



**PURPLE HAZE:** Lavender oil is being produced for the first time ever in the Darent Valley. Pictured is Thomas Alexander, 17, in the lavender fields where harvesting is well under way. Over the last four years 50 acres have been established at Castle Farm, which borders the A225 between Shoreham and the Lullingstone Visitor Centre. The site, run by William and Caroline Alexander, is now the second biggest grower in the UK. In future the couple hope to organise group tours to see the fields and learn about distillation.