

# Mourne Observer

LARGEST SALES IN COUNTY DOWN

WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER, 2011

DOWN EDITION

e-mail: editor@mourneobserver.com

63rd YEAR

£1

Centralisation plans could spell bad news for Downpatrick jobs – Pages 14 and 15



Ardglass community playgroup officially opened – Page 34



## Bid to raise awareness of rare genetic disorder



**Christmas Angel . . .** Chloe Magorrian (4) from Castlewellan and her parents Kelly and Michael are hoping to raise awareness of Angelman Syndrome. **Photo: Chris Halpin.**

■ By Elizabeth McGivern

**CASTLEWELLAN** will play host to the first in a number of meetings aimed at raising awareness of the rare genetic disorder, Angelman Syndrome.

Kelly Magorrian's four-year-old daughter Chloe is the first child in the Castlewellan area to be diagnosed with the condition but they are far from alone in their journey.

Families from across Northern Ireland will travel to the town this Sunday to share their experiences and help raise awareness of the rare condition.

Angelman Syndrome (A.S.) affects one in every 25,000 new born babies and can be difficult to properly diagnose until the child is around three years old.

It's the group's hope that with further awareness the diagnosis in other children can come a lot sooner.

A.S. stops children from hitting their developmental

milestones, affects sleep, results in short attention spans and causes learning difficulties, jitteriness and hyperactive behaviour.

Other typical features of the condition include physical characteristics such as a small head (microcephaly) and children also suffer from seizures.

(to page 13)

## Doubt is cast over future of residential home

By Lisa Ramsden

THE South Eastern Trust says there are "no current plans for change" at Ardview House in Ardglass – despite fears the axe could fall on residential homes across the Province within the next five years.

Yesterday John Compton produced his report to the Assembly over radical plans which, if all are implemented, would save the health service millions of pounds.

As part of the Compton Review, there has been a recommendation that there should be "a major reduction" in residential accommodation for older people over the next five years as more

people stay in their own homes or in supported accommodation.

Should the proposal be rubberstamped by the Health Minister, it would mean that the Ardglass care facility could be earmarked for closure.

Vice-chair of the Stormont Health Committee, and former Down District councillor Jim Wells, is concerned that

(to page 13)

## Classic Coaches



57 KILKEEL ROAD, ANNALONG  
Tel. 028 4376 8190

### 2012 TOUR PROGRAMME

ROYAL SHOW EDINBURGH, Wednesday 20th June, 2012: 2 nights' B&B .....£175  
SOMME BATTLEFIELDS, Thursday 28th June, 2012: 5 nights' B&B includes 2 dinners .....£509  
SCOTTISH GAME FAIR, Thursday 28th June, 2012: 3 Nights' Dinner, B&B .....TBA  
EDINBURGH TATTOO, Friday 3rd August, 2012: 2 nights' B&B .....£225  
WORLD PIPE BANDS, Glasgow, Friday 10th August, 2012: 2 nights' B&B .....£199  
SEAT ONLY (ferry and coach), various hotel drop-offs .....£99  
OUL LAMMAS FAIR, Tuesday 28th August, 2012: Day Trip .....£12  
BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS, Friday 21st September, 2012: 3 nights' Dinner B&B .....£225  
GLASGOW SHOPPING, Friday 7th December, 2012: 1 Night B&B .....TBA  
Contact the above office for full details.

Sam and Esther would like to thank their customers for their valued support and wish them a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.