

Mourne Observer

LARGEST SALES IN SOUTH DOWN

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It was all smiles from Warrenpoint sisters Roisin and Meabh McArdle who enjoyed the sunshine at Sunday's Feis an Duin in Castlewellan, with Meabh picking up gold in the Under 10 Fiddle competition. *Photo: Pat O'Hare.*

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D-Day veteran's emotional return to Normandy

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Newcastle concert's courtroom battle



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Sightings spark 'big cats' fear

By Lisa Ramsden

A PAIR of mystery black cats is thought to have been spotted by hikers at the Bloody Bridge outside Newcastle this week, sparking fears dangerous animals are roaming the countryside.

The sightings, reported on Monday,

prompted a PSNI helicopter crew to carry out aerial checks of the area while working on a separate incident, helping walkers off the mountainside in fading light.

Police received two separate reports of sightings on Monday, including one from walkers from the Castlewellan area.

One of the callers reported seeing the animals making their way down a pathway towards the bridge, on land off the Ballagh Road.

Yesterday (Tuesday) the Police Service said that although no such "dangerous" animals had been confirmed to be in the area they were advising members of the public to be vigilant and not to make any approaches.

It is believed the sightings, which both detailed two black cats, were reported to police over a protracted period of time, with the first report made shortly after 1.45pm and the second at around 10.20pm. **(to page 15)**

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