch-up') now just £299**

Expert tuition for exams, travel and business  
Local, qualified and experienced language tutors

**Contact us now for your free, no-obligation consultation**

**Call 01564 739621 or 0784 031 5982**

E-mail [info@beech-languages.co.uk](mailto:info@beech-languages.co.uk)

**[www.beech-languages.co.uk](http://www.beech-languages.co.uk)**

LANGUAGE LESSONS LOCALLY AND ONLINE



**Acorn Floors  
Ltd.**

## **Floorcovering Specialists**

**Providing quality floorcoverings for over 25 years**

**Luxury Vinyl Tiles  
Carpets  
Wet Room Solutions  
Floor Refurbishment  
Carpet Whipping**

**The complete  
design and  
installation service**

**10% OFF**  
with this advert

 **Karndean  
Designflooring**

**amtico**

 **POLYFLOR™**  
COVERING THE WORLD

**Free Quotation & Sample Service**

[acorn-floors.co.uk](http://acorn-floors.co.uk) [enquiries@acorn-floors.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@acorn-floors.co.uk)

**Contact Stephen Sherrington**

**0121 693 3301    07799 645 709**

**SOLIHULL**

**SUMMER FEST**

2021



**IT'S  
HAPPENING!**

24TH - 25TH JULY 2021  
TUDOR GRANGE PARK

**S A T U R D A Y 2 4 <sup>TH</sup> J U L Y 2 0 2 1**

**KOOL & THE GANG**

**MARTI PELLOW | SHALAMAR**

**THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES**

**SNAP! | THE BLOW MONKEYS**

**S U N D A Y 2 5 <sup>TH</sup> J U L Y 2 0 2 1**

**BILLY OCEAN**

**TONY HADLEY | BELINDA CARLISLE**

**NIK KERSHAW | BAD MANNERS**

SUPPORTED BY  
TRIBUTE ARTIST **ROD & THE FACEZ FEAT GARRY PEASE**

**HERITAGE**

**2ND  
STAGE!**

FEAT. **K-KLASS | SHADES OF RHYTHM**  
**ALLISTER WHITEHEAD + MUCH MORE**

FOR TICKETS AND INFO VISIT: **WWW.SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST.CO.UK**



# Dimension Groundworks & Driveways

Specialists in Driveways and Landscaping

- Block paving • Tarmacing (red or black) • Patios
- Brickwork • Slabbing • Gravel • Landscaping
- Fencing • Property & roof repairs
- Driveway maintenance  
(pressure cleaning & sealing – weed free)



**07961 358367 / 0121 652 0145 / 01926 674782**

**dimensiongroundworks@icloud.com**  
**www.dimensionpathways.co.uk**

**328 Alcester Road Wythall Birmingham West Midlands B47 6JR**



**FULLY FITTED  
ROLLER  
GARAGE  
DOORS**

FROM **£895\*** WAS **£1,354** INC VAT

\* Offer Valid For Openings Up To 3.6m Wide & 8m High  
2 Remote Controls, 12mm White Steel, Internal Manual Over-ride

**WHATS INCLUDED:**

- ACOUSTIC & THERMAL INSULATION
- TWO REMOTE CONTROLS
- EXPERT MEASURING & FITTING
- 24 COLOURS AVAILABLE

**GAROLLA**  
ROLLER SHUTTER DOORS  
www.garolla.co.uk

Made To Measure...  
**ROLLER GARAGE DOORS**

Garolla can save a lot of space inside your garage. Rolls up vertically into a box. Takes only 8 inches of head-room! Opens vertically so you can park up close to the door. Remotely open/close the garage even from inside your car.

**CALL US TODAY**

Phone: **01564 340 028**  
Mobile: **07537 149 128**

CE Approved

## Born to Run Tips for all runners.

**D**id you start Couch to 5K during lockdown? Did you fall in love with running? Or do you need motivating? Here are our top tips as runners.

**Walk** – You heard us. Walk to warm up, loosen your muscles, and prime your joints for the activity of running. If you walk the first five to 10 minutes of your workout, especially if it's early in the morning, of you've been sitting at a desk for hours, it's easier on your body and you'll find your rhythm more quickly.

**Go slower** – Not walking this time. We mean find your sustainable pace. This is the pace you can run at easily and most of your runs should be at this level of effort. Once or twice a week you can do the speedwork and tempo runs, which train your body to get faster. Running this way reduces your risk of injury and burnout. The sustainable

pace should be slow enough to maintain a conversation without huffing and puffing, but not so slow you can sing your favourite song!

**Find your time of day** – We all have a natural body clock. Try running at different times until you find the perfect workout hour for you.

**Eat wholesome carbs beforehand** – The meal you eat before your run should be the most carb rich one of the day (think fruit, veg and wholegrains rather than chocolate cake!), so your body has plenty of ready-to-burn fuel. Obviously don't eat JUST before you run...but you knew that, right?

**Make it recreational** – Choose a great playlist, or your favourite audio book or podcast. Or run with a friend to catch up on all the gossip or put the world to rights. This is your time, and it should be enjoyable, so you'll look forward to it and want to keep doing it. Hope this helps.




# ALFRESCO STYLE

**Garden Boutique** – Independently owned with ever-changing seasonal plants & inspirational displays.

**Farm Shop** – bursting with delicious local food including freshly baked bread, fruit & veg, meats and cheeses. Plus, NEW Alfie's @ Home Range.

**Alfie's Café** – with scrumptious home-made breakfast, lunches, cakes, afternoon teas and refreshments.



**Tip of the Month:**  
Plant Summer  
Bedding Out Now  
For Colour

Help roses recover from stresses of Black Fly/Black Spot or extreme weather conditions with Potassium feed. Banana peels contain Potassium and are a rich source of the mineral. To use as a fertilizer bury the banana peels 4/6 inches deep at the base of the plant.

Visit Alfresco Style for all your gardening needs.

## Our Events

Whitsun Markets and Alfresco Rain Forest Fest - Saturday 29th to Monday 31st May.

Outdoor Markets & Jazz Weekend - Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June.

Summer Craft Fayre - Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th June.

Summer Markets and Fashion & Flower Fest - Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th June.

**Special Shopping Evenings** - for birthdays, celebrations, group of friends – 07990 513969.

## Alfresco Style Special Offer

One FREE hot  
drink with this  
voucher  
valid until 30.06.21



Hatton Shopping Village, Hatton  
Country World, Hatton, Warwick  
CV35 8XA  
Tel: 01926 843555

[www.thealfrescostyle.com](http://www.thealfrescostyle.com)

Open Every Day 10am - 5pm  
(4pm during Jan & Feb) Closed  
Christmas Day, Boxing Day &  
New Year's Day

Events subject to change without notice



**Alfresco Style**  
Creative Living





**Why not invest in a new driveway or patio to enhance the appearance and add value to your property?**

**Approved Drives and Landscapes offer a range of services to help improve all areas of your home, including;**

Clay & Block Paving - Tarmacing (red or black) -  
Patios - Brickwork - Slabbing - Gravel -  
Landscaping - Fencing - Property Repairs  
Roofing Repairs - Driveway Maintenance  
(Pressure cleaning & sealing - weed free)

**Proud member of**



**Find us in/on**

**Google**



**[www.centraldrivewayslimited.com](http://www.centraldrivewayslimited.com)**

**Get in touch today for a FREE quotation**

**T: 0121 702 1456 M: 07748 577687**

**[Michael.central@icloud.com](mailto:Michael.central@icloud.com)**





# Bill Boyce Decorators

A family run business with over 30 years experience

- Painting & Decorating
- Internal / External
- Offices, Restaurants & Private Houses
- Reliable
- Excellent Reputation
- All work carried out to a high standard
- Free Estimates



Call Bill on 07976 810680 or Dan on 07966 275134

89 Union Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3BY  
 Tel: 0121 744 0040 or fax: 0121 744 0312  
 Email: billboycedecorators@hotmail.co.uk  
[www.billboycedecorators.com](http://www.billboycedecorators.com)

# C. STEVENS ROOFING

**EST FAMILY BUSINESS**

NEW TILED ROOFS • GUTTERS  
 FLAT ROOFS • BRICK WORK  
 LEADWORK • SMALL REPAIRS  
 UPVC FASCIAS • CHIMNEYS



KNOWLE

SOLIHULL

**01564 790008 0121 733 1276**

[WWW.CSTEVENSTEROOFING.CO.UK](http://WWW.CSTEVENSTEROOFING.CO.UK)

CLEARLY  
BETTER

WINDOWS

# Are YOUR windows ready for a makeover?

## New glass in your existing windows

- Replace failed double glazing: just the pane, not the frame •
- Fix faulty hinges, handles and locks •

*A local family run business with 10+ years of experience, we can help you*

**Call 0800 048 5223**

**For a FREE quote**

**Visit [ClearlyBetterWindows.co.uk](http://ClearlyBetterWindows.co.uk) to find out more**



**STU'S LOFT  
LADDERS**

**FREE**

**No Obligation Quote**

**10 year Manufacturer Warranty**

### Installing Loft Ladders Since 2008

#### All types of loft ladders professionally installed.

Top quality 3 section aluminium loft ladder professionally fitted with pivot arm, hand rail, wide flat treads for comfort and rubber feet. Loft hatch included.

**ZARGES**

**YOUNGMAN**  
PROTECTIVE WORK AT ROOFTOP COLLECTION

**ABRU**

**manthorpe**  
building products

### We also install loft flooring and boarding

#### Areas that we cover?

- Redditch • Solihull • Stratford-Upon-Avon
- Worcester • Warwick • Birmingham • Evesham

Tel: 01527 850295 • Mobile: 07712 327889  
[stuart@stusloftladders.co.uk](mailto:stuart@stusloftladders.co.uk) • [www.stusloftladders.co.uk](http://www.stusloftladders.co.uk)



# Lady Katherine Housing & Care



## RESIDENTIAL CARE SHELTERED HOUSING RESPITE CARE

(now taking Winter and Spring Respite bookings)

If you would like to pay us a visit or discuss our current availability  
contact:

Chris Mundell

01564 772415



# Fixed Fee Divorce

## and Collaborative Law

### Fixed Fee Divorce

Wallace Robinson & Morgan solicitors are pleased to be able to offer a fixed fee divorce package for all work in connection with obtaining your divorce. This will include preparing the divorce petition and other necessary documentation, liaising with you, your partner and the Court and applying for the two Decrees required to finalise the divorce. Please contact us to discuss your individual circumstances so that we can give you details of our fixed fees and any other costs involved. Please note that our fixed fee offer is subject to the divorce being undefended and without any unforeseen complications. It excludes work done in relation to the finances or any children.

### Collaborative Law

Wallace Robinson & Morgan also offer an innovative new approach to resolving family matters. We believe that, in the majority of cases, the best and most amicable solutions are those agreed between the couples themselves. Collaborative Law allows couples to meet face to face, with the support of their respective solicitors, and discuss their views and suggestions for resolving the matter. This enables couples to reach agreement without the need for costly, stressful and time-consuming Court battles. Everyone in the room has the common goal of finding the best solution for the couple and their family.

Collaborative Law has numerous benefits: participants still have their own independent legal advisor but maintain control without being threatened by Court proceedings. The couple set the agenda for each meeting, enabling them to discuss the issues that matter most to them and their family. Furthermore, it is crucial for a harmonious future relationship, particularly when children are involved, to maintain communication between the parties, and Collaborative Law ensures this is achieved.



**Dipika Mistry and Kathryn Ferris**  
**Wallace Robinson & Morgan Family Lawyers**

Our specialist family lawyers can advise you as to whether these agreements are right for you.


Head of the Family Law department, Kathryn Ferris is a qualified Collaborative Family Lawyer and offers the benefits of this revolutionary approach to her clients. Dipika Mistry, is an accredited Law Society Family Law solicitor. Kathryn and Dipika are both members of "Resolution", an organisation that promotes constructive, non-confrontational methods to resolve family issues.

If you would like to discuss any family law issue, our fixed fee divorce offer or find out more about the Collaborative approach, please contact us.

**Contact: Kathryn Ferris on 0121 705 7571**  
**email: [kathrynferis@wallacerobinson.co.uk](mailto:kathrynferis@wallacerobinson.co.uk)**

**Please mention where you saw  
this article when you call.**  
**See [www.wallacerobinson.co.uk](http://www.wallacerobinson.co.uk)  
for further information.**





# legal services for your life

[wallacerobinson.co.uk](http://wallacerobinson.co.uk)    [enquiries@wallacerobinson.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wallacerobinson.co.uk)

We have extensive experience in dealing with a wide range of the type of legal issues that you and your family may face during your life, including:

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY  
WILLS, PROBATE & TRUSTS  
POWERS OF ATTORNEY  
FAMILY AND COLLABORATIVE LAW  
DISPUTE RESOLUTION  
EMPLOYMENT LAW

Wallace  
Robinson  
& Morgan  
SOLICITORS

since 1855

Take the first step to resolving your legal issues by  
contacting us on 0121 705 7571

#### Solihull

4 Drury Lane, Solihull  
West Midlands  
B91 3BD  
† 0121 705 7571

#### Dorridge

17-19 Station Approach,  
Dorridge, West Midlands  
B93 8JA  
† 01564 779393





# Fabric

Design.Develop.Deliver.

## Architectural & Construction Specialists

Fabric Design & Build are a collective of planners, architects, designers and construction specialists all coming together to create beautiful spaces and buildings.



Web: [fabricdesignandbuild.com](http://fabricdesignandbuild.com)  
Tel: +44 (0)121 775 0180  
Instagram: @fabricdesignandbuild  
Based in Solihull



# a good read

reviews By Willow Coby

## Where the Crawdads Sing

by Delia Owens

When a young man is found dead on the North Carolina coast the local police – and local residents – start looking for the culprit. It doesn't take long before they turn their attention to Kya, also known as the Marsh Girl. But is she guilty of anything more than being an outsider?

What follows is actually two stories intertwined. As the hunt for the murderer continues we learn of Kya's life in the marsh. At the age of 6 she watched Ma walk away from their shack with a blue case and high heeled shoes. Though Kya waited, her mother never returned and over the following months her siblings left as well, leaving her alone with Pa. He was often drunk or absent, so it was up to Kya to survive, until he finally left when she was 10. To some extent, this is a coming-of-age story. It is an unforgettable novel; a celebration of nature and some of the most engaging parts are the descriptions of the marsh world through which Kya glides effortlessly in her canoe. It becomes a character in its own right. There is no denying that this novel will stay with you long after you finish it and feel as if you have been along the journey though the marsh with Kya.



## A Good Day for Climbing Trees

by Jaco Jacobs

Don't let anyone tell you that you are too young to take a stand. Sometimes all it takes is one simple, spur of the moment decision, to change your life forever.

Marnus was fed up. No one seemed to notice him. His older brother acts as if he is in charge, and his younger brother seems to know everything. But a single knock on the door, a petition, and a tree under threat, will ensure that everyone notices him. This charming novel from one of South Africa's most popular and prolific children's authors will hook you in straightaway. It will make you laugh and will make you think about grabbing those opportunities that life gives you.

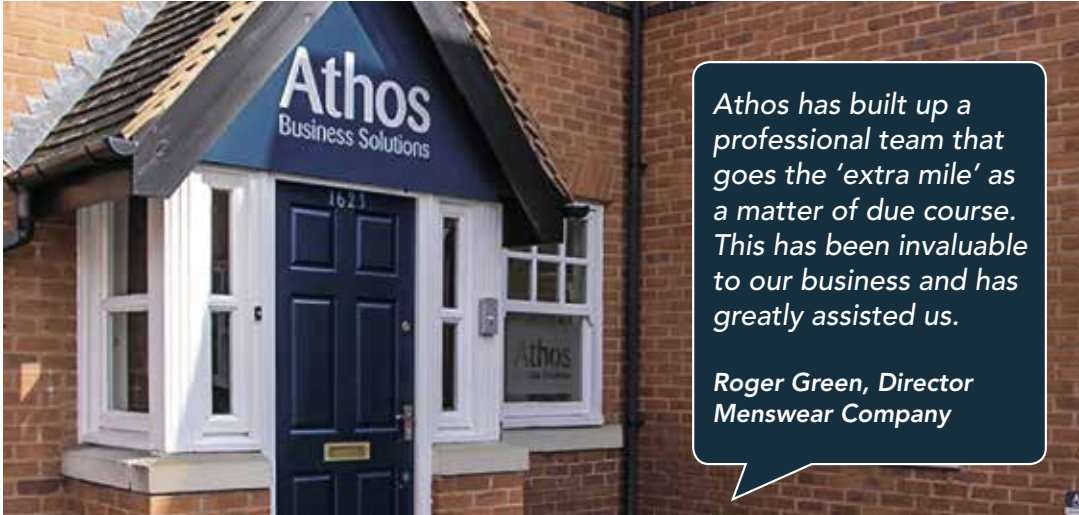


# Athos

*solutions for the future...*

**BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**

Chartered Certified Accountants



*Athos has built up a professional team that goes the 'extra mile' as a matter of due course. This has been invaluable to our business and has greatly assisted us.*

**Roger Green, Director  
Menswear Company**

- Accounts
- Tax Returns
- Payroll and Auto Enrolment
- Bookkeeping and VAT Returns
- Tax Advice
- Management Accounts



*Call and make an appointment for a free initial consultation where a bespoke fixed fee quotation will be provided.*

**T. 0333 400 7876**

Athos Business Solutions Limited  
1623 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9LF  
[www.athos.uk.com](http://www.athos.uk.com)

[enquiries@athos.uk.com](mailto:enquiries@athos.uk.com)



# Furry Friends

## Why guinea pigs make perfect pets

**When I was twelve I begged my dad for a pet. He vetoed a dog or a cat but one night he arrived home with a large cage which housed two chubby balls of cuteness. It was my introduction to guinea pigs.**

I christened them Siouxsie Sioux and Roxy (which gives away my teenage musical tastes). They became my characterful and vocal companions for the next six or so years.

Guinea pigs, or 'cavies', are short-tailed, rough-haired South American rodents. They are longer-lived and friendlier than hamsters, and more socially acceptable than rats (disclaimer...I love rats, but many people don't).

Guinea pigs are pretty hardy and healthy if fed properly. They can be prone to dental issues and bladder stones, but proper nutrition and regular medical check-ups help prevent this. They originate from cool climates and don't do well in hot, humid, or freezing conditions, so avoid positioning the cage next to a radiator or keeping them outside unless you have a very sheltered warm shed.

The warnings in the previous paragraph notwithstanding guinea pigs are actually easy to care for. They require hay, fresh water, fresh vegetables, a small quantity of specialist guinea pig pellets, and a vitamin C supplement each day. Their cage should be as large as possible and lined with paper-based bedding. It needs to be spot cleaned daily and thoroughly cleaned weekly. They are very sociable and highly fertile so don't keep a male and female together unless you want baby guinea pigs! They are great pets for younger children under parental supervision. They can be short or long-haired and come in

a variety of colours. The long-haired ones are very pretty but do require frequent grooming.

The fact that they can live up to 7-8 years (average around 5-6) is both a bonus but also something to consider if your child requests a guinea pig aged fifteen but plans to move out to attend university at 18!

Guinea pigs are rodents with definite personalities so take the time to interact with a few before taking one home. Some are shy and quiet; others are bold and vocal. You need to choose one (or two) that suit your personality and expectations.

One of the most delightful characteristics of guinea pigs is the sounds they make. They purr like a cat when they are happy and relaxed. They make soft squeaks and squeals to communicate and chatter their teeth when disgruntled. They also exhibit a behaviour called 'popcorning' - they jump up and down when happy or excited). My son (who has two guinea pigs) calls it their 'happy dance'. It's cute to watch; and they really do like people. They bond with their owners and are as interactive and friendly as cats or dogs. The flip side of this is that if they are ignored they can become depressed.

Guinea pigs make amazing companion. If you're considering a pet then check out these cute little creatures.





# Dorridge & Knowle Domestic Cleaning Services

- Small established cleaning and domestic help business
- Provide dedicated, friendly & trustworthy local ladies (*CRB checked*)
- Take pride in high standards and caring for customers' homes
- Regular service or one off spring cleans
- Ironing service available
- References available
- Comprehensive insurance
- Costs are not subject to VAT



For a FREE, no obligation quote,  
please call Sue on 07809 567264

**Home Instead**  
SENIOR CARE®  
*to us, it's personal.*



The **best**  
home to be in  
is **your own**

Home Instead Senior Care Solihull

**Phone: 01564 330 395 | 01212 704 615**

**Website: [www.homeinstead.co.uk/solihull](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/solihull)**

Each Home Instead Senior Care® franchise office is independently owned and operated. Copyright © Home Instead 2017.



## Composite Decking Specialists

Suppliers and installers of composite decking

Over 20 years' experience creating decking solutions

Our decking board comes with a 25-year guarantee

We have 1000's of meters in stock and available for immediate delivery

We also supply a complete range of fascia board, corner trim and fittings

Board sizes are 3600mm x 140mm x 23.5mm (0.504 sqm each)

Prices from £21/board

DURA-TEC® composite decking is a hi-tech eco-friendly alternative to traditional wooden decking. Our decking boards have both a natural grain and grooved contemporary profile, bringing a superb look to your outside space without the associated problems of cracking, splitting, warping and excessive maintenance requirements.

Contact us on: 07966 897 953 or 07868 735 678

or email us at: [enquiries@dura-tec.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dura-tec.co.uk)

**"Non-slip and  
maintenance  
free"**



**DURA-TEC**

[WWW.DURA-TEC.CO.UK](http://WWW.DURA-TEC.CO.UK)

## CROSSROADS SERVICE STATION LTD

A friendly, family-run business since 1969

- MOT Testing – Cars & Motorbikes
- Servicing & Repairs
- Air Conditioning Service & Repair
- Diagnostic Service & Repair
- Laser Wheel Alignment
- Tyres – Supplied & Fitted
- Qualified & Experienced Staff
- Courtesy Car or Collection/Delivery available

**OPEN 6 DAYS  
A WEEK**

MON – FRI 8.00am – 6.00pm

SAT 8.00am – 1.00pm

**COVID SECURE**



**599-601 Tanworth Lane, Shirley, Solihull B90 4JE**

**Tel: 01564 703225**

**[www.crossroadservicestation.co.uk](http://www.crossroadservicestation.co.uk)**

VAT No.: 113213041

# THE COURTYARD

## Nursery School

Full and Part Time

Places (6wks - 5 yrs)

Funded  
Places  
Available



### Our Offer

- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Individual assessment and planning
- Small group sizes (1:8 max.)
- Inclusive ethos with high expectations for every child
- Qualified, knowledgeable and experienced team
- Caring, child-friendly environment
- Supporting children in readiness for school

**Now  
Enrolling  
for January and  
April 2022**  
(Limited spaces)

**The Courtyard, Barston Lane, Eastcote, Solihull B92 0HS**

**Open 7.30am - 6.00pm**

**Telephone: 01676 545589**

**Email: [info@thecourtyardnurseryschool.co.uk](mailto:info@thecourtyardnurseryschool.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.pathwaysnursery.co.uk](http://www.pathwaysnursery.co.uk)**

**Facebook: [fb.com/thecourtyardnurseryschool](https://fb.com/thecourtyardnurseryschool)**

**Preparation time:** 10 min  
**Cooking time:** 1 hr 20 plus cooling  
**Serves:** 2-4

## A classic Italian supper

# Spinach and Ricotta Cannelloni

### Ingredients

250g fresh egg lasagne sheets

### For the sauce

1 tbsp olive oil

1 onion, peeled and cut in half

1 carrot, cut in half lengthways

1 celery stick, cut in half

800g tinned plum tomatoes

1 small bunch basil

Splash of balsamic vinegar

### For the filling

250g fresh spinach

1 tbsp butter

1 small garlic clove, peeled and crushed

175g fresh ricotta

30g Italian hard cheese, grated

Nutmeg

### Method

Heat the olive oil in a wide pan over a medium heat, add the onion, carrot and celery, and fry for two minutes, until they start to brown. Add the tomatoes, basil, and balsamic vinegar, bring everything to a simmer, then turn down the heat and cook gently for about 30 minutes, until thick. Remove the vegetables and herbs, then blend the sauce

until fairly smooth, and season to taste.

While the sauce is cooking, trim and discard any tough stalks from the spinach and wash the leaves well. Put the still-wet spinach into a saucepan over a medium heat, cover and cook, shaking the pan occasionally, until the spinach is completely wilted, then run under cold water to stop the cooking process. Once it's cool enough to handle, squeeze until dry, then chop finely.

Melt the butter in a frying pan over a medium heat, add the garlic, cook for one minute, then add the spinach. Sauté to coat everything with the butter, then remove from the heat and leave to cool. Heat the oven to 200C (180C fan) / gas mark 6. Mix the ricotta and spinach and add most of the grated cheese, reserving some for the top, season the mixture well with nutmeg and salt. Pour a thick layer of tomato sauce into the bottom of a medium baking tin. Make a sausage shape of filling on the short end of one of the pasta squares and roll it up, until you have slight overlap. Put the filled tube seam side down in the baking dish, then repeat with the remaining pasta and filling; pour the remaining sauce on top. Bake for 30 minutes. Scatter the remaining grated cheese over the dish before serving and place under the grill until it bubbles.



# Belmont @ Home provides bespoke home care services designed to fit perfectly to each individual.



**For those who still wish to have their own familiar front door and stay at home safe in the knowledge someone is there to care, Belmont @ Home offers at home care services.**

Unlike other home care services, Belmont @ Home care services are not rushed. Every individual benefits from the care team's time, attention, and care, no rushed visits, no clock watching,

just time for dedicated service.

At home care services should adapt to each individual need, mood and daily, weekly plans.

From personal care, organisation of social activities, attending to daily admin, housekeeping and preparing meals, or acting as chaperone to appointments, Belmont @ Home is there to support you!

## Belmont @ Home care services flex to each individual because every day is different



**Your first step towards personalised home care services starts with a free no obligation conversation with a Trusted Assessor to learn more about you and your needs.**

**To receive an initial assessment call us on 0121 295 8905**



Because every day is different, Belmont @ Home will work to your needs and aspirations.

[www.belmonthealthcare.co.uk](http://www.belmonthealthcare.co.uk)

☎ 0121 295 8905

✉ [homecare@belmonthealthcare.co.uk](mailto:homecare@belmonthealthcare.co.uk)

Join us for tailored home care services uniquely designed for you and your life.

# England's 'Vaccine Passport' For International Travel

The government has revealed its plan for England's 'vaccine passport' which will involve it being based on the standard NHS app. With the ban on overseas travel set to be lifted on 17th May 2021, they have started to roll out what holidays overseas will require.

Countries are starting to lay out their regulations for international visitors, such as requiring vaccinations, and/or negative COVID test.

There is no agreement as of yet as to how travellers will be required to prove their vaccinations or test, but the UK government has been working on a short-term fix that is hoping to help ease border restrictions for summer.

Grant Shapps appeared on Sky News advising "in terms of vaccine certification, I can confirm we are working on an NHS application."

It is hoped the app will be able to show that you have had a vaccine or that you've been tested. The app is that of the standard NHS app, rather than the NHS Covid-19 contact tracing app that has been used for the past few months since its release.

The government's plan will



only apply to England, as the other 3 nations will make their own decisions on how to prove their Covid status certification.

## When will it be ready?

The BBC reported recently that a government source has advised it would not be ready 'imminently'.

Vaccines Minister Nadhim Zahawi said that work was underway on preparing the app to act as a passport, with plans for it to be able to access the most recent test results along with vaccine status. Work is taking place to make it operationally possible for the ban on travel to be lifted.

Zahawi has noted that a number of countries are going ahead with vaccine passports so they would "much rather do it in a coordinated way."

## The European Passport

Plans are in place for an EU-wide digital certificate that will go before European Parliament. The key to it will be a QR code containing data, which the EU's Commission says will be safe and secure. It's currently working with the World Health Organisation to ensure this can be recognised beyond Europe. There are 27 member states who want it to include non-EU countries such as Norway and Iceland.

It's still early days in regards to this coming to fruition, we will bring you more as we know! More details are expected to be released in the next few weeks.

## When will travel resume?

The government has outlined that the ban on international travel is due to be lifted on 17th May 2021, with many eager to jet off on their holidays. The countries that are going to be quarantine-free will be revealed "in the next couple of weeks" according to Mr Shapps.

## Sabina Clay

Not Just Travel  
sabina.clay@notjusttravel.com  
07565 534 524





**NOT JUST TRAVEL**

**HOLIDAYS**  
*MADE Better*

Choice • Service • Value

**ENQUIRE NOW**

*Any trip • Anywhere • Anytime • Tailor-made*

Honeymoons - Cruises - Adventure Packages - Flights  
Hotels - Extras - Airport Car Parks - Weddings Abroad



*Sabina Clay*  
Not Just Travel  
sabina.clay@notjusttravel.com  
07565 534 524

**ABTA**  
Travel with confidence



## DMC PLUMBING

For all your plumbing requirements  
from small leaks to full  
bathroom refurbishments.

- All work guaranteed
- 24 hour emergency call out
- Established over 25 years.

**Contact Dave on:**


07792 296728  
01564 772 876



**Mindbenders**  
*Can you find the hidden phrases?*

**THE 12" DOOR**

**offend + bruise**



answer on page 49



## Freedom with Motion

Contemporary Pilates & Slings helping to  
create the very best version of yourself

**Monday 9.45am Progressive**

**Monday 11am Beginners**

**Thursday 6.30pm Progressive**

**Thursday 7.40pm Beginner**

**The Parish Centre Dorridge**

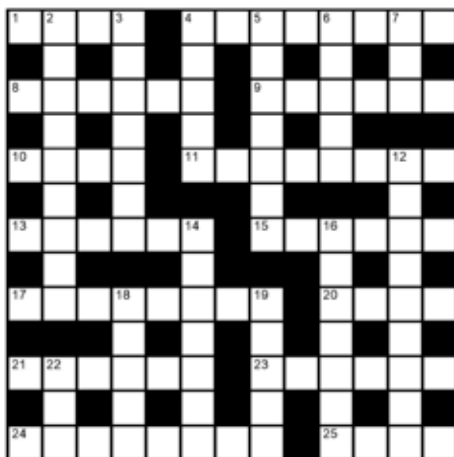
To find out more call 0776 2311 074

Visit [www.freedomwithmotion.com](http://www.freedomwithmotion.com)

**The movement concept that creates  
functional ease, stability and vitality.**

# crossword

# clues



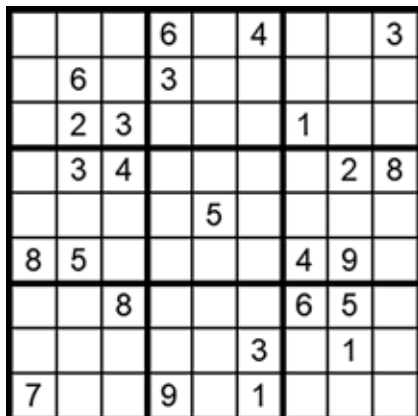
## Across

- 1 Rip-off, hoax (4)
- 4 Twirling (8)
- 8 Foetus (6)
- 9 Be angry about (6)
- 10 Circle (4)
- 11 Striped feline (5,3)
- 13 Monty Python's, \_\_\_\_\_ Brian (4,2)
- 15 Native American home (6)
- 17 Another word for aubergine (8)
- 20 Small round salty cracker (4)
- 21 Cavern, den (6)
- 23 Womb (6)
- 24 Supply, material (8)
- 25 Seize, grab (4)

## Down

- 2 Mixing (9)
- 3 Phenomenon (7)
- 4 Crow, flaunt (5)
- 5 Welsh \_\_\_\_\_, cheese on toast (7)
- 6 Delicious (5)
- 7 Female member of religious order (3)
- 12 Dumbfounded (9)
- 14 The essence of a food (7)
- 16 Ardent, impassioned (7)
- 18 Paved garden area (5)
- 19 Accord, amnesty (5)
- 22 Fish eggs (3)

answer on page 49



# 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 49



# Purple sprouting broccoli

Purple Sprouting Broccoli is a beautiful, tasty addition to the dinner table, and the garden. It has a great flavour, a long harvesting season and is nutritionally beneficial. A single portion provides half your daily requirement of carotenoids, plus high levels of folic acid and vitamins A and C. It's definitely a 'plan-ahead' crop though. If you start planting now you will give yourself something to look forward to next January, and as it is a 'cut and come again' crop, that long season should keep you going until April or May!

Purple-sprouting broccoli is extremely hardy, tolerating temperatures as low as -12°C. You can actually start raising seeds in March, for even earlier crops. I usually start the new year with good intentions of staggering my planting like this (because it is one of my favourites veg), then forget and end up planting in April or May.

One of the reasons I love it is that I garden on fairly alkaline soil, in which it thrives. It prefers a heavier soil than mine ideally but seems to do well enough in my garden. I dig in a fair amount of leaf mould and well-rotted manure to bulk it up. Purple sprouting broccoli doesn't like exposed sites, because the wind buffets the stems, so if your garden is more open it will need a bit of protection.

Sow seeds into small pots or multi-cell trays, using a good quality multi-purpose seed and cuttings compost. When the little plants are large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out and transplant them into single 9cm pots. Watering them in well.

Once the plants have matured, fork the soil over. Remove large stones and perennial weeds. Even if your soil is heavier it's worth digging in some organic matter to improve texture and moisture retention. I don't need to add lime to my soil but if you garden on neutral



or acid soil, you'd be advised to work some in. Transplant when the broccoli plants are 7-9cm tall. Water them well before removing from their pots, and plant them 50-60cm apart, with a similar distance between the rows. Brassicas dislike loose soil, so make sure you firm around the plants lightly with your foot. Water again after planting. Six plants will produce enough broccoli to feed a family of four. I grow more because I love it.

Harvest when the flower shoots are well developed but before the flowers have actually opened. Cut the central spears with a sharp knife first, as this encourages the side shoots to develop quickly. Then crop the side shoots regularly to extend the cropping time.

January seems a long way away right now, but a little planning and preparation will ensure that deliciousness will await when we get there.

# As Lucky Can Be?

## The History of the Chimney Sweep

Spring is here, and with it the urge to make everything clean and fresh, including the chimney. If your fireplace is clogged and sooty from use during the cold winter months, now is the time to call a chimney sweep. This skilled high-tech profession has a rich and dark history.

The profession of 'sweep' dates back to the 16th century. Originally the service was needed only by the wealthy with grand estates, but gradually the trend of installing chimneys in every home caught on, and the demand for sweeps grew. The houses in city streets were tightly packed and sweeps would work from house to house, sometimes roof to roof, cleaning sooty chimneys.

In the 17th century the government introduced a hearth tax, based partly on the number of chimneys a house possessed. People wanted to avoid the tax, so builders connected flues of new fireplaces with the existing chimney, creating a maze of narrow, pitch black tunnels inside homes.

When people switched fuel from wood to coal, chimneys became coated with sticky soot deposits. These had to be cleaned frequently; otherwise, the house filled with toxic fumes. So, chimney sweeps became associated with restoring fresh air in homes and thus became symbols of good health.

Unfortunately, the sweeps themselves did not enjoy good health. Tiny children between 4 and 11 years old became the primary 'tools' used for cleaning because they were small enough to squeeze through the narrow, maze-like chimneys. It must have been a terrifying job, working without light in suffocating cramped conditions. The children, known as 'climbing boys' were either sold by destitute parents or were chosen from orphanages. Their job was to scrape the coal deposits from the flue lining. If a young child was afraid to climb, the master would sometimes light a small fire to 'motivate'

him to move. It's actually where the phrase 'to light a fire under someone' originated.

The boys' only official day off was May Day, and in Rochester they still commemorate this with the Sweeps Festival (sadly cancelled this year) involving three days of fun, real ale, music, and dancing across the bank holiday weekend.

These children suffered bone malformation, soot inhalation, and cancers. Some of them became trapped and died of suffocation inside chimneys. Most didn't make it to middle age.

After many humanitarian appeals to Government, in 1864, the English Parliament finally passed the "Act for the Regulation of Chimney Sweepers" which made it illegal to send a child up a chimney.

Today's professional chimney sweeps are educated in the science of chimneys and fireplaces as well as in building codes. It is important to employ a qualified professionally trained sweep, from a recognised organisation, so you know they are well-trained and fully insured. Many are also skilled to carry out appliance servicing and fitting chimney cowlings etc.

**National Association of Chimney**

**Sweeps: [nacs.org.uk](http://nacs.org.uk)**

**Association of Professional Independent**

**Chimney Sweeps: [apics.org.uk](http://apics.org.uk)**

**Guild of Master Sweeps:**

**[guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk](http://guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk)**





EASTCOTE  
PARK  
CINNAMON LUXURY CARE

FOUNDER  
MEMBER OFFER

NOW TAKING  
RESERVATIONS

# NEW Exclusive Retirement Village and Care Home

OPENING - 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

Eastcote Park is in a class of its own. This exclusive Retirement Village boasts 34 spacious 2-bedroom apartments, an array of state-of-the-art facilities and a luxurious care home.

We are very excited to be welcoming our first residents on the 1st June. So why not book a personalised tour and see first hand the outstanding facilities and stunning surroundings.

**At Eastcote Park, people will always come first.**

To book your personalised tour, call Ben on 01564 757237  
or email [eastcote.haa@cinnamoncc.com](mailto:eastcote.haa@cinnamoncc.com)

RETIREMENT APARTMENTS | RESIDENTIAL CARE | DEMENTIA CARE | RESPITE CARE

Eastcote Park Retirement Village & Care Home  
Eastcote Park, Knowle Road, Eastcote, Solihull B92 0JA  
[www.cinnamoncc.com/eastcote](http://www.cinnamoncc.com/eastcote)



**heating studio**  
SOMETHING FOR ALL SEASONS

314 HASLUCKS GREEN ROAD  
SHIRLEY  
SOLIHULL  
B90 2NE  
0121 289 5480

DESIGNER RADIATORS  
WOODBURNERS  
OUTDOOR FIREPITS  
GAS & ELECTRIC FIRES

## Be Fire Safe with a Fire Safe

If your house caught fire, would your important documents be safe?

We should be proactive about protecting critical information in case of a fire. Although lots of us have gone digital when it comes to storage of personal information, certain items still need to come in hard copies. And some things, other than papers, also need to be stored in a safe place. Ask yourself what you need easy access to when you're in an emergency fire crisis? Original birth certificate, Wills, Business documents, Property deeds, National Insurance details, Insurance documents, Car documents, Other original documents Spare keys for house and car, Passports, Heirloom jewellery, Emergency cash A file containing information: emergency numbers of insurance companies, bank, lawyer, family members, medical

prescriptions, GP, and vet details.

A fire safe is a box designed to protect valuables from heat damage and smoke caused by fire. The level of protection is determined by the type of fire safe and its fire rating. Not all fire safe boxes are alike. Standard fireproof safes protect valuables against intense heat and smoke damage for periods of up to 120 minutes. But it depends on what you want to store. The fire test standards require that the critical maximum temperature of the following media cannot be exceeded: Digital media: 120°C; Computer data: 52°C because electronic media melts at a lower temperature than paper combusts. A fire safe rated suitable for paper documents is NOT suitable for digital media. Most homes don't have a fire safe... but can you afford to be without one?



# D.A. MANDER & SON Ltd

PROFESSIONAL FITTER AND  
SUPPLIER OF QUALITY CARPETS

*Don Mander does not have retail premises. If you need him  
please call him direct – the only way to buy carpets*



**SUPPLIERS  
TO THE  
NATIONAL  
TRUST**

## Need a carpet?

**Support the NHS**  
**Stay at home and stay safe**

### We come to you

**ACCURATE**  
*See colours in their  
true light*

**CONVENIENT**  
*View in the comfort of  
your own home*

**EASIER**  
*Than walking round  
lots of shops*

# 01564 700200

*We can uplift and remove existing carpets and move furniture*

**Mobile: 07976 778694**  
**FREE ESTIMATES**

*91 Longdon Road, Knowle B93 9HT*

**See our Review's at**

Google

Yell

FreeIndex



Does your website  
look old, dated and you're  
not sure what to do?



hotlobster design offers you up-to-date  
websites to replace your tired ones.

Bespoke content managed websites are cheaper than you think.  
Call now for a chat about your website, social media & marketing needs.

hotlobster   
design • marketing • web • print

0121 369 1977

[www.hotlobster.uk.com](http://www.hotlobster.uk.com)



## SPRING HAPPENINGS

Nestled in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside, with oodles of space and fresh air. **Hatton Country World** has fantastic attractions for the whole family to enjoy this spring.

### Outdoor Spring Markets

Our outdoor markets are packed with a plethora of treats...

**Outdoor Markets:** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
**Whitsun Markets:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May

### The Unusual, Unique & Boutique

Explore the nooks and crannies of **Hatton Shopping Village** to find a variety of independent retailers; **Ladies Fashion, Childrens Wear, Bespoke Jewellery, Wildlife Gallery, Bike Shop, Antiques, Sweet Treats, Hand Crafted Liquor, Garden Supplies** and so much more. This is very much **Not on the High Street**.

### Escape Rooms - Reopening 17<sup>th</sup> May

Looking for something a little bit different... Experience immersive adventures at our **Escape Rooms**. Seek treasure on a pirate ship or go undercover in gangland Chicago. **Will You Escape?**

### Private Celebration Areas

We've all got a lot of catching up to do, why not get all your friends and family together at one of our **Private Celebration Areas** from May 17<sup>th</sup>. With stunning locations for up to 30 guests fully serviced or simply to rent. For more information please visit our website.

### And That's not all...

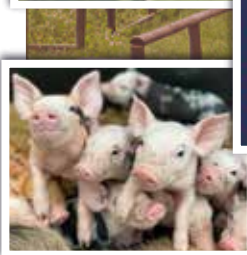
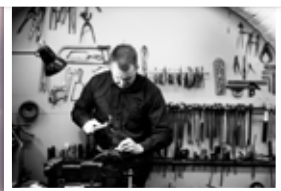
**Hatton Adventure World** is bursting with newborn Spring animals; amazing Blockbusters are showing at our all American style **Drive in Cinema & Diner**; and so much more...

For information on all of the above as well as upcoming events and attractions please visit our website.

TELEPHONE: 01926 843411  
[www.hattonworld.com](http://www.hattonworld.com)

HATTON COUNTRY WORLD,  
HATTON, WARWICK,  
CV35 8XA

FREE  
ADMISSION



FANTASTIC ATTRACTIONS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



# Kids' Page



## Sporty CrossWord

The clues are all words used in the sports below.  
Match the sport to the clue and fill in the crossword.



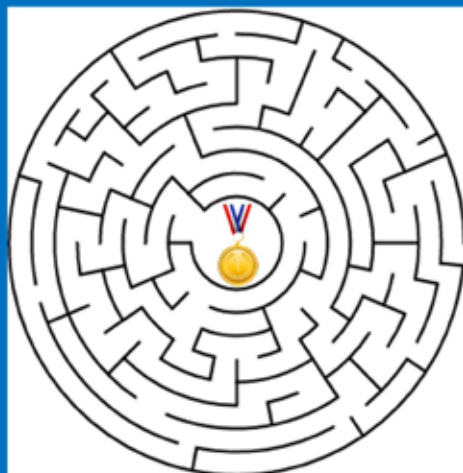
### Across

- 2 Slam-dunk (10)
- 3 Wicket (7)
- 4 Offside (8)
- 6 Birdie (4)
- 7 Posts (8)
- 9 Deuce (6)
- 11 Butterfly (8)

### Down

- 1 Home run (8)
- 2 Shuttlecock (9)
- 5 Dojo (4)
- 6 Somersault (10)
- 7 Marathon (7)
- 8 Off-piste (6)
- 10 Try (5)

Golf   Swimming   Basketball  
Football   Running   Badminton   Tennis  
Cricket   Skiing   Rugby   Rounders   Judo  
Baseball



## A-Maze-ing Maisie!

Help Maisie navigate the course and collect her finishers' medal.



Maze Solution



Crossword Solution

# TAILORED HOME INSURANCE RIGHT DOWN TO THE FINEST DETAIL

Are you 100% happy with your current home insurance? Does the level of personal service you receive meet your expectations?

Because if not, you might like to consider NFU Mutual.

From our offices in Henley-in-Arden and Stoneleigh, we're uniquely placed to have a real conversation about your requirements.



So, for a truly personal approach to insuring your high-value property and contents, including valuables, fine art and collections, call Ross Chatterton at NFU Mutual Central Warwickshire on 01789 333228 or email [Ross\\_Chatterton@nfumutual.co.uk](mailto:Ross_Chatterton@nfumutual.co.uk)



# useful numbers

## Health

NHS non-emergency	111
Dorridge Surgery	01564 776262
Knowle Surgery	0121 796 2777
Solihull Hospital	0121 424 2000
Spire Parkway Hospital	0121 704 1451
Daleswood Health, Solihull	01675 489489

## Council

Solihull Council	0121 704 6000
------------------	---------------

## Utilities

Electricity power cut	0800 6783 105
Gas leak	0800 111 9999
Severn Trent Water	024 7771 5000
Severn Trent Water (emergencies)	0800 783 4444

## Travel

National Rail Enquiries	03457 48 49 50
Network West Midlands (buses)	0345 303 6760

## LOCAL COUNCILLORS

### DORRIDGE & HOCKLEY HEATH

#### Ian Courts

Tel: 01676 535490  
icourts@solihull.gov.uk

#### Andrew Mackiewicz

Tel: 01564 230294  
amackiewicz@solihull.gov.uk

#### Ken Meeson

Tel: 01564 777772  
kmeeson@solihull.gov.uk

## KNOWLE

#### Diana Holl-Allen MBE

Tel: 01675 443112  
dhallen@solihull.gov.uk

#### Jeff Potts

Tel: 01564 774804  
jpotts@solihull.gov.uk

#### Alan Rebeiro

Tel: 01564 200047  
arebeiro@solihull.gov.uk

## local police contact for knowle & dorridge

Sergeant Mike Lloyd

Telephone: 101 ext 892 6037

Email: rural@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk





**Accountants**

29 Athos Business Solutions 0333 400 7876

**Alterations and sewing**

5 Superstitch 07825 290772

**Architects**

26-27 Fabric Design &amp; Build 0121 775 0180

**Bathrooms**

2 Bathrooms Galore 0121 783 9966

11 Cullen Plumbing  
& Tiling 07896 862916**Beauty and wellbeing**

13 Elegance 01564 778777

37 Central England Pilates 0776 2311 074

**Builders' Merchants**

50 EH Smith 0121 713 7100

**Business Networking**

10 Knowle BOB Club 07490 645665

**Car Services**

13 Midhire Vehicle Rentals 0121 709 5000

32 Crossroads  
Service Station 01564 703225**Care services**23 Lady Katherine Housing  
& Care 01564 772850

31 Home Instead 01564 330395

35 Belmont @ Homecare 0333 444 0121

41 Eastcote Park 0121 269 1236

**Carpets & Flooring**

15 Acorn Floors 0121 693 3301

43 D.A. Mander &amp; Son 01564 700200

**Childcare**

33 The Courtyard 01676 545589

**Cleaning Services**31 Dorrage & Knowle  
Domestic Cleaning  
Services 07809 567264**Doors and windows**

18 Garolla garage doors 0121 369 0774

22 Clearly Better Windows 0800 048 5223

**Estate agents**

52 DM &amp; Co 01564 777314

**Events**

16 Solihull Summer Fest 0121 472 6688

19 Alfresco Style 01926 843555

45 Hatton Country World 01926 843411

**Gardens and drives**

7 Solihull Tree Care 0121 604 6809

8 Oakland Group 01564 758608

9 Garden Design Studio 07960 772307

17 Dimension Landscape  
& Driveways 0121 733 1463

19 Alfresco Style 01926 843555

20 Central Drives  
Landscapes 0121 702 1456

32 Dura-Tec 07966 897953

51 GreenThumb 0121 705 6395

**Graphic and Website Design**

44 Hot Lobster Design Ltd 0121 369 1977

**Heating**5 Stephen Smith Plumbing  
& Heating 01564 200119

42 Heating Studio 0121 289 5480

**Insurance**

47 NFU Mutual 01564 792215

**Languages**

14 Beech Languages 01564 739621

**Locksmiths**

9 Lockfit 01564 627020

**Lofts**

22 Stu's Loft Ladders 07712 327889

**Painter & Decorator**

21 Bill Boyce 0121 744 0040

**Plumbing**3 Knowle Domestic  
Appliance Repairs 01564 7301835 Stephen Smith Plumbing  
& Heating 01564 20011911 Cullen Plumbing  
& Tiling 07896 862916

37 DMC Plumbing 07792 296728

**Roofing**

1 N. Bird &amp; Son 0121 743 6324

21 C Stevens Roofing 0121 733 1276

**Shopping**

19 Alfresco Style 01926 843555

45 Hatton Country World 01926 843411

**Solicitors**24-25 Wallace Robinson  
& Morgan 01564 779393**Telecoms**

6 Triton Telecom 0800 8498030

**Tiling**

11 Cullen Plumbing &amp; Tiling 07896 862916

**Travel Agent**

37 Not Just Travel 07565 534524

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

**Sudoku Solution**

from page 38

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

**crossword Solution**

from page 38

**Solution to Mind benders**

1. A foot in the door
2. The last leg
3. Cut a long story short

**mindbenders**

from page 37

# Inspirational kitchens and bathrooms

NEW  
SHOWROOM  
OPENING  
SOON



☒ Expert advice   ☒ Site surveys   ☒ CAD design

Contact us for  
more information

☎ 0121 713 7100

✉ [info@ehsmith.co.uk](mailto:info@ehsmith.co.uk)

 **EH Smith**  
**KITCHENS &  
BATHROOMS**



# TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING A NATION OF LAWN LOVERS

FROM JUST

**£15\***

PER TREATMENT

\* Based on a lawn size  
up to 40m<sup>2</sup>

## REVOLUTIONISING LAWN CARE

With our passion for innovative solutions and most importantly, our love for lawns, we'll ensure your lawn takes pride of place as your garden's crowning glory, all year long.

Our ground-breaking **Lawn Treatment Programmes** feature four fantastic **NutraGreen Treatments**, plus an application of our newly improved **Oasis Water Conserver**. Our unique **Standard** and **Ultimate Programmes** include even more benefits to ensure your lawn remains weed-free, luscious, and of course, beautifully green!

## START YOUR LAWN CARE JOURNEY

- 1 Get an instant free quote at [greenthumb.co.uk/measure](https://www.greenthumb.co.uk/measure)
- 2 Your local lawn expert will contact you to analyse your lawn and discuss recommendations
- 3 Admire your beautiful lawn as it shines proudly as the centrepiece of your garden

*Let's create the lawn we both love*

Start your Lawn Care journey today:

Call: 0121 705 6395

Email: [solihull@greenthumb.co.uk](mailto:solihull@greenthumb.co.uk)

Visit: [greenthumb.co.uk](https://www.greenthumb.co.uk)

**GreenThumb**  
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE



# YOUR PROPERTY, OUR PRIORITY.



REGISTER WITH US NOW

**CALL 01564 777 314**

rightmove 

 OnTheMarket.com

Zoopla