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ALCESTER ROAD, HOLLYWOOD

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Offers Around £220,000

SHAWHURST LANE, HOLLYWOOD



SHAWHURST LANE, HOLLYWOOD

An ideal location for this link detached house conveniently located for all the amenities in Hollywood and Wythall, with no upward chain, briefly comprising; porch, hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, ground floor w.c., three bedrooms, refitted bathroom, large side garage, rear garden and generous front driveway.

Offers Around £340,000

CHURCH CLOSE, WYTHALL



CHURCH CLOSE, WYTHALL

A modern four bedroomed detached house briefly comprising; porch, hallway, refitted kitchen/diner, ground floor shower room, lounge, dining room, utility, study, conservatory, master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, family bathroom, detached double garage, front driveway and rear garden.

Offers Around £500,000

JUGGINS LANE, EARLSWOOD



JUGGINS LANE, EARLSWOOD

A well presented park home on this popular site in Earlswood, currently a one bed, but was previously a two bed with open views to the rear, briefly comprising; porch, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, master bedroom, shower room, garden with open views.

Offers Around £190,000





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Boo!

Welcome to the October edition

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

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

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community events



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1-5 November, Resorts World Arena

Celebrate with Mickey, Minnie, and their Disney friends while reliving the adventures of your favourite Disney stories at Disney On Ice presents 100 Years of Wonder. Tickets from www. resortsworldarena.co.uk

The Creative Craft Show

2-5 November, NEC, Birmingham

The Creative Craft Show offers shopping, workshops, and inspiration for new and established crafters. Discover workshops led by industry experts and purchase the latest crafting materials form a variety of stallholders. Tickets from thence.co.uk

Wythall Bonfire & Fireworks

4 November, Wythall Park

Two breathtaking fireworks displays, funfair, food and raising funds for charity! Advance tickets only. Early Bird \$10 + fees until 29 Oct. Children 10 & under free. More info at www.wythall-park.org.uk

Flyis tribute Show

10 November, Nailcote Hall. Berkswell

'The King' is back by popular demand with a breath-taking Elvis Vegas Show. You can be certain of a high energy Vegas Style Spectacular! This party night includes a 3-course dinner. Tickets from www.

Comedy Night

25 November, Knowle British Legion

Don't miss this sensational line-up of talented comedians who will have you rolling in the aisles from start to finish. So mark your calendars and prepare for an unforgettable night of non-stop laughter. Tickets from www. tributenightpromotions. co.uk/







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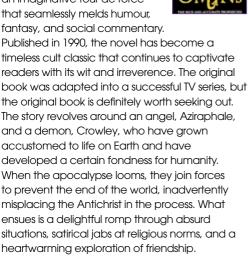
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a good read By Natasha Donovan

Good Omens

by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman

Terry Pratchett's "Good Omens," a collaborative masterpiece co-written with Neil Gaiman, is an imaginative tour de force that seamlessly melds humour, fantasy, and social commentary.



Pratchett and Gaiman's unique writing styles blend seamlessly. Pratchett's penchant for witty wordplay and Gaiman's darkly enchanting storytelling combine to produce a tale that's as intellectually stimulating as it is entertaining. The duo weaves together multiple storylines, including the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, a quirky witch named Anathema Device, and a bumbling witch-hunter, creating an intricate tapestry of characters and events.

At its core, "Good Omens" is a celebration of the human experience. It nudges readers to question the conventions they take for granted while delivering laugh-out-loud moments that provide much-needed levity. It's no wonder that this book has become a cherished favourite among readers.

The School for Good and Evil (Book 1)

by Soman Chainani

Continuing the theme of 'good and evil' this month, the first book in Chainani's series provides fresh take on fairy tales. Set in the mystical realm of Gavaldon, the story upends conventional notions of good and evil, sending readers on a journey of



friendship, self-discovery, and moral complexity.

Sophie and Agatha are best friends, who are unexpectedly whisked away to the School for Good and Evil, an institution that trains children to become either heroes or villains in classic fairy tales. However, when their destinies seem to be swapped – Sophie, who embodies all things charming, is placed in the School for Evil, while Agatha, with her gloomy demeanour, is sent to the School for Good – the story takes a riveting turn. Chainani skilfully deconstructs stereotypes and delves into the depths of character motivations, making the reader question the nature of goodness and wickedness.

Chainani nicely balances whimsy with darkness in the exploration of friendship which is central to the novel. Sophie and Agatha navigate challenges that strain their bond, and face dilemmas that force them to confront their true selves.

The accessible, engaging prose makes the book suitable for a wide range of readers. The story invites readers to question the shades of grey between good and evil, and to embrace the power of friendship and self-acceptance. Young readers will almost certainly go searching for the sequels.



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Roasted Cauliflower with Spinach, Saffron, Pine Nuts and Raisins



Ingredients

1 medium cauliflower, cut into florets.
3 tbsp olive oil
1 large onion thinly sliced.
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground turmeric
Pinch of saffron, infused in 150ml boiling water.
3 tbsp pine nuts, lightly toasted
75g raisins, soaked in warm water.
300g spinach leaves
1 tbsp butter (optional)

Method

Blanch the florets for 1 minute, then drain.

How to blanch.

Have ready a large bowl of ice-cold water, a slotted spoon, and a plate lined with a clean cloth or paper towel for draining. Bring a large pot of water to boil over high heat. Just before adding the vegetables, add a generous pinch of salt. Add the florets to the pot in small batches so that the water continues to boil. After about 1-2 minutes remove them from the boiling water with a slotted spoon and plunge them into the ice bath to stop the cooking process in a process called 'shocking'. When the florets are

completely cool, remove them from the ice bath and drain on the towel-lined plate. Heat the olive oil in a heavy saucepan then add the onion and a pinch of salt. Cook on a low heat until soft then add the ground spices and cook for another couple of minutes. Add the blanched cauliflower florets. Pour in the saffron water, add the pine nuts, drained raisins and spinach leaves. Cook until the leaves have wilted and cauliflower is soft, and you have a thin sauce. Season to taste and add the butter, if using.

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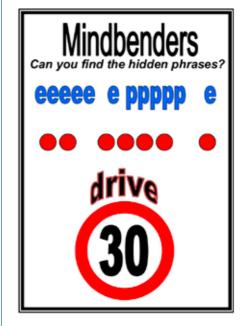
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answers on page 22

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Five Fun things to Do in October

et lost! - There will almost certainly be a Maize Maze near where you live, often accompanied by other attractions such as pumpkin patches and hayrides. Go and get lost with family or friends for an hour, then hit the farm shop after to stock up on goodies.

Pick your own pumpkin - This is a fun activity (and cute photo op) for all the family. Head to your local pumpkin patch and choose your favourite. You might be able to carve or paint it on site too.

Take a guided ghost walk

- There might be one in your town, or nearby. The guide dresses up and tells stories of hauntings and horror. Some are kid-friendly too.

Go leaf-collecting - Dress up warm and head out to the local woods. See how many different colours and types of leaves you can collect. Press them between sheets of blotting paper when you return home and use them to make pictures or decorate cards.

Read a creepy book - Cool autumn evenings are just right for curling up with a good book. Try Erin. E Adam's Jackal, about



a Black woman, Liz Rocher, returning to her predominantly white hometown in Pennsylvania to attend a wedding, and discovering a horrifying secret, that children have been vanishina in the nearby forest for years, All of them Black, All of them girls. Can Liz find the latest missing child before she's consumed by the darkness?



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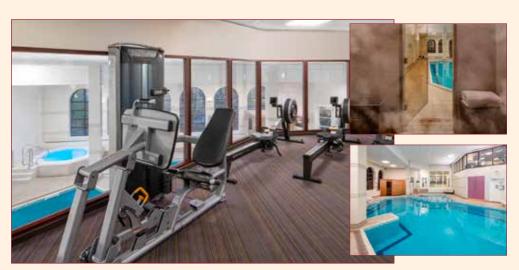
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^{*} Ts & Cs: 6-month membership must start before 1st December 2023 and is valid for 6 consecutive months. Valid at Club Moativation Solihull only and not transferable to any other hotels or leisure clubs.

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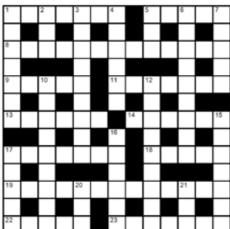
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crossword



Down

- Convulsion, fit (7)
- 2 Object or objects for sale at an auction (3)
- 3 Accord, concurrence (9)
- 4 Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf (6)

Across

Dried grape (7)

clues

- 5 Take place, happen (5)
- 8 Global, cosmopolitan (13)
- 9 Male relative (5)
- 11 Modulate, attune (7)
- 13 Ecstatic, joyful (6)
- 14 Dishevel, discompose (6)
- 17 Artist's paint-mixing board (7)
- 18 Weary (5)
- 19 Hysterical with fear (5-8)
- 22 Beg (5)

5 Japanese kimono sash

6 Anglo-Saxon King,

7 Rent out a property

10 Dispute, question (9)

Edward the

again (5)

- 23 Drags a riverbed (7)
 - 12 Skin injury caused by extremely low temperature (9)
 - 15 Conclusions, denouements (7)
 - 16 Leased, chartered (6)
 - 17 Appear suddenly (3,2)
 - 20 Dastardly person (3)
 - 21 Small barrel (3)

answer on page 22

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

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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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mindbenders

from page 17

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

Suduko Solution

from page 20

S	U	L	Т	Α	N	А		0	С	С	U	R
Ε		0		G		R		В		0		Ε
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U		G		Α		Ε		Т		Ε		G
Р	L	Ε	А	D		D	R	Ε	D	G	Ε	s

Crossword Solution

from page 20

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