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News in brief

Fergie stays in Wythenshawe B&B

Sarah Ferguson moved to a Manchester estate for 10 days to live an working class lifestyle for a TV programme to be aired this week. But filming was temporarily halted when a community centre on the estate in Northern Moor, Wythenshawe had its windows shot out.

The Duchess of York exchanged her luxury existence in Manhattan for Northern Moor for a two-part ITV programme, *The Duchess on the Estate*, to be shown on 18 August.

The 49-year-old aristocrat lived in a bed and breakfast in

“Some of our communities are so fragmented.”

an attempt to re-connect a British family with their community and highlight urban problems.

“People live on top of each other these days but we don’t



Ferguson meets a young couple in Northern Moor

seem to know our neighbours or have anything to do with them,” she said. “Some of our communities are so fragmented and I’m convinced that if we can start to give people a sense of community spirit they can start to work together to improve their local area.”

Ferguson, who was branded a “toffee-nosed git” by some of the young people she met, admitted she was shocked by the shooting

at the community centre but said it only made her more determined to continue with the programme’s aims.

Ferguson says it is the women in fractured communities who hold the key to making things better and tries to galvanise them into raising expectations, encouraging women’s groups and sports days.

KELLY MATTISON

Liverpool remembers

The struggle to abolish slavery will be observed this weekend in Liverpool with a series of events starting on Friday.

The Slavery Remembrance Festival commemorates the lives of millions of enslaved Africans, celebrates their resistance and highlights figures showing even today 20 million people across the world are slaves.

The centrepiece of events comes on Sunday with a traditional African ceremony.

International Slavery Remembrance Day is on 23 August as it was on this date in 1791 that the uprising in Haiti,

led by Toussaint L’ouverture, began. Its success played a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

The events are organised by the International Slavery

Liverpool controlled over 80 per cent of the slave trade

Museum, based at Albert Dock, near where over 5,000 slaving voyages set sail between 1699 and 1807, when slavery was abolished in Britain. In 1795 Liverpool controlled over 80 per

cent of the British slave trade.

One of the key figures in the American civil rights movement, Diane Nash, is to give a lecture in Liverpool Town Hall on Friday. In the late 1950s Nash led sit-ins that overturned the Nashville’s whites-only lunch counters policy. In 1961 she led the Freedom Rides from Birmingham, Alabama to Jackson, Mississippi.

She was appointed by President Kennedy to the committee that led to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

MARK METCALFE

MISSING HULL MAN

Police remain concerned for a Hull man, Benjamin Christopher Davey, 26, reported missing on 22 July. Davey, white, 6ft 2in tall, with slim build and mousey brown short hair, has green eyes and a pale complexion and lived in Paull before moving to Hull. Davey may be wearing the same clothes as pictured on a CCTV image in Hull (below) in the morning of 20 July, including a distinctive red Liverpool FC coat. Contact police on 0845 60 60 222.



FUN RUN

The Big Issue in the North Trust is looking for participants for its 5km fun run to be held in Manchester’s Heaton Park on Sunday 11 October. Participants are asked to collect sponsors with all money raised going to the trust to improve existing facilities and help provide more services for vendors. For more info and to register, email Jane.Logan@thebiglifecompany.com or call her on 0161 831 5556.

REDUNDANCY PACKAGE

Twenty-five colleges and training providers in the North West are to share £20 million as a part of the Response to Redundancy package. Funded by the government and the European Social Fund, the package aims to provide high quality training for up to 70,000 people in England who are under notice of redundancy or have recently been made unemployed. Combined with £83 million provided for the longer term unemployed in January, the government estimates the scheme could help up to 100,000 people nationally find work.