

Local Band to launch EP

Local musician Jenny McRae, who fronts the band No Sleep Till School Starts, is set to release the bands first EP this month under the guiding hand of music legend Pete Yorke. The acoustic folk rock band who have already been compared to Get Cape Wear Cape Fly, have taken the local scene by storm in small gigs but are now set to compete with the big boys.

To celebrate the launch of the EPs title track, I Don't Want to Face This Right Now, Jenny will be performing a live acoustic version of the track on Radio Ones In New Music We Trust program. This will be followed by the band starting a twelve gig tour of the North East in January.

This is one group to keep an eye on as they are destined for great things.

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Vandalism on a Whole New Scale

On Saturday the 25th of November no one in Newcastle could have failed to notice the clouds of black smoke that rose to block out the night sky. The fire that destroyed the local modern art gallery, The Baltic, burned for twelve hours before the fire services were finally able to extinguish it; and it took a further twenty four hours for the air to clear after the blaze. But as horrific as this incident is, when the police were able to enter to investigate the full extent of the crime was realised.

It seems that on the night in question the security systems for the building were tampered with and finally disabled. The perpetrator of the act then entered the building and systematically hunted down the six guards that

were on duty that night and killed them. According to police forensics each one was attacked from behind and killed with a single cut to the throat. The bodies were then piled in the central foyer and dowsed in petrol which was used as the accelerant to start the fire. To add to this several of the internal gas pipes had been severed resulting in a large explosion that pretty much gutted the entire building. The resulting fire then finished off the few areas untouched by the original blast leaving the entire building and its contents incinerated beyond recovery.

As the building is now not structurally sound it will need to be demolished and rebuilt. The cost of this along with replacing the art-

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work The Baltic contained will reach the hundreds of thousands mark and it will take some time for the local governments coffers to recover from this blow. It has already been suggested that taxes will need to be raised to cover the cost, but no formal declaration has yet been made.

The money pails into insignificance compared to the loss of life and the impact that some criminals are willing to go to these lengths of a simple act of vandalism. The security firm the men worked for, Guard Dog plc, have put up a reward to ten thousand pounds to anyone who provides information that leads to the capture of those responsible.

It is a dark day for Newcastle as well as art lovers around the globe.

Keep Junk out of Schools

A number of schools around the area have increased their focus on drug awareness schemes this month over fears that a new wave of dealers are targeting the regions youth.

A Police source, when questioned about the impact of drugs have on school, said that only the lowest of the low would try and make money by targeting some of the most vulnerable members of society and that any individual caught involved in this alleged activity would face the full power of the law.



Remembrance Day Parade

The parade on Sunday 12th last month went off without a hitch despite the last minute changes to the arrangements. Two thousand people turned up at the docks to take part in the commemoration service and more joined the procession as it weaved its way into town. The pace was set by the eighty remaining veterans of the second world war along side the local mayor and a handful of local celebrities.

Whilst the march was originally destined to end at the war memorial on the green, due to the petitioning of Mr. Jacob Peters the destination was changed to the memorial at Haymarket. Whilst his pleas were originally falling on deaf ears, when local busi-

nessman Vincent Black added his weight to the campaign the organisers reconsidered and consented to Mr. Peters request. As a result the walk avoided most of the residential areas and still ended at a site of historically relevant importance.

At the end of the procession a speech was made by my local army Chaplain Rev. Mark Aspen and the two minute silence observed. The sound of silence in place of the usual hustle and bustle of the high street was a beautiful moment and several of the Veteran were moved to tears by the event. All in all the event was a huge success and fitting tribute in memory of those who died to defend our freedom.

*When you go home, tell them of us and
say: 'For your tomorrow we gave our to-
day'*