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december 2022

a community magazine and business directory
for residents of wythall & hollywood

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WEDNESDAY 21ST DEC 9.00-6.00
THURSDAY 22ND DEC 9.00-7.00
FRIDAY 23RD 9.00-7.00
SATURDAY 24TH (CHRISTMAS EVE) 8.00-3.00

SUNDAY 25TH - TUESDAY 27TH CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 28TH (WE WILL BE CUTTING HAIR
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THURSDAY 29TH 10.00-4.00
FRIDAY 30TH 10.00-4.00
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**THIS YEAR WE ARE COLLECTING MUCH-NEEDED ITEMS FOR THE VULNERABLE AND HOMELESS THROUGH
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Wishing you all a very merry Christmas

Welcome to the December edition

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. Everyone's had a tough couple of years, but this is still continuing with the cost-of-living increases that are affecting everyone. However you spend your Christmas, here's hoping you have a lovely time and wishing you all a happy and healthy 2023.

Zoe Reece

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Zoe

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The Luna Drive-In Winter Cinema

1-22 December, NEC

Enjoy a festive movie on the big screen, from the comfort of your own car. Whether you love Elf, Home Alone, Love Actually, or The Holiday, there's something for everyone. Sit back and relax with Christmas themed food and drink, and a



stunning festive setting. Tickets from www.thenec.co.uk

Wythall Park Santa Sleigh Charity Collection

10-18 December

Santa will be out on the streets of Hollywood and Wythall again to raise funds for Wythall Park. Sat 10: Wythall; Sun 11: Hollywood (May Ln, Oakwood, Falstaff, Shawhurst); Fri 16: Hollywood N (Dark Ln, New Rd, Douglas, Corbett, Hollywood Ln); Sat 17: Majors Green, Truemans Heath, Wythwood, Windrush; Sun 18 Hollywood S (Silver St, Simms Ln, Sycamore Dr). More detailed route information on Facebook.

Beauty and The Beast Pantomime

9 December - 2 January, Core Theatre Solihull

Belle, and her friend Jacques and his mum, Betty the local bell ringer, get much more than they bargained for

when they find themselves trapped inside the enchanted castle of a mysterious beast. Tickets from www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk

Elf: A Christmas Spectacular

22-23 December, Resorts World Arena

ELF, the hit movie, has been supersized into a live arena spectacular with a massive stage featuring amazing film backdrops on a huge LED screen plus a mobile stage that travels the auditorium, so everyone gets a close-up view of the action. Tickets from www.resortsworldarena.co.uk

Robin Hood Pantomime

14 January, Wythall Park

Outside the Box Productions will present this magical tale with bags of audience participation and plenty of songs and fun. <https://WythallPanto2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

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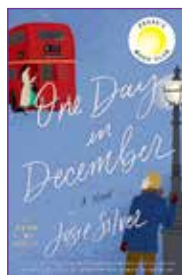
By Natasha Donovan

One Day in December

by Josie Silver

It's the time of year for a feel-good romantic novel, one that can be enjoyed curled up under a blanket with a nutmeg-spiced hot chocolate.

Laurie is unlucky in love and stuck in a career rut. One day she is sitting on a bus when she spots a man reading at the bus stop. He looks up, their eyes meet and somewhere there is a spark. Laurie can't stop thinking about him, wondering if they will ever meet. Her best friend and roommate Sarah is Laurie's opposite. She introduces Jack, her new boyfriend to Laurie, anxious that they will hit it off except... her boyfriend is the man from the bus, the guy that



Laurie has been dreaming about. No surprises here...classic romantic chick-lit so far.

Cue heartbreak and hiccups, and the quest not to hurt a friend while pursuing your own 'happily ever after'. But this novel actually spans a decade (unusual for a romance) of friendship, fate, unrequited feelings, forgiveness, heartache, and love. It's not a typical love story...there's good character development. It's told both from Laurie and Jack's perspectives, with the reader privy to their thoughts and feelings. It has all the nostalgia (and a few of the cliches) of a Richard Curtis film, but the trio of central characters clearly care deeply about each other. Their friendship feels genuine, which in turn makes us care about them and gives the story its heart.

If this book doesn't get made into a film at some point, I'll be surprised.

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Christmas Jumper Day!

Thursday 8th December 2022 is Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day!

The charity Save the Children started Christmas Jumper Day in 2012. Every year since then, millions of people don gaudy festive knitwear in their school or office and donate £2 to a good cause.

The Christmas jumper has grown in popularity, going from 'hideously misjudged gift' status to a desirable festive fashion statement. Some 12 million Christmas jumpers are sold in the UK in the run up to Christmas every year.

With the rise of consumer advertising in the fifties and sixties, jumpers had always featured heavily in Christmas adverts. The models' usual suits and dresses were replaced with cosy knitwear to encourage

consumers to buy seasonal goods. These were more conventional woollies though. As

Christmas became ever more commercial, 'novelty' jumpers appeared decorated with snowmen, snowflakes, Santas, and popular cartoon characters dressed in festive attire.

There's a Christmas jumper to suit every taste, from 'techno-knits' covered in fairy lights, which connect to your phone and play musical clips, to jumpers bearing whimsical dachshunds in Santa hats, through to elegantly beautiful sparkly numbers that wouldn't look out of place at a cocktail event.

Pull on your Christmas pullover on December 8th and help raise money for a good cause.



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Give us a kiss for Christmas...

So goes the vintage Pinky and Perky song. A kiss under a sprig of mistletoe is a well-known festive tradition. But why?

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant which attaches itself to a tree by means of something called a haustorium, and through this it extracts water and nutrients from the host plant. So how did it become associated with romance?

Mistletoe's medicinal uses can be traced back to Ancient Greece, where they used it as a cure for everything from menstrual cramps to spleen disorders, and the Romans used it as for epilepsy, ulcers and as a poison. No obvious romantic overtones there! Enter the Celtic Druids around 1st century A.D. Mistletoe thrives during the coldest winters, so the Druids adopted it as a sacred symbol of vivacity, and used it in both humans and

animals in the hope of restoring fertility. Then there is the Norse myth of Odin's son Baldur, who was prophesied to die, so his mother Frigg, the goddess of love, went to all the animals and plants of the natural world to secure an oath that they would not harm him. But she forgot to ask the humble mistletoe, so the god Loki cunningly made an arrow from the plant and used it to kill the otherwise invincible Baldur. But the gods were able to resurrect him, so (somewhat counterintuitively perhaps) Frigg declared mistletoe a symbol of love and vowed to plant a kiss on all those who passed beneath it.

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Christmas Crossword



Clues

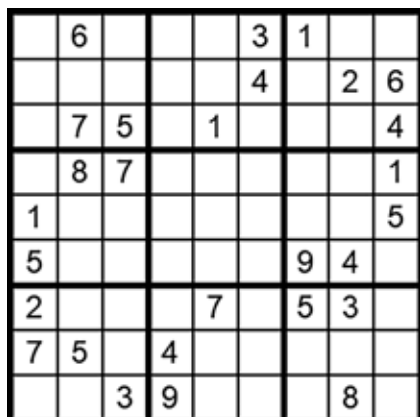
Across

- 2 Santa's helpers (5)
- 5 _____ Christmas! (5)
- 6 _____ fairy (5,4)
- 8 Frozen rain (4)
- 9 Circular decoration (6)
- 12 Santa's means of entry (7)
- 13 Tree decoration (6)
- 16 Striped sweet (5,4)
- 19 Tree topper (4)
- 20 Film starring Martin Freeman (8)
- 21 Santa's lead reindeer (7)
- 22 Kris _____ (7)
- 23 Dr Seuss's green Christmas villain (6)
- 24 Little _____ Boy (7)



Down

- 1 _____ Bells (6)
- 2 Traditional dairy drink (6)
- 3 Charles Dickens' anti-hero (7)
- 4 The Holly and the _____ (3)
- 5 You might get a kiss under this (9)
- 7 Three Kings Day (8)
- 10 A girl's festive name (5)
- 11 The Christmas ballet (10)
- 14 Used to build festive houses (11)
- 15 Famous snowman (6)
- 16 Christmas song (5)
- 17 Where Santa lives (5,4)
- 18 Santa's transport system (6)
- 19 Hung over the fireplace or at the end of the bed (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.

answers on page 30

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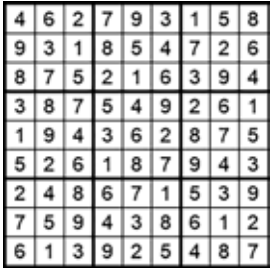
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office@wythall-park.org.uk



Suduko Solution

from page 25



Crossword Solution

from page 25

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