

Designs grow on top show judges

College comes up with Chelsea winner once again

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GREEN-FINGERED students from Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) have picked up another award at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

Louise Venter, a consultant at the Maidenhead college, and students were awarded with a silver-gilt flora for the fourth year running.

Louise, who is also the head gardener at the college in Burchetts Green Road, had been working on the courtyard garden design for about a year.

The concept was also put together by students Susie Clark, Liz Webster and Phil Smith.

It was designed to attract wildlife from the surrounding meadows.

The students are all studying garden design

and plantsmanship at the college and are in their second and final years of study.

Louise, who took over the role at the college last year from the late David Penny, described the competition as 'incredibly tight'.

"We only have 10 days to prepare the garden in London, and have a very small space to work in," she said.

The former manager for landscape and

design at Stubbings Nursery added: "When the judges come over to your garden, you have to leave. It is really nauseating."

The Twyford resident, who has her own garden design business based at her home, was ecstatic that her design caught the eye of Prince Charles and Camilla, who were at the show, that was held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital in London.

"They spent quite a long time talking to me, and we were so overwhelmed," added Louise.

A gold award was handed out to a company based in Marlow for their entry of a show garden.

The garden by champagne Laurent-Perrier in Chapel Street was designed by Luciano Giubbilei and included feature artwork by British sculptor Nigel Hall.

HW Hyde & Son in Twyford also won a gold award for a floral marquee and Norfield Nurseries Ltd, in Colnbrook picked up a silver-gilt flora award, also for a floral marquee.



TEAM WIN: Louise Venter, consultant at Berkshire College of Agriculture, celebrates with students, from back left, Liz Webster, Phil Smith and Susie Clark, after winning an award at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Vote for last place in contest

SIX bands will have one final chance to win a place in the live final of the Battle of the Bands under 18 contest early next month.

The date for the audience voting wild card contest had originally been set for Sunday,

May 31, but has been put back to Sunday, June 7, when all six bands who failed to make it through the semi finals will have another shot to make it to the finals.

The live final will be played at Kidwells Park on Friday, June 12, to kick start the Maidenhead Carnival weekend.

One lucky band, who will be picked by audience vote on June 7, will join the six finalists: Fried Squirrel, Skadilly,

Selium, Coopers Rage, Lizzie Massey and Busking For Life.

The wild card contest will feature The Vegas, Under Appeal, Bus Stop to Nowhere, Rookie, The Mardies and Chigurh and it will be held at 2pm on June 7, at Heroes Bar, in King Street, Maidenhead.

For band profiles visit our Bands page online:

www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk



'Arson' at old office block

A DERELICT office block in Maidenhead was in flames on Tuesday night after a suspected arson attack.

A fire crew from Maidenhead and one from Slough were called to the four-storey Highway House in Norreys Drive at 6.45pm.

There was smoke billowing out of the run-down former offices and four firefighters had to use breathing apparatus to enter the building and fight the fire on the second floor.

They used a hose reel and the positive pressure ventilation equipment to put out the flames and clear the smoke.

Blue watch manager at Maidenhead Miles Cooper said the fire is being treated as suspected arson and police have been informed.

The building had been standing empty and firefighters said it had been vandalised with graffiti and was a bit of a mess before the fire took hold.

Watch manager Cooper said: "The building was so heavily trashed we had to treat it with extreme caution."

Talk on army life

A PRESENTATION on life in the armed forces is to be given by General Sir Richard Dannatt at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fieldhouse Lane, Marlow, on Wednesday evening.

The army chief has been touring the country with officers and soldiers speaking to

audiences about recent operations and showing footage from the front line.

His 30-minute presentation will include details on training and equipment used and will be followed by a question and answer session. The talk begins at 6.30pm.

Malik in Marlow

AN AWARD-WINNING entrepreneur is set to open another Indian restaurant.

Malik Ahmed, from Malik's Tandoori Restaurant in Cookham, has taken over the former Don Lorenzo restaurant in Marlow's High Street.

Malik, who has also owns a branch in Gerrards Cross, has spent about £80,000 refurbishing the premises. Malik's Tandoori won the award of Best Restaurant in the South East at the British Curry Awards last year.

With a song in their hearts



SINGALONG: Pupils from Wessex Primary School took part in a sponsored song event to raise money for charity.

SINGING songs with a garden theme have helped children raise money for a children's charity and their school.

Children and teachers from the foundation stage of Wessex Primary School have spent weeks mastering 13 songs, all around the theme of gardens.

About 130 children from the school in St Adrian's Close in

Cox Green, sang songs such as Incy Wincy Spider to parents in the school hall on Friday.

Valerie Thomas, foundation stage team leader, said: "I am so proud of all the children for learning such a lot of new songs and performing them with the confidence that they showed."

The sponsored sing was held

to raise funds to improve the nursery and reception outdoor learning areas, and to children's charity CLIC Sargent.

Valerie added: "We are always amazed by the generosity of the families at Wessex and the children were really happy to be raising money to help others as well as themselves."

Gates open at 4.25pm. First race is at 5.25pm.

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