

Kaddy undercover

Presenter snaps up wildlife photo opportunity

By **JAMIE MCGINNES**

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TV ACTION girl Kaddy Lee-Preston has gone back to nature for her latest assignment.

The BBC South East presenter roughed it in woodland as part of a programme airing tomorrow to prove that you don't need expensive kit to take a great photo.

She took to a bird hide in the latest series of *Inside Out*, under the watchful guise of wildlife photographer John Devries.

Under the direction of Mr Devries, Miss Lee-Preston took a striking picture of a rare orchid.

"I was amazed at the quality of the photo I was able to take with John's help," she said. "I'm no expert with a camera and if I can do it anyone can."

Viewers are being given the chance of winning a photographic masterclass from Mr Devries and Miss Lee-Preston added: "There's no excuse for not giving it a go and entering our competition."

Butterflies

Details of the competition, which is open to amateur photographers aged 18 or over in the BBC South East region, will be revealed in tomorrow's programme.

Pictures of birds, butterflies, insects, mammals, fish, plants or flowers will be valid for entry, but not landscapes.

Information on how to enter will also be on available on the local BBC websites - www.bbc.co.uk/kent and www.bbc.co.uk/southerncounties from tomorrow.

Mr Devries, who lives in mid-Kent, worked in the medical diagnostics industry for 30 years, but his passion was always wildlife photography and he turned professional in 2003. Since then, his work has regularly featured in books and magazines.

He sells prints privately and through two international photography agents in Milan and London.

Dan Frodsham, *Inside Out's* producer and director, said: "Technology has advanced so that you can take superb shots with fairly inexpensive cameras.

"We got the idea because we found out John Devries takes some of his most stunning shots from his own back garden. We thought it would be a fun idea to send Kaddy out into the field to have a go.

"She really enjoyed the assignment and was delighted with the quality of the photos



HIDDEN TALENT: Kaddy Lee-Preston in the bird hide (above); being told to keep the noise down by John Devries (below left) and her lovely picture of a wild orchid



she was able to take of a rare orchid.

"It brings home the point that there is so much wildlife out there on your doorstep - rare flowers, woodpeckers, kingfishers - you don't have to go to the end of the earth to find interesting wildlife subjects."

• *Inside Out* is on BBC One tomorrow at 7.30pm.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Free iPods to create 'school without walls'

YOUNG people are to be given free MP3 players to help catch up on missed lectures.

South Kent College in Dover has spent £25,000 to give portable audio systems to the first 250 students who enrolled at the campus this year so they can listen to recordings of lessons.

The idea comes from similar schemes used in the USA and Australia, and aims to develop a 'classroom without walls' concept.

A spokesman for the college, which enrolled more than 1,200 students last week, said: "According to recent research, using iPods is about making education relevant to what goes on outside the educational establishments.

"The trial at Dover will identify innovative, practical and hopefully simple ways to harness the learning potential of one of the world's favourite gadgets."

The college said the scheme had been funded through savings made on a building proj-

ect, and the MP3 players would only be given to students with full attendance and who had completed all of their assignments.

But the move has been condemned by education pressure groups.

The Campaign for Real Education chairman Nick Seaton said: "Youngsters should want to take the courses for their own sake if they are worthwhile.

"It's a scandalous waste of taxpayers' money."

IT, motor vehicle engineering and childcare lectures will be available as podcasts - an audio or visual file available on the internet for downloading - in a trial run of the scheme.

All courses may be available to download by next year.

Assistant principal Josh Coleman said: "If they come to college and they get high quality teaching, they will want to come back for more."

Steamer in dock

WORK is well underway to restore the historic Medway Queen.

The 82-year-old Paddle Steamer is being dismantled at its berth near Rochester so it can be moved to a shipyard for rebuilding and restoration.

Volunteers from the Medway Queen Preservation Society are overseeing the deconstruction of the ship, which served the country in the Second World War.

The first stage of the ship's restoration will benefit from a £1.86million Heritage Lottery Fund, but only if the society can raise an extra £225,000 by November.

Anyone who can make a donation to the society is asked to write to Noreen Chambers, Hon Secretary MQPS, 72 Bells Lane, Hoo Saint Werburgh, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9HU.

Cheques can be made payable to the Medway Queen Preservation Society (MQPS).

Hislop's no Tarzan

PRIVATE Eye editor Ian Hislop has been approached to appear in the next series of *I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!*

The political satirist was asked to join the hit ITV show later this year.

But Mr Hislop, who lives in Sissinghurst with his novelist wife Victoria, turned down the opportunity to rough it in the Australian jungle with a band of C-list celebrities.

A source at Private Eye confirmed: "He was offered the job but declined to take it. I think it's fairly obvious why."

Kelly ex Cranks on

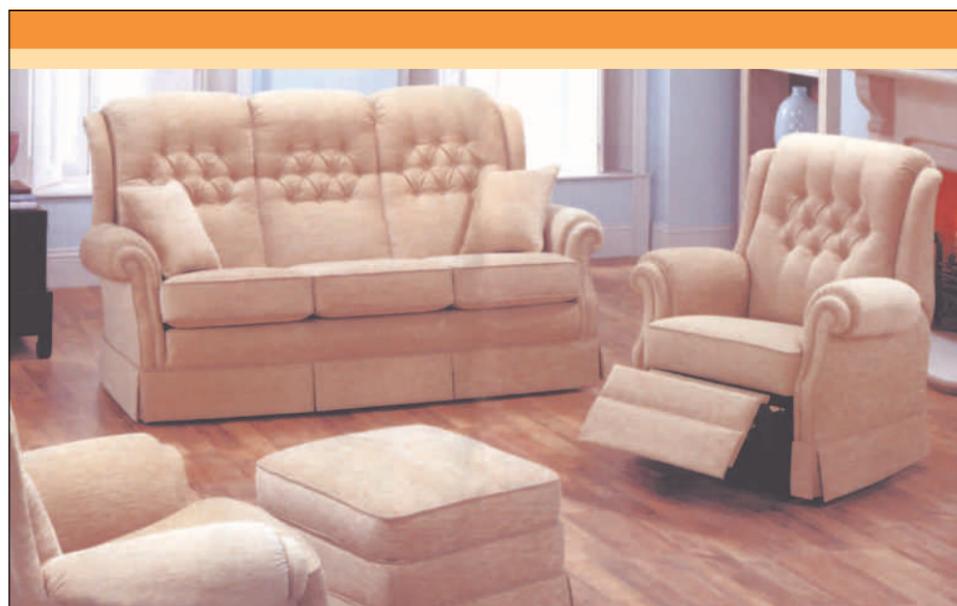
HE may have been down in the doldrums after being dumped by Kelly Brook but now Jason Statham's film career is reaching new heights.

The actor, who dated the Rochester-born actress and model for seven years, is enjoying commercial and critical success with his fast-paced thriller, *Crank*.

Mr Statham, 34 this week, was left by Miss Brook for American actor and Titanic star Billy Zane in 2004.

The actress has been living with Mr Zane in Hollywood and there have been consistent rumours of marriage but despite high hopes, her movie career has failed to take off.

Her most recent film, *Three*, in which she appeared with Mr Zane, was described by one critic as "a feeble erotic thriller".



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