

the shirley index

a community magazine and business directory
for residents of shirley

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A photograph of two elderly women sitting on a purple sofa. The woman on the left has short, curly white hair and is wearing a white cardigan over a blue patterned top and dark blue trousers. She is looking towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right has short, wavy white hair and is wearing a white lace top and grey trousers. She is smiling and looking towards the woman on the left. They appear to be in a well-lit room with a teal wall and a framed picture on the wall behind them.

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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

Tel: 07557 220585

Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

www.shirleyindex.com



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community events



Christmas Fair

**30 November 10am - 1pm,
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Come and browse amongst a lovely selection of Christmas gifts and cards, Christmas wreaths for the door, books, Bric-a-Brac, competitions and lots more, including the Grand Christmas Raffle! Refreshments will be available. All proceeds to the Hall refurbishment fund.

Whitney Houston Tribute Night

14 December, Knowle British Legion

Immerse yourself in an evening filled with the timeless hits and unforgettable melodies that made Whitney Houston a legend. Tickets from www.tributenightpromotions.co.uk



Could it be Magic?

29 November, The Lake at Barston

Fantastic 4 piece boyband performing all of Take That's biggest and best tracks from the early days to now. Now with second set dedicated to Boybands, Backstreet Boys,

Westlife, Boyzone, 5ive, Blue, One Direction & The Wanted and a bit of anything goes to get you up on the dancefloor. Ticket price is £40 per person, or £35 in the Annexe, which includes a 3 course Dinner, Entertainment and late bar. Call 01675 444890 to book.

QE2 - The very best of QUEEN

7 December, Land Rover Sports & Social Club

QE2 - The Very Best of Queen have been performing at some of the best known venues, festivals and arenas across the UK and Internationally for over 25 years. Their aim is to recreate the Live Magic that Queen provided during their live career. Queen formed in 1970 and were active up until 1991. Buy tickets online from www.landroversc.co.uk.

The Greatest Showman Tribute

31 December, Shirley British Legion

Join in for a spectacular New Year's Eve celebration at Shirley British Legion. Get ready to ring in the new year with a night filled with music, dancing, and memories with The Greatest Showman Tribute! Tickets from www.tributenightpromotions.co.uk

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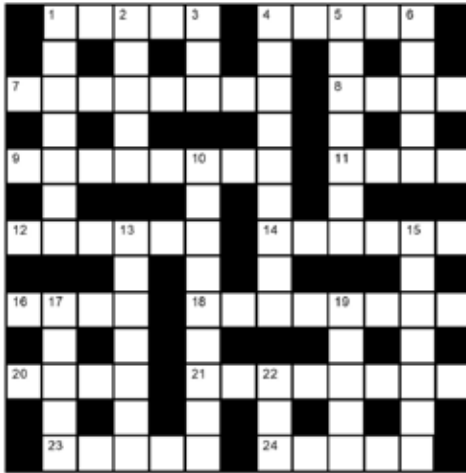


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crossword



clues

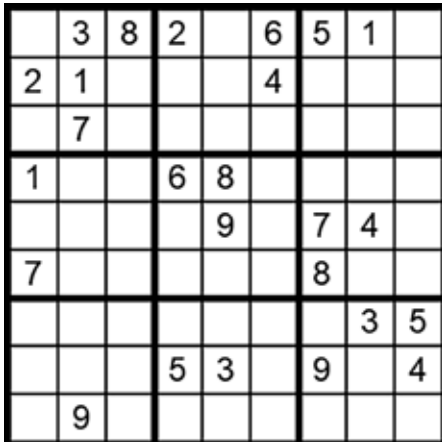
Across

- 1 Indicator, meter (5)
- 4 Artist's stand (5)
- 7 Not fit for purpose (8)
- 8 Back, behind (4)
- 9 Territory (8)
- 11 Highest point, peak (4)
- 12 Middle (6)
- 14 Yield (6)
- 16 Golf club (4)
- 18 Concepts, proposals (8)
- 20 Cab (4)
- 21 Muse, ponder (8)
- 23 Musical or colour harmony (5)
- 24 Layers (5)

Down

- 1 Real, true (7)
- 2 Overturn (5)
- 3 Fade, wain (3)
- 4 Conductor, terminal (9)
- 5 Attendant, minion (7)
- 6 Depart (5)
- 10 Indistinguishable (9)
- 13 Strain, stress (7)
- 15 Ineffectual, futile (7)
- 17 Respond, reply (5)
- 19 Lift, elevate (5)
- 22 Enmesh, nab (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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Beyond the Classroom

The arts subjects are being squeezed in in secondary education as successive Governments put ever more emphasis on maths and science.

Improved academic results:

Studies show that students who participate in the creative arts tend to perform better academically across all subjects. In schools where the arts are integrated into the curriculum students perform better in maths, English, critical thinking, and verbal skills, suggesting that arts education positively impacts overall academic achievement.

Enhanced Wellbeing: Arts subjects provide an outlet for self-expression and help build confidence. Many students report that arts lessons act as a release from academic pressures and everyday stresses, contributing to improved mental health.

Cultural Awareness and Empathy: Engagement with the arts helps young people develop a sense of their own identity and values, while also fostering awareness and appreciation of diversity. This cultivates empathy and understanding of different perspectives, essential



qualities in our increasingly interconnected world.

Closing the Achievement







Gap: Arts education has been shown to have a particularly positive impact on students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Students from low-income families who participate in arts activities at school are three times more likely to earn a degree, demonstrating the potential of arts education to level the playing field.

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Create and Curate a Memory Box

A memory box is a wonderful way to preserve and cherish your most treasured moments. Whether it's for yourself, as a future gift for a child, or to remember a family member who has died. Here is a step-by-step guide to creating and curating a meaningful memory box.

Step 1: Choose Your Box

Start by selecting a suitable container. It can be a decorative wooden box, a sturdy shoebox, or a specially purchased memory box. The size depends on how many items you plan to include. You can cover or decorate the box to reflect the theme or personal style, using paint, stickers, or fabric.

Step 2: Gather Your Memories

Collect items that hold sentimental value. These can include photographs, letters, concert tickets, travel souvenirs, or small mementos. Choose items that evoke specific memories or milestones, such as baby's first shoes, wedding invitations, or holiday postcards. Ensure each item has a personal significance and tells part of the story.

Step 3: Organize and Arrange

Carefully arrange the items in the box. You can sort



them chronologically or by theme (e.g., travel, family, achievements). Use envelopes or small pouches for delicate items like jewellery or pressed flowers. Adding labels or notes can help explain the significance of each item, providing context for future reminiscing.

Step 4: Personal Touches

Add personal touches to make the memory box even more special. Write a letter or include a diary entry to capture your emotions and thoughts. Add scented sachets to evoke memories through smell, or digital elements like a USB drive with a playlist of favourite songs or video clips.

Step 5: Maintain and Update

A memory box should be a living collection. Keep it updated with new memories and revisit it periodically to curate it. Remember, the container is a limit. You can keep anything, but not everything. My mother used to say, 'If everything is

special, nothing is special,' so keep only the most cherished items. Curating can be a therapeutic activity and talking about the items with others, keeps the memories alive.

Each member of my family has their own memory box. They get to decided what is special enough to keep in their box. This is very important; if you have delightful memories of reading *The Gruffalo* to your firstborn and are deeply attached to the book, but they don't consider it special enough to keep, the memory is clearly yours, so it should go in your own memory box. Don't guilt them into keeping it in theirs!

Creating and curating a memory box is a deeply personal and rewarding project. It not only preserves your most cherished memories but also serves as a tangible connection to your past. So, gather your mementos, let your creativity flow, and start building your own treasure trove of memories today.



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Crossword Solution
from page 8

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

Sudoku Solution
from page 8

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