the shirley index

a community magazine and business directory for residents of shirley

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Marvellous May!

Welcome to the May edition

May's one of the best months of the year - we're firmly in the Spring, and have all the anticipation of a lovely Summer ahead, fingers crossed!

It's also a great time for getting your garden looking lovely and for selling your home. We've got a great range of local, reliable businesses in here who can help you get your garden ready and update any aspect of your home, from your roof to your kitchen, your bathroom to your décor, whether you're getting it ready to sell or just want to update it for your own benefit.

Wishing you a great month ahead. Until next month

Zoe Reece Tel: 07557 220585

Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

www.shirlevindex.com





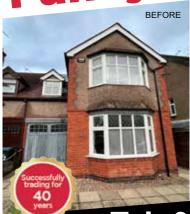


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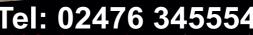
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community events

Books and Bric-a-Brac Sale

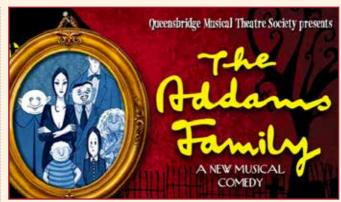
10th June, 10am-3pm, Knowle Village Hall

Pop in for lots of books and bargains! Come along and browse. The sale is a Knowle Village Hall refurbishment fund event.

The Addams Family

14-17 June, The Core Theatre Solibull

THE ADDAMS FAMILY is a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, is all grown up and has a shocking secret that only Gomez knows. Call the Box Office to book on 0121 704 6962. Solihull Sporting Society Pre-Ashes Dinner 15th June. St John's Hotel Solihull Eniov a 3-course meal and hear from the special auest speakers Geoff Miller and Legendary Aussie Fast



Bowler Jeff Thomson. Tickets £95 inc VAT / table of 10 £750 & VAT. For more details contact Dave: 0121 733 3855 / dave@radburnccc.co.uk

BBC Good Food Show Summer

15-18 June, NEC

Try and buy from 100s of independent producers and big brands and pick up plenty of recipe inspiration for al fresco dining, indulgent desserts and showstopping dinner parties from their exceptional line-up of chefs and experts. Tickets from thenec.co.uk

Fastlove - a Tribute to George Michael

25 June, Alexandra Theatre Birmingham

Playing all the hits, from Wham right through his glittering career, including Wake Me Up, Too Funky, Father Figure, Freedom 90, Faith, Knew You Were Waiting, Careless Whisper and many more. Tickets form atatickets.com



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COMPETITION

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The Lakeside Terrace restaurant at the Crowne Plaza Solihull is the perfect location to enjoy a Sunday lunch, with all the trimmings, with your family or friends. One lucky winner will enjoy a delicious 3 course lunch for 4 people in the Terrace Restaurant or on the Lakeside Terrace.





Win 2 tickets to see Dance Craze On Wednesday 21 June at 7pm at the Core Theatre, Solihull

The Dance Craze film, shot throughout 1980 and released in cinemas the following year, brilliantly captures the cultural phenomenon that was the 2Tone movement and represents an important social document of the times. It showcases the very best of the British Ska phenomenon, with exclusive live performances from The Specials, Madness, The Selecter, The Beat, Bad Manners and The Bodysnatchers.

How to enter

For your chance to win, email zoe@dorridgedirectory.com with the subject line Dance Craze or Sunday Lunch (or both!) 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 1 June 2023. There is no cash value nor exchange for these prizes. Sunday lunch must be taken before 3rd July 2023, subject to availability and must be used in one visit. Valid at Crowne Plaza Solihull only and not transferable to any other hotels. If you do not wish the Crowne Plaza to contact you by email please state this in your entry.



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Are you a secret Healthcare Hero?

by Dr Daphne Hazell, GP, Home Wound Care

t Home Wound Care we are bia enthusiasts for Wound Care Research, and almost all our patients are seen free of charge because they are part of one study or another. We believe that improving knowledge in wound healing, whilst providing a UK leading, convenient, expert wound care nursing service is the way forward. Our patients benefit from our care, and future generations benefit from them letting us share the knowledge of wound healing rates.

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Bombay Potatoes



Ingredients

900g Jersey Royals Thumb-sized piece of root ginger, peeled. 3 garlic cloves, peeled 2 large ripe tomatoes 4 tbsp vegetable oil 34 tsp cumin seeds 1 tsp mustard seeds 1 large onion, roughly chopped 2/3 tsp turmeric 2 tsp ground coriander 1 tsp ground cumin 1 tsp garam masala ½-¾ tsp chilli powder Large handful of chopped coriander leaves Salt, to taste

Method

Boil a large pot of salted water. Add the potatoes and boil until just tender, Allow to cool a little.

Quarter one tomato then blend together with the ginger and garlic. Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan, then add the cumin and mustard seeds.

When the cumin starts to darken, add the onion. Cook for one minute then add the ginger and garlic mixture, the ground spices and salt. Sauté gently for one to two

minutes until the garlic smells cooked but is not burnt.

Slice the second tomato into thin wedges and add them to the frying pan. Stir well and cook the mixture for three to four minutes.

Tip the potatoes into the pan and cook for three to five minutes allow the flavours to be absorbed.

Season to taste and finally stir in the chopped coriander before serving.



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a good read By Natasha Donovan

The Alice Network

by Kate Quinn

The Alice Network is set in the aftermath of World War II though it straddles both world wars, and follows two women, Charlie St. Clair, and Eve Gardiner, as they navigate the dangerous world of espionage in search of a lost relative. Charlie St. Clair is a young American woman who

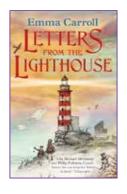


is pregnant out of wedlock. She is sent to Europe by her family to have the 'problem' taken care of. But she breaks free to search for her cousin Rose, who disappeared during the war. She meets Eve Gardiner, a former spy for the Alice Network, a secret organization of female spies, who now spends her day drunk, haunted by her past. Together, the two women embark on a journey to find Rose and uncover the truth about her disappearance. As they delve deeper into the world of espionage and the aftermath of the war, they encounter a cast of characters, including former spies, soldiers, and politicians, who each have their own secrets. The two women must navigate this dangerous world, relying on their wits and the support of each other to stay alive. The novel explores themes of friendship, loyalty, and the aftermath of war. Its powerful narrative is a testament to the bravery and resilience of women in a time when their roles were often limited. Quinn's novel is wellresearched and beautifully written that will appeal both to fans of historical fiction and anyone who enjoys a page-turning spy thriller.

Letters from the Lighthouse

by Emma Carroll

Letters from the
Lighthouse is set during
World War II. The story
follows two siblings,
Olive and Cliff, who are
evacuated from London
to a coastal town in
Devon. Their older sister
Sukie went missing during
an air raid and they
have no idea where she
is, though a note found
in Sukie's coat pocket
suggests that she was



involved in something dangerous. Then, among the close-knit community where they've been evacuated, Olive discovers something which ties Sukie to a plot as dangerous as it is puzzling.

What do the mysterious letters that the children receive from the lighthouse on the coast mean? Written by a shadowy figure known only as "The Keeper", they provide Olive and Cliff with clues which send the siblings off on a dangerous adventure that takes them through the streets of the town and the surrounding countryside. Through their encounters with a spy, a resistance fighter, and a band of smugglers, they must use their wits and their courage to stay alive and uncover the truth.



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(Chris Mundell)



crossword

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 16 17 18 18 19 20 21 23 23

clues

Across

- Severe mental or physical pain
 (6)
- 8 Bowed (6)
- 9 Lease, tariff (4)
- 10 Wash, cleanse (8)
- 11 Inscription (7)
- 13 Fossilised tree resin (5)
- 15 Caustic, stinging (5)
- 17 Nicotine-rich leaf (7)
- 20 Dwellings, (8)
- 21 Blanched (4)
- 22 Forbid, ban (6)
- 23 Improve, embellish (6)

Down

- 1 Zealous, fierce (6)
- Flat-bottomed boat
 (4)
- 3 Wreath (7)
- 4 Ambiguous (5)
- 5 Scholarly world (8)
- Unit of measurement
 (6)
- 12 Most unshaven (8)
- 14 Bragged (7)
- 16 Church (6)
- 18 Unbleached cotton cloth (6)
- 19 Type of farm (5)
- 21 Hum, murmur (4)

answer on page 22

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

how to play SUCOKU

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!
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answer on page 22



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Aquilegia

here is something quite lovely about Aquilegias, bobbing in the breeze. They provide exquisite flowers, which a great for cutting, in May and early June, and come in a variety of colours. Even the foliage is attractive.

Known as Granny's bonnet or Columbine, this delicate-looking flower is actually and undemanding hardy perennial, is unfussy about soil and tolerant of full sun, or partial shade. What's not to like? The plants grow to about 60cm so work well in the middle of a border, where they will happily self-seed and spread the joy.

If you want to plant seedlings rather than seeds, sow thinly on to moist compost in a seed tray. If they are slow to germinate, they may need stratification, the posh word for subjecting seeds to a cold - warm cycle to trick them into thinking they have been through a cold winter. Cover the seed tray with polythene and put in a fridge at 0-5°C for two to three weeks. Remove the tray and place in a greenhouse or on a windowsill at approx. 18-21°C. Remove the polythene when the seeds start to germinate. Transplant



the seedlings into 7cm pots and allow to grow on into sturdy plants. Plant out in the border about 45cm apart in groups of three – five plants for a more naturalistic look.

However, at this time of year I just sow directly outdoors, where I want them to flower.

If you are planting established plants from a garden centre, remove the packaging and stand the pots upright in a bucket of water for 20 minutes, to give the roots a good drink. Then plant in prepared ground in small groups.

Once the aquilegia plants have established, they shouldn't need additional watering. You might want to cut back the foliage after flowering if the leaves are beginning to look scruffy. Give the plant a drink and a mulch of compost, and it will reward you with a fresh flush of foliage in a few weeks.

Aquilegias need very little after care once they are established. They will self-seed and although offspring rarely look like their parents, they will still be very pretty. I personally like the naturalistic look.

The plant is a member of the poisonous Ranunculus family and all parts of the plant, including the seeds, are poisonous if ingested.

To collect the seeds from your aquilegia plants, wait for the flower to die back to an attractive papery seed head. Use a paper bag to hold over the stem and tap until all the seeds land in the bag. Alternatively cut the stems and hang upside down inside a large paper bag to dry and catch all the seed in the bag. Store in a paper envelope once they are completely dry and label carefully, noting that they are toxic if eaten.

Aquilegias are quintessential cottage garden favourites with nectar-rich flowers that are attractive to pollinators such as bumblebees, butterflies, and moths. This makes them a fantastic, easy-to-grow wildlife-friendly choice.





Across

- 2 Prince George's sister (9)
- 3 The King's oldest son (7)
- 6 The King's youngest son (5)
- **7** Before he was King, Charles was the Prince of _____(5)

Down

- 1 Charles' mother's name (9)
- 2 Charles' wife (7)
- 4 The city where the coronation will take place (6)
- 5 William and Kate's first-born son. (6)

ROYAL MIX-UP

ALL these Royal Words got Mixed Up.

Can you unscramble them?

CHINGMAKUL alpeca

rothen

Wrong

NotoNaiclo

yolar

Neque

MISterSteWN bayeb

Q: What do you call the King when he climbs up a



anonit nooto coronation royal pueen WestmintsaW

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Magaie Allen

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from page 17

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

Suduko Solution from page 17

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