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september 2024

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



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GRIMPITS LANE, HEADLEY HEATH



NO UPWARD CHAIN.

GRIMPITS LANE, HEADLEY HEATH

A three/ four bedroomed detached dormer bungalow in Headley Heath. Briefly comprising; porch, hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, conservatory, dining room/bedroom, ground floor master bedroom with ensuite, further bedroom, wet room, one further bedroom on first floor, family bathroom, garage, large rear garden with open views and a private front driveway.

Offers Around £700,000

MEADOW ROAD, WYTHALL



NO UPWARD CHAIN.

MEADOW ROAD, WYTHALL

A traditional semi-detached house in this most sought-after road in Wythall requiring some modernisation with potential for extension subject to planning. Briefly comprising; porch, lounge, dining room, utility, ground floor w.c. three bedrooms, family bathroom, side garage, front driveway and rear garden.

Offers Around £370,000

CRABMILL LANE, KINGS NORTON



CRABMILL LANE, KINGS NORTON

A four bedroomed traditional detached house requiring renovation & repair with potential for extension subject to planning. Briefly comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility/store, additional reception room, guest cloaks w.c., four bedrooms, family bathroom, large rear garden and front driveway.

Offers Around £350,000

ARUNDEL ROAD, NR HOLLYWOOD



NO UPWARD CHAIN.

ARUNDEL ROAD, NR HOLLYWOOD

A well-presented and extended three bedroomed end of terrace house in this popular and convenient location. Briefly comprising; porch, hallway, lounge/diner, refitted kitchen, garden room, guest cloaks w.c., three bedrooms, shower room, rear garden, front hard standing.

Offers Around £250,000

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Autumn is approaching...

Welcome to the September edition

It's a busy month with kids going back to school, and individuals getting ready for university.

The roads are going to be busier, the mornings and evenings are going to get darker, but there's still lots to look forward to. We can start thinking ahead, planning Halloween treats, bonfire parties and eventually starting to think about Christmas plans. There's also lots of interesting and fun things going on locally - just check out page 6 for more details.

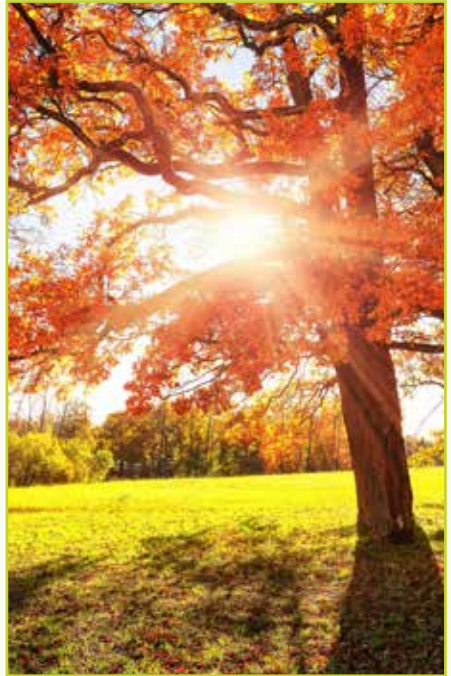


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community events



Quiz Night

27 September 7.30pm, Knowle Village Hall.

Book your team in now for the Knowle Village Hall Association Quiz Night, all proceeds going to the Knowle Village Hall Refurbishment Fund. Teams can be of up to 6 people and tickets are £8 each. Bring your own liquid refreshment & nibbles and enjoy a fun evening with



great prizes. Tickets from 01564 778163 or 01564 779898.

Botown – The Soul Of Bollywood

28 September, 7pm, Core Theatre Solihull

Botown is not just a band; they're a cultural phenomenon. This super-tight ensemble of multicultural musicians takes Bollywood grooves and infuses them with a soulful funk twist, creating an electrifying musical experience like no other. With their magnetic stage presence, Botown seamlessly blend the allure of Bollywood with the irresistible charm of soul music.

Tickets: 0121 704 6962.

Grand Designs Live

2-6 October, NEC

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four different sectors: Build, Kitchens and Bathrooms, Gardens, and Interiors. Discover architects, building suppliers, kitchen, and bathroom designers as well as unique bespoke furnishings and designs alongside original pieces of artwork and much more. Tickets from www.thenec.co.uk

Wythall Beer & Cider Festival

11 and 12 October, 12pm-11pm, Wythall Park

The annual event is back raising funds for Wythall Park, with a choice of 20+ real ales and ciders alongside a fully-licensed bar. Live music and food. More information from wythall-park.org.uk or Facebook.

Tina Turner Tribute Night

12 October, 7pm, Shirley British Legion

Get ready for an electrifying evening of music, dance, and pure entertainment! Join in for a sensational Tina Turner Tribute Night that will have you dancing to the rhythm and feeling the soul of the iconic Tina Turner herself. Whether you're a die-hard Tina fan or simply looking for a fantastic night out, this event promises to be a night to remember. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk



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Five Good Reasons to... Learn a Foreign Language

College evening classes start up again this month. Take the plunge and learn a new language. Here are five good reasons to enrol right now.

Make new friends - Languages require practice! It's easier to talk to new people if you're both concentrating on something other than how shy you are. Chatting in a foreign language is a good way to break the ice and get to know your classmates.

Improve your English! -

Learning a new language helps us understand tenses, prepositions, and all the other parts of speech we



normally take for granted. As a result, we speak and write more precisely. Many great writers were / are polyglots!

Enrich your travel experiences

- Connecting with the locals is the best way to get the most out of travelling. People are more welcoming if you make an effort to speak their language. It can turn an ordinary trip into the holiday of a lifetime.

Join the global community -

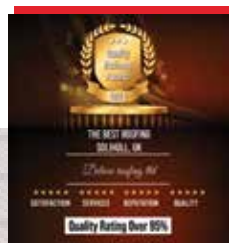
Most of the rest of the world does not speak English! As the world becomes smaller and more interconnected it's easy to see that we'll come into contact with more and more non-English speakers. A foreign language puts you at an advantage in business and personal relationships.

Sense of accomplishment

- Wouldn't it be cool to tell people that you speak two or more languages? Not many people in this country can, so if you can pull it off you have a reason to be really proud of yourself.



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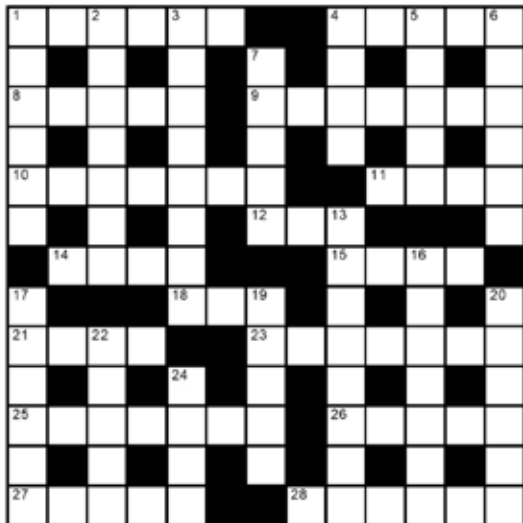


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crossword



Down

- 1 Church district (6)
- 2 Portable lamp (7)
- 3 In this day and age (8)
- 4 Lament, moan (4)

- 5 Pass out (5)
- 6 Beat pattern (6)
- 7 Growl, grumble (5)
- 13 Spilled the beans, disclosed (8)
- 16 Assassinate, kill (7)

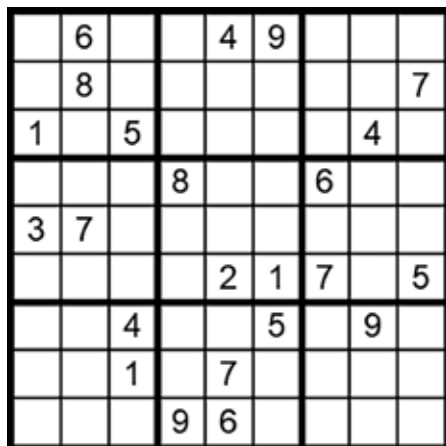
clues

Across

- 1 Eastern European country (6)
- 4 Thin crisp biscuit (5)
- 8 Overhaul, modernise (5)
- 9 Loudly, uproariously (7)
- 10 Slim, lithe (7)
- 11 Skin irritation (4)
- 12 Top, cover (3)
- 14 Jealousy (4)
- 15 Type of goat (4)
- 18 Weep, cry (3)
- 21 Retort, riposte (4)
- 23 Guitar-like instrument (7)
- 25 Conceded, endorsed (7)
- 26 Emaciated, cadaverous (5)
- 27 Black (5)
- 28 Onset, arrival (6)

- 17 Four-sided shape (6)
- 19 Chum, mate (5)
- 20 Group of six (6)
- 22 Eskimo house! (5)
- 24 Rock rhythmically (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



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Tired All the Time?

Do you spring out of bed at 7am, ready to face the day?

Or do you wake up feeling tired and drained?

GPs are reporting that more and more patients complain of having no energy. So much so, that the syndrome has its own acronym –TATT, or ‘tired all the time.’ There are many different causes of fatigue, and it’s always a good idea to start by speaking to your GP or practice nurse.

Overwhelming exhaustion, which gets worse with activity and does not improve with rest, might be an indicator

of myalgic encephalopathy (ME) or chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). A cure has not yet been found, but there are treatments and self-help measures that can ease the symptoms. A GP can also rule out conditions such as anaemia, thyroid problems, food intolerances or diabetes.

In the meantime, there are lifestyle changes which can help.

Sleep – Make sure you are getting enough good quality sleep. Try to keep to the same earlier bedtime for a few weeks and see if this helps. Sometimes an eye mask and or

earplugs are all that’s needed to improve sleep quality.

Reduce stress – Build relaxation into your daily schedule. This might be a bath, or listening to music, or even yoga or meditation.

Diet - Try eating small healthy snacks throughout the day, rather than one large meal in the evening. Reduce alcohol and caffeine, and drink more water.

Finally, you may not feel like it, but exercising is another proven way to fight fatigue. Even a quick 15-minute walk around the block will give you an energy boost.

a good read

By Natasha Donovan

The Swallows

by Lisa Lutz

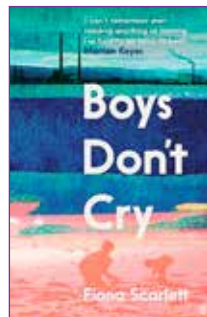
Alexandra Witt is a new teacher at the prestigious Stonebridge Academy where she quickly stumbles upon undercurrents of sexual exploitation and manipulation, which are poisoning the school. Disturbed by the casual acceptance of such behaviour, Witt takes it upon herself to empower the students, especially the girls, to challenge the status quo. This sparks a rebellion that gradually exposes the toxic culture perpetuated by a select group of male students known as "the darkroom." Lutz's narrative is sharp and fast-paced, weaving multiple viewpoints that allow the reader an insider view as events unfold within the school. Each character offers a unique perspective which serves to highlight the complexity of teenage dynamics and adult responsibilities. The climax of the book is both shocking and satisfying, providing a resolution that feels both inevitable and earned. The reader will be left pondering the dynamics of power and the courage required to overturn them. *The Swallows* is a darkly intriguing novel that blends elements of suspense with biting social commentary, which makes it stand out in the densely populated thriller genre. The writing is both witty and sharp, infused with a sardonic tone that perfectly complements the serious themes she tackles.



Boys Don't Cry

by Fiona Scarlett

While not strictly young adult fiction, I'm recommending *Boys Don't Cry* for older teens, because it tells the story of two brothers, Joe, aged 17, who is a talented artist, and Finn, aged 12, through their own words. The boys live in a tower block in Dublin with their mother and father (known as Da'), who works for a local gang leader and is in and out of prison. Joe's accounts of how he is dealing with traumatic loss, while struggling against the criminal influences of his father and the expectations everyone else has of him, that he's destined for a life of crime, is heartbreaking. Finn on the other hand relates his experiences of being diagnosed with and treated for leukaemia, and the effect he sees this having on his brother and parents. Scarlett's prose is beautiful and the voices of the two boys are believable and authentic. Teen readers will quickly identify with and become emotionally invested in the brothers as their stories intertwine in the most impactful way. The author skilfully weaves humour through the sometimes harrowing themes, because even at life's darkest moments, or perhaps because of them, there are always flashes of hilarity. The stories of Joe, Finn and the other characters who live in 'The Jax' tower block will stay with the reader for a long time. My own teen suggested this title to me and thinks this should be on the GCSE English syllabus because of the engaging story and the author's insight into boy's lives and minds.



Keep kids healthy and smart

It's back to school time and don't they look lovely in their new uniform.

But it's all very well being smart on the outside... what about the inside?

Evidence suggests that additives such as MSG, found mainly in flavoured crisps and soups, E100s (food colourings) and E200s (preservatives) may contribute to fatigue and poor concentration.

Three meals and two snacks a day help prevent tiredness, which also affects the immune system. Eating fish, including oily varieties like salmon, at least twice a week, or soaked

linseeds added to cereals, provide enough healthy fats to aid brain development and concentration. If that's a hard no from your kids, try an omega 3 supplement.

Water, milk and diluted fresh fruit juice are the best drinks for a child. Squashes and fizzy drinks containing artificial sweeteners, such as aspartame, preservatives, and colourings, which are best avoided.

Don't skip breakfast.



Wholegrain carbohydrates, in the form of toast and cereals, provides fibre and a slow energy release. Fresh fruit and eggs or plain yoghurt are great for vitamins and protein, respectively.

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Good at Games

The benefits and difficulties associated with PE.

My youngest son loves PE lessons - all of them. He even captains the dodgeball team. My oldest, Joe* would probably rather appear naked on National TV than set foot on a sports field during the winter months... or to be honest, any month!

As we navigate an increasingly digital and sedentary age, the value of PE in schools becomes ever more crucial. Ensuring that PE remains a vital component of education is essential for fostering well-rounded development in children and young people.

With increasing childhood obesity and related health issues, regular physical activity is a necessary countermeasure. PE provides students with an opportunity to engage in structured exercise, helping them develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime. Regular physical activity also improves cardiovascular health, strengthens muscles and bones, and boosts the immune system.

PE also teaches important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, perseverance, and communication. These



experiences can build self-esteem and foster a sense of community and belonging.

But what about reluctant participants like Joe?

While the benefits of PE are clear, not all students enjoy team sports. Encouraging these youngsters requires a thoughtful approach. Diversifying the types of activities offered can make a significant difference. Options such as dance, yoga, or individual sports like tennis and swimming can appeal to a broader range of interests meaning every student can find something they enjoy and can succeed in. Joe discovered badminton and

table tennis last year, and would happily play these if they were available, but his school insist on rugby, football, cricket, and dodgeball. Their idea of diversification is making the girls play too.

Creating a supportive and non-judgmental environment is essential. Some children may feel self-conscious about their abilities or physical appearance which can deter them from participating. Teachers and coaches should emphasize personal improvement and effort over competition and winning (very much NOT the case at Joe's school). Positive reinforcement and celebrating small achievements can boost confidence and motivation.

PE might be a vital component of the national curriculum, offering numerous benefits for physical health, mental well-being, and social development but if we want to encourage every child to participate fully there needs to be diversification of activities, a supportive environment, and possible integration of technology. After all, want ALL our children to grow up, healthy and well-rounded, not just those who are naturally good at games.

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Blackberry and Almond Crumble Cake



Preparation time: 20 mins

Cooking time: 45-50 mins

Serves: 10-12 slices

Ingredients

Cake

200g butter, plus extra for the tin
 200g golden caster sugar
 3 medium eggs
 225g plain flour
 2 tsp baking powder
 50g ground almonds
 2 tbs milk
 1 tsp vanilla or almond extract
 3 tbs blackcurrant or blackberry and apple jam
 150g blackberries

Crumble

50g plain flour
 25g unsalted butter
 25g caster sugar
 1 tbs demerara sugar
 Pinch of salt
 1 tbs flaked almonds

Method

Cake

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas mark 4. Grease a 23cm round cake tin and line with baking parchment. Beat the butter and the sugar together in a large bowl using an electric whisk until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time until smooth and creamy. Sift in the flour and baking powder, then fold in, adding the almonds, milk, and vanilla until mixed thoroughly. Scrape the mixture into the tin and level the surface. Dot teaspoons of jam

across the mix, then scatter over the blackberries, pressing them in lightly.

Crumble

Rub the flour and butter together until the mixture resembles crumbs, then stir in the sugar and add a pinch of salt. Mix in the flaked almonds, then scatter the crumble over the cake. Scatter with the demerara sugar and bake for 45 mins until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for at least 20 mins then slice and serve with creme fraiche.

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Unconscious Aggression

Many drivers exhibit behaviours, such as tailgating and blocking, that they would never consider outside their vehicle. Drivers who score high on impulsiveness, are more prone to this aggression and show less sensitivity to punishment!

Overestimating Safety

There has been a strong downward trend in the rate of motor vehicle deaths since the 1970s. This is thanks to advances in automotive safety systems such as seatbelts, airbags, ABS braking, and more recently, blind-spot and lane-departure warnings. Yet these safety

features may paradoxically cause complacency, making us less aware of road danger.

Dehumanising Other Drivers

On foot we apologise if we walk through a door and nearly collide with someone. Near misses in cars however often trigger anger. Research indicates that drivers dehumanise other road users, behaving in ways they wouldn't in personal interactions.

Everyone Else is Stupid!

This is called the Fundamental Attribution Error, and leads us to blame other drivers' mistakes on their abilities while excusing our own errors as situational. So other drivers make mistakes because they are idiots but when we make them it was unavoidable!

Lone Driver Danger

Lone drivers exhibit riskier behaviour than those carrying passengers. The presence of

others, particularly children seems to encourage more careful driving.

Hands-Free is NOT Risk-Free

While UK law permits hands-free phone use, there is no evidence to show it's safer than hand-held! The primary danger lies in the cognitive distraction of the conversation, not the act of holding the phone. Driving courteously is safer and makes the road a more pleasant place for everyone. So:

Indicate Appropriately -

Signal your intentions well in advance to reduce the likelihood of confusion and accidents. Indicate when turning, changing lanes, or merging into traffic.

Give Way to Pedestrians,

Cyclists and Riders - At zebra crossings, stop to let pedestrians cross. When passing cyclists or horses, slow down and allow plenty of space, ideally at least 1.5 meters.

Merging Manners

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

Sudoku Solution

from page 11

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

Crossword Solution

from page 11

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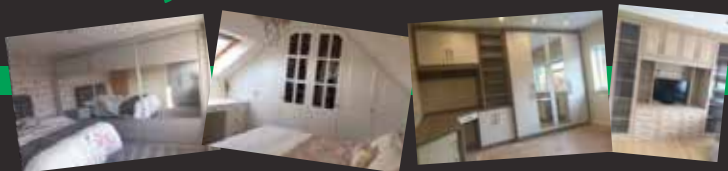


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