

Long Eaton Militaires travel to Germany for three-day party event

Street festival extravaganza

CARNIVAL band the Long Eaton Militaires travelled to Germany in February to take part in one of the biggest street festivals in the country, The Essen Rosenmontag Parade.

The highlight of the annual parade is on Rosenmontag (the Monday before Ash Wednesday) when 60 different carnival societies, from across the world, all dress in costume and parade through the city.

The ensuing party lasts for three days

and three nights, and ended with a big celebration on Ash Wednesday.

Around 30 members of the group travelled to their twin town Voll Freud where they were put up by German band member's families.

The parade was watched by thousands on German TV and hit the headlines as far as Europe.

Organiser Colin Webster said: "The weather was really good and the sun shined the whole of the period we were over there."

"It really was brilliant."

Charlotte Turner Yorke, 13, plays the

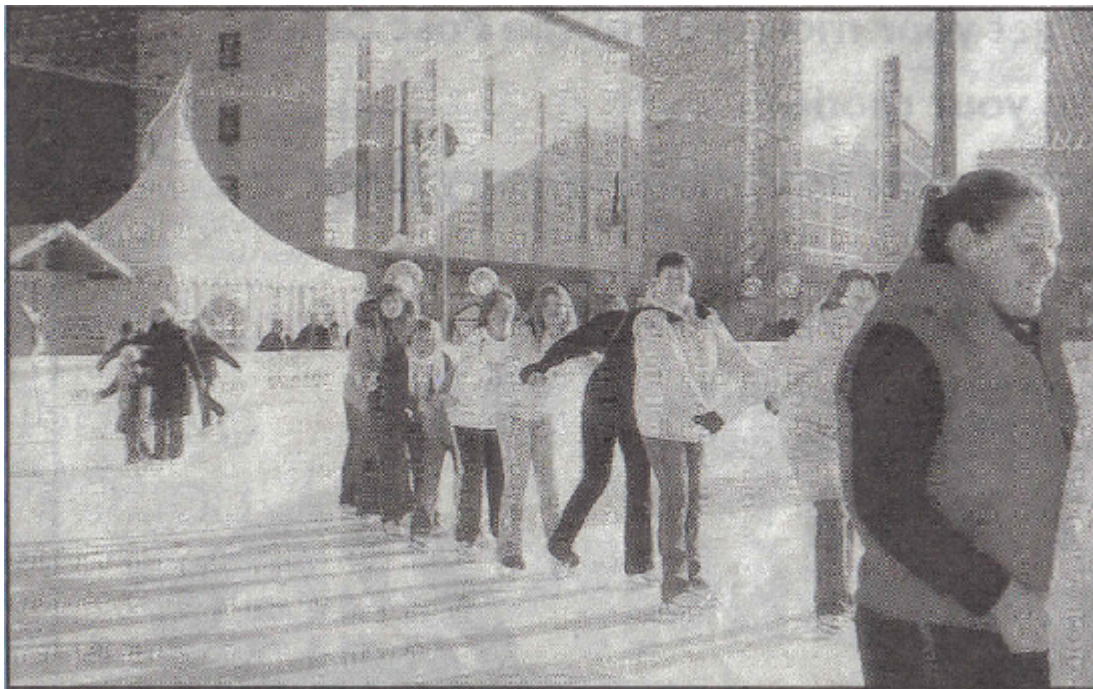
saxophone and Alicia Morley, 16, plays the glockenspiel in the band.

Alicia, who goes to The Long Eaton School, said: "It was scary because this was the biggest carnivals we have ever been to."

"The crowds were massive and there were thousands of people."

"The visit was so good and everyone was so nice. We made a lot of friends and the hardest part was saying goodbye."

The event went so well that the band are returning the favour and hosting the German band next year.



Above: Band members enjoy the tourist sites. Here they are ice skating. CNF



Above: Party night: Band members and others played during the night. CNF



Above: The parade passes through Oberhausen on Sunday morning. Long Eaton Carnival band group together. CNF



Above: Oberhausen during the parade. CNF



Above: Long Eaton Militaires Carnival band members. CNF