

the shirley index

a community magazine and business directory
for residents of shirley

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Blossomfield Grange is designed with signage, colour schemes, soft furnishings and floor coverings all chosen to create a calm and accessible home from home. The dementia suite also includes extra items to aid reminiscence and create a sensory and engaging space. We also have our own café/bistro, hair salon and large established gardens, enabling all residents to enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle.

Blossomfield Grange care home
1 Worcester Way (Off Dog Kennel Lane),
Solihull B90 4JX
0121 756 2162
careuk.com/blossomfield-grange



Join us for our next event

Knit and natter coffee morning

Last Monday of every month,
11am - 12 noon

Come along to our monthly session alongside residents at Blossomfield Grange. Take part in learning and sharing new skills while enjoying complimentary freshly baked cakes and coffee or tea. With the guidance of our activities team, whether you're an expert or just starting out, it's a perfect opportunity to create your own knitted items, try other arts and crafts, chat to new people, and discover new hobbies.

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GaryMM-1318, 24 Aug 2023



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Christmas is coming

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas.

Christmas will be just around the corner by the time this reaches you. So here's hoping you're all stocked up with goodies and gifts to see you through the festive season.

It can be the most wonderful time of the year, but it can also be the loneliest. If you have time why not try reaching out to any local people who live on their own to see if they'd like a cup of tea and a chat. However you spend your Christmas, here's hoping you have a lovely time and wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024.

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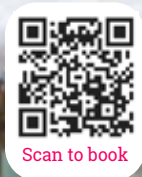
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community events

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**11-14 January, NEC,
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Autosport International is Europe's biggest motorsport show. Join thousands of motorsport and automotive trade professionals and enthusiasts. The Motorsport Show forms the centrepiece with stars and cars from all levels of motorsport on display. www.thenec.co.uk/whats-on/autosport-international/

Rob Olton as Tribute to Elton John

**19 January, The
Lake at Barston**

This Elton John tribute act plays homage to the great man by performing classics like Rocket Man and I'm Still Standing through to Candle in the Wind, Can



You Feel the Love Tonight and Your Song. Sporting his unmistakable glasses and flamboyant outfits, this Elton tribute act truly offers an authentic performance that will leave guests captivated. www.thelakeatbarston.co.uk.

Agatha Christie's Murder On The Nile

**19-21 January, The
Core Theatre Solihull**

Harlequinade are thrilled

to present one of Agatha Christie's most intriguing murder mysteries, set in the exotic location of a boat on the river Nile. Fatal circumstances await when the idyllic surroundings are shattered by a shocking and brutal murder. For tickets call 0121 704 6962.

Tribute to Whitney Houston with Nya King

26 January, Nailcote Hall

'Without a doubt, the unprecedented replica of the voice of Whitney Houston. The incredible Nya King brings her amazing Soul and R&B style to pay tribute to this wonderful lady.' Party night includes 3 course meal, live entertainment and an after-show DJ. www.nailcotehall.co.uk

Learn to dance in a day

**17 February, Land Rover
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Take a look at Donahey's fabulous 1-day Ballroom Dancing Lessons, designed with the absolute beginner in mind. In this 4-hour workshop you'll receive expert tuition in some of the most popular Ballroom & Latin dances. www.donaheys.co.uk/classes/learn-to-dance-in-a-day/



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a good read

By Natasha Donovan

The Girl Who Saved Christmas

by Matt Haig

Matt Haig weaves a whimsical, heartwarming tale that blends magic, adventure, and a potent message about the power of hope. Written as a follow-up to *A Boy Called Christmas*, the story easily stands on its own, inviting readers into a Victorian world where the magic of Christmas is threatened, and only a young girl's belief can restore it.

Amelia is an ordinary girl with an extraordinary heart. Living in Victorian London, she faces the kind of adversity that could easily douse her Christmas spirit. Yet her unwavering belief catches the attention of Father Christmas. When trolls, elves, and a festive calamity put Christmas in jeopardy, Amelia's hope becomes the beacon that might save the holiday for everyone.

Haig's language is imaginative and touching,

weaving a rich tapestry of fantasy elements with real human emotions. His portrayal of Victorian London is atmospheric, juxtaposing the city's grimy reality with the luminous world of festive magic. Amelia's character development throughout the story is poignant, and readers will be rooting for her every step of the way.

The illustrations by Chris Mould further enhance the narrative, bringing Haig's world to life and adding visual depth to the prose.

In *The Girl Who Saved Christmas*, Haig reminds readers young and old of the enduring magic of belief and the strength to be found in hope. It's a delightful, touching read that deserves to become a modern Christmas classic.



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And the Christmas Number One is...

When I hear the words 'Christmas Number 1' I think about Slade's glam rock classic Merry Xmas Everybody (1973) or Fairytale of New York (1987) or even Cliff Richard's Mistletoe and Wine (1988). But over the years some...erm...less conventional songs have also made it to the top of the festive charts.

Like Ernie (The Fastest Milkman in the West) by Benny Hill (1971): An innuendo-heavy ditty of a milkman who falls in love with a widowed customer and later fatally succumbs to a pork-pie-wielding love rival in a dairy-versus-baked-goods duel.



Or Mr Blobby by Mr Blobby (1993), a novelty song created as part of a character on the show Noel's House Party, and which became a surprise hit.

And talking about TV shows, Bob the Builder got in on the act with his eponymous song Bob the Builder (2000)

Probably the most unconventional Christmas chart topper though was Killing in the

Name by the American band Rage Against the Machine (2009), some 17 years after its original release. It was adopted by a Facebook campaign and promoted heavily with the ultimately successful goal of blocking X Factor's winner Joe McElderry from claiming the top spot. It was also the first song to reach the Christmas number one through downloads alone.

The 2023 Official Christmas Number 1 will be announced on Friday, December 22. The full Christmas Top 40 will be counted down on BBC Radio 1's The Official Chart with Jack Saunders from 4pm.

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

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

Sudoku Solution
from page 12

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