

SUBURB Style

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James Eder, 20, a pupil at University College School before going to the University of Birmingham in 2002. He was born in the Suburb and has lived here ever since.

During my gap year I travelled and worked in San Francisco, the French Alps and then continued on a world tour stopping in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii and finally San Francisco before beginning University.

Having done so much travelling in the past, the thought of staying in one place for a prolonged period for University seemed almost daunting. This however was not to be the case as I was fortunate enough to become involved with an organisation called AIESEC. The world's largest international student-run



organisation, AIESEC is an educational charity with over 50,000 members in 85 countries. For more than 50 years its international internship exchange programme has helped develop the leaders of the future.

To complete my first year in AIESEC I was selected to participate in the Cultural Envoy for Exchange Development programme. Sponsored by HSBC and British Airways I was sent to Manila in the Philippines. Here I was challenged like never before: the contrast between rich and poor, the squalid conditions, the different foods and culture. Everyday I learnt new things and was forced to push myself further than I ever thought possible.

During my stay I also bore witness to a Military Coup. I returned home to the suburbs of Manila at around midnight only to be woken at 2am by my flat mate telling me that there was military presence in the centre of the capital. We sat around the TV and saw the bar I had been sitting in earlier and the whole of the central complex be rigged up with explosives while the military made a statement accusing the government of corruption. Within the day, the situation has subsided and all returned to normal.

Throughout the duration of my stay I contributed what I could to the local AIESEC community which included initiatives such as visiting a paraplegic centre and spending a few days at a drug rehabilitation centre provided for street children in Manila. I was also able to have some time off and travel up to the north to visit the rice terraces which were truly incredible, and to travel by boat and plane to some nearby Islands including Boracay and Puerto Galera to witness the most beautiful sunsets and beaches in the world.

The Philippines & AIESEC is something that has truly changed and challenged me – opening my mind to the world around us and exposing me to cultures and experiences that have broken the traditional stereotypes associated with so many parts of the world. Now with truly international experiences and a personal global network, I am looking forward to my next adventure.

Travel

featuring James Eder

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Cookery

featuring Barbara Ellison



Barbara Ellison has just moved to the Suburb after a year travelling in Australia where she enjoyed the climate, sport and particularly the food! Before she set off, Barbara had graduated from Manchester University with a degree in Anthropology. She is now training to be a careworker. She says that her love of food "depends on a warm climate when social life is at it's best."

Savoury Fish Pie – Australian Style

Ingredients:

750g fish (cod, haddock or halibut), boned and filleted
60g butter
1 chopped onion, 1 clove garlic
2 finely chopped sticks celery, 1 chopped pepper
4 medium tomatoes or 1 can tomatoes, drained (reserve juice)
2 crushed bay leaves
1 teaspoon basil, 1 teaspoon dill
1 teaspoon sugar
salt, pepper, parsley to taste
one cup wine or juice from tinned tomatoes
shortcrust or puff pastry, milk or cream to brush

Preparation:

Poach fish gently in water with a pinch of salt for 10 minutes. Melt butter in pan and fry onion without browning. If wanted for flavour, rub a clove of garlic around the pan then discard. Add celery, pepper, tomatoes, bay leaves, basil, dill, sugar, salt and pepper. Fry everything together for 15 minutes. Add wine or tomatoe juice and cook for a further 5 minutes. Add flaked fish and parsley. Stir and warm through. Turn heat off. Roll out pastry for top and bottom of pie as thinly as possible. Line dish with pastry and add fish mixture. Cover with remaining pastry and brush with milk or cream. Bake in a warm oven until top is brown. Serves four

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Nuisances

featuring Luke Brooks

Luke Brooks, 23, has lived in the Suburb all his life. Last year he contributed to Suburb Style whilst doing an NCTJ course at noSWEat journalism training. Luke is currently looking for work.

As I sit here watching the thunderstorms from the comfort of my living room, summer seems a million miles away.

Although summer can bring negative memories to mind. First of all there's all sorts of insects that come out to play. Then, of course, there are those people who insist on wearing sandals with socks on – very irritating.

However, neither compare to my huge pet hate – lawnmowers. They will soon become the most common noise heard on the Suburb, along with hedge cutters, edge trimmers and leaf blowers as residents treat their gardens to a pampering on what seems to be a daily basis.

Returning home for the final time from university last year, I was looking forward to a lazy summer. But every morning my slumber would be ruined by the ceaseless droning of garden equipment. After a student lifestyle of getting up in the afternoon and going to bed in the early hours, this 'alarm call' seemed a little unnecessary. Getting to sleep to the sounds of birds singing is bad enough, but attempting to sleep through the eternal growl of a lawnmower can prove intolerable. Defeated, I would get out of bed. But any hopes of the nightmare ending, were quickly dashed as I realised that listening to music or watching the TV required an unsociable volume to compete!

If, on a daily basis, I started to play some pounding music between the hours of 10am and 3pm, I bet my neighbours would soon complain – and rightly so! But it is somehow accepted that people should consistently suffer the noise of lawns being cut. If someone can design a silencer for an assault rifle, why can't they design something similar for garden equipment! One does not even get a break from this torture on a Sunday morning – as ten o'clock strikes the sounds of rotary blades begin once more.

Maybe I'm turning into Victor Meldrew. Maybe I should give up on my career plans and try to invent this hallowed lawnmower silencer. Maybe I should get a job so that I am out of the house before this daily abuse begins. Or maybe we could draw up a rota so people can synchronise their lawnmowing so that innocent lives are not ruined on a daily basis. Yeah, I like that one the best.



Suburb
Style editor
Deborah
Warland,
talks to
residents
about some
of their
favourite
things



Deborah
Warland

Fine Art

home and property insurance



020 8658 4334

zen

Brownhill Morris and West
(insurance services) ltd

e-mail masterpiece@brownhills.org www.brownhills.org