

Village extras

MOSSLEY. Mossley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, hot on the heels of their last sell out production, are calling for budding under 25s wanting to join their winter shows. A road through of "Boonoon" by John Godber will take place on Monday, June 7 at 7.30 pm. Contact 01457 80295 for further audition information.

DOBCEROSS. Don't be surprised if there is more than just a touch of World Cup fever in Dobceross this year as organisers have revealed that this will be theme for the annual village fête. To celebrate the event in South Africa, visitors will go football crazy on July 10, with the traditional village parade and bonfire.

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extra NEWS

On top of the world

by LEWIS JONES

AS A 15-year-old, Kevin Twaw bravely clung to the rocks at Indian's Head above Dovestone, he was oblivious to the danger.

He took risks, safe in the knowledge that his mother's plastic washing line would act as a trusty safety rope should he foot-slip.
The Saddleworth-born boy couldn't have known at the time that such humble beginnings as a teen explorer from Healdcliffe Road, Uppermill, would lead to a world-renowned climbing career that would take him to the top of the world.

Due for worldwide release in Imax cinemas this summer, expedition film "The Wildest Dream: Conquest of Everest" sees the famed local lad (now aged 42) make it to the 29,000ft summit.

But he admits that Everest was never high on his to-do list.
"The view was absolutely stunning because you are literally on top of the world, but for me it was a punctuating point across a grander career," he said.

"It puts everything into a frame. I made my name doing first ascents on very technical climbs, but the one that everyone knows and recognises is Everest and you can talk about all these different climbs but it comes full circle if you haven't tackled the highest."

The film sees Kevin trace the footsteps of George Mallory and Andrew Irvine who died in 1924 in their attempt to become the first to reach the summit.

Everest aside, Kevin's success as a world-class climber has taken him on a tour of the globe.

Upgrading from the washing line to ropes from Dingle's old pallet yard, a lion Kevin would come to spend his on time

How Kevin climbed his way from Indian's Head to Everest

money on his hobby. He said: "Climbing is the ultimate escapism, for a few little moments all the trials and tribulations disappear."

Often regarded as Britain's best all-round climber, his list of achievements reads as an impressive list of "things to do before you die".

He is currently based in Bruner Aires with fiancé Flavia. And speaking to Saddleworth Extra over the internet, he said: "Indian's Head is brilliant — it changed my climbing career."

"I've been lucky in managing to spend time on most continents but it is still always a joy to come back to Saddleworth, more than anywhere on the planet it feels like home. My mum still lives in Uppermill and my family will be happy to see me back. Saddleworth is the place I will probably end up."

With his feet firmly on the ground and heart certainly at home, the outdoors-lover can afford to indulge in a little celebrity fantasy every now and then.

A member of the Screen Actors Guild, he gabbed in zigzag work for Hollywood films during his six-year stint living in California, meeting stars like Robert DeNiro.

Oldham may be a million miles away from the breathtaking landscapes of California, but with plans to return to Saddleworth later this month, Kevin hopes that he can encourage locals to enjoy the great outdoors.

He said: "Somewhere like Dovestone can draw people in with its beauty. People aren't aware of the resources that are there, but they should make that first step and get out for that little slice of action."



A YOUNG Kevin Twaw, at the start of his career climbing "Coffin Crack" at Winberry Rocks, Clow Valley

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Snarl-up eased

PKED vehicles blocking the access road to the King George V playing fields in Uppermill should be eased after parking restrictions are imposed by Oldham Council on both sides of the street.

Similar restrictions will be imposed in Greenfield, to prevent parking which blocks the access to Waters Edge, Croft Edge and Greenbridge Lane, and has seen damage to kerbs and footpaths.

Bargain hunt

SPRINGHEAD Congregational Church will come alive with bustling shoppers this Saturday at a colossal "new to you" sale.

Home-made food will be served at the cafe while bargain hunters can expect bundles of clothes, toys and books on offer at the Radcliffe Street Church from 10am - 9pm.

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