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# Wishing you all a very merry Christmas

Welcome to the December edition.

**Christmas will be just around the corner by the time this reaches you. So here's hoping you're all stocked up with goodies and gifts to see you through the festive season.**

It can be the most wonderful time of the year, but it can also be the loneliest. If you have time why not try reaching out to any local people who live on their own to see if they'd like a cup of tea and a chat. Everyone's had a tough couple of years, but this is still continuing with the cost-of-living increases that are affecting everyone. However you spend your Christmas, here's hoping you have a lovely time and wishing you all a happy and healthy 2023.

Zoe Reece

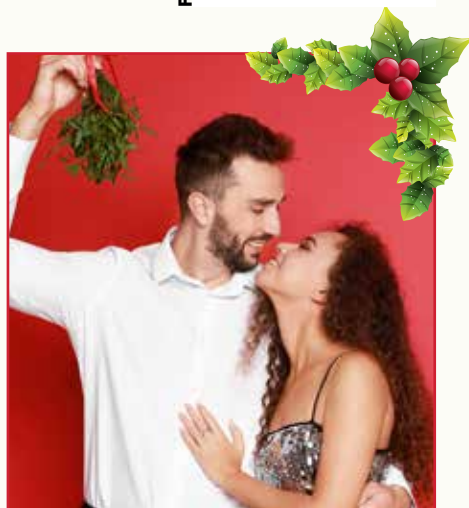
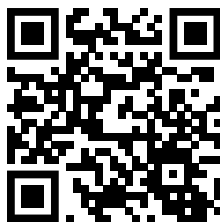
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## Beauty and The Beast Pantomime

**9 December - 2 January, Core Theatre Solihull**

Belle, and her friend Jacques and his mum, Betty the local bell ringer, get much more than they bargained for when they find themselves trapped inside the enchanted

castle of a mysterious beast. Tickets from [www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk](http://www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk)



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**22-23 December, Resorts World Arena**

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## Knowle and Dorridge Lions Club 29th Annual

## Festive Walk

**22-23 December, Resorts World Arena**

On 27th December 2022 the Lions Festive Walk will once again depart from Dorridge Village Hall with the choice of either a 3 or 6 mile walk, returning via Dorridge Cricket Club who will be providing excellent refreshments for purchase. Check out their website for details at [www.knowleanddorridgelions.com](http://www.knowleanddorridgelions.com)

## New Year's Eve Reggae Magic Band

**31 December, Akamba, Shirley**

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# a good read

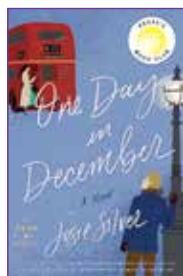
By Natasha Donovan

## One Day in December

by Josie Silver

It's the time of year for a feel-good romantic novel, one that can be enjoyed curled up under a blanket with a nutmeg-spiced hot chocolate.

Laurie is unlucky in love and stuck in a career rut. One day she is sitting on a bus when she spots a man reading at the bus stop. He looks up, their eyes meet and somewhere there is a spark. Laurie can't stop thinking about him, wondering if they will ever meet. Her best friend and roommate Sarah is Laurie's opposite. She introduces Jack, her new boyfriend to Laurie, anxious that they will hit it off except... her boyfriend is the man from the bus, the guy that



Laurie has been dreaming about. No surprises here...classic romantic chick-lit so far.

Cue heartbreak and hiccups, and the quest not to hurt a friend while pursuing your own 'happily ever after'. But this novel actually spans a decade (unusual for a romance) of friendship, fate, unrequited feelings, forgiveness, heartache, and love. It's not a typical love story...there's good character development. It's told both from Laurie and Jack's perspectives, with the reader privy to their thoughts and feelings. It has all the nostalgia (and a few of the cliches) of a Richard Curtis film, but the trio of central characters clearly care deeply about each other. Their friendship feels genuine, which in turn makes us care about them and gives the story its heart.

If this book doesn't get made into a film at some point, I'll be surprised.



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Closing date for entries is 20th December 2022.



## Win 2 tickets to see King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys

**Friday 17th February at 7.30pm,  
The Core Theatre, Solihull**

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For your chance to win, email [zoe@dorridgedirectory.com](mailto:zoe@dorridgedirectory.com) with the subject line Hatton Country World or King Pleasure (or both!) 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 dates. There is no cash value nor exchange for these prizes.





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## Don't let inheritance tax spoil your family Christmas

Giving to loved ones is a Christmas tradition that everyone enjoys, whether a shopping voucher or a car; it always adds a bit of extra cheer to the holiday. However, for people who like to splash out on their gifts, inheritance tax (IHT) can put a dampener on things. Hannah Tait, partner at Shakespeare Martineau in Solihull, explains.

### What is IHT?

Quite simply, it is a tax levied on assets acquired through an inheritance or gift.

### What's the tax-free limit for gifts and are any gifts exempt?

Annual lifetime transfers of up to £3,000 can be made each tax year without worrying about inheritance tax. Small gifts of up to £250 can also be made to as many people as you like. This can be very useful for Christmas! Donations to charity and some gifts in consideration of marriages or civil partnerships are not liable for inheritance tax, depending on how closely related a person is to the happy couple. Gifts of £5,000, for example, can be made by a parent and £2,500 can be made by a grandparent. All gifts between married couples or those in civil partnerships are generally also exempt, although it is important that domicile is considered here.

### What's the seven-year-rule?

Most gifts will initially be considered as 'potentially exempt transfers'. These become totally exempt when the donor has survived seven years from the date of the gift. If you die within seven years of the potentially exempt transfer, the value eats into your Nil Rate Band (currently £325k per person), thus reducing or even eliminating the amount that can be passed to your beneficiaries without IHT implications.

### Is there a way to avoid IHT for certain?

No one can predict how long someone will live. However, early planning is recommended and it is always important to consider the capital gains tax implications of any gift as well as the IHT position. One often overlooked option for IHT is the 'normal expenditure of out income' exemption. If a person can prove their income meets all their living costs, and that their standard of living can be maintained after the gift has been made, then it may be possible to claim this exemption for IHT. To qualify, there must be a regular pattern to this gifting and maintaining records is crucial for the claiming of this very useful exemption. People often use this for the payment of school fees.



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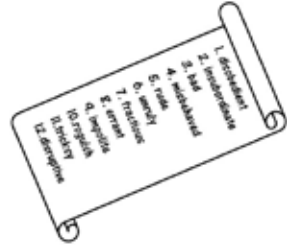
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# Christmas Jumper Day!

**Thursday 8th December 2022 is Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day!**

The charity Save the Children started Christmas Jumper Day in 2012. Every year since then, millions of people don gaudy festive knitwear in their school or office and donate £2 to a good cause.

The Christmas jumper has grown in popularity, going from 'hideously misjudged gift' status to a desirable festive fashion statement. Some 12 million Christmas jumpers are sold in the UK in the run up to Christmas every year.

With the rise of consumer advertising in the fifties and sixties, jumpers had always featured heavily in Christmas adverts. The models' usual suits and dresses were replaced with cosy knitwear to encourage

consumers to buy seasonal goods. These were more conventional woollies though. As Christmas became ever more commercial,

'novelty' jumpers appeared decorated with snowmen, snowflakes, Santas, and popular cartoon characters dressed in festive attire.

There's a Christmas jumper to suit every taste, from 'techno-knits' covered in fairy lights, which connect to your phone and play musical clips, to jumpers bearing whimsical dachshunds in Santa hats, through to elegantly beautiful sparkly numbers that wouldn't look out of place at a cocktail event.

Pull on your Christmas pullover on December 8th and help raise money for a good cause.



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

## 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.

answers on page 30



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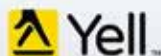
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8 Mopheads 0121 605 2322  
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9 Midland Electrical Group 0121 238 5949

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5 Monsoon 01564 829200

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7 Michael Kavanagh Building & Roofing 024 7671 7737  
10 Deluxe Roofing 0800 747 1461  
12 Revive Roofing 07854 623592  
20 C Stevens Roofing 0121 733 1276  
22 React Roofing 07922 230477

## Security

16-17 Damar Security Systems 0121 706 8666

## Solicitors

21 Shakespeare Martineau 0121 705 8151

## Taxi Services

32 A2B 0121 733 3000

## LOCAL COUNCILLORS SOLIHULL / SILHILL

### Mike Gough

Tel: 07480 253181

Michael.gough@solihull.gov.uk

### Peter Hogarth MBE

Tel: 0121 705 5455  
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### Wazma Qais

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wazma.qais@solihull.gov.uk

## ST ALPHEGE

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Tel: 0121 705 3086

joetildesley@solihull.gov.uk

### Angela Sandison

Tel: 07500 557427  
angela.sandison@solihull.gov.uk

### Samantha Gethen

samantha.gethen@solihull.gov.uk

## local police contact for solihull

Solihull Police Station:  
0845 113 5000 or 101

### Solution to Mind benders

1. Three wise men
2. Holy night
3. Naughty list

## mindbenders

from page 22

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

## Sudoku Solution

from page 25

Shirley Lions Club 0345 833 9547

## Health

NHS non-emergency 111  
Grove Surgery 0121 705 1105  
Northbrook Group Practice 0121 746 5000  
Hobs Moat Medical Centre 0121 742 5211  
Solihull Hospital 0121 424 2000  
Spire Parkway Hospital 0121 704 1451  
Daleswood Health, Solihull 01675 489489

## Council

Solihull Council 0121 704 6000

## Utilities

Electricity power cut 0800 6783 105  
Gas leak 0800 111 9999  
Sewer Trent Water 024 7771 5000  
Sewer Trent Water (emergencies) 0800 783 4444

## Travel

National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50  
Network West Midlands (buses) 0345 303 6760

**Councillor surgeries** these are face-to-face meetings held by councillors for local people to raise issues in their area. Held at The Core Library, Solihull on the first and last Saturday of the month, 10am – 12 noon.

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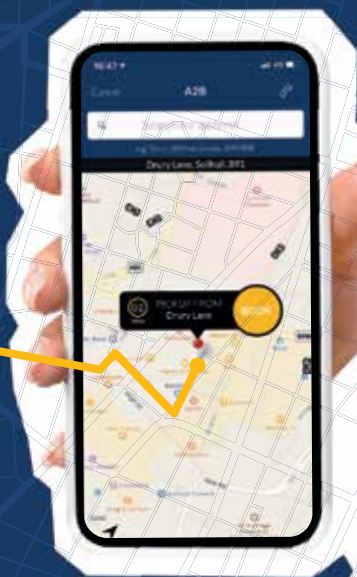
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