

Mourne Observer

LARGEST SALES IN COUNTY DOWN

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DOWN EDITION

e-mail: editor@mourneobserver.com

63rd YEAR

£1

Successful Classic and Sports Car Show in Newcastle - PAGE 13



New youth club in Newcastle is a major success - PAGE 16



Royal visit to Shimna Valley respite centre



A WELCOME IN THE VALLEY . . . HRH The Earl of Wessex with local staff members during his visit to the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children's Shimna Valley complex in Newcastle yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon. Full coverage on Pages 31 - 33. Photo: Chris Halpin.

PRINCE Edward, the Earl of Wessex, arrived in Newcastle yesterday to meet the volunteers, staff and supporters of the Shimna Valley complex.

During his visit to the centre, which young cancer patients and their families turn to for support and respite care, the Prince also got to meet local people who have devoted their spare time to the facility, which is run by the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children.

During yesterday's visit, His Royal Highness spoke with local teenagers who are working towards achieving Duke of Edinburgh awards, through a scheme operated by Shimna Valley.

He also learned about how families are offered care at the facility, which nestles in the foothills of the Mourne Mountains, during and after the completion of their loved one's treatment.

Patricia Kidd, who manages the Shimna Valley complex, described the Earl's visit as "very special."

See inside for full coverage.

Search continues for missing fisherman

By Lisa Ramsden

PRAYERS have been said for the Kilkeel man who is missing feared dead off the County Louth coastline.

The crewman aboard the Kilkeel fishing boat, Zenith, fell into rough seas shortly after 1pm on Sunday.

The boat had been working in waters around 17 miles off Clogherhead when the accident happened.

Despite the best efforts of the vessel's

skipper and other crewmen, the man, a foreign national who made Kilkeel his home, could not be returned to the safety of the fishing boat.

Sea conditions were quite rough, with a three-metre swell with a south-easterly wind blowing force five to seven.

Within seconds of the skipper contacting the Irish Coast Guard a major search operation swung into place, involving the Dublin-based search and rescue helicopter, lifeboats, fishing vessels - including the Zenith, and shore searches were carried out.

Due to deteriorating weather and fading light the aerial search was suspended on Sunday evening, and it resumed at first light the following morning.

Vessels, including the Republic's Naval Service patrol ship LE Ciara, continue to search the waters as does the helicopter crew and Coast Guard personnel.

Yesterday morning the Zenith and its five remaining crew returned to Kilkeel harbour, where Kilkeel Fishermen's Mission official, Superintendent Maurice (to page 12)

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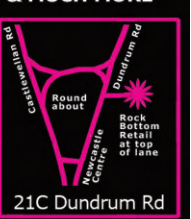
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