



Lois Edmett

Teen about Town

Going out, gadgets, geek chic and all things glorious

Anyone know a hero?

TEENAGERS have often found themselves on the receiving end of a lot of bad press – whether it's knife crime, graffiti, drugs or vandalism, perception of teens in the public eye is often negative.

However, the anti-social behaviour of a minority should not distort the view of the majority, and schemes such as the vintpired awards are starting to redress the balance.

Do you know a local young person or youth worker who deserves recognition for their hard work? They could have contributed to the local community, overcome personal adversity, or simply

had a positive impact on the lives of others. If so, why not nominate them for a vintpired National award? Gabriella Cilmi and the National Young Volunteers' Service opened the nominations this week for the ceremony scheduled to take place next March. As long as your suggestion is aged between 16-25 and has made a difference between August 2009 and July 2010, you can nominate them at vintpired.com.

Thousands of teens are making a positive difference in their local area, and now is the perfect time to celebrate those who have had an impact upon your life.

V inspiring a new generation of young volunteers

High street bargains

● A black maxi dress is just £10 from New Look (reduced from £15). Branches in Orpington, Bromley, Bexley Heath and Dartford.

● A floral crop vest is down from £25 to just £15 from Topshop. Branches in Bromley, Canary wharf and Lakeside.

Strange addiction

JEDWARD: Let Loose on ITV2. No educational value, nothing of cultural importance, but absolutely addictive, and strangely hilarious.

DOUBLE TROUBLE: The Grimes brothers AKA Jedward.



Thinking of taking a year out?

LOADS of my friends have decided that they're going to take a year out to explore the world themselves.

Some have taken on part-time jobs, others are planning travel, but with a whole year stretching ahead of you, it can be daunting choosing how to spend your time.

For more advice, log onto: <http://www.gapadvice.org/>

Water achievement

● Eight Bexley teenagers who recently paddled 67 miles from Cholsey to Teddington as part of their Duke of Edinburgh gold award. Using a 2ft canoe, they carried their camping equipment and

food and remained entirely self-sufficient for the duration of their trip.

Despite hostile weather, the teens completed their journey, which they had mapped themselves.

CONTACT Teen About Town via kate.bryson@archant.co.uk

Times Out

Theatre

Cabaret tour de force in fringe one-woman show

BRAINCHILD of theatre producer Gerald Armin, the new Waterloo East Theatre – situated, as the name suggests, under the station of the same name – opened its doors to the public with a scintillating production of Jessica Martin's one woman show *Sunset Bitch*, writes Mark Campbell.

Backing onto those *Coronation Street*-style terraced houses you sometimes glimpse as you pull into Waterloo East, the theatre inhabits a previously empty railway arch underneath the station platforms. Work only started in March this year, so the venue still has a shiny new feel to it.

Walking into the foyer, I immediately noticed the high curving roof. There's a minuscule bar in the corner and a mezzanine reached by a perilously steep spiral staircase (not open to the public, sadly, for 'health and safety' reasons).

The auditorium itself is reached down a short brick corridor – the theme is industrial gothic – and has gently raked seating for over a hundred. The beauty of the layout, Armin tells me, is that seats and stage area can be moved around depending on what's being performed.

For *Sunset Bitch*, the requirements are minimal: piano, chairs and swish red curtains. And with someone as talented as Jessica Martin, that's really all you need.

Her credentials as singer, cabaret star, actress and comedy impressionist precede her, and this one-woman show (directed and co-authored by Robert Howie) has previously played to great acclaim at the New York and Edinburgh Fringes.

Martin is 'showbiz legend' Veronique Raymond, a gold-digging diva who thinks she's God's gift to musical theatre but is really more of a bit-part player in the grand scheme of things.

Whether regaling us with the theme tune from fictitious 1960s sitcom *The Swamps* or doing an uncannily accurate Marlon Brando in *Uncle Vanya*, the show is often hysterically funny.

Her gift for comedy is never more obvious than in some marvellously camp impressions: Marilyn Monroe, Mae West, Liza Minnelli... even Barbra Streisand and Carmen Miranda get



COMIC GIFT: Jessica Martin in *Sunset Bitch*... by Jessica Martin.

a look in. Each voice is beautifully finessed.

With the talented Leon Charles on piano, the evening features song after song performed in Martin's own inimitable style (ironic for someone who's so good at imitating). Between these, she narrates her kooky life story as only a born comedian can.

Spiky, affectionate and gloriously entertaining, it's a wonderful opener for this lovely little theatre.

● The next production at Waterloo East Theatre is *Departure Lounge* by Douglas Irvine from 28 September to 31 October. Tickets: 020 7928 0060.

Competition

WIN tickets to see Motown's Greatest Hits - How Sweet It Is

THIS week the Kentish Times series has teamed up with The Orchard theatre, Dartford, to offer five pairs of tickets to a foot-tapping night of Motown songs.

Motown's Greatest Hits, is its 8th successive year this stunning 100

per cent live show combines first class music together with the slickest choreography and an amazing orchestra to deliver outstanding performances.

The five pairs of prize tickets are for the performance on September 29, at 7.45pm.



HOW TO ENTER

Tell us which of the following is a Stevie Wonder song:
a) *Superstition*
b) *Superman*
c) *Supercillious*
Send an entry with

your name, address, and phone number to Jules Cooper, Motown, Kentish Times Newspapers, Roxby House, Station Road, Sidcup DA15 7EJ, by

September 23. You can also email your answer to [jules.cooper@archant.co.uk](mailto:cooper@archant.co.uk). Normal Kentish Times rules apply and the editor's decision is final.

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RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D (15) Fri & Mon-Tues: 18:00, Daily: 20:20	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID (PG) (W/A) Sat-Sun: 11:20, 13:30	EMPIRE SCHOOLS ALL TICKETS £3 SEX AND THE CITY 2 (15) (W/A) Wed: 10:30
TAMARA DREW (15) (W/A) 12:40, 15:20	DINNER FOR SCHMUCKS (12A) (W/A) 20:10	ADVANCE SCREENING THE HOLE 3D (12A) Wed-Thurs: 13:00, 18:00
GROWN UPS (12A) (W/A) Fri & Mon-Thurs: 13:30, Daily: 15:50, 18:10, 20:30	THE SWITCH (12A) (W/A) 17:50	

SAVER DAY TUESDAY ALL TICKETS £3.95
Tues only. Excl. Opera & Special Presentations. 3D = Additional £1.50 per ticket. 3D Cinema = £1 per pop. ADULT OFF PEAK: £5.75 • ADULT: £6.75 • CHILD OFF PEAK: £4 • FAMILY OFF PEAK: £16 • FAMILY: £19
*Before 5pm Mon-Fri (Excl. Bank Hols) Family = Group of 4, min 2 Children. 3D = Additional £1.50 per ticket. 3D Cinema = £1 per pop.