FROM US TO YOU

Good to SHARE

New future for ancient land, plus happy hens and an Irish classic

Going wild

Harold's Park Farm in London's green belt takes its name from King Harold, killed in the Battle of Hastings in 1066, who loved hunting there. But today it is entering a new phase of life. Bought by nature-restoring company Nattergal, this area of Essex farmland will be left to rewild as Harold's Park Wildlands, creating an environment similar to the ancient deer parks from 1,000 years ago. Ancient-breed cattle, pigs and ponies will shape the ecosystem – all within sight of the London skyline; nattergal.co.uk

Did you know?

This year, the British Hen Welfare Trust celebrated rescuing and rehoming one million hens who would otherwise be slaughtered once they stop laying. They make wonderful pets, as the charity's founder Jane Howorth knows from experience; bhwt.org.uk

LOOK AHEAD

Summer-flowering bulbs and tubers, such as begonias, dahlias and gladioli, are unlikely to survive extended cold snaps, so carefully dig them up and store over winter in a cool, dry place. That way you'll have a healthy supply for spring planting – and save yourself a small fortune at the garden centre.

On this day in history

9 October 1991. There was a rush for tickets when a sumo wrestling tournament was held in the Royal Albert Hall in London. It was the first time the sport had been seen outside Japan in its 1,500-year history. Sumo features huge wrestlers who aim to push their opponent over, or eject them from the ring. Fans were fascinated by the tournament's ancient traditions and strict protocol.

WORDS: JANE KEMP PHOTOS: ALAMY, GETTY, JD AUDY, JUNOANDTHEPAYCOCK.COM, NATTERGAL, OCTOPUS

IN FULL COLOUR

Ever come across paint drumming before? Prepare yourself for The Blue Man Group's 'Bluevolution' show, hitting Edinburgh and Bristol. The bald, blue men and their multi-instrument musician present a dazzling mix of music, mime, art and comedy. In Edinburgh 9-13 October, and Bristol 16-20 October.

* aegpresents.co.uk/event/blue-man-group

COUNTRY FLAVOURS

Kate Humble shares a delicious range of countryside recipes in her new book, *Home Made* (£26, HB, Gaia). Along with stories from local farmers, she includes snacks and vegetarian meals, plus hearty meat and fish dinners. If you love puddings, try her tumbler lemon curd and raspberry cheesecake. Truly delicious.

CLASSIC TRAGI-COMEDY

Seán O'Casey was a labourer when his play *Juno and the Paycock* was first performed in 1924. Its success changed his life. A century on, his story about a family in the Irish civil war is at the Gielgud Theatre until 23 November, starring Mark Rylance and *Succession* actor J. Smith-Cameron; junoandthepaycock.com

Holidaymakers who didn't take their pets with them spent an average of £270 on carers over the last year. And one in 10 forked out up to £500, reveals Pets at Home.

NATURE NOTES

From Louise Midgley

There's something magical about the golden glow of autumnal light that dusts everything it touches before dusk. As I stood at the kitchen window, transfixed by its beauty, a gangly daddy-long-legs stared back at me from the other side of the glass.

Just as I was about to turn away, a dozen or so long-tailed tits caught my eye as they whizzed across the garden and submerged themselves in the boughs of the apple tree, before darting back to the ornamental cherry, like a quiver of swift arrows.

The season is changing, but autumn has an abundance of highlights to celebrate.

My garden week

This week, I cleaned out the two bird boxes that are used in spring by blue tits – one in the front garden, one in the back.