Fiona Beaumont receives her certificate from Beryl Childs, principal of the school.

Cookery success for Hempstead girl

FIONA BEAUMONT, of Hempstead, has been awarded the Cordon Bleu certificate at one of Britain's leading cookery school, the Tante Marie School of Cookery, in Woking. Fiona, 19, embarked on the 12-week course in January and has undergone intensive training in advanced culinary theory and practice.

Fiona now intends to find a summer job where she can use her skills, before starting a course in occupational therapy in the autumn.

Novel venture for book lovers

PEOPLE borrowing books from Saffron Walden's public library will be in for a novel experience in the autumn.

The county librarian, Geoffrey Hare, reckons that most readers probably have a problem in finding a "good read" from among the hundreds of books on library shelves.

Only a small number of books, particularly those in line for a much coveted annual Booker-McConnell prize, receive a lot of publicity.

Staff at libraries can help the public find a good book and will be doing so even more when Essex Libraries runs from next September a major promotion in collaboration with Eastern Arts.

The promotion known as "The Novel Experience," will focus attention on 100 titles in print which may have been overlooked by readers.

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Two loan exhibitions will tour the county and remain in each library for about five weeks. Publicity material, including descriptive notes on novels, will be sent to libraries and there will also be visits by selected authors.