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a community magazine and business directory
for residents of shirley

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Blossomfield Grange care home
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0121 468 1154
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Holidays!

Welcome to the August edition

For those of you that aren't jetting off overseas this Summer, there's lots of great things happening locally, including tribute acts and beer festivals.

Check out the local event guide on page 6 to see what takes your fancy. Whether you're staying locally or exploring Europe or further afield, this Summer, have a great month and make the most of the weather and the Summer holidays, while they last!



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community events

The 3 Lions Beer & Cider Festival

6 & 7 September 12noon -

11pm, Shirley British Legion

Entry is £10 which includes a souvenir beer glass, tasting notes for all the beer and cider, £5 worth of beer/cider tokens, and live entertainment from Ray's Open Mic Night. Tickets can be obtained from the Legion or at www.shirleylions.co.uk/events/beerfestival.html



Circus & Storytelling Workshop

27 August, Core Theatre Solihull

Join circus artist and storyteller Gaby for an exciting day of circus skills and stories. You'll even get to make your own piece of circus kit to take home. Don't miss out,

the circus is only in town for one day! For ages 7 to 13. Tickets £30 from www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

"The Supremettes" tribute to Diana Ross & The Supremes

31 August, The Lake at Barston
Among others The Supremes

had number ones with "Baby Love", "Stop! in the name of love", "Come see about me", "Ain't no mountain high enough" and "You can't hurry love". Tickets £33 per person, or £28 in the Annexe, which includes a 3 course Dinner, Entertainment and late bar. Ticket price show only - £10 per person. Call 01675 444890 to book.



Hits Radio Live

22 November, Resorts World Arena

Hits Radio Live is back in 2024 for an incredible night of performances from your favourite hits and throwback artists. Previous Hits Live shows have included Lewis Capaldi, Rita Ora, Tom Grennan, Anne Marie, Craig David, James Arthur, Becky Hill, Busted and many more! Tickets from www.resortsworldarena.co.uk

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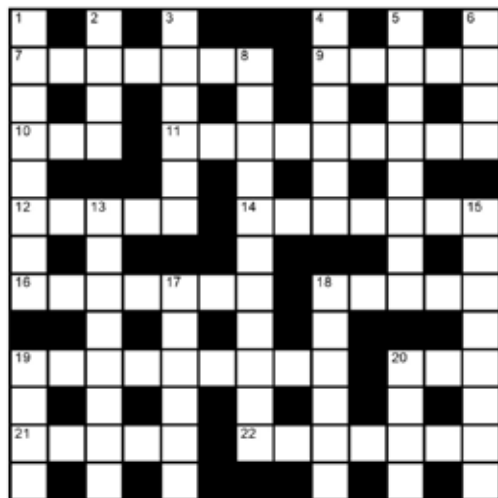
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crossword



clues

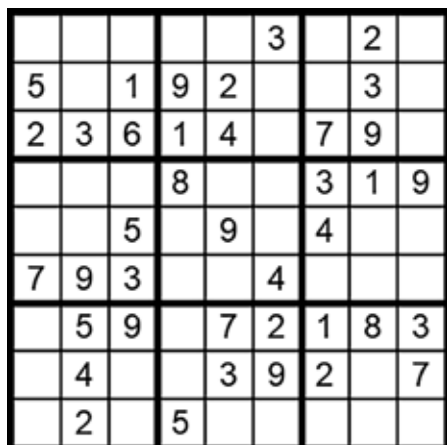
Across

- 7 Voted in, chosen (7)
- 9 Concepts, notions (5)
- 10 Affirmative response (3)
- 11 Outward Behaviour (9)
- 12 Denigrate, exploit (5)
- 14 Enlightened, tolerant (7)
- 16 Analyses, observes (7)
- 18 Stick, cudgel (5)
- 19 Mobilising troops (9)
- 20 Blockade, stopper (3)
- 21 Bamboo-eating bear-like animal (4)
- 22 Ice river (7)

Down

- 1 A decade (3,5)
- 2 Chaos, disarray (4)
- 3 Filling, cloying food (6)
- 4 Baking soda (abbr) (6)
- 5 Not a Republican! (U.S) (8)
- 6 Russian emperor (4)
- 8 Destroying, breaking (11)
- 13 Supplanting (8)
- 15 Monument, feature (8)
- 17 Line joining points of equal atmospheric pressure on a weather map (6)
- 18 Tramp, drifter (6)
- 19 Drug, sedate (4)
- 20 Trickle, plop (4)

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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Mindbenders
Can you find the hidden phrases?



TTTT WINKS

much much
young young

answers on page 14

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a good read

By Natasha Donovan

Queenie

by Candice Carty-Williams

Queenie Jenkins, a 25-year-old British-Jamaican journalist in London, faces a life-altering change when her white boyfriend, Tom, suggests a break. She is forced to reassess her life, questioning her actions and identity. Queenie could be 'just another chick lit novel' about a twenty-something navigating her career and relationships. She has been called the Black Bridget Jones, but if this is the case then it's Bridget Jones without the cushion of middle-class white privilege. Throughout the novel, Queenie confronts and challenges various forms of micro-oppressions and injustice. Carty-Williams tackles societal issues head-on; the depiction of casual systemic racism is eye-opening, and handled with a deftness and inside humour of one who has experienced all of it. Queenie and her friend Kyazike are compelling in their struggles and resilience, offering a portrayal of young Black women just living their lives, which is often missing in books and media. Queenie's experiences as a woman are relatable for the majority of young women, evoking laughter one moment and discomfort the next. It's an honest depiction of life as a twenty-something in a big city. Despite covering many important topics, it's an easy read. The humour is sharp, and the storytelling fosters a deep empathy with the characters. The reader will care about Queenie as she battles her demons. Carty-Williams has managed to strike a balance between light and dark, reinventing the rom-com to include significant issues. This blending of tones makes this a cut above the usual romantic holiday read.



The Girl Who Stole an Elephant

by Nizrana Farook

This is an exhilarating adventure set in a lush, fictional part of Sri Lanka. Chaya is a spirited and courageous young girl who quietly champions the poor, the injured, and the widowed. The way she funds these charitable deeds is a little questionable, but readers will love her anyway. Chaya's attempt to help an injured villager lands her, her best friend, and a new girl in town in a LOT of trouble. What starts out as a robbery of the Queen's jewels ends up in a wild chase as she steals the king's elephant and unwittingly sets off a thrilling chain of events. Farook's narrative is full of fast-paced action, which young readers will love. The lush tropical setting of Serendib is full of details that transport the reader to the exotic land. Chaya is an engaging hero, whose bravery and sense of justice are matched by her loyalty to her friends. The book tackles themes of friendship, loyalty, and the fight against injustice, making these concepts accessible to young readers through the dynamic plot and relatable characters. Neel and Nour, add depth and diversity to the story, each bringing their own strengths and challenges to the group dynamics. The Girl Who Stole an Elephant is a thrilling ride that manages to subtly explore issues of social inequality and the implications of rebelling against it. Farook skilfully balances moral questions with exciting escapades, making this a thoughtful yet fun story for young readers.



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Reluctant Readers

In 2023 a survey of 71,400 children and young people by the National Literacy Trust revealed that fewer than one in three children (28%) aged eight to 18 read daily for enjoyment.

If that's true it's incredibly sad. Blame is apportioned to politicians, teachers, the TV, and internet, but blame doesn't achieve anything. Instead, as parents what can we do to encourage our children to engage with literature? Try these great tips to engage reluctant readers.

Let them see you reading! It sounds obvious but it works. Read some funny bits from



your own book aloud to them or try an interesting newspaper article.

Try to schedule a small part of the day for reading. It doesn't even have to be them reading. My ten-year-old son still loves me to read to him...especially when I put on accents and voices to suit the

characters. Lose your inhibitions and have fun with reading and your children will follow suit.

Try a joke book or nonsense poetry books. Kids love jokes and rhymes, the sillier the better. They won't even realise they are reading as they regale you with their new-found anecdotes and ditties.

Use the power of movies. My ten-year-old really engaged with reading when he saw the first Harry Potter movie. He read the book straight afterwards and realised how much richer in detail it was compared with the film. From then on he was hooked.

local police contact for Shirley

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

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Health

NHS non-emergency 111

Solihull Hospital 0121 424 2000

Spire Parkway Hospital 0121 704 1451

Shirley Medical Centre 0121 705 1105

Park Surgery 0121 796 2777

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Tanworth Lane Surgery 0121 733 6738

Council

Solihull Council 0121 704 6000

Utilities

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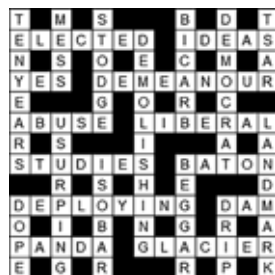
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Crossword Solution
from page 8



Sudoku Solution
from page 8

Solution to Mind benders

1. The dark side of the moon
2. Forty winks
3. Too much, too young

midbenders
from page 10

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