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RANGE *or* AGA?

Flaming the debate
with Davina McCall
and Juliet Sear

STEP
ON IT
Sisters making
festival feet shine

RALLYING RESILIENCE

TEDX speaker Penny Mallory on
overcoming mental struggles

SHALL *we* DANCE?

STRICTLY STARS DAZZLE AT NEW THEATRE OXFORD

Beautiful spaces

With Oxfordshire-
based Bee Osborn



OXFORDSHIRE LIVING

WELCOME

MARCH 2023

Each edition of this magazine is full of great local people doing inspiring things.

And this issue - a celebration of some of the Oxfordshire women making such a huge impact in our county - is no exception. Whether experts in homes and interiors, beauty, travel, food or fashion, you don't have to go very far in this county to meet a woman doing something cool.

Every issue, I can't wait to bring you their stories, but unfortunately in the world of magazines there is a lag time, so often I'll meet an incredible woman but I can't bring you her story for a few months. That's why I've been so excited about our March edition. Let me introduce you to Penny Mallory.

From homeless runaway, to champion racing driver, Penny is inspiring millions across the globe with her lessons in resilience. She tells her story, in her own words from her home in Oxfordshire.

Meet the sisters behind everybody's



'Whether experts in homes and interiors, beauty, travel, food or fashion, you don't have to go very far in this county to meet a woman doing something cool'

favourite festival footwear, Talolo Boots, on page 100. Given the unpredictable British weather, these 'not welly-wellies' will save you from soggy socks and style slip-ups.

Chef and entrepreneur Nisha Katona is singing the praises of plant-based Indian food in her new book.

And hear behind-the-scenes stories from the PR expert who has looked after top showbiz acts.

One thing I know from my many years as an editor, is that women often struggle to put their stories forward. They often ask 'but what's so special about me?'

Rest assured, people will be inspired by your story, so if you're doing something awesome in Oxfordshire I want to hear about it. Send me an email using the details below.

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WOVEN *for* LIFE

Saskia Saunders is bringing the ancient craft of weaving into contemporary form, encouraging us to live in harmony with nature

For her latest collection, designer Saskia Saunders is celebrating the trailblazers who are leading the way in the climate crisis.

Woven using only linen, hemp and nettle yarns each piece of the collection is vegan, plant-based and entirely natural.

Exhibited in galleries worldwide, including recent solo shows, and held in private collections as well as being featured by V-Land UK, PETA and the *Guardian*, Saskia's work addresses our need to live sustainably.

The mum-of-two lives on the Chiltern Hills, on the Ox-Bucks border, and says nature is the biggest inspiration for her work.

"Forests are a radical, beautiful and effective way to reduce the impact of climate change," she explains.

A forest lover since childhood, when Saskia discovered that the majority of global deforestation is for animal agriculture and the



food grown to feed livestock, she focused her work on the benefits of a more plant-based diet and conscious way of living.

Last year she held her first UK exhibition in Henley, and collaborated with Edward Bulmer Natural Paint as their artist-in-residence to create a collection of plant-based artworks for their Pimlico showroom.

Of the Henley exhibition, she says: “Creating large scale works to fill the beautiful space was a dream come true and we had a wonderful weekend hosting family, friends and clients with glasses of Prosecco and a fun weaving workshop for children and adults alike.

“I loved having creative direction over every element of the exhibition, and to host it in such a vibrant artistic community so close to my home was a dream come true.”

One of the biggest pieces in the exhibit had been inspired by the River Thames at Henley.

“It’s about being able to sit there, looking

‘I’ve created my own style of weaving and my own techniques to show the idea of conceptual art’

at really gentle ripples on the water as boats go by and acknowledging that you have this incredible environment on your doorstep,” she says.

Saskia says her new collection - *Their Bravery Knew No End* - is a “poetic expression of gratitude for the gentle, yet powerful, trailblazers leading the way in tackling our climate crisis”.

Saskia graduated from the University of

Brighton in 2008 with a degree in woven textiles and business studies.

She learnt to weave on large looms at university but now uses a smaller table loom which enables her to work on pieces in her studio at home and in her garden.

“I’ve created my own style of weaving and my own techniques to show the idea of conceptual art,” she says.

“I create long, woven strips of my textiles, which are then pieced together very much like making a quilt. This means that I can create really large-scale pieces in a small, portable way.

“I produce exclusive collections of work and private commissions for clients and galleries worldwide, from my garden studio.”

This is looking like a bright year for Saskia, who is in talks with a luxury vegan fashion brand and a vegan fine dining restaurant about collaborations.

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saskiasaunders.com