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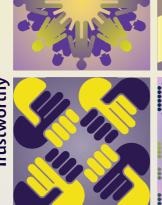
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FOR TICKETS VISIT: WWW.SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST.CO.UK

Summertime...

As I sit writing this we're in the middle of a proper heatwave but who knows what the weather will be doing by the time this reaches you! Hopefully it's still warm and sunny so everyone can get out and about and enjoy themselves.

The Solihull Summer Fest is coming back to Tudor Grange Park on 27th-28th July and with acts such as Level 42 and The Vamps it's definitely worth getting your tickets booked.

There's lots of other great events coming up too, but not everyone gets to hear about them so check out page 6 for more information on Touchwood's Urban Beach and The Beech House's Garden Party. Just turn up and enjoy!

Until next month,

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Zoe Reece Tel: 07557 220585 Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com www.solihullindex.com



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community events

Touchwood's Urban Beach

6th July – 24th August Outside Core Theatre

Local residents will once again be transported to sun, sand and serenity as Solihull becomes awash with African vibes thanks to this year's safari theme! Throughout the summer, guests of all ages will be able to relax in the deckchairs, build sandcastles and enjoy a vibrant programme of activities and entertainment.





Solihull Sort Of Jazz Festival 19-21 July

The much-loved Solihull 'Sort Of' Jazz Festival is back! Enjoy a great selection of bands on the main stage in Mell Square, and tingle your taste buds with a selection of foods from around the world at the accompanying Continental Street Food Market. Visit www. solihullbid.co.uk for more details.



THE CORE LIBRARY

- Councillor's Surgery these are face-to-face meetings held by councillors for local people to raise issues in their area. First and last Saturday of the month, 10.00am-12.00pm
- Rhyme Time Wednesdays 10.15am to 10.30am. term-time only. A short interactive session for 0-2s that includes finger and action rhymes and songs. Come along and meet up with other parents/carers and discover what the library can offer your child.
- Meet and Play Fridays 10.15am to 11.15am, age 0 - 2 years (term time only. Our new Meet and

Play session offers the chance for young families to meet up, relax, chat, play, sing or make music together! The session is for families, led by families. Toys and musical instruments are provided. For more information contact 0121 704 6965.

- Homework Club Tuesdays 3.45pm to 5.15pm, term time only
- Silent Reading Cafe Held once a month on Thursday evenings, this is a chance to unwind and read in a cosy, informal environment without distractions. It begins with an hour of silent reading from 6pm with a chance to chat (If you want) between 7pm and 7.45pm.

Solihull Summer Fest

27th – 28th July Tudor Grange Park

This 2-day festival in the heart of Solihull returns for the 4th year running and features a diverse mix of music genres. Each day runs from 12 midday until 10.30pm with live music, street food vendors, bars, entertainment and an exclusive VIP area.



Jam Rock 2nd August

The Mason's Arms, Solihull EL promotion & DJ Dubz (Static Sounds) bring you Night full of Good Vibes Only! Dropping the best in Reggae, Rnb, Dancehall & Urban all in the heart of Solihull. Free entry.

Garden Party 3rd August

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The Beech House, Solihull

Free event, from 1pm, featuring gin & tonic bar, prosecco bar, outdoor food, DJ & live music.



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Fri 6thBACK TO THE 70'S PARTY with CHRIS NOTT£32.50Fri 20thTHE 'GEORGE MICHAEL' TRIBUTE SHOW with MICHAEL GEORGE£32.50Sat 28thTHE 'GREATEST SHOWMAN' PARTY with DAVID LAWRENCE and SHANE NOLAN BAND£45.00OCTOBER 2019Sat 5thTHE PINK BALL AT THE HALL with THE DETROIT DIVAS featuring Mr D SMOOVE£45.00Sun 6thVINTAGE AFTERNOON TEA PARTY with STACEY LYNN£25.00Fri 11thTHE ULTIMATE 80'S PARTY with BRINGING ON BACK THE 80'S£37.50Sat 19thMOTOWN DIVAS SHOW with THE DREAMETTES£35.00Sat 26thTHE ELO BEATLES BEYOND PARTY with ELO BEATLES BEYOND£35.00NOVEMBER 2019Fri 1stSWINGING 60'S & MOTOWN PARTY with THE KRYSTALETTES£35.00Sat 16thTHE 'BEE GEES' SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER PARTY with STAYIN' ALIVE£37.50Sat 16thTHE 'MAMMA MIA' PARTY with BOOTLEG ABBA£37.50Sat 23rdSOUL AND MOTOWN SHOW with NAT AUGUSTIN£35.00Fri 29thTHE FREDDIE MERCURY SHOW with BRUCE GAME£32.50Sat 30thTHE SNOWBALL CHARITY PARTY with TAKE@THAT£45.00DECEMBER 2019Fri 6thTHE ELO BEATLES BEYOND CHRISTMAS PARTY with ELO BEATLES BEYOND£39.50	SEPTEN	IBER 2019							
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useful info

Ready, Steady, **MOW!**

Choose the right mower for your lawn.

R egular mowing is the key to an attractive, green and healthy lawn. You'll need a mower, but which one should you choose?

Small lawns - Many suburban homes have tiny lawns. A manual push lawn mower or rotary mower is powered by you pushing it rather than by electricity. The blades are mounted in a cylinder, which revolves when the mower is pushed. This produces a precise, even mowing result. They tend to be very compact which makes them manoeuvrable and easy to store.

Small or medium-sized lawn - If your lawn is a little bigger or you don't fancy a manual mower, an electric lawn mower might be for you. They run from a power source and make light work of your lawn. Electric mowers for smaller lawns are usually very easy to manoeuvre around objects. Most come with a handy container or bag to collect clippings. They are also pretty quiet and are available in energy-efficient versions. Just be aware that even with a small lawn you will probably need an extension cord. It's wise to invest in a power breaker for safety. Accidents do happen.

Larger lawn - Petrol mowers are good bigger lawns, where an extension cord becomes impractical. These mowers are powerful, but also heavy as they are often quite sizeable. They are less environmentally friendly because of the exhaust emissions. If you have more than 500 square metres of grass, you'll probably be better off with



a ride-on petrol mower. All lawn mowers are available in various mowing widths. Generally speaking, the wider the lawn mower, the quicker you'll get the job done. But you need to consider that wider mowers are less manoeuvrable.

As a rule of thumb small lawns require a mowing width of around 29-33cm (11-13 inches); medium-sized lawns require a mowing width of around 38cm (15 inches).; large lawns may require widths larger than this, but all choices will depend on whether the lawn is ornamental, with features like ponds and trees, in which case a smaller mower might be better, or whether it's more of an open grassy space.

Most mowers are height adjustable. In other words, you can increase or decrease the distance between the blades and the ground to cut the grass at just the right height for you or the time of year.

You can now buy mulching mowers.

These cut the grass clippings into tiny pieces and blow them evenly into the grass. This method has the advantage of preventing the soil from drying out and gives fungus less chance to develop.

A strimmer is a useful gadget for neatening up along walls, fences and the edge of flowerbeds. You can get more powerful versions which will let you attack weeds too. It's best to wear safety goggles when using one as they generate a lot of flying debris.

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Anguilla a stunning island, a well kept secret!

Anguilla is 100 miles northwest of Antigua, 50 minutes by air but can also be reached from St Kitts & Nevis and British Virgin Islands. It is a British overseas territory with a wealth of culture, history, amazing beaches, fabulous restaurants and world class accommodation.

What I especially love about this fantastic place is it's simple sophistication and it remains uncrowded even in summer. No large cruise ships stop here, there are no all inclusives, no jet skis or chain restaurants.

You may be forgiven for thinking that doesn't sound great but it means that the local cuisine has thrived and is highly regarded throughout the Caribbean. It oozes old style Caribbean heritage and culture, with a passion for music and their national sport of boat racing.

The beaches are exceptional and all 33 of them are public.

Anguilla is the northernmost of the Leeward Islands.The island is flattish and rugged, 16 miles long and its widest point is 3 miles. It covers an area of 35 square miles and the population is 14,750. It has so much to offer from sailing, kite surfing, scuba diving, paddleboarding, surfing to hiking, cycling, golf, yoga and birdwatching.

Anguilla has 6 offshore

cays which are uninhabited but easily reached by boat where you can indulge in BBQs beach shack dining, go on nature based tours or even enjoy snorkelling.

The official language is

English, it's 4 hours behind UK, no visa requirements and the currency is the Eastern Caribbean dollar but US dollars are widely accepted too.

There is so much I could tell you about this island but I need a few more pages! If you would like to know more please don't hesitate in emailing me.



Sabina Clay Not Just Travel sabina.clay@ notjusttravel.com 07565 534 524

The Women of Wimbledon

Home-grown champions from the past

he Championships, Wimbledon is the most famous tennis event in the British sporting calendar. It was first contested in 1877 and played on outdoor grass courts at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (AELTC) in the Wimbledon suburb of London, United Kingdom.

The Ladies' Singles tournament began in 1884, and the women's game has developed massively over the last century. We are all familiar with the incredible Williams sisters, but our own Nation has a pretty impressive history in the Women's singles, which is often overlooked by the British media.

Dorothy Round Little won her first title in 1934 the same year as her British male counterpart Fred Perry also won his first. She won her second Wimbledon title at age 29 in 1937. A devout Christian, she often refused to play on Sundays. She published two books, Modern Lawn Tennis and Tennis For Girls. After her retirement in 1939 she worked as a coach, journalist, and president of the Worcester Lawn Tennis Club.

Florence Angela Margaret Mortimer

Barrett beat another English player Christine Truman Janes to become Wimbledon's women's singles champion in 1961. She was aged 29 and partially deaf.

Ann Haydon-Jones had already won the French Open and U.S. Open twice before winning Wimbledon in 1969. She first showed her talent as a young girl. Her father was a table tennis champion and he encouraged her competitive spirit. She played the famous



Billie Jean King several times but never beat her until her win at Wimbledon. Haydon-Jones was also the first left-handed female singles player to win the championship.

Virginia Wade was a maths graduate, famed for her powerful serve. She defeated Billie Jean King at the US Open, earning her first Grand Slam title. She went on to win the Australian Open in 1972, and in 1977, nearly a decade after her first victory, Wade would become Wimbledon's last British singles winner for 36 years. The year she won, defeating Dutch player Betty Stöve at Wimbledon was the Queen's Silver Jubilee and Queen Elizabeth II herself was present to enjoy her victory.

It remains to be seen whether current British number one **Johanna Konta** can better her semi-final performance in 2017 to add her name to the list of amazing female British tennis players who have held the Wimbledon trophy aloft.

By Tracey Anderson

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5 Tips for Choosing a Professional Carpet Cleaner

By Karen Campbell

Cheap is rarely best - However attractive saving a few quid might seem, the least expensive option might actually do more harm than good. Companies that offer heavily discounted prices may use substandard cleaning products that could permanently damage your carpets.

Know the Process – Ask questions to help you decide who to use. How long will the drying time be? Some may use stronger detergents while others might use more environmentally friendly options...

Do your research – Talk to friends and family, check review sites, ask for recommendations on social media. Ask about additional services – And additional costs. Will they move the furniture? How do they manage difficultto-reach areas? Are they insured?

Keep it local if possible – A local carpet cleaning company will have a vested interest in keeping you happy. It's in their best interest to offer a high-quality service at affordable rates to ensure customer retention and recommendation.





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Really pleased with job done by Don and family to install our hall, stairs and landing carpet, quick, knowledgeable and professional, wish we had found them sooner! Would highly recommend. Claire Price, Solihull

For the best carpet fitters in the UK look no further than Don, Davina and Luke Mander. Experts in their field, trustworthy and extremely knowledgeable. No job is to big or too small. They carried out a repair job on our stair carpet which had been ruined by the cat. It is now as good as new. Carol Tromans, Solihull

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useful info

Wi-Fi Woes

How to boost the wi-fi signal in your home's weak spots

R ecently a friend of mine decided to convert his garage to a games room. The big screen TV was to be the main feature. We all gathered for the big turn on to experience Netflix in full ultra HD. But all we got was a blocky, stuttering, unwatchable excuse for entertainment.



It turned out that his wireless router (the bit that connects to his broadband) was plugged in at the opposite end of the house. The reception at this end of the house had always been poor, but the extra wall of the garage was just too much for the signal to push through. Result? **No internet!**

What to do? The router had to stay by the phone socket so moving that to the centre of the house wasn't an option. Running a network cable (a permanent wire) from the router to the TV was a non-starter because it would involve a lot of work. This meant he had to work out a different way to boost the **Wi-Fi** signal in the garage.

I'd had a similar problem in my home and had discovered **Wi-Fi** extenders and repeaters (different companies call them by different names, but they all do the same thing).

There were two options:

A **Wi-Fi** repeater is basically a second router. You put it where you receive a good signal and it then creates a new **Wi-Fi** area that connects to your broadband. He could have sited that in the centre of the house and thus improved the signal in the garage. There would be a bit of setting up to get this working as you have to log on to the repeater with a computer, but it's not hard if you know what you're doing. There are YouTube tutorials which can help.

The second option is the simplest, and ultimately the one he settled on – a powerline adaptor. This is a box that plugs into your router and then into a mains socket. It actually uses your house wiring to send your broadband signal around the house. All you need to do is buy a powerline **Wi-Fi** extender and plug it into the wall in the room where you need it most. It's like you're sitting right beside your **Wi-Fi** point.

After a quick visit to the shops, he plugged in both devices. The set-up was quick and easy (literally pressing two buttons) and he was up and running with full broadband speed. His teens could now get Youtube in the garden as an extra bonus because he put an extra extender in a socket on the wall next to the patio.

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COMPETITION



WIN 2 TICKETS

to see Barnhart & Huxley Hot Five – Jazz and Jokes IV

on Sunday 15th September at 2.30pm The Core Theatre, Solihull (formerly Solihull Arts Complex)

For your chance to win these tickets, visit the Core Theatre website page for this event - www. thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk - to find the answer to this question:

Who's hosting this event?

Email your answer to: thecoretheatre@solihull.gov.uk – and please put 'Jazz and Jokes' as the subject line.

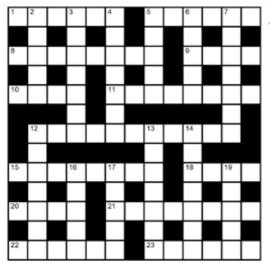
Closing date for entries is 15th August. The winner will be drawn at random and notified by email after this date.

Please note there is no cash value nor exchange for this prize so please don't enter if you cannot attend the date shown above.

About the show:

Thrill to the sounds of Vintage Jazz and Swing with this latest version of the Barnhart-Huxley Hot Five, featuring the blistering trumpet and swinging vocals of London jazz legend Enrico Tomasso. Rico and George Huxley will create the hottest combo since Louis Armstrong met Sidney Bechet! Add flautist/vocalist Anne Barnhart for some sass and class, the ebullient Jeff Barnhart channelling Fats Waller as he strides across the keys, and Graham Smith, the most in-demand drummer in the Midlands, and you have an evening of jazz and hilarity to remember for ages to come!

crossword



Down

- 2 Abode, dwelling (5)
- 3 Highest Welsh mountain (7)
- 4 Bowling pin (7)
- 5 Commenced (5)
- 6 Grass-like plant (5)
- 7 Open or spread out (7)
- 12 Deadly poison (7)
- 13 Three-book story (7)

clues

Across

- 1 Academic essay (6)
- 5 Violent quarrel (4-2)
- 8 Teaching (often privately) (8)
- 9 Deliberately disobey (4)
- 10 Fix (4)
- 11 Lovingly (8)
- 12 Candidates, participants (11)
- 15 Tubular pasta (8)
- 18 Tiny rodents (4)
- 20 Flightless bird (4)
- 21 Pads used for washing pans (8)
- 22 Alcove (6)
- 23 Sunny colour (6)
 - 14 Figure, digit (7)
 - 16 Not dead (5)
 - 17 Desert waterhole (5)
 - 19 Ship's freight (5)

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

answers on page 46

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A-head of the Game

Choose the perfect Hat

which one should you choose? How do you avoid making an **expensive mistake**?

First you need to look at your face shape. Oval-shaped faces can get away with almost any style. A large brimmed hat should be tilted backwards slightly so that it frames your face. If you have a square or round face, choose a hat with a large brim and wear it slanted. A long face looks lovely with a beret style or even a Matador style

Glasses can be a bit tricky but choose a hat with an upturned brim style so that it doesn't feel like you are hiding behind a lot of face furniture!

There is a bit of an art to hat wearing. You

need to think about your hairstyle. Hair should complement the hat. Hats nearly always look better worn with hair up, because it accentuates the neck. Small hats should rest just above the eyebrow, they look wrong perched on the very top of the head. If in doubt, ask the stylist in the shop. They will be trained to help you choose the right piece and talk you through how to wear it to best effect.

Try lots of styles, colours and textures. Make the most of trained staff. Let them be your guide. They will get a kick out of finding exactly the right hat for you. Don't shy away from 'big' hats because they generally look smaller once they are actually on your head

Most people start with an outfit and try to find a hat to complement it. But it might be better to do it the other way around. If you fall in love with a hat that's a real statement piece, then you should keep your dress and accessories minimal to allow it to take centre stage. If you've already got the outfit though, then pick out elements such as colour or fabric, to try and match. **Exact matches are not necessary**, sometimes complementing tones work better.

If you are very lucky you might have a dress and hat hire establishment in your town. This can be an excellent way to get the outfit and hat of your dreams for a fraction of the cost of buying it outright.

At the end of the day you have to feel happy, confident and comfortable in your chosen hat. Physical comfort is the most important factor. You shouldn't pick anything you feel you have to fuss or fidget with; you should feel completely confident. As the hat designer Piers Atkinson says, "Make sure the hat doesn't wear you; you wear the hat!"



By Sarah Davey

Raspberry Ripple Ice Cream

July is National Ice Cream Month. Celebrate with this homemade raspberry ripple.

Preparation time: 20 mins Cooking time: 10 mins Serves: 12

Ingredients

250g raspberries 225g caster sugar 2 large eggs 4 egg yolks 600ml double cream Raspberries or other fruit for serving

Method

Place the raspberries in a pan with 2 tbsp of the sugar. Cook on a medium heat until sugar dissolves into the pulp. Simmer for 5 mins until thickened, then push the pulp through a sieve into a bowl and discard the seeds. Place the eggs, egg yolks and remaining sugar into a bowl. Whisk with an electric whisk hand whisk to combine everything, then place over a pan of gently simmering water – the bowl should not touch the water. Beat with the electric whisk for 3-4 mins until thick and pale. Remove from heat and continue beating with the whisk until cool.

In another bowl, whisk the cream until it forms soft peaks, then gently fold into the cool egg mix until just combined. Pour the mix into a shallow container or dish that can be frozen. Just before you freeze the mixture gently swirl the raspberry puree through, cover with cling film and freeze for at least 6 hrs. Remove from the freezer about 20 minutes before serving. Place scoops of the ice cream into bowls with extra raspberries or other fruit. It's also gorgeous in cones.



a taster of what's coming up...

CINEMA

Anna

from 5th July Beneath Anna Poliatova's striking beauty lies a secret that will unleash her indelible strength and



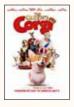
skill to become one of the world's most feared government assassins. An electrifying thrill ride unfolding with propulsive energy, startling twists and breath-taking action, this film features a starstudded cast including Helen Mirren and Cillian Murphy.

The Queen's Corgi

from 5th July Rex lives a life

.

of luxury as top dog but when he causes a diplomatic incident during an official dinner with



the President of the United States, he falls into disgrace. Betrayed by one of his peers, Rex becomes a stray dog in the streets of London. How can he redeem himself?

Horrible Histories: The Movie – Rotten Romans from 26th July

Atti is a Roman teenager with brains but very little brawn. When one of his schemes falls foul of Emperor Nero,



Atti is forced to join the army and sent to cold, wet Britain. Things go from bad to worse when Atti is captured by Orla, a feisty teenager desperate to prove herself as a warrior.

To book please visit www.

cineworld.co.uk

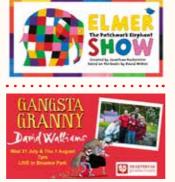
THEATRE

The Core Theatre, Solihull (formerly Solihull Arts Complex)

Elmer The Patchwork Elephant

23 & 24 July

Elephants, as everyone knows, are big, have trunks, and are grey. But Elmer is a patchwork of brilliant colours. His fun-loving and cheerful personality keeps everyone in a playful mood, until the day he decides to find out what it would be like to blend in with the herd.



Gangsta Granny 31st July & 1st August

Be prepared for some shocking granny behaviour at this outdoor adaptation (in Brueton Park) of David Walliams' bestseller. Who knows what a senior citizen might think of next ...as a boy, bored at his grandma's house, stumbles across some shocking news about his granny once being a jewel thief!

•••••

Romeo & Juliet

Shakepeare's Romeo and Juliet will be performed in the lakeside setting of Brueton Park, Solihull. Set in the here and now, and mixing in some modern language, music, and technology, this production explores how one of the most celebrated tales of passionate love would play out in the 21st century.



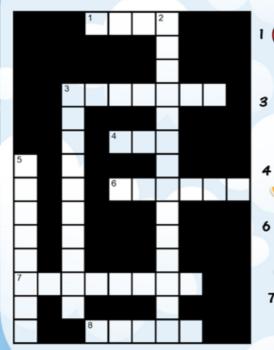
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A Day at the Beach

Can you solve our picture clue crossword?





5



Beach Bucket Riddle

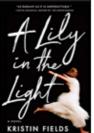
l am weightless, but you can see me. Put me in your bucket, and I'll make it lighter. What am I?

Beach Bucket Riddle Solution A hole

a good read reviews By Willow Coby

A Lily in the Light by Kristen Fields

A child going missing is every parent's worst nightmare. And many books have been written with this as the main plot device, as the parents try to cope with events that follow. However, this debut novel



approaches it from a different angle.

Esme is 11 years old and for her, ballet is life. She is on the brink of every young ballerina's dream as she is told that she is ready to go 'en pointe'. But this joy is snatched from her one evening as the family gather to enjoy a meal. Suddenly, and inexplicably, Esme's four-yearold sister Lily disappears. The family starts to fall apart, but as readers we experience this through the eyes of Esme, not her parents.

In the second half of the novel the action switches to Paris eight years later where Esme is performing as a ballerina. We learn of the intervening years. How Esme felt that she lost so much more than a sister; she lost her parents too. She has used dance to take herself away from it all. Until she receives a phone call from her older sister, on the other side of the Atlantic.

Are the family about to learn of Lily's fate, and how will they bring themselves together, healing divisions and unspoken accusations?

The Tiger who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr

Sometimes days play out in endless repetition. Nothing exciting ever happens. But what if one day the unexpected occurred?

Just like any day Sophie is

having tea in the kitchen with her mother, when the doorbell rings. They wonder who it could be. The milkman with his milk float? The grocer on his bike? Or Sophie's daddy? What they are not expecting is a large tiger, who joins them at the table. Just what will happen when a tiger comes to tea?

The Tiger Who

Came

to Tea

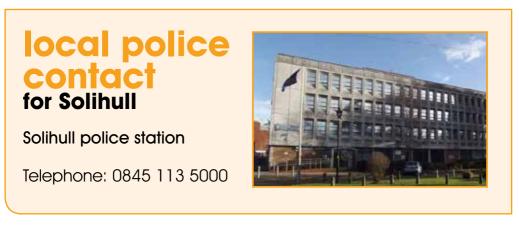
This classic children's picture book is now more than 50 years old and yet it still continues to enchant children. A simple story and delightful illustrations make this a favourite among many young readers. A TV adaptation is due to air at the end of 2019 but do make sure you share the original with your children first. Judith Kerr, who wrote and illustrated over 30 other books, including the Mog series, died in May this year aged 95. It seems a perfect time to celebrate her life.

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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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Suduko Solution from page 27



Crossword Solution from page 27



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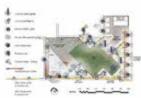
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