

Clarkson shown up by Norfolk car expert

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NORFOLKPHOBE Jeremy Clarkson ended up swallowing his latest jibes at our expense when he was shown up on the racing track by a local man's superior driving skills.

And in the latest edition of TV's Top Gear, the presenter even admitted the county has got something to offer after all.

Clarkson test drove the latest Lotus Elise, built at the car company's factory at Hethel. The Elise 111S goes from 0 to 60 mph in five seconds, however Clarkson was not impressed on the test track.

Elise developer Gavin Kershaw told Clarkson it was not the car to blame but his driving — and proceeded to show him the proper way to handle a Lotus.

A disgruntled Clarkson hit back by saying: "It's not big and it's not clever to drive like that."

He then asked a group of women if they were impressed. When they answered yes he told them to "move to Norfolk, they all drive like that" and added: "I don't live in Norfolk. I have a life."

Gavin Kershaw, the developer in question, said last night: "It was good to see him admit he was the one in the wrong because of his driving. And he admired the car."

"His wife has got an Elise so he actually has a bit of Norfolk sitting in his garage."

Lane is closed

LIGHTHOUSE Lane in Happisburgh is closed for two weeks for drainage improvements costing £21,000. The work began on Monday with a diversion via Beach Road and Whimpwell Street.

Education reply delay

NORWICH North MP Dr Ian Gibson has received a reply from his fellow city MP Charles Clarke's education department, regarding university top-up fees.

Dr Gibson asked the Education Secretary last week what assessment he had made of the potential impact of top-up fees on the drive to get more youngsters in higher education.

Junior minister Margaret Hodge replied: "We have announced our intention to publish in January a strategy document setting out our vision." She went on: "It would not be right to say now what options we are considering or what analyses we have undertaken."



A TRULY FUTURISTIC EXPERIENCE: The interactive light and sound environment that is currently wowing the crowds has been created at the Hippodrome Circus in Great Yarmouth. Photos NICK BUTCHER



Circus show where everyone's involved

A FUTURISTIC arts experiment featuring wearable computers linked to light and sound is wowing the crowds at Yarmouth's Hippodrome Circus.

A European funded project has seen the circus arena, drapes, balls and walls, fitted with motion sensors that measure how people are playing with them. The information is then sent using

wireless transmitters to a bank of computers, which convert them into sound and light.

"What that means is that everything that happens is generated by the people that go inside."

"There is no audience, you make your own circus," said Maya Kuzmanovic, of Foam, one of the organising groups.

Swirling pictures are projected on to semi-transparent screens, with changing sounds pumped into the auditorium.

Holidaymaker Robert Osman, 37, from Reading, said: "It's very strange. It can be difficult to pick out how you're changing things because everyone else is too, but you can sometimes pick out sounds that you have created," he said.

Police hoping for breakthrough in Michelle murder case

Mass DNA tests may snare killer

by JASPER COPPING
Crime Reporter

DETECTIVES are hoping to catch the killer of city vice girl Michelle Bettles by carrying out a mass DNA screening of people who knew her.

The strangled body of the 22-year-old streetwalker was found on Easter Sunday by a dog walker in dense woodland about half a mile from the A47 near Scarning.

The mother of three, who lived in a rented flat in Dereham Road, Norwich, had disappeared three days earlier.

Despite a massive investigation, police are no closer to catching her killer.

But they now hope to snare him by taking DNA swabs from people who knew her and comparing them with another specimen they have.

Police are not commenting further on



MURDERED: Michelle Bettles and the wood where her body was found.

the hi-tech trawl they are carrying out, but it is thought officers believe they have some DNA belonging to the killer.

Ms Bettles was known to be a heavy drug user and toxicology tests revealed very high levels of both crack cocaine and heroin in her system when she died.

Those being tested will include clients,

as well as other associates, she might have met through her drug abuse. Det Insp Dave Ward, who is leading the manhunt, said: "One of the lines of inquiry from an early stage of this investigation has been to identify clients or possible clients of Michelle Bettles and this is part of that process."

Twenty-six officers are still working full time on the investigation, including 11 from the central area.

Since the murder hunt was launched, officers have taken more than 850 statements.

Last month, police issued an appeal for a man called Darren, aged about 25, who had known Ms Bettles and helped her move her mother from Horsford to Dolphin Grove, off Heigham Street, Norwich, some time in November 2000.

He is believed to have been connected with a haulage or transport business.

Anyone with information is urged to call the incident room on (01953) 424242 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

News in brief

Clampdown on dodgers

UP TO 2,000 city businesses are being targeted by the TV Licensing Authority.

It claims some businesses, including sports clubs, bars and even banks are using televisions without realising they need a licence, while others a simply dodging the fee.

Fines of up to £1,000 will be handed out to offenders.

Last month, the Evening News revealed how more than 260 people had appeared before Norwich magistrates in just six months.

The cheats were tracked down using detector vans and through a database of 26 million addresses which enables licensing authorities to tell which homes have TV sets and which have licences.

Hi-tech display

FAMILIES in Norwich will have the chance to check out the future of digital clothing and wearable gadgets at the Forum this weekend.

The latest hardware, products and equipment by innovative artists and electronics firms will be on display at the Forum between 9.30am and 6pm, on Saturday. Entry to the event is free.

For more details telephone Future Physical on (020) 8960 8606.

Christmas fair

MILE Cross Community Association will be holding its Christmas Fair on Saturday from 2pm to 4pm at the Norman Centre, Biggling Road.

There will be stalls offering something for everyone with all proceeds going towards community groups in the area.

There will be a line dancing display by Sharon and the All-Stars and all children will be able to visit Santa in his Grotto.

Admission is free.

Fun on ice

AN ARTIFICIAL ice skating rink will be installed in the city to provide Christmas sales shoppers with some light relief.

The family rink will be in St Peter's Street, between Saturday, December 28 and Tuesday, December 31.

Skates will be provided and entry will cost £2.50 for adults or £2 for concessions. Children's tickets will be £1.50 or £1 for concessions.

Dinner dance

THE ANNUAL Spixworth dinner dance will be held at the village hall next month.

The popular village event, which marks the start of the festive celebrations in Spixworth, will be held on December 14.

For more details telephone the Norfolk Rural Community Council on (01953) 851408.

Farm plans

A FARM in Tivetshall St Margaret has applied to build two new poultry houses and feed bins.

Plans have been submitted to South Norfolk Council for the expansion at Elm Tree Farm, in School Road.