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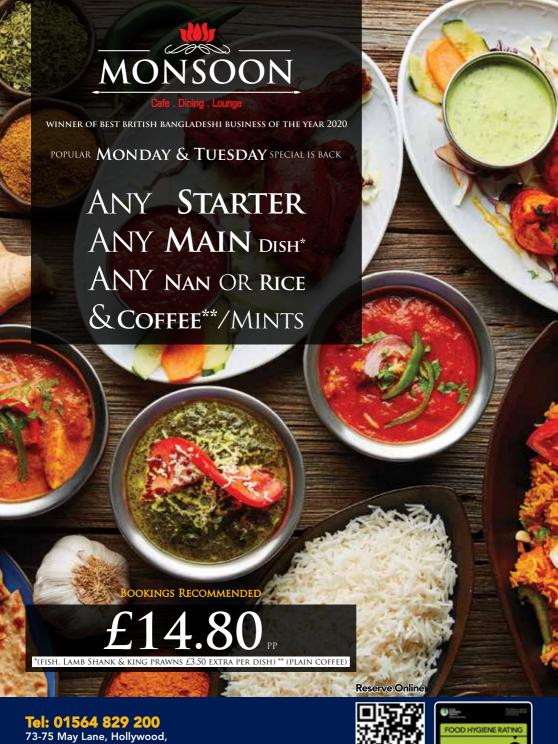
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Festive

Welcome to the November edition

By the time this arrives Christmas will only be about 5 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.wythalldirectory.com







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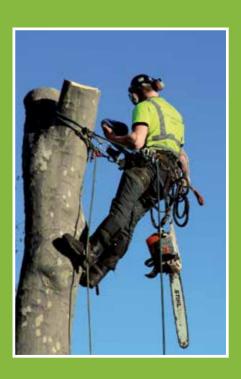




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community events

The Luna Drive-In Winter Cinema

1-22 December, NEC

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Santa's Sleigh

10 - 18 December, Wythall Park

Santa and his helpers will be bringing Christmas cheer to the streets of Hollywood & Wythall. Run entirely by volunteers, all money raised supports Wythall Park. Every penny gratefully received. Follow Wythall Park Santa's Sleigh on Facebook to see when he will be in your area.

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

ABBA Tribute Night

10 December, The Royal British Legion Shirley

Melody Mias bring ABBA to life with their top-class tribute. Dancing Queens will be welcomed up onto the dancefloor, in an interactive and stunning show which includes all of the well-known Abba Classics. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk

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22-23 December, Resorts World Arena

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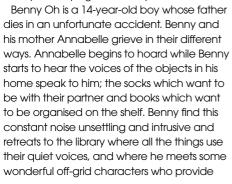
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The Book of Form and Emptiness

by Ruth Ozeki

This is the most beautiful and unusual book I have read for a while. With themes of love, family, arief, mental health, and substance abuse it sounds heavy, but be assured that though the book is heavy at 548 pages, the story is not.



The Book actually narrates the novel. The Book is a character in its own right and interacts with Benny directing him to be the hero of his own story. They even disagree over how to tell the

a moving insight into mental ill-health.

Book. Do the objects really talk to him? Infused with warmth and wisdom the novel has some areat characters, like the landlady's evil son who is hell bent on evicting Benny and Annabelle, and a Marie Kondo character who Anabelle appeals to for help, shining a light on how our relationships are impacted by the importance we give to material belongings and the clutter we allow in our lives.

family's back story, particularly when it comes to

his mother's sex life. Ozeki blurs the line between

Benny's hallucinations and the reality of The

This is an enchanting and highly original novel. I read it then listened to the audio book. narrated by Kerry Shale, which I have to say was even better!

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Closing date for entries is 1st December 2022.



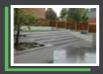
The winner will be notified by email after this date. Please note there is no cash value nor exchange for this prize so please don't enter if you cannot attend the date shown above.



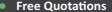


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answers on page 26

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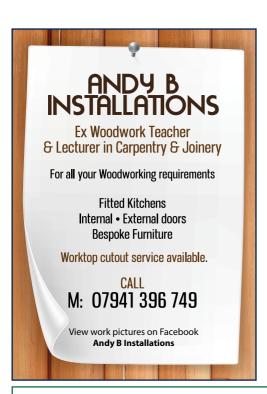


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The Poignant Poppy

Why do we wear the poppy? - Scarlet poppies grow wild all over western Europe wherever the soil has been disturbed. The battles of the First World War churned up such vast areas of earth that millions of poppies

germinated and bloomed, often around the bodies of the fallen soldiers. A Canadian surgeon called John McRae wrote the poem In Flanders Fields, which many of us study in school. The poem is a haunting memorial

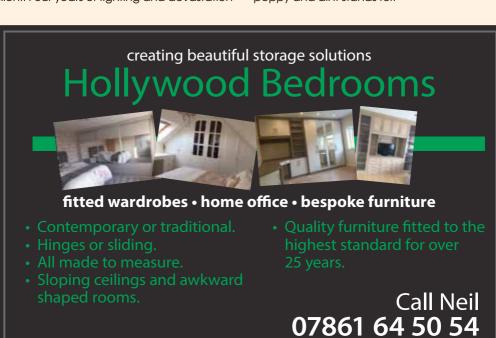
to those soldiers who have died in any war and the imagery of the poppies is used to symbolise the deaths of those who fought.

Why do we hold a two-minute silence? - On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the guns of World War I fell silent. Four years of fighting and devastation finally ended. The following year ceremonies of remembrance took place on what was known as Armistice Day. An armistice is an agreement for the cessation of active hostilities between two sides in a war.

An Australian journalist, Edward George Honey first proposed a respectful silence to remember the dead. He wrote a letter to the London Evening News which was brought to the attention of King George V. The king issued a proclamation

which called for a two-minute silence. These days Armistice Day is more usually known as Remembrance Sunday and is a chance to honour the fallen soldiers of all conflicts. In the light of the atrocities going on Ukraine this year, I hope you'll think even more about your poppy and all it stands for.

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from page 15



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