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**GBBO FINALIST 2020  
LAURA ADLINGTON**

# SOLIHULL FOOD & DRINK AND RUM & REGGAE FESTIVAL

**24 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2021**

● **STREET FOOD & BARS** ● **CELEBRITY CHEFS**  
● **LIVE MUSIC**

● **FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT** ● **TASTER TENT** ● **VOUCHER BOOKLET**

## **LIVE MUSIC**

UB40 TRIBUTE,  
**RATS IN THE KITCHEN**,  
MADNESS TRIBUTE  
**BADNESS**,  
**RICKY COOL AND THE**  
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# Autumn is approaching...

Welcome to the September edition...

**It's a busy month with kids going back to school, individuals getting ready for university, and many people returning to work at their offices.**

The roads are going to be busy, the mornings and evenings are going to get darker, but there's still lots to look forward too. Finally, we can all make plans for fun events such as Halloween and Bonfire Night, and can hopefully start planning proper family Christmases once more! There's also lots of fun things going on locally – whether you fancy coffee and cake in Knowle or a Beatles tribute act in Solihull – just check out page 6 for more details.

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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# community events

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## Solihull Food & Drink Festival

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## The Upbeat Beatles

**1 October 7.30pm**

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## Afternoon Tea at Hogarths

**1 October midday until 6pm**

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that truly can't be missed. Experience wonderful treats to indulge your senses - from 'traditional' afternoon tea to cocktails on the terrace, the imaginative menu has something for every taste. Call 01564 779988 to book.

## The Sporting Club: Dinner with David Haye

**8 October 6.45pm**

**Edgbaston Stadium**

Join former world cruiserweight and heavyweight boxing champion of the world, David Haye, to hear his story from humble beginnings to being on top of the sporting world. Enjoy a three course dinner and raise money for the Children's Air Ambulance. Email [support@ticketsource.co.uk](mailto:support@ticketsource.co.uk) for more details.

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Alex Paulowski

I have lived in Solihull all my life and started my estate agency career here at the age of 17. The years of experience have shown me how best to work with my clients whilst making sure it is as stress free as possible. Working with Edwards & Gray has allowed me to give the people of Solihull a personalised service, along with the advice and attention to detail they need in the most important transaction of their lives. If you need any advice please get in touch, I would love to join you on your journey.

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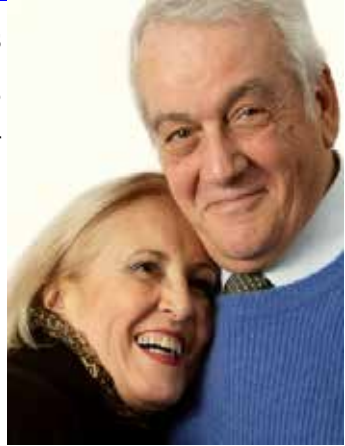
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# Don't Replace It, Repair It!

Last weekend I prepared a nice roast dinner. I seasoned the chicken, popped it in the oven and turned it to the usual temperature. Fans and lights all came on so I left it for a hour to cook. When I returned to check on its progress there was no delicious smell and the chicken still looked a bit anaemic. On closer examination it was completely raw! All the oven dials were set correctly, just no heat.

Now I had to buy a new oven! Or did I?

There couldn't be that much inside an oven to go wrong could there? An oven is basically a heater with a thermostat. Surely there must be someone, who could fix these sorts of things, especially in today's eco friendly, let's not throw things away society. A little research and a Facebook enquiry led me to Pete and his household appliance repair business.

A quick phone call followed I described the problem. He confidently diagnosed a broken heating element. It was going to cost £40 including his callout fees and he'd be over Tuesday. As easy as that.

Tuesday came, as did Pete. Half an hour later the oven was back up and running.

Pete was very happy to chat about the white goods market. Most problems, it transpires, can be fixed quite easily, and at a fraction of the cost of replacing the appliance. Blocked pipes, burnt-out motors, faulty sensors, and objects jamming mechanisms are all common faults. Sometimes the repair isn't as simple, but with a bit of knowledge can still be fixed. For example he'd had a customer lose all the heat in their tumble drier. The heating element was OK, but two capacitors on the circuit board had blown. He was able to replace those (50p each



cost price plus his time!!) and his customer was back to having dry clothes again.

Pete explained that most appliances get replaced well before they need to be. It's very easy to get into the mindset of throwing something out as soon as it stops, especially if you contact the official manufacturer repair service and hear their prices. But as long as the rest of the machine is still in good condition, a small amount spent on some new parts, fitted by a qualified engineer can give you years of extra service.

So the next time your washing machine refuses to empty the water, or your dishwasher fails to clean the crockery, don't start browsing the web for the best deals, give your local version of 'Pete the repair man' a call. He'll save you money, keep your appliance out of the landfill sites and save you the hassle of having to learn how to use a new device. He will also drink an unusually large amount of tea and during a half hour visit. Thanks Pete!



# Time to Choose?

## Where should you go to university?

If you're a student entering Year 13 you may be trying to narrow down your choice of university. It can be quite a task because there are so many. Even

if you know what you want to study - chemical engineering, maths, architecture, medicine, music etc., different universities can have radically different approaches.

Here are some points to consider.

**Course and Contact Hours** - How much tutor contact do you want or need? Do you want a more conventionally academic course, or would you prefer something more practical and hands on?

**Scholarships** - These can be awarded for a variety of reasons: academic excellence, music, and sports are most common. The good news is that you don't have to be studying music, or sports as a subject, just willing to perform on behalf of the university.

**Bursaries** - If you grew up in the care system or come from a background where parental finances are strained, universities may offer a financial incentive for you to attend.

**Modules** - You can usually check course modules online. Do they look interesting? You don't want to end up studying something you hate for a year.

**Placements** - Are there any placements associated with your course? Are they compulsory? Whereabouts in the course do they fall? Are they paid?

**The Student Halls** - Are there halls and are they near the university? Not having to negotiate transport and bus timetables can be a bonus when there are so many other new skills to learn. Student flats can be great, but in the first year when you don't know anyone it can be daunting organising

bill-sharing and rent payments on top of everything else. Consider location; rents in London and the South can be considerably higher than other parts of the UK.

**Societies** - What are you into? Some unis are famous for their theatrical societies, others for their sports facilities, sailing clubs, choral societies, or orchestras. If you have a hobby you are passionate about there will be a university society for you.

**Nightlife** - If you're the nightclub type you might want to make sure you're going somewhere with a good night scene. People assume all universities have this, but some are situated on isolated campuses, and you might need to take this into consideration.

**Local Area** - If you like to get out hill walking at the weekends then London might not be the best choice of city. But if you love art galleries and theatre trips it might be the perfect place. If you love to sail or sea kayak, then you might like to consider universities near the coast. Do you want easy access to a gym? A swimming pool? Dance studio?

### Is your chosen uni where you think it is?

- Think I'm joking? I grew up in Warwick and every year without fail we had lots of people wandering around the castle area asking where Warwick University was. They were always surprised when we said, 'Coventry!'

**How far away from home is it and are there are good transport links?** - If you want to pop home now and then, you might not relish a nine-hour bus ride.

Going to open days is a great idea, to get a first-hand feel of where you could be staying. This year open days should be happening again, so go to a few, and trust your gut.

## Don't forget about your digital legacy

**Hannah Tait**, partner at Shakespeare Martineau in Solihull explains how you can protect your loved ones, should the worst happen.

Kate Garraway hit the headlines earlier this year when her husband became unwell with COVID-19, and she spoke about the difficulties she had accessing joint funds, while he was in hospital.

With most of our valued information, records and assets online, keeping them in the hands of those we trust has never been more important. With the average person holding 70-80 passwords, this raises an important question for us all - how do we manage our digital legacy, especially in the event of ill health?

### Why does digital legacy matter?

We all have a huge amount of digital assets that are expanding on a yearly basis. This could be our Netflix or Amazon accounts, bank accounts, social media profiles, and cryptocurrency accounts such as Bitcoin. If your family aren't aware of your digital legacy, or don't have permission to access them, your loved ones may miss out on crucial assets should you become ill unexpectedly, or lost forever should you pass away.

### Safeguarding your digital legacy

Should you become ill, it's important that loved ones have access to be able to complete transactions or stop payments on your behalf. More crucially, it can help mitigate some of the stress that a loved one may feel if struggling emotionally with your ill health. You can safeguard your digital legacy in four simple steps:

- taking inventory of your digital assets and devices
- securing your passwords
- making decisions about your digital assets
- providing instructions for handling your digital assets.

### Here to help

While at present there are a number of legal 'grey areas' surrounding digital asset legacy planning, working with a lawyer to put in place lasting powers of attorney and a will that dictates how you wish your digital assets to be handled is the best course of action.



**For more information and support call 0121 705 1208**  
email [Hannah.Tait@shma.co.uk](mailto:Hannah.Tait@shma.co.uk) or visit [www.shma.co.uk](http://www.shma.co.uk)

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## Funny Face The Egremont Crab Fair

Several years ago, while in the Lake District we stumbled on the small market town of Egremont. They were preparing for their annual Crab Fair, which I (wrongly) assumed had something to do with the sea creature. A chatty lady in the newsagent explained that every year the townsfolk of Egremont hold the Crab Fair as an annual celebration after harvest time. The first documented fair was in 1267 and has been held continuously since this time, except for the War years...and latterly the total poo-fest that passed for 2020 /21. The Lord of Egremont started the tradition of giving away crab apples, the 'crabs' from which the fair takes its name. It is a traditional fair, with singing, dancing, races, pipe-smoking, and stalls selling cider. We felt as though we'd stumbled into the Shires and Gandalf might appear at any moment. One of the highlights of the day was the celebrated World Gurning Championship.

To 'gurn' means to 'snarl like a dog, look savage, distort the countenance'. Contestants have to pull a grotesque face through a horse collar, known as a braffin. There were many contenders and some intense competition. It was clear even to an outsider that this was seriously competitive stuff.

There are competing stories about how gurning started. The most popular says it originated from the mockery of the village idiot - the townsfolk would throw a horse's collar over him and make him pull funny faces in exchange for pints of ale. My favourite is the one about the drunken farmer, who is said to have arrived home very late one night to find his wife in an 'uncharitable' mood. Apparently he shouted, "stop gurning, woman!" and thrust a horse collar over her head. At this assault her facial expressions and language intensified to the point that the art of 'gurning' was born.

# 3 Trips You Need To Book A Year In Advance

Having a holiday to look forward to is one of the best feelings in the world. Fact.

You download a holiday countdown app, research every restaurant within a 5-mile radius and look at the pictures of the resort every day. By booking in advance, you make the most of the holiday high and to help get you inspired, check out 5 trips you need to book a year in advance and start planning!

## 1. Walt Disney World Resort Orlando

The most magical place on Earth and a trip many spend months if not years planning! For accommodation, you can opt for an all-out Disney stay on one of the on-site hotels such as Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Disney's Beach Club Resort or Disney's All-Star Sports Resort, or if you're wanting a break from the hustle and bustle, choose your very own villa or townhouse, most complete with your own private pool. When it comes to the parks, planning ahead means you save time and money with great offers such as Disney's 14 Day Ultimate Ticket for the price of a 7-day ticket, or a 3-Park Explorer



ticket at Universal Orlando Resort for the price of 2. With 6 fantastic Disney Parks, 2 exciting nighttime entertainment districts and a state-of-the-art sports complex, you're never going to be short of things to do. As you can imagine, a trip to Orlando is one that should be no less than spectacular, so booking early means you can make dreams come true by securing your perfect accommodation before rooms start to book up.

## 2. Great Ocean Road, Australia

Hugging seaside cliffs that snake along the wild and windswept Southern Ocean. The striking vistas along the iconic road evoke awe with craggy cliffs, empty beaches and soaring bluffs flanked by brilliant green countryside. Add epic surf, native wildlife, unforgettable hiking and biking trails and you will find plenty of things to see and do around every corner. Experience the 12 Apostles

Marvel at wildlife wonders Visit a hot spring sanctuary Paddle alongside a platypus A journey along one of the world's most scenic coastal drives needs to go to the top of your bucket list.

## 3. The Great Migration in Kenya

Kenya is the epitome of African adventure; from fascinating culture, the Big Five, The Great Migration and bustling metropolitan cities, Kenya should be enjoyed thoroughly. The Great Migration sees thousands of wildebeest, gazelle and zebras take their legendary 1,800-mile trek which usually starts around July/August. This already means this trip is time-sensitive and not something you can witness all year round. Nowhere in the world is a natural occurrence more immense than The Great Migration, so this kind of trip can't be left last-minute.

---

### Sabina Clay

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# In Season

## Why we have seasons

September 22nd marks the Autumn Equinox. It's the end of summer and the start of a new season. But what is a season? We all instinctively know the difference between summer and winter but who decides when they start and end? Are there official dates? Well actually yes.

A season is defined as a period of the year distinguished by special climate conditions. The four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter each have their own light, temperature, and weather patterns that repeat yearly.

In the UK the winter solstice generally begins on December 21 or 22. This is the day of the year with the shortest period of daylight. Summer begins on June 20 or 21, the summer solstice, the day which has the most daylight of any day in the year. Spring and autumn, begin on days that have equal amounts of daylight and darkness. The vernal, or spring, equinox falls on March 20 or 21, which brings us back to autumn which starts at the end of the month. The seasons of the Northern Hemisphere are the opposite of those in the Southern Hemisphere, which is why in Australia, summer begins in December, winter begins in June and Christmas lunch is served on the beach!

Our seasons occur because Earth is tilted on its axis relative to the orbital plane, the invisible, flat disc where most objects in the solar system orbit the sun. Earth revolves on its axis, which is an invisible line that runs through its centre, from pole to pole.

In June, when our Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the sun, the sun's rays hit it for more of the day than in winter, which means we receive more hours of daylight. In December, when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun, there are fewer hours of daylight.



But our four-season year is not experienced all over the globe. Four seasons only occur in the mid-latitudes, which are places that are not too near the poles or Equator. The further north (or south) you go within these mid-latitudes, the bigger the differences in the seasons. For example, Helsinki in Finland sees a full 18.5 hours of daylight in the middle of June whereas in mid-December it barely gets 6 hours. Athens in Greece however in the far south of Europe, has a smaller variation, with 14.5 hours of daylight in June and 9.5 hours in December.

Places near the Equator experience little seasonal variation and receive the same amount of daylight and darkness throughout the whole year. These places remain warm year-round and typically have just two seasons, a rainy season, and a dry one.

Polar regions do experience seasonal variation, although they are obviously colder than most other places on the planet. Near the poles, the amount of daylight changes dramatically between summer and winter. In Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost city in the U.S., it stays light all day long between mid-May and early August, while in winter the city is in total darkness.

I love the fact we have four seasons in the UK but just a small change in global temperature could cause the seasons to shift or become more extreme. We can't take our wonderful seasons for granted.



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# Prepare for next spring

September is the time to plan your spring bulb purchases. The best selections always sell out quickly and it's frustrating when the prettiest crocuses and tulips are not available.

If you're planting bulbs for the first time, or in a new area of the garden it helps to have a colour scheme in mind. In a boy-dominated house (three sons and a husband) I like to give some areas of my garden a more girly theme. Tulips are great for this purpose (and are some of my favourite flowers). Try 'La Belle Epoque', which is a frothy peony-flowered tulip with pale coffee petals flushed with pink. I would contrast the texture of its showier blooms with another more traditional tulip, 'Pink Diamond' or 'Apricot Beauty'. If you'd prefer less 'pretty' and more drama try the almost-black 'Paul Scherer', which should flower in late April or early May and makes a good foil to the aforementioned 'Apricot Beauty', which flowers at the same time.

I garden on quite dry limey soil, and I've mentioned before my love affair with Bath Chatto's planting schemes. Sadly, she died in 2018 but her gardens and trust continue and are well worth a visit. This year on their recommendation I'm trying *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*, known poetically as the spiked star of Bethlehem, and more prosaically as Bath asparagus.. It has subtle, green flowers

and grows to 50-60cm tall. It pairs well with silver-leaved plants like *Stachys*, which grows like a weed in my garden, and best of all, once established you can harvest it like asparagus.

I like to plant up a few pots this month, for some late autumn and winter colour. I favour Rust-toned heucheras, paired with miniature grasses such as *Carex buchananii*; Oxblood-coloured ajuga, silver-leaved thymes and small-leaved trailing ivies make great combinations too.

I have sempervivums shoved in crevices all over my garden. They are incredibly hardy and will survive all manner of frost and poor weather. We have a lovely sheltered sunny patio with a small table and chairs which is lovely to sit out on even in the winter. A few years ago, I started planting up shallow terracotta trays and a couple of old tin bowls with differing varieties of house leek. I mix one-part horticultural grit to one part peat-free multipurpose compost for the planting mix, and make sure any container has lots of drainage. Handy tip - top dress with grit or stones if you don't want the birds to start digging around scattering your planting mix and unearthing your plants! I learned the hard way! These little flat planting bowls make a lovely table display and also make wonderful birthday and...erm...Christmas gifts.

Happy planning.



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# Towards the Light

## The history of the famous Blackpool Illumination

**B**lackpool's evolution into a popular seaside resort began in the 18th century, when sea air was widely regarded as having health-giving properties, and it became fashionable to take holidays at the coast.

In 1781, a road was built that allowed visitors to travel from Manchester to Blackpool by stagecoach, which opened up the seaside town to people from the nearby mill towns of Lancashire, but there was little in the way of entertainment aside from a grass-covered promenade, a bowling green, and a theatre.

When the railway line arrived in town in 1846, Talbot Road Station (now called Blackpool North) was built, and holiday makers arrived in their thousands during the 'Wakes Weeks', when mills and factories were closed so the machinery could be serviced.

In 1863, the North Pier was opened to the public, followed by the Central Pier and Victoria Pier. A large amusement park was built, which eventually became the Pleasure Beach. In 1878, the Winter Gardens were opened, providing indoor entertainment during poor weather.

Until 1879 the streets were lit by gas light but in that year the Council devoted the sum of £5000 (around £600000 in today's money) to experiment with the concept of electric street lighting. On the September 19th in 8 dynamo-electric machines powered by 16 Robey engines were used to power 8 arc lamps on the promenade which emitted the equivalent of 48,000 candles of light in total. Between 70,000 and 100,000 visitors travelled from all over Britain to witness the event, which had been widely reported in the press! The light generated was called

"artificial sunshine" and they were most likely the first electric streetlights in the world.

In 1912, to mark the first Royal visit to Blackpool a new section of the promenade was opened, called the Princess Parade. It was decorated garlands of 10,000 electric light bulbs. They were so impressive and popular that they were staged again in September of that year and the following year. Unfortunately, the outbreak of the First World War meant they weren't staged again until 1925. They gradually became more ambitious, including animated attractions, until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 once again halted the event. Even after the war restrictions on the use of fuel and decorative lighting meant that the illuminations did not reappear until 1949.

Since then, they have been staged every year in the same format. They are switched on at the beginning of September and run for 66 nights. Curiously until 2020 they had never extended into the Christmas period. But last year, in a morale-raising move they ran through till the start of January. It was the first time that the resort was unable to hold a live Switch-On celebration. Instead, a virtual celebration was staged on Friday 4th September. The lights were switched on jointly by local heroes, including a consultant, two nurses, a hospital catering manager, two fundraisers, and a therapy dog and his owner. Each carried an illuminated strip that was attached to the main switch so that they could all play a part in Blackpool's first ever socially distanced Switch-On. In 2021 the illuminations will again run through until January to help boost the local tourist economy.

It's big, brash, and totally British, and the Blackpool illuminations should be seen by everyone at least once.

# Ouch!

## A guide to ear-piercing

**Vertical lobe** - If you have space for two earrings on your lobe, you could try a vertical lobe piercing, where two studs are stacked on top of each other.

**Upper lobe** - This position, where the main lobe narrows into the outer curve, is ideal for small, intricate piercings.

**Helix** - A helix piercing typically sits at the top of your ear cartilage. There's plenty of room in this area, so double and triple helix piercings are quite common.

**Forward Helix** - A forward helix sits on the inner and top half of your ear cartilage, a couple of inches in and down from the temple. It can be a single stud or ring, as well as a series of piercings.

**Conch** - A conch piercing refers to the middle section of the ear. An inner conch is when a

stud is punctured right through the middle, and nestles in the inner curve, and an outer conch is where a hoop will start in the middle but hugs the outer edge of your ear. This is a little more painful than the other piercings mentioned so far.

**Industrial / Scaffold** - An industrial piercing requires two holes, both in the outer cartilage. They're usually punctured diagonally opposite each other (but the angle is up to you) and linked together with a barbell. This is a little more painful again.

**Daith** - A daith piercing sits through the most inner part of the ear's cartilage. Some people find this piercing offers them relief from severe migraines.

**Rook** - Just above the daith sits a ridge, which is referred to as a rook.

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# Bike to School Week

27th Sept – 1st Oct

**B**ike to School Week takes place from 27th September to 1st October 2021. It encourage families to cycle and scoot to school.

Cycling is second only to swimming as a low impact activity that offers full-body workout. When your child is cycling, almost all of their major muscle group gets into action. Even though riding a bike primarily depends on the muscles on the lower body, the muscles on the upper body are also engaged.

Children who cycle regularly have improved cardiovascular fitness. They have stronger bones, better joint mobility, and tend to be more flexible. Cycling also improves

postural balance and co-ordination.

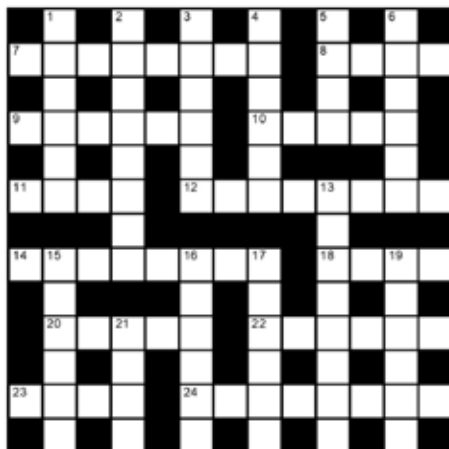
Being outside exposes them to more vitamin D, which is good for the immune system...just make sure they wear sunscreen if the weather is fine.

The combination of exercise and light reduces stress, depression, and anxiety, while improving brain development, mental well-being,.

Most importantly, children who are active while growing up, are more likely to become active healthy adults. So, get your kids cycling to school and start a good habit that will last a (healthy) lifetime.



## crossword



## clues

### Across

- 7 Fakes, falsifies (8)
- 8 Bar joining two wheels (4)
- 9 Type of breakfast cereal (6)
- 10 Picture (5)
- 11 The round before the final (4)
- 12 Interloper, stranger (8)
- 14 Jam-filled bun (8)
- 18 Greasy film on water (4)
- 20 Shroud (5)
- 22 Build again (6)
- 23 Layer (4)
- 24 Personal views (8)

### Down

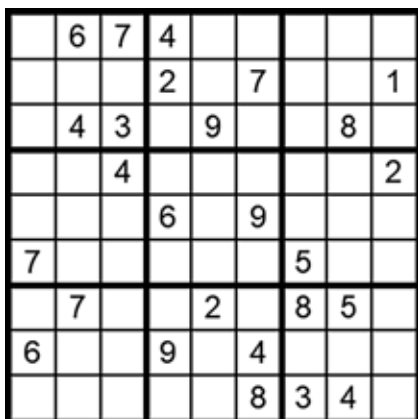
- 1 Excite, entice (6)
- 2 Hoarding (8)
- 3 Deep violet blue (6)
- 4 Help (6)
- 5 Molten fluid rock (4)
- 6 Accuse, assert (6)
- 13 Sleeplessness (8)
- 15 Rare, intricate flower (6)
- 16 Of little breadth (6)
- 17 Root vegetable (6)
- 19 Cruel (6)
- 21 Diversify, change (4)

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

# Banana Upside Down Cake



**Preparation time:** 25 minutes

**Cooking time:** 45 minutes

## Ingredients

For Banana Topping

120 g brown sugar

60 g butter

1.5 tbsp golden syrup

3 bananas sliced

For the Cake

2 ripe bananas

2 tbsp yoghurt

90 g butter at room

temperature

180 g caster sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

2 eggs

180 g self-raising flour

$\frac{1}{2}$  tsp cinnamon

$\frac{1}{4}$  tsp nutmeg

## Method

Preheat the oven to 180C.

Line a 20 x 20cm square baking tin or a 23cm round tin with baking parchment. It's best not

to use a loose-bottomed tin but if you do fold the parchment so it goes up the sides of the tin too. Otherwise, the caramel will leak out into the oven!

To make the topping, place the sugar, butter, and golden syrup into a small heavy-bottomed saucepan. Heat until all the sugar and butter have melted. Stir gently and pour into the tin, tilting the tin backwards and forwards so the layer of caramel completely covers the bottom. Slice the bananas into pieces about 2cm thick. Place them in the caramel.

For the cake, mash the bananas with a fork then mix into the yogurt. Set aside.

Place the butter and sugar into a large mixing bowl. Whisk till pale and fluffy.

Add the vanilla extract and eggs, one at a time, whisking after each one. Sift the flour and spices together and gradually fold into the mixing bowl. Then fold in the banana and yoghurt mixture. Spoon the batter into the cake tin on top of the caramel and bananas.

Bake at 180C for about 45 minutes. Test with a skewer to see if it's cooked. If necessary bake for a little longer. When ready, remove the cake from the oven and let it stand for a couple of minutes. Then place a plate on top of the tin and turn it over to remove the cake. Serve warm with cream, custard, or ice cream.





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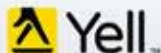
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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4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

**Sudoku Solution**

from page 27

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

**crossword Solution**

from page 27

**Solution to Mind benders**

1. Feeling on top of the world
2. The first cut is the deepest
3. Small talk

**mindbenders**

from page 16



# a good read

reviews By Willow Coby

## Love, Sex, Death and Words

by John Sutherland and Stephen Fender

Sometimes it can feel like the shelves of the local bookshop are planning your life out for you, with their collections of 1001 Places to Go/Films to See/Things to do Before You Die/Turn 40/Lose the Will to Live.... Such collections vary in quality too – some are weighty coffee table tomes, beautifully illustrated, which reward random opening and selection, whereas others have a distinct sense of being ‘thrown together’ for a key shopping moment in the crowded calendar. Well, if you have a book buff among your acquaintances, here is a collection with a difference. Sutherland and Fender have used the days of the year as their format, and each day contains a mini essay concerning a literary event from history. Some are uproariously funny anecdotes, some are well-known tales of foolishness or excessiveness which stand up well to a second/third/tenth telling, and some are serious musings on life and literature – in other words Love, Sex, Death and Words. So, in a typical month, you might go from Peter Pan to TS Eliot, or from Francis Bacon to Harry Potter. The day-by-day format suggests that the authors intended this to be a book ‘dipped in to’ on any given day. However, the quality and variety is such that it can be read all at once should you so wish – I did and passed an enormously entertaining train journey rattling straight through from January to June. Not just for avid readers, but for anyone interested in life and literature, this is an excellent bedside or holiday companion – funny, entertaining, and educational. Be warned though – one thing leads to another, and you will soon find yourself putting many of the authors who feature here on your wish list..



## The Queen's Knickers

Nicholas Allan

Ever wondered why the Queen's Christmas Speech is so short? It's the holly on her knickers. But they are not her most impressive pair – well, not compared to the special parachute-equipped pants that she wears for transatlantic flights, or the ones that inflate into a rubber dinghy... Confused? Don't worry, Nicholas Allan explains it all in this gloriously mad and ever-so-slightly-rude fantasy tale about the Queen's underwear choices. The text may be deadpan, but the illustrations show just how much fun the writer is having dreaming up all kinds of different knicker varieties. It's contagious – by the end, you too will be pondering what else the Queen (and her loyal servant Dilys) should have packed in the special pants trunk. Since it was published back in the year 2000 The Queen's Knickers has become a modern classic. Go on, take a peek!



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