

Mourne Observer

LARGEST SALES IN COUNTY DOWN

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DOWN EDITION

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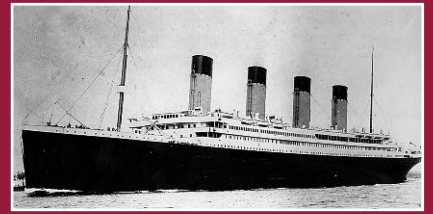
63rd YEAR

£1

Exhibition of photographs by Bobbie Hanvey opens in Down Arts Centre – PAGE 13



South Down's link to the ill-fated Titanic – PAGE 16



HAPPY (CHINESE) NEW YEAR . . . Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche pupils Dualta Pickering and Brianna Walsh were celebrating the new Chinese Year of the Dragon in Castlewellan on Monday. *Photo: Chris Halpin.*

Ballynahinch bypass route is confirmed

IT will take up to £50 million to build Ballynahinch's much-anticipated bypass, the Northern Ireland Assembly heard last night.

During an address to local politicians, Regional Development Minister Danny Kennedy announced the approved route for the scheme, which has been in the pipeline for several decades.

Although no timeframe – or more importantly, funding – is in place for the project the Minister confirmed that the new, preferred route will run from the junction of the A24 Belfast Road and the A21 Saintfield Road, southwards to the junction of the A24 Drumaness Road and the B2 Downpatrick Road.

Speaking during the Assembly debate, Mr Kennedy explained he held a site meeting recently in the market town with politicians, traders and local council officials to witness the traffic conditions which the proposed bypass would alleviate.

See full story on page 30

Residents' nightmare

CONCERNS THAT HOMES ARE 'CONTAMINATED'

By Lisa Ramsden

CASTLEWELLAN residents have described the "living nightmare" they endured last week when raw sewage swamped their gardens and even came through pipes and into a bathroom.

People living in the O'Donnell Close area of the town said they could not believe what they were seeing when the effluent burst through a manhole, flooding the outside of their homes with sewage which, at its worst, was 12-inches deep.

Residents, who are tenants of the Rural Housing Association, recalled how at the height of last week's burst, an elderly couple were left with no option but to take "drastic measures" to clean the effluent from their shower, sink and toilet

while others saw the raw sewage spilling right up to their back doors.

Three properties were affected during last week's incident.

Tenants and a local politician have joined forces in calling for immediate action to be taken to ensure such a leak does not reoccur.

This is the second time in less than four years that properties in O'Donnell Close have been affected.

Residents are now left wondering when, rather than if, there will be another leak – especially after a NI Water contractor admitted that the same problem could happen again at any given time.

They are also fearful of health implications, and say they could not understand why the sewage was hosed into a field at the rear of their homes – which is less than 150 metres from the Burren River, which flows into Newcastle.

The stomach-wrenching stench hung in

the air and, with at least one garden ruined, householders say the problem should be addressed once and for all.

Neighbours Brieghe Flynn, Maureen Flaherty and Collette Cole have joined forces with Cllr Stephen Burns in their call for a meeting with Rural Housing

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Cllr Stephen Burns with O'Donnell Close residents Collette Cole and Brieghe Flynn, whose Castlewellan homes were affected by an overflow of raw sewage last week.

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.....£279
- 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's B&B£109

Contact the above office for full details.