

Picture perfect

The Norfolk landscape with all its contrasting moods lends itself perfectly to photography. Solange Cross, who has spent ten years capturing the county in black and white stills, unveils her first solo exhibition this month.

Born in Brazil, Solange lived in London for five years before moving to Norfolk in the summer of 1994 where she found the ideal backdrop for a growing obsession with photography. Her subsequent approach and style have been heavily influenced by Norfolk's people and places. Solange has been exhibiting her work locally for five years. She considers herself more of an image-maker than a photographer, gleaming more enjoyment from work in the dark room than from the actual process of taking photographs. For Solange, capturing the image on film is only the beginning of a very rewarding creative process that eventually leads to a unique interpretation of the original. ☐



'Dunes to Thornham Beach' by Solange Cross



Past and present Norfolk YFC county chairmen together with Franchesca Broom, County Organiser (far right) at Norfolk Young Farmer's Diamond Jubilee celebrations

Diamond Geezers

The Norfolk Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs celebrated their 60th anniversary last month with a dazzling charity ball in the entirely apt surrounds of a giant sheep barn. Almost 2,000 guests, comprising club members past and present, packed into the Norfolk Showground venue for a sell out evening of fodder and fun.

After strutting down the red carpet guests dined on such local delicacies as prime Norfolk beef, ham, and turkey, before a round of speeches paid tribute to the organisation's longevity and continuing good work. Norfolk YFC county chairman Mark Raines read a letter of congratulations from president of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, HRH The Prince of Wales. "The best part of six months planning and preparation by a lot of people paid off with a truly memorable evening," commented Mark. "We could have easily sold 2,500 tickets for this party, 1785 was just the right number. Anyone who says support for farming in Norfolk is dying should have been there on the night."

Funds raised from the event will be ploughed back into the YFC, the Countrysiders (junior wing of the YFC) and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. ☐

Earlham project

Earlham High School in Norwich has received thousands of pounds of funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) for a pilot project aimed at improving the educational life of Sixth-Formers. Essentially it's a mentoring scheme, offering support and guidance to six form students, including those with special educational needs.

Liz Singlehurst, assistant head teacher at Earlham High School, said: "We are the only city school in Norwich piloting this scheme and without this ESF funding from the Learning and Skills Council Norfolk we would not have been able to run this important project. Our Sixth-Form has students of varying degrees of ability and from very different social and economic backgrounds, and for some it can be extremely difficult to adapt to Sixth-Form life and achieve their full potential."

Earlham's learning mentor, Laura Cannon, has been working hard to smooth the transition for students, providing intensive and focused pastoral support. "I offer a drop-in facility, so if a student has anything which is troubling them they can chat things through with me," she comments. "Or if a tutor thinks they will benefit from additional support because they are not achieving their expected results or are at risk of dropping out, they will refer them on to me so we can get to the bottom of it." ☐



Sixth sense: Laura Cannon with some of the students at Earlham High School Sixth-Form