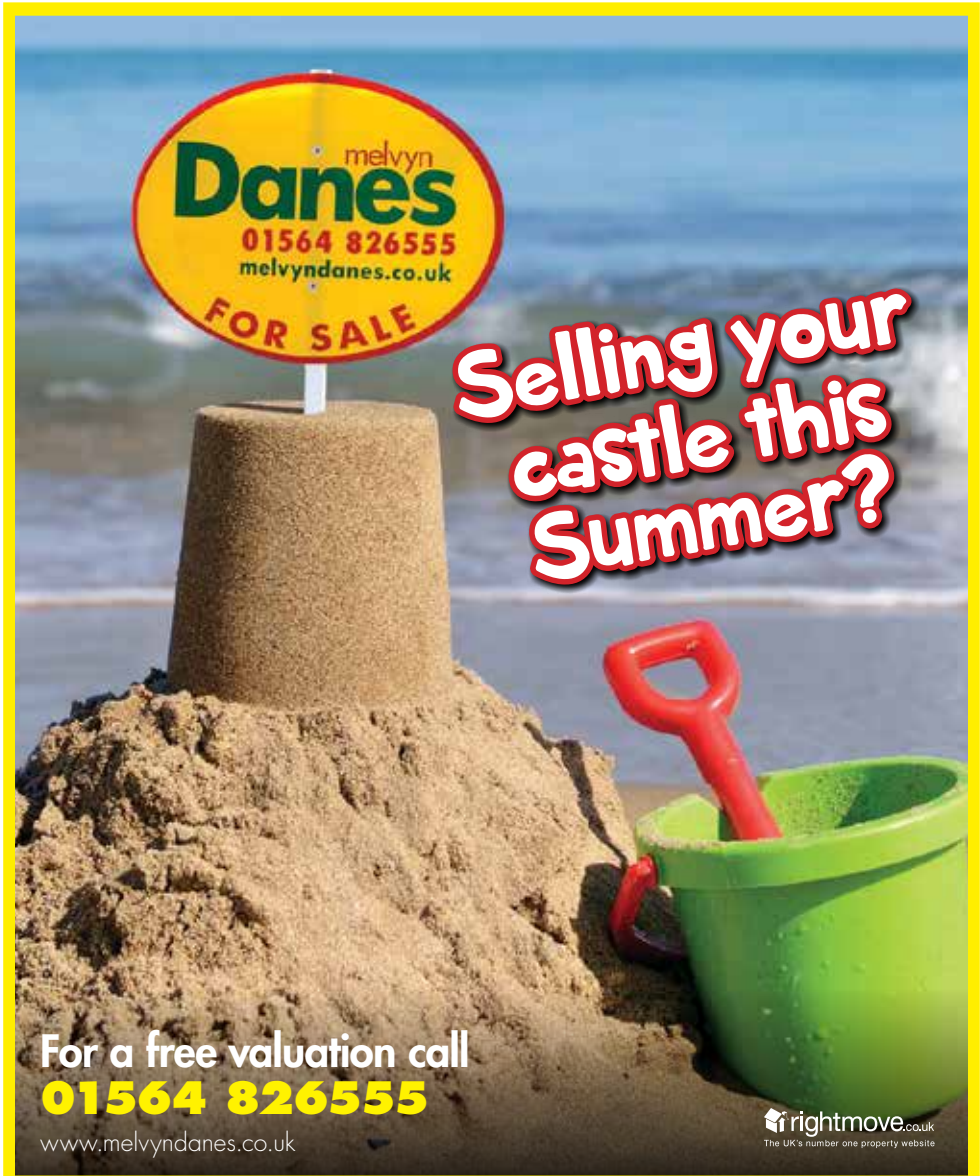


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ROWAN CLOSE, HOLLYWOOD

Situated within Hollywood Grange development with no upward chain, briefly comprising; porch, guest cloaks w.c. hallway, modern kitchen, lounge/dining room, master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, modern bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garage and driveway.

Offers Around £475,000

OAKWOOD ROAD, HOLLYWOOD



OAKWOOD ROAD, HOLLYWOOD

An extended three bedroomed link detached house in this popular road in Hollywood with no upward chain, briefly comprising; hallway, lounge, extended dining room and kitchen, utility and ground floor shower room, three bedrooms, refitted shower room, rear garden, integral side garage, front driveway.

Offers Around £340,000

SHAWHURST LANE, HOLLYWOOD



SHAWHURST LANE, HOLLYWOOD

A traditional semi-detached house with huge potential for a substantial extension subject to planning with no upward chain, briefly comprising; porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, garden room, extended kitchen, ground floor guest w.c., three bedrooms, bathroom, large side tandem garage, large rear garden, front driveway.

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GORLESTON ROAD, WARSTOCK

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Summer Holidays

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 fun runs, 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!

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community events

Pure Queen as a tribute to Queen

25 August, The lake at Barston

Possibly one of the greatest performers of all time is portrayed by Mark Lavell and his supporting band, including hits such as Bohemian Rhapsody, Barcelona, Killer Queen and more. Tickets from www.thelakeatbarston.co.uk

The 3 Lions Beer & Cider Festival

8th & 9th September, Shirley British Legion.

A charity Beer & Cider Festival with 20 real ales and 10 ciders organised jointly by Acocks Green, Shirley and Solihull Lions Clubs. Live music on both days provided by Ray's Open Mic Night. Entrance £10 includes a souvenir glass, £5 worth of drinks tokens and an event booklet with full tasting notes. Advance tickets from Shirley British Legion or pay on the door.

Balsall Common Fun Run

17th September

This local community fundraising event, now in its ninth year, is organised by local charity The Lily Mae Foundation, to enable participants to run in support of local and national charities and good causes. There are Mini Runs for nursery and primary aged children, 5K runs for Juniors and Families, and 5K and 10K Runs for Adults. To book your place please visit: www.stuweb.co.uk/event/4258

Elvis Tribute Show with Kevin Paul

15 September, Nailcote Hall

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Nailcote Hall's party nights include a three-course dinner, live entertainment, and an after-show DJ. Tickets from www.nailcotehall.co.uk

The Very Best of Deacon Blue

20 September, Utilita Arena

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a good read

By Natasha Donovan

A Long Way from Home by Peter Carey

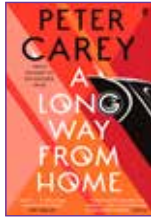
This compelling novel set in 1950s Australia, follows the lives of three central characters who embark on an eventful journey together.

Irene Bobs, a strong-willed and determined woman, dreams of winning the legendary Redex Trial, a gruelling endurance race that circumnavigates Australia. Her husband, Titch Bobs, is a car salesman with a passion for racing and an unresolved past. Willie Bachhuber is their troubled and brilliant navigator with an intimate knowledge of maps and an unconventional perspective on life.

As the trio sets off on their ambitious endeavour, they encounter all manner of challenges which brings them into direct contact with the racial tensions of the time. Australia's indigenous population faces discrimination and marginalization, and each character is forced to confront their own biases and prejudices during their voyage.

Relationships gradually become strained and alliances shift, as long-hidden secrets and insecurities bubble to the surface.

As the race progresses, the characters' personal journeys intertwine with the larger narrative of a nation struggling to find its identity. Carey uses The Redex Trial as a metaphorical representation of Australia's cultural and social landscape, mirroring the country's quest for a unified identity in the face of its diverse heritage. He weaves together themes of identity, belonging and the legacy of colonialism in a thought-provoking novel from which all three characters emerge changed forever.

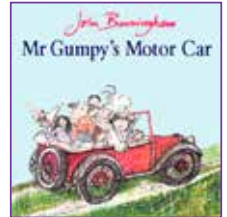


Mr. Gumpy's Motor Car by John Burningham

Our children's book this month also centres around a car journey. Mr. Gumpy's Motor Car is an old book, though I'd never heard of it until my son was given a copy on his first birthday. It's one of those timeless,

charming works that is destined to be loved forever. Mr. Gumpy decides to take a ride in his car. As he sets out on his journey he comes across different animals who all ask to join him. They are the Rabbit, the Cat, the Dog, the Pig, the Sheep, the Chickens, the Calf, the Goat, and the Children. Mr. Gumpy greets them all patiently and cheerfully, though they prove to be quite a rowdy bunch of passengers. When they reach a tricky hill Mr. Gumpy asks for a volunteer to help push the car, but everyone has an excuse as to why they can't do it, then it starts to rain, and the car becomes stuck. The passengers eventually realise that if they don't pull together (or rather push together) they will never get home.

The story is deceptively simple and satisfying, which adds to its appeal. Burningham was known for his illustrations, and they are absolutely beautiful. The combination of earthy colours and whimsical characters make the images warm and inviting, and his use of crosshatching adds movement and life to the story. You can see the animals and children jostling for position in the car. The book's message about the importance of staying calm and working together to overcome adversity is a positive one, endearingly told.





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Smooth Transition

Easing kids back into school

Returning to school routine after the long summer break can be a challenge for kids.

After weeks of relaxation and freedom, there may be some resistance or anxiety about returning to normal routines. Try these tips to make for a smoother start to term.

Gradual Transition - Start preparing for the school routine a week or two before term begins. Gradually adjust bedtimes and wake-up times to align with the school schedule. This will help children readjust their internal clocks and establish a consistent sleep routine.

Implement structure - Establish a daily routine that includes dedicated time for homework, extracurricular activities, relaxation, and socialization. A predictable routine helps children feel a sense of security and control, making the transition smoother.

Open Communication - Create an open and supportive environment for your child to express any concerns about returning to school. Encourage them to share their feelings and listen attentively without judgment. Validate their emotions and offer reassurance to alleviate their anxiety and build confidence.

Visit the School - Arrange a visit to the school before the term starts, especially if your child is transitioning to a new school. The school doesn't have to be open. Familiarize them with the journey and the surroundings. This can help alleviate anxiety by creating a sense of familiarity. If you can find a floorplan of the school look for key areas, like the reception, dinner hall and playground.



Connect with Friends - Encourage your child to reconnect with school friends before the term begins. Arrange a playdate or an outing to help them reestablish connection as well as boost their excitement about returning to school.

Positive Reinforcement - Talk about the positive aspects of school, such as reuniting with friends, engaging in favourite subjects, school trips and extracurricular activities. Remind your child of past enjoyable experiences.

Address Anxiety - If your child is very anxious, it's essential to provide additional support.

Teach them relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or mindfulness exercises, to manage anxiety symptoms. Consider seeking professional help from your GP or a therapist who specializes in working with children.

Problem-Solving - If your child refuses to return to school, try to identify the underlying reasons. It could be related to academic struggles, social difficulties, or bullying. Address the specific concerns by working collaboratively with the school, teachers, or other professionals to find appropriate solutions and support.

Stay Positive - As a parent, maintaining a positive attitude and expressing confidence in your child's ability to navigate the school routine is crucial. Show excitement for the new school year, emphasize the learning opportunities, and highlight their strengths and abilities.

Remember, each child's needs are unique, and the transition process may take time. Be patient, flexible, and supportive throughout the adjustment period. By implementing these strategies and offering unwavering support, you can help ease your child back into the school routine and set the stage for a successful academic year.

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Ice Ice Baby

Ice cream and ice lollies have long been cherished treats, especially during the warm summer months in the United Kingdom.

The origins of ice cream can be traced back to ancient China, where it is believed that the Chinese were the first to create a frozen dessert made from milk and rice. From there, the art of making ice cream spread throughout the world. In the UK though, ice cream gained popularity during the 18th century when it became fashionable among the upper classes. Initially, it was a luxury treat reserved for the elite, as the process of making ice

cream required access to both ice and expensive ingredients.

With the advent of industrialization, ice cream became more accessible to the masses. In the mid-19th century, the development of artificial refrigeration techniques made it easier to produce and store ice cream. This led to the establishment of ice cream parlours and vendors across the UK, where people could indulge in this delightful frozen dessert. Street vendors and carts became a common sight and in 1958 Mr. Whippy ice cream vans began to appear in Birmingham, founded by Dominic Facchino. Vendors

A brief history of ice cream

found that by playing a catchy jingle, they could attract more customers. Jingles were often folk songs and to this day Greensleeves is the most-used jingle for ice cream vans.

Whether you prefer a scoop or a tub, there's no denying the charm of cold ice cream on a hot summer's day. Enjoy!



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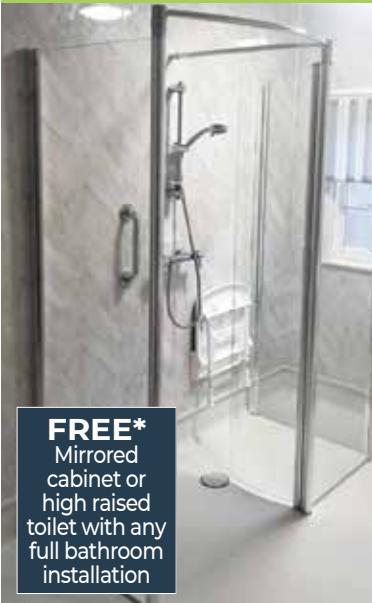
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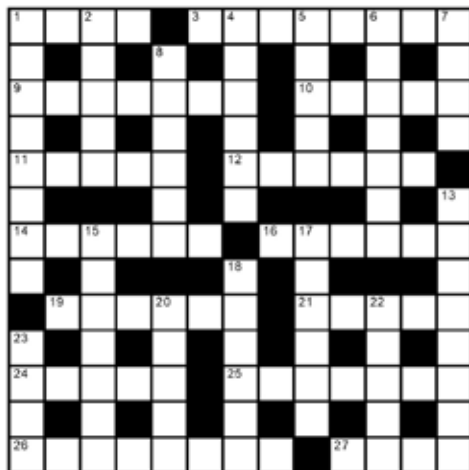
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crossword



clues

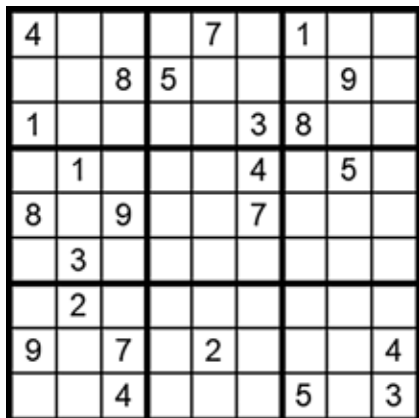
Across

- 1 Longing, dream (4)
- 3 Cavernous (8)
- 9 Impartial (7)
- 10 Choose to participate (3,2)
- 11 Laziness (5)
- 12 Gambling establishment (6)
- 14 Hold in the mind (6)
- 16 Dried grape (6)
- 19 Fleet of warships (6)
- 21 Divine water (5)
- 24 Emblem, symbol (5)
- 25 Exclusive group (2,5)
- 26 Alone (8)
- 27 Enthralled (4)

Down

- 1 Attractive, clean-cut (8)
- 2 Dwarf planet (5)
- 4 Lawman (6)
- 5 Peeved (5)
- 6 Short excursions (7)
- 7 Balanced, rational (4)
- 8 Bowman (6)
- 13 Unlikely winner (8)
- 15 Relationship between man and wife (7)
- 17 Someone dependent on drugs (6)
- 18 Less difficult (6)
- 20 Concede (5)
- 22 Erroneous (5)
- 23 _____ Redding, soul singer (4)

answer on page 22



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 22



Mark O'Sullivan

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

Sudoku Solution

from page 20

H	O	P	E	S	P	A	C	I	O	U	S
A	L	A	O	R	I	U	A				
N	E	U	T	R	A	L	O	P	T	I	N
D	T	C	I	S	I	E					
S	L	O	T	H	C	A	S	I	N	O	
O		E		E	R	A	I	S	I	N	
E	A			E	D						
A	R	M	A	D	A		D	O	W	S	E
O	I	D	S	T	R	R					
T	O	T	E	M	I	N	C	R	O	W	
I	A	I	E	T	N	O					
S	O	L	I	T	A	R	Y	A	G	O	G

Crossword Solution

from page 20

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