



Bananas add to charity a-peel

There were no slip-ups when Surbiton's farmers' market organisers walked to help 3,000 refugees from Syria and Iraq.

Brandishing oversized fruit, they joined Refugee Action Kingston in a sponsored stroll in Richmond Park.

The charity marks its

25th anniversary with a gala dinner at the Holiday Inn, Portsmouth Road, on Friday November 11 (tickets from fiona.boult@refugeeactionkingston.org.uk).

Market volunteer Aviva Stein said: "This is a great way to make a real difference."

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A fishy tale at Waitrose

Waitrose is to open a sushi bar in its Claremont Road store, where shoppers can marvel at 'artisans' fine-slicing tuna steaks to create rice-and-raw-fish morsels.

The Sushi Daily food bar will launch beside the entrance to the supermarket in November, close to where the newspapers are currently displayed.

But while the prospect of sushi has led to a buzz of excitement, the introduction of dry-cleaning has put noses out of joint.

In 2013, Waitrose scrapped plans for a drop-off/pick-up cleaning service after anger from independent traders, including Roberts dry cleaners, across the street. But on October 6 the supermarket reversed its stance.

Robert Helliwell, who has run Roberts for 35 years, said: "I was told it was customer demand... well I don't see queues of irate shoppers banging their fists on the welcome desk, clamouring to hand in their washing!"

Departmental manager Mark Kennett said dry-cleaning was "a service our customers have asked for", but that it was "above my pay grade" to comment further.

There are three dry cleaners within 100 yards of Waitrose.

In May 1998, Waitrose pledged to "predominantly use the shop for the sale of groceries and for no other purpose".

Dirty washing is stored in a room at Surbiton, picked up by Johnsons, cleaned and returned. It is now one of 155 Waitrose stores with a dry-clean franchise.

Following a recent 10.5% fall in operating profits at Waitrose, the parent John Lewis Partnership has scaled back branch expansion in favour of expanding services at existing stores.



• A festival flautist, photographed by David Jacobson. More on page 8

Checkpoint Charlie

All that's missing are sentry boxes and Kalashnikovs. The new traffic barrier in Surbiton Crescent has the charm and grace of an East German border post... and it's about to start criminalising hundreds of unsuspecting drivers.

The experimental chicane near Surbiton High School is on a four to six-month trial to "restrict traffic using the road as a through route", and see how a permanent barrier would affect neighbouring streets.

But motorists are befuddled by the unexpected signs, and many have not twigged that only buses

and taxis can go through the gap.

As it is, double-deckers gingerly inch through, while many cars and vans simply nip across too.

But the honeymoon is over, and enforcement cameras are about to trigger a blizzard of penalty charge notices demanding £130 a time.

"It'll be like catching fish in a trout farm," one driver said. "At the moment, law-abiding motorists are coming up to it, stopping, then reversing and turning around. It's more likely to cause accidents than stop them."

The council said: "Restrictions will be backed by camera enforcement. As with any scheme, it takes time to alter driver behaviour patterns and we have allowed for a period of bedding in. However, in future we will be enforcing breaches and drivers will be fined."

Tim Harrison



It's OK – I'll grow into it

Every wannabe Fireman Sam and Samantha was at Surbiton fire station's open day to mark 150 years of the London Fire Brigade... including two-and-a-half-year-old Aubrey Park, right. "I'll be like Fireman Sam," he said trying on a man-size yellow helmet to try. More than 2,000 people besieged the Ewell Road station in five hours, flummoxing firefighters who expected a few hundred.

• More on page 5



Star & Garter resident Vi Butler with Sophie Bray Champ pays a golden visit

When Olympic hockey champion Sophie Bray returned from Rio, one of the first things she did was pop round to Surbiton's Star & Garter home to show off her gold medal.

The 26-year-old, whose mother works there as a physio, made a point of visiting residents living with dementia on the Lister floor of the Upper Brighton Road building.

She even re-created one of the pivotal moments of the Rio games on the polished floor of the lounge. Turn to page 3 for the full story.

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Recipes for a Good Life: Annie Morris

A bonnie, bonnie lassi

Mango lassi is a refreshing start to the day, and contains many vitamins.

Take a few ripe mangoes, peel, chop into pieces and put in the liquidiser. If you can't get fresh, use a tin and drain off the syrup. Look for 'in a light syrup', otherwise it will be too sweet. Add 250ml of natural yogurt and blitz until smooth.

Pour into a large glass and top with a sprig of fresh mint. Top of the morning to you!



Design trends with Elena Romanova

Start small and build your confidence

You've saved, sacrificed and worked, and finally bought your dream property in leafy Surbiton. You want to turn it into your own, but where do you start? Even if you fall in love with something in someone else's house, you can't help thinking 'Will it work in my space?'

It's all about confidence. How many times did you want to do a feature wall in moody inky blue, or use a bold stripe runner, just to go back to safe, bland options then regret not having the guts to go for it? Sound familiar?

A lot of my clients want their homes to stand out but are cautious about making bold

choices. Start small and build your design confidence. Paint a dull cloakroom a dark, moody colour or use bold wallpaper. You will be surprised how much it will transform your space. If there is a place to be bold, where you don't spend much time, it is there. As your confidence grows, take it further.



If you want to see bold, bang-on-trend interiors, do a Livingetc house tour. Every year they open doors to some of the amazing London homes featured in their magazine. You will have a great day out, and come back inspired with creative ideas you'll be dying to try in your own home.

My last word? Trust your instinct. It will never fail you. Don't give up on something you really love. Home interior is about expressing your personality and creating interest and individuality.

For more advice, email elena@elenainteriors.co.uk or call 07990 560 264.

I'll miss the market banter



Operations manager Julian Meers has hung up his hi-vis jacket after overseeing 50 farmers' markets in Surbiton.

He has juggled volunteering with the time pressures of being a production manager on events such as the National TV awards at the O2 Arena.

"I'll miss being ribbed by the stallholders; a fabulous group of characters, producing vanloads of goodies, rain or shine," he said. "And the volunteers' camaraderie."

He was given a rousing send-off at No97, Maple Road.



Food drama on the No97

It's theatrical; you sit at the counter observing the food production and the expert mixology as cocktails are conjured, canapes created, courses configured. "Service!" shouts a chef, struggling to make himself heard over the sound of ice cubes in shakers, before mine host Sam Berry, left, a 6ft 4in animated skyscraper, presents another elegant amuse bouche. Welcome to the world of No97 in Maple Road.

From the surreal pictures round the wall to the gin-laden drinks menu, this is an evening out mixing food and performance. It's not a tapas bar as such, it's really a grazing restaurant, with dishes (three or four per person recommended) that shout quality rather than quantity.

There are 30 seats upstairs, more below in the gin bar, and 16 outside in a heated, covered courtyard.

"I designed it, and we came up with what you see," said Sam.

The layout was dictated by necessity. With no food lift possible, the kitchen couldn't be sited in the basement. Instead, everything was built out from the ground-floor preparation/performance area.

The menu changes every six weeks to keep chefs and customers fresh, funky music provides a backdrop, but the loudest sound is the buzz of conversation.

The food is first class. After stuffed peppers (£2.95) my epicurean pal and I tucked in to the main dishes (average price, £7). Pork belly, elegantly disintegrating, accompanied by crackling to vary the textures. Marinated herring. Grilled octopus; a perfect tentacle embracing a heap of black quinoa in chorizo sauce. Melt-in-the-mouth chicken livers, a culinary work of art. Veggie options too. But that was weeks ago; there'll be new items now.

It's a languid, luxurious way of gently filling up; a tickle-your-tastebuds experience, not a stuff-yourself-stupid overload. If it's a belt-loosening blow-out you're after, you've missed the point. Try elsewhere. This is more restrained.

The array of gins (40+) in the basement bar is unnerving. "And every time we find a new gin we like, we add it to the menu," said Sam.

The whole experience is a well-crafted blend of sights, sounds and aromas. Sam says Barcelona is a couple of years ahead of London for this style of bar/eatery, but No97 is helping the capital catch up.

With beers and wines by glass or bottle (we despatched a richly dark £26 Lo Petit Fantet d'Hippolyte Corbiere), all the ingredients are present for a fine night out.

No97 is at 97 Maple Road. Lunch Wed-Fri, dinner Tue-Sat, plus weekend brunch. Booking advised. The phone number is well-chosen. 020 3411 9797.



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Barn knees-up

A barn dance is being staged in the parish hall of St Mary's in Church Road, Long Ditton, Nov 12, 6.30pm. Live ceilidh music. Tickets £12.50. Call 020 8398 5322.

How to get fitter

Over 50? Want to lose weight and improve wellbeing? Free fit-as-a-fiddle courses start Nov 1, with Nordic walking, aquacise, body balance and chair-based exercise. Call Grace on 020 8942 8256, or email grace.shorthouse@staywellservices.org.uk

Tax collectors film

Body-worn video cameras may be used by agency staff who collect unpaid council tax following two violent attacks. You can have your say on the subject up to October 24 via www.kingston.gov.uk/consultations

Uni for retirees

Retired Surbitonians interested in the University of the Third Age can visit a day-long show (10am-4pm) on Wed Oct 26, at Kingston United Reformed Church to mark the 1,000-strong local group's 25th anniversary. It has 80 groups for art, history, cycling etc.

Diabetic events

Berrylands resident Richard Allen is recruiting Surbiton residents for the local Diabetes UK branch to "learn from shared experiences". It held a 10-week diabetic workout programme at Tolworth Recreation Centre in the summer. Next event, Nov 8. Visit www.kingston.diabetesukgroup.org

Award bonanza

The Seething Wells fun events group, which organises Ski Sunday on St Mark's Hill on Oct 16, has £25,000 in its coffers after winning Britain has Spirit's community initiative of the year prize. Some will support wider use of the Museum of Futures and community kitchen in Brighton Road.



Halting riff-raff

Comic Mark Steel had the area in stitches after telling Radio 4 listeners Kingstone only exists "to stop riff-raff blundering into Surbiton". Citing historian June Sampson, he said 'dogging' began here, as "seemingly blameless gents could indulge with ladies of pleasure on Surbiton Common" in the 1730s.

Charity baubles

Surbiton charity African Vision Malawi seeks sponsors for Christmas tree baubles and knitted squares, and will stage a photo show in November demonstrating its work. Full details at www.africanvision.org.uk

Indian lunches

Saffron Summer, Ace of Spades, does two-course lunches, Wed-Sat, for under a tenner, and has launched four-course Sunday lunches for under £15 a head (half price for children).

Volunteer help

Volunteers are sought to help with a senior citizens' tea party at Long Ditton village hall on Nov 20, 3-6pm, for those isolated through mobility, bereavement or loneliness. Email Deirdre Cole: paulgcole@yahoo.co.uk

Golden memory

Tolworth couple Bob and Jenny Hurworth celebrated 50 years of marriage with a party for friends. "I knew, on the morning of my wedding, it would be a good day," said Bob. "My car started first time!"



Senior athletes give Sophie some stick



● The polished floor of the Star & Garter proved the ideal surface for some indoor hockey

Dog tag scheme remembers war dead

As Remembrance Sunday nears, the sacrifice of local First World War soldiers is being marked by issuing replicas of their dog-tag ID badges. Inspired by local history officer

Amy Graham at the Kingston Guildhall archive, the project lists servicemen killed at the Somme a century ago, such as (left) William Harrison born 1881, a King's Royal rifleman who enlisted aged 34 in 1915, and died at the Somme a year later.

To 'adopt' a local fallen soldier and be a part of this (free) history project, call in at the local history archive, now housed in the former magistrates' courtrooms in the basement of the Guildhall.

On Sunday November 13 at 10.45am, the annual remembrance parade and service will be staged at Surbiton's war memorial in Ewell Road.



Only a Winston apiece

To mark the arrival of the new plastic fiver, Bosco lounge in St Mark's Hill is offering mojitos for a 'Winston' on Thursdays, alongside a full range of cocktails from classics to extravagant. Mixologists create mojitos in just 20 seconds. Also on Thursdays, solo guitarist Aaron Norton brings the bar to life. As Churchill himself said: "One does not leave a convivial party before closing time."



Fiona sets off on an adventure

Surbiton cycle instructor Fiona Quinn has embarked on a 1,000-mile bike expedition from toe to tip of Britain, 'wild camping' and talking to students along the way about building self-confidence. "I'm



used to being on a saddle day in, day out, but riding with a fully loaded bike is a different kettle of fish," she said as she set off by train to Cornwall. "Adventure is not just a challenging holiday, it gives me the head space and confidence to change my everyday life," she said. Follow via Twitter or www.cyclegreatbritain.com

Overheard at the fish stall at the farmers' market

The dietician was addressing a large audience. "A lot of what we eat harms us: sugary drinks, saturated fat and so on. But which food causes most damage and long-term suffering?" After a short silence, an elderly woman in the front row raised her hand. "Wedding cake?"

Watch out for some silver-haired athletes at Tokyo 2020. Inspired by Team GB's hockey gold medallists at Rio, residents at Surbiton's Star & Garter home have been turning their walking sticks upside down to take up a mobility-appropriate version of the sport.

Residents chased foam balls along the polished wooden floor of the home at the junction of Langley Avenue and Upper Brighton Road, and were taught some nimble tricks by Sophie Bray, a member of the team which memorably pipped favourites The Netherlands to glory in a tense penalty shoot-out at the Olympics.

The petite blonde athlete was greeted by a huge sign reading Well Done Sophie, Our Golden Girl when she turned up, days after returning from Brazil.

Sophie's mum, Geneen Bray, has been a physiotherapist at the home since 2013 and had been sharing Sophie's progress with staff and residents. Both Sophie's parents and her brother were in Rio to cheer her on.

In the run-up to the final, residents at the Star & Garter did their bit too; making good luck banners for Sophie and Team GB to share on social media.

It was an emotional moment as Sophie walked through the doors of the Star & Garter with her gold medal round her neck; everyone had signed a union jack which they presented to Sophie when she arrived.

Sophie, who is 26 and lives in Claygate, went to Tiffin Girls', then joined Surbiton Hockey Club while at school and started playing for the colts 10 years ago.

At 18 she won her first senior England cap. She got a first in psychology at uni in Birmingham, then focused on hockey, despite playing football for Fulham ladies, and representing Surrey at tennis, winning silver at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Initially a centre half, she graduated to striker, taking her game to a new level at the club side Mop in Holland from 2011-13.

The Star & Garter celebrates its centenary this year after being set up to care for severely injured young men returning from the First World War battlefields.

Tim Harrison

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How Theo used to get his kicks

He was born in Rutland, lived in Epsom and rarely troubled Surbiton with his presence. So why is solicitor Theodore Bell a notable denizen of the town?

For one simple reason. He represented Surbiton on the day football was born.

The 23-year-old was sport mad; the school rugby captain, a good rower and founder, in 1863, of Surbiton FC.

He spotted a letter in the sports paper Bell's Life from Ebenezer Morley, a 32-year-old fellow solicitor and rower who had just formed Barnes FC.

It invited like-minded souls to Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, Holborn, on October 26 1863 to "bring about a definite code of laws for the regulation and adoption of the various clubs which indulge in this exciting and health-promising winter pastime".

So Surbiton FC's Theodore Bell became one of a handful who established the Football Association. Also at the table were No Names, Kilburn; Blackheath; War Office (today Civil Service FC); Crusaders; Forest FC, Leytonstone; Crystal Palace (not the one we know today); Kensington

School, Perceval House School, Blackheath Proprietary School and Charterhouse.

Levels of enthusiasm among the founders varied. Some sent seven delegates to those half dozen meetings in the autumn of 1863 where the rules eventually crystallised.

Throw-ins, it was decided, had to be at right angles to the pitch, as in rugby. And players could catch an airborne ball, then take a free kick from that spot.

Though he only attended that first FA meeting, Theo's contribution to the world's favourite game was important. Delegates were split between only allowing kicking, and permitting kicking and handling, like rugby.

Theo was a 'kicker', and the vote was nine to five in favour of kicking only. Carrying was banned.

Barnes played Richmond in a trial game to test the new rules, on December 19 1863. Uninspiringly, it was a 0-0 draw. Three weeks later came the first 'official' match, when a president's side played a secretary's side (selected by Morley) in Battersea Park. For the record, the president's team won 2-0.

It was another three years until offside

was introduced, and a further 11 years until games were limited to 90 minutes.

Surbiton also provided another character at football's rule-making meetings; John Bouch, 19, who worked in his father's clothing wholesale business, which then occupied a warehouse at the back of the station in South Bank. He was from a keen sporting family and his brothers, Bill and Alf, played for Palace. John was a member of Forest School's delegation.

Today, through history's prism, that fateful first meeting in the pub function room is hugely significant, but it says much about the prevailing attitude to a sport then in its infancy that the Surrey Comet ignored it, yet devoted pages to the progress of the American Civil War!

The subscription those founder clubs paid was a guinea, reveals Steve Tongue's



absorbing new history of London football, *Turf Wars* (Pitch Publishing, £9.99).

Theodore Bell paid up, on behalf of Surbiton FC, left the room, thought about it on the train home... and decided that on balance he preferred rowing as a sport. He promptly disbanded Surbiton FC – clubs came and went with bewildering rapidity – and became secretary of Kingston Rowing Club instead.

Though records are scant, it is believed Surbiton played its handful of matches on Alexandra rec.

Theo was born in Uppingham on July 30 1840, the youngest of five sons. His father was the town's GP. An outdoors boy and bird-watcher, he went (Theresa May will be delighted to learn) to the grammar school at the age of eight, gaining brief fame after spotting the last kite flying over Rutland.

He was opening bat for the school, later playing for Old Uppinghamians, trained as a solicitor, set up in Epsom High Street and became justices' clerk at the court. He met and married Edith West, a portrait painter, and daughter of Epsom College's head. Though they had no children themselves, Theo was fanatical about the role of sport in improving youth fitness.

Theo and Edith lived at 12 Dowsndale, Epsom – a six-bedroom mansion today worth £2million. On fine days he would stroll to his office. In later life he filled out into a substantial figure with a bushy white beard. He died in Epsom on November 4 1923; his nephew John taking over Bells solicitors.

Kingstonian FC, which – unlike Surbiton FC – did take root in the area and is still going, was set up in 1885, originally as the snappily titled Association Football Club of Kingston and Surbiton YMCA. But it is thanks to honorary Surbitonian Theo Bell that history will always record Surbiton's place at the top table of football's formal establishment.

Tim Harrison

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Crowds flock to fire station open day



When to tackle your local GP



So you're over 40 and the doctor says you need more exercise. What better than to join the five-a-side team... run by the local doctor?

Dr Martin Wolfson, a fixture at Surbiton's Claremont Medical Centre since the mid-80s, has run The Ancients since his son joined Shrewsbury House 23 years ago.

Mainly composed of fifty and sixtiesomethings ("I'm 66, and I'm not the oldest!"), the team is seeking new old blood, as it were.

The Thursday evening sessions provide a serious aerobic workout.

"It is incredibly good for you, and reduces by 50% your chance of a stroke or heart attack," he said. "It's indoor football, it's full-on and we leave covered in sweat, then shower before the pub!"

www.meetup.com/AncientsFC

• Surbiton residents keen to share their opinions about cycling can join the council's local neighbourhood conversation, and meet those in the know at the Royal British Legion, Hollyfield Road, on Thurs Oct 20, 7.30-9pm.

Lighting up time

Surbiton's Christmas lights are being turned on by Strictly's Erin Boag. The dancer has partnered Julian Clary, Peter Schmeichel and Rory Bremner on Strictly Come Dancing, as well as Vince Cable in the programme's 2010 Christmas edition.

Erin, who lives in a local river apartment and teaches at a studio in Kingston, will help Father Christmas turn the lights on at a ceremony in the town on Thursday November 24.

Gone for a Pees

The Gascoigne-Pees estate agents opposite the Waitrose car park entrance in Claremont Road has been rebranded Hamptons International as that name "was felt to be better for Surbiton".

Both Hamptons and Gascoigne-Pees are part of the giant Countrywide group. Hamptons recently sold one of the town's oldest surviving Regency villas, the five-bedroom, 3,000sqft house at 126 Maple Road – designed by Harvey Elmes and built by Thomas Pooley for Lord Stanhope in 1837 – for £1.75million.

The average age of the 2,000 visitors who explored Surbiton fire station at an open day for the brigade's 150th anniversary was probably about five. They clambered over fire engines, tested sirens and watched a 33m extendable aerial ladder platform (which usually lives at Wimbledon) lift into the afternoon sky above Ewell Road. It can hold four on its rescue platform.

Visitors also saw Kingston Beekeepers' mobile hive. Keith McMahon left youngsters wide-eyed by revealing that only girl bees sting. Every playgroup from miles around arrived. Station manager John Snelgrove admitted the turnout had taken everyone by surprise.

Surbiton's library and fire station in Ewell Road are twins; conceived by architect Joseph Hill to complement the council offices at the corner with Berrylands, and born on the same day.

The foundation stones were cemented in place on Wednesday September 2 1931, Surbiton Council chairman Bill Sanger doing the honours, and being presented with a silver trowel. Both opened on April 6 1932 when Surrey County Council chairman Major A Leycester-Penrhyn borrowed the first book. The buildings cost £21,820, plus £1,900 for books!

The fire station had room for four appliances, with two flats above for 'resident firemen'. Surbiton's fires had previously been tackled from a cramped building in Victoria Road, but a population surge between the wars necessitated a larger base.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we hope you will use one of these buildings and will have no occasion to use the other," quipped Mr Sanger at the foundation stone-laying.

Major Leycester-Penrhyn smashed the alarm glass with the butt of a fireman's hatchet to test that the bell was working... and 30 seconds later, the firemen had slid down the pole and driven a fire engine out to the forecourt, ready for action, to applause from the gathered throng.

That pole was removed 25 years ago (you can see the patched hole in the ceiling), and the original snooker table has been replaced with gym equipment. Offices and a small sleeping area now make up the upstairs rooms, while the firefighters' recreation room is at the side, with a pool table.

An editorial in the Surrey Comet of 1932 praised the look of the new buildings, and had a dig at the 'severer-looking telephone centre' being built near the bridge over the railway line.

Tim Harrison

Dressing for the autumn

Parading this season's must-haves at Shoes at Last, Maple Road (including waterproof Ilse Jacobsen rain jackets and a cashmere and alpaca coat by Bitte Kai Rand) are Shernett Ranson (tan parka), Madeleine Babey (grey cashmere coat), Vicky Williams (green jacket) and Kate Ross (navy jacket). David Jacobson took the picture in a secluded courtyard garden just along the road from the popular boutique.



• Surbiton writer Pat Ward's place at local history's top table was already assured after producing the book From Talworth Hamlet to Tolworth Tower in 1975 (that's her researching it, above).

Her status was confirmed last year with publication of The Story of Tolworth, co-written with Bob Phillips. Now the active member of St George's church has given the local history room a bound volume of her original research, to inspire future historians.

Pat conducted a time-consuming trawl through the Surrey Comet, 1854-1920s, recording any mention of Tolworth and St Matthew's church. Her notes have been transcribed, cross-indexed and published in electronic and bound form, and are freely available at the archive in the Guildhall, catalogued at 54 (907) WAR/PHI.

It is, says Bob Phillips, a fitting honour for "a fine lady and historian".



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Gardening tips by Janice Cripps

Small really can be beautiful

Whoever said size doesn't matter was right. Small gardens aren't necessarily negative; it can be an advantage, taking less time and money to maintain. And any minor improvement will make a bigger impact than in a larger garden.

How small is small? A garden isn't just under your feet, it has a vertical dimension which can be brought to life with climbing plants, arches and trees. With no ceiling it can, in most cases, easily accommodate a small tree.

There are a number of tricks designers use to make the most of small gardens. Firstly, the design has to be simple. Ideas have to be carefully edited to ensure the final result is harmonious, unified and uncluttered.

It is important the garden flows, and you can move easily around it. Each design element has to work extra hard; doubling up if possible, such as storage in a bench seat or an arch as a children's swing. Even practical elements like posts or garden railings can look sculptural.

You need fewer plants, so make ones you choose work hard. Check they tick boxes:

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long flowering season, attractive foliage/bark, fragrance, spring blossom, autumn tints, winter berries?

Colour is key in creating a beautiful garden. It influences mood and maximises space. Muted or pastel colours appear farther away than they are, so plant towards the rear. Bright colours leap forward, so put these near the house to stretch the distance in between.

There are many ways to play with perspective and alter perception of space. By subtly narrowing a path as it goes away from the house, it will appear longer; setting the layout of a garden at 45 degrees to the house will accentuate its width and make it look larger; circular lawns work better than rectangular lawns as they more effectively open out the space in a small garden; smaller units of paving, tiling or decking trick the mind by associating larger quantities with larger space.

Don't allow the whole garden to be seen at once. If you can create a secret space – even a tiny one – your mind will imagine there is more beyond. Blur boundaries by concealing them

with climbing plants and shrubs. Again it suggests the garden continues into the distance.

And don't ignore the 'borrowed view'. If there's a beautiful tree on a neighbouring property, 'borrow' it and make it your own backdrop.

Janice Cripps is a professional Surbiton garden designer. For advice, planting plans, or projects – concept to completion – www.janicecripps.co.uk



Picture: Joe Pecorelli

Wild about Surbiton, by Elliot Newton

Improving our river water



Our local river, the Hogsmill, has its chalk risings in Ewell and meanders 10km to its confluence with the Thames near Kingston town centre.

This river supports a fantastic array of species; one of its more curious being the critically endangered European eel.

They start their life in the Sargasso Sea on the other side of the Atlantic, where these mysterious fish begin an incredible metamorphosis which sees them go from a small transparent spec (or leptocephalus) to a 1.5m silver eel. Following many years in our rivers, they then embark on an epic journey back to the Sargasso.

Unfortunately, like many urbanised waterways, our river is in trouble. Sewage enters from a number of different sources, one being misconnected outfalls.



These inappropriately directed pipes take raw sewage directly from people's homes and pollute our waterways.

It can have severe ecological impacts, reducing the diversity and abundance of freshwater invertebrates which form the base of our food webs, resulting in fewer tasty morsels for our fish species. This pollution can lead to an increase in hazardous bacteria within the river such as E. coli, making the rivers unsafe for everyone.

With your help, the river has great potential to be an even more beautiful place for people to enjoy, and a better place for wildlife.

We are lucky to have a number of local projects run by organisations such as the Zoological Society of London, supported by local residents.

In summer months you can join volunteers to monitor our eel populations as they complete their migration and enter our rivers, or you can help to survey our invertebrate populations to give an indication on how healthy the rivers are.

For those who prefer to stay on terra firma, you can join the outfall safari to help monitor the amount of sewage entering the river, or help remove invasive species from our banks.

Email Elliot Newton at: elliot.newton@environmenttrust.org

The hi-vis helpers

This band of happy volunteers helped continue transforming one of the town's loveliest assets, Claremont Gardens. They were among 40 people who spent a day painting all 14 benches after Gary Gautier had fixed any broken or rotten slats. Helpers also installed a wildlife interpretation board by the pond, which sustains six types of dragonfly among other wildlife. The rill, which was planted up last year, was maintained, as was the rockery area which – as the young workers can testify – makes a splendid spot for a lunch break. "It's amazing what can be achieved when a few local people get together and focus their efforts on something positive," said a delighted Tom Hooker from the Surbiton Wildlife Group.

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A study in concentration as Violet, 4, paints a bird box at the Hogsmill water treatment works open day. What's her favourite colour? "Rainbow," she said, covering all options. A couple of buzzards wheeled over the nature reserve, exciting Surbiton's birdwatching group whose board of sightings for the day also recorded a peregrine falcon (a more common urban sight these days than you might think), a grey heron and a male sparrowhawk. Herons nest locally. With new raised beds, beehives and the wildlife pond offering young visitors the chance to net tiny creatures from the observation platform (pictured), there was plenty to see and do.

Kristine Boudreau, nature reserve manager, was delighted with the turnout at the Tide Fest day.

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Spot the lost Parka

Berrylands graced the walls of this year's Royal Academy summer exhibition, via a startlingly original photograph by artist Richard Burniston. Good Life reader Peter Morgan spotted the imaginatively titled She Slapped Me Really Hard When I Told Her I'd Left My New Parka By The River



(Hogsmill River 26th November 1977). The view looks north towards

the pedestrian and cycle bridges linking Berrylands and New Malden. Anyone

who has misplaced a garment in their youth will feel the connection.

We're in stitches...



Everyone who views it has been impressed by the new embroidered hanging of Noah's ark, unveiled at the 20th anniversary open morning of the Smarties embroidery group and now on the wall at St Matthew's church.

"The animals were embroidered by Smarties members, then I made an ark and we sewed them on," said Gill Davies. "Each has a weird, individual character, and the animals are much the same!"



Visitors have been in stitches about the rabbits, which appear to be, er, doing what rabbits do.

Friendship under the spotlight

Friendship comes under the spotlight in Parallel Lies, a double bill of plays at the busy cornerHOUSE arts centre in Douglas Road.

In one, Swan Songs, tensions between two ageing singers surface over careers and ambition. Mistaken assumptions and white lies lead to comic and poignant moments.

In the other, The Visit, a

volunteer befriendee gets more than she bargained for when she offers the hand of friendship.

The lead roles in both plays are performed by Debra Shepherd and Meta Thomas, right, who are firm pals in reality after sharing stages in theatrical shows and cabaret nights.

The touching comedies are both written by Graham Large.



Parallel Lies is on at the cornerHOUSE from Oct 20-22 at 8pm. Tickets £8 (£6 concs) at www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/145063

Events round-up

- Ahead of a Surbiton Christmas concert, Kingston Choral Society is at All Saints, Kingston, on Sat Nov 26, 7.30pm (open rehearsal, 2.30pm), with Vaughan Williams' early work Toward the Unknown Region, George Dyson's Elizabethan pageant Sweet Thames, Run Softly, and ex-King's singer Bob Chilcott's Requiem. www.kingstonchoralsociety.org.uk

- Poetry and cheese are on the menu as the cornerHOUSE runs a night of verse on Nov 11, on themes of memories and remembrance.

- Surbiton's Hinchley Manor Operatic Society presents Thank You Ma'am, a tribute to the Queen in songs from musicals from the 1920s onwards at Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton, Oct 25-29, 7.30pm, plus Sat matinee. Profits support next May's version of Legally Blonde at Epsom Playhouse. Tickets £13 at www.hmos.org.uk

- My Son's Not Rainman returns to the cornerHOUSE on Nov 25 at 7.30pm as John Williams shares heart-warming stories about life with his autistic 12-year-old. Proceeds to Express CIC, a community group supporting young people with autism. A recording of the show was selected as one of the BBC's magic moments of radio in 2015. John also reads stories from his new book. Tickets £12. www.wegottickets.com/expresscic

- Karen Lloyd, who runs gentle, challenging, assuring and inspiring classes for Surbiton women to share experiences of the menopause, has booked space in the Museum of Futures in Brighton Road. "I'm aiming for an extended dinner party feel," she said of her informal gatherings. Visit www.varietygirls.webnode.com

- A rousing singalong music hall is being staged at the cornerHOUSE, Douglas Road, Nov 18 and 19, the first half celebrating the seaside, the second focusing on London. The show is devised and directed by Simon Hancock, and builds on a sell-out success last year. Full details at www.thech.org

- Surbiton tap-dance teacher Karen Ross takes part in a 'tapathon' for Children In Need on Nov 20, linking up with groups across the UK. Every class performs at the same time to set a new world record. Details at www.theperformersproject.com



- Calm down, ladies. The guest teacher at a recent Regency dance class at St Mark's church was Stuart Marsden, dancing master to Poldark. Mrs Benne's ballroom dance classes are a bargain fiver a go, which includes refreshments. To be in a position to accept any future dance invitation from Aidan Turner, pictured, turn up to the class on Oct 26, 8pm, or visit www.mrsbennet.co.uk for more dates.

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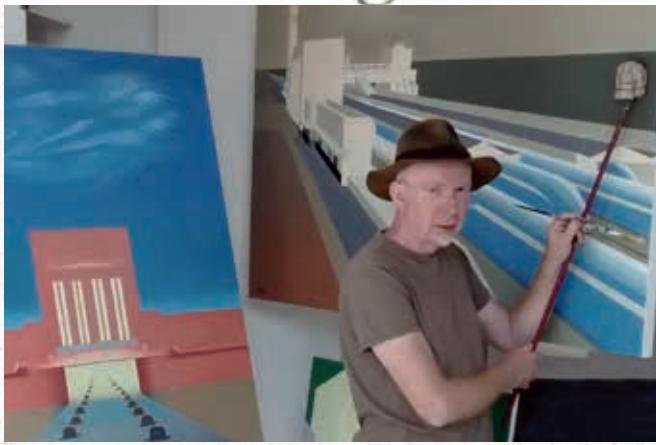
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Alton to Surbiton

Long Ditton artist Martin Alton has produced a series of exquisite stylised interpretations, in oils, of Surbiton's iconic art deco station.

The paintings, both playful and dramatic, offer new angles on the town's best-used building, designed in 1937 by J Robb Scott.

In all, 15 paintings



will be on show at View Gallery, Thames Ditton High Street,

Nov 5-Jan 2017. Opening times: www.viewgallery.co.uk

Concert season under way

A five-month series of evening Thames concerts starts at St Andrew's church, Maple Road, accompanied by additional free 50-minute morning concerts on farmers' market days, with local young talent. After Hollyfield School perform on Sat Oct 15 at 10.30am, Kingston Music Service is on Dec 17, and Kingston Uni on Feb 18. Conductor Benjamin Costello marshals the Lejeune String Trio on Sat Oct 15, 7.30pm, while Robin Blaze and soprano Joanne Lunn, right, take centre stage on Sat Nov 26. Details and ticket information at www.thamesconcerts.com



THAMES CONCERTS

2016-17 concert series held at St Andrew's Church in Maple Road, Surbiton. Concerts start at 7.30pm

Saturday 15 October 2016

Lejeune String Trio
Kaja Lukas (violin), Emmanuela Reiter (viola), Pei-jee Ng (cello)

Saturday 26 November 2016

Robin Blaze (counter-tenor), Joanne Lunn (soprano), Benjamin Costello (piano)

Saturday 10 December 2016

The Lime Carroll Trio

Saturday 7 January 2017

Samson Tsou and Pavel Kolesnikov (pianos)

Saturday 28 January 2017

Daniel Clark (organ)

Saturday 25 February 2017

Zamira Duo
Tansy Garrod (violin) and Mary Reid (harp)

Farmers' Market Days

Thames Concerts also hold free coffee concerts at 10.30am at the Surbiton Farmers' Market in Maple Road
15 October (w/ Hollyfield School)
17 December (w/ Kingston Music Service)
18 February (w/ Kingston University)

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That's a nice uniform, son

They say you're getting older when police look younger, which appears borne out by this encounter between Steve, the cartoon volunteer copper, and a young, uniformed cadet at Surbiton's annual festival.

Once again, Victoria Road was closed to traffic as pedestrians reclaimed the high street to shop at stalls selling gifts and services, food and drink.

There were music stages, and traditional children's entertainment including Punch & Judy (left).

The festival offers a 'shop window' to the area's many voluntary groups.

The parade, featuring classic cars, marching bands, Regency dancers and acrobats, snaked through the streets, while St Andrew's church hosted a photo show (see below).



Pictures: David Jacobson

On the trail of jumble, a liberating idea

The best ideas are usually the simplest. Jumble trail is a linear car boot sale, with front gardens converted to open-air shops on an agreed day, to liberate clutter and accumulation, and reduce landfill.

Geordie Gronn of Rushton Avenue, Berrylands, coordinated a five-hour event in early October, with 33 stalls dotted along Endway, Rushton, Southcote, Elgar, Beresford, Grand, Moresby, Greenfield, Northcote and Raeburn avenues.

"I went to a jumble trail in West

Norwood," she explained. "There were hundreds there; it's a great neighbourhood get-together and a good way to clear things, make cash and meet people."

In the autumnal sun, dozens strolled out to browse tabletops groaning with children's books, cast-off clothes, garden implements, Ordnance Survey maps, toys, CDs and assorted bric-a-brac.

You could do your homework at jumbletrail.com in advance, to find which front gardens had toys, plants, clothing or music by category. But most shoppers just made it a Sunday stroll round the streets, and took pot luck. "This is a lovely neighbourhood, and I'm all into secondhand things, trash and treasure, and so on," said Geordie.



Paddy Lenox-Conyngham and Geordie Gronn liberate clutter and (left) a garden sale point



• A snap of Richmond Park deer jousting, against a backdrop of the Roehampton flats, earned Piotr Bednarek first place in the Surbiton festival photographic show, which attracted more than 50 entries. "We were taken aback by the diversity and quantity of entries," said David Jacobson of Surbiton Photo Circle. "Entries ranged from suburban cats to African lions, and the overall quality was outstanding."

He and fellow judges Bob Noble and Tom

No, I'm definitely the tallest



Hooker declared the deer snap the winner, closely followed by Lois Leyland's images of a bee (above, left) and a horse's eye. "Piotr's perfectly judged timing and his juxtaposition of wild animals against Roehampton's urban

landscape have all the stamps of a world-class photograph, said David, thanking Surbiton Snappy Snaps for sponsorship.

Top children's entries: Poppy John (Cow's head) and Esme Hocksley (Peeping fox).

Season of mists

**A huge autumnal blanket
Has descended on the town.
We've had to switch the heating on
And roll our long sleeves down.**

**Embrace the changing seasons!
Yes, enjoy the colour switches!
The leaves that curl and wrinkle
Before falling, all of which is**

**News of joy at Waterloo
Where announcers are all set
To report that train delays are
Due to THE WORST LEAF-FALL YET.**

**As the light begins to soften
And the duvet starts to beckon
Add a half hour to your journey:
When your timings you do reckon.**

Morris Thain

Clock this, provided you aren't too fusee



• The Turner clock sold for £231.66 and (inset) the fusee mechanism

One of the finest clocks produced in Surbiton – a fusee wall clock from around 1890 – has sold on eBay for over £230.

It was made in a workshop in Victoria Road, and bears the name of Turner & Sons, Surbiton, the old shop plate opposite Sainsbury's, sensitively replaced by a shocking pink nail bar sign.

With wooden case, brass edging and Roman numeral face, the 15in diameter clock sold with key and pendulum.

The online winning bid was £231.66. The seller? A vintage timepiece specialist in Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

The 'fusee' in the name is a cone-shaped pulley mechanism which evens out the pull of the clock's mainspring to improve the timekeeping accuracy.

The earliest surviving example of a fusee (from the Latin 'fusata' – spindle) dates from around 1430 and is in a German museum.



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