

Beware mice with sharpest teeth in UK

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TENTERDEN is busy living up to its name as the most honest town in the UK — but a city councillor believes it should also go down in history as the habitat of an eccentric mouse with very sharp teeth.

A former mayor and now councillor with Rochester upon Medway City Council, Adrian Crowther, was dumbfounded when he trapped a mouse at his Tenterden home and it knawed its way to freedom through the quarter-inch-thick plastic trap.

At a city council environmental health committee meeting, he told colleagues: "Tenterden has earned a reputation as the most honest town in the UK — I think it could also earn its name as home of the mouse with the sharpest teeth in Britain!"

He told how he set a trap in the larder of his home in Ox Lane, St Michael's and caught the intruder.

Alarmed

He used a humane trap which encloses the mouse in a plastic box without harming it.

He went to deal with the mouse about three hours after it had been caught — but had not reckoned with its fearsome chewing ability.

He said: "Blow me down! There was a hole right through the plastic.

"It alarmed me. I thought we could be in for a plague of mice with tough teeth."

Fred Hams, a pest control officer with Ashford council, was called in and instantly identified the getaway as a "big, clumsy and eccentric yellow-necked mouse".

He said: "Most mice found in houses are a variety of field mouse, but what is special about Tenterden is its population of yellow-necked mice — which are best identified by their white tummies.

Destructive

"They are athletic and can jump two or three feet. They also carry poison away and store it."

"They have quaint habits. They are magpie-like, storing berries and covering them with silver paper or sweet wrappers."

Mr Hams says pockets of the breed are found world-wide and Tenterden has been a habitat for several years.

They are very destructive: "They treat a house like a hollow tree. I have seen holes made by them through the plastic back of a fridge".

He says two mild winters have seen an increase in numbers. The borough pest control department offers a free service for domestic properties.

9/2/1990

A TENTERDEN footpath bridge that was swept away during the hurricane two years ago, has been replaced, just days after the

Members of Tenterden Footpaths Group, under the supervision of county paths officer Fred Dwight, has already replaced the nine metre bridge across the Newmill Channel at Isemonger Farm, off the Cranbrook Road.

The scheme, financed by the county using labour supplied by the footpaths groups, has already replaced several missing crossing points in the area

The group has already constructed two bridges at Smallhythe.

The Newmill Channel fed the watermill in Cranbrook Road and another near Rolvenden Station.

The bridge is on a circular walk and leads to several footpaths.

Bridge builders were chairman David Harley, secretary

