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#### If you're looking to spoil your loved one for Valentine's Day then why not treat them to a night out, rather than buying yet another box of chocolates?!

Whether you fancy soul music, a classic musical, or a fun tribute act, there's something for everyone – just check out page 6 to see what's happening in the local area. But if you prefer dogs to humans then head up to Crufts instead for a little bit of puppy love!

And if Valentine's Day will just pass you by, why not show your home some love instead? There's a wide range of local businesses and tradespeople in here who can help you improve your home, whether you need doors, driveways, or decorating...

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- » Enter competitions
   » Find offers
- » Discover local events» Find local businesses





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# community events

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### Soul & Motown Live Tribute

24 February, The Village Hotel Solihull Sing along to your favourite Motown and Soul tracks. Tickets are £30 and include a 2-course meal. You can book your tickets at www.ivvy.co.uk/event/49WPZ3/

# The King & I

#### 28 February – 4 March, Alexandra Theatre Birmingham

The King and I is the greatest musical from the golden age of musicals – with one of the finest scores ever written including Whistle a Happy Tune and Shall We Dance. Tickets can be bought at www.atgtickets.com



#### Crufts 9-12 March, NEC

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## Bootleg Bee Gees

#### 25 March, Knowle British Legion

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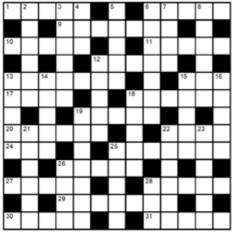
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### crossword



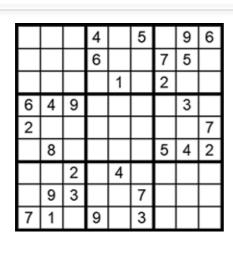
#### Down

- 2 Oaty chocolate biscuit (6)
- 3 Clothes, garments (6)
- 4 Could be pork, apple or steak! (3)
- 5 Loathes (5)
- 6 Alike (7)
- 7 Could be citric, hydrochloric or sulphuric! (4)
- 8 Deadly (6)
- 12 Wogan, radio presenter (5)
- 13 Adult female (5)
- 14 Journey, itinerary (5)
- 15 Hedgehog, hero of a video game (5)
- Destructive insects or small animals (5)

## clues

- Inexpensive (5)
- 6 Attached to a mast (5)
- 9 Ill-fated ship (7)
- 10 Subside, wane (5)
- 11 Merriment (5) 12 Luke warm (5)
- 13 Anxieties (7)
- 15 Weaken, drain (3)
- 17 Reed instrument (4)
- 18 Coax, wheedle (6)
- 19 Earlier (5)
- 20 Blood vessel (6)
- 22 Thin fog (4)
- 24 Formerly known as (3)
- 25 Infers (7)
- 26 Volatile, liquid (5)
- 27 Style of car (5)
- 28 Pontoons (5)
- 29 Display (7)
- 30 French hat (5)
- 31 Liquifies (5)
  - 18 Mask, disguise (5)
  - 19 Ploy, ruse (7)
  - 21 Far away (6)
  - 22 Change, alter (6)
  - 23 Group of seven things (6)
  - 25 Beelzebub (5)
  - 26 Blunt-ended sword used for fencing (4)
  - 28 Outer edge (3)

#### answer on page 26



# 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 26

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#### competition time

# COMPETITIONS

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# Win 2 tickets to see Romeo & Juliet by Ballet Theatre UK

Join Ballet Theatre UK with their passionate portrayal of one of the world's greatest love stories. Returning by popular demand, this theatrical production tells the tragic tale of star-crossed lovers with astonishing grace and heart-breaking intimacy. These tickets are for Saturday 15th April at 7.30pm at The Core Theatre Solihull.

## Win 2 Tickets to Around the World in 80's Sounds

This is a night out with a difference! It's a disco where you get to spin the wheel to discover the next genre of music. There's also a 'play your cards right' quiz. Fun and laugher are guaranteed so make sure you enter today to experience Dadbelly's unique take on a pub disco. This event will take place on 24 March at the Solihull RBL Club. More details on the Club and its facilities and events can be found at www.solihullrblclub.com

#### How to enter

For your chance to win, email zoe@dorridgedirectory.com with the subject line Facial or Romeo & Juliet or 80 Sounds (or all!) and you will be added to our database to receive our monthly e-newsletter about offers and events in Solihull. The winners will be notified by email after the closing date of 1 March 2023. There is no cash value nor exchange for these prizes. \*This complimentary facial will be valid for use until 30th June 2023.







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#### recipe time

# **Raspberry Tartlets**



Preparation time: 1-2 hours Cooking time: 10 to 30 mins Serves: 8

#### Ingredients

#### Pastry

175g plain flour, plus extra for dusting 2 tbsp icing sugar 100g butter, chilled, cut into small pieces 1 egg, beaten

#### **Crème Pâtissière**

150ml whole milk 1 tsp vanilla extract 25g caster sugar 25g plain flour 1 free-range egg 75ml double cream Raspberry Topping 4 tbsp raspberry jam 450g raspberries

You will need 8 small 10cm loose-bottomed metal tart tins and some baking beans.

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. To make the pastry, rub the flour, icing sugar and butter together until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Or place the flour, icing sugar and butter in a food processor and pulse. Then add the egg and combine until the mixture forms a ball. Place the dough on to a floured surface. Roll it out with a rolling pin. Cut eight rounds big enough to line the base and sides of the tins. Chill in the fridge for 20 minutes. To bake blind, prick the pastry bases, line the tins with baking parchment, fill with baking beans and bake in the oven for 10

minutes. Carefully remove the beans and paper and return the bases to the oven for 5 minutes, until cooked and a pale goldenbrown. Leave to cool. To make the crème pâtissière, place the milk and vanilla in a saucepan. Heat until the milk it is just scalded (just on the point of boiling). Place the sugar, flour and egg in a mixing bowl and whisk. Pour in half the hot milk and whisk until smooth. Pour in the remaining hot milk. Pour the mixture back into the saucepan and cook over a low heat, stirring all the time, until the custard becomes very thick. Pour into a bowl, allow to cool then cover with clina film and chill in the fridge until cold. Once cold, pour in the double cream, whisking constantly. Spoon this crème pâtissière into the tart cases and return to the fridge to chill. To make the glaze, heat the jam in a saucepan with a tablespoon of water and whisk to combine. Strain the liquid through a sieve into a small bowl. Arrange the raspberries to stand upright on the crème pâtissière then brush the warm glaze over the top.

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#### **book** reviews

# a good read By Natasha Donovan

#### The Midwife of Auschwitz

#### by Anna Stuart

Ana Kaminski is a midwife who is taken to Auschwitz with her young friend Ester Pasternak. As they pass through the iron gates and reach the front of the processing line, Ana steps forward and quietly declares her profession, saying Ester is



her assistant. Their arms are tattooed, and they're ordered to the maternity hut. There Ana vows to do everything she can to save the lives of mothers and their infants.

But she soon learns that the SS snatch the blond-haired babies from their mothers to place with German families. In spite of her horror Ana realises that for these children there is at least the hope of survival. With rumours of the war ending Ana and Ester begin to secretly tattoo the newborns with their mother's numbers, praying one day they might be reunited.

The novel is fiction, but it's based on a true story and many of the characters are based on real people at Birkenau (the largest camp in the Auschwitz complex). Ana is a Catholic, Ester is Jewish and Ana was the midwife who delivered her. Ana's family were part of the Resistance helping Jewish people escape the Nazi enforced Ghetto until Ana was arrested alona with two of her sons. Her husband and other son were not home at the time, so Ana does not know what happened to them at the time she arrives in Auschwitz. She and Ester clina to their friendship and each other through the horror and evil around them. When Liberation comes will they find a way to aet home together? And what awaits them there?

The voice of women is offen absent from history, even quite recent history. Anna Stuart's sensitive, beautiful novel showcases one woman's incredible story which is a tribute to those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

#### The Girl of Ink and Stars

#### by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Isabella Riosse (Isa) is a teen trapped on the island of Joya, a land full of myths; forbidden to travel further than the forest that flanks her village by the Governor, and all the while dreaming of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped.



When a string of unsettling events and the disappearance of her closest friend Lupa make it necessary to journey beyond the forest in search of answers, Isa joins a team of explorers on an adventure that will test her map-making skills and her courage.

As she follows her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isa discovers the true purpose of her quest: to save the island itself.

The story is a fantasy set in a parallel magical world. The author draws on mythology and folklore and blends these with themes of friendship, adventure and courage. As a bonus the text is enhanced with beautiful illustrations and maps.

The Girl of Ink and Stars is officially a children's novel but I suspect there are many adults who will also enjoy this richly drawn world and its characters.



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**Suduko Solution** from page 10



## local police contact

for wythall & hollywood

Telephone: 101

Health

NHS non-emergency Wychall Lane Surgery Hollywood Medical Practice Hollyoaks Medical Centre	111 0121 628 2345 01564 822642 01564 823182
<b>Council</b> Bromsgrove District Council (main switchboard) Bromsgrove District Council (emergency out of hours)	01527 881288 01527 871565
Utilities Electricity power cut Gas leak Severn Trent Water (main switchboard) Severn Trent Water (emergencies)	105 0800 111 9999 024 7771 5000 0800 783 4444
<b>Travel</b> National Rail Enquiries First Bus Worcestershire	03457 48 49 50 0345 646 0707

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