



Fashion Week opens in fine style

NORWICH FASHION WEEK 2016

Jemma Walker

jemma.walker@archant.co.uk

The cameras were flashing, the models were strutting and the front row was buzzing – Norwich Fashion Week got under way in fine style.

The sixth annual event was launched in fittingly glamorous fashion last night, at the Mercedes-Benz show, with a runway featuring 24 of the city's most popular brands.

Celebrating the best of both high street and independent retailers in Norwich, including John Lewis, Jigsaw and Stoned and Hammered, the event set a high standard for upcoming shows. For the first time, Open Norwich, in Bank Plain, is the

“We had really strong looks, and one of the best shows we have done to date

Emma Harrowing

base for Norwich Fashion Week and the extravagant backdrop added to the occasion last night. In previous years, shows and previews have been scattered at venues across the city.

This year's event will be marked by another first, as Dipple & Conway opticians are sponsoring the week.

The company's hair show today will bring together some of the best styles from stylists across the city. People are invited to head down to Open to find some inspiration.

Models were rehearsing right up until the last moment yesterday, with Norwich BID being treated to an afternoon preview.

But the evening event, which saw every seat filled, ran smoothly as models glided down the runway.

The fast-paced show gave onlookers a glimpse of next season's trends, from pastels and florals to neutral tones.

The catwalk was awash with bold colours for spring/summer, channeling bright red, nautical stripes and a



■ The catwalk at the Open venue, where fashion lovers got a chance to see the latest styles for both men and women up close.

Pictures: SIMON FINLAY

smart edge on menswear. Mixing strong structured suits with pops of bright colour, looking smart is breezy this summer.

Both female and male models featured on the runway, of all shapes, sizes and ages – a reflection of Norwich Fashion Week's annual Model Competition, sponsored by model agency Sandra Reynolds and into Chapelfield.

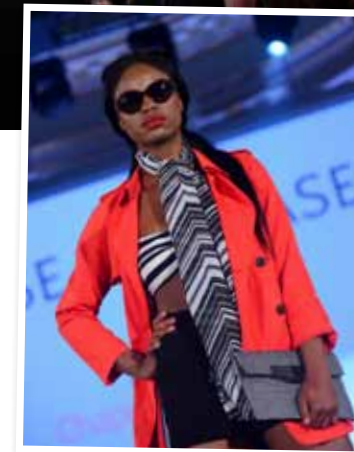
It encourages anyone to send in a snap and have a chance to take part, and ensures the catwalk is represent-

ative of the city.

Emma Harrowing, one of the show directors, said: "Since Norwich Fashion Week began it has been about celebrating the diversity of fashion in Norwich, it is important to include independent retailers.

"Big brands bring the people into the city and then they find the independent shops. It is celebrating how they can support one another and work together."

Also taking to the runway were collections from Marks and Spencer



and Jarrold, along with smaller, independent stores, including Gallyons Country Clothing and Elements.

After the show, Miss Harrowing added: "We had really strong looks, and one of the best shows we have done to date."

More than 300 people cheered and clapped as the lights went down, bringing an end to proceedings. Today – it starts all over again.

■ To get tickets for Norwich Fashion Week, visit Open Norwich, or online at <http://www.open247.org.uk/gigs-and-events>

■ If you have a news story about an upcoming event, email jemma.walker@archant.co.uk or call 01603 772531

Man accused of involvement in fraud acquitted

A man accused of being involved in an alleged fraud which conned victims out of more than £9m has been acquitted – although the jury are still deliberating over verdicts on three others.

Joe Lloyd, 29, Kevin Thurston, 32, Daniel Pye, 32, and Geoffrey Good, 66, were said to have defrauded customers as part of an enterprise involving "a web of companies", some of which were off-shore and others in the UK.

All four men have gone on trial at Norwich Crown Court charged with two counts of conspiracy to defraud between August 1, 2008 and December 31, 2013.

Yesterday a jury of six men and six women found Good, of Aylesbury Close, Norwich, not guilty of both counts.

The jury, which had been deliberating for almost 21 hours when he was acquitted at just before noon, have been given a majority verdict ruling in respect of the remaining defendants.

They will resume their deliberations today after being sent home for the night yesterday.

Lloyd, of Fakenham Road, Taverham, near Norwich, Thurston, of Fakenham Road, Taverham, near Norwich and Pye, of St Olaves Road, Norwich, have all denied both counts.

The trial continues.

Repair work to begin on path

Work is set to begin on or soon after Monday to repair the footway along St James' Street in King's Lynn between Church Street and number 14.

The work, on the southern side of the street, is expected to take one week and will involve replacing the slabs.

A spokesman from Tarmac Ltd said access to properties and businesses will be maintained during the works but some disruption might be inevitable due to the nature of the task. He added that the disturbance will be kept to a minimum and apologised for any inconvenience caused.

Teens released on police bail

Three males have been bailed in connection with a robbery in King's Lynn.

A 19-year-old man, from Cambridgeshire, was arrested on suspicion of robbery after a woman's handbag was snatched in Winston Churchill Drive.

He has been released on police bail. Two other males, aged 17 and from the Lynn area, who were arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender, were also released on police bail.

Clubs and bars in Norwich could face a levy to tackle disorder

Norwich pubs, clubs and bars which sell alcohol after midnight could be charged a levy to help pay for dealing with late-night disorder.

Norwich City Council will investigate introducing a Late Night Levy, after hearing Oxford City Council had calculated it could generate £160,000.

If the scheme is introduced, 70pc of the money raised could go to the police. Green councillor Ben Price

told yesterday's licensing committee: "A lot of late-night activity affects the ward I represent. It's something that this committee has considered in the past. It's dependent on the police and crime commissioner backing the proposal."

The revival of calls for a levy follows various other attempts to curb late night drinking on the streets of Norwich.

The levy was made possible

through the 2011 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, which could see licensing authorities charge from £300 to £4,400 depending on the premises.

In 2012, Norfolk police asked Norwich City Council to use new powers to help deal with the increasing problems in areas such as Prince of Wales Road.

Licensing officer Tony Shearman said police had initially asked the

council to consider a levy and Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMRO) – to control when bars, pubs and clubs can serve alcohol, but later withdrew their support for a levy, and no EMROs had been introduced, although the city council has brought in a cumulative impact policy, which makes it much harder for new premises to get licences within a defined area, around Prince of Wales Road.