the shirley index

a community magazine and business directory for residents of shirley



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Summertime!

Welcome to the July edition

At the time of writing this the sky is distinctly overcast but here's hoping by the time this reaches you we are firmly in Summertime!

After all, there's loads of great places to visit in the local area, which are so much more enjoyable if the sun's shining. If you want some inspiration on what's on in the area, then head to page 6 where you can find out about fun runs and doggy brunches.

Wishing you a great month ahead. Until next month,

Zol

Zoe Reece Tel: 07557 220585

Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

www.shirleyindex.com







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*£100 discount is based on £50 off a fire and £50 off a fireplace - both must be bought to quality for the £100 discount. Offer ends 31 May 2020.

community events



The Motown Divas Party with The Dreamettes

28th July, Nailcote Hall, Berkswell

A Stunning Trio of Ladies in full Motown Glamour Singing and Dancing to original choreographed routines.
Guaranteed to fill the dance floor with all your favourite Motown hits including The Supremes, Martha and The Vandellas, Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin. Tickets from www.nailcotehall.co.uk

Doggy Brunch

29th July, The Limes, Earlswood, Solihull

CALLING ALL DOG OWNERS. Put Saturday 29th July 2023 in your diary 11am - 2pm. The Limes first DOGGY BRUNCH is coming and you cannot miss out! They will have the pawsecco flowing and the doggy beer on draught - Dogs eat free with every Brunch paying human! TICKETS are FREE but please register at eventbrite.com

Now That's What I Call 90s

4th August, The Lake at
Barston, Barston, Solihull
90s BANGERS – Dance
classics meet pop anthems
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desire, What is Love?, I love
you baby, No Limits, Let me
be your fantasy plus, Keep
on Moving, Cotton Eye Joe,
Venga party, Mysterious Girl
etc. Tickets start from £27 and
include a 3 course Meal: see

Ricky Gervais

4th September, Utilita Arena Birmingham The one and only Ricky
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live show Armageddon
to Birmingham! Gervais is
an award-winning standup comedian, with six
international tours to date.
His live stand up show
'Fame' became the fastest
selling UK stand-up show in
history. Tickets from www.
utilitagrenabham.co.uk/

Balsall Common Fun Run

17th September

This local community fundraising event, now in in its ninth year, is organised by local charity The Lily Mae Foundation, to enable participants to run in support of local and national charities and good causes. There are Mini Runs for nursery and primary aged children, 5K runs for Juniors and Families, and 5K and 10K Runs for Adults. To book your place please visit: www. stuweb.co.uk/event/4258



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(Chris Mundell)



COMPETITION



Win 2 tickets to Henry's Blueshouse, The Melvin Hancox Band



If you like your blues/rock played with more psychedelic experience and imagination than most, The Melvin Hancox Band should not be missed. Melvin has had material played on the BBC, on Rick Wakeman's Planet Rock Show, and has appeared on live sessions on mainstream national radio. Through various permutations he has worked with Ray Phillips, Savoy Brown, Canned Heat, Kex Gorin: Magnum's Mick Bonham (yes related) and Ace Kefford, whilst going on to write, produce and release six highly original albums fronting his own trio as well as solo offerings.

How to enter

For your chance to win, email zoe@dorridgedirectory.com with the subject line Melvin and you will be added to our database to receive our monthly e-newsletter about offers and events in Solihull. The winners will be notified by email after the closing date of 10 August 2023. There is no cash value nor exchanges for the prizes.

A Delightfully Quirky Affair

Pack up a hamper, it's National Picnic Month!

h, the British picnic! That delightful tradition combinina outdoor dining with unpredictable weather. and an assortment of eccentricities. The main inaredients for a truly traditional British picnic are, a dash of optimism, a splash of stoicism, a sprinkling of humour and a tiny pinch of disappointment. First and foremost, there is the weather dance. No discussion about picnics in our green and pleasant land would be complete without someone looking upwards dubiously, sucking their cheeks in, and savina, 'Looks like rain,' As a nation we have mastered the art of packing for all four seasons in a single picnic basket. From swelterina sun to sudden showers, we have evolved into experts at adaptive picnic planning. If there was an 'official British Picnic checklist' it would include sunscreen, insect repellent, a thick sweater an umbrella and a pac-a-mac! Every Brit is born knowing exactly what a picnic should look like: a wicker hamper, a checked picnic blanket,

and an array of finaer foods including dainty cucumber sandwiches, iced buns and freshly baked scones with clotted cream and jam, all washed down with ainaer beer. This is because Enid Blyton and her Famous Five have somehow entered our collective subconscious, but we have been cruelly lied to. In reality it's usually slightly curled ham and cheese sandwiches dispensed from a Tupperware tub along with a packet of crisps, some soaav custard creams, and lukewarm orange sauash or (equally lukewarm) wine for the grown-ups. Games are compulsory at a British picnic, People whose idea of exercise for the rest of the vear is aettina up from the sofa to answer the front door, suddenly aet all competitive and suggest a game of rounders, or croquet, or French cricket! This auickly descends into arguments about who is on which team, who aets (or shouldn't aet) Grandma, and whether there should be second chances at hitting a ball. But it's all about the friendly competition and the odd black eve is just part of the fun. But us Brits know that all the shenaniaans is just a warmup for the main event. As the afternoon rolls on, the time nears for the one British tradition everyone looks forward to, Pimms o'clock, This refreshing cocktail, filled with fruits, herbs, and a splash of gin, is the quintessential picnic libation. As the glasses clink and laughter fills the air, the true spirit of the British picnic finally comes alive. It's a time to relax, enjoy the company of friends and loved ones. and revel in the iov of this whimsical outdoor affair.



Czech Bubble Cake



Its real name is bublanina and it is a traditional Czech cake, perfect for a summer afternoon tea.

Ingredients

240 ml double cream
3 eggs at room temperature
260g plain flour
200g caster sugar
1 tsp baking powder
zest of 1 lemon,
finely chopped.
400g fresh cherries
leing sugar for dusting

Requires a 9 x 13-inch (23 x 33cm) traybake tin.

Method

Preheat the oven to 170°C / 150°C Fan / Gas mark 3. Wash the cherries to remove any remaining dirt, then stone them. Leave in a colander or sieve to drain. Grease the baking tin

and dust with flour.
Break the eggs into a large bowl then beat them using a food mixer or hand mixer until they are foamy.

Gradually add the caster sugar while increasing the speed. It takes about five minutes to produce a voluminous silky mixture. Reduce the mixer speed to its slowest setting and sift in the flour and bakina powder as you mix, then add the cream, mixing slowly all the time. Finally, add the lemon zest. Pour the batter into the prepared bakina tin. The batter is thick, which helps to stop the fruit from sinking. Sprinkle the drained cherries over the top. Place the bublanina into the preheated oven and bake for about 30-40 minutes, until the surface turns golden brown. Allow to cool, then dust with icing sugar before slicing into squares. You can substitute most summer fruits for the cherries, including strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries.

NOTE - Don't be tempted to substitute the double cream for a 'light' version though. There is no other fat in the cake so the fat content of the cream is important (it should be at least 30%)

Summer Tech!

Take pizza to the next level

If you want to be the host with the most this summer I have two recommendations for you.

First up is the Ooni Karu 12, a multi-fuel outdoor pizza oven. This portable pizza oven, which can be fired by wood or gas was the hit of our summer last year. We used ours for a backyard birthday, two camping trips, at the beach and random summer Saturdays. The pizzas are delicious with an authentic stone-baked taste, while the fact its multi-fuel provides flexibility and convenience.

.

It had surprisingly high heat retention for its size and price which resulted in perfectly crispy crusts and delectably melted toppings. It definitely made us feel like accomplished hosts, and everyone enjoyed topping their own pizzas. Highly recommended.

Next I want to give a shout out to the Ninja CREAMi Ice Cream & Frozen Dessert Maker. I was gifted one for my birthday by my husband who knows I am an ice-cream-aholic. It's not cheap at nearly £200 but when you consider that a small tub of Ben and Jerry's is now

around £5 it will pay for itself in 20 weeks at one tub a week... and we are definitely more than a one tub a week family!

NOTE I am not affiliated with either company. These are my own recommendations.





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a good read By Natasha Donovan

Tangerine

by Christine Mangan

Tangerine is a gripping psychological thriller set in the 1950s that follows the tumultuous friendship between two women, Alice Shipley and Lucy Mason, and the dark secrets that bind them.



Alice Shipley is a fragile
and reclusive young woman
who resides in Tangier, Morocco, with her
husband, John. She is haunted by a tragic
incident from her college days. One day
she receives an unexpected visit from Lucy
Mason, her former roommate and estranged
friend, whom she hasn't seen in over a year.

Lucy's arrival triggers a series of unsettling events. Alice is plunged into a state of paranoia and uncertainty over her visitor's ambiguous intentions and begins to question Lucy's motives. As the narrative unfolds, it becomes clear that both Alice and Lucy are harbouring secrets and that their past is deeply intertwined.

When something momentous happens under suspicious circumstances, tensions escalate and Alice must confront the truth about her past, the nature of her friendship with Lucy, and the true identity of the people around her.

Mangan skilful storytelling delves into themes of obsession, identity, and betrayal. The intense atmosphere of Tangier serves as a backdrop for the complex relationship between Alice and Lucy. A gripping cat-and-mouse game unfolds, with high stakes, and a shocking revelation.

Tangerine is a gripping and atmospheric thriller that explores the dark corners of friendship and the consequences of deceit.

The Buried Crown by Ally Sherrick

The year is 1940, and George Penny is evacuated from London to live with his Aunt May in the countryside. While exploring the nearby ruins of an old castle, George discovers a hidden underground chamber. Inside, he stumbles upon a medieval crown



that belonged to King Alfred the Great, the legendary English king.

But George soon realizes that the crown is more than just a relic. It is rumoured to possess mystical powers and is sought after by a group of sinister individuals, known as the Skull brothers, who are determined to use it for their own nefarious purposes.

With the help of a brave and resourceful girl named Kitty, George embarks on a dangerous quest to keep the crown safe from the Skull brothers. Along the way, they encounter secret codes, ancient riddles, and unexpected allies. Their journey takes them across the English countryside, from hidden tunnels to perilous cliffs, as they race against time to protect the crown and prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

As George and Kitty unravel the secrets surrounding the crown, they uncover a deeper connection to King Alfred and his legacy. The fate of the crown becomes intertwined with their own personal journeys of courage, friendship, and discovering the true meaning of heroism. Sherrick's fast-paced prose writing will keep her young readers on the edge of their seats.

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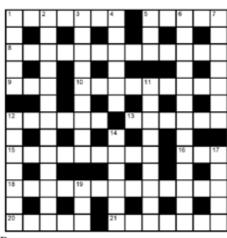
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crossword



clues

Across

- 1 Refuse Collector (7)
- 5 Brown ink (5)
- 8 Destructive fire, blaze (13)
- 9 Hand tool (3)
- 10 Church state (9)
- 12 Speeding, competing (6)
- 13 Diverse (6)
- 15 Freak out, lose it (2,7)
- 16 Social insect (3)
- 18 Condition caused by toxic paint and dust (4,9)
- 20 Inspection, investigation (5)
- 21 Conference, discussion (7)

Down

- Aquatic birds (5)
- 2 Advertising worn by a person (8,5)
- Hormone produced at night (9)
- 4 Small lump of gold (6)
- 5 Ocean (3)
- 6 Transferring from public ownership (13)
- 7 Bothered, miffed (7)
- 11 Lecture hall (9)
- 12 Finery (7)
- 14 Hijinks (6)
- 17 Big cat (5)
- 19 Place somewhere (3)

answer on page 18

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

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Sudoku is highly addictive.

answer on page 18





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from page 17

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Shahin Ashraf

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1 6 2 3 4 9 5

4 9 1

3

5 6 9 3

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