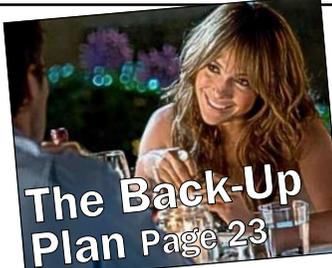


Crackerjack

brought
to you by



The Back-Up
Plan Page 23



ONE-WOMAN SHOW: Laura Solon.

Comic Laura in solo spot to launch festival

PERRIER award-winning comic Laura Solon is bringing her unique one-woman show to Newnham-on-Severn.

The show at Newnham Club on June 4 will be the last chance to see the critically-acclaimed Rabbit Faced Story Soup, which first aired at last year's Edinburgh Festival. Since then the actress, writer and comedienne has performed in London's West End and all over the UK.

The talented performer has also written and starred in her own BBC Radio 4 series, *Laura Solon: Talking and Not Talking*. She has recorded a BBC sitcom pilot and appeared in Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse's sketch show *Ruddy Hell! It's Harry and Paul*.

Laura is currently appearing in Al Murray's *Multiple Personality Disorder*, which is shown on ITV1.

The show is the first event of the 2010 Lydney Festival.

Tickets are £10 from Newnham Post Office or on 01594 842180.

Singing for spring

FOREST choir the Tan House Singers will be tackling the works of composer Earnest John Moeran at their concert at Highnam Church this weekend.

The programme on Sunday, May 16, will include Moeran's *Songs of Springtime*, as well as compositions by Vaughan Williams.

It is the Singers' first concert under recently appointed conductor James Atherton.

The evening gets underway at 7pm. Tickets are £10 and are available by phoning 01594 516207 or on the door.

Dianne's debut short stories are out of Africa

7-day
listings
page 28

Gardening
page 27

Sudoku &
puzzles
page 26



INSPIRATION: St Briavels author Dianne Stadhams with her new book *Recognition*.

by Luke Sellers

Staff reporter
luke.sellers@theforester.co.uk

A COLLECTION of interwoven short stories inspired by Africa are set to put St Briavels author Dianne Stadhams on the literary map.

Four of her stories have been included in *Recognition - 21 stories to keep you awake* - a new anthology published by Earlyworks Press. They represent the first foray into prose for the former sustainable development consultant and documentary maker.

Dianne, who was born in Australia, said the stories were inspired by her work in sub-Saharan Africa.

She said: "The stories were drawn from my experiences working in the developing world. There are nine interlinked stories in total and four were chosen by Earlyworks for their book. They each tell the same story from a different perspective."

The story centres on a girl eaten by a crocodile on an African golf course.

The stories tell the tale from the crocodile's point of view, the young girl's sister, a boy in a fair trade factory and people in England linked with fair trade.

The full nine stories will be re-published as a collection and illustrated by local artist Pat Yallop.

Dianne has previously written and directed plays and dramatic performances, but says writing the books presented a new challenge.

She said: "The creative writing I have done in the past was for the stage. Therefore my style was to include a lot of action. The biggest challenge was to slow the pace down a bit and allow the reader to get more involved."

Since moving to the Forest full-time three years ago, Dianne has become an increasingly influential member of the local artistic community.

Earlier this year she formed Eye Know Productions, a performance group linking writers, actors, singers and musicians.

Dianne also has a children's book and TV series due out in June.

For more information visit www.eyeknow.eu.

i-scene: for the latest gaming, dvd, cd and movie news turn to Page 23

Need A New Bathroom? Then You Need Severn Vale Bathrooms!

• Bathrooms • En Suites • Shower Rooms • Cloakrooms • Shower Cubicles • Ceilings
• Lighting • Walls • Flooring • Vanity Units • Heated Towel Rails • Mobility Needs

We design, supply & install as a complete package using our own highly skilled workforce.

Call Now: 01452 330852
135 Pearce Way, Bristol Road, Glos, GL2 5YD

thebestofgloucester

www.severnvalerbathrooms.co.uk
Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-2pm



20% off all
complete
bathroom
installations
for over 60s!