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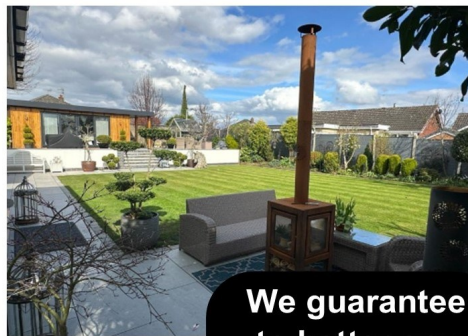
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Editor's Note

A number of years ago I employed a life coach. Her advert read, 'New You For 2002?' and under the heading she stated she could help people lose weight, so I got in touch.

Karen took the holistic approach. Rather than tackle my weight problem head on, she coached me about how to take control of my life in general. We worked through various exercises. One was about getting rid of clutter. This was both a literal binning of things I no longer needed, and also an effort to get rid of emotional clutter - things like guilt or hurt still hanging around from past mistakes or relationships. Once clutter is removed, it will leave space for more useful and productive things.

You may remember me mentioning a couple of months ago that Ami and I are slowly decluttering our home. The office is half way there. I've now decided on the new decor, so this has increased my motivation to get the job done. I'm going to work through the final filing cabinet next week!

Another aspect of decluttering is to finish off jobs that are half done. Years ago I started several sewing projects that subsequently got stuffed in a drawer, periodically looked at, then promptly put back. During January and February I finally finished making a lovely little collection of Christmas tree ornaments, ready to put on display at the end of the year. For clearer head space, I highly recommend decluttering!

Until next time...

Debbie Singh-Bhatti

Contents

Editor's Note	4
Phone Upgrades For Less	6
New Tax Year Money Reset	8
Planning a Wedding	10
A Friend Indeed	12
The Herbert Protocol	16
Latest Hair Trends	18
Carion Crows	20
Trafalgar Square 100 Years Ago	24
Your Garden: Sow, Plant, Prepare	26
Recipe: Chaat Masala Potatoes	28
Your Say	32
Items For Sale	34
Puzzle Page	36
Directory	40
Index	42
Puzzle Solutions	42

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We've all succumbed to the temptation of phone upgrades, spending hundreds of pounds on a new model that adds up to... not much. So rather than feel disappointed by how similar your new phone is to the one you've left behind, why not give a spring clean to your existing handset?

For many people, the reality of a broken mobile phone is that it isn't broken, it's just tired! We ask more of our phones than almost any other object in our lives, yet most of us only pay attention when the screen cracks or the battery gives up entirely. So if your phone feels sluggish, drains quickly or seems permanently confused, it may simply need a reset.

Start with your storage. Photos, videos and apps pile up far faster than we think, and when your phone is constantly juggling space, everything else slows down. Delete duplicate photos, screenshots you no longer need and apps you haven't opened since the last heatwave. Back up the important stuff and aim to free up at least a quarter of your storage. Your phone will instantly breathe easier.

Next, check your battery health. A tired battery causes crashes, lag, overheating and random

shutdowns. Most phones now show battery condition in settings. If it's under 85 percent, a simple battery replacement can make your phone feel brand new again for a fraction of the cost of upgrading. Many local phone repair shops can do this while you wait, often cheaper than one fancy dinner out.

Then look at your background apps. Weather, fitness trackers, delivery apps and social media quietly run all day, draining power and processing speed. Turn off background refresh for anything that doesn't genuinely need it. Your phone will run cooler, faster and last longer through the day.

Finally, give your phone a digital spring clean. Turn off non-essential notifications, clear old messages, tidy your home screen and delete apps that stress you out more than they help you. The result isn't just a faster device, it's a calmer day. A less cluttered phone genuinely reduces mental noise. You'll scroll less, panic less and feel more in control of your time.

Often your phone doesn't need replacing, it just needs care, attention and the occasional local professional who can quietly bring it back to life.

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At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers

lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for every installation we carry out!

So, if you want to make use of your loft space, however

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THE NEW TAX YEAR MONEY RESET



The start of the new tax year signifies the quiet opening of a door to new plans and ambitions, a resetting of limits, and in some ways a financial clean slate. It can be seen as a chance to rebalance money decisions that may have drifted off course over the previous 12 months.

Unlike January, which often brings ambitious but short-lived resolutions, April arrives with practical momentum. Payslips change, new tax codes take effect, and suddenly we are prompted to look again at what we earn, what we save and what we might need next.

One of the biggest opportunities lies in tax-free savings allowances. Each April brings a new Individual Savings Account (ISA) allowance, giving savers a clean slate to rebuild or increase protected savings. Whether the choice is cash savings, investment ISAs or a mix of both, the ability to reset without losing previous years' allowances makes this one of the most valuable financial windows in the calendar.

April is also when pension allowances start again. For many, this is the moment to check whether contributions still match long-term

goals, particularly after changes in income, mortgage costs or family circumstances. Even modest adjustments can make a meaningful difference over time. It's best to use the expertise of a professional financial advisor in ensuring you're getting the best return for your investment.

Another quiet shift happens in household budgeting. Council tax, utilities, insurance renewals and subscription costs often change around spring, so reviewing outgoings now can prevent slow leaks that quietly drain money all year.

For homeowners, April can also be a moment to reassess borrowing. With mortgage deals, remortgaging windows and fixed-rate periods all tied to specific dates, this is a natural point to review rates, terms and options - particularly as lenders introduce new products for the year ahead.

What makes the April reset so powerful is its practicality. It's not about dramatic financial overhauls or unrealistic targets. It's more about clarity: knowing where money goes, what protection is in place, and what small changes could ease pressure over the coming months.

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Planning a Wedding

With the average wedding costing around £24,737 this year, it is one of the biggest events of our lives, so effective planning is key

Where to begin

With the best venues getting booked up well over a year in advance, starting early is key. Determining your budget before almost anything else will help you achieve your dream wedding. It will determine which venue you can afford, how many guests you can invite and how much you need to arrange yourself or with help from your close family.

Wedding planning professionals

If you have very little free time, the wedding is large and complex AND you have the available cash, hiring a professional wedding planner might be the way forward for you. They have established relationships with venues, and suppliers. Their engagement can take a lot of stress out of the wedding organising process, giving you more time to enjoy the whole experience.

Over 12 months in advance

Once you have determined your budget and have reserved your venue well in advance, other wedding professionals such as photographers, cake makers, florists, and entertainers should be booked. Again, if these

are popular and in high demand, early booking is vital.

12 to 6 months before

Wedding outfits can be chosen now, and hair and makeup professionals should be contacted and booked. You might consider setting up a wedding website and getting in touch with guests with 'save the date' messages, or possibly even sending invitations. If people are informed well in advance, they can make any arrangements required to be part of your big day. You can also liaise with your venue on menus and details for the day.

6 – 1 month before

As the big day draws closer there are the legal requirements of a wedding to be sorted and these must be done three months before a marriage. It is important at this point to be in regular contact with your venue to discuss and arrange seating plans and finalise the ceremony.

The final month will require all final payments to be made, final fittings to be attended and any loose ends tied up. With thorough planning your wedding should be a day to remember for the rest of your lives, and for all the right reasons!



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A Friend Indeed

Nobody tells you how weird making friends becomes once you leave school, college and your twenties behind.

Suddenly everyone is busy, tired, booked up and slightly suspicious of new humans.

Yet most adults quietly want more connection than they currently have. We're just not sure how to say it without sounding needy, awkward or like we're accidentally trying to join a cult!

The truth is, adult friendships grow slowly, through rhythm and repetition. The secret is consistency - so if you're looking to move away from dull nights in or that nagging over-dependence on social media or Netflix, here's some advice on how to shed those dowdy feathers.

ONE - Start with places that naturally repeat. Weekly classes, gym sessions, book clubs, walking groups, volunteering, local workshops, choirs, gardening clubs, Pilates studios, coffee mornings and community events are where friendships actually happen, because you see the same faces again and again without pressure. Remember, familiarity breeds comfort, comfort breeds conversation, and conversation breeds connection.

TWO - Don't aim for instant best friends. Aim for "friendly regular." Smile, learn names, ask



simple questions, share small bits of yourself. The friendships that last are built in inches, not leaps.

THREE - If you work from home, your social life needs a bit of structure. Pick one regular evening or morning a week that belongs to "outside the house you." Treat it like an appointment. Cafes, early evening meetups, yoga classes, running groups and craft sessions are quietly replacing the pub as modern social glue.

FOUR - Accept that friendships change shape, and you don't need a massive pool of mates. Ideally, you want two or three people who make you feel lighter after you've seen them.

The good news is that spring is actually the easiest time to start. Lighter evenings, warmer weather and a general human urge to re-emerge make people more open, more chatty and more willing to say 'yes'!

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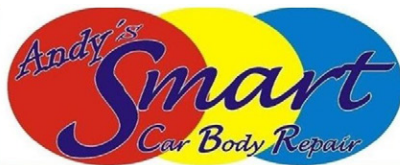
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The Herbert Protocol

George Herbert was a soldier in the Second World War who was involved in the Normandy landings. In later life he suffered from dementia and went to live in a care home. He often went missing, and one day whilst trying to find his childhood home, he didn't come back and sadly died.

If someone you knew went missing, what would you do? Look for them? Ring their friends? Check if they've been involved in an accident? Post on social media maybe? Call 999? But what if the emergency services know nothing about your missing person?

As a result of George's tragic death, the Herbert Protocol was set up. It involves completing a form in advance that contains vital information such as a photo, physical description, list of medication and details such as the person's habits, interests and favourite places; all information that could be crucial in helping to find a vulnerable person who is disorientated, lost, or simply missing.

The form can be completed online via MedicAlert or on paper through local police or



healthcare providers. Family members, carers or even the individuals themselves can complete it. It needs to be kept up to date.

Mental health issues are rising across the world and are becoming more prevalent with young people. For information and help visit <https://www.missingpeople.org.uk>. Please be aware of the Data Protection Act requirements.

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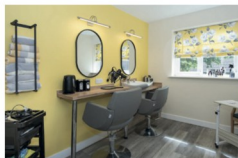
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A healthy scalp is the foundation of healthy hair, promoting strength, shine and a look of well-being. This year's trending hair treatments are focusing on improving scalp health with natural ingredients such as rosemary oil and keratin, the foundation of many products.

Scalp care as Skincare

A healthy scalp is the foundation of not only healthy-looking hair but can also significantly reduce hair loss. There are many good scalp health products available that hydrate, exfoliate and cleanse, along with treatments such as head spas, scalp detox and targeted procedures that are tailored to the needs of your scalp.

Scalp exfoliation treatment

These treatments remove dead skin cells, excess oil, and product buildup from the scalp and help maintain a healthy scalp area, which in turn promotes better hair growth and overall hair health. There are many excellent products that can be used at home.

LED light scalp therapy

Very popular this year, it is a non-invasive safe treatment that stimulates hair follicles and boosts blood flow around the scalp, using red and near-infrared light to create thicker, fuller hair and improve the overall health of the scalp. This treatment has minimal side effects and has been shown to quite dramatically increase hair growth and improve hair strength.

Trending Hair Treatments For 2026

LLLT

Low-level laser therapy (LLLT) is another non-invasive treatment that uses red light to stimulate hair follicles and promote hair growth. It is safe and has shown good results for people suffering from hair loss.

Hair molecular and bond repair and smoothing treatments

Products that use amino acids and peptides, amongst other ingredients, help rebuild the hair's internal structure to create lasting strength. Some products repair damage at the molecular level by reconnecting broken polypeptide chains and restoring strength and elasticity to hair. Others use innovative keratin treatments designed to repair and smooth various hair types to promote healthier, frizz-free hair while providing long-lasting results.

Personalised treatments are at the core of effective hair care this year. There are numerous treatments and products on the market to suit your hair needs. A healthcare professional is best placed to offer a tailored solution that meets the needs of your hair perfectly.



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One creature, often unappreciated for all it does, is the very beautiful, jet-black carrion crow. We may notice them as they stride across our lawns cautiously assessing their safety. But, how often have we given much thought to what they do for us all?

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Crows reforest areas with trees by burying nuts for future consumption, but often left, these grow future trees!

They have incredibly high intelligence, similar to apes, often compared to that of a seven-year-old child! They are capable of advanced

problem solving and learning from older crows. Seeking water in a tube too long for the water to be reached, they have been observed dropping stones into the tube until the water level has risen such that they can drink! One observation in the UK showed a group of crows taking turns to lift a bin lid, while companions collected food!

Crows will make, use and adapt tools, plan, and have incredible memories. They remember individual human faces for life (10 to 15 years), teaching their young which of us is safe and which is not to be trusted! Such high intelligence, in such a relatively small skull, is thought to be because the neurons in their smaller brains evolved to be far denser than ours.

Crows are very sociable and pair for life, building nests and caring for their young with their partners, and older siblings. Young crows have been observed playing games like follow my leader and sliding on smooth surfaces! On a winter's night, they gather, often in trees, for protection and warmth. At dawn they spread out to seek food, sometimes up to 20 miles away.

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Trafalgar Square 100 years ago

the time - London was modernising rapidly, car ownership was growing, and the city was reorganising itself around traffic flow, efficiency and commerce. After all, public squares were expected to work as infrastructure, not sanctuaries.

Over the decades, that philosophy slowly shifted. By the early 2000s, Trafalgar Square was undergoing one

This photograph of Trafalgar Square from April 1926 captures a version of central London that feels both familiar and strangely alien at the same time.

Nelson's Column still dominates the skyline, the lions still guard the plinth, and St Martin-in-the-Fields still looks serenely down onto the space, yet the square itself is functioning in a completely different way.

In the mid-1920s, Trafalgar Square operated as part of a busy gyratory traffic system. Cars, buses, taxis, delivery carts and horse-drawn vehicles circled the column in a constant mechanical loop, using the square as a working roundabout rather than a place to pause.

Pedestrians were present, but they were secondary to the movement of traffic, negotiating crossings and kerbs rather than lingering, gathering or sitting. It was a transport space first and a civic space second. This layout reflected the priorities of

of the most significant urban transformations in its history. The closure of the north side to traffic and the creation of a wide pedestrian terrace rebalanced the space completely. What was once a traffic machine, became a civic living room.

Today, Trafalgar Square is one of the capital's most important public stages. It hosts national celebrations, vigils, cultural festivals, New Year gatherings, political demonstrations and everyday visitors who come simply to sit, eat lunch, meet friends or watch the world go by. It has become a symbol of London's openness and its ability to reinvent itself.

Where engines once dominated, people now gather. Where movement was once the priority, meaning has taken over. This single photograph quietly shows how cities evolve, and how public spaces can shift from function to feeling, becoming places that belong not just to transport systems, but to people themselves.

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April - the time to sow, plant and prepare

should be sown directly into the soil outside. These include cornflowers and poppies, fragrant sweet peas and sunflowers. Half-hardy annuals such as cosmos and tobacco plants should be planted inside, or under glass. They can be transplanted outside later.

Lawn

Lawns are growing fast and will need feeding this month. Choose a feed product with a high nitrogen content to encourage plenty of green growth. Wait to feed until you have mowed the lawn a few times and after you have done your thorough spring moss raking.

Other work

As well as plants, weeds are also growing fast this month, so regular hoeing is required to keep on top of the problem in the vegetable and flower garden. Mulching can reduce weed growth and helps to keep moisture in the soil as the sun gets stronger and the temperatures rise.

If not already done, now is a good time to check, repair or replace any parts of your water retention system; check gutters and water butts; or consider investing in upgrading your system, to make the most of any April showers!

Vegetables

This month you can begin sowing outdoors in earnest, including peas and broad beans, spring onions, beetroot and carrots. Cover seeds with sticks, twigs or cuttings from blackberry bushes to protect from birds. Fine netting is probably the best thing to use to keep your plants safe, but you could try items like hanging foil and old CDs. Feeding the birds their favourite food might also help to reduce their interest in your tender plants.

Frosts are possible in April so keep an eye on the forecast and make sure you have cloches and fleeces ready to protect tender shoots. Also, protect early potato shoots by regularly hoeing up soil.

Flowers

Because spring weather and temperatures can be unpredictable, only hardy annuals

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Yotam Ottolenghi's Chaat Masala Potatoes

Ingredients

For the chaat masala potatoes

750g/1lb 10oz baby new potatoes, cut lengthways into 1cm/½in thick slices
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp chaat masala
½ tsp ground turmeric
250g/9oz Greek-style yoghurt
½ small red onion, thinly sliced on a mandolin or by hand
1 green chilli, thinly sliced
1½ tsp coriander seeds, toasted
1½ tsp nigella seeds, toasted
Salt

For the coriander chutney

30g/1oz fresh coriander
1 green chilli, seeds removed, roughly chopped
1 tbsp lime juice
4 tbsp olive oil
Salt

For the sweet tamarind dressing

1½ tbsp shop-bought tamarind paste
1½ tsp caster sugar
¼ tsp chaat masala

Method

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7.

Put the potatoes and 2 tsp of salt in a



saucepan and top with enough cold water to cover by about 4cm/1½in. Place over a medium-high heat, bring to the boil and simmer for 6 minutes, until the potatoes are almost cooked through but still retain a bite. Drain and pat dry.

Line a large baking tray with baking paper and add the potatoes. Add the oil, chaat masala,

turmeric, ½ tsp of salt and a good grind of pepper. Toss to mix thoroughly. Roast in the oven, stirring once or twice, for 35 minutes, or until deeply golden.

Meanwhile, make the coriander chutney. Put all the ingredients and ¼ tsp of salt into a food processor or blender and blitz until smooth. Set aside.

To make the tamarind dressing, whisk together all the ingredients in a small bowl with 1½ tsp of water until the sugar is dissolved. Set aside.

Spread the yoghurt on a large round serving platter. Top with the coriander chutney, swirling it through without completely incorporating. Drizzle with half of the tamarind dressing, and top with the potatoes, onion and chilli. Drizzle over the remaining tamarind dressing, then sprinkle over the seeds and serve.



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Woodsetts Local History Society

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16 April, when Janet and Paul Barras will present "My mother had one of these" about household items from the 1940s/50s.

Our speaker on May 21 is Stephen Flinders who will tell the amazing story of 'The Life and Travels of Robert Bruce, Napoleon Walker.'

Meeting in Woodsetts Church at 7.30pm. Members £3, guests £4, refreshments provided.

Bassetlaw Branch Parkinson's UK

We held our AGM in March which was followed by entertainment. The re-elected and new members are eager to start another year of great activities and events. All existing groups will continue and new ideas are in the planning stage.

If you or any member of your family feel you would benefit from belonging to our active and friendly group, please pop along to one of our monthly meetings. These are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 2pm, Worksop Cricket Club, Central Avenue, Worksop S80 1EN. You will be greeted at the door and made to feel very welcome. Or call Chris Coldwell 01909 730629.

The Cardiac Support Group

On Friday 6th March, we enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in the company of artist Paul Freeman. As we watched, Paul talked, answered questions, and explained each step of how he paints a picture. Quite mesmerising how his seascape miraculously took on life. An enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

Please feel to join us on Friday 3 April when Anne Featherstone will speak. Her talk: "I'll polish him off". All welcome. 2pm at Worksop Cricket Club. Free parking. £2 pp including refreshments.

Pat Broskom (chair) 01909 562361

Easter at South Anston Methodist Church

Good Friday Service 10am, 3 April

Easter Sunday Holy Communion 10am, 5 April

The Arts Society Dukeries

Our next meeting is Wednesday, 1 April, when Alison Bevan will talk about *Art in Cornwall 1880-1940*. The legendary quality of light, dramatic landscape and sparkling turquoise seas have drawn artists to West Cornwall for over 200 years. This talk explores the 'Newlyn School' of artists, from their first flowering to the later 'Lamorna' colony, together with their contemporaries in nearby St Ives. It will look at the careers of many artists.

If you are interested in 'The Arts' in all its forms, then our Society may be for you. With a talk most months, two special interest days, a holiday, local theatre and coach trips, our members also receive newsletters and a national art magazine.

We meet at Carlton Civic Centre, Long Lane, Carlton-in-Lindrick S81 9APT. Talk 11am-12pm, refreshments from 10am. Free car parking.

Voglia d'Italia

The Italian Society for South Yorks and North Notts presents: *The History and Development of the Palio di Siena, with a Personal Perspective*. Betty Merrick describes the passion of the Sienese people for an event that is far more than just a horse race.

Friday 3 April 2026, 7.30 pm, Tickhill Parish Room, Northgate, Tickhill, DN11 9HZ. Non-members are welcome, admission £5. Further information: 01709 370895.

Anston Arts and Crafts

Feeling at a loose end? Free on Wednesday afternoons? Why not try our crafting class? Wednesdays 12-3pm at Anston Parish Hall. Your taster session is free and then just £3 per week.

We have experienced crafters in-house who run a multitude of different workshops for everyone to enjoy. Our early year project for 2026 was to paint and embroider the lovely springtime flower crocus. We have a multitude of craft ideas waiting to come to fruition and we are also in the throws of planning our trips for the year.

For more information about our activities please contact Sue Sayles on 01909 564891 or email roysayles123@btinternet.com.

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30th - Lakeland Drive opposite shops by bus shelter

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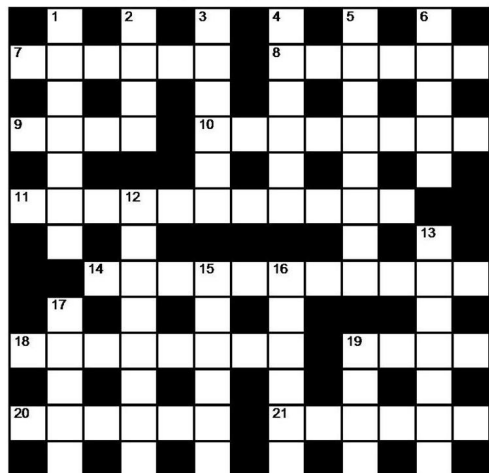
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Crossword



Across

- 7 Policeman's beat (6)
8 Yearly (6)
9 Jump (4)
10 Witness statement (8)
11 Shining with light (11)
14 Investor in a business (11)
18 Physical exertion (8)
19 Dull, resonant sound (4)
20 Save (6)
21 Zeal (6)

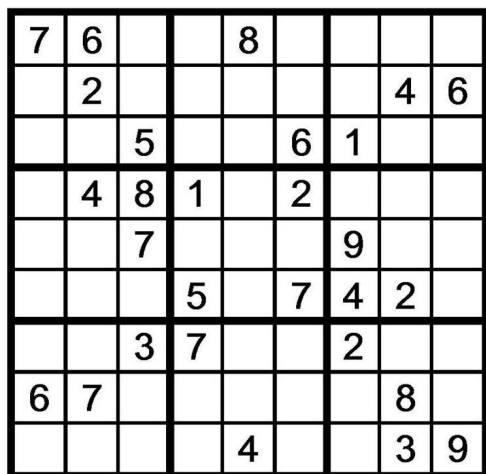
Down

- 1 Meticulous (7)
2 Clutch (4)
3 Sheep's coat (6)
4 Lunatic (6)
5 Found within (8)
6 Scrap of cloth (5)
12 Co-operate (8)
13 Adolescent (7)
15 Sharp implements (6)
16 Rich: well-_____ (6)
17 Exceed expectations (5)
19 Beverage (slang) (4)

Sudoku

How to play Sudoku

It's simple! Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3 x 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repetition. You don't need to be a genius. These puzzles use logic alone. Watch out! Sudoku is highly addictive!



Solutions on Page 42

Word Search

Can you find the Spring-related words hidden in the grid?

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| April | bunny | foal | puddles |
| birds | butterfly | grass | rain |
| birth | chicks | grow | showers |
| bloom | crocus | hatch | spring |
| blossom | daffodil | hyacinth | sunshine |
| breeze | Easter | lamb | tadpole |
| bud | eggs | narcissus | tulip |
| bulbs | flowers | nest | umbrella |



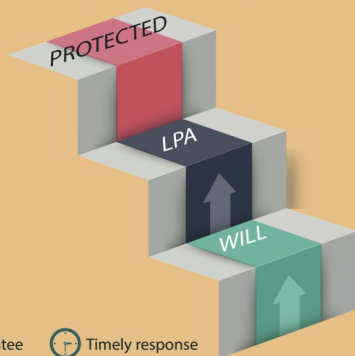
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Citizens Advice Worksop	08448 563411
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Dinnington Town Council	01909 564169
Dinnington Resource Centre	01909 518555
Electricity—Emergency	0800 375 675
Gas— Emergency	0800 111 999
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Mail Preference Service	08457 034599
Middleton Hall	01909 567439
Police Station (non-urgent)	101
RMBC	01709 382121
Safer Neighbourhood Team	01709 832720
South Anston Neighbourhood Watch	01909 565194
Streetpride	01709 336003
Telephone Preference Service	08450 700707
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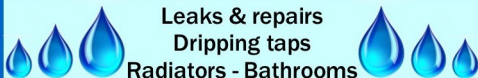
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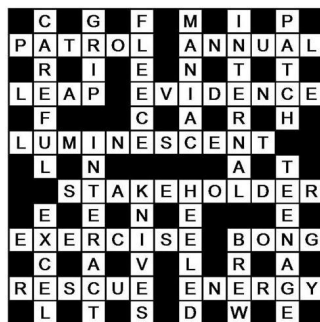
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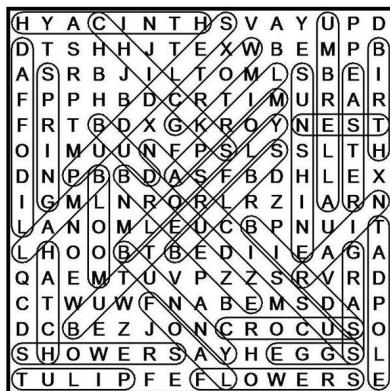
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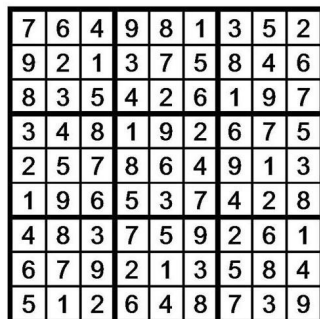
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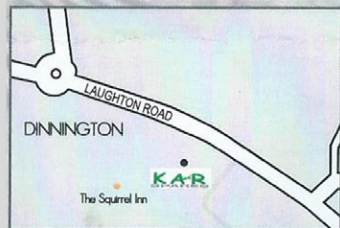
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