

the shirley index

a community magazine and business directory
for residents of shirley

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AndyE-230 / 31 Jan 2024



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Spring is in the air (hopefully)!

Welcome to the March edition

It's a great time of year to start thinking about your next house move, or having a Spring clean, or maybe getting around to those home and garden improvements you've been putting off and off...

We have a wide range of organisations and tradespeople who advertise in here who are all local and keen to take on more work in the area.



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community events

Northern Soul Night

27 April, Shirley British Legion

Welcome to a fantastic night of Northern Soul music and dancing at the Shirley British Legion in Parkgate, Shirley. Whether you're coming solo or with friends, you're guaranteed a night of incredible music and great company. Tickets from www.tributenightpromotions.co.uk

Knowle Village Hall Association Quiz Night

22 March 7.30pm, Knowle Village Hall

Teams of up to 6 people. Tickets £8 per person, available from 01564 778163 or 01564 779898 Please

bring your own nibbles and liquid refreshment. This is a Knowle Village Hall fund raising event.

'Top of the Pops' - Tribute to the Decades 60s - 00s

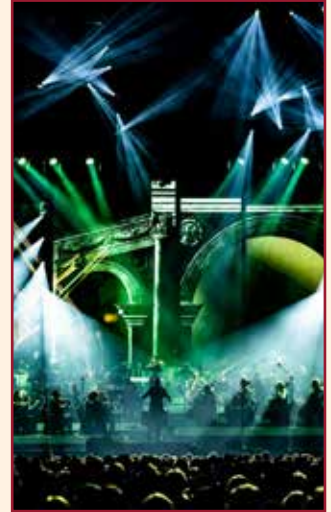
5 April, Lake at Barston

Floor fillers from the 60s - 00s by Top of the Pops. Tickets £30pp, or £25 in the Annexe, which includes a 3-course dinner, entertainment and late bar. Ticket price show only - £10pp. To book tickets call 01675 444890.

The World of Hans Zimmer - A New Dimension

9 April, Resorts World Arena

This is the music of two-



time Academy Award® winner Hans Zimmer. The audience will be taken on a unique musical journey that will immerse them in completely new dimensions. Hans Zimmer himself will not appear live on stage in The World of Hans Zimmer - A New Dimension but will function as the show's curator and musical director. Tickets from <https://www.resortsworldarena.co.uk>



Menopause Café

28 April 10am, Two Mugs café, Shirley

Join the Menopause Café, a supportive space to share experiences, learn, and connect with others navigating the menopause journey. All welcome!

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

Mindbenders

Can you find the hidden phrases?

YOU↑ME

↔youract↔

thhaenrge

answers on page 14

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a good read

By Natasha Donovan

Bitter

by **Francesca Jakobi**

Bitter is Francesca Jakobi's astonishing first novel. It is a captivating exploration of complex family dynamics, narrated with a poignant blend of humour and melancholy. The novel unfolds through the eyes of Gilda, a twice-divorced, middle-aged woman grappling with the recent marriage of her only child, Reuben. While Gilda is depicted as an overbearing Jewish mother, the portrayal is never clichéd, but rather deeply nuanced, blending past and present to create a relatable and poignant character.

Jakobi's short chapters drives the narrative forward at a compelling pace. The book's heart lies in its exploration of Gilda's troubled relationship with her son and her escalating jealousy towards his new wife. This personal drama is skilfully balanced with moments of dry humour, often through Gilda's humorous reflections, a testament to Jakobi's ability to weave lightness into the fabric of a fundamentally sombre story.

The novel's title, 'Bitter,' is a play on the German word for 'please.' The novel delves into Gilda's backstory, as a displaced and isolated German girl attending an English boarding school during the 1930s.

While *Bitter* flirts with the conventions of a psychological thriller, with Gilda's near-obsessive behaviour towards her daughter-in-law, creating moments of intense suspense, at its core is a story of love, kindness, and lasting friendship. Jakobi unsettles us at the same time as making us laugh out loud at Gilda's exploits, but her real skill is in making us somehow love this out-of-control Jewish mother and in doing so, encouraging against our better judgment to side with Gilda!

A thoroughly engaging read.

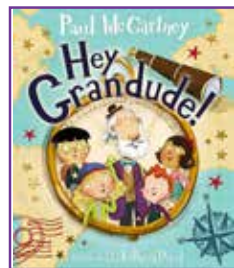


Hey Grandude!

by **Paul McCartney**
and illustrated by
Kathryn Durst.

This is a delightful and imaginative children's book by singer songwriter Paul McCartney, which takes young readers on an enchanting adventure alongside a charming and unconventional grandfather, presumably not unlike Mr. McCartney himself! The book's title is a playful nod to McCartney's Beatles fame, and sets the tone for a whimsical tale. *Grandude*, is a cool, intrepid explorer with a magical compass, inviting his four grandchildren – or "Chillers" as he affectionately calls them – on extraordinary journeys. The narrative is simple and ideal for young children, making for a fun bedtime story. McCartney's storytelling is full of joy and wonder, making it evident that it's penned by a grandfather who enjoyed entertaining his own grandchildren.

Kathryn Durst's vibrant and detailed artwork brings the story to life adding layers of visual delight and energy to capture the excitement and magic of *Grandude's* adventures, from stormy seas to sandy deserts. The synergy between McCartney's charming narrative and Durst's lively illustrations makes for an engaging read. *Grandude* is a story that celebrates the beautiful bond between grandparents and grandchildren, encouraging both generations to embark of adventures and explore the wonders the world has to offer.



Fertiliser

This month the days get longer, and the sun gets stronger...we hope!

However,

March is famously temperamental and if the soil where you are is still wet and cold then it's wise to delay planting and sowing until the temperature rises.

Plant nutrient reserves are low at this time of year so, as the soil warms up, it's time to think about fertiliser.

Many gardeners are a bit frightened of fertiliser. All those chemical symbols on the side of the packet are rather reminiscent of school chemistry lessons. In fact, the basics are quite simple.

NPK - This can be observed on the side of most fertiliser packages. The letters stand for:

N - Nitrogen

P - Phosphorous

K - Potassium

Together these are known as the macro-nutrients and each of them has its own use.

Nitrogen primarily feeds the leafy above-the-ground parts of the plants. Phosphorous promotes strong roots. Potassium makes grass hardier, promotes germination and improves vegetable and fruit yields.

The proportions of each macro-nutrient will be printed on the packet. Equal amounts



of each nutrient make for a good general-purpose fertiliser.

A lawn will need a good balance of nitrogen and phosphorus to guarantee lush green grass with a healthy root system capable of withstanding dry spells. Fruiting plants need higher proportions of potassium.

There are other macro-nutrients: Carbon, Hydrogen and Oxygen, which plants obtain freely from the air and water; and calcium, magnesium, and sulphur, which should be present in any good general-purpose fertiliser.

Plants also need micro-nutrients: Iron, Manganese, Zinc, Boron, and Molybdenum.

Plants take all these nutrients and build everything they need from scratch, including vitamins. What plants cannot do is absorb vitamins directly from things such as pet food, milk or so-called fertilisers which contain vitamins, proteins, and fats.

So don't be intimidated by fertiliser. Decide what your plants need then read the label. It's as easy as ABC...or rather NPK.

Caution!

Don't over-do it! It's best to feed little and often. Don't fertilise in direct sun or the leaves may scorch. Wait until the soil has warmed. Keep out of reach of children!

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

Sudoku Solution

from page 8

Solution to Mind benders

1. Between you and me
2. Get your act together
3. Hang in there

mindbenders

from page 9

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