

## Fancy being in the carnival court?

THE hunt is on to find a new carnival court for Aylesham.

If you are aged between seven and 21, live in Aylesham, Snowdown, Nonington, or Adisham and would like to become part of the court then complete an application form and return it to the address shown on the form.

The court will be chosen at 5pm on Sunday, February 10, in St Finbar's Church, Aylesham.

Admission to the selection event is £4 and free for competitors.

Aylesham carnival takes place on September 14.

■ Entry forms are available from [www.ayleshamcarnival.co.uk](http://www.ayleshamcarnival.co.uk). For more information call 01304 840482 or 07747 887143.

## Ann Widdecombe to give health talk

FORMER MP Ann Widdecombe is giving a public lecture in Canterbury at 6pm on Thursday, February 7, called NHS - Facing the Future.

It takes place at the Old Sessions House in Longport, Ms Widdecombe will argue it is time for political courage and a re-assessment of mechanisms for the NHS, particularly our financial approach to health, and those who can should be encouraged to take greater responsibility for their own health.

# Bin bag collection system is rubbish, say students

by Gerry Warren  
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A MOUNTAIN of rotting rubbish which has been piling up outside homes in Canterbury since before Christmas has finally been cleared.

People living in St Martin's Terrace say the problem of uncollected waste has been "a complete nightmare" and are calling for the immediate introduction of weekly collections.

Many of the bags had split open and rubbish blown around the area. Residents, who are mainly students, complain the existing fortnightly collection system is inadequate for the 40 people living in the terrace.

Frazer Edwards, 20, who is studying geography at Christ Church University, is leading the protest. He said: "It's been a complete nightmare and is disgusting because the rubbish has been blowing all over the place making it a real mess."

"The trouble is that there is so much rubbish. There is not enough room in the two bins for all the bags, so it had just been piling up all around. I understand the bin men have been told they shouldn't take it away if it's not actually in a bin. I know the council is planning to introduce



Student Frazer Edwards with the mountain of rubbish in St Martin's Terrace, Canterbury

weekly collections in April but we can't wait that long. I have complained to the council and our ward councillor but nothing happened for weeks."

"Students have had a bad press for not recycling, however people on the terrace are making an effort. On numerous occasions it has not been collected and so many have simply give up. We have no bins to keep the recy-

cling in so it is left on the pavement outside our houses, where many of the bags spill open."

Cllr Jeremy Bellamy said he was discussing the problem with the council's street scene officer and waste contractor Serco.

He said part of the issue was the waste had previously been collected through a letting arrangement with Christ Church University, which had now been taken

over by Serco. He had also been told that recyclables were being put into black bags, increasing the volume.

He said: "The council is writing to residents in the terrace to remind them of the recycling and black bag waste system. "It may be that there is a case for a third dump bin but that may not be necessary if residents use recycling bags as much as possible."

## Last tiger research wins Samia a prize

UNIVERSITY of Kent PhD student Samia Saif has won the Future of Nature Award 2013 for her groundbreaking research on the protection of tigers in Bangladesh.

Samia's research has revealed, for the first time, the scale of tiger poaching in Bangladesh's Sundarbans mangrove forest region, the only area in the country where they are found.

The research also identified poaching as the most significant threat to Bangladesh's last tiger population. Her award will be presented at an event in The Netherlands on February 22. Samia will also receive 50,000 Euros towards a conservation project of her choice.

## Luxury holiday on offer at Whitefriars

THE Whitefriars shopping centre in Canterbury has launched its biggest ever competition with the chance to win a £3,000 luxury holiday.

It has teamed up with travel specialists Kuoni in the Marlowe Arcade and renowned Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, to offer the chance to win a five-night stay in Muscat, Oman, on the Arabian Peninsula. Entry is free and forms are available from Whitefriars retailers or can be downloaded from the Whitefriars website at [www.whitefriars.eu](http://www.whitefriars.eu). The closing date is March 1.

WIN A ROMANTIC DINNER FOR TWO, THEATRE TICKETS AND A BOUQUET