NORTH-WEST
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ULVERSTON and S LAKES
40p WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2008

100s OF PROPERTIES FOR SALE INSIDE

I'LL TAME THE BEAST

SEE SPORT

FASHION
HEALTH
BEAUTY
FITNESS

12-PAGE PULL-OUT INSIDE TODAY

CRASH SCENE: The two-car crash on Dunmail Raise near Keswick yesterday
MILTON HAWORTH REF: 0458415

Passenger airlifted to hospital

THREE people were injured in a two-car smash on the A591 at Dunmail Raise.

The road was shut for more than four hours after the accident while the scene was cleared and patients transferred to hospital.

The incident took place about 12.55pm yesterday on the road between St John's in the Vale and Grasmere and involved a blue BMW and a silver Jaguar.

The female passenger of the BMW was flown by air ambulance to Newcastle General Hospital with serious injuries and the driver was taken by road ambulance to Carlisle Royal Infirmary where he was treated for a broken wrist and minor injuries. The Jaguar driver was treated for whiplash injuries at Lancaster Royal Infirmary.

Police are not releasing the details of those involved at the present time.

Any witnesses are asked to call 0845 330 0247.

£1¼M GLAXO FUND

Cash used to retrain workers as 180 opt for redundancy

AN Ulverston drugs factory has created a £250,000 fund to retrain workers set to be made redundant.

GlaxoSmithKline is offering grants to workers as it is laying off 330 of its 540 staff. So far 180 staff have volunteered to go and 100 will leave by the end of the year.

The training fund is available to workers set to be made redundant who want to update their skills or learn new ones.

The money comes on top of a new Glaxo Enterprise Development Fund of £620,000, donated by the firm to help create new positions in the Ulverston and wider Furness area to mitigate the latest jobs losses.

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DON'T MISS TODAY'S CLUE ON PAGE 31

GOT A STORY?
Call the Features Desk on 01229 840142

DON'T MISS IT

THE FEAT

Turning a strip into couture

PROTEST: Angy Morton, above and bottom, wears the dress made from the recycled Newcastle strip

ONE of Angy's most recent designs is a stunning haute couture wedding dress made out of recycled Newcastle United shirts – which she created in protest at the continuing chaos at the club.

Angy and her husband Michael are both Newcastle fans but decided to tear up their shirts after Kevin Keegan left the club.

Angy explains: "I am a Newcastle United supporter and the idea was to use our strip in a design to send a message – a protest. "I am very angry that the club is in such a mess – we have won just three matches out of 12 this season.

"I wanted to get behind the team and felt I had to do something to shout about what was happening. So I decided to make a wedding dress using an old strip – that is basically how it all came about."

As well as being a protest, Angy says the unique design carries a message about recycling: "Football clubs issue two to three new strips a year, this is a brilliant way to recycle those old strips!"

Now the designer is planning on taking the idea one step further in her next collection and plans to use the strips of six top Premier League clubs in her designs.

"It will be all about haute couture recycling," she finishes.

● Don't miss the next issue of *Cumbria Life* for an in-depth interview with Angy and more pictures of her fabulous designs

ANGY'S RECYC

LAKES-based fashion designer Angy Morton of Romantique Couture talks to CLAIRE HIGH about recycling, growing up in Romania and her passion for fashion

FOR fashion designer Angy Morton of Romantique Couture recycling is a way of life.

In fact when I meet her at her home-studio at Fell Foot near Newby Bridge, she is wearing a stylish denim skirt and multi-coloured, striped jumper made entirely from recycled fabrics and wool.

The 34-year-old says: "Recycling is nothing new in arts and crafts. If you think back historically your mother or grandmother probably made quilts using scraps of recycled fabrics.

"They made use of everything then but these days it has been given this posh title of 'recycling'."

Originally from Romania, and growing up under a communist regime, Angy says recycling was a way of life for her and many others: "Growing up there was like the equivalent of living here during World War II – we learnt to use every scrap of material in the most creative way we could. Our wedding dresses in those days were often fashioned from curtains."

These days Angy specialises in creating fabulous wedding gowns and occasion wear, as well as her more casual, day wear for her Cumbrian clients.

She says that fashion and dressmaking is in her blood: "My grandfather was a dressmaker and from the age of six I could use a sewing machine and embroider. In Romania we only had electricity for two to three hours a day when I was a child, so I did not watch television or play on computers – I would sew and create things – but I used to have fun with my limited resources."

Angy moved to England in 2001, aged 27, just months after meeting husband Michael, who runs his own travel business, on a networking site on the Internet.

She explains: "The internet was something new in those days and a friend of mine encouraged me to try the chatlines for fun. I made it clear on my profile that I was only interested in conversation.

"When Michael got in touch I was very impressed because he actually speaks and writes Romanian, because of his travel business."

The pair started emailing regularly and over the course of just six week sent around 500 emails to each other – Angy says that essentially they fell in love before they even met up for the first time in Manchester.

"He had such a lovely personality and we had so much in common. He keeps me grounded," she adds.

At first the pair made their home in East Yorkshire but moved to Cumbria in December 2004. "We had visited the Lakes a couple of times and we both knew we wanted to live here.

"But it took us 18 months to find somewhere to live that was accessible and on a main road for the business."

Always a nature lover, Angy says that she takes her inspiration from her stunning surroundings: "I am a fan of William Morris and the art nouveau movement, which was also inspired by nature. I always say that nature has so much to give and doesn't ask anything in return."

Angy finally realised a life-long dream of starting her own fashion house when she moved to England – with some prompting from Michael.

She explains: "When we were getting married Michael said I could choose whatever dress I wanted but I didn't like anything I saw.

"Instead I grabbed a pen and sat in a cafe making a rough sketch of my dream dress."

TALENT: Angy Morton with her sketch book

Husband Michael saw the sketch and, hugely impressed by his wife's talent, he encouraged her to start designing full time – and ultimately to set up Romantique Couture.

Since moving to Cumbria Angy's bespoke fashion design business has gone from strength to strength, and she has created two successful collections – the first inspired by the changing seasons and the second by the countryside she loves so much in the Lake District.

Prices for Angy's exclusive bespoke occasion and wedding gown designs start from £800, excluding the cost of fabrics, but she says: "From my point of view the bride wants to look her very best on her big day. Her mother will tell her she looks great in any dress she tries on, because it is her little girl. But I always tell my clients the truth and will tell them if I think a design they have requested wouldn't suit them. I think my brides like this honesty and know they can trust me.

"I always ask them to tell me their budget and then we can try and come up with their dream dress within that budget."

While Angy is successfully carving out a name for herself as one of the county's most creative designers – she almost had to give up on her childhood dream of being a fashion designer when she lived in Romania. She explains: "I always wanted to be a designer and studied fashion design at school.

"But I am from a city called Timisoara in the west of Romania and after the fall of the Wall in Berlin my city was at the centre of the revolution in 1989. It was an exciting but also very frightening time and I can still hear the sound of bullets whizzing past my ears and at one stage I was scared stiff because I thought my father was going to be arrested."

With the turmoil in her country, it meant that a young Angy had to put her plans to be a designer on hold, but with her natural good looks she did become a model for seven years, before going on to work in computers and administration.

She recalls in her modelling days: "I used to feel so sorry for the designers backstage at the shows – they were so stressed. Now that is me!"

But I suspect this talented young designer would not have it any other way.

CLING STYLE

ELEGANT: Designer Angy Morton wears one of her own creations Solway Sunset from her Spectrum in Four Seasons collection

Photography by MILTON HAWORTH

Fiona Caine Agony Aunt

answers your problems

email: mail@askfiona.net

Should I tell my secret?

Q SIX years ago, my husband killed himself in a car accident. He had been drinking heavily, as usual, and it was a miracle no-one else was hurt. He left me alone with my children, who were 10 and eight at the time. Now, at 14 and 16, I am wondering if they are old enough to be told the truth of how their father died. I didn't want to hurt them when they were younger so I lied to them about the circumstances. Now I think they should know – but I am just not sure how to tell them.

FIONA SAYS: Try to resolve your own issues with him

Why do you feel you have to tell them at all?

If there is a chance that someone else will tell them how he died, then it probably is necessary that they hear a truthful explanation of what happened from you.

However, if that's not likely to happen, why do they need to know?

The fact that you lied to them is likely to upset them as much as finding out the circumstances of his death.

I wonder if something about their behaviour now is making you want to warn them off alcohol, but if so, try to find some other way.

This potentially hurtful and frightening way is not the answer.

If it is because you are concerned they will find out the truth from someone else, then make sure they understand that alcoholism is an illness and that their father couldn't help his drinking.

I do wonder, though, if you want to tell them because they have been idolising their dead father while you still resent him, and I think you still feel a lot of anger towards him.

Do you think you might benefit from talking to someone about his death?

If you could come to terms with the way he died, then you might find it easier to talk positively to the children about their father.

That does not mean telling them about all the bad times or how he died.

You need to resolve your own issues about the life he led - your children probably never saw this side of him and probably only retain good memories.

Don't spoil these for them.

The charity Cruse Bereavement Care (see Focus below) would be a good place to start. You can call the helpline on 0870 167 1677.

Q When my husband was diagnosed with cancer four years ago, we knew quite early on that he wasn't going to survive it.

My husband's best friend was always there for us both and my husband often said he hoped he and I would get together. Now he has asked me if I am ready to start going out again, and I find I am attracted to him and would like to. Fiona says: Are you ready?

People will probably talk if you go out with your husband's friend, whether that is nine months after his death or nine years.

Some people will be delighted for you and hope you will be happy. Others will inevitably speculate that perhaps you and he had something going on even before your husband died. If you are sure that you and he are ready for a relationship together, then go ahead and ignore everyone!