



## Piece of cake

This superb sponge won the professional prize at the strawberry and chocolate baking challenge at May's farmers' market. It was made by Bosco chef Jose Carlo Queirolo. The lightness and presentation were, judges agreed, near perfection.

● Another slice on p2



## Twinkle little star

She had an iconic Swinging 60s face, and she was born in Surbiton. Lynn Ripley, the pop star Twinkle, has died at 66. In later life an animal rights campaigner, she wrote her No4 hit Terry after dad Sydney swore at a group of leather-clad bikers who overtook his Bentley on the A3. "Everything flowed from that image," she said.



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## Park under threat

One of Surbiton's green spaces is under threat. A funding crisis means the gates of Alexandra Millennium Green may be padlocked unless help is mobilised. The 12-acre park, with amphitheatre, observation mound and pond, is managed by a trust which relies on support from a dwindling number of friends.

It was formed in 1990 after an outcry over council plans to sell off Tolworth's allotments. That was overturned, with the trust set up as guardian of a space overlooked by that symbol of developers' ambition, Tolworth Tower.

Lottery cash helped establish a wildlife preserve which opened in 2000. The trust relies on £10 annual donations, but friends' numbers have shrunk to under 50.

Without income, it is impossible to pay liability

insurance, and the space may be sealed off.

The park stands as testimony to people power, with the original 20 acres split between allotments and woodland garden alongside the Alexandra rec.

Since its creation, the restful, peaceful green has been open to the public 24 hours a day.

Tony Trinkwon of the trust said that London's largest millennium green was "an achievement in the face of adversity", adding: "We have been doing this for nearly 25 years and we struggle to obtain funds to look after it. It's a terrific place, but we need new people to get involved."

Help is needed with grass cutting, and plans to create seated areas. To learn more, visit [www.millenniumgreen2014.wix.com/amgt](http://www.millenniumgreen2014.wix.com/amgt)

Tim Harrison



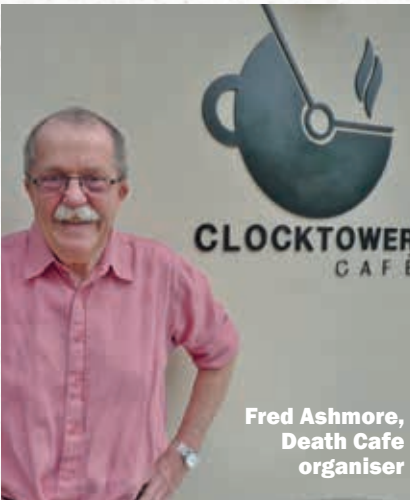
## Lookalikes

Patricia Griffin was thrilled to win the first 'dog that looks like its owner' competition on the Victoria recreation ground at the community sports day.

For the avoidance of all doubt, Patricia is on the left, with pet pooch Bridie on the right. The dog show was sponsored by Surbiton Veterinary Hospital of Claremont Road, with money raised from entry fees going to the Guide Dogs charity.



## Are you just dying for a coffee?



Fred Ashmore, Death Cafe organiser

The notice on the door of the Clocktower Cafe may not have won any marketing awards, but it was certainly provocative. It simply read: Death Cafe.

Local Quakers used Kassem Al Naffakh's Claremont Road cafe for an informal Saturday drop-in to chat about that usually taboo topic of our final moments on Earth.

Organiser Fred Ashmore said it let people "drink tea, eat cake and discuss death", adding: "It's a difficult subject for many people, but the idea is to provide a space where we can talk openly. People find it interesting and informative."

Over three hours, 30 people dropped by for quiet, confidential discussions over tea and coffee.

Siggy, a psychologist from Uxbridge Road, said: "Most people die in hospital, but would wish to die at home." She said she had found the death cafe worthwhile. "Talking to strangers can often be easier, and more objective, than talking within the family."

The website [www.deathcafe.org](http://www.deathcafe.org) has details of other events, local and worldwide.



## Meet the new boy

His name is James Berry, and he's just been elected MP for Surbiton, ousting Ed Davey, who has represented the area for the past 18 years. What are his priorities, is he pro-Europe and – most importantly – what does he make of us in Surbiton? All the answers on p6



Kim Low and Mandy Litherland's cake

## It's an iced life

Felicity Kendal and Richard Briers are in gardening gear with pigs, a chicken, a goat and veg.

It's The Good Life as cake, iced by Kim Low and Mandy Litherland of Surbiton's British Sugarcraft Guild branch.

The ladies exhibited at Cake International in London, and competed against 16 rival branches in a show in Brighton, where judges admired their icing techniques.

Learn how at 8pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the United Reformed Church at Raeburn/Elgar Avenue.

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Piece of cake. India Catford (centre) with chums Gemma and Eloise

## Heroic baking

Enterprising bakers Gemma, India and Eloise sold cakes from an Ellerton Road front garden, raising a magnificent £731. The money goes to Help for Heroes, which India's dad, film editor Larry Catford, supports on the Big Battlefield Bike Ride – a 350-mile challenge from Paris to Windsor. The Catfords' oven glowed day and night in the build-up to the sale after eight-year-old India suggested baking to show support. Mum Jenny baked solidly for two days, and Larry was still churning out loaves at 4am. It's the second year he has ridden for the charity, and he has been training by commuting to London by bike. Back Larry at [www.bmycharity.com/LawrenceCatford1](http://www.bmycharity.com/LawrenceCatford1)



stage, the dough will be quite resistant. With a pastry brush, brush a little olive oil over the dough. Put the

tray in a large bin liner, making a tent, and secure with a freezer clip. Leave to prove for a couple of hours depending on the ambient temperature (a conservatory is ideal).

When it has risen again, and is level with the top of each tray, gently push into the dough your chosen topping. In my illustration I have used cherry tomatoes and black olives.

Drizzle the loaves with olive oil and sprinkle with sea salt. This bread does not freeze well with toppings, but is OK if you leave them off.

Preheat the oven to 200°C, then bake for 20 minutes. When cooked, drizzle with a little more olive oil and serve hot or warm. It's delicious with homemade tapenade and a glass of prosecco.

## Mary, Mary, quite contrary

Surbiton's farmers' market helped raise £1,441 for the Nepal earthquake appeal, partly from the annual baking contest, this year judged by Mary Berrylands, right, who set about tasting entries with a reckless disregard for her figure.

Gordon Bennett! in Maple Road made donations from market-day breakfasts. Four of owner Richard Sealtiel's staff are Nepalese.

Farmers' market chairman David Jacobson said: "We asked our community to



dig deep, and the response has been amazing."

Children's competition winners were Lily Hinton, Anna and Imogen Banks and Minna Ellis, while Stephanie Morgan and Carmen Palmer won the amateur baker category, and Bosco and the French Tarte (whose gold-topped creation is pictured left) were pronounced the top professionals.

Next market: June 20, 9am-1pm.

In Season by Fiona Quinn

## Graffiti artistry

Go for some Mediterranean ingredients (never fair-freighted, of course) to add sunshine to your dinner table.

Graffiti aubergines are striking. Similar in shape to the more common black aubergine, they have bright mottled white and purple skin with firm white flesh. The meaty flesh stands up well to baking, and is lovely with tomatoes and basil in an Italian parmigiana.

Fry off a crushed garlic clove in olive oil before adding 400g of chopped tomatoes to a shallow pan and simmering for 8 minutes. Follow with a tbsp of tomato purée. Cut the aubergine into 5mm slices, brush with olive oil and place on a hot griddle pan for 5 minutes, or until browned and cooked through, turning halfway.



Once all slices are cooked, layer them in an ovenproof dish, spoon over the sauce and sprinkle with parmesan and basil leaves.

Continue until the dish is full, top with parmesan and bake for 20 mins at 200C. Organic graffiti aubergines are available at From the Ground Up, Surbiton's fortnightly fruit and veg service. Order at [www.fguorganic.co.uk](http://www.fguorganic.co.uk)

Recipes for a Good Life by Annie Morris

## Fab focaccia

You need: 500g/1lb 2oz strong white bread flour, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp easy blend yeast, 1 tbsp olive oil, 350ml cold water, olive oil (for drizzling), cherry tomatoes, black olives, Maldon sea salt.

Place the flour, salt, yeast, olive oil and water into a large bowl. Gently stir with your hand or a wooden spoon to form a dough, then knead for 10 minutes. Return dough to the bowl, cover and leave to rise until doubled.

Tip the dough out, and knead back



into a round (this is called 'knocking back').

Divide the dough into two loaf tins or a large baking tray, pushing to the corners. At this



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**Espress yourself**  
A tweak to the Waitrose free coffee offer hints at a level of past behaviour that might even shame Fifa. Staff are now issuing cups to customers, replacing the unpoliced help-yourself system. Result? The supermarket in Claremont Road dispenses 2,000 fewer free cuppas every week... enough coffee to fill 354 bathtubs.



**Renting the grass**  
Need a lawn for the day? Surbiton New Life Baptist Church has spent £10,000 revamping its secluded garden in Langley Road, and is happy to hire it out. Email office@surbitonnewlife.co.uk to book.

**Helping hands**  
Working mornings are being staged at the cornerHOUSE arts centre, Douglas Road, on June 20 and July 19, 10am-1pm, to paint, garden and tidy the century-old building. Tea, coffee and biscuits are the rewards.

**Fair card display**  
Lime Tree School's summer fair is on Saturday July 4, noon-3pm, and everyone is invited to South Bank Terrace for barbecues, bike marking, tombola, hook a teddy and a display of the children's summer postcards.

**Aquatic day out**  
Explore the Hogsmill Nature Reserve at a family water festival on August 2, 11am-3pm, with bird-watching in the lakeside hide, water crafts and tours of the treatment works, to see how waste water is transformed. By bike or on foot, via the tunnel at Berrylands station. By car, via Lower Marsh Lane.

**And no butts...**  
Drop a fag end, and it could cost you £100. Surbiton is piloting on-the-spot fines for litter (£100) and dog poo (£80) until December. Enforcement is by private firm NSL Ltd.

**Baby clothes fair**  
Surbiton's Mum2Mum market sells quality secondhand baby and children's clothes and toys on Saturday June 20, 2-4pm, at St Mark's hall, St Mark's Hill. £2, children free.

**Bikes on the go**  
Watch 25,000 cyclists speed along Portsmouth Road on the 100-mile Prudential RideLondon on Sunday August 2. Last year's Olympic route event raised £10m for charity. A 150-bike professional race follows.

**Cod & questions**  
A fish & chip quiz at the Douglas Road cornerHOUSE on Friday June 19, 7pm, supports African Vision Malawi. £10 each, teams of six. Meet George Phiri, site manager at the Surbiton charity's Malawi village. Tickets via www.africanvision.org.uk

**Tennis coaching**  
Surbiton tennis fans are invited to a free day of fun at Ember Tennis Club, Grove Way, Esher KT10 8HL on June 14, noon-4pm. Racquets and coaching will be provided.



**Rian's life change**  
The parents of Surbiton three-year-old Rian Nolan are backing charity Newlife Foundation's appeal to supply specialist equipment. Rian has brittle bones, and can only play with sister Lauren, two, thanks to a chair from www.newlifecharity.co.uk

# The garage with va va vroom

Six months ago it was a warehouse full of pallets. Today it's a clean, cheerful, spacious hi-tech garage. Eight bays, showers, a recycling area, training rooms and a reception with decent coffee and organic tea give Community Motors va va vroom. Three friends, Justin Cooper, Mark Wedd and Kevin Martin, got together to launch the not-for-profit community interest company as a way of giving something back to Surbiton. Not only do they pledge "honest work at honest prices", repairing, servicing, MoTing and running health checks on cars, but they will also be opening their huge rolling steel door at Unit 22 in the business park off Red Lion Road to youngsters from schools and colleges, to train as technicians. "This is a proper social enterprise; we hope it covers its costs and fulfils a social purpose," said general manager Justin Cooper, who has put his pension from an IT business in the city into the business. "We want to be a very good independent garage. Focusing on the staff and student well-being is key. We've spent a lot of time setting this up and making sure we do things right from the start." Justin said the company aimed to give 14 to 19-year-olds the opportunity to experience work in a garage, learning how to maintain a vehicle before going on to be apprentice technicians after leaving school. "It's real training on real cars," he said. "It's giving those who aren't academic the opportunity to develop a practical skill and a level 3 qualification on an accredited course." Four bays will teach up to 20 students on the company's own cars, while the rest will be used by the garage's qualified, seasoned technicians to repair and maintain customers' vehicles. "We aren't about the hard sell," said Justin. "We are about good prices and honest service. We won't pretend there's a problem when there isn't. Honesty and integrity drives us." Justin brings management skills to the company while garage manager Mark and training manager Kevin



Grease monkeys Kevin Martin, Mark Wedd and Justin Cooper bring years of hands-on motor industry experience. "We've been in the trade a long time," said Mark. "Schools have a gap in the practical skills they offer and we can bridge that. We've got a lot of experience to pass on, plus patience and understanding, and we'd love to tell everyone what we are doing." A June 13 open day, 1-4pm, lets neighbours look round and enjoy music, food, games and Scalextric. Visit [www.communitymotors.org](http://www.communitymotors.org) ● Present this Good Life to get £10 off a full service.



Tall tale. The big red monster of Ewell Road

# High street is healthy

Surbiton's high street is one of the 'healthiest' in the capital, reveals a study comparing 144 roads in London. In 45th place (the higher the number, the healthier the street) came Tolworth Broadway. North Cheam was 67th, New Malden 81st and Worcester Park 91st. Surbiton was in the top fifth at 119th. Whetstone was top, and Whitechapel bottom. How is a high street's 'health' determined? Negatives are judged to include pay day loan shops, bookies, fast food outlets and tanning salons. Positives include greengrocers, clinics, pubs, opticians, libraries, chemists and gyms. The study was by the Royal Society for Public Health. Chief executive Shirley Cramer said: "Our campaign is about recognising that while we should applaud the contribution business makes to a vibrant, healthy high street, this shouldn't be at any cost. Some businesses negatively impact on the public's health and make the job of building healthy, vibrant communities that little bit more difficult." Victoria Road boasts seven hair or nail shops, six banks, four estate agents, four coffee shops, four fast food joints, four charity shops and three pubs.

## Are you a winner?

Do you run a Surbiton business? The annual excellence awards will be announced at a gathering at the Holiday Inn, Portsmouth Road, on October 15, and you have until June 26 to put yourself forward. Entry is free, with categories ranging from independent retailer to best technology company, best young entrepreneur to best local charity. Bruce Burrowes of Kingston Chamber of Commerce told the Good Life: "The awards are open to all business large or small, start-up or established, from across the Royal Borough." Shortlisted businesses will give a presentation to a judging panel. More at [www.kingstonawards.co.uk](http://www.kingstonawards.co.uk)

**Overheard on the 8.32**  
It's the teacher's first day. She notices one boy standing on his own at the edge of the playground, while the other children are running around, having fun. Taking pity on him, she walks up, asks if he's alright and says: 'You can play with the other children, you know?' 'I know,' replies the boy. 'But it's best if I stay here.' 'Why?' she asks. 'Because I'm the goalie.'



**Yes, but who's with Dev?**  
Teenager Dev Joshi was strolling down Victoria Road last month, when he ran into London Mayor Boris Johnson. The capital's first citizen, now also MP for Uxbridge, posed for a selfie. If Boris is foot-weary after recent electioneering, he could always visit Dev's dad, Balaclava Road chiropodist Nik!

## Towering crane dominates the skyline

The Ditton Road/Ewell Road junction is now overshadowed by a colossal red crane as 23 'stylish apartments' rise on the site of the old police car pound. The crane's height rivals the nearby St Matthew's church spire, which stands at 173ft. The new development will contain a mix of one and two-bedroom flats, complete with underground car parking, plus 3,500 sq ft of shop space.

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Gardening tips by Janice Cripps

## Super Chelsea

Fifteen months in the making, Chelsea is the greatest event in the world's horticultural calendar, attracting 165,000 visitors.

It takes 800 people 33 days to build, with gardens costing on average £250,000 being built in 19 days and taken apart in just five.

Gazillions of plants are flown in from all over the world, with 500 exhibitors creating lavish displays in the Great Pavilion, which is big enough to park 500 London buses.

Attending as The Good Life's gardening editor was a step up from one visit when I spent the afternoon dusting rose petals in a gold medal-winning show garden!

Despite the cold, wind and rain, the celebrities arrived in droves. In their summer finery, they were as decorative as the gardens themselves. I was looking

forward to mingling with royalty, but guests, celebrities and most press were politely removed before the Queen's 3.30pm arrival. "There's no pomp and ceremony," said one exhibitor who witnessed the Royal family struggling to get out of a minibus last year.

The show gardens did not disappoint. Dan Pearson's was fantastic; no surprise he won best in show. Chelsea is the place to see inspirational gardens, cutting-edge design and emerging trends. Stylish, theatrical and exuberant, it's the horticultural equivalent of London Fashion Week.

But how to translate it into your own back garden? More accessible are the gardens of 'quality, character and interest' in the charity National Garden Scheme. Painshill Park and Claremont Gardens are in the scheme, as are many privately owned gardens. Entry fees are usually £5 or under, and there are plenty in Surbiton, especially over the summer.

It represents reality, and gardens are not endlessly primped and preened. I like to chat with the owners and buy cuttings for my own garden. Add a cup of tea and slice of homemade cake, and it is altogether a good day out.

But if you love big shows, and missed Chelsea, Hampton Court is on our doorstep from June 30-July 5. Get your skates on. Tickets are selling fast...

Janice Cripps is a professional garden designer based in Surbiton. For advice, planting plans, or taking projects from concept to completion, visit [www.janicecripps.co.uk](http://www.janicecripps.co.uk)



Johnson Beharry VC introduces son Ayden to the Tiffin choir with, inset, Doug Belcher, on a 1915 Gallaher cigarette card



## VC hero honours Surbiton's Doug

It's not every day you meet a Victoria Cross holder (there are only six alive), so it was a special day when Johnson Beharry joined 100 at the war memorial to celebrate Surbiton's bravest son, Doug Belcher.

Born in Surbiton on July 15 1889, educated at Tiffin, and a keen member of the St Mark's choir, Doug's heroics as a sergeant in the London Rifle Brigade in Belgium on May 13 1915 earned him the nation's highest military honour.

The Times, 11 days later, reported: 'Only 278 men were left in the battalion, and during the day 91 of these fell. In one trench, Sgt Belcher commanded four survivors of his regiment, and two Hussars he had picked up. His trench was blown to pieces and he had to face a German attack which, by accurate and rapid rifle fire, he succeeded in repulsing. No more heroic game of bluff has ever been played, and it saved the whole right of the 4th division.'

The St Mark's curate and scoutmaster, the Rev JHS

Taylor, whose multi-tasking included editing the parish mag, encapsulated Surbiton's mood. 'Good old Doug! May you return safe and sound. We shall be proud to shake hands with you. Well played St Mark's!'

Doug's parents, Walter and Emily, were drapers at 101 Brighton Road, now Zen Shiatsu Therapy Massage.

At the unveiling of a commemorative stone next to the Ewell Road war memorial, Doug's descendants joined the Tiffin choir and dignitaries in an open-air service led by the Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard of Surbiton Hill Methodist church. She spoke of Doug as "one who knew these streets", adding: "We too must stand up for freedom and justice."

The choristers were enthralled by Johnson Beharry's account of his actions in Iraq in 2004, in which he saved the lives of 30 comrades, earning his VC, while the event meant a rare outing for Surbiton's mayoral chain as deputy mayor Cllr Cathy Roberts wore regalia dating to the mid-60s, when the town had its own first citizen.



Sculpture at the Breakthrough Breast Cancer garden, Chelsea

## Another lucky escape

Another month, another accident at the junction of Windmill Lane and Effingham Road. This time a Chrysler and a BMW collided, with two female passengers treated for minor injuries.

A garden wall was demolished. Had anyone been strolling by, it would have been curtains.

A bystander said: "The BMW ended up sandwiched between the wall and the lamppost. Thank goodness no one was waiting to cross."

She said Windmill Lane had been resurfaced, so there were no road markings, but temporary warning signs were round the wrong way.

In May last year, a van hit a K3 bus at the same spot. Again there was resurfacing, and the 'no markings' signs were facing the wrong way.



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Ahoy there, matey!

Arrrrrr! Surbiton's under-fives are sporting hooks and eye-patches for pirate-themed walks in aid of Barnardo's. Last year's local 'big toddles' generated £711.

It cements a historic link between Barnardo's and Surbiton, as 110 years ago Dr Thomas Barnardo died at his home in the town.

The man who dedicated his life to housing street urchins lived with wife Sara and two children at St Leonard's Lodge, on the site of the Embassy Court flats opposite Hart's Boatyard in Portsmouth Road.

Visit [www.barnardos.org.uk/bigtoddle](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/bigtoddle) for details on organising half-mile walks. Nationally, they have raised £14 million.



Bake & brake class

Cyclelink owner Andrew Manning, an Ellerton Road resident for 21 years, collects, repairs and returns bikes... but is also spreading skills in DIY maintenance. A women-only 'bakes and brakes' session at St Mark's church hall (right) proved popular, and is being closely pursued by a 'gears and beers' course aimed at men, and a two-hour hands-on mixed-gender 'links and drinks' class. "It's giving people the knowledge to let them really enjoy their cycling," he said, adding that there was a risk that basic bicycle maintenance was becoming a lost art. A full Cyclelink bike service is £40, and is like a car MoT. "If you ride regularly, you should have it maintained as everything wears down," he said.



He's a real card

Hollyfield head boy Peter Harding may have enviably youthful looks... but he can confirm he's 18 with a proof-of-age card being trialled in the borough. Peter, of Elgar Avenue, said: "I went to a pub quiz with my friends, and was able to use it. It's a good idea." The 600 council-issued cards will allow sixth-formers to legitimately buy age-restricted items.



This issue sees distribution rise to 9,000, all hand-delivered, so if you're seeing it for the first time, welcome! It began in March 2012 with a 2,000 print run. If you like The Good Life, you can help by hugging our advertisers and telling them how much you value them. And if you can give up the odd hour to keep fit and deliver... we'll hug you! Info on the back page.

Remembering Ron Onions

Don't Bring Lulu is an inspiring book which triangulates the memories of Surbitonian Sarah Onions (a past deputy head at Tiffin Girls), mum Doris and dad Ron, launch editor of LBC in 1973. It gives their different takes on Ron's career (he died in 2012) and the challenges, trials and triumphs of Sarah's late sister Lulu, born without a thyroid gland. It's a tale of the birth of commercial radio,



an illuminating USA travelogue and a powerful account of a family raising a disabled daughter. It's on sale at the Regency Bookshop.

Eileen Gray dismounts

Women's cycling pioneer and long-time Surbiton resident Eileen Gray has died at 95. The Royal borough mayor in 1991, and an Olympic torchbearer aged 92, she lived in Grand Avenue.

She founded the Women's Track Racing Association in 1949, three years after winning Britain's first international women's cycle team race, and became national federation president and British Olympic Committee vice-chair.

As a Tory councillor from 1982-98, she was a fire-breathing advocate of causes in the Guildhall chamber, particularly if they involved two wheels.



Langleys is leading

Ewell Road eatery Langleys is leading the way when it comes to employing and supporting disabled staff. At a recent awards ceremony, the restaurant received a Making a Difference prize, proving that taking an active role in opening up employment to all is attracting recognition.

Pictured below are Hannah Engals, Christy, Pillai and Miranda Hoogewerf from Langleys, which opened with an ethos of supporting and engaging with the full community. Local special needs schools Dysart and St Philips struggle to find meaningful work experience to offer, so the restaurant stepped in to fill the gap.

Langleys has worked alongside Balance and Surrey Choices, which support the work placements. Now one Langleys staff member, recruited via the scheme, is working independently... and at the age of 55 can proudly tell his friends that he has his first job.



Glittering prizes

Bosco lounge has unveiled a new cocktail menu, from espresso martinis to wild berry mojitos, with happy hours from 4-8pm. Accompany with caviar blinis and crème fraîche.

The group fun is to be had with glitter balls, below; spectacular presentation cocktail drums serving four, and including gin 'n' roses, made with gin, Absolut pear and blackberry liqueur, and topped with rose petals.

DJ RicOne appears on Friday June 19, with RastaFou the next night, while on Thursdays mojitos are £5 apiece.



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# It's quirky, says new MP

As James Berry heard the returning officer declare him Surbiton's new MP at 3.30am, his big regret was that his dad wasn't there to see it. His father Michael died in December 2013, two days after James had been selected to fight the seat.

At 31, James is the age Ed Davey was when he won Surbiton for the Lib Dems, also at his first attempt, in 1997.

The young barrister met fellow student Nehali on their first day studying for a Master of Laws at Harvard in 2007; they married in 2013.

A Leveson Inquiry lawyer, he specialises in police and health. "I've prosecuted police officers, and represented the police," he said, which amused Surbiton's police chief when the pair met. And he's co-writing a book on police misconduct.

Targets include more school places, improving late-night safety, reducing rush-hour overcrowding at the station, and rezoning Surbiton to cut commuting costs. He also wants free, 30-minute parking rolled out widely.

He can declare an interest in rail fares. He shuttles up to town from Platform 1, strolling from a flat near the Assembly Rooms. He and Nehali plan to

make the town their permanent home.

What appeals about Surbiton? "It's amazingly quirky and individual; it's in Greater London, but it doesn't feel like London," he said.

He and the missus will take a summer break – probably to France. The couple honeymooned in Provence, but only for five days because of work commitments.

He aims to be a good constituency MP, acknowledging that Davey's reputation for championing residents' issues makes his a difficult act to follow.

James paid tribute to his predecessor at the count, and says small majorities (his is 2,834) "keep MPs on their toes".

Eight years as a lawyer has, he says, equipped him for life as an MP. Both roles entail digesting a lot of material, working with a broad cross-section of people, then advocating on their behalf.

"Part of an MP's job is to legislate, and I've got a head start in how law works," he said. "Most importantly, I've had a proper job rather than being a career politician; we saw where that left Ed Miliband."

He has an intriguing local connection via his mother-in-law. When she arrived



in the UK from Kenya, she trained at Boots in Victoria Road, and lived in a Surbiton Hill flat. She proudly pointed out both while helping him leaflet!

James's parents trained as teachers. "I was brought up to think education was the great thing to get on in life," he said.

On the election, he says few initially gave him much chance against a senior Lib Dem cabinet minister. "I told them we wouldn't lose through any lack of hard work on my part," he said.

Politically, who does he admire? "Margaret Thatcher was a dominating force on television as I was growing up," he said. "She knew what she stood for."

"John Major kept calm and diplomatic under fire, and while I have very little

truck with Labour, I thought Gordon Brown and Jim Murphy gave impressive recent performances. I also admire William Pitt the Younger. Some said I'm too young to be an MP... but when he was my age, Pitt was in his second term as prime minister!"

In his spare time he enjoys a good walk, cookery (Italian, but he's learning Gujarati dishes from his mother-in-law) and piano music (his wife is a trained classical pianist).

And on Europe? "We need to renegotiate, but it depends what's on offer. I hope David Cameron can renegotiate a considerably better deal for the UK, recognising that we're not part of the Eurozone. If he can renegotiate a good deal, I'm for staying in. If he falls short... it's difficult to say."

Tim Harrison

## Ed insists he'll be staying put

Ed Davey has no plans to leave the Surbiton river road where he and his family live.

Describing the experience of losing the seat he has held since 1997 as 'devastating', he will now take time to think everything through before deciding whether or not to take on James Berry on May 7 2020 – the date already fixed for the next general election.

"The result is both painful and unexpected in its scale," Ed said of his electoral defeat,

attributing the swing against the Lib Dems to "a battle of nationalist fervour – pro-Scottish north of the border, and some sort of English nationalism mixed up with fear of Labour across all of our seats in the south".

His opinion is that wider factors made the difference, rather than a rejection of the Liberal Democrats at local level. "The late swing against us as people made up their minds in the last 24 hours was driven by the nationalist fears the

Tories had stoked," he told supporters.

Ed, pictured with wife Emily and children John and Ellie, urged local Lib Dems to "stay strong".



## Reducing stress

Surbiton acupuncturist Nicola Salmon raised money for the charity Infertility Network UK by offering 'pay what feels good' sessions to coincide with a recent awareness week to raise the profile of acupuncture.

Nicola, who is based at BoCo in Electric Parade, moved to Surbiton five years ago with her husband and year-old son, and has already joined the Maple Village WI as well as volunteering for the local NCT group. Her acupuncture speciality is fertility, pregnancy and children.

"I've been working at BoCo for two years and absolutely love the atmosphere and clients that I see there," she said.



"I see all sorts of different conditions from chronic pain to fertility issues. Acupuncture can play a major role in stress reduction which in turn helps to resolve other health complaints such as migraines."

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# She's all smiles

Surbiton artist Georgina Allen, left, has succeeded in getting a painting into the Royal Academy summer exhibition for the second time. Bridge near Glandwr is for sale, £480. "I'm delighted," she said.

## Seeking fresh blood

Open auditions are being held on July 19 at 2pm and July 21 at 7pm to cast an in-house production of the 1927 Broadway version of Dracula at the cornerHOUSE on the last three nights of October. Director Colin Goodger said chillingly: "It should be very atmospheric."



## Art show judged success

Surbiton Arts Group's spring show in the library hall in Ewell Road was reckoned to be one of the society's most successful as it marches towards its 70th year. Works which caught the eye included Alan Williams' Birthday Bouquet, Tony Walsh's Landscape with Poplars, Martine Daniels' collage-and-oil Ben, and Elizabeth Morris's Budapest cityscape collage. Ann Emery's Angry Water, a dramatic watercolour, conveyed real power, while Kinnie Kelly's Cat Among the Geraniums, Pamela Prothero's painting of Raven's Ait and Pamela Joss's pen and watercolour Suffolk Mill were all top quality.



## Trilogy complete

Elgar Avenue author Steve Harding has completed his trilogy of books about life on planet Pagos with the publication of Janus the Sandlings, finishing a tale which began in 2013 with Janus the Arrival, followed last year by Janus the Offspring. All are downloadable as e-books, with the original due out in hardback and paperback early next year. Steve is now working on the final edit of a ghost story, Driven to Revenge, covering his first draft in red ink to the amusement of fellow commuters heading to Waterloo, where he works as a quality manager. "The new book still contains plenty of twists and turns," he promised his devoted readers.

## Preview

Catch the premiere of After We Danced, a new play by Andy Moseley, at the cornerHOUSE ahead of a two-week run at Edinburgh. A love story, mystery and tragedy rolled into one, it is based on real events in 1950s Devon. It is the fourth play Andy has had at a venue he credits with giving him his first break. ● July 24, 8pm

## Numbers move adds up

Number Works 'n Words, which inspires youngsters to learn to love maths and English, has moved round the corner to 152 Ewell Road – transforming a shop which had sat empty for four years into a vibrant new ground-floor education centre. The new learning base is opposite Sainsbury's Local. Celia Osbourne, pictured assisting 14-year-old Jake with fractions, has nearly 25 years of teaching experience. With better visibility and easy access for disabled children and parents with buggies, the new home has been given the thumbs-up by its young users, busy last week as exam season arrived.



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# A roundabout way of saying...

I have my architect's hat on, Surbitonians. The other day I overheard someone complain about the 'blandness' of the roundabout opposite the station, suggesting it should have something interesting on it to make use of the 'non-space'.

I immediately went to study it, to fully absorb the non-spaceness and understand this person's gripe. My God they were right!

It is a travesty of aesthetic blandness! Surely there has never been a more dull circular intersection of four adjoining roadways in the history of town centre planning?

This asphalt wasteland is an abomination, a stain of visual tedium on our picturesque town, and I will not now be able to navigate it as driver, pedestrian or bus passenger without closing my eyes in pain at its grey monotony.

So, I am determined to think of something that will make this circular non-space a space worth talking about.

The obvious suggestion is a statue of a famous Surbitonian. For example (I'm just thinking off the top of my head here, you know, picking ideas out of a hat) a local writer, perhaps, someone who writes for a local publication, someone who's really down with the people... coincidentally, I've been told I have good bone structure, but that's by the by.



Yawningly bland: Surbiton roundabout

The alternative is an elaborate Victorian fountain; the sort of aquatic splendour that gives a strong message to visitors disembarking from the station, on the lines: 'We Surbitonians are patrons of 19th century architecture, but we also appreciate the natural beauty of airborne water; we are gentle folk with high standards and perhaps slightly archaic values, and we welcome you to our town.'

Or maybe it should be a single beam of light piercing the night sky, the sort seen

from space, because it's about time Surbiton joined the plethora of earthly structures that can be photographed by a satellite and then put on the BBC News website.

Then there's always a giant square block on which Surbitonians can express the true soul of their town through the medium of graffiti, though this carries the risk of being: "Up yours, South West Trains."

Other ideas include a windmill; a giant wooden clock from which a couple in lederhosen emerge every hour on the hour, waddle forward and bang a huge golden bell; or a fairground ride that shoots you 200ft in the air.

Or how about a marble sculpture of Margo and Jerry Leadbetter... which is clearly the best idea yet?

Whatever your preference, join me in rejecting bland aesthetically displeasing roundabout non-spaceness, and eventually the council's Roundabout Tarting-Up Squad (there must be one) will have to listen to our pleas for circular intersectional beauty.

Becky Mayhew



# It's the 'village feel'

Barry and Gina Roughan moved to Westfield Road from Clapham. What did newcomer Gina make of the place?

'The secret is Surbiton,' a work colleague advised in 2013. 'Fast train to Waterloo and excellent pubs!' I tried to find it on the tube map. Two years later, with the paint almost dry on our lovely Surbiton cottage, I've discovered there's so much to this corner of London.

Food? From hog rolls and macaroons at the farmers' market to chargrilled fish at the sardine festival, from to-die-for carrot bread at the French Tarte to the YMCA (cheap as chips), we've scoffed our socks off since we arrived.

We've walked it off with sunset strolls along the exquisite riverfront. As newbies, we've been pleasantly surprised at the friendliness of residents. The Surbiton Book Club are a wonderful bunch who love reading (and a nice glass of Rioja) as much as I do. They've welcomed me, and introduced me to the wonders of The Lamb's cheeses.

The village feel extends to our road, where neighbours support each other and always show courtesy and patience.



Barry carries Gina over the threshold

From the summer festivals to the foodie scene, Surbiton has the perfect mix of culture and community for us.

And recently winning The Grove's pub quiz was a sign – we're bona fide locals now!

# Book mark

Although Surbiton's Regency bookshop was pipped at the post for the title Independent Bookshop of the Year, it can hold its head high as a national finalist.

Pat Freestone-Bayes closed early to shimmy up to Park Lane to join 750 industry moguls at the Bookseller Industry awards, but had to settle for merely being the best bookshop in the whole of London.

The accolade of top bookshop in the UK went to the Booka Bookshop of Oswestry.

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A single, century-old cigarette card bearing a picture of Queen's Promenade in Surbiton is on eBay at £50. Full sets of Thames views, in good condition, can fetch £900 at auction.

The card, produced in 1903 as part of a set of 25 by Taddy & Co, is the kind of thing that gets cartophilists – the posh word for cigarette card collectors – salivating.

Taddy's, a snuff, tea and tobacco seller set up in London in 1740, printed what has become the holy grail of cards, Clowns and Circus Artistes, in 1900. In 1995 a partial set of 19 out of 20 sold for £10,000, but you can add another nought to that figure today as they are so rare. Only 20 sets exist.

# The tale behind a card...



Surbiton Reach, painted by artist Harry Payne, and used as a packet-stiffener for Taddy's Myrtle Grove cigarettes (advertising tag: Cool, Sweet and Fragrant) in 1903

In the early 20th century, Taddy was run by the enlightened, if curiously spelt, Gilliat

Edward Hatfeild, who lived in magnificent Morden Hall, now owned by the National Trust, seven miles from Surbiton – and

a fascinating place for a summer visit. The mill buildings produced 6,000lbs of snuff every month, distributed to tobacconists in stone jars. He paid his workers more than rival employers, and ensured working conditions were among the best in England.

In 1920, east London's cigarette workers went on strike for better wages. Despite already earning more than the strikers were demanding, Taddy's staff downed tools in solidarity.

A furious Gilliat threatened to close the business, the strikers called his bluff, and the boss carried out his threat. Morden Hall's mills closed on June 25 1920. Despite his anger, the nature-loving Gilliat remained an old softie, and quietly re-employed the redundant mill staff to maintain the 120-acre estate, and deer herds, until his death in 1941 when – with no surviving relatives – he bequeathed everything to the National Trust.

# Kiosk lament

by Morris Thain



Unloved, unnoticed, Barbie pink  
This pavement obelisk's in sync  
With nothing... and yet here it waits:  
A monolith bereft of mates.

Twelve years ago the kiosk came,  
An iPlus net phone booth, by name.  
It would, they said, transform our lives,  
The proud installers swapped high fives.

Report graffiti, pay a fine,  
A streetlight's out, where can I dine?  
A hotline to the council's door  
(Via some poor bloke in Bangalore).

Today it's a museum piece,  
A bygone fad, a strange caprice;  
An object made redundant by  
That all-pervasive force, wi-fi.

The innards are now caked in rust,  
Its screen, alas, obscured by dust,  
It's only used, apparently,  
By drunks who need a late-night wee.

# Simple parking 'soon'

The parade of shops in Alexandra Drive is one step closer to making parking easier for shoppers.

More than 300 people signed a petition last year calling on the council to make it simpler for people to park for a short time outside the businesses near the junction with Raeburn Avenue, among them Berrylands Pet Food, Beauty on the Outside, Berrylands Residential, Emma's Hair, the Alex convenience store, Elsa Brown's flower shop, Café Rosa, the Alexandra Drive Surgery, Braggs hardware, Berrylands Dry Cleaners, the post office and Blanton Arts picture framing.

A survey established that 38 per cent of the 52 street spaces near the shops were being blocked by all-day parking.

Now Surbiton's neighbourhood committee is considering limiting the length of time cars can use spaces outside the shops to two hours between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Provided a consultation exercise doesn't produce serious objections, a local controlled parking scheme (which would cost around £7,000 to implement) could be created later this year.

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