

# Mourne Observer

LARGEST SALES IN COUNTY DOWN

WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY, 2012

DOWN EDITION

e-mail: editor@mourneobserver.com

63rd YEAR

£1

**BOB CELEBRATES HIS  
100th BIRTHDAY  
– PAGE 12**



**NEWCASTLE CCE  
PRESENTATIONS  
– PAGE 21**



The curtain goes up on Newcastle Junior Glee's presentation *King Arthur the Pantomime* this Friday night in the Annesley Hall, when Conall Keaveney, as *Sir Lancelot*, rescues Eadaoin Quinn, *Lady Elaine*, from *Firey Jack* the dragon.

## Police discover cannabis factory

CANNABIS plants have been seized during a police search of premises in the Dundrum Road area of Newcastle on New Year's Day. Officers entered a property and discovered a cannabis factory with approximately 400 plants of differing sizes.

Police would appeal to anyone with information on illegal drugs, cannabis factories or anyone that is selling drugs in the area, to contact them on 0845 600 8000 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Caution advised after freak winds hit district

SEVERE weather conditions proved an obstacle for many motorists yesterday as they returned to work after the New Year.

Down District was affected by strong winds, closed roads and branches, trees and other debris being blown into the way of traffic.

The Met Office issued a warning of gusts of up to 90mph.

Sailings for the Strangford Ferry were also suspended due to the freak winds, but resumed by the early afternoon.

Yesterday morning, as many returned to work after the Christmas break, motorists and pedestrians battled winds in the Newcastle area. **(to page 14)**

# Sadness at death of highly respected Down councillor

By Claire McLaughlin

**EMOTIONAL tributes have been paid to SDLP councillor Peter Craig who sadly passed away in the early hours of New Year's Day following a long battle with cancer.**

He was 65. Despite the illness he remained active in politics until only a few weeks ago.

The veteran politician from Raholp was first elected to Down District Council in 1997, and in May of this year embarked on his fourth term as a councillor.

The highly esteemed elected representative made history in 2003 when he became the first SDLP chairman of Down District Council to lay a wreath during the Remembrance Day Service at the Downpatrick Cenotaph.

This significant gesture was warmly welcomed by unionists in Down District, helping to promote better community relations.

Even before his time as a councillor, Mr Craig was closely involved in the work of the SDLP.

He helped to manage many of the party's election campaigns, including the run-up to Eddie McGrady's historic Westminster victory in 1987.

He has been described by his peers as a man with considerable foresight and as someone who possessed great political wisdom, integrity and wit.

South Down MP Margaret Ritchie described him as a "true and loyal friend."

Outside of politics the councillor served as chair of St Patrick's GAC, Saul, since 1977.

Members of the senior and junior Gaelic football teams formed a guard of honour at his funeral held yesterday (January 3) in St Patrick's Church, Saul.

He is survived by his wife Angela, stepson Christopher, daughter-in-law Anne, grandson Ryan and brothers and sisters.



See tributes on page 25.

Curious, but some car insurers don't tend to put much value on your valuables.



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