

What's on

VOLUNTEER APPEAL: The National Trust is appealing for volunteers to help at Polesden Lacey, Great Bookham, as room guides, to gardeners, retail assistants and flower arrangers to piano players.

■ **Volunteers coffee morning; Polesden Lacey; Great Bookham; Saturday January 28 and Tuesday January 31; 10 to 12pm; free, email polesdenlacey@nationaltrust.org.uk, or call 01372 452048 or visit nationaltrust.org.uk/polesdenlacey.**

■ **ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS:** Lee Memphis King will be welcomed to the Epsom Playhouse, presenting the ultimate tribute to the King – Elvis Presley. One Night of Elvis will showcase the late superstar's entire career from the 1950s rock'n'roll heyday to his return in the 1968 comeback special.

■ **One Night Of Elvis; Epsom Playhouse, 42 Ashley Road, Epsom; February 10; 8pm; £20; epsomplayhouse.co.uk.**



Reaching up: **Kyia Johnston** has earned her place at the London Children's Ballet

Girls stand tall with ballet school places

Two girls have won a place at the London Children's Ballet beating off competition from 700 other dancers.

Kyia Johnston, 13, and Annabelle Adey, 12, who dance at the Laine Theatre Arts School in East Street, Epsom, endured a three-month audition process that saw 700 dancers compete for just six places in each age group.

For Kyia, a student at Blenheim High School and an associate at the Royal Ballet School, this is the third time she has been selected to take part in the company's annual production.

She says: "I am over the moon to get into London Children's Ballet for the third year as it's like being part of a uniquely talented family of dedicated dancers."

Annabelle, who goes to

Rosebery School in Epsom says: "I am looking forward to four months of rigorous rehearsals and the chance to perform in London's west end – I am just so happy."

Both girls will now begin a gruelling four month rehearsal culminating in a West End performance of *The Little Princess* at the Peacock Theatre.

First published in 1905, *The Little Princess* follows the story of Sara Crew, a young girl born to a wealthy soldier in India who is brought to London for a formal education in the late 1800s.

Visit londonchildrensballet.com.

The Little Princess; Sadler's Wells' Peacock Theatre; London; April 19 to 22; various times; tickets £14 to £50; visit sadlerswells.com or call 08444 124322.

FIT

freetime

Theatre Music Film Comedy Events

SLIM FAST

Arabella WEIR

There are not many who could not relate to the struggle to resist a tempting treat and the urge to dodge the gym. One such person is author and star of BBC Two's the *Fast Show*, Arabella Weir who is set to document her battle with the chocolate biscuit in a one-woman show next month.

Performing at the Epsom Playhouse, Weir will be sharing her hapless and hilarious tale of a life ruled by food next month – a struggle sure to resonate with many – charting her neurotic relationship with food and finding humour in modern perceptions of body weight and diets.

Taught early on that food was the enemy, for Weir happiness was being given free reign to eat what she liked.

From being told she was "too fat for potatoes" by her mother, to binge eating followed by prolonged abstinence, Weir will unravel her own eating history uncovering a candid account of an adolescence tinged with embarrassment and humour while appraising modern attitudes toward eating disorders and obesity.

The author of the best-selling *Does My Bum Look Big In This?* Weir is a frequent commentator on current affairs in the *Guardian*.

She contributed regularly to the Radio Four comedy series *Smelling of Rose* and appeared in E4's teen drama *Skins* and the West End show *Calendar Girls*.

Arabella Weir, *The Real Me is Thin*; Epsom Playhouse, 42 Ashley Road, Epsom; February 8; 7.30pm; £11; 01372 742555; epsomplayhouse.co.uk.



Owners **Marjorie and Joe Schmetzer**
Deadlinex EP63911

JAMM PACKED

A husband and wife have opened a new gallery with the promise of inspiring an inclusive one and all approach, writes *Lauren May*.

Jamm Art Gallery, in Epsom Road, Ewell, held its grand opening on Saturday, January 14, hosted by its founders Marjorie and Joe Schmetzer.

The gallery has been designed to include artists from all backgrounds and mediums while involving the community.

Marjorie Schmetzer says: "Art being so subjective, recognition, subsequent fame

and fortune may elude many talented people who have simply slipped through the net. Joe and I purposely welcome all artists for consideration, working with all medium forms, from gouache to sculptors – our doors are always open, one and all.

"We've already signed on some incredibly gifted individuals, some of whom are much-loved in the Surrey art scene and others who are just starting out in their artistic career and may have suffered a raft of previous rejections."

While displaying contemporary art available for purchase, Jamm Art Gallery will

also offer art classes, which will be open to children and adults of all abilities as well as an open art class for artists to come and work on their own projects.

By keeping commission and exhibition costs low, Jamm Gallery hope they will be able to allow artists to exhibit their work and retain more of their income from sales as well as giving buyers the opportunity to invest early on in a new artist's career.

Mrs Schmetzer added: "Taking up a hobby such as art is known by psychologists as 'flow activity' and it induces heightened feelings of

happiness. Happiness is very contagious and provides the perfect emotion to nurture creativity. Our aim is to be a positive hub for the local community, and engage in outreach projects related to art".

The gallery's opening exhibition, *Launch*, features the work of 12 local and international artists including Allison Orchard, David Dragon, Jane Deutsch, Marion Deacon, Karen Andor and Elize Drage.

Jamm Gallery; Epsom Road, visit jammart-gallery.co.uk, call 020 8393 9898.