

News

Winter’s tale inspires boy to dream of dolphin swim

Northwich A seven-year-old boy who lost his legs to meningitis is starring in his very own *Dolphin Tale* after his family paid £1,000 for a pair of prosthetic flippers to help him to swim his first strokes.

Cieran Kelso is now dreaming of going to Florida to swim with Winter, the dolphin from the blockbuster film, who has a prosthetic tail.

Cieran was given just hours to live after he contracted meningitis as a baby. He had to have his legs amputated below the knee and lost most of his fingertips. He was fitted with false legs and given a wheelchair but as he grew older Cieran wanted to swim with his friends. After months of fundraising by his father, Gary, 34, and stepmother, Gemma, 28, the London

Prosthetics Centre in Leeds made Cieran some prosthetic legs and flippers. Mrs Kelso, from Northwich, Cheshire said: “Cieran loves swimming but he couldn’t propel himself through the water or stay afloat as easily as everyone else. As soon as Cieran wore the flippers it was incredible the speed he could travel through the water.”

His family are fundraising for Cieran to visit Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Florida to swim with Winter. Mrs Kelso said: “Gary and his friends are walking the Pennine Way, from September 26 to October 6 and we’re hoping to get sponsors.

“All we want is for Cieran to be happy and not to hate the fact that he had meningitis. To appreciate, yes that he’s different, but that life goes on.”



NICK ROBERTSON-BROWN / CAVENDISH PRESS

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Outstanding school suffers third suicide in two years

Chew A bright schoolgirl has become the third pupil at her school to die in an apparent suicide in just two years.

Stephanie Moreno, 15, is believed to have been discovered hanged by her parents at their home in Chew Valley, Somerset. She was expected to gain A grades in her GCSE exams at Chew

Valley School, which is rated as “outstanding” by Ofsted. In April 2011, Matthew James, 11, was found hanging from a tree in his parents’ garden in Pensford. In May last year, Chris Palmer, 15, was discovered hanging from a tree at his family home in Ubley.

Angler catches his ‘monster’ fish after a 25-year wait



Coltishall The landlord of a Norfolk pub has landed one of the biggest fish ever caught by an angler. Kevin Gardner, 49, of the King’s Head, Coltishall, hooked the giant 1,320lb blue marlin during a ten-day fishing trip off Ascension Island on February 18. The 6m (20ft) fish is the fourth biggest caught anywhere and believed to be the largest caught by a Briton using a rod and line. Mr Gardner, on the right in the picture, had set himself the challenge of catching a “monster” fish 25 years ago. He landed the spear-nosed marlin after a three-hour battle. He said: “Within 15 seconds it had stripped off 700m of line. After about two hours I wished I had never hooked it. I was completely burnt by the sun and suffering dehydration.” Mr Gardner brought back the marlin’s bill to hang in his pub, and says he served fillets from the rest of the fish to 2,000 Ascension Islanders.

Man who stole Twitter appeal dog jailed for eight weeks

London A thief who stole an elderly woman’s dog, sparking a mass Twitter appeal, has been jailed for eight weeks. Allan Denny, 23, from New Barnet, Hertfordshire, admitted taking Ted, a cavalier King Charles spaniel, from outside a supermarket last December. Denny pleaded guilty to theft at

Highbury Corner Magistrates’ Court. Denny had been released on licence for another crime at the time that he stole the pet. Details of Ted’s disappearance were spread by more than 52,000 Twitter users and the dog was returned anonymously four days later.

Red bull shows dynastic energy of two royal courts



DAN KITWOOD / GETTY IMAGES

London The magnificent Dacre Beasts — huge heraldic figures carved for Lord Dacre of Naworth Castle, Cumbria, a close friend of Henry VIII — stand out in an exhibition devoted to the splendours of the British and Russian royal courts. *Treasures of the Royal Courts: Tudors, Stuarts and the*

Russian Tsars, at the Victoria and Albert Museum, marks 400 years since the Romanovs came to the Russian throne, and includes royal jewellery, armour and portraits from the Kremlin and the State Historical Museum, Moscow, and British collections. It opens on Saturday.