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Visit www.hellosolihull.co.uk
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Hatton

Christmas Shopping as it Should Be

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Admission

Late Night Shopping & Christmas Lights Switch-On



Saturday 13th December

Join us for an evening filled with festive cheer as our wonderful independent shops & Christmas Markets stay open until 8pm. Welcome Father Christmas to switch on the Christmas lights and enjoy Christmas Carol Singers with Roasted Chestnuts & Mulled Wine. This is Christmas Shopping as it Should Be.



Discover the Magic of Christmas in our Charming Rural Shopping Village

Step back in time and explore the nooks and crannies of our beautifully restored Victorian farm buildings, twinkling with festive lights and brimming with Christmas spirit.

Discover a treasure trove of independent shops offering gifts you simply won't find on the high street, from ladies' fashion, seasonal homeware, handmade jewellery and more.

Find something truly Unusual, Unique, and Boutique this Christmas.



Christmas Markets

Markets are back at Hatton and feeling festive!

Join us to soak up the festive atmosphere every weekend from Nov 29th to Dec 21st & then every day from 22nd to 24th Dec.



Christmas Shop

British Garden Centre's Christmas Shop returns to Hatton this year, packed to the rafters with everything you need to transform your home into a magical festive setting.

Garden Centre & Shopping Village

Hatton Country World, Hatton, CV35 8XA
Hattonworld.com



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sales@solihullcladdingandroofingltd.co.uk

Festive mood?

Welcome to the November edition...

By the time this arrives Christmas will only be about 6 weeks away! Check out page 6 to see what local events are coming up to get you in the festive mood.

You've just about got time to make any last-minute changes to your home in time for Christmas so remember to support local businesses as they really value their customers – we have a great collection of local tradespeople and businesses who are local and are looking for your custom.

Here's hoping the pre-Christmas build up isn't too hectic and that you find the time to relax, maybe over a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

Zoe Reece

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Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

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community events

Good Food Show Winter

27-30 November
NEC

Join top chefs and experts live including Michel Roux, James Martin, Si King, Jane Dunn of Jane's Patisserie and many more cooking their very best seasonal recipe live, bursting with inspiration. Explore and shop from hundreds of artisan producers and big brands perfect for your Christmas shopping lists. Tickets: www.thenec.co.uk

Knowle Christmas Light Switch-On

27 November, from 4pm

As usual, the evening kicks off with music from around 4pm, before Santa and Knowle Parish Church lead the countdown to the grand



lights switch-on! Always a favourite event of the village, come along and join in the countdown. Knowle's independent shops are opening their doors late, ready for you to browse, shop, and find plenty of Christmas inspiration.

Boogaloo Party

30 November, 4-7pm

Land Rover Sports & Social Club

Who says you can only party at night? Come and dance away the winter blues! An afternoon of music, fun & friends. Tickets are £12, to book please email boogaloobabes@gmail.com or call 07984 270317.

Christmas Fair

29 November, 10am - 1pm

Knowle Village Hall

As well as the Grand Raffle there will be gifts and cards, craft stalls, baked goodies, competitions, and lots



more, including seasonal refreshments. Why not come along and join in? This is a K.V.H.A refurbishment fundraising event.

Aladdin – Pantomime

6 December - 4 January

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Houseplants to help reduce condensation

Condensation is a familiar issue in many of our homes at this time of year.

When warm, moist air meets cooler surfaces like windows and walls, it condenses into water droplets, which can encourage damp and mould growth. While good ventilation and insulation are the best long-term fixes, those of us with green fingers can also use houseplants to help reduce and regulate humidity.

Certain houseplants naturally absorb moisture from the air through their leaves, helping to keep rooms drier and fresher. Here are some of my favourites.

Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*)

Peace lilies are one of the most effective plants for reducing humidity. Their broad leaves absorb water vapour, and they also filter airborne toxins, improving indoor air quality. They thrive in shady corners, making them ideal for bathrooms or north-facing rooms where condensation is most common.

Boston Fern

(*Nephrolepis exaltata*)

A popular Victorian houseplant, this pretty fern loves humid conditions and will



happily soak up moisture from the air. Place it in a hanging basket near a window prone to condensation. Regular misting and indirect light will keep it looking lush.

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

English ivy is great at reducing airborne mould spores as well as moisture levels. It's a good choice for kitchens and bathrooms, where condensation can quickly turn into mould growth. Let it trail from a high shelf or windowsill for maximum effect.

Spider Plant

(*Chlorophytum comosum*)

Spider plants are hard to kill (even my teenage son can keep them alive!). They are low-maintenance, and excellent at drawing in moisture. They also tolerate a wide range of temperatures, which is perfect for those of us with a draughty home. They are also incredibly easy to propagate because they throw out stems bearing

baby plants called rather adorably, spiderettes.

Areca Palm

(*Dypsis lutescens*)

Also known as the butterfly palm, this tall, graceful plant works as a natural humidifier - absorbing and releasing water vapour in a way that balances indoor humidity. It is particularly effective in living rooms and conservatories.

Tips for Success

- Position moisture-loving plants in areas where condensation is worst, such as near bathroom windows, kitchen sinks, or cold external walls.
- Avoid overwatering, as soggy soil can add more moisture to the room. Instead, let the plants do the work by drawing water from the air.
- Combine plants with practical measures like opening trickle vents, using extractor fans, and wiping down wet windows.

While houseplants alone won't eliminate condensation, the plants above can certainly help regulate moisture levels and improve air quality, while bringing greenery and life to our home, which is a welcome bonus on gloomy winter days.

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a good read

By Natasha Donovan

The Bright and Breaking Sea by **Chloe Neill**

This novel is a swashbuckling fantasy adventure set in a magic-infused, alternate Napoleonic era. Captain Kit Brightling, a foundling raised in a home for gifted girls, has risen through the ranks to command her own ship in Queen Charlotte's fleet. Blessed with an innate connection to the sea, Kit is both a skilled sailor and a formidable force in the Isles' Crown Command. When a spy carrying intelligence on the exiled emperor of Gallia is captured, Kit is tasked with a perilous rescue mission. To her chagrin, she must partner with Rian Grant, Viscount Queenscliffe - a war-hardened nobleman, whose aristocratic roots clash with Kit's pragmatic seafaring ways. Together, they navigate treacherous waters, confront cunning pirates, and unravel a conspiracy that threatens the fragile peace of their realm. Neill blends high-seas adventure with political intrigue and a touch of slow-burn romance. The dynamic between Kit and Rian evolves from mutual distrust to a compelling partnership, set against a backdrop of naval battles and magical undercurrents. Fans of historical fantasy and strong female protagonists will find much to admire in Kit's courage and wit.



The Night Pirates by **Peter Harris,** illustrated by **Deborah Allwright**

Young Tom is stirred from sleep by mysterious noises outside his home. Peering out, he discovers a band of bold girl pirates stealthily removing the front of his house to disguise their ship! Eager for adventure, Tom joins the spirited crew as they set sail across the high seas. Their mission: to outwit a group of bumbling adult pirates and claim their treasure. Using clever tactics and teamwork, the girl pirates and Tom surprise the grown-up buccaneers, proving that courage and ingenuity aren't limited by age or gender. This swashbuckling tale combines playful rhymes and dynamic illustrations, creating an engaging story that challenges traditional pirate stereotypes. Perfect for young readers, *The Night Pirates* is a delightful bedtime adventure that celebrates bravery, friendship, and the joy of unexpected journeys.





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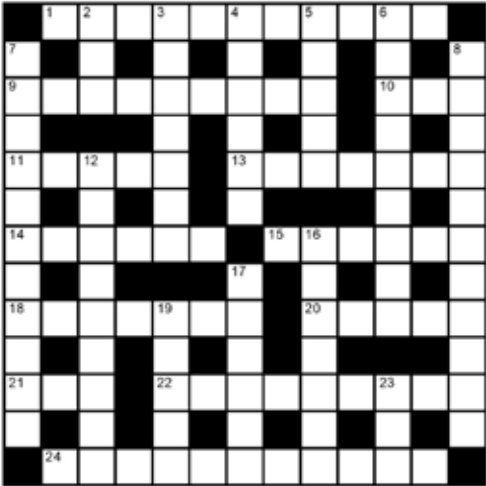
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crossword



clues

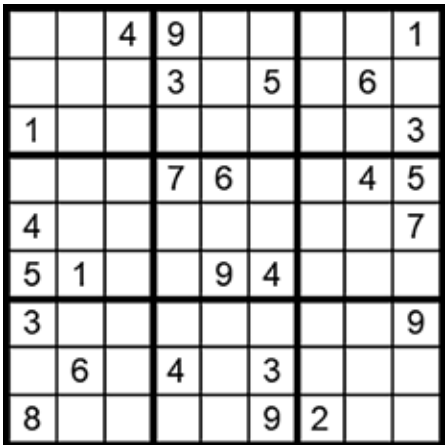
Across

- 1 Said by a magician (11)
- 9 Postmortems (9)
- 10 Sound from a sheep (3)
- 11 Alternative (5)
- 13 Nonconformist, hippie (7)
- 14 Young child (6)
- 15 Reward, settlement (6)
- 18 Regular oval shape (7)
- 20 Russian spirit (5)
- 21 Munch, scoff (3)
- 22 With sore, open wounds (9)
- 24 Use of medication to prevent pain sensation (11)

Down

- 2 Autonomous computer programme (3)
- 3 Painkiller and blood thinner (7)
- 4 With hands on hips (6)
- 5 Bewildered (2,3)
- 6 Had a band of merry men (5,4)
- 7 Instrument used to measure thermal change during a chemical reaction. (11)
- 8 Deck (4,2,5)
- 12 La-di-da, pompous (9)
- 16 Detrimental (7)
- 17 A three-line verse of poetry (6)
- 19 Wait, delay (5)
- 23 French for 'you' (3)

answer on page 14



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 14

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Solihull Police Station: 0845 113 5000 or 101

Misc

Solihull Council

0121 704 8001

Health

NHS non-emergency

111

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0121 424 2000

Spire Parkway Hospital

0121 704 1451

Grove Surgery

0121 705 1105

Northbrook Group Practice

0121 746 5000

Hobs Moat Medical Centre

0121 742 5211

Daleswood Health

01675 489489

Utilities

Electricity power cut

105

Gas leak

0800 111 999

Severn Trent Water

0300 034 2222

Severn Trent Water (emergencies)

0800 783 4444

Travel

National Rail Enquiries

03457 484950

Network West Midlands (buses)

0345 303 6760

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 Saturday of every month, 10am – 12 noon, excluding bank holidays, for both Silhill and St Alphege residents.



Crossword Solution
from page 14



Sudoku Solution
from page 14

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