



Teesdale Mercury



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Barnard Castle, Wednesday, 25th June, 2003

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Inside the Mercury this week **Life is a Cabaret - Page 11** **Eggleston Carnival - Page 5** **Cotherstone capers - Page 4** **Made In Teesdale anniversary - Page 13** **WIN PARIS TRIP OR A TEESDALE GOURMET STAY - PAGE 12**

It's Queen Emma and her court



ABOVE: From left - Carnival queen, Emma Clement, with attendants, Alice Johnston, Helen Pounder and Natalie Bell.

Saks winners

THE winner of our Saks competition is Karen Cooke, of Galgate, Barnard Castle, who wins £500 worth of hair and beauty treatment from Saks. She correctly answered that Saks has been open in Barnard Castle for 10 years.

Jackie Holmes, from The Crescent, Stainton Grove, won the runner-up prize of a pair of micro-ceramic hair straighteners worth £75.

EMMA Clement from High Etherley has been chosen as the carnival queen for this year's Toft Hill and Etherley Carnival.

Emma was chosen by parish council chairman, Coun Ron Shotton and his wife. Her attendants will be Natalie Bell, Helen Pounder and Alice Johnston.

The carnival will take place on Saturday at 12.30pm. Attractions will include inflatables, a falconry display, rides and much more.

Witnesses sought after fatal accident

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed in a road accident near Woodland on Saturday.

David Kershaw, 51, from Salisbury Place, Bishop Auckland, was pronounced dead at the scene following a collision with a Citroen Xsara Picasso on the B6282.

Mr Kershaw was travelling north on his Kawasaki 1100cc motorbike when he collided with the Citroen which was travelling in the opposite direction, police said.

The driver of the car, a 52 year-old man from Marton near Middlesbrough, suffered a minor arm injury. His 49 year-old wife suffered minor bruises to the chest, and his 16 year-old son suffered minor cuts to the head. Another passenger, a 15 year-old boy, also from Marton, suffered a minor head wound.

They were all discharged after treatment at Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

As a result of the accident, the road was closed between 6pm and 8.45pm.

An opening inquest into Mr Kershaw's death is due to take place at 2.45pm on Thursday at Bishop Auckland Magistrates Court.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the accident, especially the driver of a maroon-coloured Range Rover who police believe was overtaken by Mr Kershaw immediately before the accident.

Anyone with information is asked to call the accident investigation unit on 0191 386 4929.

Disabled access cash IS there

FUNDING has been available for two years to provide disabled access for shops in Evenwood - yet none of them has taken up the offer.

Following a complaint in the Mercury from resident, Ellis Illingworth, about access difficulties, Chairman of Teesdale Disability Access Forum, Neville Singleton, went round the village with him.

"There has been 80% grant funding available to shops in Evenwood for the past two years, but no-one has taken it up," Mr Singleton told the Mercury. The forum has been trying to get dropped kerbs in

Evenwood during the same period.

Now, 25 sites in Evenwood are set to have dropped kerbs installed, and another three are due to be put in at Manor Grove, Cockfield, shortly. The Falls is also earmarked for dropped kerbs in the near future.

Mr Singleton said he was also looking into a complaint from a Barnard Castle resident about vehicles blocking the footpath near the public toilets in Market Place. This means that wheelchair and pushchair users have to cross the cobbles.

Weather watchers



ABOVE: Tyne-Tees weatherman Bob Johnson entertains the children at Woodland School.

TYNE-TEES weatherman Bob Johnson paid a special visit to Woodland School on Thursday to give the children a lesson on his specialist subject.

He interrupted his busy schedule and drove all the way from Newcastle to spend the morning talking to the children about all things concerning weather, from cumulonimbus to his dog Brambles' love of eating snow.

"It doesn't take much for me to accept an invite to talk about the weather," said Bob. "I am a professional meteorologist and have studied the weather all my life. I have talked to all sorts of people about it over the years, from children to the RAF. You just need to pitch it right, find the right level, and do your best to make it interesting."

"Weather has always been a love of mine, the television came later. The only reason I got on was because I was young and very good looking," joked Bob.

Marilyn Gordon, Head at Woodland School, was equally enthusiastic. "It can be isolating living in this area," said Mrs Gordon. "It's very good to get as many visitors as we can from outside and talk to the children. We also try to take them out on visits, but Bob coming here today was a real treat. They love somebody different coming in. The reaction is great."

Before dashing off, Bob promised to give the children a special mention on Thursday's evening edition of his weather forecast. He also asked the children to e-mail him any of their questions about the weather.

Window pain

THE Motor World window in Market Place, Barnard Castle, was broken on Sunday evening.

Police said the breakage was caused by bodily contact. They would not confirm if anybody had been arrested in relation to the incident as they had not yet traced the owners of the empty shop. Blood was spotted on the pavement outside.

Bales blaze

SIX-hundred bales of hay caught fire on Sunday evening in a barn at Bail Hill Farm, Marwood.

Two appliances from Barnard Castle attended the scene and were later joined by a further appliance from Middleton-in-Teesdale.

Dancing shoes

PUPILS from Butterknowle Primary School are taking part in a dance festival in Durham City on Tuesday. Butterknowle is one of 19 primary schools from all over the North East taking part in the festival at the Gala Theatre.

Bridge bashed



WORK will begin on repairing the Abbey Bridge, at Egglestone Abbey, in the near future, Durham County Council has said.

A 15 foot section of the 230 year-old bridge was damaged by a vehicle on June 9.

The bridge is on the main thoroughfare for HGVs entering Barnard Castle from the A66.

"There is an order for the work to be done, the stones will be replaced in the near future," said a spokesman for the county council.

It was originally a toll-bridge built by JDS Morrill of Rokeby Hall in 1773. It had a toll-keeper's cottage with rooms on either side of the river. These were demolished in 1958, said local historian, Alan Wilkinson.

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Lesotho and Teesdale find a lot in common



REVD Alec Harding (right) greets the African visitors at the parish hall in Barnard Castle.

THE past week has seen the visit to Teesdale of 12 guests from the small African kingdom of Lesotho, writes Revd Jane Grieve. The visit was arranged by the Durham Lesotho Link, which encourages exchanges between the Anglican diocese of Lesotho and Durham.

Their time in the dale began on Thursday with a visit to Whorlton and a walk via Egglestone Abbey to Barnard Castle. Members of churches across Barnard Castle deanery welcomed them to tea in the Parish Hall in Newgate before the unforgettable experience of Sesotho singing in church - together with lively dancing and explanations of the songs brought to us. We learned of the importance of the blanket and the distinctive Basotho hat in their culture as well as experiencing songs of worship African style.

After a night with hosts across the dale, the visitors came together again on Friday morning to take an assembly at Green Lane School, which was enthusiastically received by staff and pupils alike. Head, Mike Grainger, commented that in all the years of the school's existence nothing quite like it had ever taken place before!

Then the visitors split into several different groups. Magistrate, Pulane Mokoaleli, and lecturer, M'pho Ranyali, visited Deerbolt YOI, by kind permission of governor, Mr Tallentire.

Director of the Link in the Lesotho Office, Christine Beukes, accompanied by businesswoman, Mampho Ntli, and businessman, Mokete Mahula, met with Coun Phil Hughes and several officials of Teesdale District Council, where both sides were surprised by the many factors Teesdale and Lesotho have in common - hills and subsistence farming, rivers and reservoirs, the disappearance of old industries, the drift away from rural areas to towns, the need to foster tourism. Meanwhile another party visited Dunhouse Quarry for a tour - (continued on page 3).

Acres of fun for all the family

Picnic in the park

Free admission & refreshments all day

Picnic in the park activities include: glass engraving demonstrations, local food festival, children's play area with face painting and inflatables, live music, free tea and coffee in the museum entrance hall, gallery talks, craft market, cookery demonstrations, plus lots more...

Saturday 30th August 2003
11am - 4.30pm

Supported by The Countryside Agency and Teesdale Marketing

The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham
t: 01833 690606 f: 01833 637163
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