



Ruin to remembrance: Todd Longstaffe-Gowan's re-creation of a First World War trench

Hearts and flowers

AN annual treat starts next week: the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (July 3–8). This year's highlights include *Countryfile*'s 30th Anniversary Garden, a tiered landscape representing different areas of the British Isles designed by award-winner Ann-Marie Powell.

There will also be a touching re-creation of a First World War trench by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan Landscape Design, which leads to a forest with a plaque naming the gardeners of Historic Royal Palaces and Royal Parks who gave their lives. 'We approached this project with the idea of celebrating how landscape, like people, can recover from times of great hardship and heal,' explains Mr Longstaffe-Gowan. 'We hope that, by leading visitors through our re-creation of a trench and into the fresh woodland meadow, they will be able to experience a journey from ruin to remembrance.'

The Festival of Roses is also set to be a draw and this year's coveted Rose of the Year Award goes to *Rosa Starlight Symphony*, a pure-white climber introduced by Harkness Roses of Hitchin, Hertfordshire. Visit www.rhs.org.uk



Rosa Starlight Symphony, RHS Rose of the Year

Policeman's best friend

POLICE dogs and horses attacked by criminals are set to receive greater protection under a new law, despite a delay in the most recent reading. No longer will crooks be able to plead their actions were in self-defence. This news follows a campaign that started when a police dog called Finn was stabbed while chasing a suspect with his handler PC Dave Wardell. The man was charged with ABH for his attack on the policeman, but only criminal damage for Finn's wounds. 'When Finn was seriously injured,' PC Wardell says, 'it didn't seem right to me or the public that he was seen as an inanimate object or property in law.'

The new law ties in with Government plans to increase animal-cruelty convictions to five years in jail. The campaign, known as Finn's Law,



PC Wardell and Finn with his PDSA Gold Medal

was backed by PC Wardell's MP, Sir Oliver Heald, who is hopeful the bill will progress on its return to the Commons on July 6. 'It's my way of saying thank you to Finn for saving my life and the many others for the truly outstanding and brave work they do every day,' adds PC Wardell. *Graham Mole*



Salty seadog Sir Francis Drake is depicted to semi-armoured effect in this Anglo-Dutch School portrait, which leads the Bonhams Old Masters sale on July 4. The son of a humble Devon farmer, Drake ascended the ranks of Society to become a favourite captain of Elizabeth I and was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. The portrait is estimated at £300,000–£500,000

A right royal sale

A MAGNIFICENT group of Royal Orders and medals that belonged to George III's grandson, George, Duke of Cambridge, goes under the hammer next month.

The pieces, which have remained with the Duke's heirs since his death in 1904, appear on the market for the first time. Among the highlights of the sale is a Garter badge (*above*) given to the then Prince George by his uncle, William IV, in 1835, and a set of insignia from the Royal House of Chakri, which the duke received from the King of Siam in 1897.

The auction, which is held jointly by Sotheby's and medal and orders specialist Morton & Eden, will take place on July 3. For further information, visit www.sothebys.com CP

