

Bomb alert at harbour quayside

GORLESTON: Workers repairing a stretch of quayside sparked a bomb alert yesterday. At 12.10pm, May Gurney workers were carrying out maintenance to the harbour wall at Hewitts Quay when a digger pulled up a rusted metal disc 12in in diameter and 4in thick. Police alerted Army bomb disposal experts, and sealed access to Riverside Road. The Army arrived at 3pm and identified it as a non-explosive British anti-tank device. Roads were reopened from 3.30pm.

Petrol station accident plea

DEREHAM: An 89-year-old woman who suffered serious leg injuries in the Tesco petrol station forecourt was described as "comfortable" in the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital last night. Police repeated their appeal for witnesses to the incident, just after 10am on Friday. The woman was in collision with a silver Vauxhall Corsa pulling away from a pump.

Man treated after stabbing

WATTON: A Portuguese man required hospital treatment after he was stabbed in the arm. The attack happened just after 8pm last Tuesday outside the Bull Hotel. Shortly before the stabbing, someone slashed the tyres of a car parked in the same road. Contact PC Chris Sandal at Watton police station on 01953 424242.

TECHNOLOGY ■ Computers that really let you know they know you're there



INTERACTIVE: The 'responsive playspace', known as txOom, which has been created at Yarmouth.

▼ FESTIVAL

The Hippodrome show is part of a festival of arts and technology called Wear Me!, during which artists and technologists from around the world will be discussing the latest technology at a series of performances, exhibitions and seminars at Norwich School of Art and Design, Norwich Arts Centre, and the University of East Anglia. As well as visiting txOom, the public will also be able to trial the latest wearable gadgets and smart textiles at a free exhibition at the Forum in Norwich. The show, between 9.30am and 6pm on Saturday, will feature technology and artists from the UK, Germany, Canada and the USA. Visitors will be able to try out the latest "wearable computers" - clothes that have built-in computers that respond to you and your body.

LINKS

website
www.futurephysical.org

Room that reacts to the people inside it

By JAMES GOFFIN

I had never worn a wall before.

It's not an unpleasant experience - but it is an unusual one, and it's on offer at Yarmouth's Hippodrome Circus.

As part of a European project to experiment with wearable computers and light and sound, the circus has been transformed into what its creators describe as a "responsive playspace where wearable architecture and evolving media words blend".

"What that means is that everything that happens is generated by the people that go inside. There is no audience, you make your own circus," said Maya Kuzmanovic, of Foam, one of the organising groups.

"When the participants come in they are put in a waiting room where they have their fortunes told, and then they go to a dressing room where they get a uniform, so they feel part of the environment.

"They can go in the air on harnesses or stay on the ground."

Inside the circus arena, drapes; balls and walls are fitted with motion sensors that measure how people are playing with them. The information is sent using wireless transmitters to a bank of computers, which convert them into sound and light.

Swirling pictures are projected on to semi-transparent screens, with changing sounds pumped into the auditorium.

Holidaymaker Robert Osman, 37, from Reading, was one of the event's early customers.

"It's very strange. We didn't know what to expect when we came, and now I've been bouncing around 30ft high on a harness for 10 minutes.



Pictures: NICK BUTCHER

UNUSUAL: EDP reporter James Goffin wears a wall at Yarmouth's Hippodrome Circus.

"It can be difficult to pick out how you're changing things because everyone else is too, but you can sometimes pick out sounds that you have created," said Mr Osman.

His daughter, Beth, aged eight, agreed.

"I went up on the swing. It was good. I liked the music and the outfit," she said. "And it was funny watching dad bounce about."

Known as txOom, the project is part of a collaboration between artists and programmers from the UK, Belgium, Holland, Italy and the USA. The project has been evolving for three years, with the last three weeks spent tailoring it to the Hippodrome.

"Although we can test the technology, we can only really see how things work in the space. It takes a lot of experimenting to see what works. Sometimes it's obvious when things fail and we can ditch them, but it depends on the people there," said Andrew Ward, from Future Physical.

"The room has its own state, and when people come in it reacts to them, like an allergic reaction. Like the people, it wants to know the reason why they are there, and it changes as it gets used to them."

The txOom show runs daily until Sunday. For more details and exact times call the box office on 01493 844172.

WIN A SEASONAL HAMPER FILLED WITH LOCAL PRODUCE

Eastern Daily Press

Issue 2 Christmas 2008 £2.00

SOUTHWOLD magazine

RAVE TREATS AT THE RANDOLPH HOTEL

SOUTHWOLD'S JEWEL - ST EDMUND'S CHURCH

INTERIORS - AN ARTIST'S HOME IS HIS CANVAS

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ELECTRIC PICTURE PALACE

SOUTHWOLD IN THE MOVIES

OUT OF SEASON SPECIAL GUIDE

IAN COLLINS REVEALS SOME WINTER 'GEMS'

ON SALE NOW