

Life & soul

HEALTH BEAUTY FASHION FITNESS AND MORE



Why Philippa Forrester always makes time for breakfast... page 24



ORGANISER: Kelly Stewart

IT'S A long way from a lacklustre school hall disco and the rebel flour and egg throwing that many of us will remember as the ways we marked the end of our school years.

These days Year 11 students, who have just sat their GCSEs attend huge, glitzy Prom parties which see the whole year dressed up in their finery to dance the night away, frequently well away from the functional school hall and instead among the chandelier glamour of grand hotels or conference centres.

The events have become so big and so popular that Prom Fairs are held annually - in much the same way as wedding fairs - with dress designers, florists, make-up artists, limousine services, photographers all anxious to cash in on what is becoming an increasingly lucrative trade.

Many boutiques tailor-make their Prom service, keeping a list of the colour and style of each dress ordered so that no child wears the same come the big night.

Many parents must blanch at the evening's price tag - the cost, particularly for those with daughters, can easily reach £400 or more. And the young party-goers' expectations are enormous - with many looking forward to it for a whole year.

The new rite of passage for school leavers, has come across the Atlantic and is similar to the American High School Prom.

Liz Burcher caught up with a few girls from Hardenhuish School in Chippenham as they prepared for their big night. Turn to pages 22, 23 to meet the...



FAIRY TALE: Megan Fern, ready for her school prom

PROM PRINCESSES