the good life

NEXT Farmers' Markets
Saturday, December 19 -9am-1pm
Saturday, January 16 -9am-1pm
MAPLE ROAD

Issue 26 | *The best thing to come out of Surbiton since the A3* | Winter 2015

Fried pizzas offer the filling taste of Naples

After the oompah of last month's Oktoberfest farmers' market, the Maple Road event on Sat Nov 21 focuses on taste, with free samples and a food-to-go stall unveiled... selling pizza fritta.

Pizza fritta? Fried mini pizzas with toppings; a traditional Neapolitan street food. And the Maple Village WI has a home-made jam stall.

There is a prize draw for a Champagne breakfast for two at Rubi. Last month's prize at the French Table was won by Neil Hafekost.

Pictured left, Catherine Hancock from Surbiton biscuit maker Piped With Love, volunteer Robyn McAllister and the French Table's Eric Guignard.

December's festive food market, from 9am on the 19th, will feature gift ideas for foodies.

PREMIER CARS
24 Hour Local Minicab Service
020 8274 9000
HEATHROW £24 / GATWICK £34
www.premierminicabs.com

It's lighting-up time

Surbiton town centre's Christmas lights will be switched on by the mayor, assisted by Santa. Turn It On Surbiton, on Thursday November 26, starts in the station forecourt at 3pm, with a farm, face-painting, stories and Mad Hatter's tea party.

Santa arrives on his sledge at 4.15pm, with the lights being switched on at 5pm by Cllr Roy Arora and the mayoress, Manisha, helped by Father Christmas.

Food and festive gift stalls will be set up in Victoria Road, and school choirs will sing carols. Later there will be live bands.

750 gather at war memorial

A 750-strong gathering at the Ewell Road war memorial marked Remembrance Sunday with an open-air service under a leaden sky.

"It's a sad, yet proud, day," said the Rev Stan Brown of Surbiton Hill Methodist church, officiating.

Before the wreath-laying, former mayor Cllr Yogan Yoganathan did a Bible reading.

After the playing of the Last Post and the extract from Laurence Binyon's poem For The Fallen (They shall grow not old...) there was a respectful silence, followed by Reveille and the singing of the First World War commemorative hymn O Valiant Hearts.

After the band and service groups marched off, refreshments were served in the church.

Downton sawy

When Lady Painswick turned to Lady Crawley as they drove to Downton Abbey and asked: "Have you heard of a place called Hillcroft?" a thousand Surbitonians nearly choked on their Sunday evening snacks.

"It's in Surbiton," continued her ladyship, adding that she had become a trustee of the "place for women of modest backgrounds; clever women… with potential".

Hillcroft College in South Bank has been dining out on the publicity. It fitted the storyline well. In 1925, social mobility threatened to upset Downton's equilibrium as ex-maid Gwen Dawson returned to dine at the top table after training as a secretary, then marrying the treasurer of Hillcroft.

There was aristocratic unease about the idea of below-stairs staff improving themselves, and mixed opinion in the kitchen about the turn of events.

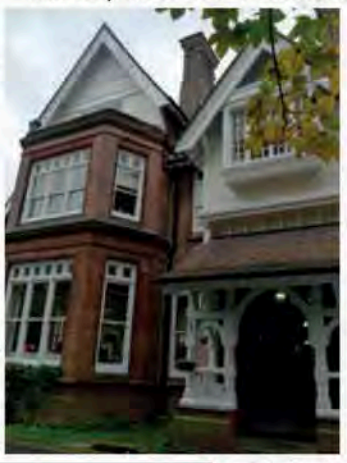
A flurry of social media messages celebrated the Downton puff, even if some wondered whether Yorkshire folk would treat mentions of Surbiton in the same way as, say, Paris or Rome.

"Felt so proud as an ex-student," crowed Jan Bridget. "Glad to be part of the great Hillcroft," added Dana Sealy.

The timing is spot on. The college is lobbying against adult education cuts, and gave Surbiton MP and Downton fan James Berry a tour last week.

Rose Leslie plays Gwen Dawson; and Hillcroft, below left

But why Hillcroft? Downton creator Julian Fellowes told all to the Good Life. "In my youth, I had various great aunts, all equipped with their own special causes, and I had heard Hillcroft talked about," he said.



"Then Downton came along. The change in our perception of women and, with it, their altering role in society before, during and after the Great War, is one of the ongoing themes of the series. The character of Gwen represents those female servants who had so little choice when it came to employment, and such limited horizons when it came to education. Her breakthrough in getting a job as a secretary was intended to symbolise women who were starting to get free of the way their ancestresses' lives had been circumscribed.

"Some made it up the greasy pole, but before the 20th century it was difficult and fairly rare. The idea of bringing Gwen back a decade later to show how she had prospered felt appealing, to show the household, upstairs and down, what the war had started to make possible on a wider scale.

"I wanted a storyline that reflected Gwen's journey, reminded us of her struggle and gave her a legitimate interest. Casting about for a female empowerment plot that would be truthfully rooted in the 1920s, I had a dim memory of Hillcroft and its work in giving proper education, and therefore opportunities, to working class and lower middle class adult women, which I felt someone who had travelled Gwen's road would obviously support.

"The truth is, though, Hillcroft is still performing a very important task. Despite advances, many talented women with brains, imagination and real potential still fall through the net, from bad teaching, bad parenting or

● Continued on p5

Fence an option for station

A 'suicide fence' may be built down the centre of the busiest platforms at Surbiton station, to reduce the risk of death.

Barriers were constructed 18 months ago at Wimbledon and Earlsfield. South West Trains is looking at the possibility of a divide between platforms 1 and 2 at Surbiton, where expresses thunder by at 90mph.

It follows the deaths this year of a 47-year-old Esher man and a 75-year-old Surbiton man.

The Samaritans office in St Andrew's Road closed four weeks before the latest death, removing the chance of face-to-face contact with volunteers.

"We work with Network Rail," said local Samaritans director Barry. "We attended the station to offer support the day after the recent fatality." Cards were handed out with the free helpline number, 116 123.

He appealed for volunteers for fundraising, health & safety and property maintenance, as well as listeners. Email **vol.kingsams@btconnect.com**

Rail officials are urgently studying ways to tackle Surbiton station tragedies, with their wider effect on families, train drivers, staff, travellers and emergency personnel.

UK suicides are highest among men aged 40-44, and men over 75. Bereavement and loneliness are often cited.

● Continued on p5

Will Surbiton get a 'suicide fence' like Wimbledon's barrier?

Claremont Fan Court School
An independent co-educational school for pupils aged 2½ to 18 years

Open Mornings

Whole School - 10.00am-12.30pm
Introductory talk at 10.00am
Saturday 6 February
Saturday 12 March

For further information, tel **01372 473624**
or email **info@claremont.surrey.sch.uk**

www.claremont-school.co.uk

SURBITON Maple Road KT6
FARMERS' MARKET
3rd Saturday of the month • 9am - 1pm
Supporting local charities!
2016

January 16	February 20	March 19	April 16
May 21	June 18	July 16	August 20
September 17	October 15	November 19	December 17

Adam on the menu

Surbiton's chefs are gearing up for their busiest time, so what is Hotel Bosco head chef Adam Baynes' favourite dish, and who would he really like to cook for?

"I love to cook fish; lemon sole is a particular speciality – sweet, delicate flesh with a simplicity of taste, accompanied by homemade lemon and thyme oil. I sautée potatoes in chilli oil and roast some in-season veg to accompany.

"My all-time favourite meal? Moules marinière with cream, garlic and parsley. Fresh seafood, wine and shallots, accompanied by hand-cut chips. Et voilà!"

Sourcing, and Bosco's autumn menu? "A lot of my time is taken sourcing the right produce for the right price," he said. "Fish is landed on the south coast. All meat is traceable, farm to fork; we buy steaks from Smithfield. Free-range eggs are from Watts Farm, and ice cream from Jude's, a family business in Winchester."

The direction of the ever-evolving Bosco menu is towards sharing dishes. "Game meats are fantastic at this time of year, bringing a lot of flavour. Currently we have wild boar and venison salami on the charcuterie sharing boards, which is a nice twist."

And who would he most like to cook for? "The way to a woman's heart is through her stomach, so I have to choose my wife Michelle! When going for maximum brownie points, it's baked camembert then flambéed chicken with asparagus and to finish, the ultimate: chocolate torte!" Awww!

Adam Baynes

In Season by Fiona Quinn

Going nuts for honey

We are lucky to have some wonderful beekeepers in Surbiton and Kingston, who harvest their honey in September/October.

Now is also the perfect time of year for nuts. Why not combine them to make a delicious Surbiton honey & nut bar.

Simply combine butter, local honey, a dash of orange juice and zest with sugar over a low heat until all has melted together. Take off the heat and add chopped mixed nuts with oats, wheat flakes, chopped apricots, raisins and some mixed seeds. Flatten into a baking tin and bake in the oven at 180C for 25-30 minutes. Leave to cool in the tin, then chop up and keep in an air-tight container.

Organic nuts and local honey at From the Ground Up, Surbiton's fruit and veg service. Order at www.fguorganic.co.uk

What do you give the Surbitonian who has everything?

Where to do the Christmas shop? Oxford Street? Kingston? Come on! A little more imagination! Surbiton has dozens of original ideas.

This fluffy keyring, left, made in Devon by Helen Moore, is at Shoes At Last, Maple Road for £30 (large). Six colours. Also cashmere bobble hats with faux fur bobbles, £59.

For him? The ultimate man pamper. A proper, pukka hot-and-cold towel wet shave and rub down for under £15. Visit www.smartstylebarbers.co.uk

Foodies? A seasonal cookery night, to make the most of autumn. Wed, Dec 2, 7-9pm, £10, with the venue being announced later on www.meetup.com/FGU-Food-School-Meetup

Dean Jenkins will speak about produce, Chantell Frost cooks it... you eat it!

Inspiring jewellery? Two shops with big selections are Gumus and Guess, both in Victoria Road, with silver necklaces from £20.

Gifty gifts? Hoi Polloi, St Andrew's Road, and Farrago, next to the Press Room in Claremont Road, are great for picture frames, bath oils, knick-knacks… with prices from £1.

Still too much? At the budget end, the 99p Stores in the old Woolies building in Victoria Road, Poundland in Tolworth Broadway and B&M Bargains in Ewell Road are the places for stocking-fillers.

Recipes for a Good Life: Annie Morris

Yeeeeeeee-hah!

To make **Cowboy Beans** you need: 2 tbsp olive oil; 8 good-quality pork sausages; 1 small pack Italian pancetta; 1 large sliced onion; 2 tbsps tomato puree; 1 red pepper, sliced lengthways; 2 finely chopped garlic cloves; a 400g tin chopped tomatoes; 350ml chicken stock, a 400g tin mixed pulses & beans (drained and rinsed); salt, pepper & chilli powder to taste.

Preheat oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Heat 1 tbsp of oil in a frying pan, add the sausages and fry for 2-3 minutes, or until browned on all sides. Set aside for a few minutes.

Meanwhile, heat another tbsp of oil in a separate cast-iron casserole over a medium heat. Add the onions, pancetta and red pepper and fry for 5 minutes until soft. Add garlic and fry for a further 1-2 mins.

Add the chopped tomatoes, puree, beans, sausages and stock, stir and put in oven. Season, then cook for a further hour or until the beans are soft. Serve with garlic bread.

Me? I just got board

A Surbiton designer has created a wildlife board game drawing on a love of the outdoors cultivated during his childhood in Rickard's Close and Church Meadow.

Richard Milburn, 27, has always been a fan of classics such as Monopoly, and the new breed of games such as Settlers of Catan… but couldn't find any about wildlife.

"So I set out to design one, and also to ensure it supported real-life conservation," he told the Good Life. "I spent most of my childhood in the garden or local recreation grounds, as well as Surbiton Hockey Club. That love of the outdoors took me to Africa on safari, and has stayed with me ever since."

Conservation Crisis, a board game aimed at over 12s, builds on a decade's experience in conservation, with a third of profits donated to appropriate charities.

Players hire rangers to stop poaching, and build tourist lodges to generate income, while battling the threat of extinction faced by iconic species such as rhinos, elephants and snow leopards. Game sets will cost £30.

Players can choose to co-operate or compete, and win by having the most wildlife.

The game is being launched this month on the funding platform Kickstarter. To play the prototype, visit www.tunzagames.com

How to start up in business

Fiona Quinn, who writes the fruit and veg tips higher up this page, is giving a series of talks on starting up your own business and 'effectuation', a word which will be explained in full at her gathering on Tuesday December 1 at 7pm.

She was recently acclaimed as a Surbiton entrepreneur at the Kingston business awards. Full details at www.meetup.com/Become-a-Potentialist-Meetup

Chop chop

Surbiton's No1 butcher is ready for Christmas.

Jennings in Ewell Road is taking orders for Kelly bronze turkeys, free-range geese and Scotch beef.

The birds – Nigella's favourites – go from hatchery to adulthood on the same farm.

Orders are also being taken for new year. "There are very few shopping days between Christmas and New Year, and some lines will be harder to get," said Kevin Jennings, part of the holy trinity with dad Alan and uncle Brian.

Try venison, beef fillet, slow-roast pork shoulder, gammon and ham.

GUMUS
STERLING SILVER JEWELLERY & ORNAMENTS
UP TO 20% OFF everything before Christmas
1000s of hand crafted one-off designer silverware ranging from contemporary to traditional
Authentic sterling silver jewellery for men, women & children
21b Victoria Road, Surbiton Surrey KT6 4JZ
020 8399 2158

Christmas 2015 offerings from Jennings Butchers
Official Supplier of Free Range Kelly Bronze Turkeys.
Make Christmas 2015 that bit more special with meat from C.D Jennings & Sons Traditional Butchers.
■ Free Range Kelly Bronze Turkeys ■ Free Range Geese & Chickens & Ducks ■ Foreribs of Scotch Beef ■ Gammons, ■ Free Range Pork, ■ Venison ■ Scotch Highland Lamb ■ Game Birds ■ Sausages ■ Bacon.
Orders now being taken
Call 020 8 399 4870 or visit us at 146 Ewell Road, Surbiton KT6 6HE.
For more information see: www.cdjenningsandsons.com
C.D Jennings & Sons Traditional Quality Butchers since 1962

Gardening tips by Janice Cripps

Your own Downton

Now that Surbiton has been immortalised in Downton Abbey, it's fair to say we are officially posh! But what about our gardens? How posh are they?

We may not have rolling lawns and serpentine lakes like Lord Grantham but we can still impress with some careful garden choices.

First, the patio. Oops! Terrace. Steer clear of man-made materials and go for natural stone which improves in value and character as it ages, like a good vintage wine.

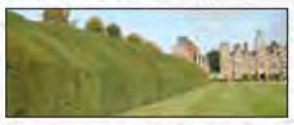
Sandstone, limestone and granite are popular, but if you're discerning you might like to go for York stone, with its wonderful colours and textures that fit effortlessly into any setting, traditional or otherwise.

Even more desirable is reclaimed York stone. Expect to pay upwards of £100 per square metre – I'm talking cathedral-quality of course!

You don't always need deep pockets for the posh option, particularly when it comes to the drive. Gravel or loose chippings are preferable to block paving or tarmac (which should really only be reserved for motorways).

'Less is more' applies to informal paths. The surface of choice at Buckingham Palace, and many stately homes, is compacted gravel. Who'd have thought it?

It's also good to know our gardens don't need to be manicured and tidy.



The aim is to mimic the natural landscape as in the vast country estates of our heritage, so plants scrambling over each other, and the odd weed are perfectly acceptable.

For boundaries, no need for 6ft fencing; plant a hedge. The most desirable is the English yew, the king of hedges, with a prime place in the British landscape and our cultural heritage.

Its dense, bushy habit makes it ideal for formal hedging and perfect for a parterre or knot garden if the impulse takes you.

Forget 1930s privet or anything variegated; too loud and showy. More sophisticated and understated are small-leafed evergreens like ilex and box, perfect for clipping into shapes.

But beware. Pyramids, cones and squares, yes. Anything more unusual or ambitious could be regarded as a bit naff!

Most importantly, the plants.

Steer clear of any that are too hybridised, too colourful or in a colour nature did not intend.

This goes for most bedding plants and 'look at me' blooms like chrysants, dahlias and cerise and purple fuchsias.

It's a minefield, but it's not easy being posh!

Janice Cripps is a professional garden designer based in Surbiton. Advice, planting plans, or taking projects from concept to completion: www.janicecripps.co.uk

Frances Cowdry and Tatsu Ozaki spread the word about Japanese green tea at the Ippuku tea stall at the farmers' market

Cuppas for the green party

The home of Japanese green tea has shifted 6,000 miles west to KT6. Ippuku Tea, set up by Tatsu Ozaki in his flat in St Andrew's Road a year ago, has been introducing Surbitonians to subtle flavours and variations, with tastings at the farmers' market. "We started with a stall at the Surbiton festival," said Tatsu, handing out samples of sencha; the 'cha' meaning 'tea', the 'sen' coming from the word for 'selected'.

Other options include a roasted green tea, with an earthy, almost bark-like flavour, and a brown rice tea.

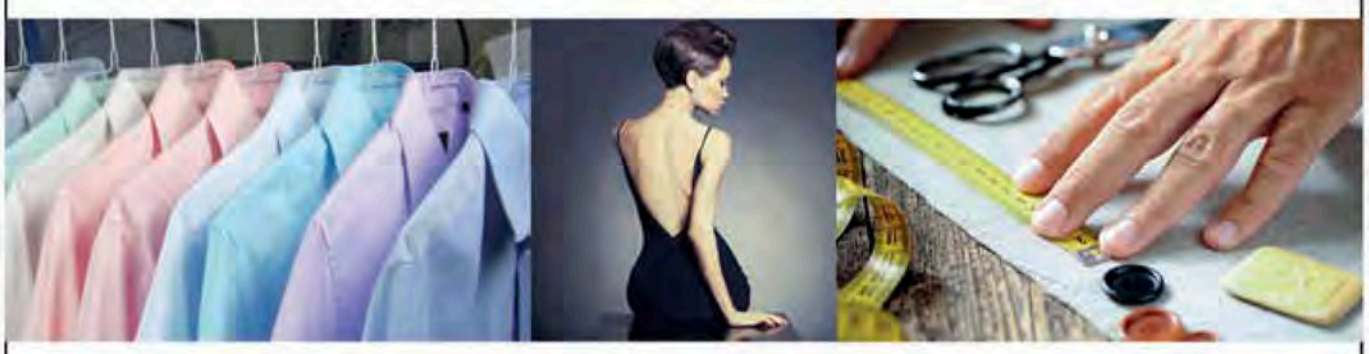
Frances Cowdry, who assisted Tatsu at the Maple Road market, said green tea can be hot or cold-brewed.

"I used to put a teabag in a bottle of cold water when I travelled up to town, and by the time I arrived, it was ready," she said. Cold infusions produce tea with hardly any caffeine.

Lucky thirteen

Thirteen former mayors have been given the honorary rank of alderman. Those who will receive commemorative scrolls have all served 12 years or more as councillors, and include several prominent Surbitonians, including Peter Gray, Dennis Doe and Douglas Reynolds.

ROBERTS DRY CLEANERS



SERVICES

SHIRT SERVICE CURTAINS WEDDING DRESSES ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS

ROBERTS CLEANERS 16 CLAREMONT ROAD SURBITON KT6 4QU 020 8390 6705

WWW.ROBERTSCLEANERS.CO.UK

NOW OPEN IN SURBITON

YOUR 7TH GENERATION FAMILY-OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MEMORIAL STONEMASONS

When a death occurs in your family, that is the time you need the advice and assistance of your local family-owned Funeral Director. Lodge Brothers are the family you can turn to...

Seven generations of our family have been helping and advising local families in their time of need. For over 230 years we have been providing funerals, both modest and traditional, with care and compassion. Our fully qualified staff take great pride in being able to offer a 24 hour service, 365 days a year.

Funerals • Floral Tributes • Memorials • Pre Paid Funeral Plans

50-52 BRIGHTON ROAD, SURBITON KT6 5PL
020 8546 3504

Lodge BROTHERS 1780
the family you can turn to
FPA FUNERAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REGISTERED
www.lodgebrothers.co.uk

£100 OFF A PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLAN

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. This voucher entitles the bearer to £100 off one of our Pre-Payment Funeral Plans, it may not be exchanged for cash. 2. The discount will be deducted from the retail price of the Funeral Plan at the time of purchase. 3. One discount voucher only per plan. 4. Subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Funeral Plan purchased. 5. The voucher does not apply when paying for the plan by monthly payments.
Valid for 1 month from publication date. REF: TGL/2015.

Glamour by the bins

Bruce Bovill snapped this atmospheric shot of a brooding Audrey Hepburn in South Terrace.

Ironically Hepburn herself once said: "People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone."

But someone did put her out, and she sat, propped against a wall, by the wheely bins and waste paper tubs.

The picture shows Hepburn in her circle skirt in Roman Holiday; a clothing item that sums up the 1950s, the ones that flare out when jiving.

Bruce – no mean jiver himself – is a member of the Surbiton Photo Circle. Next meeting, 8pm, December 14 in the Antelope pub. More at www.surbitonphotocircle.weebly.com

New barrier mooted to tackle station deaths

● Continued from p1

In 2012, there were 1,168 suicides in people aged 65 and over.

Contibutory factors were said to include neurological diseases, visual impairment, cancer, pain and the sudden development of a 'functional limitation', such as after a stroke.

"It is a person's personality and the way they cope that has an impact on their suicide risk," said consultant psychiatrist Daniel Harwood.

Age UK runs a project called Men in Sheds, using woodwork and other activities to support men over 55 who feel isolated, and other charities are also working to combat the issue of lonely men losing hope.

"If someone's intent on committing suicide it's very difficult to stop them," admitted borough crime manager DCI Claire Moxon, expressing her own sadness at the latest Surbiton incident.

MP James Berry said that he is liaising with local representatives of Mind, the mental health charity, to discuss recent deaths at Surbiton, and explore ways of reducing risk.

He told the Good Life: "Every suicide is a tragedy. Having represented families in inquests who have lost loved ones to suicide, I know there is rarely a straightforward solution to prevent suicides.

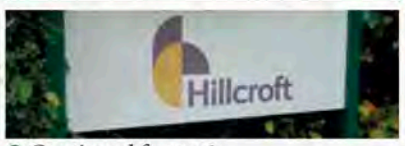
"Unfortunately in the borough we have busy railway lines, bridges and tall buildings, presenting opportunities.

"South West Trains staff undergo suicide prevention training, and I know that local charities and Churches Together are discussing how trained volunteers might be able to help. I'm meeting Kingston Mind to better understand their perspective on the problem."

Paul Pickhaver of the community church, which meets at Surbiton Assembly Rooms, is on a multi-agency suicide prevention steering group which meets to tackle the issue.

"Churches Together in Surbiton are in early conversations with Samaritans, the YMCA and South West Trains about how trained volunteers might be able to assist the prevention measures already in place at railways to offer support and a listening ear to anyone needing it," he said.

"Kingston foodbank is also talking to Samaritans to offer training to frontline foodbank volunteers who meet clients experiencing very low points."



● Continued from p1

cultural prejudice; seemingly trapped in a life of non-achievement… unless they are fortunate enough to find a way out of the tunnel and the light to guide them towards it.

"Hillcroft is providing just such a way, just such a light. So I am a real supporter. I send every good wish to the college and its lucky pupils!"

The words from Fellowes (pictured below) are a boost to Hillcroft in uncertain days as its centenary looms.

James Berry was impressed by what he saw on his recent fact-finding visit, and wished the college well on its "recently forged federation" with Richmond Adult Community College; a promising partnership.

Campaigning journalist Laura Marcus said: "Hillcroft crops up in this series as a pioneer helping women escape drudgery via learning. Now colleges all over the country offer access courses to university for people with no qualifications. Hillcroft got there decades ago.

"Downton portrays the struggles women had in the 1920s to improve themselves. With marriageable men in short supply after devastating losses in the war, this was as much about necessity as desire."

The supreme irony is that Hillcroft's home in Surbiton was built with profits generated by oppressed women working 14-hour days in appalling conditions for a pittance.

It was a suburban 'Downton' for

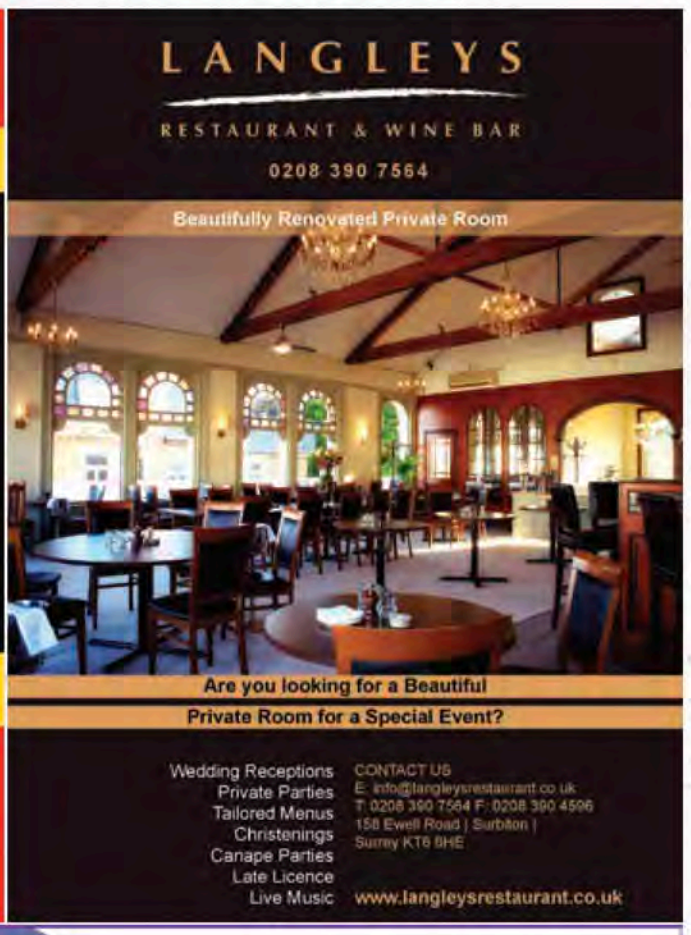
Wilberforce Bryant of Bryant & May matches, who, in 1861, opened the match factory at Bow in which girls as young as 13 worked with phosphorus in unventilated rooms. He built The Gables, the house name in 1876, when his match production was 1.1 million boxes a day.

Bryant's mansion, set in six steeply sloped acres, was near the station, but not so close as to be troubled by chuffing trains. It was built in a dramatic gothic style. Soaring chimneys echoed the skyline of Hampton Court (visible from upstairs windows) while the huge windows were fringed with stained glass.

Sandy Philpotts, who knows every nook and cranny after working at the college for more than two decades, describes it as "all fur and no knickers", because although it presents a grand frontage, it isn't anywhere near as palatial in scale inside.

Bryant sold up to Alfred Cooper, the chairman of Ridgway's Teas, who in turn sold it on to shipping magnate Herbert Boret. When he was forced to sell, because of financial losses made in the First World War, the College for Working Women snapped it up for £10,000, and Hillcroft (motto: Through Rough Ways to the Stars) was born. It is now Grade II listed. "Hillcroft and its unique mission continues to be relevant today," says the college.

Tim Harrison



The waif & stray rescuer

Social reformer Dr Thomas Barnardo was, like so many today, a Surbiton commuter, shuttling back and forward to town from Platform 1.

He lived in St Leonard's Lodge, opposite Hart's Boatyard where St Leonard's and Portsmouth roads meet. An 'ugly Victorian villa' says one historian. It came down 50 years ago to make way for Ravensview Court flats.

NOTABLE SURBITONIANS
Dr Barnado

Dr B's mission was to help the poor. By his life's end he had saved 60,000 children from the streets. But there was a shaky start.

Born in Dublin in 1845, he contracted diphtheria at two, and was pronounced dead. An undertaker was called, but as he was put in the coffin, his eyes fluttered. He regained health and strength.

In London, East End life shocked him. He set up a home for destitute youngsters in Stepney in 1870, insisting "no child be turned away".

He met Syrie, a Richmond lass, in 1871. They married and had seven children, including Marjorie, born with Down's syndrome. Barnardo was devoted to her. His care informed the nation's approach to disability.

Intriguingly, Barnardo wasn't entitled to style himself Dr. He began medical training, but never practised. The title was liberally sprinkled around in Victorian times, but critics used it against him… and factory owners said he threatened their source of cheap child labour.

In 1896, 51-year-old Dr B was beset with bronchial problems, and moved out of smoky London to the fresh air of Surbiton.

St Leonard's Lodge was a happy home. Syrie loved it. She called him 'Tom', his pet name for her was 'The Begum', a formal term of address to a sultan's wife.

The family took strolls along Queen's Prom, especially on Sundays, a strictly observed day of rest when the Bible was the only permitted reading at home.

Thomas partly worked at home, aided by three secretaries. His constant tipple was black tea. He rose at 7am for a cold bath (kneeling in prayer by the filling tub) before reading The Times at breakfast.

Then he led his servants in prayer before a horse-drawn buggy took him to the station. He read his post on the Waterloo train, then got the 11.50pm home, with the Surbiton stationmaster waking him and lifting him out with help from Peer, Dr B's coachman. Waiting in his study, a beef sandwich, squeezed in a book press. He devised the peculiar late-night snack so the bread would absorb the meat juices! He would finally hit the sack at 12.40am.

"It is the penalty I pay for living at Surbiton. I spend an hour and a half each way on the journey," he wrote to his son. "Still I would not like to leave Surbiton. The river and surroundings are exceedingly pleasant; your mother enjoys this place more than any we have lived in."

Rotund, florid, moustachioed, 5ft 3in tall and desperately short-sighted, he installed a billiard table to stop sons Stewart and Cyril from being tempted by the Fox & Hounds, 50 yards away.

Alcohol and smoking were banned in the house, but in the twilight of his life, Dr B regularly sank a discreet whisky to aid sleep. Only daughter Queenie and coachman Peer were in on the secret.

When Queenie married in 1901, it was at the church the Barnardos used – Christ Church, in King Charles Road.

The doctor, so deaf he carried an ear trumpet, was declining. Syrie used Absolom the chemist at the top of St Leonard's Road (now the da Lucio pizzeria) to get her husband's medicine.

At 60, he died of a heart attack on September 19 1905, at St Leonard's Lodge. Syrie was with him. He had settled in a chair at 6pm, turned to his wife, and said: "My head is so heavy. Let me rest it on you." Then he passed away.

Barnardo's homes continued to rescue waifs and strays. One on Kingston Hill, in what looked like the Munster residence, is where Virgin Soldiers author Leslie Thomas grew up. The townhouses of Blenheim Gardens now cover the site. The last home closed in 1981, but the charity still assists 110,000 needy children.

A plaque in Ravensview Court commemorates Dr Barnardo's Surbiton links… as does another in All Saints, Kingston.

Tim Harrison

Clockwise from top: Dr Barnardo; Tom and Syrie in Surbiton home; the sign on the wall of Ravensview Court flats; and the ivy-covered St Leonard's Lodge, harshly dubbed an 'ugly Victorian villa'

Groups share cash

Community projects have shared a £25,000 council handout, with residents' votes deciding the divvy-up. Sums of £2,000 went to 1st Tolworth scouts for a storage shed, Express CIC to support families affected by autism, Surbiton Royal British Legion marching band for boots, and charity Man & Boy. Southborough School's knife crime project received £1,900. Other gainers: a group clearing fly-tipped rubbish, Surbiton South explorer scouts, the Phoenix club and Tolworth Recreation Centre. You can soon apply for next year's cash. To qualify you must have a group bank account. Details: www.kingston.gov.uk/yourmoney

waitrose.com/surbiton

Waitrose
Community Matters

Every month we give our time and money to local communities. We donate £1000 to be shared by three good causes that you choose.

Waitrose Surbiton
Supporting the community

Treating people fairly
The Waitrose way

Not my bag

Surbitonians, the winds of change blow cold and harsh. There is an unexpected item in the bagging area; a big old heap of NOTHING.

In fact, the bagging area shouldn't even be called the bagging area anymore, it should be called 'area where you construct a dangerously unstable structure out of shopping items which will definitely capsize and splatter over the floor, along with your hopes and dreams'.

The 5p bag charge is a good thing. Not only will it reduce the number of bags thrown away – billions a year – but it will mean we finally have a use for the 4,684 plastic bags shoved in that kitchen drawer where we keep things like the warranty for the tumble dryer and a remote control for the TV we threw away in 1998.

But it's causing issues at self-checkouts. It seems we have three options:

- Carry a stash of plastic bags at all times, ready to whip out at a moment's notice;
- Master the art of shoving items into the farthest corners of our handbags and pockets until we look like an inept thief;
- Ask for a bag.

Option 3 is the most daunting. No one wants to be the ungodly creature who refuses to leave the area until an assistant rushes forth with a bag, thereby causing the already bad-tempered queue to grow and become even more bad-tempered.

You may as well face the barbarian horde and say: "Not only am I displaying heinous disregard for the environment, but I shall prevent you from accessing my self-checkout for at least four minutes." It takes a brave soul to be that shopper in Waitrose on a Monday lunchtime, running the risk of being pelted with a tub of lightly salted edamame beans.

Not everyone is coping.

My inspiration for this article was the man I stood next to at the self-checkouts in Sainsbury's. He wanted to buy two apples. Two single apples. He placed the two apples on the naked silver slab of the bagging area like a sacrificial offering. The apples rolled on to the floor. The man put them back on the silver slab. The apples rolled on to the floor. 'Oh dear God,' the man muttered. He put the apples back on the slab and placed a hand over them to stop them rolling off.

'Unexpected item in bagging area' came the voice of doom, because, of course, the gentle pressure of this gentleman's hand had fooled the machine into thinking he had added a rogue item – perhaps a single cotton ball. The man took his hand off the apples. The apples rolled on to the floor.

I could watch no longer, and left a broken man, presumably wishing he liked apples enough to buy a multipack.

Becky Mayhew

A stylish exit

Pam Southern was one stylish lady, making her last journey in a carriage drawn by white plumed horses.

It was her wish that those at her funeral, on November 3 at St Matthew's – where she was an effervescent regular, should watch the 'show'... and 200 gathered to admire the unusual spectacle of Lodge Bros' glass-sided white hearse arriving.

Pam was 85. Born in Walton on January 7 1930, the oldest of five, she won a scholarship to Tiffin Girls, later working as a secretary for Shell, and at Bell's solicitors in Kingston town centre.

After marrying Tony when she was 27, she came to Surbiton, and lived more than half a century in Cotterill Road. The marriage may have petered out, but it produced daughter Gabby in 1971.

At her mother's service, conducted by the St Matthew's vicar the Rev Helen Hancock, Gabby proudly read the poem 'As I sit in Heaven'.

Helen went on to recall a 'positive, cheerful, chirpy' parishioner who adored gardens, cats and flowers, and was not only widely travelled but loved sharing stories about her expeditions.

Active in Surbiton Blind Club, she supported the cornerHOUSE and in 1996 was a founder member of the Smarties embroidery group. **Tim Harrison**

Traffic warden's a star

A traffic warden was the unlikely hero at this year's Ski Sunday, in which participants strap ice blocks to their feet and skid down St Mark's Hill.

The 'piste' was truncated as three drivers had ignored the 'bay suspended' signs in the slip road where the annual charity ski meeting is staged.

So instead of the customary scowls and muttered abuse when the parking attendant hopped off his moped, the bewildered man was cheered and applauded by the 250-strong crowd.

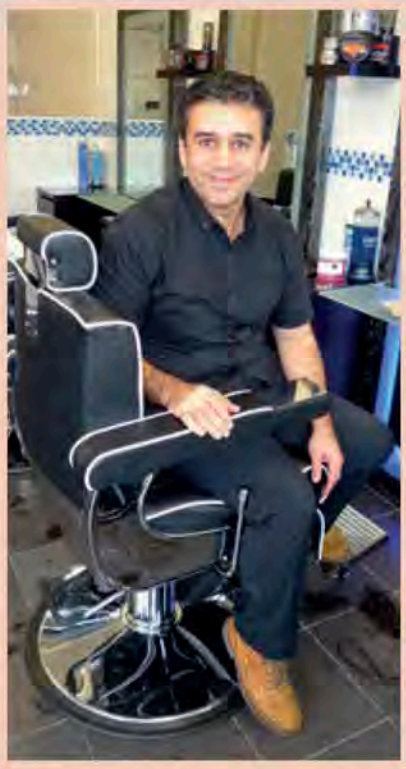
The ululation rose to a crescendo as he stuck penalty tickets to the windscreens of the cars.

Unsure how to respond, he eventually shook a few hands then grinned broadly as he was acclaimed for doing his job so well by ski commentator Robin Hutchinson.

The skiing went smoothly, with only minor bruises from a few heavy landings.

The event has run for seven years, with Swede Jesper Hedlund's 2013 time of 9.97secs still the course record.

Haircuts are a snip



Boldly entering a crowded field is affable scissor-wielder Abbas Jahromi, left; the eighth barber in the short stretch between Tolworth Tower and Fishponds.

Smart Style, at the corner of Ewell and Hollyfield roads, was once the Cooper showroom, latterly a fishmonger.

Originally from Iran, Abbas, 44, opens seven days a week, traipsing from Uxbridge where he lives with the wife and kids. "I think I've found a good site here," he told the Good Life, astride one of the gleaming Chinese-made chairs in his black-and-silver tonsorial temple.

A barber for a decade, Abbas gained qualifications at the London School of Barbering, where he studied hygiene, client care and cutting techniques.

"You can always learn more; in this job you can never say you're a master!"

Prices are competitive – they have to be round here. Standard cut £9, OAPs and under 12s, £7 off-peak. He does wet shaves and hot & cold towel shaves; the ultimate male pamper. "When I finish, they don't want to leave the chair," said Abbas. **www.smartstylebarbers.co.uk**

We know our plaice...

Gillian Boden and Louise Boys from Househandlers

The Good Life was praised in the community category of Kingston's business awards... pipped to glory by a fish packer and a mobile phone accessories distribution firm. This paper was commended for its coverage of Surbiton, while Chessington's New England Seafood was highly commended for being environmentally friendly, and Genuine Solutions of Hook Rise South, Tolworth, won for apprenticeships and 'outstanding dedication to charity work'. A black-tie do at Surbiton's Holiday Inn, emceed by journalist Julia Hartley-Brewer in front of 220 – among them MP James Berry – saw Genuine Solutions triumph, scooping another three awards, including business of the year. Others that did well: Glenmore House (winner, leisure category); Raven's Ait (highly commended, marketing); Claremont Road's Househandlers; ExCellar wine shop; and Fiona Quinn of From The Ground Up organic veg, named an enterprising young entrepreneur.

When did we lose the art of queueing?
Bun fights now replace us doing

What we once held sacrosanct;
Manners ruled, but that's now tanked.

Look, here comes a 281.
Shall we queue? No, where's the fun?

Let's shove on with disregard!
For those who find bus boarding hard,

Listen up, cos here's the news:
No one now respects the queues.

MORRIS THAIN

Did TARDIS land in KT6?

One of the pleasures of delivering The Good Life is that you get to see many doors. None finer than this specimen in Adelaide Road, which calls to mind a certain time traveller's transport. Imagine the estate agent's description. Looks small on outside, but surprisingly large within. Viewing essential. To see further doors, join our merry deliverers. Just email the address below.

Published by The Good Life. To tell us a story, ask about advertising or offer to help deliver, email **thegoodlifesurbiton@gmail.com** Visit **www.thegoodlifesurbiton.co.uk** to look at back issues

The Good Life appears half a dozen times a year, with 9,000 copies distributed in Surbiton, Tolworth, Berrylands and Long Ditton. Copies are also available at Michael's Shoe Repairs, Shoes At Last, Jennings the butcher and the cornerHOUSE. *While we make all reasonable efforts to ensure the information in this publication is correct, we cannot guarantee that all the information is complete, accurate and up-to-date at all times. Nor can we guarantee the accuracy or reliability of material provided by third parties, and will not be held liable for error, omission, or inaccuracy in the material. We accept no responsibility for the claims made by contributors in advertising content or for loss arising from non-publication of an advertisement. Reproduction of text, images or artwork is strictly prohibited without prior permission of The Good Life ©2015*

Copy deadline for issue 27 – Saturday, February 20, 2016

Mr Monty's Fuss and Feed

Friendly and reliable at home cat care

For peace of mind call:
Elaine - 07963 722 330
Graham - 07980 450 949

mrmontysfussandfeed.co.uk

THE CAT DOCTOR
AT-HOME VETERINARY CARE

Forget cat baskets and stressful journeys - we offer relaxed home visits at times that suit you

07961 154886

www.thecatdoctor.co.uk

Bob's a mainstream swinger

If you're free on Sunday lunchtime, you'll be able to salute the oldest swinger in town.

Bob Barter, 88 this month, leads his jazz quartet at the Berrylands Hotel from 12.30pm on Sunday November 22. The pianist from Elgar Avenue is joined by Jimmy Hastings (clarinet, flute, sax), Eric Ford (drums) and Richard Sadler (bass).

Bob left Kingston Grammar School in 1944, having done wartime fire-watching duty while in the sixth form. But his love of music began over the road at Tiffin; reduced to tears by the beauty of Nimrod, Elgar's ninth Enigma Variation. "I sat and cried when I heard it," he recalls.

After experimenting with piano accordion and banjo, he studied clarinet and piano, and later tried the saxophone. "I play them all badly now!"

Bob carved out a career that has seen him arrange 1,200 big band numbers. He was Kathy Kirby's musical director ("It nearly killed me!"), played at Ronnie Scott's and performed at the Richmond Jazz Festival in the 60s at a time The Who and the Stones were pushing on to a bill which, at its launch in 1961, had been led by Chris Barber and Johnnie Dankworth.

Bob's arrangements, critics say, have 'more swing than a cross-dressing Lancashire bowler', while his audio equipment 'has experienced frontline action'. It is strewn around his charmingly dog-eared front room - an amp is moved to create sitting space.

Bob is initially coy about his age ("It's not good for business; people will say he can't be any bloody good at that age!"), but finally admits to 88.

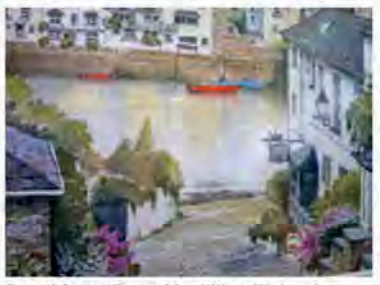
He's a survivor in a business which has driven many of its greatest exponents to an early grave. Bobby Pratt, a close pal and lead trumpeter in the Ted Heath band, was arguably the finest high-note player the UK has seen, but succumbed to the bottle and died in 1968 at 41. Names tumble out; Buck Clayton, the American trumpeter; tenor sax player Buddy Tate; Humphrey Lyttelton. He met many at the jazz festival in Montreux, while living in Aigle, near Lake Geneva.

"Being close to Montreux I got to know a lot of greats, mostly from the old Count Basie band, and did a lot of work with them," he said.

Jimmy Hastings, also on stage at the Berry, has impressive pedigree too; a sax player with 'Humph', and part of Caravan and Soft Machine. Who was Bob's hero? "Oscar Peterson's my ideal player; the most melodic man I ever met; I've tried to be like him."

On Sunday (entry £10), hear the cream of Ellington, Basie, Cole Porter and Gershwin. "Mainstream swing," said Bob. "We're not 'poppers'."

Bob Barter, with a picture of him from his Kathy Kirby days


Detail from 'Fowey' by Jillian Richards

Good days ahead

A Good Old Days music hall cabaret is being staged at the cornerHOUSE, Douglas Road, on Saturday November 28 at 7.45pm.

The evening, dedicated to the memory of arts centre stalwart Barry Rocard, is directed by Simon Hancock and features singalong songs, barbershop numbers and recitations.

Foghorn-voiced Jeremy Thorn is chairman, and there will be a First World War medley with Meta Thomas and Debra Shepherd leading the audience in some old favourites. Tickets are £8 (£6 concs), available via www.thech.org

Without the intrusion of the stage in the library annexe in Ewell Road, Surbiton Arts Group's autumn show had an airy, expansive feel.

Nearly 200 works were included, with highlights including Elizabeth Morris's skittish picture of cats on a chair and Kinnie Kelly's gouache bowl of strawberries; a picture begging to be turned into a poster.

Ann Emery displayed several grand land and seascapes, Alaka Ray's Black Forest Shopping Centre was charming, and Alan Williams' Girl With The Pearl Necklace – a saucy, witty study of Marilyn Monroe in oils – was another stand-out picture.

Others of note, in a show of breadth and quality, included Jillian Richards' precise and detailed mixed media scenes, with lines picked out in ink, and Lynne Flanders' bold semi-abstracts. One, a work in oils entitled Across the Lake, seemed a steal at £35.

Interested in joining the group? There are monthly meetings in addition to the twice-yearly week-long exhibitions. Send an email to: asag2012@aol.com

Mary Reid: harpist

A plucky girl

Harpist Mary Reid, ex-Surbiton High and the Royal Academy of Music, is the star turn at the second market-day concert in December, in the acoustically fine St Andrew's church, Maple Road.

The musician is on at 10.30am on Saturday December 19, telling the Christmas story via harp music, interspersed with Biblical readings from Tim Lavis.

The programme includes the first movement of Hindemith's Mässig schnell, from Sonata for Harp. Free entry; simply bowl up.

The Thames Concert free market-day series launched on October 17 with musicians from Epsom College and Surbiton High performing to an appreciative 70-strong audience. Artistic director Ben Costello was delighted with the response.

The first included Evie Grist playing the Cossack Dance (violin) and Charlotte Ward performing Debussy on trumpet, with Teddy Humphrey stealing the show with the saxophone notes of an Eric Satie composition. Luke Melville played clarinet, Lucy Knollys flute, Anna McKeon played part of Smetana's My Homeland on violin, and Moya Morrison sang.

Next up, an evening concert on Saturday December 5, when the Juice vocal ensemble (Kerry Andrew, Sarah Dacey and Anne Snow) perform a mix including medieval lullabies, wintery pop ballads and unsettling folk songs.

There's a pre-performance talk at 6.45pm, with the concert at 7.30pm. Tickets £15 or discounted via www.ticketweb.co.uk

On Saturday January 9, guitar duo Laura Snowden and Tom Ellis perform at 7.30pm. Tickets £12.

Gangster rap

There's a gangster theme to the cornerHOUSE's 28th panto, from January 26-30. Plenty of 'moll' activity is promised, and – in a break with tradition – a couple of fresh jokes. www.thech.org

Dainty steps

Mrs Bennet's Regency dancers usher in the new year in St Mark's hall on Jan 24, 2-5pm, with a tea dance. Costumed Elizabeths and Darcys will try steps from their £5 classes, and enjoy tea and 'dainties'. Historical dance band Green Ginger play.
www.mrsbennet.co.uk

Festive songs

There's a festive singalong at St Andrew's church, led by Kingston Choral Society.

The 100-strong group will perform a programme of music and carols appropriate to Advent, alongside works by Bach, Vaughan Williams and Stanford. The society also pays tribute to the late Sir David Willcocks with a selection of his arrangements.

There will be carols for the audience to sing, plus mince pies in the glass extension. Conductor Andrew Griffiths (pictured below) wields the baton. Saturday December 19, 7.30pm. £13 (£11 concs, £5 U18). Box Office: 020 8977 4801 or online at www.kingstonchoralsociety.org.uk

MRS BENNET'S BALLROOM
Regency Dance Classes
Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Waterloo & the Duke of Wellington's victory!
St Mark's Church Hall, Church Hill Rd, Surbiton KT6 4LS
Wednesday evenings 8pm - 10.30pm
Next dates:
Nov 25 Dec 9 Jan 13 Jan 27
Feb 10 Feb 24 Mar 9 Mar 23
Tea Dance: 24 January 2016
Entry £5 per class, tea included
Contact: Libby 020 8391 1215
mrsbennetsballroom@gmail.com
www.MrsBennet.co.uk MrsBennetsBallroom

Thames Concerts 2015/16
The Royal Borough's long-standing and respected concert promoter presents concerts in St Andrew's church, Surbiton
Sat Dec 5 2015, 7.30pm
Juice Vocal Ensemble (pictured)
Sat Jan 9 2016, 7.30pm
Laura Snowden & Tom Ellis
Sat Jan 30 2016, 7.30pm
Benjamin Sheen, organist
THAMES CONCERTS
Next Saturday market day FREE concert:
Sat Dec 19, 10.30am
Prize-winning musician Mary Reid tells the Christmas story through harp music, with Tim Lavis narrating
www.thamesconcerts.com

Cycle Repairs
Hassle Free Cycle Care
- Free collection and delivery within a 5 mile radius of Surbiton at a time to suit you
- High quality cycle repair and maintenance service at reasonable prices
- We can do anything from a flat tyre, squeaky brakes or slipping gears to suspension servicing and bike rebuild
- We can repair any bike from folding bikes, shoppers, tourers and tandems through to carbon fibre road bikes and full suspension mountain bikes
- All work quoted in advance
- Fully qualified and insured mechanic
Cyclelink it's all about cycling
www.cyclelink.bike 07514 650055 enquiries@cyclelink.bike

MICHAEL'S SHOE REPAIRS OF SURBITON
Key cutting
Luggage and leather goods
Watch batteries and straps
Shoe care products
020 8339 9995
11 Claremont Road, Surbiton

abricot
Locally based **web design** company specialising in **Wordpress** and small bespoke sites
t: 020 8720 7315
w: abricot-production.com
e: info@abricot-production.com

Not my bag

Surbitonians, the winds of change blow cold and harsh. There is an unexpected item in the bagging area; a big old heap of NOTHING.

In fact, the bagging area shouldn't even be called the bagging area anymore, it should be called 'area where you construct a dangerously unstable structure out of shopping items which will definitely capsize and splatter over the floor, along with your hopes and dreams'.

The 5p bag charge is a good thing. Not only will it reduce the number of bags thrown away – billions a year – but it will mean we finally have a use for the 4,684 plastic bags shoved in that kitchen drawer where we keep things like the warranty for the tumble dryer and a remote control for the TV we threw away in 1998.

But it's causing issues at self-checkouts. It seems we have three options:

- Carry a stash of plastic bags at all times, ready to whip out at a moment's notice;
- Master the art of shoving items into the farthest corners of our handbags and pockets until we look like an inept thief;
- Ask for a bag.

Option 3 is the most daunting. No one wants to be the ungodly creature who refuses to leave the area until an assistant rushes forth with a bag, thereby causing the already bad-tempered queue to grow and become even more bad-tempered.

You may as well face the barbarian horde and say: "Not only am I displaying heinous disregard for the environment, but I shall prevent you from accessing my self-checkout for at least four minutes." It takes a brave soul to be that shopper in Waitrose on a Monday lunchtime, running the risk of being pelted with a tub of lightly salted edamame beans.

Not everyone is coping.

My inspiration for this article was the man I stood next to at the self-checkouts in Sainsbury's. He wanted to buy two apples. Two single apples. He placed the two apples on the naked silver slab of the bagging area like a sacrificial offering. The apples rolled on to the floor. The man put them back on the silver slab. The apples rolled on to the floor. 'Oh dear God,' the man muttered. He put the apples back on the slab and placed a hand over them to stop them rolling off.

'Unexpected item in bagging area' came the voice of doom, because, of course, the gentle pressure of this gentleman's hand had fooled the machine into thinking he had added a rogue item – perhaps a single cotton ball. The man took his hand off the apples. The apples rolled on to the floor.

I could watch no longer, and left a broken man, presumably wishing he liked apples enough to buy a multipack.

Becky Mayhew

A stylish exit

Pam Southern was one stylish lady, making her last journey in a carriage drawn by white plumed horses.

It was her wish that those at her funeral, on November 3 at St Matthew's – where she was an effervescent regular, should watch the 'show'... and 200 gathered to admire the unusual spectacle of Lodge Bros' glass-sided white hearse arriving.

Pam was 85. Born in Walton on January 7 1930, the oldest of five, she won a scholarship to Tiffin Girls, later working as a secretary for Shell, and at Bell's solicitors in Kingston town centre.

After marrying Tony when she was 27, she came to Surbiton, and lived more than half a century in Cotterill Road. The marriage may have petered out, but it produced daughter Gabby in 1971.

At her mother's service, conducted by the St Matthew's vicar the Rev Helen Hancock, Gabby proudly read the poem 'As I sit in Heaven'.

Helen went on to recall a 'positive, cheerful, chirpy' parishioner who adored gardens, cats and flowers, and was not only widely travelled but loved sharing stories about her expeditions.

Active in Surbiton Blind Club, she supported the cornerHOUSE and in 1996 was a founder member of the Smarties embroidery group. **Tim Harrison**

Traffic warden's a star

A traffic warden was the unlikely hero at this year's Ski Sunday, in which participants strap ice blocks to their feet and skid down St Mark's Hill.

The 'piste' was truncated as three drivers had ignored the 'bay suspended' signs in the slip road where the annual charity ski meeting is staged.

So instead of the customary scowls and muttered abuse when the parking attendant hopped off his moped, the bewildered man was cheered and applauded by the 250-strong crowd.

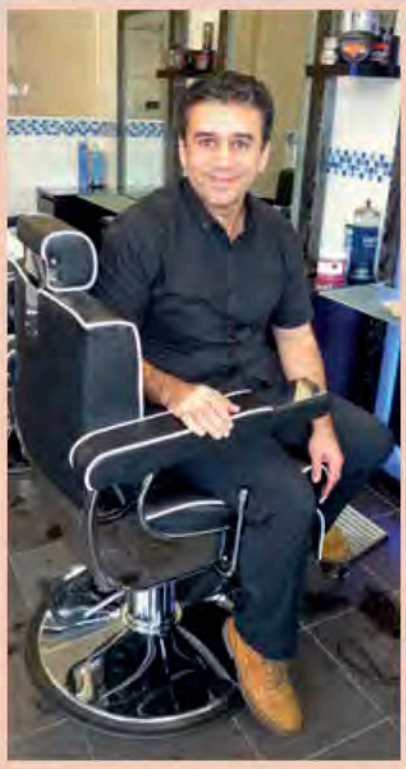
The ululation rose to a crescendo as he stuck penalty tickets to the windscreens of the cars.

Unsure how to respond, he eventually shook a few hands then grinned broadly as he was acclaimed for doing his job so well by ski commentator Robin Hutchinson.

The skiing went smoothly, with only minor bruises from a few heavy landings.

The event has run for seven years, with Swede Jesper Hedlund's 2013 time of 9.97secs still the course record.

Haircuts are a snip



Boldly entering a crowded field is affable scissor-wielder Abbas Jahromi, left; the eighth barber in the short stretch between Tolworth Tower and Fishponds.

Smart Style, at the corner of Ewell and Hollyfield roads, was once the Cooper showroom, latterly a fishmonger.

Originally from Iran, Abbas, 44, opens seven days a week, traipsing from Uxbridge where he lives with the wife and kids. "I think I've found a good site here," he told the Good Life, astride one of the gleaming Chinese-made chairs in his black-and-silver tonsorial temple.

A barber for a decade, Abbas gained qualifications at the London School of Barbering, where he studied hygiene, client care and cutting techniques.

"You can always learn more; in this job you can never say you're a master!"

Prices are competitive – they have to be round here. Standard cut £9, OAPs and under 12s, £7 off-peak. He does wet shaves and hot & cold towel shaves; the ultimate male pamper. "When I finish, they don't want to leave the chair," said Abbas. **www.smartstylebarbers.co.uk**

We know our plaice...

Gillian Boden and Louise Boys from Househandlers

The Good Life was praised in the community category of Kingston's business awards... pipped to glory by a fish packer and a mobile phone accessories distribution firm. This paper was commended for its coverage of Surbiton, while Chessington's New England Seafood was highly commended for being environmentally friendly, and Genuine Solutions of Hook Rise South, Tolworth, won for apprenticeships and 'outstanding dedication to charity work'. A black-tie do at Surbiton's Holiday Inn, emceed by journalist Julia Hartley-Brewer in front of 220 – among them MP James Berry – saw Genuine Solutions triumph, scooping another three awards, including business of the year. Others that did well: Glenmore House (winner, leisure category); Raven's Ait (highly commended, marketing); Claremont Road's Househandlers; ExCellar wine shop; and Fiona Quinn of From The Ground Up organic veg, named an enterprising young entrepreneur.

When did we lose the art of queueing?
Bun fights now replace us doing

What we once held sacrosanct;
Manners ruled, but that's now tanked.

Look, here comes a 281.
Shall we queue? No, where's the fun?

Let's shove on with disregard!
For those who find bus boarding hard,

Listen up, cos here's the news:
No one now respects the queues.

MORRIS THAIN

Did TARDIS land in KT6?

One of the pleasures of delivering The Good Life is that you get to see many doors. None finer than this specimen in Adelaide Road, which calls to mind a certain time traveller's transport. Imagine the estate agent's description. Looks small on outside, but surprisingly large within. Viewing essential. To see further doors, join our merry deliverers. Just email the address below.

Published by The Good Life. To tell us a story, ask about advertising or offer to help deliver, email **thegoodlifesurbiton@gmail.com** Visit **www.thegoodlifesurbiton.co.uk** to look at back issues

The Good Life appears half a dozen times a year, with 9,000 copies distributed in Surbiton, Tolworth, Berrylands and Long Ditton. Copies are also available at Michael's Shoe Repairs, Shoes At Last, Jennings the butcher and the cornerHOUSE. *While we make all reasonable efforts to ensure the information in this publication is correct, we cannot guarantee that all the information is complete, accurate and up-to-date at all times. Nor can we guarantee the accuracy or reliability of material provided by third parties, and will not be held liable for error, omission, or inaccuracy in the material. We accept no responsibility for the claims made by contributors in advertising content or for loss arising from non-publication of an advertisement. Reproduction of text, images or artwork is strictly prohibited without prior permission of The Good Life ©2015*

Copy deadline for issue 27 – Saturday, February 20, 2016

Mr Monty's Fuss and Feed

Friendly and reliable at home cat care

For peace of mind call:
Elaine - 07963 722 330
Graham - 07980 450 949

mrmontysfussandfeed.co.uk

THE CAT DOCTOR
AT-HOME VETERINARY CARE

Forget cat baskets and stressful journeys - we offer relaxed home visits at times that suit you

07961 154886

www.thecatdoctor.co.uk