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County Show



ARTS & CULTURE:
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Caroline Redman Lusher



FOOD & DRINK
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SURREY LIFE

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- ♦ Meet the people protecting the landscape
- ♦ Looking out for the wildlife of the hills

INTERVIEW

FRANKIE BRIDGE

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THE suggestion of going to Let's Race in Horley was enthusiastically received by the men in my family. Basically, I was offering them the opportunity to play incredibly clever, souped-up video games all Sunday morning, not a suggestion that's likely to meet much resistance.

I'd read that Let's Race has 10 Formula 1 racing car simulators, all housed in a unique race room and networked together to create an incredibly exciting simulated F1 racing experience. This is something I'm unlikely to ever experience and while I didn't know exactly what to expect, I knew the adrenalin monkeys in my home would love the idea of 'driving' an F1 car.

Keen to please them, I didn't really give the experience too much advance thought. Maybe if I had, I'd have understood that the incredible authenticity which would prove to make the experience a fabulous one for my husband, son and his mate, would also make it a terrifying one for me!

We were greeted by friendly staff who ran through a brief training video. It quickly became apparent that this race was to demand way more involvement than messing about with a video game, this experience had the potential to be truly exhilarating, a genuine test of skill and nerve. We were led into the blacked-out sim room, which houses the full-motion simulators and a booming sound system (the young and fun people were happy).

By now, I was aware that the F1 models could reach speeds of up to



One for the boys?

Keen to please the men in her family, this month best-selling author Adele Parks took one for the team at Let's Race in Horley

200mph, there was talk of forces of up to 1.5G and gear changing (I've been driving an automatic for a few years now, could I even remember how?). The guys were grinning broadly, asking me if I was excited, seemingly, not knowing me at all. I am a conservative driver; I like pootling. Or so I thought... I think it's safe to say I don't pose any threat to Lewis Hamilton. However, I quickly found the fun in speeding in a safe way (yes, that is what appealed to me, even though it's not a catchy marketing phrase).

"I am a conservative driver; I like pootling. Or so I thought... I think it's safe to say I don't pose any threat to Lewis Hamilton"

Two races in, we established that there's nothing that says, "We're a team" quite like leaving your wife in the dust on a virtual track, or at least so my husband believes. He won, I lost. A fact that he didn't tire of repeating for the rest of the day. I pointed out that I hadn't crashed into anyone (unlike him) but he countered by mentioning that, on two occasions, I'd gone the wrong way around the track (sad but true, and possibly an F1 first).

The undeniable adrenalin rush left me feeling intensely hungry, (I'm a stress eater). This wasn't a problem because there's a great burger diner on site; Blacks Burgers, a local family run business, with multiple restaurants across Surrey. The hearty burgers were most welcome; just the sort of food you need after flooring it, full throttle. FYI I won the speediest eating of veggie burger award. I always do. ♦
Let's Race, 59-61 Brighton Rd, Horley RH6 7HJ Tel: 01293 826800 Web: letsrace.co.uk



Top and left: Adele with her husband, son and friend at Let's Race