

NEWS

BIZARRE

‘I ran away with the circus!’

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A former Astley Cooper school student who achieved 12 As in her GCSEs decided the performing life was for her and is now travelling and acting with a unique type of family-oriented circus.

Sarah Jane Eyles, originally from Grovehill, Hemel Hempstead, studied performing arts at West Herts College after leaving school, but said she didn't find it challenging enough.

She became a street performer in Covent Garden and has also performed as a 'scare actor' at Halloween events in Apsley's Frogmore Paper Mill, where she worked with the director of Chaplin's Circus.

The company tells the story of a 1920s-based circus which has one performance to sur-



Sarah in a straightjacket

live bankruptcy – although its creditor and show's 'baddie' wants the act to fail.

Now 20, Sarah Jane's character is the circus owner's daughter and her acts include the swinging trapeze and slack rope.

Sarah Jane, who has also performed under the stage name SJJavelle, said: "I got involved with Chaplin's Circus

through working with one of the directors at various attractions and Christmas events and the idea for it sounded like a very exciting work opportunity.

"I decided to train with another circus for six months to get a few acts together before setting off with Chaplin's last March."

Chaplin's Circus was set up by former millionaire lawyer turned the show's human cannonball, the Great Herrmann, aka Gary Stocker. He runs it with business partner and manager, Mark Foot, from Watford and tours southern England for several months a year.

The animal-free show will beat Highfield Park, St Albans, from March 28 to April 7, and will also be offering free circus skills workshops for kids over the school holidays.

Visit www.chaplinscircus.com or email info@chaplinscircus.com for more.



Sarah Jane Eyles can perform a variety of acts and stunts

Marlowes goes hopping mad

Next week, Good Friday will certainly be a good day for little ones as the Marlowes Shopping Centre offers the chance get creative, taking inspiration from the European tradition of hanging eggs from trees at Easter. From 11am to 4pm sessions will allow children to hang one on a spectacular enchanted tree and take one home. The Easter Bunny will be making a visit. Search The Marlowes on Facebook for more.

You can't afford to miss car event

A total of 84 members of the Model T Ford Register Of Great Britain will be visiting Apsley's Frogmore Paper Mill at the weekend, bringing their cars with them. The event throughout Saturday will provide a spectacular display of these classic vintage vehicles – built from 1980 until 1927 – in the Durrant's Hill Road car park and through the town itself. For more about the mill, visit frogmoremill.com or call 01442 234600.

CRIME

Two arrests after Mini and handbag stolen in burglary

Two men have been arrested in connection with a burglary which took place in Hemel Hempstead last week.

The incident occurred in Chaulden Lane between Saturday March 7 and Saturday March 21. The offenders are alleged to have forced entry to the rear of the property by jemmying open a patio door. It is alleged that, after searching the property, they made off with a handbag and keys to a Mini which was also stolen.

A 49 year old man from Rickmansworth and a 25 year old man from Watford

were arrested yesterday in Stanmore on suspicion of burglary. They remain in police custody.

Residents are asked to take note of security advice including to ensure that they double-lock any UPVC doors by lifting the handle and locking it (to engage the security features) before you go to bed or leave your home (if you remove the key make sure you have a fire escape plan).

Residents are also asked to check all doors are locked and all windows, including those upstairs, are secure.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

‘Enquiries ongoing’

enquiries into the incident.

Police investigations into the attack are currently ongoing.

Any witnesses to the events or anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Hem-

el Hempstead police team using the non-emergency number 101.

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Always call 999 in an emergency.

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