

Telegraph & Argus

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Be proud of inspirational achievers

Bradford and district has always had good reason to be proud of the successes of its young people.

Last night saw this continue at the Yorkshire Young Achievers of the Year Awards with the sons and daughters of this area picking up honours.

Bradford-born Girls Aloud star Kimberley Walsh was a popular choice for Personality of the Year Award.

Whatever she does, in her own glittering career or for the many good causes she supports, she does with style and grace while always staying true to her Bradford roots.

Other award winners included Cross Hills' Emily Cummins, Bradford Academy teacher Liam Gilbert and Alistair Brownlee, of neighbouring Horsforth.

Emily received the Achievement in Management and Enterprise Award.

At just 23, she already has a string of inventions to her name, the latest being a sustainable fridge "powered" by dirty water to keep medicines or small food items clean, dry and cool.

She has given away the design plans to townships across southern Africa to enable people to build their own.

Liam, 22, was recognised for his inspirational approach to teaching with the Achievement in Education Award.

He has been rated as "outstanding" by Sheffield Hallam University.

Alistair, 22, who is one of the UK's top triathletes with a host of titles under his belt, received the Achievement in Sport Award.

They are all worthy winners and our congratulations go out to them on what was a great night for both Bradford and Yorkshire.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The truth is the kindest thing we can give folks in the end – **Harriet Beecher Stowe**

OUR POLICY

The T&A is independent of political parties and private interests. We aim to provide readers with a news and information service which is fair, accurate and balanced. We abide by the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice.

We care about accuracy and try hard to avoid errors, but we acknowledge that in the hectic process of producing a daily newspaper, mistakes will sometimes occur, despite our best efforts. Our policy is to print corrections, clarifications, and, where appropriate, apologise either in our weekly Feedback column, which appears when necessary in this section on a Monday, or in the news columns.

If you wish to complain about anything in your T&A, please write to either The Editor or Feedback, T&A, Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 1JR.

ON THIS DAY

From the T&A...

25 years ago: It was revealed that smoking killed 580 Bradford people each year.

50 years ago: Bingley Building Society's interest rate of 6.5 per cent on mortgage repayments, payable from March 1 the following year, was the highest since the 1939-45 war years.

Also in the news...

1922: Howard Carter and the Earl of Carnarvon became the first men to see inside the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun near Luxor since it was sealed more than 3,000 years before.

EXPERTS WARN OF FATAL EXPOSURE

In a recent article, we reported on the dangers of asbestos and the controversial opinion, held in some quarters, that white asbestos is harmless. That view is fiercely contested by a number of experts and support groups for victims of asbestos-related diseases.

Jim Greenhalf reports

For the past five years, Tony Whitston has been chairman of the Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims

Support Group, which has branches all over the country, including an office in Bradford's Upper Piccadilly.

He joined the organisation after spending most of his working life in the construction industry and seeing friends die of mesothelioma, an aggressive cancer mainly of the membrane in the chest wall and lung, which is associated with white asbestos.

He says: "There is a dangerous misconception that only brown and blue asbestos are dangerous and that white is harmless. "Although blue and brown asbestos are more dangerous, that does not mean that white asbestos is safe. All types of asbestos can cause cancer."

Blue and brown asbestos were banned in the UK in the mid-1980s. But it wasn't until November 1999 that the ban was extended to include white asbestos.

Since then, says the Asbestos Victims Support Group, there have been several occasions when the press, media and certain quarters of the scientific community have voiced the opinion that the dangers of white asbestos are exaggerated. But the International Agency for Research on Cancer, says Mr Whitston, has classified white asbestos as a Class 1 carcinogen.

"As recently as September 6



Workmen in appropriate safety gear remove harmful asbestos from a workplace

this year, the International Labour Organisation reissued its warning that white asbestos causes cancer. The World Health Organisation issued yet another warning in July that all types of asbestos can cause mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases.

"People's lives may depend on their understanding that there are thousands of tonnes of asbestos in buildings in the UK. That is why the Health and Safety Executive has been running its Asbestos: Hidden Killer campaign to warn trades people, especially maintenance workers, of the dangers of all types of asbestos," he adds.

According to the World Health Organisation, the term asbestos defines a group of naturally-occurring fibrous minerals with commercial usefulness due to their extraordinary tensile strength, poor heat conduction and relative resistance to chemical attack.

This is why the substance is

used for insulation in buildings and an ingredient in roofing shingles, water supply lines, fire blankets, plastic fillers, medical packing as well as clutch and brake linings, gaskets and pads for vehicles

They add: "All forms of asbestos are carcinogenic to humans, and may cause mesothelioma and cancer of the lung, larynx and ovary. Asbestos exposure is also related to other diseases such as asbestosis (fibrosis of the lungs), pleural plaques and effusions.

"Currently, about 125 million people in the world are exposed to asbestos in the workplace. According to the most recent WHO estimates, more than 107,000 people die each year from asbestos-related lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis resulting from exposure at work.

"In addition, it is estimated that several thousand deaths annually can be attributed to

exposure of asbestos in the home."

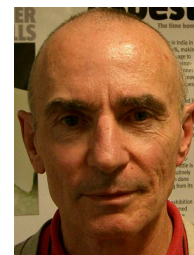
Mesothelioma can affect the lining of the lungs and abdomen and the area around the heart. Although it can take up to 50 years to develop, it is a very aggressive form of cancer which can be contracted as a result of even short periods of exposure to asbestos.

The Institute of Cancer Research believes the number of people suffering from mesothelioma in the UK could rise to about 3,000 per year over the next 20 years.

Tony Whitston says: "It is unthinkable that such preventable deaths from past exposure to asbestos should be repeated as a result of exposure to asbestos today."

● In our article of November 5 we stated: "Mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining around the lungs and stomach, is not associated with white asbestos products". It is our understanding that the British Lung Foundation states that "all types of asbestos can cause mesothelioma if you breathe in or swallow the fibres", while the Health and Safety Executive states that "white asbestos is implicated as a cause of both lung cancer and mesothelioma." We apologise for any confusion our original statement caused.

Although blue and brown asbestos are more dangerous, that does not mean that white asbestos is safe. All types of asbestos cause cancer



– Tony Whitston of the Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group