



Bastock & Bruce Ltd

F U N E R A L D I R E C T O R S

Bruce Bragg

**Knowle's only Independent
Family Funeral Director**

Bruce, grandson of Tom Bragg is now the only remaining member of the Solihull Bragg family to own a Funeral Directors in Solihull following the sale of the Bragg family business to a national group. This partnership brings a family business to Knowle with generations of experience ensuring the truly personal service you would expect from an independent business.



Brisker Court, 1685, High Street, Knowle. B93 0LN

01564 33 5577 (24 hour)

www.bastockandbruce.co.uk

Serving all surrounding areas



Saqib Bhatti MP


Working for Meriden and Solihull East


Contact Me



Constituency office:

631 Warwick Road, Solihull B91 1AR

 0121 711 7029

 saqibbhatti.org.uk

 saqib.bhatti@parliament.uk

This advert is funded by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) for the purpose of assisting Saqib Bhatti MP in the performance of their Parliamentary duties.

Knowle Domestic Plumbing Service & Appliance Repairs

All Plumbing Work Undertaken

- ***Burst pipes/leaks***
- ***Taps, Sinks, Waste Units***
- ***Ball Valves, Overflows***
- ***Tanks, Cylinders,
Immersions***
- ***Toilets, baths,
Showers***
- ***24 Hour Emergency***

Appliance Repair Services

- ***Washing Machines***
- ***Dishwashers***
- ***Tumble Dryers***
- ***Electric cookers***
- ***Vacuum Cleaners***

£10 OFF for first time customers with this ad.
Valid until: 10th October 2024

***12 month guarantee, same day call-out
special rates for OAP's***

Office: 01564 730183
Mobile: 07770 698196

Autumn is approaching...

Welcome to the September edition

It's a busy month with kids going back to school, and individuals getting ready for university.

The roads are going to be busier, the mornings and evenings are going to get darker, but there's still lots to look forward to.

We can start thinking ahead, planning Halloween treats, bonfire parties and eventually starting to think about Christmas plans. There's also lots of interesting and fun things going on locally - just check out page 6 for more details.

Zoe Reece

Tel: 07557 220585

Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

www.knowleanddorridgedirectory.com



**ADVERTISE
HERE**

Contact Zoe Reece on 07557 220585 /
zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

Locally designed by: hotlobster design ltd **Printed by:** Norwood Press

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS MAGAZINE

Built on trust and reliability, we have been in the roofing business for over 30 years



Our services include:

- New slate and tiled roofs
- Flat roofs
- Chimneys
- Velux roof windows
- Repointing
- Roof timberwork
- Solar panel installation
- And more!

Our highly qualified roofing experts will complete your roofing tasks, quickly and efficiently.



Promise To Our Customers

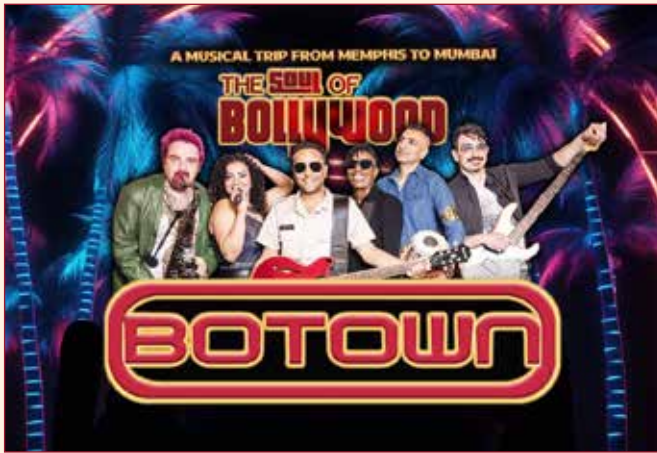
We guarantee to offer you a dependable service, offering outstanding quality at realistic prices, with your complete satisfaction being our number one priority.

Please call John: 07854 623 592 or Office: 0330 043 6806 to arrange your free inspection and quotation.

john@reviveroofingandbuildingsolutions.co.uk
www.reviveroofingandbuildingsolutions.co.uk



community events



Quiz Night

27 September 7.30pm, Knowle Village Hall.

Book your team in now for the Knowle Village Hall Association Quiz Night, all proceeds going to the Knowle Village Hall Refurbishment Fund. Teams can be of up to 6 people and tickets are £8 each. Bring your own liquid refreshment & nibbles and enjoy a fun evening with



great prizes. Tickets from 01564 778163 or 01564 779898.

Botown – The Soul Of Bollywood

28 September, 7pm, Core Theatre Solihull

Botown is not just a band; they're a cultural phenomenon. This super-tight ensemble of multicultural musicians takes Bollywood grooves and infuses them with a soulful funk twist, creating an electrifying musical experience like no other. With their magnetic stage presence, Botown seamlessly blend the allure of Bollywood with the irresistible charm of soul music.

Tickets: 0121 704 6962.

Grand Designs Live

2-6 October, NEC

Be inspired by hundreds of exhibitors, spanning across

four different sectors: Build, Kitchens and Bathrooms, Gardens, and Interiors. Discover architects, building suppliers, kitchen, and bathroom designers as well as unique bespoke furnishings and designs alongside original pieces of artwork and much more. Tickets from www.thenec.co.uk

Wythall Beer & Cider Festival

11 and 12 October, 12pm-11pm, Wythall Park

The annual event is back raising funds for Wythall Park, with a choice of 20+ real ales and ciders alongside a fully-licensed bar. Live music and food. More information from wythall-park.org.uk or Facebook.

Tina Turner Tribute Night

12 October, 7pm, Shirley British Legion

Get ready for an electrifying evening of music, dance, and pure entertainment! Join in for a sensational Tina Turner Tribute Night that will have you dancing to the rhythm and feeling the soul of the iconic Tina Turner herself. Whether you're a die-hard Tina fan or simply looking for a fantastic night out, this event promises to be a night to remember.

Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk

Fact or fiction? Common relationship questions

Dipika Mistry, Legal Director at law firm Shakespeare Martineau in Solihull answers some of the frequently asked questions from couples across the country.

We're not married, but we've been together years – will I get 50%?

This is such a common misconception when unmarried couples part ways, but there is no such thing as a 'common law wife/partner'. If you choose not to marry then do consider a living together agreement to protect your best interests and ensure that if you own a home together that your name is included on the deed.

Can I get divorced if we have just drifted apart?

Yes – from 6 April 2022 'no fault divorce' has been introduced, which means parting couples no longer have to prove their marriage has irretrievably broken down due to one of the five 'divorce facts': adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion, or separation of at least two years or in some cases five years. Instead, they can apply for divorce jointly, without assigning any blame on one party.

Do I have to give my engagement ring back if we split?

If you break up with your partner, you may feel a moral obligation to return the ring - however, unless it can be proved that the ring was given conditionally, the law states that it is an absolute gift, meaning you do not have to return it to your ex.

Is my prenuptial agreement (pre-nup) legally binding?

No. A pre-nup is not legally binding in English law, however, they are becoming increasingly upheld provided that they are entered into fairly and on a voluntary basis and both parties have received independent legal advice before doing so. Pre-nups do not overrule a court's decision on financial arrangements on divorce but they do carry some influence.

I want to get divorced, but I don't want to go to court, what can I do?

Collaborative law is a great option for couples who are amicable and want to avoid going to court. This is where both parties each instruct a collaboratively trained lawyer and work together to find a suitable divorce settlement, including financial and child matters.

Separation and divorce can be highly stressful and emotional, so it's important to have a trusted advisor by your side.



For more information call 0330 024 0333
email dipika.mistry@shma.co.uk or visit www.shma.co.uk



Enjoy a Life of Possibilities

Avery Healthcare are renowned for their vibrant and welcoming communities. Their dedicated Well-being teams produce an exciting and varied programme of activities and events every day. Residents are supported with personal interests not already covered in the calendar and memory, physical and sensory-based activities are designed with therapeutic outcomes in mind.

Day trips • Creative writing classes • Art classes • Gardening club
Live entertainment • Exercise classes

**Start your care journey by 31 December 2024
and receive your 12th week for free***

Birchmere House
📞 01564 621393

Birchmere Mews
📞 01564 621701

Knowle Gate
📞 01564 621012

averyhealthcare.co.uk

*T&Cs apply. Please visit averyhealthcare.co.uk/ouroffers for more details

Cullen

Plumbing & Tiling

17 Whitacre Rd, Knowle
cullenplumbingandtiling@gmail.com
Tel: 07896 862 916
Established in 2005

City & Guilds
Qualified

- Full bathroom and ensuite design and installation to the highest standards with complete project management from start to completion
- Kitchen Sinks and Taps, Dishwasher and Washing Machine Installation
- Central Heating & Radiators
- General Plumbing Maintenance & Repair
- Showroom Finish Wall & Floor Tiling for bathrooms, kitchens, hallways and conservatories
- Specialist in ceramic, porcelain, natural stone tiling
- Business built on recommendation and reputation

All Work Guaranteed

Reliable Honest Service

References and Portfolio of Work Available



*Call Alex Cullen
NOW on 07896 862 916
For a free no-obligation quotation*

Good at Games

The benefits and difficulties associated with PE.

My youngest son loves PE lessons - all of them. He even captains the dodgeball team. My oldest, Joe* would probably rather appear naked on National TV than set foot on a sports field during the winter months... or to be honest, any month!

As we navigate an increasingly digital and sedentary age, the value of PE in schools becomes ever more crucial. Ensuring that PE remains a vital component of education is essential for fostering well-rounded development in children and young people.

With increasing childhood obesity and related health issues, regular physical activity is a necessary countermeasure. PE provides students with an opportunity to engage in structured exercise, helping them develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime. Regular physical activity also improves cardiovascular health, strengthens muscles and bones, and boosts the immune system.

PE also teaches important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, perseverance, and communication. These



experiences can build self-esteem and foster a sense of community and belonging.

But what about reluctant participants like Joe?

While the benefits of PE are clear, not all students enjoy team sports. Encouraging these youngsters requires a thoughtful approach. Diversifying the types of activities offered can make a significant difference. Options such as dance, yoga, or individual sports like tennis and swimming can appeal to a broader range of interests meaning every student can find something they enjoy and can succeed in. Joe discovered badminton and

table tennis last year, and would happily play these if they were available, but his school insist on rugby, football, cricket, and dodgeball. Their idea of diversification is making the girls play too.

Creating a supportive and non-judgmental environment is essential. Some children may feel self-conscious about their abilities or physical appearance which can deter them from participating. Teachers and coaches should emphasize personal improvement and effort over competition and winning (very much NOT the case at Joe's school). Positive reinforcement and celebrating small achievements can boost confidence and motivation.

PE might be a vital component of the national curriculum, offering numerous benefits for physical health, mental well-being, and social development but if we want to encourage every child to participate fully there needs to be diversification of activities, a supportive environment, and possible integration of technology. After all, want ALL our children to grow up, healthy and well-rounded, not just those who are naturally good at games.

JRT EXTERIOR CLEAN



**Driveways
Patios
Gutter Cleans
Fascia's & Soffits
Pressure Washing**



CALL 07368 544 115

Heritage
DRIVES & LANDSCAPES LTD

We pride ourselves on our high standards of workmanship



**Driveways
& Landscapes
In The West Midlands**

Professional Driveway & Landscaping company based in Solihull, working throughout the West Midlands



Sunnyside, Kenilworth Road, Hampton in Arden B92 0LW
heritagedrivesltd@gmail.com



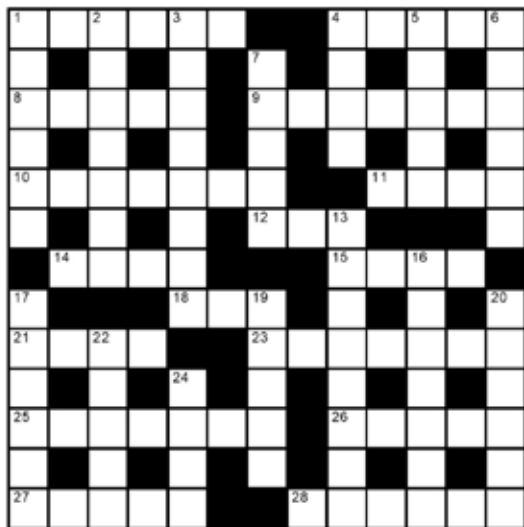
0121 690 5581



07377 53446

heritagedrivesandlandscapes.co.uk

crossword



clues

Across

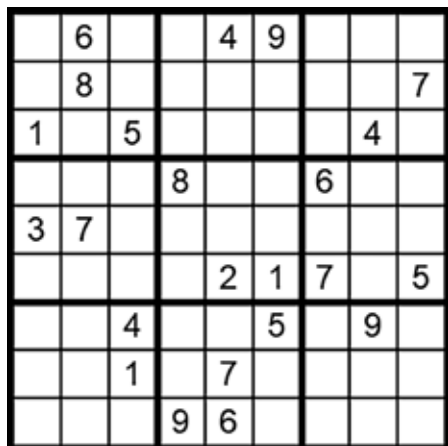
- 1 Eastern European country (6)
- 4 Thin crisp biscuit (5)
- 8 Overhaul, modernise (5)
- 9 Loudly, uproariously (7)
- 10 Slim, lithe (7)
- 11 Skin irritation (4)
- 12 Top, cover (3)
- 14 Jealousy (4)
- 15 Type of goat (4)
- 18 Weep, cry (3)
- 21 Retort, riposte (4)
- 23 Guitar-like instrument (7)
- 25 Conceded, endorsed (7)
- 26 Emaciated, cadaverous (5)
- 27 Black (5)
- 28 Onset, arrival (6)

Down

- 1 Church district (6)
- 2 Portable lamp (7)
- 3 In this day and age (8)
- 4 Lament, moan (4)
- 5 Pass out (5)
- 6 Beat pattern (6)
- 7 Growl, grumble (5)
- 13 Spilled the beans, disclosed (8)
- 16 Assassinate, kill (7)

- 17 Four-sided shape (6)
- 19 Chum, mate (5)
- 20 Group of six (6)
- 22 Eskimo house! (5)
- 24 Rock rhythmically (4)

answer on page 18



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.

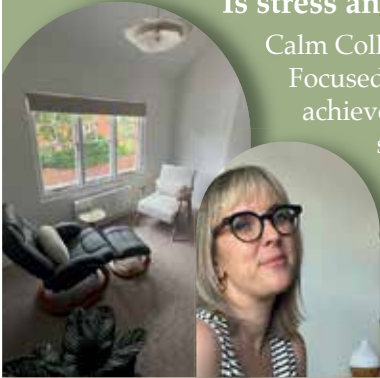
answer on page 18

Is stress and anxiety affecting the way you live?

Calm Collective Therapy is a safe space offering Solution Focused Hypnotherapy and Psychotherapy to help achieve long lasting results for people feeling anxious, stressed and overwhelmed with life.

A positive, forward-thinking therapy that focuses on achievable steps to help you cope better, manage stress and pain, and overcome related symptoms such as:

- Tinnitus • Insomnia • IBS • Panic Attacks
- Migraines • & More



Face to face and online sessions with
Jessica Redgrave (HPD, AFSFH, MA)

Gain control of your life

Book your FREE consultation today

07453 883430

www.calmcollectivetherapy.co.uk
1694 High Street, Knowle, B93 0LY



YOUR LOCAL EXTERNAL CLEANING SPECIALISTS

Book your Roof & Gutter Cleaning NOW

Our Cleaning Services:

- ✓ ROOFS
- ✓ PATIOS
- ✓ GUTTERS INSIDE & OUT
- ✓ MOSS REMOVAL
- ✓ FASCIAS & SOFFITS
- ✓ STONEMWORK
- ✓ DRIVEWAYS
- ✓ RENDER & CLADDING

CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE



0121 369 0070  

07546 264164

✉ enquiries@solclean.co.uk  www.solclean.co.uk

VIEW SOLCLEAN ONLINE



Projects

Paving & Landscaping

DRIVEWAYS & LANDSCAPE SOLUTIONS

- Clay & Block Paving • Tarmacing (Red or Black)
- Patios • Brickwork • Slabbing • Gravel • Landscaping
- Fencing • Property Repairs • Roofing Repairs
- Driveway Maintenance (Pressure cleaning & Sealing - weed free)



We pride ourselves on our high standards of workmanship

We will beat any like for like genuine written quote

0121 652 0145

Solihull

01926 674 782

Kenilworth, Warwick and Leamington

M: 07961 358 367

E: projectspaving@icloud.com



Find us on Facebook



To see our current range of work carried out in your local area please visit www.projectspaving.co.uk

328 Alcester Road
Wythall B47 6JR

D.A. MANDER & SON Ltd

PROFESSIONAL FITTER AND SUPPLIER OF QUALITY CARPETS

*Don Mander does not have retail premises.
If you need him please call him direct,
the only way to buy carpets*

SUPPLIERS
TO THE
NATIONAL
TRUST

01564 700200

EASIER – Than walking round lots of shops

ACCURATE – See colours in their true light

CONVENIENT – View in the comfort of your own home

We can uplift and remove existing carpets and move furniture

Mobile: 07976 778694

FREE ESTIMATES

91 Longdon Road, Knowle B93 9HT

See our Review's at

Google  Yell.  FreeIndex



Have Your Windows Steamed Up?

Finance
Options
Available

Replace just the failed glass unit!

All glazing backed by our

25
YEAR
GUARANTEE

Looking to upgrade your existing
windows and doors? UPVC,
composite or aluminium.

Contact us NOW!

 **TRUSTMARK**
Government Endorsed Quality

 **Checka
trade**

 **FENSA**
Approved



Get a **FREE Quote**

Social distancing in operation

Faulty locks, handles or hinges?

cloudy 2 CLEAR
WINDOWS
REPLACING YOUR FAILED DOUBLE GLAZING

Priority freephone
0800 61 21 118

www.cloudy2clear.co.uk

Love Your Home - Protect Your Windows - Save Money





**DORRIDGE
DOORS**

THE GARAGE DOOR SPECIALISTS

**A Father And Son Business With
Over 25 Years Experience...**

We are a genuine family business and have been working in and around Dorridge for over 25 years. We pride ourselves in a high standard of work and customer satisfaction.

- Up and over doors
- Quality roller doors
- Insulated sectional doors
- Repairs & servicing
- Automatic operators



★ Trustpilot 4.6 See our reviews! Yell.com 5.0



01564 335513



www.dorrridgedoors.co.uk



Rightio Plumbing & Heating

0121 206 3761

We work in
**Knowle, Dorridge,
Bentley Heath,
Eastcote and all
surrounding areas.**

▶ COMPETITIVE RATES ◀

- ✓ Fast Response
- ✓ All Work Guaranteed
- ✓ Flexible Appointment Times

▶ 12 Month ◀

Guarantee
on labour!
Excludes blockages

▶ OAP ◀

Discount
Speak to
us today!

▶ 1-2 Hour ◀

Emergency
Response
time!



650921

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Boiler Breakdowns
- ✓ Boiler Servicing
- ✓ Radiators & Pipes
- ✓ Tanks & Cylinders
- ✓ Toilets & Taps
- ✓ Leaks & Bursts
- ✓ Showers
- ✓ Clearing Blockages
- ✓ Pipework Replacement
- ✓ Gas Safe Certified

Are You a Safe Driver?

Are you sure about that?

Do you have a sneaking suspicion that as a nation we are becoming worse drivers? Well you're right. Here are some reasons why.

Unconscious Aggression

Many drivers exhibit behaviours, such as tailgating and blocking, that they would never consider outside their vehicle. Drivers who score high on impulsiveness, are more prone to this aggression and show less sensitivity to punishment!

Overestimating Safety

There has been a strong downward trend in the rate of motor vehicle deaths since the 1970s. This is thanks to advances in automotive safety systems such as seatbelts, airbags, ABS braking, and more recently, blind-spot and lane-departure warnings. Yet these safety

features may paradoxically cause complacency, making us less aware of road danger.

Dehumanising Other Drivers

On foot we apologise if we walk through a door and nearly collide with someone. Near misses in cars however often trigger anger. Research indicates that drivers dehumanise other road users, behaving in ways they wouldn't in personal interactions.

Everyone Else is Stupid!

This is called the Fundamental Attribution Error, and leads us to blame other drivers' mistakes on their abilities while excusing our own errors as situational. So other drivers make mistakes because they are idiots but when we make them it was unavoidable!

Lone Driver Danger

Lone drivers exhibit riskier behaviour than those carrying passengers. The presence of

others, particularly children seems to encourage more careful driving.

Hands-Free is NOT Risk-Free

While UK law permits hands-free phone use, there is no evidence to show it's safer than hand-held! The primary danger lies in the cognitive distraction of the conversation, not the act of holding the phone. Driving courteously is safer and makes the road a more pleasant place for everyone. So:

Indicate Appropriately -

Signal your intentions well in advance to reduce the likelihood of confusion and accidents. Indicate when turning, changing lanes, or merging into traffic.

Give Way to Pedestrians,

Cyclists and Riders - At zebra crossings, stop to let pedestrians cross. When passing cyclists or horses, slow down and allow plenty of space, ideally at least 1.5 meters.

Merging Manners

Use the "zipper merge" technique, especially in heavy traffic. This means allowing one car from the merging lane to enter for every car in the continuing lane. Don't speed up to block others from merging.



Helping Your Child Move to Secondary School

Moving to secondary school is exciting, and marks an important stage of growing up. But like any change, it can be an anxious time and the transition to secondary school challenging.

Get Prepared

There will be lots to learn in the first few weeks, and minimising the unknowns can support your child to feel more confident. Look at the school website and map, talk through the lesson timetable and travel the school journey together.

Build Independence

Support your child to build their own skills and confidence. Encourage them to practise and to take responsibility for the things they need to do each day. Get into the good routine of packing their school bag, going to bed and getting up in time to eat breakfast.

Share Information

Share information with the new school. Arrange a meeting to share key information and discuss any support needed, this is particularly important if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Keep Talking

Your child might feel worried about moving school and have lots of questions. Discuss their concerns openly rather than saying 'there's nothing to worry about'. Being worried is understandable, keep talking and offer reassurance.

Give It Time

Finally, give it time. Settling into a new school can be challenging and it will take time for your child to feel confident with their new routine and to build friendships.

Dr Danielle Grey is the Clinical Director for the Purple House Clinic.



Mental Health & Neurodiversity Services

At the Purple House Clinic we understand that psychological health is as important as physical health. We believe that everybody deserves to be happy and fulfilled in life, and we are committed to helping people overcome, or adapt to, life's challenges.

the
PURPLE HOUSE CLINIC

Our Services

Delivered by a team of highly qualified and registered healthcare professionals, our services include:

- Psychological Assessment
- Psychological Therapy
- Autism Assessments
- Occupational Therapy
- Sensory Assessment



0121 820 7851



birmingham@purplehouseclinic.co.uk



Coleshill - with easy access from the M42

Kids' Page

Can you identify the trees from their fallen leaves?
The first one has been done for you.



Sycamore
Oak

Horse Chestnut
Ash

Birch
Beech

Can you find all the words associated with September in the letter grid?

M	B	A	C	K	T	O	S	C	H	O	O	L
U	F	S	H	L	Z	Q	A	U	T	U	M	N
S	B	L	A	C	K	B	E	R	R	I	E	S
H	A	Z	R	C	P	Q	N	U	S	B	I	C
R	L	H	V	C	O	N	K	E	R	S	G	Z
O	Z	J	E	J	Q	R	V	R	L	F	C	D
O	S	E	S	U	O	A	N	J	T	E	N	J
M	K	O	T	D	E	X	M	S	O	E	W	V
S	W	R	I	L	A	P	P	L	E	S	W	T

Acorns
Apples
Autumn
Back to school
Blackberries
Conkers
Harvest
Leaves
Mushrooms

M	B	A	C	K	T	O	S	C	H	O	O	L
U	F	S	H	L	Z	Q	A	U	T	U	M	N
S	B	L	A	C	K	B	E	R	R	I	E	S
H	A	Z	R	C	P	Q	N	U	S	B	I	C
R	L	H	V	C	O	N	K	E	R	S	G	Z
O	Z	J	E	J	Q	R	V	R	L	F	C	D
O	S	E	S	U	O	A	N	J	T	E	N	J
M	K	O	T	D	E	X	M	S	O	E	W	V
S	W	R	I	L	A	P	P	L	E	S	W	T

Word Grid Solution

Why do Swallows Fly South in the Winter?
Because It's too Far to Walk!

Leaf Match Answers
1. Oak
2. Ash
3. Horse Chestnut
4. Birch
5. Beech
6. Sycamore

C. STEVENS ROOFING

EST FAMILY BUSINESS

NEW TILED ROOFS • GUTTERS
FLAT ROOFS • BRICK WORK
LEADWORK • SMALL REPAIRS
UPVC FASCIAS • CHIMNEYS



KNOWLE SOLIHULL
01564 790008 0121 733 1276

WWW.CSTEVENSTEROOFING.CO.UK

LOCK FIT

24 HOUR LOCKSMITH SERVICES

No call-out charge
Available 24/7

JUST
MOVED IN?
CALL US
FOR NEW
HOME
PACKAGES

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE, NO-OBLIGATION SECURITY CHECK AND ADVICE

Locked Out

We can gain access for you non-destructively

Emergency Locksmiths

15-30 min emergency response time for your peace of mind

uPVC Door Lock Specialists

Our locksmiths are specialists in uPVC door and window locks

Door/Window Handles Changed & Replaced

Stuck, broken or damaged window handles? We can help

Lost Keys

Lost your keys? We recommend a full lock change service for your security

Locks Changed & Replaced

Lock replacement and upgrades, all with a 12 month guarantee

Home Security

We offer a variety of smart camera and alarm systems to protect your property

Emergency Boarding Up & Burglary Repairs

We can offer a 24/7 emergency boarding up and repair service



12 month parts
& labour guarantee



lewis@lockfit.co.uk

www.lockfit.co.uk/lockfit-locksmiths-knowle/

01564 627 020

Bill Boyce Decorators

A family run business with over 30 years experience

- Painting & Decorating
- Internal / External
- Offices, Restaurants & Private Houses
- Reliable
- Excellent Reputation
- All work carried out to a high standard
- Free Estimates



Call Bill on 07976 810680 or Dan on 07966 275134

89 Union Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 3BY

Tel: 0121 744 0040 or fax: 0121 744 0312

Email: billboycedecorators@hotmail.co.uk

www.billboycedecorators.com



A fully insured and highly skilled roofing company based in Solihull, West Midlands with many years experience. Deluxe Roofing Ltd is a professional, reliable roofing company with unrivalled expertise in the industry.

- New Roofs • Flat Roofs • Minor Repairs • Fascias and Guttering
- Insurance Work • Moss Removal • Rebedding of Ridge Tiles • Chimneys
- Valleys • All Guttering Cleaned and Repaired **from £49.99**

OFFICE: 0121 314 99 53 FREEPHONE: 0800 747 14 61

MIDLANDS BRANCH

UNIT 70, 123 STRATFORD ROAD, SHIRLEY. B90 3ND

WWW.DELUXEROOFINGLTD.CO.UK

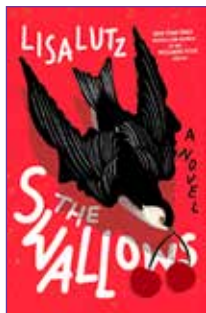
a good read

By Natasha Donovan

The Swallows

by Lisa Lutz

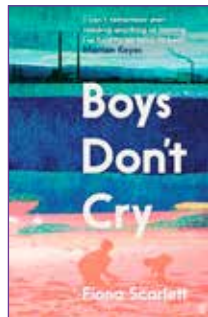
Alexandra Witt is a new teacher at the prestigious Stonebridge Academy where she quickly stumbles upon undercurrents of sexual exploitation and manipulation, which are poisoning the school. Disturbed by the casual acceptance of such behaviour, Witt takes it upon herself to empower the students, especially the girls, to challenge the status quo. This sparks a rebellion that gradually exposes the toxic culture perpetuated by a select group of male students known as “the darkroom.” Lutz’s narrative is sharp and fast-paced, weaving multiple viewpoints that allow the reader an insider view as events unfold within the school. Each character offers a unique perspective which serves to highlight the complexity of teenage dynamics and adult responsibilities. The climax of the book is both shocking and satisfying, providing a resolution that feels both inevitable and earned. The reader will be left pondering the dynamics of power and the courage required to overturn them. *The Swallows* is a darkly intriguing novel that blends elements of suspense with biting social commentary, which makes it stand out in the densely populated thriller genre. The writing is both witty and sharp, infused with a sardonic tone that perfectly complements the serious themes she tackles.



Boys Don't Cry

by Fiona Scarlett

While not strictly young adult fiction, I’m recommending *Boys Don’t Cry* for older teens, because it tells the story of two brothers, Joe, aged 17, who is a talented artist, and Finn, aged 12, through their own words. The boys live in a tower block in Dublin with their mother and father (known as Da’), who works for a local gang leader and is in and out of prison. Joe’s accounts of how he is dealing with traumatic loss, while struggling against the criminal influences of his father and the expectations everyone else has of him, that he’s destined for a life of crime, is heartbreaking. Finn on the other hand relates his experiences of being diagnosed with and treated for leukaemia, and the effect he sees this having on his brother and parents. Scarlett’s prose is beautiful and the voices of the two boys are believable and authentic. Teen readers will quickly identify with and become emotionally invested in the brothers as their stories intertwine in the most impactful way. The author skilfully weaves humour through the sometimes harrowing themes, because even at life’s darkest moments, or perhaps because of them, there are always flashes of hilarity. The stories of Joe, Finn and the other characters who live in ‘The Jax’ tower block will stay with the reader for a long time. My own teen suggested this title to me and thinks this should be on the GCSE English syllabus because of the engaging story and the author’s insight into boy’s lives and minds.



Athos

solutions for the future...

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Chartered Certified Accountants



Athos has built up a professional team that goes the 'extra mile' as a matter of due course. This has been invaluable to our business and has greatly assisted us.

*Roger Green, Director
Menswear Company*

- Accounts
- Tax Returns
- Payroll and Auto Enrolment
- Bookkeeping and VAT Returns
- Tax Advice
- Management Accounts

Call and make an appointment for a free initial consultation where a bespoke fixed fee quotation will be provided.

T. 0333 400 7876

Athos Business Solutions Limited
1623 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9LF
www.athos.uk.com

enquiries@athos.uk.com



Blackberry and Almond Crumble Cake



Preparation time: 20 mins

Cooking time: 45-50 mins

Serves: 10-12 slices

Ingredients

Cake

200g butter, plus extra for the tin
 200g golden caster sugar
 3 medium eggs
 225g plain flour
 2 tsp baking powder
 50g ground almonds
 2 tbsp milk
 1 tsp vanilla or almond extract
 3 tbsp blackcurrant or blackberry and apple jam
 150g blackberries

Crumble

50g plain flour
 25g unsalted butter
 25g caster sugar
 1 tbsp demerara sugar
 Pinch of salt
 1 tbsp flaked almonds

Method

Cake

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas mark 4. Grease a 23cm round cake tin and line with baking parchment. Beat the butter and the sugar together in a large bowl using an electric whisk until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time until smooth and creamy. Sift in the flour and baking powder, then fold in, adding the almonds, milk, and vanilla until mixed thoroughly. Scrape the mixture into the tin and level the surface. Dot teaspoons of jam

across the mix, then scatter over the blackberries, pressing them in lightly.

Crumble

Rub the flour and butter together until the mixture it resemble crumbs, then stir in the sugar and add a pinch of salt. Mix in the flaked almonds, then scatter the crumble over the cake. Scatter with the demerara sugar and bake for 45 mins until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for at least 20 mins then slice and serve with creme fraiche.

FULLY FITTED FROM £895*

Checkatrade
9.8 out of 10

Trustpilot
★★★★★
7000+ reviews



Tug-of-war with your old garage door? Switch to electric for easy access.

- ✔ FREE 5-year warranty
- ✔ Manufactured in the UK
- ✔ Fitted by a local Garolla engineer

Ask about our NEW, police-accredited TITAN door, giving you extra peace of mind.

GAROLLA
ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

BOOK A FREE SURVEY TODAY
01564 340 013
GAROLLA.CO.UK

*Applies to White Transform doors up to 2.25m wide

Dorrige & Knowle Domestic Cleaning Services

- Small established cleaning and domestic help business
- Provide dedicated, friendly & trustworthy local ladies (CRB checked)
- Take pride in high standards and caring for customers' homes
- Regular service or one off spring cleans
- Ironing service available
- References available
- Comprehensive insurance
- Costs are not subject to VAT



For a FREE, no obligation quote, please call Sue on **07809 567264**

Mindbenders

Can you find the hidden phrases?

winter

summer

autumn

hen

EDILS

John Ag

answers on page 26

Video tape + Cine film to digital



www.solihullphotographer.co.uk

paulkallu@gmail.com

07875 475554

ADVERTISE HERE

Advertise

Contact Zoe Reece on 07557 220585 /
zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

local police contact for knowle & dorridge

Sergeant Mike Lloyd

Telephone: 101 ext 892 6037

Email: rural@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Solution to Mind benders

1. No spring chicken
2. Backslide
3. Long John Silver

mindbenders
from page 24

LOCAL COUNCILLORS DORRIDGE & HOCKLEY HEATH

Ian Courts

Tel: 07836 733117

icourts@solihull.gov.uk

Andrew Mackiewicz

amackiew@solihull.gov.uk

Sally Tomlinson

Tel: 07968 442972

sally.tomlinson@solihull.gov.uk

KNOWLE

Diana Holl-Allen MBE

Tel: 07879 473052

dhallen@solihull.gov.uk

Dave Pinwell

Tel: 07410 099709

dave.pinwell@solihull.gov.uk

Edward Fitter

edward.fitter@solihull.gov.uk

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

Sudoku Solution
from page 12

P	O	L	A	N	D	S	A	W	A	F	E	R
A	A	O	S	A	A	H						
R	E	N	E	W	N	O	I	S	I	L	I	
I	T	A	A	L	N	T						
S	L	E	N	D	E	R	I	T	C	H		
H	R	A	L	I	D							
S	E	N	V	Y	I	B	E	X				
S		S	O	B	V	X	S					
Q	U	I	P		U	K	U	L	E	L	E	
U	G	S		D	L	C	X					
A	L	L	O	W	E	D	G	A	U	N	T	
R	O	A	Y	E	T	E						
E	B	O	N	Y	A	D	V	E	N	T		

Crossword Solution
from page 12

Does your company
need a **fresh approach**
to marketing?



hotlobster design offers everything a
business needs in this **digital world**.

Bespoke content managed websites, SEO, social media management,
print management, logo design, clothing, copy writing and much more.

hotlobster 
design · marketing · web · print

0121 369 1977
www.hotlobster.uk.com

N.BIRD & SON

ROOFING SERVICES

SAME QUALITY TODAY AS IT WAS IN 1987



FREE QUOTES

EST 1987 SOLIHULL BASED

0121 743 6324

LOCAL FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

- Small Repairs
- Flat Roofs
- New Roofs
- Ridge Tiles
- Chimney Work
- Lead Work
- UPVC Fascia & Soffits
- Full Gutter Replacements
- Small brickwork jobs



249 Lyndon Road, Solihull B92 7QP



NO PAYMENT UNTIL YOU ARE 100% SATISFIED