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Spring is in the air (hopefully)!

Welcome to the March edition

It's a great time of year to start thinking about your next house move, or having a Spring clean, or maybe getting around to those home and garden improvements you've been putting off and off...

We have a wide range of organisations and tradespeople who advertise in here who are all local and keen to take on more work in the area.



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community events

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27 April, Shirley British Legion

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Knowle Village Hall Association Quiz Night

**22 March 7.30pm,
Knowle Village Hall**

Teams of up to 6 people. Tickets £8 per person, available from 01564 778163 or 01564 779898 Please

bring your own nibbles and liquid refreshment. This is a Knowle Village Hall fund raising event.

'Top of the Pops' - Tribute to the Decades 60s - 00s

5 April, Lake at Barston

Floor fillers from the 60s - 00s by Top of the Pops. Tickets £30pp, or £25 in the Annexe, which includes a 3-course dinner, entertainment and late bar. Ticket price show only - £10pp. To book tickets call 01675 444890.

The World of Hans Zimmer - A New Dimension

9 April, Resorts World Arena

This is the music of two-



time Academy Award® winner Hans Zimmer. The audience will be taken on a unique musical journey that will immerse them in completely new dimensions. Hans Zimmer himself will not appear live on stage in The World of Hans Zimmer - A New Dimension but will function as the show's curator and musical director. Tickets from <https://www.resortsworldarena.co.uk>

Menopause Café

28 April 10am, Two Mugs café, Shirley

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Why you need a divorce financial order to cut all ties with your ex

The landmark case of *Wyatt v Vince*, where the multimillionaire windfarm tycoon's ex-wife made a successful financial claim 20 years after the divorce, should act as a cautionary tale for anyone thinking of a DIY divorce, Dipika Mistry, Legal Director at Solihull-based law firm, Shakespeare Martineau, explains...

A Divorce Final Order Is Not Enough

A lot of couples who undertake DIY divorces fall into the trap of thinking that the divorce date – or final order – is the end. A divorce final order is NOT a clean break financial order. In reality, without proper protection, financial claims can be made many years later.

Consent Orders

A Consent Order is a document that records the financial agreement on divorce. Essentially, it records how couples have decided to split their financial assets and is usually prepared by a solicitor and signed off by the court.

Obtaining an Order

If the terms of a financial settlement cannot easily be agreed, then divorcing couples have a range of options to resolve matters, for example, mediation, collaborative family law meetings, solicitor led round table meetings, arbitration or setting up private hearings with a Judge outside of the formal court route. Financial disclosure should be a part of all these options. The aim is to reach agreement and have a Consent Order drawn up. If no agreement can be reached, it is open to either party to issue a financial application at court. Whatever decision the Judge at court makes in terms of how assets are to be divided, is set out in a binding Court Order.

How long does it take?

The length of the process depends on how quickly an agreement can be reached. If both parties are in agreement, it can be relatively quick. Instigating court proceedings will obviously cause delay and can mean a much lengthier process with more legal costs.

What are the costs

The cost of having a solicitor draft a Consent Order very much depends on the complexity of the case. If significant levels of financial disclosure and specific legal advice is required, this will see the cost rise. While anyone can technically draft a Consent Order, it is highly recommended that it is done by a solicitor or barrister, to ensure it is legally sound.



For more information call 0330 024 0333
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a good read

By Natasha Donovan

Bitter

by Francesca Jakobi

Bitter is Francesca Jakobi's astonishing first novel. It is a captivating exploration of complex family dynamics, narrated with a poignant blend of humour and melancholy. The novel unfolds through the eyes of Gilda, a twice-divorced, middle-aged woman grappling with the recent marriage of her only child, Reuben. While Gilda is depicted as an overbearing Jewish mother, the portrayal is never clichéd, but rather deeply nuanced, blending past and present to create a relatable and poignant character.

Jakobi's short chapters drives the narrative forward at a compelling pace. The book's heart lies in its exploration of Gilda's troubled relationship with her son and her escalating jealousy towards his new wife. This personal drama is skilfully balanced with moments of dry humour, often through Gilda's humorous reflections, a testament to Jakobi's ability to weave lightness into the fabric of a fundamentally sombre story.

The novel's title, 'Bitter,' is a play on the German word for 'please.' The novel delves into Gilda's backstory, as a displaced and isolated German girl attending an English boarding school during the 1930s.

While *Bitter* flirts with the conventions of a psychological thriller, with Gilda's near-obsessive behaviour towards her daughter-in-law, creating moments of intense suspense, at its core is a story of love, kindness, and lasting friendship. Jakobi unsettles us at the same time as making us laugh out loud at Gilda's exploits, but her real skill is in making us somehow love this out-of-control Jewish mother and in doing so, encouraging against our better judgment to side with Gilda!

A thoroughly engaging read.

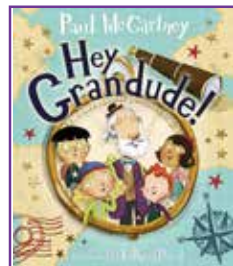


Hey Grandude!

by Paul McCartney
and illustrated by
Kathryn Durs

This is a delightful and imaginative children's book by singer songwriter Paul McCartney, which takes young readers on an enchanting adventure alongside a charming and unconventional grandfather, presumably not unlike Mr. McCartney himself! The book's title is a playful nod to McCartney's Beatles fame, and sets the tone for a whimsical tale. Grandude, is a cool, intrepid explorer with a magical compass, inviting his four grandchildren – or "Chillers" as he affectionately calls them – on extraordinary journeys. The narrative is simple and ideal for young children, making for a fun bedtime story. McCartney's storytelling is full of joy and wonder, making it evident that it's penned by a grandfather who enjoyed entertaining his own grandchildren.

Kathryn Durs's vibrant and detailed artwork brings the story to life adding layers of visual delight and energy to capture the excitement and magic of Grandude's adventures, from stormy seas to sandy deserts. The synergy between McCartney's charming narrative and Durs's lively illustrations makes for an engaging read. Grandude is a story that celebrates the beautiful bond between grandparents and grandchildren, encouraging both generations to embark of adventures and explore the wonders the world has to offer.



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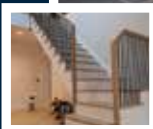


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answers on page 16

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2. Get your act together
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mindbenders
from page 15

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AndyE-230 / 31 Jan 2024



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