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## Divorce figures hit 10 year high

**No-fault divorce finally became law in April 2022 meaning separating couples no longer have to play the blame game in order to be granted a divorce. However, divorce application figures show divorces are at the highest level in a decade.**

### No Fault Divorce

The new Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act (2020) marked a significant change in divorce law for England and Wales. It is no longer necessary for separating couples to apportion blame for the breakdown of their marriage, helping them to instead focus on key practical decisions involving children or their finances and look to the future.

*Most importantly, the new law has made the divorce process more straightforward and dignified.*

The increased number of divorce applications may be as a result of people waiting for 'no fault divorce' law to become available, and could also be attributed to a number of other factors, including the fallout after Covid-19, where it was difficult for people to physically move. Economic turbulence and the rise in the cost of living putting financial pressure on families, can also put marriages under strain.

### DIY Divorces

Couples may opt to deal with their divorces without seeking advice from a solicitor, particularly now the system has been modernised and is completely digitalised. Whilst the new digitalised application and reform of the legislation has made it more accessible to parties wishing to obtain a divorce, the data shows that only 27% of those included an application for a financial settlement.

Divorce does nothing more than legally end your marriage. It does not deal with any financial claim that arises because of the marriage. There will be far too many people that lose out significantly on proper financial arrangements or who have claims they thought were ended come back and haunt them. It is important to seek early legal advice in respect of divorce and financial matters, even if you go on to complete the divorce application yourself.



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### Outdoor Markets

And there is even more to explore at our outdoor markets

**Whitsun Markets** Sat 27<sup>th</sup> to Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May

**Summer Craft Fayre** Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sun 4<sup>th</sup> June

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# Marvellous May!

Welcome to the May edition

**May's one of the best months of the year - we're firmly in the Spring, and have all the anticipation of a lovely Summer ahead, fingers crossed!**

It's also a great time for getting your garden looking lovely and for selling your home. We've got a great range of local, reliable businesses in here who can help you get your garden ready and update any aspect of your home, from your roof to your kitchen, your bathroom to your décor, whether you're getting it ready to sell or just want to update it for your own benefit.

Wishing you a great month ahead. Until next month.

*Zoe*

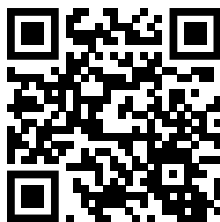
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# community events

## Books and Bric-a-Brac Sale

**10th June, 10am-3pm,**

**Knowle Village Hall**

Pop in for lots of books and bargains! Come along and browse. The sale is a Knowle Village Hall refurbishment fund event.

## The Addams Family

**14-17 June, The Core**

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THE ADDAMS FAMILY is a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, is all grown up and has a shocking secret that only Gomez knows. Call the Box Office to book on 0121 704 6962. Solihull Sporting Society Pre-Ashes Dinner 15th June, St John's Hotel Solihull Enjoy a 3-course meal and hear from the special guest speakers Geoff Miller and Legendary Aussie Fast



Bowler Jeff Thomson. Tickets £95 inc VAT / table of 10 £750 & VAT. For more details contact Dave: 0121 733 3855 / dave@radburnccc.co.uk

## BBC Good Food Show Summer

**15-18 June, NEC**

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line-up of chefs and experts. Tickets from [thenec.co.uk](http://thenec.co.uk)

## Fastlove - a Tribute to George Michael

**25 June, Alexandra Theatre Birmingham**

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# a good read

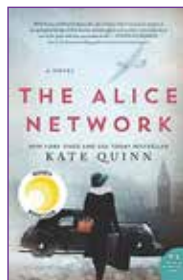
By Natasha Donovan

## The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

The Alice Network is set in the aftermath of World War II though it straddles both world wars, and follows two women, Charlie St. Clair, and Eve Gardiner, as they navigate the dangerous world of espionage in search of a lost relative. Charlie St. Clair is a young American woman who is pregnant out of wedlock. She is sent to Europe by her family to have the 'problem' taken care of. But she breaks free to search for her cousin Rose, who disappeared during the war. She meets Eve Gardiner, a former spy for

the Alice Network, a secret organization of female spies, who now spends her day drunk, haunted by her past. Together, the two women embark on a journey to find Rose and uncover the truth about her disappearance. As they delve deeper into the world of espionage and the aftermath of the war, they encounter a cast of characters, including former spies, soldiers, and politicians, who each have their own secrets. The two women must navigate this dangerous world, relying on their wits and the support of each other to stay alive.

The novel explores themes of friendship, loyalty, and the aftermath of war. Its powerful narrative is a testament to the bravery and resilience of women in a time when their roles were often limited. Quinn's novel is well-researched and beautifully written that will appeal both to fans of historical fiction and anyone who enjoys a page-turning spy thriller.





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

## 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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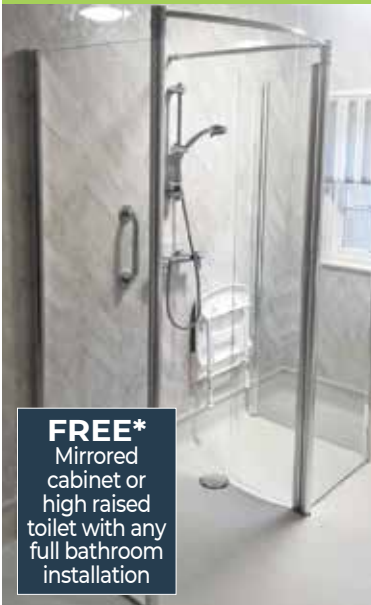
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**Angela Sandison**

Tel: 07500 557427

[angela.sandison@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:angela.sandison@solihull.gov.uk)

**Samantha Gethen**

[samantha.gethen@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.gethen@solihull.gov.uk)

## **local police contact for solihull**

Solihull Police Station: 0845 113 5000 or 101

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

Severn Trent Water

024 7771 5000

Severn Trent Water (emergencies)

0800 783 4444

### **Travel**

National Rail Enquiries

03457 48 49 50

Network West Midlands (buses)

0345 303 6760

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

**Sudoku Solution**

from page 10

**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.



# Private Wound Care Nursing

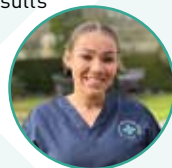
This service is available free of charge if you choose to participate in product evaluations or trials, such as comparing healing rates between dressings.

- Experienced expert wound care nurses visit you at home
- Appointment times to suit you
- We optimise every aspect of healing to maximise results
- Friendly and efficient service
- Weekly or frequent visits
- Same nurses visit each time

0121 663 1836

info@homewoundcare.co.uk

www.homewoundcare.co.uk



## Are you a secret Healthcare Hero?

by Dr Daphne Hazell, GP,  
Home Wound Care

At Home Wound Care we are big enthusiasts for Wound Care Research, and almost all our patients are seen free of charge because they are part of one study or another. We believe that improving knowledge in wound healing, whilst providing a UK leading, convenient, expert wound care nursing service is the way forward. Our patients benefit from our care, and future generations benefit from them letting us share the knowledge

of wound healing rates.

Traditionally in the UK, wound healing studies have been done in the NHS. However, because of pressures in healthcare since Covid, they have mostly gone on hold and we are working to get this going again.

If you have a leg wound, and would be happy for our CQC registered, insured, experienced wound care nurses to dress it at home, then we would love to hear from you. You would be a secret hero for advancing wound healing knowledge, and our friendly team will support



you throughout, aiming to get you healed faster, more conveniently and more comfortably.

**Please call**  
**0121 663 1836**  
**or email**  
**info@homewoundcare.co.uk**

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