

your

SOLIHULL



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Solihull Council's
magazine for residents
Winter 2019



Recycling and rubbish Christmas collection arrangements



Over Christmas and New Year some recycling and rubbish collections will be affected.

Residents whose collection day is Wednesday and Thursday will be affected on 25 and 26 December and 1 January.

Details of alternative collection arrangements for these days are shown below.

Normal collection day - Wednesday	Alternative collection arrangements
Wednesday 25 December - if both recycling and rubbish are due to be collected on the 25th	Friday 20 December - Recycling collection Saturday 28 December - Rubbish collection (extra bagged rubbish will be taken)
Wednesday 25 December - if rubbish only is due to be collected on the 25th	Saturday 28 December - Rubbish collection (extra bagged rubbish will be taken)
Wednesday 1 January - if both recycling and rubbish are due to be collected on the 1st	Saturday 28 December - Recycling and rubbish collection (extra bagged rubbish and recycling will be taken)
Wednesday 1 January - if rubbish only is due to be collected on the 1st	Saturday 28 December - Rubbish collection (extra bagged rubbish will be taken)
Normal scheduled collections will resume from Wednesday 8 January.	

Normal collection day - Thursday	Changes to collection arrangements
Thursday 26 December - if rubbish only is due to be collected on the 26th	Thursday 2 January - Rubbish collection (extra bagged rubbish will be collected)
Thursday 26 December - if both recycling and rubbish are due to be collected on the 26th	Thursday 2 January - Rubbish collection (extra bagged rubbish will be taken) Thursday 9 January - Recycling and rubbish collection (only extra recycling will be taken)
Thursday 2 January - if rubbish only is due to be collected on the 2nd	Thursday 2 January - Rubbish collection (extra bagged rubbish will be collected) Thursday 2 January - Recycling will be collected as normal (extra recycling will be collected)
Thursday 2 January - if rubbish only is due to be collected on the 2nd	Thursday 2 January - Rubbish collection (extra bagged rubbish will be taken)
Normal scheduled collections will resume from Thursday 9 January.	

Please make sure that all extra rubbish is bagged. There is no limit on the amount of recycling that is collected. Extra recycling can be placed out in jute bags or other rigid containers.

Please ensure that rubbish and recycling is out by 7am on collection day.

The Council will be unable to collect real Christmas trees from the kerbside. Some Christmas tree suppliers offer take-back schemes for used Christmas trees so check with the supplier when purchasing.

People can also take used real trees to Bickenhill Household Waste

Centre, to be placed into the garden waste.

Please be aware that Bickenhill Household Waste Recycling Centre will close early at 2.30pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

For more information visit www.solihull.gov.uk/xmascollections

Welcome to the winter edition of Your Solihull

With the darker nights and colder weather upon us we'll be making sure our vulnerable and older residents keep safe and well. Organisations in Solihull including the council, police and fire service will be carrying out visits to vulnerable residents and offering support to those in need. Read more about this valuable partnership work on page 11.

Creating the conditions for communities to thrive is a priority for the Council and there are many examples of where this is happening. Read about a fantastic new community facility in Dickens Heath on page 6 and exciting developments for Kingshurst on page 7.

As always at this time of year we celebrate our local unsung heroes who have been recognised in the Solihull Civic Honours Awards. Discover the great work individuals and groups have been carrying out to make the borough a better place on pages 8 and 9.

The festive season wouldn't be complete without a visit from Father Christmas to our parks. Read about the ever popular Christmas in the Park events for children on page 14. You can also find details of things to do in the borough over the next three months in our 'What's On' section on page 15.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

This time of year does sometimes mean that people feel lonely or isolated, especially the elderly and those living with health conditions. Why not embrace the season of good will and call in on them to say hello or stop for a cuppa and chat?

I hope that you enjoy this edition of Your Solihull - please let us know what you would like us to feature in future editions.

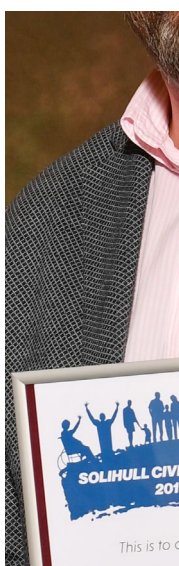
Nick Page
Chief Executive



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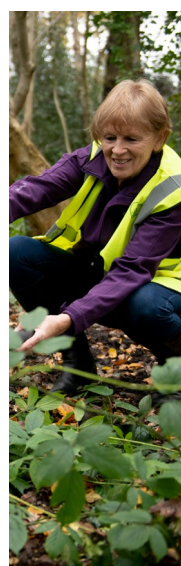
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Widney Junior School is looking to join the Council's successful School Streets scheme in Easter 2020 to tackle traffic congestion outside the school and promote healthy travel for pupils and parents alike.

Three schools trialled the scheme during 2018 and it has now been made permanent. Widney Junior, St Andrew's Primary and Marston Green Junior are the three new schools looking to introduce the scheme.

Jo Bridges, Head Teacher at Widney Junior School, said: "Like most schools we have a problem with traffic and congestion around the school at opening and closing times, creating a risk to children and annoying local residents with inconsiderate parking.

"The School Streets scheme will help reinforce the message to parents that cars and children do not mix. By banning car movements for a brief period at the start and end of the school day we can reduce the congestion and make the roads safer.

"Also, it's an opportunity to promote healthier travel options such as walking to school, or at least parking further away and walking the final distance. I'm sure it will take a little getting used to, but I am convinced it will benefit the children."

The scheme also contributes to the Council's Clean Air Strategy by reducing air pollution near the schools.

Parents and residents will be consulted over the plans in the New Year.



Jo and pupils excited about School Streets

Apply now for a school place

Parents of children living in Solihull, who were born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, can now apply for a reception school place.

Applications are also open for children transferring from an infant to a junior school.

Apply online at www.solihull.gov.uk/pp before the closing date on 15 January 2020.

Private fostering arrangements

Children who are cared for on a full-time basis by people who are not direct relatives are in a private fostering arrangement.

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made, without the involvement of a local authority, for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative for 28 days or more.

Private foster carers may be from the extended family, such as a cousin or great aunt. However, a person who

is a relative such as a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full or half blood or by marriage) or step-parent will not be a private foster carer.

People who are aware of a child in this situation must notify the local authority so they can make sure the person caring for the child can receive information, support and advice and make sure that the child is safe.

For more information or to make a referral please contact 0121 788 4300 or visit bit.ly/2krupeZ



Westgate - planned and existing sites

Visitors to the town centre will have noticed the recent activity on Homer Road. This location is earmarked for an exciting new development, aiming to be one of the most environmentally-friendly in Solihull.

Forming the gateway to the central business hub of Solihull town centre, Westgate - 21 Homer Road will provide over 9,000m² of Grade A office accommodation and collaborative working space.

The ambitious design, by the Council's in-house design studio, will be one of the first major developments to be guided by Solihull's new climate change planning policy (Policy P9), which puts energy efficiency at the centre of any scheme.

The aim is to achieve a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) as well as an EPC rating of A.

To help the building achieve a low carbon footprint it will be part-powered by renewable energy generated by 700m² of solar panels on the roof. It will also utilise low carbon heating and cooling, which will be provided via a connection to the proposed Solihull town centre Heat Network scheme.

Minimising energy consumption will be a key factor of the design. The building will include a number of efficiency saving features such as low NOx boilers, heat recovery devices, LED lighting and a smart BMS (Building Management System) to help monitor, anticipate and control energy use.

It is hoped that all of these measures will help set a new benchmark for reduced carbon dependency and energy efficient design in the town centre.

For more information on the scheme visit www.investinukcentral.com/westgate or sign up to the 'Westgate' Stay Connected bulletin to receive updates on this exciting project.

Support for rough sleepers

Solihull has few people who sleep rough and those that do are in regular contact with Council services. However, people's circumstances can change, particularly during the festive period. Help and support is available in the borough:

To request emergency temporary accommodation and an assessment contact Solihull Community Housing on 0121 717 1515 (24/7).

To report and refer a rough sleeper for help, contact StreetLink at www.streetlink.org or on 0300 500 0914.

To give additional support visit www.changeintoaction.org.uk/solihull

People urged to get their flu jab

A free NHS flu jab is available for eligible people including those aged 65 and over, those with an underlying health condition, pregnant women and anyone in receipt of a carer's allowance or the main carer for an older or disabled person.

People are encouraged to visit their GP, local pharmacy or talk to their midwife.

Children aged two and three can also receive the nasal spray vaccine at their GP practice.

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/getflujab

Young people needed for IAG

Solihull's Independent Advisory Group (IAG) is searching for young people to join their Stop and Search Panel.

Being a part of the panel will enable young people to help influence local policing decisions, especially around stop and searches, and make a difference to how their community is policed.

Anyone interested can email searchpanel@mail.com

People living in Dickens Heath can now benefit from a new community facility which has been built in the primary school grounds.

The venue will give children and young people a large indoor space which they can use for playing games as well as chilling out. There will also be a learning hub, kitchen facilities and an outdoor canopy so that the facility can be used throughout the year both by young people, the school and other community groups.

The Council's Love Solihull team has been working with local young people on the project, so that it meets their needs and uses their creative ideas.



Jacque with pupils outside the new facility

Jacque Nicholls, Head Teacher at Dickens Heath Community Primary School, said: "We are thrilled with the new building and are excited about the benefits it will bring for our pupils and the wider community. Having a venue within the village where young

people can socialise and feel safe when doing so is really important, so this is a very welcome addition."

The environmentally friendly facility has been built by Wernicks Buildings using a modular construction, which means

it minimises waste and noise pollution and can be re-used for different purposes if necessary.

It will be available for people to use in the New Year.

New era for Meriden Park



Staff and volunteers at the adventure playground

Solihull Council is set to lease a piece of land in Meriden Park so that the current adventure playground can become a long-standing facility for local families.

Under current arrangements, the adventure playground operates under a licence agreement between the Council and Meriden Adventure Playground Association (MAPA).

However, the Council is keen to give MAPA a lease for the site for an initial period of six years.

Ali Wood, Chair of MAPA, said: "We are really pleased about this and look forward to making longer term plans for the playground. It has been such a well-used outdoor space for many years and we are excited about the continued and extra benefits this will bring for local children and young people."

To enable this to happen, the Council has put out a statutory notice giving people the opportunity to comment. If no formal objections are made, the Council will enter into a lease agreement as soon as possible.

Residents have been rolling their sleeves up to help renovate the former youth centre in Kingshurst.

As part of a 12 month pilot, the building will host a new Community Space run and overseen by Kingshurst residents and representatives from key local community groups.

Residents have been volunteering their time and DIY skills to repaint the

ground floor space and get it ready to open its doors to local people.

The temporary Community Space is located on the parade at the heart of Kingshurst Village Centre. It has been earmarked for a major regeneration and modernisation scheme.

Local resident Jo McIntosh and her kids picked up a paint brush and got involved over the October half term.

Jo said: "We've really enjoyed working with our neighbours and getting stuck in. It's been fantastic seeing the community come together to get this space ready and we can't wait to start using it.

"It's so important that the community has a focal point and a space of our own, given the transformation Kingshurst is set to undergo in the coming months and years."

A permanent offer, adding to the network of existing community spaces, will feature in the final redevelopment plans. It is hoped that the temporary pilot will help the Council understand the scale of demand for this space and how it can best serve the whole community.

The Kingshurst Community Space pilot will be opening its doors soon. Watch this space!



Local children help renovate the space

Warm up this Winter

Solihull residents are being given the chance to have a gas central heating boiler and radiators installed for free, as part of a scheme provided by the National Grid Warm Homes Fund.

Mr and Mrs Westwood from Olton had a boiler and nine radiators installed in their three bedroom semi last November.

Joyce said: "The men arrived at 8am and we went out for the day. We got back at 7pm and the house was warm, clean and tidy."

David added: "For the first time ever, we can walk from room to room and stay warm - it's a complete revelation! Before the installation we were paying over £1,000 a year on coal so we're

making a substantial saving. We didn't even need to pay for the new gas supply to the house. It really is something for nothing."

People can find out if they are eligible for the scheme by emailing advice@actonenergy.org.uk or calling the Freephone number 0800 988 2881.



Joyce and David in their warm home

Civic Honours 2019

This October, the borough's unsung heroes received recognition at the ninth annual Solihull Civic Honours Awards.

Over recent months, residents were invited to nominate people who have

helped to make the communities within Solihull better places to live.

The winners, listed below, were invited to receive their awards from the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Stuart Davis, and they were also congratulated by

representatives from their award's sponsor.

On the evening people also enjoyed a performance by Shirley Community Gospel Choir.



Carol Wood – The Mayor's Award, sponsored by Touchwood

Carol Wood has dedicated over 15 years to local charity, ReCOM, which delivers IT training to help disadvantaged people get online. As chair of ReCOM she has raised much-needed funds for the charity's work and to develop its services.



Derek Churchard - Individual Community Involvement Award, sponsored by Midland Eye

Derek lives in Kingshurst and runs several Facebook pages and groups, including Friends of Babbs Mill. On top of this he organises and leads regular clean-up events within his beloved Babbs Mill Local Nature Reserve.



Lesley Lamb - Individual Community Involvement Award, sponsored by Kate and Co

Lesley has been a volunteer at Bosworth Community Centre for over 10 years and gives an enormous amount of her free time to the centre. She heads a lunch club every Thursday, preparing and cooking a two-course meal to help combat isolation and loneliness in the area - even coming in on Christmas Day to cook a Christmas dinner for those who do not have anywhere else to go.



Paul Raymer - Individual Community Involvement Award, sponsored by Resorts World Arena

Paul has lived in Marston Green for over 50 years and has been a Lay Preacher at St Leonards for 40 years. He is also the editor of Talking Times, a monthly Marston Green community news sheet, which gives those who are not online information about local events.



Solihull Mums and Dads - Group Community Involvement Award sponsored by John Lewis

Annette Hulme, Stacey Lintern and Danielle Collinson began Solihull Mums and Dads as a place to share parenting advice within their friendship groups. They soon became aware of how many parents in the local area were struggling without support networks, so they decided to make the Facebook page public, giving other parents support and the ability to forge friendships like theirs.



Age UK Solihull - Group Community Involvement Award, sponsored by Hogarths

This award was handed over in honour of all 279 volunteers at Age UK Solihull who have dedicated more than 24,000 hours helping 3,500 residents in the borough in the past year. Initiatives include Community Advice Hubs and a befriending service.



Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum - Group Community Involvement Award, sponsored by Specsavers

The volunteers who formed the group in 2015 set out on the task of creating a Neighbourhood Plan which was approved by the community earlier this year. The plan sets out as policy those principles for land use, development and infrastructure which the community has prioritised.



Isabel Baumber - Creative Arts Award, sponsored by The NEC Group

Isabel is the administrator for the choirs of St Alphege Church and is referred to lovingly as the 'Choir Mum'. She organises all aspects of choir-life, encourages the children and works behind the scenes to make the choirs a success.



Freya Webb - Inspirational Young Person Award, sponsored by Xoserve

17-year-old Freya is a carer for her father who has arthritis and has been since the age of six. She is also a young leader at a care group and has helped other young carers, as well as coaching children in long jump at her local athletics club.



Corinne James - Making a Difference for Young People Award, sponsored by Birmingham Airport

Corinne has been a member of the governing body of Marston Green Junior School for over 30 years. She has seen the school through difficult and challenging periods of special measures and has remained a steadfast supporter until the school was awarded Outstanding in 2012.



Sarah Adams - Sport Award, sponsored by DM and Co

For the past six years, Sarah has been the event manager and main organiser of the annual Solihull Marie Curie Cycle rides, which have raised huge amounts for the hospice. She has also set up and now runs the women's cycling group Red Kite Belles, organising two weekly cycle rides for beginners.

Love Solihull - make a difference

Volunteering has been shown to have many benefits both for communities and those individuals who get involved.

In Solihull this is being realised by a growing number of residents, including Monkspath couple Sandra and Richard Gill, who give up their time to look after the environment through the Love Solihull programme.

Sandra and Richard have been taking action to reduce litter in their local neighbourhood by carrying out routine litter picks.

Richard explains why he volunteers: "I want to inspire others to join in and care for their environment but mostly to highlight the issue and to make people think about not dropping litter."

He continues: "Volunteering has changed my life and given me a new purpose. After retiring 18 years ago, and with more recent health issues, I felt like I had little or no social life. Now people talk to me and thank me for caring for the environment which makes me feel part of the community."

His wife, Sandra, encouraged him to get involved in litter picking as it was something she enjoyed. She was also inspired by the BBC series Blue Planet and a Love Solihull tea and coffee morning promoting environmental volunteering opportunities.

Richard has a back condition which limits his activity. Neither of them wanted to let his situation prevent him from going out so they bought a second-hand mobility scooter which Richard adapted with a trailer.

The couple have encouraged others to join in and have been recognised for their actions.

Sandra said: "The kind gentleman who owns the Vintage tea and coffee cart on Highlands Road gives us a free hot drink to thank us for our community efforts, which we are truly grateful for!"

Sandra and Richard have now collected over 240 bags of litter. The couple have also recently started up a new community 'TerraCycle' recycling point at Tesco Extra in Monkspath.

For more information about litter picks across the borough visit the Love Solihull website www.lovesolihull.org/litter-picking or sign up for the Stay Connected email bulletin and select the topic 'Love Solihull'.



Lock up and lights on



PCSO Monger encourages people to get a light timer

As winter approaches, the nights are getting longer, colder and darker. Although crime in the borough remains low, there can still be a spike in crime during the winter months.

To combat this, the Safer Solihull Partnership - which includes the police, council, fire service, health and other organisations – is working hard to ensure residents are kept safe and well.

They will be carrying out visits to vulnerable residents and offering support to those in need. They will also be giving advice to people around how they can protect themselves from becoming the victim of crime, as well as providing tips on keeping warm and well.

Solihull Police is encouraging people to put safety measures in place at home to help reduce the risk of being

targeted. Their advice is **lock up, lights on** when the dark evenings draw in. Consider investing in a timer switch so that the lights come on when it starts to get dark and it looks like someone is at home.

Once again the Winter Warmth helpline is open for residents to get advice, information and practical assistance on issues that may affect them during the winter months.

People can call up and ask for a 'safe and well' visit from the fire service, get support with finding a cheaper energy provider, or seek help in finding a tradesperson for emergency repairs plus much more.

The Winter Warmth helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, on 0121 704 8080.

Top tips to keep safe and well this winter:

- Ask a trusted friend or neighbour to keep an eye on the property if going away for a few days
- Remember to lock the front door from inside when at home
- Keep house and car keys in a safe place and away from the front door so they can't be fished through the letterbox
- Have at least one hot meal and hot drinks throughout the day
- Layer up – many layers of clothing are best
- Get gas appliances and the boiler serviced
- Keep doors and windows closed

Urban Orchard for Malvern Park



Jane and Joe from voco® St John's Solihull with the trees ready for planting

Trees bring a wealth of benefits for people and wildlife. They characterise Solihull's landscape and reflect the borough's heritage as 'the town in the country'.

Ensuring this forest character is maintained and enhanced for the long term is a priority for the Council and work is continually taking place to protect and enhance the borough's environment.

The latest place to benefit is Malvern Park, which sees the completion of an orchard this winter and is bursting with apple, pear and cherry trees.

This has been made possible through a new partnership between the Council and voco® St John's Solihull. The town centre hotel is supporting the Council's urban forestry strategy and playing its part in protecting the borough's green canopy, as general manager Jane Bowler explains:

"Trees characterise and make Solihull's landscape more liveable and resilient to extreme weather. As part of our commitment to sustainability and support of the local community, we are very excited to work with the Council and bring the orchard to the people of Solihull."

The variety of fruit trees arrived at the Council depot in early November and are being planted to coincide with National Tree Week (23 November to 1 December).

Local residents, school children and other members of the community have joined forces to make this happen, as part of a community tree planting day organised by Love Solihull, the Council's environmental initiative.

Following this, people are encouraged to go and visit the orchard and there will be different ways to get involved in the project as the fruit grows.

Other parts of the borough are set to receive more fruit trees this winter too, to complement the large number of fruit trees that were planted last year. Keep an eye out for them in the other parks and open spaces!

Through Love Solihull, residents, schools, businesses and community groups are supported in making a real difference to their local area.

There are lots of ways to get involved in improving the environment, from joining a litter picking group or getting involved in a community project, to reducing waste, getting creative with reusable items or recycling even more.

To find out more follow Love Solihull on **Twitter** and **Instagram** or email lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk

Woodlands set to thrive

Bees and Trees is a brand new project that aims to improve woodlands and grasslands across the borough. It will involve work at nine locations, an area equivalent to 33 football pitches.

It is funded through our Wildlife Ways project which is already bringing new wildflowers and bulbs to the borough alongside improved access for walking and cycling.

The Bees and Trees woodland work will include removing much of the holly and bramble which has become dominant and is preventing other woodland plants from growing.

Work will also include the removal of trees that are unhealthy or which are preventing other trees from growing properly. Doing this will allow more light to enter the woodlands which will

encourage different types of flowers and trees to flourish and grow. This will in turn support a greater variety of animals and bugs, including pollinating insects which have recently been under threat. It might look quite severe to start with but after a few months it will look more natural.

Carol Henrick volunteers with Solihull Tree Wardens. She said: "The tree wardens have been involved in cutting back brambles at Cut Throat Coppice before. Although brambles can create marvellous habitats for our wildlife they can also take over the woodland floor which prevents the growth of wildflowers."

She added: "We get involved in all sorts of work to protect trees across the borough. We have an amazing team who work alongside local communities across the borough, sharing our knowledge of the benefits of trees."

For more information about Wildlife Ways please visit www.wildlifeways.co.uk where people can also sign up for regular bulletins.

The Habitats Grants Programme supports a wide range of habitat and nature improvement projects and is still accepting bids from groups and individuals. To bid for a project please visit - www.wildlifeways.co.uk/information/habitats-grants/ or email esif@solihull.gov.uk

The Bees and Trees project has been financed by the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership's (GBSLEP) Habitats Grants Programme - part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - which is part of Wildlife Ways.



Carol Henrick at Cut Throat Coppice

Have a Merry Christmas this year in Solihull at these festive events.

Come and meet Father Christmas at Brueton Park on Sunday 1 December from 12-3pm. Father Christmas is making a special appearance in the park so visit his grotto to receive a gift! Other entertainment includes a festive treasure trail around the park and a Christmas craft activity at the Parkridge Centre.

Time slots can be booked in advance via the Contact Centre on 0121 704 8000. With Carols in the Park from 1pm, visitors of all ages can get into the festive spirit by singing along. Entrance £3 per child.

Father Christmas will also be in Meriden Park, Saturday 7 December from 12-3pm. Come along for face painting, more Christmas crafts and Santa's grotto. Entrance costs £1 per child, with face painting an extra £1.

December will also see the return of the Christmas Farmer's Market. Support Solihull's farmers and other local businesses offering a tempting array of local produce. The market runs from 9-5pm on Friday 6 December. For more information head over to www.sketts.co.uk

The Shirley Band Christmas Concert is also sure to be a hit: join them on Saturday 7 December for what will be a great night of festive fun. For more information and to book tickets go to www.shirleyband.org.uk

Good news for all fans of Love Actually or pigs in blankets: The Festive Feast and Outdoor Cinema will be making a return this year! For shopping, food and films this is a great event organised by Solihull BID. For more information visit solihullbid.co.uk/events



Jack and Lottie excited for Christmas in the Park

Everyone knows what season December means: Panto season! Join Robin Hood and his merry men at The Core this Christmas. The show runs from Friday 13 December through to Sunday 5 January, with relaxed showings also offered.

Finally, moving into the New Year there is a coppice clearance in Millison's Wood on Sunday 12 January. Start off the New Year by reconnecting with nature and getting involved in the local community. For more information on either of these events contact Solihull Conservation Volunteers at www.solihullcv.org.uk



Robin Hood Pantomime
Friday 13 December - Sunday 5 January, times vary
The Core Theatre
Tickets: £18.50-£21
 From the team behind last year's Sleeping Beauty comes a brand new pantomime adventure that targets your funny bone! This year, travel with us deep into the heart of magical Sherwood Forest.

Tree Planting
Sunday 15 December, times TBC
Bills Wood, Shirley
 Help the Conservation Volunteers to plant trees at Bills Wood. Times will be agreed by those taking part. For more information visit www.solihullcv.org.uk

Santa in Love
Friday 20 December - Tuesday 24 December, times vary
The Core Theatre
Tickets: £10
 Join us in the ground floor Studio for this delightful family show. A festive play written especially for very young children and their families with lots of opportunities to join in, including sing-along games.



Syd Lawrence Orchestra
Wednesday 29 January, 7.30pm
The Core Theatre
Tickets: £24
 In 1967 Syd Lawrence formed what was to become the UK's most successful and longest running Big Band, performing in theatres all over Europe and regularly featuring on many TV shows.

The Neil Diamond Story
Thursday 30 January and Friday 31 January
The Core Theatre
Tickets: £22
 Described in Las Vegas as one of the world's finest vocal tributes to Neil Diamond, Bob Dury has been astounding audiences with his vocal likeness for ten years during which time he has performed throughout the UK, Europe and in the United States.

Friends of Shirley Park Litter Pickers
Saturday 4 January, 2.30pm
Shirley Park
 Meet by the war memorial at the Asda side of the park. All equipment is provided. For more information visit the Friends of Shirley Park Community Facebook Group.



Sing-a-long-a The Greatest Showman
Saturday 1 February, 2pm
The Core Theatre
Tickets: £16
 Singalonga Productions present the smash hit film musical that everyone can't stop singing - The Greatest Showman!

Dom Joly's Holiday Snaps
Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm
The Core Theatre
Tickets: £18
 Solihull's Core Theatre is delighted to announce a visit from Trigger Happy TV star Dom Joly in Spring 2020 as part of his new national tour. This rip-roaring travelogue features stories from his childhood home in the Lebanon to North Korea, Chernobyl and Cambodia.

An Evening of Genesis Music
Saturday 22 February, 7.30pm
The Core Theatre
Tickets: £18
 Mama will take you on a journey from Genesis' early Peter Gabriel years, through the Phil Collins' era of the 70s and 80s and right up to their final studio album, 'We Can't Dance'.



Markets

The Farmer's Market is on the High Street and Mill Lane in Solihull town centre on the first Friday of each month, 9am – 5pm. The Fine and Local Food Fayre takes place in Mell Square on the third Saturday of each month, 9am – 5.30pm. For more information visit www.sketts.co.uk

For The Core Theatre events visit www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk
 email thecoretheatre@solihull.gov.uk
 or call the box office on 0121 704 6962.

To find out more about park events visit www.solihull.gov.uk/events

To receive regular email bulletins about events across the borough sign up at www.solihull.gov.uk/stayconnected



Mayor's Spring Ball

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020

Hogarths Hotel, Dorridge, Solihull

£45 each or £400 for a table of 10

This includes three course meal, entertainment and disco

Purchase tickets from The Mayor's Office:

mayor@solihull.gov.uk or 0121 704 6023

In aid of Breast Cancer Haven, West Midlands (Registered Charity No 1061726) and other Mayoral Charities

Why not stay the night? Preferential rates for staying over and enjoying B&B at Hogarths



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