

Big win for little old me : Hatice Kocaman gets one over the school bullies with Guinness World Record.

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Hatice Kocaman gets one over the school bullies with Guinness World Record

Big win for little old me



Relaxed: All the chairs in Miss Kocaman's house are big and comfy Pictures: Eberoff

THE last laugh is on those who used to tease Hatice Kocaman about her height, the 71cm (28in) woman who shot to fame as the world's shortest woman.

The 21-year-old, who has a kind of dwarfism, has spoken of her joy at winning the title earlier this year.

'I always hoped that one day the world would recognise me,' said Miss Kocaman, who weighs just 6.8kg (15lb) and lives in Kadirli, a remote area of Turkey.

'It was hard when I was a child because all my classmates used to tease me for being small.

'But now I am famous because of my size. So it makes me feel like I am much taller,' she said.

The world has certainly become her oyster but she hopes there are plenty of fish

By **Ross McGuinness**

in the sea, too. 'God made me the way I am and I am proud of that. I hope I can find someone who will love me one day,' she added.

Miss Kocaman is the second shortest person in world behind Nepalese man Khagendra Thapa Magar, who is 67cm (26.3in) and weighs 6.5kg (12lb). It has been a long journey for

a woman who didn't have her dwarfism diagnosed until a few years ago.

She lives with her parents, Ibrahim and Hatun, who said she was born naturally and seemed to develop normally until she was a year old.

'Then we noticed she seemed to be growing more slowly than other babies,' said Hatun.

She continued to develop and learned to walk and talk but hardly grew at all.

'We asked the doctors to help but they couldn't tell us what the problem was,' said her mother.

The family did not have a car and could not afford to travel to seek help. They were eventually told her condition may be due to a bone disorder caused by faulty genes carried by both parents.



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Clever little thing: The smartphone she holds gives you a sense of scale



Single mingle: X Factor's One Direction, Cher Lloyd and Aiden Grimshaw record a cover of David Bowie's *Heroes*, raising money for the Help The Heroes charity (Pictures: Help For Heroes)

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Walsh: Cher is too big for her boots

X Factor judge Louis Walsh has upped his hitching by ripping into Cheryl Cole's 'unlikeable' hopeful Cher Lloyd. He said the 17-year-old was believing her own hype and warned it would backfire. 'I couldn't work with Cher,' said the 58-year-old Westlife manager. 'She thinks she's going to be an overnight success, and because she listens to American r'n'b, she's picked up all these weird musical things and

makes funny faces. There's no likeability there.' Walsh told *Heat* magazine: 'Cher is believing her own publicity, which is a big mistake. She's definitely changed. I don't get any warmth from her. She needs to learn to be nice to everybody because you'll meet them on the way down.' Walsh also claimed X Factor reject Rebecca Ferguson, 24, felt 'let down' because mentor Cole spent more time working with Cher.



Was Katie on last year's X Factor?

Katie Whisell's past ties to Simon Cowell appeared stronger yesterday after she was forced to deny performing on stage with Jedward last year. The singer hit Twitter after eagle-eyed fans spotted a doppelgänger DJing in the background during the duo's Rock DJ cover in an online X Factor clip. 'Just saw I was supposedly in @planetjedward performance, sadly untrue, i wish I was lol!x' tweeted the 24-year-old. She's also allegedly in trouble over a reported US song release.