



Virginia's Rare Beauty

A salon lightweight, Kirstie Smillie enjoys a Rare Beauty experience

I am not a regular visitor to any beauty house, but I recently had an urge to visit Rare Beauty in Godalming and try out a treatment. I was about to bare my toes on a weekend at Center Parcs, so I chose a classic pedicure, and booked a time slot.

Usually I find salons a little intimidating, but on arrival I was greeted with a smile and felt at ease straight away. Good start. Sitting in a quiet side room while my feet were soaking, my experience was improved by a reclining chair that generated a gentle massage to my back and neck, all very relaxing.

Afterwards, while my 'No Stopping Me Now' OPI polish dried, I started chatting to the new salon's owner, Virginia Wood, who had only just taken over the business in March of this year. Born in Johannesburg, Virginia spent her early years in Cape Town before moving to Kent with her family.

She returned to South Africa where she gained a degree in nutritional therapy and set up her own salon. Reaching her 40's Virginia decided to make the move back to the UK and is looking to settle down locally, with her green feathered companion Zoe, an African Ring Neck parrot.

Rare Beauty is a Dermalogica certified salon, with a full range of skin products and, together with Virginia's passion for skin care, aspires to improve skin condition with anti-ageing results. She will discuss lifestyle options to support healthier skin and, using her knowledge in nutritional therapy, treats the body inside and out.

A £15 'face mapping' consultation means facials can be very specific and personalised, and Virginia and her team can select the perfect products for each person. Laser therapy is also available to help enhance collagen production and aid acne scar repair.



Above: Rare Beauty's owner, Virginia Wood.
Below: Zoe, Virginia's pet parrot



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I love working to improve skin condition and I believe it is beneficial for everyone to have a facial at least once a month
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Therapies range from relaxing to necessities, from hot stone massage to hair removal and threading. With holidays looming, timely treatments include eyelash tints (£16), eyebrow shape (£12) and new tanning solutions with Saint Tropez express tan (£25).

Application only takes 15 minutes and when you are home you have two options. Wash off in an hour for a subtle glow or if you want a deeper tan, leave for up to three hours. Just don't overdo it, remember Ross in Friends!

With a new range of pastel and brights in the OPI range, gel nails last between 2-3 weeks. Being more resilient than polish, they are perfect for holidays so I will be heading back for more toe TLC very soon.

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*Late nights available on Thursdays.
Parking a few minutes away in Mint Street, 90p/hour until 6.30pm*

Virginia is planning Summer Workshops on health and your skin, body and image. Please email for dates and details.

FIND OUT MORE

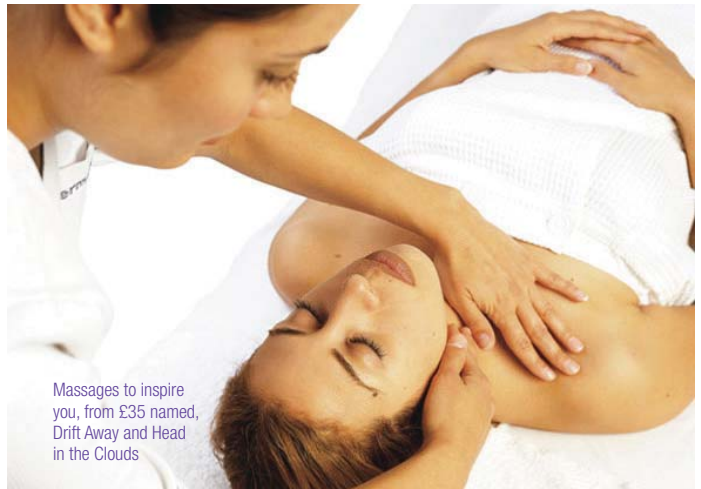
Kirstie Smillie is a Personal Stylist. Follow her style blog at www.kirstiesmillie.com and email any queries to kirstie@kirstiesmillie.com or call 07773 234947.



OPI Gel nail treatment includes a manicure and cuticle care, 45 minutes, £25



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 Taking over an existing
 business means you make
 subtle changes, in time I
 will introduce even more
 Holistic treatments
 ”



Massages to inspire you, from £35 named, Drift Away and Head in the Clouds