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**Visit [www.stbasils.org.uk](http://www.stbasils.org.uk) for more information about the work of St Basils helping homeless and vulnerable young people.**



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# Boo...

Welcome to the  
October edition...

**Hopefully kids will be able to celebrate Halloween and go trick and treating this year, and enjoy the fun of Bonfire Night after the disappointment of so many events being cancelled last year. Check out page 6 to find out more about 'pumpkin week' and other local events.**

If you fancy winning a bottle of Prosecco, just scan the QR code below to be entered into our free prize draw. All you need to do is submit a Google review of the magazine and we'll draw a winner at random and deliver a bottle to your door!\*

Until next month...

Zoe

Zoe Reece

Tel: 07557 220585

Email: [zoe@dorridgedirectory.com](mailto:zoe@dorridgedirectory.com)

[www.solihullindex.com](http://www.solihullindex.com)

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**\* Google reviews** must be received by 10th November 2021.

To qualify you will need to email [zoe@dorridgedirectory.com](mailto:zoe@dorridgedirectory.com) after you have submitted a review with your name, telephone number, and address (which must be in the B90 or B91 postcode).

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## community events

### Pumpkin Week

**Hatton Country World**

**21 – 29 October**

Pick your own free pumpkin, carve it in the spooky decorated marquee and then enter the best carved pumpkin competition to win a prize. Experience the Mystifying Halloween Show, Haunted House, Laser Combat Game and Mega Maize Maze.. and lots more.

### Happy Hour

**Turtle Bay, Solihull**

Enjoy 2-4-1 cocktails and mocktails as soft reggae beats and the magic of the Caribbean soothe your soul. Sunday to Thursday 10am - 7pm & 9.30pm – close. Friday & Saturday 10am - 7pm & 10pm – close.

### Wythall & Hollywood Country Market

**Wythall Park, Silver St, Wythall**

**30 October, 6 / 13 / 20**

**November 10am – 12 noon**

Farmers' market and craft fair offering a wonderful array of home-produced goodies including jams, cakes, biscuits, bread, soups, stir-fries, seasonal vegetables, potted plants, gifts, and cards. Also available: craft demonstrations, kids' crafts, tea and coffee. Email [whcountrymarket@gmail.com](mailto:whcountrymarket@gmail.com) for more info.



### Stories in Stitch Exhibition

**Courtyard Gallery, Core**

**Theatre Solihull**

**10-22 November**

This exhibition by Solihull Creative Textiles will feature a group collaboration entitled The Seasons, as well as individual pieces based on the theme of Stories in Stitch. Samples of work from workshops will be on display and there will be a selection of handmade stitched items for sale. [www.facebook.com/solihullcreativetextiles](http://www.facebook.com/solihullcreativetextiles)

### Alice in Wonderland

**The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham**

**20 November – 17 December**

This adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic tale follows the story of

Alice, a young, curious girl who follows a white rabbit down a rabbit hole and into Wonderland. There, she encounters some of the strangest and most peculiar creatures, including the Cheshire Cat and the Mad Hatter. With songs old and new, and a brand-new script this is set to be a spectacular experience.

### A Christmas Fair

**Knowle Village Hall**

**Saturday 27 November**

**10sm – 1pm**

Browse through Christmas cards, gifts, cakes and preserves, decorations, books, bric-a-brac and more. There will be competitions and refreshments. This is a Knowle Village Hall fundraising event.



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# Gone Fishin'

## Getting started with fishing

**M**y son loves to be outdoors spending time in the countryside. I told him how my dad and I used to have fantastic fun on

our fishing trips to the various rivers and lakes around the area where we lived. This caught his interest and he asked if we could go fishing. Sounded great me!

Luckily we have a small angling-supply shop in our village, so we popped in to look around and get some advice.

The staff were very knowledgeable and talked us through the equipment choice for a good quality, but reasonably priced starter set. This consisted of a nice rod suitable for float fishing and spinning, a good quality reel to go with it (don't forget to get some fishing line and ask if the staff can fit it for you!), some floats and hooks for maggot fishing

and some lures for going after pike and perch. A few other bits and bobs and we were ready to catch our first whoppers for under £100.

By this time the staff knew we were novices, so they weren't surprised when we answered their, "Have you got your licences?" question with a puzzled look.

It turns out there are a number of rules and regulations you need to obey if you want to go fishing and stay on the right side of the law.

In England and Wales anyone aged over 13 needs a rod fishing licence. It's free if you're 16 or under and about £30 per year for an adult. In Scotland you just need permission for the place you want to fish from the landowner or angling club. In Northern

Ireland you'll need a licence and a permit for the stretch of water. In Scotland and Northern Ireland some rivers and lakes are controlled by angling clubs, so you'll need to check before you head off to the river.

It's also turns out that you can't just fish whenever you want. Rivers in England and Wales have a close season from 15th March to 15th June. Scotland and Ireland also have close seasons with most being controlled by the angling clubs that own the fishing rights, so again make sure you check with them.

Some rules do get a bit complicated with different fish having close seasons, and

certain types of bait being allowed only in certain locations and at certain times, but don't be discouraged. Check out the [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website or have a chat with your local angling club. They will be more than happy to help.

If you're fishing for pleasure you'll most likely put any fish you catch back into the water - obviously taking loads of photos before you do! But if you do plan on keeping some fish for eating there are a number of regulations on your catch sizes. These cover both the minimum size of the fish and the number. It varies from region to region so make sure you check out the rules for the place you want to fish.

With a little research you can feel reassured that your fishing trip won't end in a fine. As for our first trip out; no luck with the bigger pike and perch but some great fun with the smaller fish using a float and maggot. Not exactly whoppers, but we can always try again next time.





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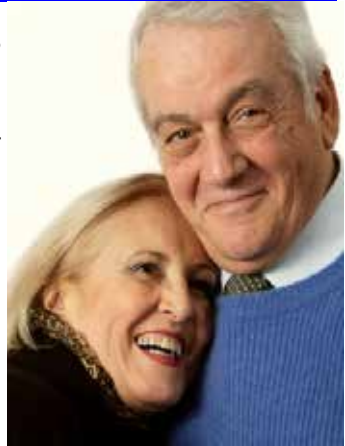
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# Why We Love Ghosts

Recent studies show that between 30-40% of people in the UK are believe in ghosts, with those aged between 18 and 34 most likely to believe in paranormal activity. In the US figures are much higher.

Unlikely as it seems, ghosts and hauntings are a mainstream area of belief, and this belief is global, with most cultures around the world having some widely accepted types of ghosts. But why are people so keen to believe when the existence of a ghost as a disembodied soul or spirit of a dead person directly contradicts the laws of science?

In literature ghosts address some basic human needs, including the desire for justice. Shakespeare's Hamlet is visited by the ghost of his murdered father seeking revenge on Claudius, his murderer; and in Macbeth the murdered Banquo appears at a banquet both as a reminder of Macbeth's guilt and to foreshadow more deaths to come.

In Kenya, a murdered person may become a ngoma, a spirit who pursues their murderer, sometimes causing them to give themselves up to the police. In Russia the rusalka is the spirit of a dead woman who died by drowning and then lures men to their death.

But ghosts are not always vengeful, they can also be friends and protectors. In Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, Ebenezer Scrooge is helped by three ghosts to mend his cruel and hard-hearted ways before it's too late. In the film Sixth Sense, a ghost helps a young boy to come to terms with his ability to see dead people.

Many people like to believe that death is not the end of existence. They are comforted by thinking that their deceased loved ones are watching over them. It can also help them face the idea of our own mortality. Most of us



believe that our physical being is separate from our consciousness which means it's not a huge leap for us to entertain the idea that our mind could have an existence separate from our body and thus that our mind or consciousness could survive death. Some people even believe that the dead can communicate with the living through mediums and spiritualism.

It seems our love of the paranormal runs deep and Halloween is the perfect time to indulge.

## Perfect Halloween Films

Ghost Films

Casper

Sixth Sense

The Woman in Black

The Legend of Hell House

The Ghost of Mrs Muir

ParaNorman



# The Dangers of Joint Property

*"How is your joint property held?"*

**Hannah Tait**, partner at Shakespeare Martineau in Solihull explains why this is so important when estate planning or making a will.

**If you own your home with someone else, there are two ways in which the property can be held: joint tenants and tenants in common.**

## Joint tenants

Where property is held as joint tenants, on the death of one owner, the property passes automatically to the other, regardless of the provisions of that person's will. Many family homes are held as joint tenants, as this is often seen as the "default" for couples and although this may work well for many people, it is not always the best or most practical option. Consider a second marriage, where the first to die wishes to protect their share of the property for the children of previous relationships. If the home is held as joint tenants, the surviving spouse has complete control after the first death – they could give the property away or they could leave it in their will to their own children or to a new spouse if they remarry. If they die without a will, the laws of intestacy will decide who will inherit this on their death and this will not include step-children.

## Tenants in common

Where property is held as tenants in common and one person dies, the share belonging to them passes in accordance with the terms of their will, or if they don't have a will – will pass via the intestacy rules to potentially unwanted beneficiaries. So, if you're an unmarried couple and neither of you has a will, if one person dies, it may be that their share in the house is passed to their family and not the living partner.

## How it affects estate planning

Many people choose to include Nil Rate Band Trusts in their wills on the first death, to ring-fence part of the estate of the first to die from care fees if the survivor needed care in the future. Subject to the other assets in the estate, this will only work practically if the property is held as tenants in common and not where property is held as joint tenants. The best option is strictly dependant on individual circumstances so obtain legal advice before committing to one option over another.



**For more information and support call 0121 705 1208**  
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answers on page 33

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## Boost your immune system

**A**s the flu season rolls around again, and we are now dealing with the additional threat of COVID-19, we need to take care of our immune systems.

There are two main parts to the immune system: the innate immune system is the one you are born with, and it is the body's rapid response system, working to attack antigens or invaders, while the adaptive or acquired immune system builds antibodies to protect your body from certain microbes, or germs, it encounters in the environment. Our immune system keeps track of every germ it has ever defeated, so it's primed to be more effective if it encounters the same one again.

Vaccines are great at priming the immune system giving our bodies a head start when it comes to fighting certain diseases, so if you are able to receive the

flu or COVID vaccines it's a no-brainer.

But even if you can have the vaccine, not everybody produces the same immune response so is there anything else we can do to pep up our beleaguered immune system at this time of year?

**Elderberry** - Sambucus nigra consists of many vitamins and minerals which boost immune health.

**Vitamin C** - Vitamin C is required for white-cell production. The body can't make vitamin C, so a supplement is very useful.

**Zinc** - Helps produce new immune system cells in your body.

**Vitamin D** - Helps to regulate the immune system.

# Great news for travel



## The latest travel update took place on 17th September 2021, with positive changes taking place for holidaymakers!

### From 4th October

The current traffic light system of red, amber and green countries will be scrapped and replaced with one red list only. Also from that date, travellers will no longer need to take pre-departure tests for travelling into England from abroad.

### End of October

Then, from the end of October, fully vaccinated passengers from non-red list countries will be able to replace day-two PCR tests with lateral flow tests.

### Countries removed from Red List

The government has also announced that from 4am on 22 September, eight destinations will be removed from the red list.

### The destinations are:

Turkey  
Pakistan

The Maldives  
Egypt  
Sri Lanka  
Oman  
Bangladeshi  
Kenya

If you're looking to get away, get in touch with your Personal Travel Consultant today!

---

### Sabina Clay

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# Kids' Page

Can you solve our bumper HALLOWEEN Crossword?



## Across

- 5 Big pot belonging to a witch (8)
- 6 Count \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- 7 It hangs upside down (3)
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ or treat! (5)
- 11 One might work at Gringotts Bank! (6)
- 14 Scare (8)
- 16 17 Down is made of these (5)
- 18 You can carve one of these (7)
- 20 A house full of ghosts is said to be \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- 22 It howls at the moon (8)
- 23 It drinks your blood (7)
- 24 Terrifying (5)
- 25 It's dark at \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- 26 Hedwig was one (3)
- 27 It has eight legs (6)
- 28 31st October (9)

## Down

- 1 A large scary creature (7)
- 2 You can probably see right through one! (5)
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ o Lantern (4)
- 4 Wooden box which might contain 17 down (6)
- 5 A black one is lucky...or unlucky, depending on the superstition. (3)
- 9 Spooky (6)
- 10 Usual colour of a witch's cat (5)
- 12 Transport for a witch (5)
- 13 It's definitely not made of cheese! (4)
- 15 You might find 2 Down here (9)
- 17 Doctors sometimes have one of these hanging in their office. (8)
- 19 It comes from Egypt (5)
- 21 Hermione Granger is one (5)
- 22 27 Across might spin one of these (3)

What is a GHOST'S Favourite Food?

I-Scream!

What MUSIC do MUMMIES listen to?

Wrap Music!



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# Tidy up Time

**B**y October the garden can look a little tired: perennials collapse, leaves die back, and there's debris everywhere. It can only mean one thing, clean up time.

Cut Peonies, Leucanthemum, Nepeta, Delphiniums, Hardy Geraniums, and Phlox back to ground level, but leave anything with ornamental seed heads such as poppies, Alliums, and grasses. When the first frosts hit these plants will gain a new lease of life and add some sparkly architectural beauty to the garden.

Leave more delicate perennials such as Penstemons with the top growth in place to provide some winter protection. You can cut them back in the spring just before new growth occurs.

Herbaceous perennials can be divided now and moved around to fill gaps in the border. Perennials can become congested and tired, and flower less as they age. Dig up the clump and break it up with a sharp spade, selecting the best, newer chunks from the outside to replant. The dying centre of

the plant can be composted. Most plants need to be divided every three to five years but some more vigorous varieties like Achillea require it more often and others. The exception is Peonies, which hate any kind of disturbance. Leave them alone.

Once the borders are cleared and plants have been relocated, it's time to get rid of any weeds, which have flourished in the autumn sunshine. Then you can mulch using compost or leaf mould. Mulching helps to protect the more tender plants while improving the structure of the soil and generally making things look neater. Make a layer around 3-4cms deep but don't cover the centre crown of any plants.

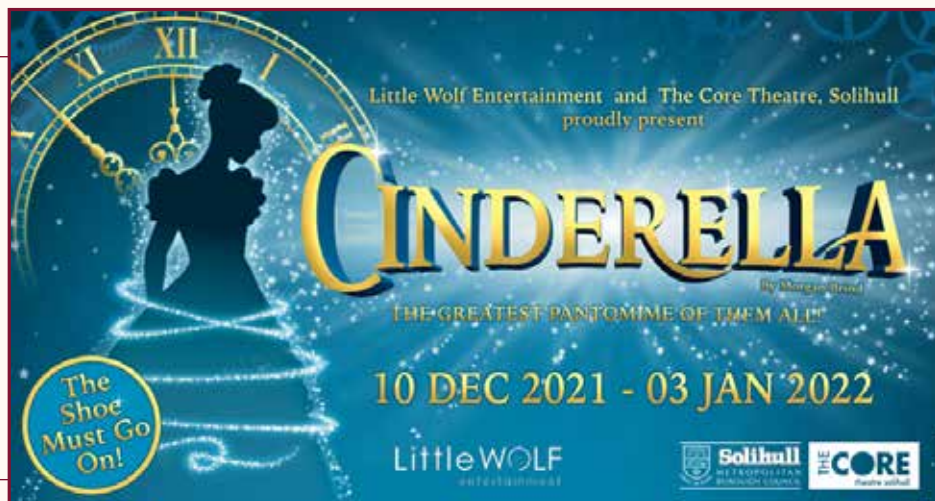
## Types of organic mulch

- Compost
- Bark
- Grass cuttings
- Composted manure
- Newspaper
- Shredded Leaves
- Straw





# COMPETITION



## Win a family ticket

to see

### Cinderella Pantomime

at **Solihull's Core Theatre** on **Friday 10 December at 7pm**

For your chance to win these tickets, visit the **Core Theatre website page** for this event - [www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk](http://www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk) - to find the answer to this question:

#### What's the last date of the pantomime?

Email your answer to:

[thecoretheatre@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:thecoretheatre@solihull.gov.uk) –

and please put **'Cinderella'** as the subject line.

Closing date for entries is 10th November.

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:

Doomed to drudgery by her wicked stepmother and spiteful stepsisters, Cinderella dreams of escape and romance. Meanwhile King Keith of Kings Heath is making plans for a royal ball. It's going to take all the magic her Fairy Godmother can muster to whisk Cinders from pantry to palace by pumpkin, but with her stepsisters digging their ugly heels in, it's not an easy ride to happy ever after. Featuring sparkling sets, fabulous frocks, side splitting slapstick and not one, but two outrageous dames, this is an unmissable treat for the whole family. The clock is ticking so grab your tickets to the ball now! After all... the shoe must go on!

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# Bad Teacher!

## What to do when your child has issues with their teacher

**M**ost parents worry a little at the beginning of a school year; will the new teacher be a good fit for my child? Usually things work out fine, even if there are a few rocky moments initially. But if problems persist, what is the best way to handle it?

Reading emotional signals isn't easy but as a parent it's usually wise to trust your instincts.

Riding out a year with a difficult teacher can help a child learn resilience and problem-solving. We can probably all remember at

least one teacher with a 'reputation' from our own school days. It's requires careful judgement. One child might be able to rationalise (with a little parental support) that harsh criticism says more about the teacher than it does about them,

while another may become anxious and stop enjoying school. You know your child best.

If you feel there might be a problem try to get as much detail as possible. The idea is to get a more concrete sense of your child's viewpoint. Probe gently and casually to avoid causing distress, do make sure that it's not an overreaction to normal teacher behaviour.

Tell your child that you're going to write down what she's saying so you can have a conversation with the teacher. Make it clear that you care about what's happening, and that their concerns are going to be heard, but that you are not going in to make trouble.

If you decide to speak with the teacher, don't try to catch them at drop-off or pick-up time. Book an appointment. Approach the situation as someone seeking help in solving a problem. Use inclusive language and explain

the situation using as many of your child's own words as possible. Saying, 'Can you help me understand why Kiera seems so anxious before school,' is better than 'Kiera says you're mean to her.' This will help not to escalate the situation. Teachers are human though and some are very sensitive. Do your best to reassure them that you're not blaming them. However, you are there to advocate for your child so try not to be derailed if they become defensive. Stay calm and repeat that you're simply trying to understand what's going on.



Ideally, the teacher will shed light on the situation, and you can have a mutually useful conversation that will help them teach your child effectively. But at the very least you'll understand more about how the teacher communicates.

They may be taciturn, or

snarky or perfectly nice but just not very genial. Then you can talk to your child about how some people are not as smiley, or patient as others but they aren't necessarily a horrible person.

Of course, if the meeting doesn't go well you might have to take it higher, maybe to the head of year, or the deputy head. Explain the steps you've taken and stress that you are concerned about your child's education. You might be given the option of another meeting with the teacher, or they might decide to deal with the situation in house. If nothing changes, remain calm, but be firm and make it clear you're not going away. As a last resort request a move to another class.

It's upsetting as a parent to watch your child struggle. But remember, even if the outcome isn't perfect, watching how you deal with things in a calm, rational and encouraging manner will teach them a great life lesson.

# Clean Your Greens!

## Food hygiene is important

When we think about food poisoning, most of us think about undercooked chicken or dodgy seafood, but some of the most notable outbreaks, have been tied to vegetables like Romaine lettuce, cucumbers, and soft fruit.

Public Health England advises people to remove any loose soil before storing vegetables and wash all veg and salads thoroughly that will be eaten raw unless they have been pre-prepared and are specifically labelled “ready to eat”.

It’s important to bear in mind that no method of cleaning is guaranteed to remove all bacteria when it comes to raw food – but you can significantly reduce risk. So, what is the best way to wash veg?

Wash your hands and clean all preparation surfaces first! Then wash produce just before you use it because dampness encourages bacteria growth.

**Let things soak** – For anything that grows in the ground, submerge it in cold water and leave it there for up to 20 minutes to let the soil

particles come loose, then take it out and rinse under running water. Lettuce leaves should be broken off before washing. Chops leeks before washing, because it makes it easier for the soil particles to flush out from between the layers. Even organic food needs to be washed. Old fashioned salad spinners are great to ‘de-soggify’ (as my teen puts it) salad leaves, but you can shake them outside and leave to dry on kitchen paper.

**Treat mushrooms differently** – Mushrooms can be dirty, but they are like sponges and soaking will make them soggy. Brush the soil off and rinse them. If you’re sauteing them the heat will kill any bacteria.

**Fresh herbs** – store them in a sealed plastic bag with a piece of kitchen paper to prolong their life. It really works! Wash them before use.

**Pre-packed salads** - These are often washed in a low-chlorine solution to kill off bacteria, so in theory they should be fine to eat straight from the bag. This comes down to personal choice. Store all salad and vegetables, and berries in a cold environment because it slows down the rate at which bacteria multiply. Many modern fridges have a super cold salad drawer.



# Keep Pets Safe on Bonfire Night

**M**y Jack Russell terrier Pippa takes Bonfire Night in her stride. but Tess, my mixed breed rescue, transforms into a quivering wreck, who snaps, snarls and once drew actual blood when I tried to fish her out of the tumble drier where she had retreated among the yet-to-be sorted bed sheets.

Studies suggest that almost half of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks. Tess is at the extreme end of the scale and action was clearly required.

There are a few simple things we can do to help a pet deal with fireworks. Some basic preparation will make Bonfire night a less stressful experience for everyone.

For dogs, walk them earlier in the day to avoid times when fireworks are likely to be set off. Close windows and curtains at night so loud bangs are muffled, and play music or put the TV on to further mask firework sounds

Make a doggy den. This is a quiet space where a dog can feel in control. My dogs are crate-trained but the crate wasn't cutting it for Tess who wanted a proper bolthole. She dived in headfirst, and we didn't see her till the following morning, when she re-appeared as though nothing was out of the ordinary!

Cats also need hiding places too, though they are pretty good at finding their own! Try to bring cats inside, even if they normally go out at night, because they can become stressed and disorientated if they're caught outside during a fireworks display.

If you have small animals, covering outside cages and pens with blankets so an area is soundproofed and hidden is a good idea. And provide bedding they can burrow into. If you have a cool room where they can be undisturbed it can be good to move the hutch or cage temporarily inside.

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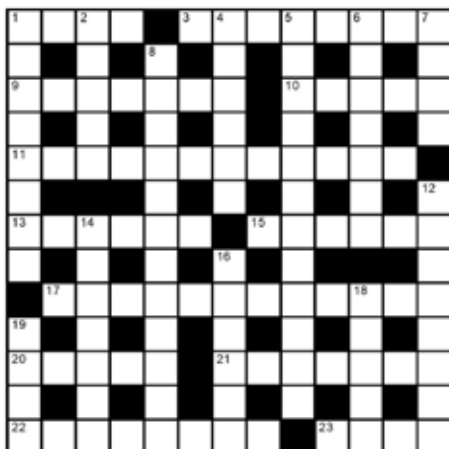
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# crossword



# clues

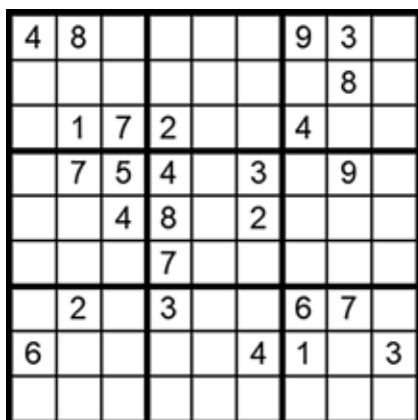
## Across

- 1 Cure, restore (4)
- 3 Despite, notwithstanding (8)
- 9 Theft, burglary (7)
- 10 Lizard with sticky feet! (5)
- 11 Fall heavily (coll.) (4,1,7)
- 13 Bulging belly (6)
- 15 Crackpot, oddball (6)
- 17 Fungal disease of the toes (8,4)
- 20 Hard outer layer (5)
- 21 Unblemished (7)
- 22 Discuss yet again (8)
- 23 Cut (4)

## Down

- 1 Printout (4,4)
- 2 Scrapbook particularly for photos (5)
- 4 Tiers (6)
- 5 Intense strain or tension (4-8)
- 6 Hazy (7)
- 7 An owl's cry (4)
- 8 Does the sums again (12)
- 12 Pace, stride (8)
- 14 Lie (7)
- 16 Necessary, basic (6)
- 18 Large body of water (5)
- 19 Defect, disfigurement (4)

answer on page 33



# 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 33

# Pumpkin Pie Perfect for Halloween



**Preparation time:** 40 minutes

**Cooking time:** 1 hour 40 minutes + chilling time

**Serves:** 8

## Ingredients

750g pumpkin or butternut squash, peeled, deseeded, and cut into chunks  
350g sweet shortcrust pastry (make your own or buy ready-made)  
140g caster sugar  
½ tsp salt  
½ tsp fresh nutmeg, grated  
1 tsp cinnamon  
2 eggs, beaten  
25g butter, melted  
175ml milk  
1 tbsp icing sugar

## Method

Place the chopped pumpkin into a large saucepan, cover with water and bring to the boil. Cover with a lid and simmer for 15 mins or until tender. Drain and allow to cool. The final

colour of your pumpkin filling will depend on the colour of the squash you choose. Some have a more yellow flesh, like butternut squash and others like the winter squash have a much more orange flesh. They will both taste equally good! Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface and use it to line a 22cm loose-bottomed flan tin. Chill for 15 mins. Line the pastry with baking parchment and baking beans, then bake for 15 mins. Remove the beans and parchment, then bake for a further 10 mins until the base is pale golden and biscuity. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly. Increase oven temperature

to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Push the cooled pumpkin through a sieve into a large bowl to make a puree. In a separate bowl, combine the sugar, salt, nutmeg and half the cinnamon. Lightly beat together the eggs, melted butter and milk, then add to the pumpkin purée and mix well. Pour the mixture into the tart shell and bake for 10 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and continue to bake for 35-40 mins until the filling has just set. Remove from the oven and allow to cool before removing the pie from the tin. You can Mix the remaining cinnamon with the icing sugar and dust over the pie or decorate in a suitably spooky style.



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Hobs Moat Medical Centre 0121 742 5211

Solihull Hospital 0121 424 2000

Spire Parkway Hospital 0121 704 1451

Daleswood Health, Solihull 01675 489489

## Council

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

**Sudoku Solution**

from page 27

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | E | A | L | A | L | T | H | O | U | G | H |
| A | L | R | A | I | N | O |   |   |   |   |   |
| R | O | B | B | E | R | Y | G | E | C | K | O |
| D | U | C | E | H | L | T |   |   |   |   |   |
| C | O | M | E | A | C | R | O | P | P | E | R |
| O |   |   | L | S | R | A | F |   |   |   |   |
| P | A | U | N | C | H | W | E | I | R | D | O |
| Y | N | U | S | S |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |
| A | T | H | L | E | T | E | S | F | O | O | T |
| S | R | A |   | A | U | C | S |   |   |   |   |
| C | R | U | S | T |   | P | E | R | F | E | C |
| A | T | E | L | E |   | A | E |   |   |   |   |
| R | E | H | A | S | H | E | D |   | S | N | I |

**crossword Solution**

from page 27

**Solution to Mind benders**

1. Safety in numbers
2. Run for cover
3. Go up in smoke

**mindbenders**

from page 16

# a good read

reviews By Willow Coby

## Ghost Story

by Peter Straub

Although Straub had written a couple of novels before this, this was the book that made his name. It was written in the late seventies, and is an epic creeping horror that has influenced many other writers, including Stephen King. It is set in a small fictional town, where the elderly members of The Chowder Society meet regularly to tell each other spooky stories over a few drinks. The book opens with a seemingly unconnected tale and then the death of one of the group members. Each of the remaining members begins to experience similar, nightmarish, dreams. Contacting the nephew of their dead friend, they find he also has something to contribute to their shared nocturnal visions, forcing them to explore people and events from their collective past—a past they'd much rather forget. The novel, although good in its own right, is also a tribute to ghost stories in general. Straub obviously set out to pay his respects to the genre and there are nods to Nathaniel Hawthorne and M.R James among others. There's a main overarching plot that incorporates a few shorter stories. Straub was clearly having fun, and he includes most of the ingredients for a classic scary story. It's not fast paced but the tension builds nicely, and a real sense of menace develops as Straub draws all the threads together for the climax. It's a must for fans of all things scary. The storytelling is superb and it's definitely good read for Halloween.



## In the Night Kitchen

by Maurice Sendak

Another book from the Seventies, In the Night Kitchen is not as well-known as Sendak's other dreamscape, Where the Wild Things Are, but is every bit as magical, with beautiful illustrations.

The story is a fragmented, comic book romp through a child's dream. A stream-of-consciousness, random, quirky, child's-eye-view of the world, set in a sort of kitchen-cum-cityscape built from giant boxes of baking ingredients. Written in a poetic meter that stretches and contracts with the ebb and flow of the action, it's almost as much fun for an adult to read as for a child to listen. My kids (aged 5 and 3) love it, but I will issue a nudity warning to those parents who may not appreciate some of the illustrations. The little boy Mickey is naked for most of the book, which my three-year-old finds utterly hilarious for some reason. My husband had no problem with the nudity, but he wasn't fond of the Oliver Hardy look-alike bakers, proving that even Sendak can't please everyone. Giant milk bottles, planes made from bread: for me, Sendak is a master storyteller who doesn't talk down to his audience. It's highly stylised and like Where the Wild Things Are it feels slightly of its time, but that doesn't matter; the kids feel a mixture of intrigue, excitement, trepidation, and wonder - it's perfect storytelling.



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