

Headaches led to young mum's shock diagnosis

BY CAROLINE FISHER

HORRENDOUS headaches were making Rebekah Perrett's life a misery.

The despairing 24-year-old from Cheltenham thought it was probably a problem with her glasses.

But a vigilant optician raised the alarm after discovering Rebekah's optic disc had swollen.

And the young mum rushed to Cheltenham's accident and emergency department.

She was diagnosed with a rare brain disorder, idiopathic intracranial hypertension, caused by fluid pressurising the brain.

Rebekah, who lives in Springbank, now wants more people to be aware of it.

"It could eventually lead to blindness," she said.

"This condition is little known about. In fact, even my GP had to Google it (search the internet) when I went to see her after being diagnosed.

"I want to raise awareness of it because there are many sufferers of this horrible illness. I have to take regular medication and have lumbar punctures to measure the pressure and drain the fluid."

Rebekah, who lives with husband Richard, 31, and their

five-month old son Owen, had battled with headaches for six weeks.

"They were worse than migraines and I felt a lot of pressure behind my ears," she said.

"It was the optician who started to panic me. He thought I might have a brain tumour because my optic disc was so swollen.

"I had a brain scan at the beginning of April, but it came back clear.

"I was confused and then the hospital suggested a lumbar puncture to find out the fluid's pressure.

"It came back as 40mm - it should

have been between 9mm and 15mm. I was diagnosed with IIH."

Rebekah, a former Bournside School pupil, is still battling severe headaches.

She said: "My medication is causing really bad side-effects, such as pins and needles in my joints.

"I've read this condition is incurable, so it sounds as if I'm always going to have it. But you have to cope at the end of the day and be positive.

"I'm getting a lot of support from a Facebook group and looking at things like reflexology to help control it."



STAYING POSITIVE: Rebekah Perrett



CLIMBING HIGH: Stilt walkers entertain visitors



ENTERTAINMENT: Can Can girls at the Prescott Hill Climb



ON YOUR MARKS: The start line marshal

Dream machine on show

STUNNED visitors to the Prescott Hill Climb were given their first mouthwatering glimpse of the new Bugatti Veyron Super Sport.

Only five models have been built and the 6,000 visitors to the event were treated to its first public display in Europe.

The £2 million car holds the world record for the fastest production car ever built, with a top

speed of more than 260mph.

Event organiser, Ian Patton, said: "It's a phenomenal machine and quite rightly the showpiece of the weekend."

Other motors on display at the car show and hill climb weekend included a 1905 25-litre Darracq, which broke the land speed record at the time of 104mph.



SPORT, P27 SENSATIONAL: The £2 million Bugatti Veyron Super Sport

Showcase to raise profile of town arts

THE finishing touches are being made to a scheme to bring all genres of artwork to the people of Cheltenham.

The full range of the town's artistic talent will be showcased from the artists' own homes, studios and galleries as the Cheltenham Open Studios returns.

The nine-day event will see nearly 200 artists welcoming the public to the visual arts in 63 locations in Cheltenham and the surrounding area.

Arabella Kiszely, open studios chairman, said the showcase looked to bring the artists' work to a wider audience. She said: "This is our first event as a self-funded members' association.

"By networking artists together we hope we are better able to raise the profile of visual arts in the area and engage people directly with some of the wonderful work being made here."

The event, which is held just once every two years, will run from Saturday until June 12.

For more information on the event and to download a guidebook, visit cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk.

Weather watch

Information supplied by

MeteoGroup

County Tonight

A fine end to the day with late sunshine. The night then looks set to continue dry with few if any clouds and mostly clear, starry skies. A light to moderate south-westerly wind. A fairly cold night for May. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

County Tomorrow

It will be dry but mainly cloudy, although a few sunnier intervals are quite possible at times. A generally cloudy end to the day. There will be a light to moderate westerly wind. Near normal temperatures. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).

Pollen: Moderate

4 Day Outlook

Thursday
A mainly cloudy day, but dry. Max temp 17-20C (63-68F).

Friday
Dry with hazy sun. Warm. Max temp 20-23C (68-73F).

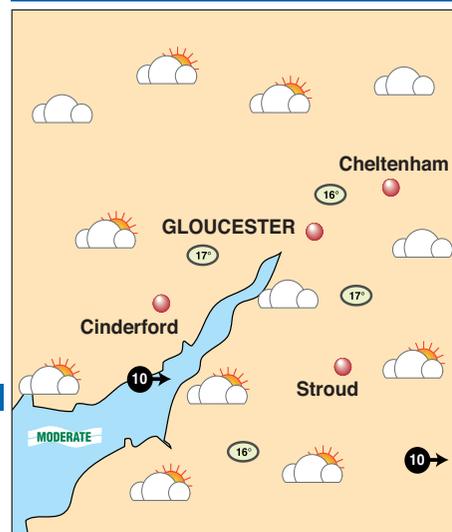
Saturday
Dry with plenty of sun. Max temp 21-24C (70-75F).

Sunday
Dry with blue skies. Warm. Max temp 20-23C (68-73F).

SUN & MOON TOMORROW

Sun rises 05.00 sets 21.14
Moon rises 03.49 sets 20.12

FORECAST FOR NOON TOMORROW



UK Yesterday

Warmest	.....Charfield 23C (73F)
Coldest	.....Dalwhinnie 4C (39F)
Wettest	.....Clunian Inn 24mm (0.94in)
Sunniest	.....Leuchars 9.2 hours
Extremes 24hours to 7pm Sunday	
	°C °F
Aberdeen	.....fair 17 63
Belfast	.....rain 15 59
Birmingham	.....cloudy 20 68
Bristol	.....cloudy 15 59
Cardiff	.....cloudy 16 61
Edinburgh	.....showers 15 59
Glasgow	.....rain 14 57
Leeds	.....rain 15 59
London	.....cloudy 20 68
Manchester	.....rain 18 64
Newcastle	.....fair 17 63
York	.....fair 18 64

World Yesterday

Adelaide	.....fair	16	61
Amsterdam	.....cloudy	21	70
Athens	.....sun	26	79
Berlin	.....fair	23	73
Boston	.....sun	30	86
Copenhagen	.....drizzle	17	63
Dublin	.....drizzle	18	64
Hong Kong	.....sun	30	86
Johannesburg	.....sun	18	64
Los Angeles	.....sun	19	66
Mexico City	.....sun	33	91
Moscow	.....showers	28	82
Munich	.....fair	23	73
New York	.....sun	28	82
Paris	.....sun	27	81
Rome	.....sun	27	81
Singapore	.....fair	32	90
Sydney	.....cloudy	17	63
Tokyo	.....rain	19	66
Vienna	.....fair	23	73

For a 5 day Holiday forecast
 0905 168 0605
 calls cost 51p per minute