



A trio of festive teds

When you're six, nothing beats a teddy. Alice and Annabel Fentum and pal Alexa Laker, all members of a gym club in Surbiton Crescent, went home with free bears from the 2017 Surbiton Festival in Claremont Gardens.

Thousands packed pedestrianised Victoria Road (right) to shop at the street stalls and watch the parade snake through the town, complete with classic cars and dancers.



Meanwhile St Andrew's Square hosted live music from Hinchley Wood School battle-of-the-bands winners The Motive (left), comprising lead singer Nate Brazier, with Jamie Royle on drums and guitarists Max Elliott, Oscar Williams and Ned Woodcock.

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Casts are 'priceless'

Inspired by a visit to Athens, a group of enthusiastic Surbiton High classics students have made a remarkable discovery.

A set of ink-spattered, green-painted panels, lost behind cupboards in an old classroom, turned out to be life-size casts of five slabs from the Elgin Marbles, contentiously held in the British Museum.

Seven Year 13 girls from the school's classical society investigated and found that the casts date to before 1872, and could be from moulds made by Lord Elgin himself.

Preserved under decades of school grime, they are more finely detailed than original friezes, eroded by the elements and subject to centuries of vandalism.

Last week, the students held an Athenian evening at the school, attended by eminent speakers from the world of antiquity, to finance a £5,000 restoration of the Surbiton Marbles (visit www.classicalsocietysurbiton.wordpress.com).

Teacher Olivia Adams, who led the girls' trip to Greece, said: "No teachers have helped them; they've independently masterminded the event to fund the



The Magnificent 7, from left: Kanako, Lucy, Georgie, Rose, Anna, Maya and Gemma

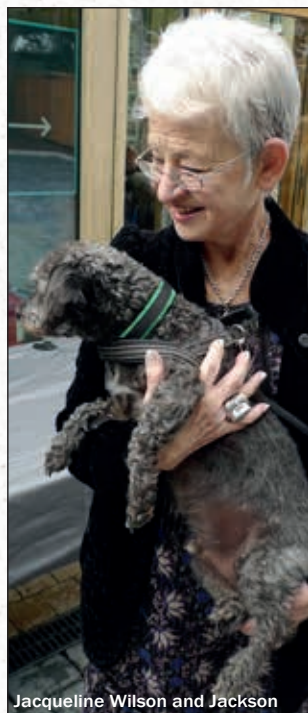
moving of the casts, their restoration and display, to allow the local community to view them."

Surbiton High was founded in 1884, and the friezes were on a wall of the original hall, now a tech classroom. "We realised that the casts, always been presumed to be of little value, are in fact historically priceless," said the girls in a collective chorus.

Tim Harrison



● Poppy Rudd adds some vivid colour to a nesting box. The seven-year-old was one of the many youngsters who were having fun at an action-packed Hogsmill nature reserve open day. Turn to **page 6** for the full story.



Jacqueline Wilson and Jackson

Author opens vet's

Children's author Jacqueline Wilson officially opened half of Surbiton's expanded, renamed Voo vet surgery, with Darren Bennett and Lilia Kopylova of Strictly fame opening the other half.

"This is Jackson; he's a terrier cross, with some poodle in him, and he's being royally spoilt today," said Jacqueline, introducing her pet dog to young fans bursting to ask her about Tracy Beaker.

"I think veterinary surgeries put human hospitals to shame," said Jacqueline, after being given a tour of the new operating and care facilities at Kavir Manro's Voo practice opposite the Claremont Road clocktower.

Darren and Lilia opened the dog door (there are separate entrances for pooches and moggies) with their pug BB.

BB? "It stands for Biscuit Bennett," said Darren. "She's a regular visitor here; she's had the full range of injuries." Lilia added: "She's the daughter of a Crufts champion, and she's always very well looked after here."

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Thumbs up for g-nuts



Funmi Brady is on a mission: to convert us to hand-cooked, small-batch, lightly salted peanuts. She's made converts at Surbiton farmers' market.

When 'g-nuts' were tested on the discerning palates of Maple Road devotees, there was a collective thumbs-up.

Funmi grew up in Nigeria, but now produces g-nuts at home in Hersham, using no oil; just sea salt... and then sparingly. Nuts are washed, drained, dried then cooked, avoiding the salty oiliness which can overpower commercial nuts. She sells in 50g snack packs and 320g resealable glass bottles.

There's an ethical angle. She works to improve the lives of Nigerian women, enabling them to support their families (www.g-nuts.co.uk).

"The peanuts have a unique taste; they really taste like good peanut butter and they're not oversalted," said Funmi. "Because they don't have so much salt you can add them to your breakfast; all you get is the nutrients."

Surbiton was Funmi's very first farmers' market.

We're taking Liberty's

She lives 100 paces from Surbiton's farmers' market, so it's surprising Liberty Blackmore hasn't sold there before.

Now she's made the breakthrough with her home-made sorbets and ice creams... including chocolate orange, lavender and honey and double salted caramel.

Her plum sorbet plums were picked in Cadogan Road; the organic fruit roasted with brown sugar and honey, then churned; no added dextrose, corn syrup or xanthan gum.

There's a mischievous glint in the 24-year-old's eyes when she describes her spiced rum and raisin. "I think I might need a drinks licence," she laughed. "It's 46% proof award-winning rum, and the raisins soak in it for four days." It's delicious.

Liberty, a former Hinchley Wood School pupil, pedals round markets on a formidable Pashley hand-built bicycle based on a timeless cycling seller design. Strapped to the front is a Danish freezer with tubs of the nectar. "It began as a weekend project, but I'm full-time now," said Liberty, who loves experimenting with new combinations.

Fearing Surbiton might be alarmed, she didn't do her pear and blue cheese ice cream this time. "Maybe next time."



Time is pressing



Turning Toni Izard's windfall presser, and generating juice is six-year-old market visitor Josie, from Berrylands Road; one of dozens of youngsters who helped crush chopped-up fruit to sell by the cup or bottle.

"Half the fruit comes from round the corner in St Leonard's Road," said Toni, so in terms of food miles the juice was as local as it could possibly be. Bottles were recycled from The

Lamb, while the pressed pear and apple mush was taken away to be fed to The Giggly Pig's animals. And the juice? Scrumptious: naturally sweet, pure, refreshing... and very popular on a warm morning.



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Agincourt talk

Remember Agincourt? Prof Ann Curry from the University of Southampton has researched the battle and speaks at Surbiton & District Historical Society on Tuesday November 7 at the hall next to the library in Ewell Road at 7.30pm.

Tony's winging it

Tony Quinn talks on birds of Uganda at the next meeting of the Surbiton & District Bird Watching Society at the library hall, Ewell Road, on Oct 17 at 7.30pm. On Nov 21 Terry Bond speaks about the birds of North America. Details of the society's outings at www.surbitonbirds.org

Adieu to Vi, 103

A widow for 73 years, Royal Star & Garter resident Vi Butler has died... shortly after celebrating her 103rd birthday with family. Chirpy and 'with it' to the end, she was one of the most popular residents of the Brighton Road home, always joining in the activities. When Sophie Bray, one of Team GB's Olympic hockey gold medal winners, popped by last year, Vi used her upturned walking stick to give her a game.



Buses can stop

Helped by Long Ditton MP Dominic Raab, residents of Effingham Road, Surbiton, can board the K3 at the kerb. A nine-month campaign finally paid off, and 'Bus Stop' markings have belatedly appeared on the tarmac.

Lament to steam

A stationmaster's whistle launched the new season of train talks at Surbiton library hall in Ewell Road as 60 rail buffs listened to Dick Crane looking back half a century to 1967, the year Surbiton saw its last steam locomotive service. There's still time to sign up at www.talkingoftrains.co.uk

Garages to rent

Want to rent a garage in Surbiton? The council has ones to spare in King Charles Road and in School Lane, Tolworth, at under £20 a week – in many cases a cheaper alternative to the big storage centres. Go to www.kingston.gov.uk and enter 'garage'.

Charity donation

September's farmers' market raised £460 for the George Pantziarka Trust charity. Other donations have gone to Oxygen (£1,340) to support young people in crisis, Kingston Young Carers (£750), the YMCA (£1,000) for a community choir, and music therapy group Express CIC (£600).

Mozart concert

Kingston Choral Society builds up to a Christmas concert at St Andrew's, Maple Road, on Dec 16 by singing Mozart's Requiem at All Saints, Kingston, on Nov 18, 7.30pm. It draws many of its singers from Surbiton.

Block bookings

If you get your Good Life early, you can get to Ski Sunday on St Mark's Hill, 11am-1pm, Oct 15. Competitors strap ice blocks to their feet for the descent, followed by hot soup and live music in Claremont Gardens at 1.30pm. Visit www.seethingwells.org



Housing charity

A photo display at Kingston's Rose Theatre until Nov 15 marks the work of charity Heart for Romania, housing poor families in Csekefalva. Bob Phillips of Beaconsfield Road and Alex Sturrock have set up the exhibition.



Lt Cdr Mark Wilson, right, with Jimmy Baynes

Back to school for navy veteran Jimmy

A Tolworth navy veteran was guest of honour on a nostalgic return to the base where he'd prepared for war. Jimmy Baynes, 94, joined up in 1942, training as a signalman at HMS Collingwood in Fareham, Hampshire. His first wartime experience was escorting convoys along the North African coast to supply the Desert Rats. In 1943, his ship hit a mine, exploded and sank; Jimmy being treated for burns. Later he served on HMS Anguilla, escorting the Arctic convoys and running the gauntlet of U-boat packs. On a return visit to the training base, the Raeburn Avenue resident met new naval recruits. "They found it humbling," said Chief Petty Officer Norman Brindley. "Many felt compelled to shake Jimmy's hand, and were in awe of his life story."

Jimmy, whose war is now a book (The Finishing School), and who regularly talks to schoolchildren about his exploits, was presented with a framed photo of the Fareham site in the 1940s. "It's difficult to accurately express my feelings, facing a gathering of young naval personnel who are undergoing something similar to me... but with a gap of 75 years," said Jimmy, honoured three years ago with a medal by the Russians for his wartime service. "I marvel at the sea and the power of nature far superior to man. The sea is a battleground like no other. There may be death and destruction on land, and the aftermath is there for all to see. But not so in our operations. The sea clinically cleans up the wreckage, and the scene reverts to normal."

'Sorry' for this parking fiasco

The council's decision to digitise parking permits has been a disaster, say angry Surbiton shopkeepers and residents. With no advance warning, the old 'scratchcard' parking method was ditched on July 24 in favour of an all-digital system involving advance booking of on-street parking via the council website. The letter announcing the change arrived in the post seven weeks later, from council environment chief Rachel Lewis, apologising that "what we expected to be a seamless transition has caused problems". Overnight, the old permit system in which the date was scratched off a card and displayed on the dashboard was superceded. "It used to be £40 for 20 parking vouchers, but now you have to register... then pay £60 for 20," fumed Sarah Taylor of Shoes at Last in Maple Road. "Small businesses like mine are being drained." But that was only the start. When Sarah bought £60 of vouchers, the outsourced Birmingham-based parking contractor NSL (using "technology designed to make the service more modern and efficient") decided to help itself to £420 from her account! "When I phoned the number I'd been given I just got an endless recording saying 'Your call is important to us,'" she said. "Then I learnt that for refund issues you have to email them, but you don't receive a reply. The customer service is nil. If we ran our businesses like this we'd be lucky to have any customers at all." At one point the new system threatened to put September's farmers' market in jeopardy as the contractor failed to put up signs temporarily suspending parking bays. "It's outrageous," said a puce David Jacobson. "We were told that the change had been announced on the council website... as if I look at that every day!" Kingston's environment supremo ended her letter: "Thank you for your continued patience." There's precious little left.

SURBITON LIFE by David Cox

The 'Surbiton Matador' defensive move

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The two-wheeled pioneer



Cycling pioneer Eileen Gray, who lived in Grand Avenue, was a 2012 Olympic torchbearer, and did more for women's sport than almost anyone of her generation.

Modest, but single-minded, she was born in Bermondsey on April 25 1920, taking up cycling to escape a restrictive life. She was twice blown off her bike by doodlebug blasts in the Second World War. "It informed her attitude towards continental cyclists," said son John, wryly. Husband Wally was her rock, the 'Denis' to her instinctively Thatcherite personality which came to the fore as a Tory councillor (1982-98). A formidable speaker in the

chamber at Kingston Guildhall, she was mayor in 1990.

Cycling was her life. She founded the London Youth Games, but her legacy was getting women's cycling taken as seriously as men's.

"She furthered, with zeal, the role of women," said John, born 1947 and a Chessington GP for 40 years. "She wasn't a feminist, but knew it was a man's world!"

She founded the Women's Cycle Racing Association,

**NOTABLE
SURBITONIANS**
Eileen Gray

and in 1955 secured recognition for women's track records. In 1976 she was the first female president of the British Cycling Federation. Women's cycling finally arrived at the Olympics in 1984.

She was proud of being made first an MBE, then a CBE. In 2010, she was one of the initial tranche of people inducted into British cycling's hall of fame.

She joined the masons in 1952, rising – after half a century – to become the senior figure in women's freemasonry in the UK.

Eileen died on May 20 2015.

Princess Anne, who knew her well through her Olympic work, sent the family written condolences.

A relentless and stubborn woman in life, she is almost certainly still arguing with officials (especially the French ones) in the celestial velodrome.

Tim Harrison

Shhhh! It's a secret

Surbiton's estate agents don't usually struggle to describe the location of houses they're selling. But this one is so private – despite being a five-minute stroll from the station – that it feels like a secret.

It's a rare case of 'secluded' being the right word, although it's in Maple Road.

A detached, four-bedroom Edwardian home, it is down a tiny driveway near The Grove pub, but is invisible from the street, so no pizza leaflets and no duster sellers.

On the market with Seymours at £1.35million, it was built close to Surbiton congregational church, a steeped structure put up in 1865 then dynamited in 1974 (eight townhouses were built in its place).

It has three bathrooms and original fireplaces, yet an aura of mystery surrounds it. "I know it's called Rye House, and it was built as a coach house," said John Flynn, one of the partners in Seymours, Brighton Road. "But we're not really sure for which house it was originally built."



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Head dies on Amazon challenge

A former Tolworth head who called herself 'a giggler who likes a challenge' has been murdered on a 4,000-mile solo kayak paddle down the Amazon.

Emma Tamsin Kelty, 43, left Knollmead primary in 2014 after her father's death, and early this year skied unaided to the South Pole.

She was near Manaus,



in an area notorious for piracy, when she was killed by robbers. Three Brazilians face murder charges.

"Emma isn't the first paddler to accept unreasonable risk on the Amazon," said canoeing writer Jeff Moag. "Her bravery was admirable, but she should never have been on that river alone."

Choir sings Harry aloft



● One of St Andrew's most faithful choristers, Harry Cornell, has died at 84. The full choir helped celebrate his life at the Maple Road church; a salver marking 30 years' membership on display.

Born in Chelsea on July 29 1933, Harry trained as a civil engineer, working for several local councils... though his proudest achievement – his monument – was helping create the Loch Quoich Dam in the Highlands for Halcrow in the mid 1950s.

He met and married Iris in 1954, raising their four

children in Ditton Road.

An am dram fan and five-minute miler, Harry became a lay preacher and, in the 1980s, a fixture in the choir.

That choir sang one of his favourite pieces, the Kyrie from George Oldroyd's Mass of the Quiet Hour.

After Iris's death, Harry moved to a flat in Lenelby Road, Tolworth.

He died at the Home of Compassion in Thames Ditton on September 2, dementia robbing him of clear memories in his final months.

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Be careful in traffic jams... Becky Mayhew might be watching you



Dozing, texting, flopping - take your pick

Have you wondered what you look like in traffic? I'll tell you, because I've walked the entire length of a particularly sticky jam in the high street to answer this pressing, important question. And I have to say, most of you just look like you're waiting for death. I think we can all agree that 'waiting for death' is the standard expression assumed when entombed in unmoving traffic. It involves the right elbow propped defeatedly on the window ledge, and head resting like a dead weight in your palm as you stare at the Honda in front and contemplate how meaningless life has become, and think about all the things you haven't achieved and all the cheese

you'll never eat. This is what 75% of you look like in a traffic jam. The other 25% engage in other pursuits, including the inevitable nose picking. I'm sorry guys, but it really is just you who forage around up your hooter while lounging in traffic. Us girls sussed long ago that this is best done in private, not in a room made of glass (and to the man in the Land Rover: I don't know what you were expecting to find up there, but it looked like you were searching for your keys). A handful of you argue, some share jokes, and two took it as a fine opportunity to rock out to some Kings of Leon... and why not? Many of you cannot be parted from your phones, and there's a lot of fervent head bobbing going on as you try to look as though your phone is nowhere near you and you're focused entirely on ensuring you're the requisite distance from the car in front when you're actually texting your partner to put wine in the fridge. Of course, the woman in the Volvo that yelled 'I SAID COTTAGE PIE!' into her phone wasn't so discreet. A variation of 'waiting for death' is the 'death's already come' look, which involves head flopped back against the head- rest, arms hanging limply by the sides, and eyes staring blankly ahead in a face devoid of all emotion. I did want to reach a comforting hand through the open window of the silver Toyota and whisper to the lifeless man that I was sure he'd be home in time for tea, but I thought that might be a step too far. One of you uses a jam as a chance to take in your surroundings, which is why you spotted me standing on the pavement staring at you and typing notes into my phone, and possibly why you frowned so deeply. I'm sorry. Yes I was looking at you. You've got a scratch on your rear passenger door.



Out on Strike

Eagle-eyed viewers of the BBC adaptation of JK Rowling's tales of private detective Cormoran Strike will have spotted a Surbiton landmark masquerading as a posh Chelsea house. Southborough House at 14 Ashcombe Avenue, designed by John Nash, featured in The Cuckoo's Calling. In the three-part series it belongs to Lady Yvette Bristow, dying mother of murder suspect Tony Landry (Martin Shaw). Sian Phillips plays m'lady,

spending her twilight years engrossed in black and white films while carers fuss around... but dropping the odd aside which assists the gumshoe in his investigations. The exterior filming was done in a day, before the house changed hands in April this year for £3,525,000. When the six-bedroom mansion was built in 1808, the only other structure visible from upstairs was Hampton Court Palace. Tim Harrison



Out on bikes

If Long Ditton folk are walking oddly, it's because 44 of them, many parents of St Mary's School youngsters, have done a thigh-challenging, calf-cramping 61-mile bike ride from Ditton Hill Road to Windsor and back. The £7,000 they raised is being split between the Rainbow Trust charity and the junior school in Sudgen Road, to furnish a new classroom. A six-hour ride, via Walton, Egham and Woking, was organised by estate agents Humphrey & Brand, with owners Laura Humphrey and Lisa Brand, and staff Jazmine Cole, Rebecca Forknall and Ryan Murphy (above, training) taking part. The agency has supported the CofE school for years via event organising and equipment buying; a link valued by headteacher David Gumbrell who said: "The relationship works well, and I am sure it will continue to blossom." Laura Humphrey added: "This is the biggest event so far, and we're so impressed by the parents."



● A 1965 Aston Martin DB6 usually attracts secret agents, not estate agents, but as Max Smith and David Coplin-Chard of Parry & Drewett were helping sponsor this year's Surbiton Festival, they got to pose alongside it. A witty accompanying sign reminded people that, having been around since the 60s despite 'younger, flashier competition' it had stood the test of time... like the car!

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Janice Cripps stars thinking ahead to springtime

Low-energy renewable bulbs...

I love spring bulbs, and use them in different ways in the garden: bold drifts under trees or in grass, lavish pot displays on a terrace and vibrant clumps in a herbaceous border.

Many, like narcissi and crocus, naturalise in the soil so they come back every year in greater numbers. This is perfect for the gardener with a large space to fill, or in areas little else grows such as under deciduous trees or on verges.

Naturalised bulbs make for a splendid informal display, with little the gardener need do except top them up every few years.

My favourite bulb, because of its glamour factor, is the tulip.

Tulips do not naturalise as easily as other bulbs. Even if I plant them really deeply and feed them after flowering, the following year's display is not quite as good. So I treat tulips as annuals and plant new ones each year, allowing me to experiment with colour and variety.

I choose tulip bulbs carefully, much the same as buying onions in the supermarket; discarding any too small, soft or mouldy.

I plant them from mid-November to Christmas, sprinkling bulb grit into the planting hole if the ground is wet or soggy.

If you're new to tulips, I suggest these tried and tested varieties, perhaps combining early and late flowering ones.

- For drama, go for a black and white scheme, such as White Triumphator (pictured) and Queen of the Night, or the double flowering Black Hero.

- For vibrant colour, one of the best reds is Kingsblood, stunning on its own or combined with maroons or oranges like the strongly scented, lily flowered Ballerina.

- For a sophisticated planting scheme, white is hard to beat. I like Purissima and Maureen, or perhaps a soft pastel. Menton, with its elegant, rose pink blooms is one of the most stylish.

When combining bulbs, choose varieties that are slightly different in flower shape or stature, to introduce a more informal creative quality to your planting and avoid the regimented 'parks department' look.



Wild about Surbiton, by Elliot Newton

A hidden woodland's secrets

Nestled in the heart of Berrylands is Raeburn Open Space, a forgotten woodland few will have explored.

This five-hectare reserve has the potential to be a haven for wildlife and a place to inspire the community about natural wonders on our doorstep. This summer we have recorded 27 bird species and seven types of bat.

Yet even in the relatively short period from when I used to explore it as a child, this woodland has suffered neglect and vandalism.

Trees have been burnt, there's been a loss of species, there are chronic litter issues



and the area is getting a reputation for antisocial behaviour. The stream could be much improved for fish and other aquatic animals and plants.

The Environment Trust has recently received £168,000 from Thames Water to enhance the area by improving the habitat, working with the community to engage with the space.

This will include creating a looped nature trail with a new bridge to encourage safe and responsible access.

The trust will also encourage more people to volunteer and help improve the area.

There will be community meetings for local input to shape the project, to ensure that all are on board to make the space the best it can be.

Email nature conservation officer Elliot Newton at: elliott.newton@environmenttrust.org



Fun for all the family at wildlife day on reserve

Pond dipping, making flexible fish, cutting out frogs on lily pads, creating a mosaic of a heron, painting bird boxes and finding out how bats hear were just some of the activities at a special open day at the Hogsmill Nature Reserve.

The free event, on Sunday, September 24, at the reserve in Lower Marsh Lane, attracted dozens of families who were interested in learning more about local wildlife



as well as green initiatives such as water conservation and combating the problem of fatbergs.

Thames Water's nature reserve manager Kristine Boudreau said a new hide and compost toilet had been built over the summer,

and there were more exciting plans for the autumn.

"In November, we hope to build a cabin constructed from shiplap to house a community hub, as well as a new scrape on the big pond."

Visitor Leigh Hardie of Grand Avenue said he and son Kit, 7, had thoroughly enjoyed the open day, especially their time spent in one of the hides identifying birds on the lagoon.

"I've been to the London Wetland Centre, but having this on our doorstep is great.

"This area could have become overgrown, but people are making the most of what it has to offer. It's very good."



Clockwise from top: Poppy Rudd, 7, and Polly Britton, 4, paint bird boxes; Katezi Ellis, 4, and dad David go fishing; Kit Hardie, 7, spots birds on the lagoon; pond dipping; and the bird box workshop



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Maya impresses in Ridley Scott thriller

The latest star to hit the silver screen is an enthusiastic five-year-old from Surbiton. Maya Kelly appears in Ridley Scott's crime movie All The Money In The World, about the kidnapping of the 17-year-old grandson of an oil tycoon in 1973.

The film plot centres on the reluctance of billionaire J Paul Getty to pay extortion money for the release of the teenager, eventually freed after kidnappers chopped off one of the youth's ears and posted it to a newspaper.

Maya auditioned, and landed the role of the kidnap victim's younger sister Aileen;

her screen grandfather being played by Kevin Spacey.

She spent part of the summer in Italy on location, with the film due for release on December 8.

Winning the part is a feather in the cap for Maya's dance and drama club Dance Shack at the Nuffield health centre in Portsmouth Road.

Teacher Julia Cave said: "Maya's an exuberant young performer who is great to teach.

"She sparkles in class with her talent and creative imagination. She has a warmth and openness; I'm not surprised she caught the casting director's attention."



Concert series is tuning up

An eclectic new season of Thames Concerts at St Andrew's, Maple Road – the church with the best acoustics in south west London – begins on Saturday Oct 21 at 7.30pm with Westcombe Brass, right, a dynamic quintet including two trumpeters playing everything from Elgar to Gilbert and Sullivan, music based on Chaucer's poems to A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. Alongside the series are free market morning coffee concerts at St Andrew's showcasing local talent (the first on Oct 21 at 10.30am), and workshops at the cornerHOUSE, starting on Sunday Oct 22 with a brass session.

"I'm delighted that such high-calibre performers are visiting



Surbiton," said artistic director Benjamin Costello. Then on Nov 11, the Ducasse Trio (piano, violin and clarinet), left, perform. Students and U16s are free, while advance and season tickets are discounted (www.thamesconcerts.com).

Who turned the lights out?



Ruth Fogg, Turan Duncan and Peter Brooker in Black Comedy
Picture: Jon Constant

Struggling sculptor Brindsley Miller sees light at the end of the tunnel; a chance to sell his work to a millionaire collector.

Miller borrows antiques from a neighbour to impress the visitor, but a power cut puts the lights out, and the evening descends into chaos.

Black Comedy is a one-act farce by Peter Shaffer, first performed in 1965, with lighting reversed.

It opens on a darkened stage, with the short circuit then lighting the characters. "It's very funny," said director Denise Rocard, who brings the play to the cornerHOUSE arts centre in Douglas Road, Surbiton.

"We performed the play when I was at school at Hollyfield. We had a great time doing it and the audience

really loved it. There were lots of laughs, so I thought it would be great to do it again.

"It is different from the other in-house productions we have done recently, like The Passion, the oneACTS and the panto.

"It is a proper British farce,

and it is hilarious."

Tickets for the show which runs from Thursday, November 16 to Saturday, November 18, at 8pm are £9 (£7 concessions) and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ thecornerhouseevents

THAMES CONCERTS

2017-18 concert series held at St Andrew's Church in Maple Road, Surbiton. Concerts start at 7:30pm

Saturday 21 October 2017 Westcombe Brass Dynamic young quintet playing invigorating music from across the British Isles	Saturday 3 February 2018 Alena Lugovkina (flute) and Pavel Timofeyevsky (piano)
Saturday 11 November 2017 The Ducasse Trio Clarinet, violin and piano in ravishing music by Mozart, Gershwin & Stravinsky	Saturday 17 February 2018 Jack Liebeck (violin), Jamie Wahan (cello) and Katya Apokishcheva (piano) Playing Schumann, Mendelssohn and Ravel
Saturday 9 December 2017 Claire Martin OBE and Ian Shaw Internationally renowned singers present an early Xmas cracker	Farmers' Market Days: Enjoy our free 50-minute concerts from 10.30am with the following artists. Full programme at www.thamesconcerts.com
Saturday 13 January 2018 Doreen Moore (trumpet) & Jeremiah Stephenson (organ) Music by Bach, Eben and Paradies	21 October (Coombe Boys' School) 16 December (Kingston Music Service) 20 January (TBC) 17 February (Kingston University)

WWW.THAMESCONCERTS.COM

● Writer Edward Howard has published a fourth collection of Sherlock Holmes stories.

Four tales, based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's sleuth, include a story about Brexit and one centred on a 1930s tennis player in Surbiton.

Brexit? "I think Sherlock is like the Bible and Shakespeare," said Edward, of Langley Avenue, who writes as Orlando Pearson. "He's relevant at all times and in all places."

There is also a sequel to the Hound of the Baskervilles, set 20 years after the original.

A launch is being staged at Truckles in Pied Bull Yard, Bury Place, WC1, on Nov 28 at 6.30pm. Copies are on sale at the Regency Bookshop, Victoria Road, and Manny's in Fleece Road, Long Ditton.



● Painted in oils, this picture of St Michael's Mount by Daniele Mandelli was voted the public's favourite in the Surbiton Arts Group's spring show. But which will be top in the autumn exhibiton? It opens on Oct 21 at 2pm, then runs to Oct 28, 11am-5pm (closed



Wed) at the library hall, Ewell Road. Cards and paintings for sale. Free entry.

Lamb cutlets

They may be pint-sized, but they can belt out a tune. Mini rockers stormed the Lamb's stage as Kids Rock debuted at the Brighton Road pub. Performers from two to 17 entertained with jamming, original compositions and covers.

Joint organiser Anita Williamson of Effingham Road said it had been born of the pub's summer Lambstock festival.

"My six-year-old Vincent Valentino, who plays electric and bass guitar, asked why there wasn't a festival for children, so a few of us organised one! We've seen some talented singers and musicians."

Nine-year-old Alva Wellsfält, who played bass with, among others, Nia Rowden (two) said: "I really enjoyed it."

Fellow organiser Tina Dezart said: "We had a lot wanting to play, and a lot coming to see them. It's been a real platform for young people."



Vincent Valentino Williamson, 6; Tate Williamson, 3; Alfie Rowden, 5; Nia Rowden, 2; Phoebe Lewis, 6; Millie Lewis, 8; Alva Wellsfält, 9; front, Ava Shanahan, 6

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Drew Spence is mobbed after scoring against Bayern Munich and, inset, Magdalena Eriksson says she loves the new home

A dramatic salmon-pink sunset over Surbiton was the backdrop for Chelsea Ladies' first European night under the floodlights at Kingsmeadow, with Bayern Munich the illustrious visitors.

That the Blues achieved a 1-0 victory, with backs against the wall, augers well, while the 2,136 attendance proves there is a local appetite for affordable top-flight women's football in the area.

It's been a great start to the new football era for the Ladies at Kingsmeadow with a 6-0 drubbing of Bristol City on the first day, followed by a 4-0 win away at Sunderland.

On October 4, the Blues approached their opening Women's Champions League fixture against Bayern with gusto, despite having lost 3-0 to the Bavarians in pre-season.

New signing Maria Thorisdottir, playing an unfamiliar right wing-back role, created early openings, while the sprinting duo Fran Kirby and Drew Spence led the breakaways.

The goal came in the 10th minute, with Spence steering the ball home.

In the second half Bayern almost overwhelmed Chelsea Ladies, but the Blues showed gritty resilience to cling on for victory.

With tickets pegged at £6 (£3 juniors) even for floodlit European matches, and just £3/£1 for the league cup, the spectators who enjoyed the early matches sense

they're catching a wave.

Chelsea Ladies' arrival means Surbitonians now have top-flight women's hockey and football on the doorstep.

"Of course I'm happy," Chelsea Ladies debutante defender Magdalena Eriksson told The Good Life after the opening fixture. "It's a nice big pitch, which really suits our style, and we have a strong squad."

Chelsea's challenge? To fill Kingsmeadow week after week. The recent AFC Wimbledon v MK Dons game at the stadium pulled in 4,000, while Chelsea Ladies achieved 1,540 on opening day... but if the torrent of goals continues, that will surely grow.

The Women's Euros set pulses racing. The Lionesses' 2-1 win over Portugal even beat Love Island in the TV ratings. The FA's Kelly Simmons said: "It puts women's football in the shop window, challenging perceptions that it isn't for girls."

The Blues' squad also includes South Korean talent Ji So-Yun. As the second biggest concentration of Koreans outside Seoul is a five-minute bus ride from the ground, there's scope to tap into another pool of potential local support.

Next up for Chelsea Ladies is another anticipated rush of goals when Yeovil Town visit at 2pm on October 29. Tickets at www.chelseafc.com

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