

the wythall directory

july 2023

a community magazine and business directory
for residents of wythall & hollywood



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BURNHAM ROAD, WYTHALL

An excellent positioned three bedroomed modern semi-detached house on the popular Parklands development by Miller Homes in Wythall, briefly comprising; hallway, modern kitchen, guest cloaks w.c., lounge/diner, master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, side driveway and open views.

Offers Around £325,000

ROWAN CLOSE, HOLLYWOOD



ROWAN CLOSE, HOLLYWOOD

This modern detached property built by Messrs Bovis offers most versatile family accommodation, 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

CORBETT ROAD, HOLLYWOOD



CORBETT ROAD, HOLLYWOOD

A greatly extended three double bedroomed detached family home in Hollywood, briefly comprising; porch, hallway, lounge, extended dining room and kitchen/diner, ground floor w.c., three double bedrooms one with en-suite, modern bathroom, integral garage, mature rear garden and large front driveway. No upward chain.

Offers Around £500,00

NORTON LANE, WYTHALL



NORTON LANE, WYTHALL

An extended four bedroomed detached house with potential for further extension briefly comprising; entrance hall, extended lounge, extended dining room, kitchen, utility, guest cloaks w.c., four bedrooms, shower room, separate w.c., double garage, large mature rear garden, extensive front driveway, open views to the fore. No Upward Chain

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Summertime!

Welcome to the July edition

At the time of writing this the sky is distinctly overcast but here's hoping by the time this reaches you we are firmly in Summertime!

After all, there's loads of great places to visit in the local area, which are so much more enjoyable if the sun's shining. If you want some inspiration on what's on in the area, then head to page 6 where you can find out about fun runs and doggy brunches.

Wishing you a great month ahead. Until next month,

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community events

Wythall Cider Festival

22nd July, 12pm-11pm

Raising funds for Wythall Park, the festival features music from Cheswick Green Ukulele Orchestra and Sophie Sinclair, sausages by Lacey's Craft Butchers and a choice of 10+ ciders alongside real ales, lagers, wines and spirits. More information from wythall-park.org.uk or Facebook.

Doggy Brunch

29th July, The Limes, Earlswood, Solihull

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Now That's What I Call 90s

4th August, The Lake at Barston, Barston, Solihull

90s BANGERS – Dance classics meet pop anthems – Rhythm is a dancer, 2 can play that game, Free from desire, What is Love?, I love you baby, No Limits, Let me be your fantasy plus, Keep on Moving, Cotton Eye Joe, Venga party, Mysterious Girl etc. Tickets start from £27 and include a 3 course Meal: see www.thelakeatbarston.co.uk

Ricky Gervais

4th September, Utilita Arena Birmingham

The one and only Ricky Gervais brings his newest live show Armageddon to Birmingham! Gervais is an award-winning stand-up comedian, with six international tours to date. His live stand up show 'Fame' became the fastest selling UK stand-up show in



history. Tickets from www.utilitaarenabham.co.uk/

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

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Summer Tech!

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First up is the Ooni Karu 12, a multi-fuel outdoor pizza oven. This portable pizza oven, which can be fired by wood or gas was the hit of our summer last year. We used ours for a backyard birthday, two camping trips, at the beach and random summer Saturdays. The pizzas are delicious with an authentic stone-baked taste, while the fact its multi-fuel provides flexibility and convenience.

It had surprisingly high heat retention for its size and price which resulted in perfectly crispy crusts and delectably melted toppings. It definitely made us feel like accomplished hosts, and everyone enjoyed topping their own pizzas. Highly recommended.

Next I want to give a shout out to the Ninja CREAMi Ice Cream & Frozen Dessert Maker. I was gifted one for my birthday by my husband who knows I am an ice-cream-aholic. It's not cheap at nearly £200 but when you consider that a small tub of Ben and Jerry's is now

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around £5 it will pay for itself in 20 weeks at one tub a week... and we are definitely more than a one tub a week family!

NOTE I am not affiliated with either company. These are my own recommendations.



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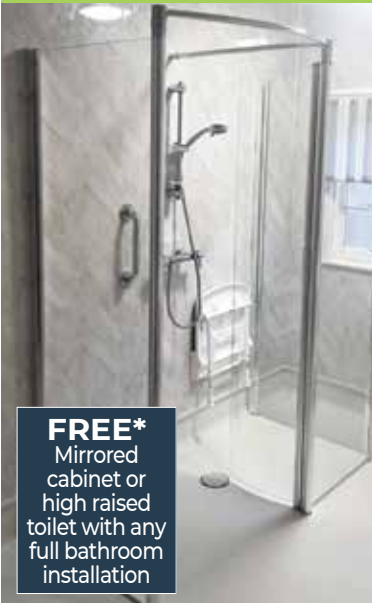
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answers on page 26

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.....

How to enter

For your chance to win, email zoe@dorridgedirectory.com with the subject line Melvin and you will be added to our database to receive our monthly e-newsletter about offers and events in Solihull. The winners will be notified by email after the closing date of 10 August 2023. There is no cash value nor exchanges for the prizes.

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Choose the right sunhat

When it comes to protecting ourselves from the harmful effects of the sun, a reliable sunhat is an indispensable accessory. While fashion may play a role in our choice, it is crucial to prioritize the protective aspects of your head gear.

Wide Brim: A wide brim helps shield your face, neck, and ears from direct sunlight, minimizing the risk of sunburn and long-term damage caused by UV radiation. Opt for a hat with a brim that extends at least three

inches (7.5cm) all around, providing ample coverage.

UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) Rating: Did you know that any hat marketed as a 'sunhat' has to have a UPF rating? UPF measures the level of UV radiation that can penetrate the fabric. Look for sunhats with a high UPF rating, ideally, one with a UPF rating of 50+ as this will block more than 98% of harmful UV rays.

Fit: Finally make sure you choose the right size! A too-tight hat can cause a headache, while one that's too loose can be annoying. If

you plan to be out in the wind look for hats with adjustable chin straps or drawstrings. People with thin hair are more susceptible to sun-related skin cancers on their head. A good sunhat can save your life.



Choose the perfect pair of summer shorts

When I was a teen I was convinced I shouldn't wear shorts unless I was a skinny size 6. As an adult I now know that's total rubbish. There are shorts for every size and shape, the trick is to pick the right pair for you. A style that flatters your body shape and enhances your best

features will make you feel confident and comfortable.

Pear-Shape: Your hips are wider than your shoulders and you probably have a neat waist, so choose shorts with a slight flare or A-line silhouette. These will help to balance your proportions. Look for mid-rise shorts that sit on the natural waist, as they accentuate the waistline and create a nice hourglass. Styles without pockets look more slimline.

Hourglass: The hourglass shape is supposedly ideal but Women with an hourglass figure can feel self-conscious in skimpier summer clothes, especially if they are curvier.

If you are longer-waisted, high-waisted shorts are particularly flattering, as they accentuate the waistline and highlight your curves without creating bulges. Shorter-waisted hourglass figures often feel 'cut-in half' when they wear shorts, especially if they have a fuller bust, so opt for shorts without a defined waistband, and wear a slightly fitted top that doesn't need to be tucked in. A-line styles or skorts work really well with this shape.

By embracing your body shape and choosing shapes that flatter, you'll rock your shorts with confidence this summer.





Mark O'Sullivan

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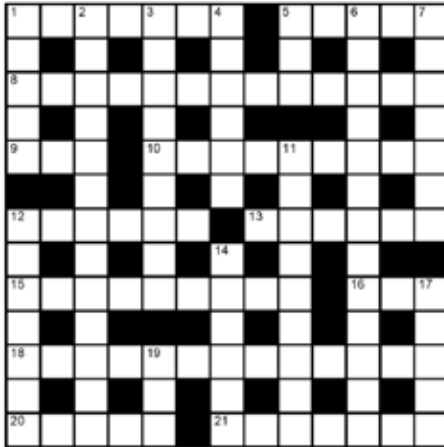
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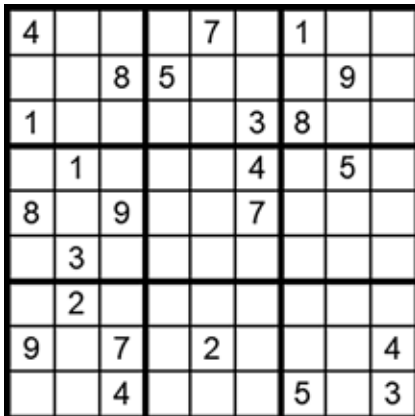
Across

- 1 Refuse Collector (7)
- 5 Brown ink (5)
- 8 Destructive fire, blaze (13)
- 9 Hand tool (3)
- 10 Church state (9)
- 12 Speeding, competing (6)
- 13 Diverse (6)
- 15 Freak out, lose it (2,7)
- 16 Social insect (3)
- 18 Condition caused by toxic paint and dust (4,9)
- 20 Inspection, investigation (5)
- 21 Conference, discussion (7)

Down

- 1 Aquatic birds (5)
- 2 Advertising worn by a person (8,5)
- 3 Hormone produced at night (9)
- 4 Small lump of gold (6)
- 5 Ocean (3)
- 6 Transferring from public ownership (13)
- 7 Bothered, miffed (7)
- 11 Lecture hall (9)
- 12 Finery (7)
- 14 Hijinks (6)
- 17 Big cat (5)
- 19 Place somewhere (3)

answer on page 26



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 26

A Delightfully Quirky Affair

Pack up a hamper, it's National Picnic Month!

Ah, the British picnic! That delightful tradition combining outdoor dining with unpredictable weather, and an assortment of eccentricities. The main ingredients for a truly traditional British picnic are, a dash of optimism, a splash of stoicism, a sprinkling of humour and a tiny pinch of disappointment. First and foremost, there is the weather dance. No discussion about picnics in our green and pleasant land would be complete without someone looking upwards dubiously, sucking their cheeks in, and saying, 'Looks like rain.' As a nation we have mastered the art of packing for all four seasons in a single picnic basket. From sweltering sun to sudden showers, we have evolved into experts at adaptive picnic planning. If there was an 'official British Picnic checklist' it would include sunscreen, insect repellent, a thick sweater an umbrella and a pac-a-mac! Every Brit is born knowing exactly what a picnic should look like: a wicker hamper, a checked picnic blanket,

and an array of finger foods including dainty cucumber sandwiches, iced buns and freshly baked scones with clotted cream and jam, all washed down with ginger beer. This is because Enid Blyton and her Famous Five have somehow entered our collective subconscious, but we have been cruelly lied to. In reality it's usually slightly curled ham and cheese sandwiches dispensed from a Tupperware tub along with a packet of crisps, some soggy custard creams, and lukewarm orange squash or (equally lukewarm) wine for the grown-ups. Games are compulsory at a British picnic. People whose idea of exercise for the rest of the year is getting up from the sofa to answer the front door, suddenly get all competitive and suggest a game of rounders, or croquet,

or French cricket! This quickly descends into arguments about who is on which team, who gets (or shouldn't get) Grandma, and whether there should be second chances at hitting a ball. But it's all about the friendly competition and the odd black eye is just part of the fun. But us Brits know that all the shenanigans is just a warm-up for the main event. As the afternoon rolls on, the time nears for the one British tradition everyone looks forward to, Pimms o'clock. This refreshing cocktail, filled with fruits, herbs, and a splash of gin, is the quintessential picnic libation. As the glasses clink and laughter fills the air, the true spirit of the British picnic finally comes alive. It's a time to relax, enjoy the company of friends and loved ones, and revel in the joy of this whimsical outdoor affair.



a good read

By Natasha Donovan

Tangerine

by **Christine Mangan**

Tangerine is a gripping psychological thriller set in the 1950s that follows the tumultuous friendship between two women, Alice Shipley and Lucy Mason, and the dark secrets that bind them.

Alice Shipley is a fragile and reclusive young woman who resides in Tangier, Morocco, with her husband, John. She is haunted by a tragic incident from her college days. One day she receives an unexpected visit from Lucy Mason, her former roommate and estranged friend, whom she hasn't seen in over a year.

Lucy's arrival triggers a series of unsettling events. Alice is plunged into a state of paranoia and uncertainty over her visitor's ambiguous intentions and begins to question Lucy's motives. As the narrative unfolds, it becomes clear that both Alice and Lucy are harbouring secrets and that their past is deeply intertwined.

When something momentous happens under suspicious circumstances, tensions escalate and Alice must confront the truth about her past, the nature of her friendship with Lucy, and the true identity of the people around her.

Mangan skilful storytelling delves into themes of obsession, identity, and betrayal. The intense atmosphere of Tangier serves as a backdrop for the complex relationship between Alice and Lucy. A gripping cat-and-mouse game unfolds, with high stakes, and a shocking revelation.

Tangerine is a gripping and atmospheric thriller that explores the dark corners of friendship and the consequences of deceit.



The Buried Crown

by **Ally Sherrick**

The year is 1940, and George Penny is evacuated from London to live with his Aunt May in the countryside. While exploring the nearby ruins of an old castle, George discovers a hidden underground chamber. Inside, he stumbles upon a medieval crown that belonged to King Alfred the Great, the legendary English king.

But George soon realizes that the crown is more than just a relic. It is rumoured to possess mystical powers and is sought after by a group of sinister individuals, known as the Skull brothers, who are determined to use it for their own nefarious purposes.

With the help of a brave and resourceful girl named Kitty, George embarks on a dangerous quest to keep the crown safe from the Skull brothers. Along the way, they encounter secret codes, ancient riddles, and unexpected allies. Their journey takes them across the English countryside, from hidden tunnels to perilous cliffs, as they race against time to protect the crown and prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

As George and Kitty unravel the secrets surrounding the crown, they uncover a deeper connection to King Alfred and his legacy. The fate of the crown becomes intertwined with their own personal journeys of courage, friendship, and discovering the true meaning of heroism. Sherrick's fast-paced prose writing will keep her young readers on the edge of their seats.



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mindbenders
from page 17

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

Sudoku Solution
from page 22

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

Crossword Solution
from page 22

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Telephone: 101

Health

NHS non-emergency 111
Wythall Lane Surgery 0121 628 2345
Hollywood Medical Practice 01564 822642
Hollyoaks Medical Centre 01564 823182

Council

Bromsgrove District Council 01527 881288
(main switchboard)
Bromsgrove District Council 01527 871565
(emergency out of hours)

Utilities

Electricity power cut 105
Gas leak 0800 111 9999
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