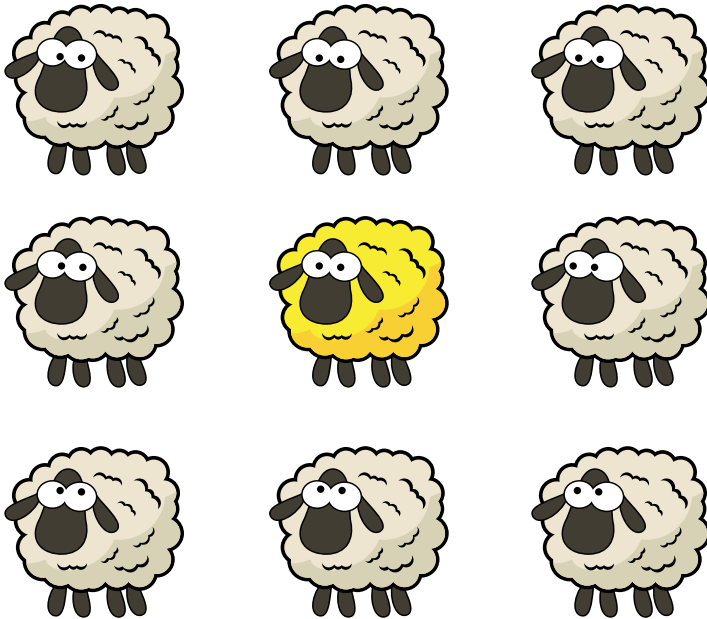


# the wythall directory

april 2024

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



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# Did you have an Eggsellent Easter?!

Welcome to the April edition

**I hope you enjoyed your lovely long Bank Holiday weekend - whether you relaxed at home, jetted off on a long-awaited break, or just used the time to catch up on all those jobs that never seem to get done.**

And if you need help sorting out that never-ending list, why not see if some of the people and businesses who advertise in here can help you. Whether you need your roof fixed, the kitchen updated, your washing machine repaired, the house decorated, or a new carpet, there's lots of lovely local and helpful people in here who can help.

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# community events

## Soul, Funk & Disco Night

**27 April 7pm, Knowle British Legion Club, Warwick Road, Knowle**

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## Boogie Bingo

**4 May, Nailcote Hall**

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## Matilda in Concert

**12 May, 11am and 3pm, NEC**

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## Art exhibition

**21 May - 10 June, The Courtyard Gallery, The Core, Touchwood**

Local artist and art lecturer, Vicky ArtsAndCraftsV, is set to captivate audiences with her solo exhibition Beautiful Open Spaces. The exhibition promises a feast



for the senses, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in the vibrant world of her acrylic paintings. For more information visit [www.ArtsAndCraftsV.com](http://www.ArtsAndCraftsV.com)



## Charity Plant Sale

**25 May from 12 noon, 64 Lawnswood Avenue, Shirley**

Shirley Lions annual plant sale in aid of Prostate Cancer Research. Hundreds of plants, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables for sale plus numerous gardening books. The sale will finish when everything is sold. As the aim is to raise funds for charity, attendees can donate what they feel their purchases are worth.



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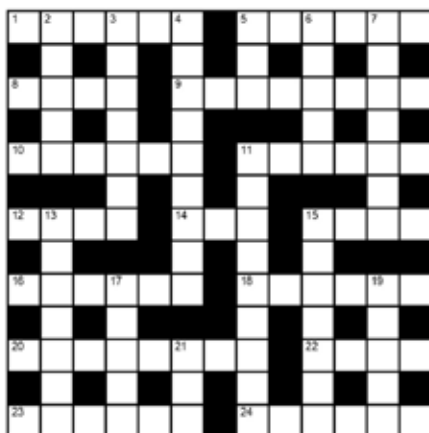
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# crossword



# clues

## Across

- 1 Material used to make tents (6)
- 5 Skimpy knickers! (6)
- 8 Earth, compost (4)
- 9 Green vegetable (8)
- 10 Bendy fruit (6)
- 11 Hard yellowish tooth deposit (6)
- 12 Area, region (4)
- 14 Frozen water (3)
- 15 Nip, chomp (4)
- 16 Expression, brief utterance (6)
- 18 Lightweight waterproof jacket (6)
- 20 Sticky insect trap (8)
- 22 Barrage, bombardment (4)
- 23 Undercover, secret (6)
- 24 Brine (6)

## Down

- 2 Odour, scent (5)
- 3 Group of houses, rural community (7)
- 4 The Beatles sang about a yellow one! (9)
- 5 As well, also (3)
- 6 Coveted film award (5)
- 7 Dashing, debonair (7)
- 11 Dictionary of synonyms and antonyms (9)
- 13 Shakespearean play (7)
- 15 House of ill repute! (7)
- 17 Bramley, Granny Smith, Cox (5)
- 19 Extra-terrestrial (5)
- 21 Container, vessel (3)

answer on page 26



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AndyE-230 / 31 Jan 2024

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# An annual pleasure

Every year since I began to garden, come spring, I grabbed my spade and in a fit of enthusiasm I dug over the soil. Then I filled any empty spaces with annuals. These might be carefully nurtured in my greenhouse, sprinkled direct from the packet, or purchased in packs at my local garden centre.

Several years ago, due to an injury, I was unable to get out and begin this frenzy of activity. I resigned myself to the fact that my garden simply wouldn't be as colourful that year. Nature however had other plans.

As I waited for my perennials to surface something wonderful happened. Hundreds of self-sown annuals from the previous year also began to surface. They'd been there all along,

just waiting for the warm spring sun to bring them to life.

It occurred to me that my habit of stopping deadheading towards the end of the season (to leave some interesting seed heads which feed the birds and look so pretty covered in frost) had benefitted me in more ways than the one I'd intended.

Calendula, Candytuft, Cosmos, Larkspur, Nicotiana, Poppies, Sweet Alyssum and Love-in-a-Mist were popping up everywhere I looked. I've never been so delighted.

I waited until they were a couple of inches tall then on a slightly drizzly day I eased some out and transferred them to barer soil.

My reward was a display of annuals every bit as lovely as if I'd spent hours with my spade and trowel.

So last year I experimented.

Throughout the flowering season I noted where I might need an extra patch or two of colour and then, when I stopped deadheading, I simply grabbed a few seed heads and dropped them in the appropriate spot.

That spring and summer I had another beautiful display of annuals. Why hadn't I discovered this lazy way to garden before?

Of course, there are some teeny disadvantages. The main one is that annuals grown from seed flower later than those bought as plugs or plants from garden centres. Don't let this put you off though. If you have a good range of perennials the annuals can take their time, taking over when the others begin to fade. Also, no-one says it has to be all or nothing. I have a passion for cosmos, so I bring in a few plants early on every year. That way I can savour their pretty blooms right through the season.

So, if you're planting annuals this spring, plan ahead a little. Look at your garden as an evolving piece of work and let at least some of them self-seed. Then next year don't be so quick to brandish a spade... you'll gain two commodities gardeners always need more of...time and money.





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

## 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



# Mark O'Sullivan

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# a good read By Natasha Donovan

## The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle

by **Stuart Turton**

Our hero awakens in a mysterious, damp forest, clad in an unfamiliar tuxedo and inhabiting a body that isn't his own. With no recollection of his identity or how he came to be in this situation, he makes his way to Blackheath House, and soon discovers he is Aiden Bishop, trapped there for a purpose. A masked figure reveals to him that a disguised murder is set to occur that day. Bishop has eight attempts to unravel it, reliving the same day in different bodies, each termed a "host." He retains memories from each host, but failure to identify the killer by the eighth cycle means a reset to day one, with all memories wiped, a cycle he has already undergone numerous times. As Bishop gradually begins to make sense of his predicament, he learns of competitors: two others at the country house party are also inhabiting foreign souls, each racing to solve the murder to escape the time loop. As if this was not enough peril, a relentless psychopath is also pursuing him, threatening each of his hosts.

Author Turton masterfully orchestrates a narrative replete with diverse, enigmatic characters, while scattering random clues throughout. The 'rules' of the story rules evolve as Bishop navigates his way through each day. I'm doubting that many readers will solve the mystery before the final plot twist.

It's Agatha Christie, Cluedo, and Groundhog Day, with a twist of time loop chaos. It takes a while to orientate yourself within the story but it's well worth the effort. Turton's debut novel is inventive, chaotic, and brilliantly bonkers. Buckle up and hold on tight.

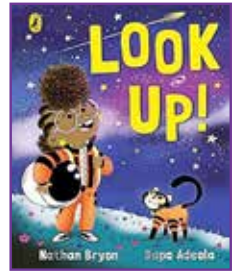


## Look Up!

by **Nathan Bryon and illustrated by Dapo Adeola**

Rocket dreams of becoming the most brilliant star-catcher, and space explorer in the world, like her idol Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman in space. Fizzing with excitement about an imminent meteor shower, Rocket makes an announcement about it over the supermarket loudspeaker while the cashier is distracted. She makes and distributes flyers to all the shoppers, despite her older brother Jamal's disapproval and embarrassment. Jamal is usually engrossed in his phone and video games and finds Rocket annoying. When he's too absorbed in gaming to take Rocket to the park to see the meteor shower, Rocket faces a dilemma. But an unexpected visitor at their door turns out to be a delightful could save the day in the most delightful manner.

Bryon and Adeola's captivating picture book introduces us to chatty, Rocket, a character whose passion for space is all-consuming. Adeola's characterful illustrations capture Jamal's angsty teenage moodiness and Rocket's excitement about stargazing. Packed with space facts and insights into meteors, this book also beautifully depicts family dynamics, sibling bonds, and a young girl's contagious zeal for the cosmos.





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**Cooking time:** 60-70 minutes

## Ingredients

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80g softened or spreadable butter  
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110g caster sugar  
4 medium bananas (peeled)  
50g walnuts (chopped)  
Zest 1 lemon  
Demerara sugar for sprinkling

## Method

Preheat oven to 180C / gas 4.  
Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin.

Mash three bananas to a pulp and chop the fourth.

Sift the flour and baking powder together into a separate bowl. Add the butter, egg and caster sugar.

Using a mixer mix everything together for a minute or two. Add the mashed and chopped bananas and briefly whisk them into the mixture. Fold in the chopped walnuts and lemon zest.

Spoon the cake mixture into

the prepared tin. Sprinkle with Demerara sugar. Place in the pre-heated oven so that the top of the tin is in the centre.

Bake for 60-70 minutes until a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean.

Let the cake cool for 10-15 minutes then turn out on to a cooling rack.

This cake is good served warm with crème fraiche, cold, or even toasted.



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

**Sudoku Solution**

from page 20

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

**Crossword Solution**

from page 11

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