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Newly refurbished Crown's Restaurant

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Warm welcome to all, families & private parties included. Pleasantly decorated 20 seater restaurant. Concentrating on old English fare. 07527320802

Here at the Broadie we've been working tirelessly (yeah right) to get you, our lovely reader, a Christmas issue out. Well here it is, inside you'll find all the normal stuff plus some extra Christmassy stuff. Our Wally is reviewing what he's got up to with all that glorious food and stuff he's grown on his allotment and what he's foraged for out in the depths of the countryside. We've got lots of Christmas musical events covered, there's pressie ideas for your loved ones from around the town and from Will, who has made one hell of a mess in the kitchen knocking up Christmas gifts, (And he won't get anything from Mr Claus unless he tidies up). plus seeing as it's the season of goodwill to one and all, we've even kept the rants to a minimum,

with thanks to Sally from Small World Department store for the front cover

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5000 copies printed. 4500 delivered free to homes in the CT10 area. Copies also available for 40p from various outlets. We can't deliver free to everyone because it costs too much, takes too long, and well....its only 40p





Sparkle. 18mnth never had a proper home. female

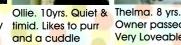


Lucky. 7 yrs. Owners passed on. **Beautifulbig** boy

Bodhi. 2yrs. Benaal/cross loves to play Male.



2 boys. 24 weeks. Would love a family to be part of



Owner passed on.



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stray, but now enjoys

Very Loveable cat. a warm lap & a fuss

Ebony. 2.5yrs. Rescued from bad home. Very sweet





Felixe, 5yrs, female Rosie, 2,5 yrs, found Desperately wants in a box & deserves a a new home warm loving home

Letters

Your Letters Bricks & Blocks

Dear sir / madam

I was wondering if you or any of your readers could help me out with the attached picture taken just a day or two ago.

The picture shows Albion Street with its lovely new block paving.

What I'd like to know is where does the road end and the pavement begin. I've heard figures bandied about town that the cost came in at £400,000 for all phases of the project. I'm concerned that pedestrians may think that the road has been pedestrianised, which as far as I know, it has not.

I really don't think that was money well spent. (please see photo) Yours Sincerely Chris, Broadstairs



Whips and rotten fruit

Dear sir/madam

I have just read your latest publication and enjoyed your usual pithy observations of life in Broadstairs. I must however take issue with what I feel to be your extremely lenient comments on the buffoons who took it upon themselves to provide us with alternative "entertainment" during Folk Week. These spoilsports should be clapped in irons and fed on water and doggie bix until next Folk Week when, as an added attraction to the torchlight procession, they would be horse whipped through the streets down to the harbour, there to be placed in the stocks and pelted with noxious and toxic substances prior to being fed to the fishes.

I remain your obedient servant Name & address

supplied

(Come to think of it, some people would pay good money for all that)

Road Bling

Well our new Albion Street and High Street are now paved with gold, or they might as well be seeing as the official cost (Perhaps though not the total cost) comes in at around £225,000 for the completion of phase three. That's approximately £560 per metre of road measured from Queens Road to the Albion Street car park.

. Money well spent?

Is it KCC's Highways way of completely messing up the town by discouraging visitors from driving down Albion Street. Yes, absolutely, they even admit it. Did they do it in other towns in Thanet? Yes absolutely, and are those high streets just flourishing.....

Didn't KCCH tell us they wanted to reduce accidents? Yes, absolutely and then installed measures that caused cars to have to mount pavements to avoid bloody great coaches getting jammed into buildings, oh yes, and how many ensuing fights by irate car drivers were also caused.

They also used compromised data to reinforce their claims that accidents that happened within the town would be miraculously cured by their new measures. One such accident in the high street involved an acquaintance of mine who insists that the incident was entirely due to an elderly gent who was sadly no longer able to drive sufficiently well and was later banned from driving in the courts, this had nothing whatsoever to do with road layout even though KCCH uses this information to attempt to justify their plans.

They have also now installed raised areas that make the differentiation between pavement and road quite difficult, in that, okay, there may be bollards there, but pedestrians may well now consider the area pedestrianised.

Did KCCH promise to put up the very simple idea of a high visibility sign pointing coaches into the COACH PARK to avoid this situation?

Yes, absolutely. And have those signs been put up yet. My tiny white arse have they.

Did KCCH close Albion Street approximately two years ago to install the pointless and troublesome traffic calming measure opposite the Balmoral gardens, thus losing many businesses money, only to now decide that the measure was useless and now close the road again and lose those businesses even more money. Yes, absolutely.

Let's also look at the knock on effect in Albion Street, so far two businesses have shut up shop since the works have started, although these businesses haven't necessarily closed just because of the road closure, one business cites the works as the last nail in the coffin. Other businesses have complained that they are down twenty percent per day and have so far lost thousands,.....but why? Well quite simply because KCCH have shut off Albion Street and have caused residents to take other routes and therefore avoid Broadstairs town centre, which is also exactly what KCCH want to happen in the long run, with their statement that they want to "discourage motorists from using Albion Street" Did KCCH really consult or listen to the general public with their alleged consultation process? Absolutely not. Because from the outset we were asked to vote on two concepts both of which messed up Albion Street, the phrase "Hobsons Choice" springs readily to mind, they then "took the good points from both plans" and came up with the plan they are now involved with, which can hardly be called a recipe for producing a cohesive traffic plan.

Apparently some people found KCCHs team very amiable, which I'm sure is true, I'd be very amiable if I'd just messed up another town and was paid handsomely for it by the people who will have to put up with my mistakes.

Oh and whilst we are at it why is it that the KCCH honoured the general public with their presence for a question and answer session just once, and then questions had to be supplied before the event? Are they not our employees and therefore answerable to us at our convenience? So in summing up, should we as a community sack these un-elected penpushers who spend our money so unwisely on ill-judged plans that had no actual approval from residents. Yes we should.

Name and address supplied

Humbug

Bah Humbug

Not a refreshing minty chew for sheep, but the cry of protest and disdain at the over-Christmasisation of, well, Christmas.

The worst perpetrators of over-Christmasisation are, sad to say, my fellow retailers. Lets be honest, we have perfected the art. No sooner are we within sniffing distance of a mince pie (about November 1st in most cases) than we can be seen spraying aerosol snow to faux mullioned windows giving that seasonal Dickensian feel-good factor.

Ah yes, the late 1800s; a time of TB, ricketts and child labour. Its not just the Dickens nonsense, but the festive muzak blaring out over the heads of dead-eyed supermarket staff who have just heard Noddy Holder shout "Its Christmas" for the millionth time as he ends Slade's evergreen musical tribute to the birth of Jesus.

Yes folks, its all as fake as a Co-op Santa. By the time December comes around, we have had any Goodwill to all men bludgeoned out of us with the blunt instrument of marketing overkill.

This reminds me. A friend's family had a Nativity scene of ancient provenance, its characters finely fashioned in hand painted china. Every year it would be lovingly assembled on the hall table at the family home. Each shepherd and wise man at his correct station in the well-known tableau. But as time passed, children and then grandchildren broke the pieces until some could be repaired no more and replacements had to be found. Scale was compromised when an Action Man stood in for a decapitated Joseph, then the Christ child himself was substituted by a polythene doppleganger circa 1990. Still the pieces would be brought out year after year until none of the original cast remained. By this time it had become a running joke to see who could sneak in the weirdest replacement without it being spotted, culminating last year in the appearance of a worshipping brontosaurus and a brace of Dalek magi.

Someone said, Confucus probably, that if Xmas didnt exist we would have invented it.

Perhaps it should just be renamed "Happy Spendytime" or "Pigout Drinky Week".

Its hard to drop out though. Like trying to jump off a speeding train, the Yuletide Express, but people would just think you were off your nut and risk life and limb to pull you back on board. There is no escape, so we might as well lay back and enjoy it but throw in the odd Bah Humbug now and then, just to let them know you are on the side of the Angels.

Merry Christmas Look out ! There goes a T Rex reindeer! Peter Ellis All Weather Clothing

Caption Contest



A "Mr Cheeseman" of Belvedere Road suggests:-"Foot loose and fancy free" and backs that up with "Oh! That's where my tobacco pouch went" Last Months caption contest involved Mr Headley with some foot based shenanagins. Here's the entries:-

"Knees up Mother Brown,....no not like that Paul!.

"When you said it was a foot, I didn't realise it actually was "A foot".

A small problem arises when Mr Headley caused something to stir under a towel



e-mail: terry@mandgmusic.freeserve.co.uk www.mandgmusic.com

Ivy Harrison (nee Parker)

Ivy Harrison who has been writing letters about old Broadstairs for the Broadie, died peacefully on Monday 23rd Nov. She was 98. So far Ivy had been our oldest contributor. I'm sure we speak for all our readership by passing on our condolences to her family and friends



Standard result

We are very pleased to announce that the search for a flag for the Harbour building which was featured in the last issue has resulted in one being donated. The flag was given anonymously by a kind hearted member of the public. We sincerely hope that we will now

have the joyous spectacle of seeing Andy the harbourmaster blowing on his Bugle as he raises the standard each morning whilst surrounded by saluting seagulls.

Many thanks to whoever the donor was.

Ollie eats out

Poker Chips

Living in Broadie we are blessed with numerous restaurants, cafes and eateries to suit all tastes. moods and bank balances. Therefore welcome to what we at the Broadie hope will become a regular new feature the Broadie Restaurant Review. For

our first review we were invited by G-Casino to try the food in their brand new restaurant.

The restaurant is a part of the G-Casino leisure complex located at the ever expanding Westwood Cross; having never been into a casino there was some apprehension about what to expect. Having to sign in and have your photo taken was a novel experience, however inside the casino is bright, modern and thoroughly pleasant; in fact everything you would expect from a new(ish) venue owned by a big name national chain. The restaurant and bar take up approximately 1/4 of the casino, the rest being given over to the gaming floor and a large poker/function room. The raised eating area gives diners a view over the main room allowing those with voyeuristic tendencies to watch the winners and losers highs and lows as they dine. The biggest plus was the service which couldn't be faulted; the staff were thoroughly professional and struck the right balance between being there when needed but not hovering around the table. Of course this could be because they know what important people we at the Broadie are, although I will perhaps give them the benefit of the doubt this time.

The food was broadly what you would expect, a mix of pizza, pasta, risotto, steaks, and burgers with some contemporary British cuisine. We opted for the Belly Pork with black pudding and a Fillet Steak; both were well presented and the portions generous. The steak was particularly good and was cooked to our request. The chef was even able to accommodate our fussy requests for peas and a black pepper sauce to accompany the steak. Whilst belly pork can have a tendency to be fatty when not cooked right the balance here was good and contrasted well with the crispy fried black pudding, spiced apple and the sweet braised shallots.

The puddings, Vanilla Pannacotta with Berry Compote and Tiramisu and starters. Chicken Liver Terrine and Wild Mushroom Bruschetta were not homemade but were well presented and of a good guality. The Tiramisu was a particular favourite and can be recommended.

Overall it was a pleasant surprise and the range of special offers and promotions available are good value. After the meal we were also given a free lesson on the roulette wheel which you don't get in many places; although as it wasn't real money we weren't allowed to keep our winnings.



Price (3 course for 2 plus drinks) - approx £50

If any other restaurateurs, publicans or café owners in Broadie would like to offer us a free meal we will happily accept and can promise an impartial review and some free publicity in return.

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The Brigadier

The Broadie

The Brigadier

Another Christmas and more mouths to feed in the Brigadiers ever extending family. Of course "children should be seen and not heard" was the saying in my formative years, those days were largely spent living up to this adage on the account of papa shutting all seven of us in the soundproof glass display cabinet in the study where he kept his montage of dead



African animals from his long years in the Congo. Didn't do me any harm, so long as you don't count my penchant for insisting on sleeping with an array of stuffed mammals, curiously I find they aid restful sleep, however the beloved is not so keen, but as I regularly point out they make less noise than she does in the twilight hours. I remember the good lady being pregnant with our very own bundles of perpetual joy, how could I ever forget, she had quite the longest labour I've ever known, in fact the temper she was in I believe it must have lasted nine months. When the little bugger finally decided to show up I gave the old girl a slap on the back, told her to stop all this nonsense about pain and reminded her she was British..., very similar sort of chat we had at the conception as I recall. Couldn't be doing with this modern claptrap of being present at the birth,... far too much sticky stuff and hair pulling, I did however provide my dearest with some pain relief in the form of an old pipe she could bite down on,.... damned woman nearly bit it in half. When the screaming and crying finally stopped I wiped my eyes, cleared my throat and apologized to the other would be fathers in the waiting room, I was then frogmarched to see my beloved by a woman of biblical proportions who looked like she hadn't smiled since the Titanic went down and smelled of biscuits. She opened the door to the future heir to the estate like she'd entered a bar-fight in a particularly bad western and placed the infant babe in my arms, "Quite a handsome little fellow" I remarked, which was greeted with a "Unlike his father" by the harridan in the white hat. Once again, I slapped his mother on the back, shook her hand and suggested we make a space in our diary to "Give the little one a brother". Strangely this idea was, how shall I put it, greeted with some very mutinous talk.

As I'm sure you realise, that was many years ago and the whole tribe has grown up now and forced us into having the word "Grand" in front of my family title.

So it's another Christmas with another load of expensive plastic nonsense that will get caught up in my feet as I proceed to the kitchen to snaffle the remains of whatever cook has burnt this year. In my day, all my presents were made from tin, even the hats in the crackers, they were tin, the baubles were tin, even the napkins, probably something to do with papa owning shares in a Cornish Tin mine, even Christmas dinner came out of tins, mainly due to Benson the butler having dug up a cache of Napoleonic supplies whilst we were holidaying in Belgium, "Waste not, want not" said my father as he proceeded to pour a sludgy brown mush and a salty red mush onto his plate from a tin marked "repas triste de napoleons pour un" Although to be fair it looked a damn sight more appetising than that which cook dished up for high tea,

So it only really remains for me to wish all my readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous new year and don't forget your New Year's resolution, and if anyone wants to buy me a present, I never did get a replacement pipe.

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Broadstairs seems to be going through a bit of a change at the moment, sadly quite a few shops have recently stopped trading, they include Johnsons Fish Shop, Windys Milk Shakes, The Bridal shop at the top of town and Threshers, which has apparently gone into administration. On top of that we've got quite a few long term empty shops that also need filling, there's The old Pet store, the shop in Albion Street that is used by Folk Week, there's also the place by the taxi office and Market Antiques up opposite the war memorial. It's not all bad news though, The large double fronted property opposite the Carlton Avenue turning is rumoured to be opening as some sort of restaurant, and the "Big Fish" job agency just down a bit from that has also just been let, but to who we don't know.

Here's a few other new businesses in town which we wish the very best of luck to

Thanet Sport Trophies

127 High St, tel: 600787 (formerly of Northdown Road, Cliftonville)

Thanet Sport trophies is now established on the corner of Clarendon Road opposite the Bradstow Mill pub. The business had to find new premises after their shop was gutted by fire along with the amusement arcade in Cliftonville. Their services include supply trophies, engraving, key cutting, Darts & Accessories, Watch batteries & straps and other fancy goods.



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REGISTE



Cake

(Next to Cats Whiskas, High St) Come on, I bet you can't guess what they sell. Yup, you got it...... CAKE. And very good cake it is too.

Get yourself up there to try some of the best fancy cakes, Fairy cakes and other naughty nibbles. You'll come out with crumbs on your jumper and cream around your mouth.

"Pierremont Motors" site

The old Pierremont motors garage on the corner of Vere road has now been flattened. We're not sure when the actual construction work will start, but the good news is that the developers have retained retail space for shops etc on the ground floor of the development, which will certainly add to the High street.



They have also designed the new building to be very much in keeping with the local area.

Oliver Roger

Plumbing & Heating Engineer. WRAS Approved Contractor Full Heating Systems

Bathroom and Kitchen Installations



Godfrey & the Goose

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Godfrey & The Goose

"There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration..."

" Do you know the poulterers in the next street but one , at the corner?" Scrooge enquired.

- " I should hope I did," replied the lad.
- " An intelligent boy !" said Scrooge.

" A remarkable boy ! Do you know whwther they've sold the prize goose that was hanging up there ? Not the little prize goose, the big one ?"

" What , the one as big as me ?" returned the boy. "its hanging there now."

"Is it ?" said Scrooge, " go and buy it." From (nearly) A Christmas Carol.

The Goose.

It was the eve of the eve of Christmas. Godfrey scented the snow in the air with the waves of cinammon, demerara sugared brandy and wine warming in a deep vat in Fitzgerald's bar. Mince pies with clotted cream and punch. The bells of Our Lady Stella Maris rang out in the noon of the day. The sea was lapping at the little town in the dying year and a few spots of snow now swirled in upon the wind from the ocean.

He pulled his scarf around him and lowered the peak of his worn racing cap, glad of the warmth of his tweed suit. It was time to walk around the shops to buy the last ingredients , to drink in the good spirits of the townspeople hauling in piles of logs and crates of wine. Godfrey "Escoffier" Gordon was a class cook. He had stocked the house for family and friends with military precision. Fine wine from Berry Bros. And Rudd, vegetables and salads from the fields of Kent , a huge poacher's pie from Norfolk, Porter ale from the Victory Stores, truffles from Tuscany and Krug champagne. The Times crossword was neatly completed . There was no racing save for a lowly meeting at Fontwell Park and the all weather from Southwell. Soon it would be time for a pint of ale from the Rogue's Tavern before an afternoon to prepare the white wine sauce for the risotto for supper. There was one last task. He walked up to Howard's the butchers

where the trussed turkeys were strung up heads down on the railsthirty or forty of them, all with labels bearing the names of their claimants. Godfrey had ordered the finest goose that Howard could find . A huge goose , fattened on maize and acorns for months in preparation.

" I just thought I'd check," he said to Nick thr meat, "I'll collect the bird tomorrow, if that's OK?"

"7.30," said Nick, " we'll be open."

Holy Orders.

Godfrey was catapaulted and jolted from sleep, a deep dream of the heaven's opening and being showered with thick drops of snow which as they touched the ground turned into gold pieces. The phone drilled into his half conscious head. He stretched out an arm into the cold outside the cocoon of warmth. "Yes?"

" Godrey. Its Father Lawrence from the Abbey."

Godfrey was a man of God . He was a devout Catholic who attended

all his days at St Augustine's Abbey , the celebrated Pugin church in the next town along the coast.

" Could you help? We've had a disaster. Our chef has gone sick and we are entertaining a group of Augustinian monks from St Omer tonight. Can you step into the breach?"

The Broadie

It was but 6.10 am. It was the eve of Christmas. Holy Orders, he thought, and obeyed.

He worked through the afternoon with calm and measured precision. " Is there anything we can get you ," asked Fr. Lawrence, as Godfrey tasted the cranberry sauce he had made. Two fine turkeys were roasting in the oven. He poured some Hennessey VSOP into the brandy butter sauce . He sipped the cognac..Hennessey..the Gold Cup at Newbury. The potatoes roasted in a sea of goose fat , cracking and spitting like dry kindling burning.

His work and Christian duty was done . He slipped into the evening carol service and sang happily amid the winter's snow and in the little town of Bethlehem. Plenty of time. 7.15 and the last duty, to collect the beauty.

With holy thanks and happy christmas greetings ringing in his ears, he drove off as the snow thickened.

As he left the coast road and turned into the High street he thought of the excitement as he brought home the great bird, as a trophy.

It was odd, but he couldn't see any lights from the line of shops. Credit crunch, he thought.

He parked and walked, with increasing concern.

The shop was stone cold bonkers utterly shut. No hanging turkeys, no smiling face of Nick the meat, it was all as cold as any stone.

In desperation and in vain he knocked on the door. It was silent in the cold and there was no response.

Could Nick have meant 7.30AM? He now remembered going to London early one morning. Nick had been there at 6am. Miserere

Bleak House.

There was a complex of commercial outlets at Windward. The supermarkets were shut. There was an Indian corner shop. There was the garage metro shop.

He came to a heroic decision. They would accept fate as the cards had fallen and embrace the stark truth. He had shot his albatross. There was a grim family meeting. All over the world children were starving. They would be lucky to have a whole bowl of rice.

They too would have rice and a thin soup. They would wake on Boxing Day lean and hungry, sober and whole , full of goodness and the real spirit of Christmas.

There was San Pellegrino, Carr's water biscuits, a fine consomme sans sherry and plain boiled rice.

Godfrey bid the day farewell at 9.15. The snow had melted. It had been a cloudy and dismal day.

The Welsh National.

St Stephens day had also passed , equally grey and dismal.



The Broadie

It was early on the Saturday that the sun filtered in and he scented the morning air as he opened the window and looked outside to a bright blue sky. He had slept late. As he looked out , not on the feast of Stephen, he saw the paper boy leave his porch, having left the Times and the Racing Post.

" Do you know Howard's the butchers?"

" I should hope I did, " replied the lad.

"An intelligent boy! A remarkable boy !

"Would you go and ask Nick the butcher for my f-g goose?" The goose soon came home to roost. Godfrey sat before the fire with a coffee. As his spirits raced with the bird safely even now having a primary roast, he pored over the Racing Post with an invigorating

glass of Veuve Clicquot. 2.05 Chepstow

No. 15 The Flying Goose age 7 10.2 No. 20 Holy Orders age 10 10.0 The Flying Goose: " well out of the weights today. Not won for 3 years. Big step up in class.." 33/1 Holy Orders " does not really have a prayer. Stable's form a cause for concern." 40/1.

As he dug deeper into the form of obscure point to points in bogs in Ireland , a tingle of excitement took hold. He was no punter for following names of horses but this was too much.

" Is that Ponsonby Turf Accountants?

"Yes, Sir, account number please?" " 0258164. A £30 exacta 15 to beat 20 in the Welsh National."

It was the afternoon at the Rogue's Tavern. The racing crowd filtered in as well as other regulars. In the build up to the race , Godfrey sensed the beer and money fuelled excitement. The afternoon sun shone on the muscled flanks of trained to the minute Muhammed Ali equine athletes parading and cantering down to the start.

Holy Orders had drifted to 50/1, the Goose to 40/1. Godfrey noted that the jockey on Holy Orders had colours very similar to those of the classy well backed second favourite. They were off . Godfrey stood and watched every shake of a rein and any signs of horses coming off the bridle. The commentary filled the bar.

At the moment , Clive, 6 foot 3, and a golfer, stood berfore him blocking his view of the screen.

" I hit a really good shot to the 14th.just dipped a bit on the wind , held up with the backspin and on the green...."

" And at the third last, Holy Orders is gone , hit the hell right out of that fence.."

Godfrey winced.

" But up front , its the F-g (sorry viewers) Flying Goose and he is flying taking four lengths out of Bill the Builder and L'attaque. Over the last it's the Flying Goose neck for neck Bill the Builder, fighting all the way to the wire, in the shadow of the post, the Goose will not be denied, this goose is not cooked I reckon its up for all money and will not be denied.."

" and on the 18th," Clive went on and on ," to cut a long story short, I three putted..."

" Ive got to put my hands up viewers, I've called it wrong..similar colours its Holy Orders whose second ..Jesus Christ.."

" the full result: 1st The Flying Goose 50/1

2nd Holy Orders 40/1.....

Exacta £2500.

" F-k off Clive, " said Godfrey " and Happy New Year."

Godfrey's goose had come home to roost and was cooked .

He was £75,000 to the good .

And a Happy New Year to everyone.

By Harry

Victory News & Pie Emporium

But look here..... What the Dickens is going on?

here's what a satisfied customer had to say. "Gor, blimey, even Tiny Tim got up and danced with joy what wiv' all that lovely meaty fillin'": -Bob Scratchit



Yes we're giving Mrs Miggins a run for her money. We're now producing gloriously delectable, invigoratingly appetising pie's of all persuasions. Made with the finest free range meat, game and vegetarian ingredients

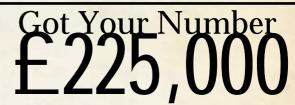
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We are available on the new Customer Communication device. Just pick up the handset and ask for 01843 869368

or use the new 'Stephensons' steam powered computing system and contact us on:-

victory@news4.fsnet.co.uk

No urchins were beaten too badly in the making of this advert.



The price of the alleged road improvements to the high street as stated in the online document listed below. www.kent.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/...94CF.../Backgroundr eport.pdf

What a traffic warden would earn in ten years

a Police Constables wages for eight years

Senior Project and Operational Delivery Managers wages working within the highways agency for less than 5 years

Genuine overheard conversations. #002 Location:- W H Smiths

Mother to small child whilst said child is tidying up magazines on a rack that he has just messed up "Stop that *******,.....you're not paid to do that.



In which our Wally sums up the past 12 months in his role as the new Alan Titchmarsh

Christmas is almost here and as a treat 'ED' has said I can write about whatever I like. This is a huge relief for me and to be honest probably for you too. I had been struggling with a topic. I was torn between a step-by-step guide to soil types (including hand drawn sketches by myself), or a comprehensive guide to courgettes. You are lucky. Very lucky. Having said all that you now have tolerate the following ramble.

My year has basically gone like this. Break nose. Sell vehicle at a great loss (rotten and rotten recession!). Sever finger tip. Chest infection (put a stop to my late night pipe and poker nights with the brigadier). Folk Week. Not all that bad I suppose. So what has been learnt? Don't walk on ice with hands in your pockets stands out quite clearly as does when using new secateurs don't get distracted from the job in hand. The secateurs were being used to collect elderflowers for elderflower 'champagne' (a Will Woodcock speciality). This home brew is so easy to make that it's well worth making yourselves. (Mr W may have to publish his secret recipe!). The only advice that I can give on this is only pick flowers waist height and above. Well you wouldn't eat yellow snow would you?

Being the sort of bloke that doesn't mind a 'freebie' going for a 'forage' is a totally satisfying experience. It certainly adds another dimension to a walk and possibly your vegetable rack too. Recently Will myself and a couple of other geeky

190 top quality onions for £4.00,

read it and weep Tesco

blokes went on a mushroom finding session (No, not those one's!!) with great success. Admittedly half of our quarry turned out to be poisonous but we did find a good amount of edible ones. Beefsteak, chicken of the woods, common puffball, shaggy parasol, field and wood mushrooms were all found. You obviously do need to know what you're doing when it comes to fungi so cross referencing 3 different books is an absolute must before any are consumed.

There are plenty of safe and fairly obvious alternatives to 'forage' such as wild plums, elderberries, sloes, blackberries, walnuts, chestnuts and hazel nuts are all fairly common (though now may not be the best time!). While I have this chance to ramble and while I'm on the topic of 'cheap', I would like to mention a book that I have been given. It was published at the turn of the century and is without question the best book of vegetable growing I have ever read. It was written before veg growing became a novel hobby for Waitrose shoppers and allotments were a hugely important part of our society. It assumes that all you have is a handful of seeds, some earth and the need to fill both you and your families bellies. Informative without being pretentious (I read with envy). It's the economics of veg growing that encourages me to grow. Why spend lots of money on something when you can get better guality at a fraction of the price? Last season I bought 200 onion sets for 4 pounds. I lost a few through rot so I probably harvested about 190. 190 top quality onions for 4 pounds! Read it and weep Tesco. Read it and weep! The feeling that you are winning over the supermarkets is

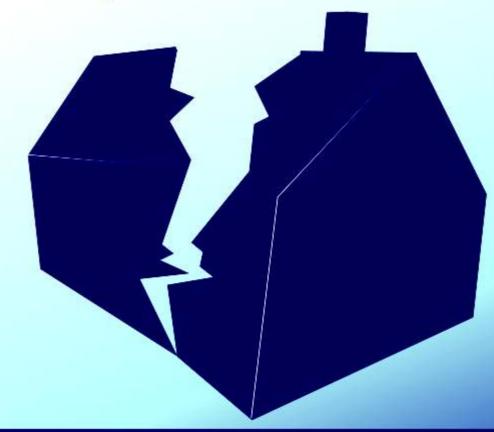
utterly priceless. Well every little helps. I had better cut my ramble short. Considering the lack of boundaries regarding this article and the current economic, political and environmental climate I/ you could be here a while. Well I hope you all have a great Christmas.

And very good luck on your plot in the New Year.

Wally's top tip for 2010; Stick it to the man and grow your own.



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Wills Festive makes



Christmas Makes

Well well, its almost here again and if you are like me you will be getting rather excited and starting to think about getting things ready. Here are a few suggestions for home made items I find useful myself.

Cloved Oranges

Quite simply cover an orange in cloves. The clove naturally has one free stalky end which can be pushed into the skin of an orange in striped patterns to make a rustic but heart warming decoration. When doing this, it is best to used a good tough stubborn orange rather than the small delicate easy to peel variety as these will tend to last longer and tend to look more spherical.

As these oranges can have rather tough skin, it will help to pierce the skin with a needle to aid insertion of the cloves. For an extra special look, wrap ribbon twice round the orange like wrapping a present and fill in the gaps left with the cloves. Roll the finished product in cinnamon or nutmeg for added scent.

It is probable that this tradition was started when oranges were considered an exotic treat for the rich and wealthy and so used as decoration.

Wrapped Cinnamon

Yet again, just simply 3 cinnamon sticks wrapped in red ribbon with a bow. Not terribly complicated but very effective.

Wreaths

Can be bought from many places, more often in plastic but sometimes real. But yet again you can quite easily make your own. Step one - find some pliable woody stems like willow hazel. Failing this you can use gardening wire.

Step two - make a circle with the woody stems or the wire. Step three - weave branches of a conifer or holly round the ring of wood/wire and secure with more wire or string remembering to place all branches facing in one direction.

Step four - add a few extra touches with wild berries and fir cones attached to the wreath.

The tradition of the Christmas wreath comes mostly from older more earthy traditions of worshipping the fruitfulness and vitality of life in general and showing so from the vivid greens adversity over the depth of winter weather. Holly was used greatly by the pagans for its evergreen properties showing the bountiful earth, but holly was later taken up by the Christians originally as a symbol to avoid persecution by the pagans but propagated as a tradition in its own right.



Stockings

Christmas stockings can be essential for some people to maintain a happy and fulfilled Christmas day. Some people however do not have stockings but may want to join in. Nice stockings are available in our fair town but if you would like to make your own, you may find little information on the subject. There are many methods by which you can make a stocking. If you can knit or crochet this will make a lovely stocking if you follow a pattern for a sock but greatly increase the size (if you are like myself inefficient at following patterns, a long scarf can be joined at the sides to make an effective tube shape.) However, by far the most effective method to use is cutting some material to the shape and sewing together the edges. (white and red furry material from Willow Fabrics gives it that extra Christmasy look).



Mince Pies

I'm sure in the coming months we will all be consuming vast quantities of the old mince pie. Thank goodness, I say, that it is no longer made with meat. here is a hearty recipe for the much loved festive snack.

Mincemeat

Mix 125g of raisins, sultanas, currants, dried chopped figs and dried chopped dates, 175g of muscovado sugar, 75g butter, a level teaspoon of cinnamon powder and ground nutmeg, 225g vegetarian shredded suit, and 450g chopped peeled cooking apples. Heat1/4 pint of cider on a hob in a pan until it starts to simmer, when this happens add 2 tablespoon of syrup and the mixed ingredients and simmer for about 15 to 20 mins making sure it doesn't boil. Leave to cool. When cool add the brandy and any other alcoholic tipples you feel need to be added along with 50g chopped almonds. Stir all the ingredients well and leave to settle for at least one day before using.

Pastry

Sift 225g of plain flower into a mixing bowl. Add 150g butter and rub with the flower to make the all too familiar breadcrumb consistency. Stir 25g of icing sugar together with 1 egg and as much water as is needed to make a soft smooth dough. This pastry is best left for at least half an hour in the fridge before use.

All together now

Grease an individual pie tin and preheat the oven to Gas mark 4 or 180 degrees. Roll out the pastry to a thickness of about 3mm and cut to size placing each base in the tray. Fill the bases with mincemeat. Using the left over pastry you can make tops for the pies. These work very well when cut into star shapes or any other Christmassy shape if you have the cutter. As an added touch at this point you can add a touch of marzipan under the lid.

Bake for 15 to 20 mins until golden brown but leave to cool as they will be very, very hot.

The tradition of the mince pie is an old and turbulent one. The pie was originally much larger and shaped like a crib in reverence to the crib Jesus was born in, it was also mostly made of meat, spices and fruit. Cromwell, as the ultimate scrooge, banned the mince pie at Christmas to diminish certain Christian practices and particularly on Christmas Day loyal religious types would eat the pies in secret as a spit in the face to Cromwell.

Hope you all have a lovely Christmas and enjoy cooking and making all sorts of lovely things.

Feel free to ask me any questions like where to get some of the more obscure herbs and spices.

William Woodcock wjwoodcock@googlemail.com

Make a Will and help save Canterbury Cathedral



When Cathedral Chorister Michael Dianellou, aged eleven, told his mother about the Save Canterbury Cathedral campaign, they decided to come up with a novel way to raise money.

Michael's mother, Jacqui, is a solicitor in Broadstairs and managed to persuade her colleagues at Barnes Marsland Solicitors in the High Street to donate £15-00 to the campaign for every Will they complete for clients who mention the campaign.

"My son told me about the campaign to try and raise £50 million for essential preservation work and we thought about what we could do to raise funds" says Jacqui.

"There are so many people out there who still haven't made proper provision for their families that this seemed a good way to encourage them to do something about it and raise money for this important campaign"

Pam Doyle, of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral who is helping to organise the campaign said it was a "very worthwhile and generous initiative".

If you make or update your Will with Barnes Marsland Solicitors and mention the campaign before the end of December 2009, the firm will donate £15 to the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral, for the Save Canterbury Cathedral campaign. If you decide to leave a legacy of £500 or more to the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in your Will, you will also get a 20% discount on your legal fees. The firm have offices at 103 High Street Broadstairs, or can be contacted on 01843 861595 or via their website www.barnesmarsland.co.uk



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Pressie time

Christmas Pressie Ideas ¥

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3 Aztec Hat

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4 Yankee Candles.

Long lasting scented candles in attractive safe jars, there's also shades and other accessories available. £7.99 - £17.99 at Owlers Nook, Albion Street, Broadstairs. Tel 862130



Is your beloved a shopaholic? If so this cheeky little mug is just for them. £7.50 at "Arrowsmiths" Charlotte Street, Broadstairs





7 Tea Light holder From Bay 158 (see advert) a unique handcrafted driftwood tealight holder for just £15.99 - a fantastic

Christmas gift, would look great on any table, anytime!



6 BigJigs Wooden Train set, (inc'Table and trains)

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8 St Hallet Australian Barossa 2008

Gamekeeper reserve.

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William Woodcock BSc hons, MNIMH

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My next guests are a group of artists that have not been the easiest to pin down and after some months of bullying them I thought they did not fancy the idea of exposing themselves in the Broadie but fear not, one or two members have managed to inspire certain artists to rise to the occasion, please let me introduce The Broadstairs & St Peters Art Group, Thank you all for your time and effort guys and girls, well done.

Julian Lovegrove

When I moved to Broadstairs four years ago I had only been painting for two years but was looking forward to exploring the area and spending as much time as possible painting 'en plein air' or 'Al Fresco', as we seem to call it now.

So imagine my surprise when on a recce, two weeks before our move, I came across an exhibition on the seafront railings by the local Art Society, the Broadstairs & St Peter's Arts Group. Naturally, I joined up right away and my life hasn't been quite the same since. They are such a friendly and sociable group who welcome anyone living in Thanet from absolute beginners to the very experienced, both amateur and professionals alike.

I like to think of myself as an 'art student' despite my 'almost retired' status and spend some hours each week sitting outdoors on a lonely cliff top or in the corner of a field, trying to capture a rare moment of inspiration or the feel of the weather or the wonderful skies. I like to work fast and furiously and am sometimes encouraged in this by a cold sea breeze or the onset of rain. My results are sometimes 'slap dash', occasionally acceptable and on rare occasions excellent (in my opinion). But we 'artists' are usually our own worst critics, setting impossibly high standards.

This year two fellow Art Group members, Joyce and Lawrence Kemp, kindly organised a whole series of weekly 'Al Fresco' sessions and this meant I was no longer alone on that breezy hill top with just my paints and fleeting talent for company but was joined by up to fifteen others who have similar interests and an all important desire to improve their skills and to create original works of art.

Joyce has returned to painting in retirement and enjoys creating landscapes and coastal scenes in watercolour and recently has attempted oils successfully.



Lawrence enjoys drawing and watercolour painting, choosing coastal subjects, boats and barges and the occasional wartime Spitfire. He joined the Art Group about six years ago.

Another member who has returned to watercolour painting after retiring from many years as a professional musician is Raymond Ovens. He also loves to paint outdoors in Thanet, being attracted by the wonderful light that so inspired JMW Turner. Working with other people in the great outdoors whenever possible is the best way to develop as an artist.

This last summer has been blessed with ample warm weather and the 'Al Fresco' group has grown very strong and produced some great paintings of high quality, says Raymond.

Other members have also noticed improvements this year, both in technique and artistry and as the cooler weather approaches, our hard work outdoors, our sketches, our memories and photographs, will all help inspire us to continue working from the warmer comfort of our own homes.

As a 'student' of art and a one time Antique and Fine Art dealer, I also hold a particular fascination with the old watercolourists of the Victorian and Edwardian age. Having studied hundreds of works, mainly by good amateur artists, I am often surprised to discover that I have worked at exactly the same spot as those original artists did when working outdoors. Of course the results are also infinitely variable as if, say, fifteen artists were to paint from the same location today, the result would be fifteen very different and individual works.

This is because every artist has their own 'style', almost like handwriting, and is one reason why an expert pays more attention to brushwork, the palette, and the composition, and less attention to the signature. In a similar way, you wouldn't need to check the signature of a letter from your mother. You would know from the handwriting.

Being creative has other benefits. For instance, on a good day you may have something fresh, original and perhaps, one day, valuable, to take home unlike a golfer, an angler or a skateboarder. Of course, spending time outdoors in our glorious Thanet scenery is refreshing enough reward by itself. But enjoying the outdoors with interesting and creative people surely cannot be surpassed.

If you enjoy sketching, painting or other creative activities and would like to meet other like-minded people, see some professional artists' demonstrations, join in our 'Al Fresco' days, (it's not usually breezy or rainy, honest!) and perhaps hang your work on the seafront railings next summer, please e-mail me julianlovegrove@hotmail.com or telephone Brian or Tina Webb on 01843 848016 to enquire about membership of the Art Group.



Peters Tip of the Month









Here we have a simple still life which can be set up anywhere indoors with a controlled light source which means you will have all the time in the world to draw and paint your subject (until the apples start going a bit mouldy of course).

Once drawn, a wash of yellow is laid leaving the jug and a little white of the paper on the apples and when dry a wash of red is laid, this time painting around the apples as well as the jug.

Now mix a strong wash of blue and red and lay this down for the background painting around the apples and jug, then thin down the strength of this wash by a half and paint over the lower front for the shadow on the table cloth and if you are feeling flash put in a bit of blue and red to suggest some form of pattern in the cloth.

Here is the finished painting folks ! The last stage is up to you how far you work up the detail but be careful not to overwork a simple idea , I feel looking at the finished painting that the jug is far too fussy and the apples have been overworked and have lost some of their freshness . TIP ONFI

This painting was produced with three primary colours /red blue and yellow but only two of those were mixed in the palette at any one time ,MIX ALL THREE PRIMARY COLOURS IN THE PALETTE AT ONCE AND THIS WILL PRODUCE MUD! Try to mix your colours on the paper letting the water do the work rather than your brush . TIP TWO!

When the painting is at a stage you feel you are not quite sure what to do next IT IS TIME TO PUT THE BLOODY BRUSH DOWN ,

More paintings are ruined by over working due to the fact the artist does not know when the picture finished, REMEMBER WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT.

Peter Buckey

Page 18

Festivities

Christmas Music Events in December

St Peter's Memorial Hall

Tues 9th & Weds 10th 7.30pm Christmas Carols St Peter's Old Boys & Community Ass Holy Trinity Church Sun 13th 2.30pm Annual Carol Concert with Thanet Male Voice Choir The 60 strong choir is performing for the 13th time at this now well established annual event. Said by many to be the start of their Christmas, the choir, will this year be accompanied by the Proteus Brass Ensemble and there will be the usual visit from Father Christmas (and his son!!!) Tickets £6 available by phoning Richard Aslet 867570 This year's proceeds will go to the RNLI

St Peter's Parish Church

Sun 13th 4pm Christingle Sun 20th 6.30pm Carol Service Thurs 24th 4pm Crib Service

St. Andrew's Church, Reading Stre

16th 7.30pm Voyagers Carol Service 24th 3pm Christingle Service 24th 6.30pm Candlelight Carols 24th 11.30pm Midnight Mass



Sun 20th 6.30pm Candle lit Carol Service Thurs 24th 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Our Lady Star of the Sea

24th 5.30pm Carols, 6pm children's mass 11.30pm candlelight carols, 12pm midnight mass

Captain Digby 24th 7ish Salvation Army Carols 867764

Neptune's Hall Mon 14th starts early Evening Carols & Christmas Song 'sing along' 861400 Pavilion Sun 13th 7.30pm B & St P's **Concert Band Christmas Concert** 581185

The Albion Hotel Fri 11th & Fri 18th Evening Carols 868071

The Barnaby Rudge Weds 23rd 9pm Nigel Feast & The Dark Horses, 70s & 80s Christmas songs 863240 The Fayreness Tues 15th 7.30pm Carols & Brass Band 868641 The Lanthorne Sat 19th 7pm TBC Carols with mulled wine 861952

The White Swan

Tues 15th 8ish Carols with Thanet Male Voice Choir 863051

New Year's Eve

Viking Bay Fireworks Display Midnight

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Party Time

Pavilion 7pm-2am Gala Dinner & Entertainment The Lord Nelson Mix Match Mark- DJ **Evening Dress optional** Ye Olde Crown Highlander

C

Tartar Frigate 9pm Rhiannon Rae Vocalist/Guitarist Neptune's Hall Paul Onelove The Lanthorne Fancy Dress Party Cramptons Glamorous Fancy Dress

The Fayreness 7.30pm Dinner & Dance £50 Captain Digby Set Meal £30 need to book Bar open as usual Families welcome The Rose Disco Fancy Dress

New Year's Day

'New Year Swim' (If you dare) organised by Neptune's Hall. One of the best spectacles in town at any time of year. Swimmers: meet at Nep at 12 midday in your swimming togs (thermals?) Observers: line Harbour Street to cheer (laugh)

Then watch from the beach and gloat in your woolly hats and gloves. Make sure you have lots of money to put in the collecting tin. Proceeds go to 'Children's Liver Disease Foundation'. For those who dare there is curry or chillie in the Nep after to warm you

up. Thanks as ever to Ken & Jill from the Neptune's Hall for organising such a brilliant sight and starting the New Year off with such a laugh.

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December 2009 Tues 8th 7.30pm The Broadstairs Society: 'My life in the film Industry' by George Frith. Park Hall 868835 Thurs 10th 2pm Thanet Decorative & Fine Arts Soc: 'The Luttrell Psalter Society' Imogen Corrigan'. St Peter's Church Hall 602287 Mon 14th 7.30pm Isle of Thanet Geographical Association: Christmas Celebrations. Park Hall 7.30-9.30pm

Thurs 17th7.30-9.30pmBroadstairs Recorded Music Soc: ChristmasFayre. The Red Hall

January 2010

 Sun 10^m
 11am

 Roc Doc Walk, Stone Bay
 577672

 Mon 11^m
 7.30pm

 Isle of Thanet Geographical Association: Thanet
 Earth. Park Hall

 Tues 12^m
 7.30pm

 The Broadstairs Society: Titanic-Then and Now.
 Park Hall. 868835

Mon 18th 7.30pm Isle of Thanet Archaeological Soc: getting East Kent on the Palaeolithic Map. Crampton Tower

Yard Mon 18th 7.30pm

Thanet Fuchsia Group: Social Evening. St Peter's Church Hall 225122 Thurs 21st 2pm

Thanet Decorative & Fine Arts Soc: Treasures from the Royal Collections. Peter's Church Hall 602287

February 2010

Mon 8th7.30pmIsle of Thanet Geographical Association: The Art
of Wildlife Photography. Park Hall.Thurs 4th7.30pmBroadstairs Recorded Music Soc:. The Red Hall

Sarah Thorne Theatre Club Memorial Theatre, Hilderstone www.sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk

0845 2626263 Sun 13th Dec 2.30pm Dracula The Panto Sat 19th Dec 7.30pm & Sun 20th Dec 2.30pm The Best of Times Mon 28th Thurs 31st Dec Festive Frivolities & Divertissements Sat 9th Jan 7pm New Year Concert Sat 16th Jan 2.30pm & Sun 17th Jan 7.30pm The Great Santa Kidnap Sat 23rd Jan 7.30pm Wine & Wisdom Sat 30th Jan 2.30pm & Sun 31st Jan 7.30pm Bermuda Triangle & The Parachutist Sun 7th Feb 3pm Thanet Light Orchestra

Events and Listings

Regular Meetings/events Every Mon 7.30pm Isle of Thanet Archaeological Soc Crampton Tower Yard 07906 360725 www.iotas.co.uk Every Mon 7.30pm Broadstairs Chess Club Memorial Theatre, Hilderstone Mon Jan 4th & 18th, Feb 18th 7.30pm Broadstairs Writers' Circle Brown Jug Inn 293167 **Every Tues** 7.30pm Learn to Salsa Pavilion 600999 1st Tues 2pm TARA St Peters Memorial Hall 603332 2nd Tues 2.30pm Island Floral Group @ St Peter's Church Hall 592987 3rd Tues 2.15pm Broadstairs Townswomen's Guild United Reform Church 864699 4th Tues 7.30pm Island Greenfingers' Club Portland Centre, Hopeville Avenue 831618 2nd Weds Bi-monthly 7.30pm Thanet Amnesty Group Meeting Jan, Friends Meeting House, St Peters Road 295536 **Every Weds** Beginners 8-9pm Intermediate 9-10pm Line Dancing @ St Peters Church Hall 585537 Every Weds 7.30pm Bridge Club @ Portland Centre, St Peter's 604954 www.bridgewebs.com/broadstairs Every Weds 7.45pm Thanet Festival Choir Holy Trinity Church 602332 Weds & Thurs Page Mason School of Dancing St Andrew's Church, 863730 **Every Thurs** 10-11.15am St Peters Old Boys & Comm. Ass St Peters Memorial Hall 864162 2-3.30pm **Every Thurs** Line Dancing @ St Peter's Memorial Hall 603332 2nd Thurs 9.45am Broadstairs WI @ Holy Trinity Church 861306 3rd Thurs 2-4pm Broadstairs Townswomens' Guild United Reform Church, The Vale 864699 3rd Thurs 2-4pm Broadstairs Ladies Lifeboat Guild Holy Trinity Church 861306

Broadstairs Clubs & Organisations Angling Society 865566 B & St P's Art Group 848016 B & St Ps' Bowls Club 861283 B & St Ps' Concert Band 581185 B Cricket Club 602681 B Lifequard & Swimming Club 865292 **B** Sailing Club 861373 Back Care Exercise 601631 E Kent Lacemakers' Guild 865102 E Kent Morris Minor Club 867270 Joss Bay Surf School 07812 991195 Kent Surf School 866707 N Foreland Badminton Assoc 01227 374919 N Foreland Golf Club 862140 Pilates classes 861375 Recorded Music Soc 869642 Rock Doctor Walks 0870 2646111 Thanet Archery Club 863561 Thanet Male Voice Choir 865819 Thanet Squash Club 865484 Thanet Wanderers' Rugby Club 593142 Vikings' Sea Angling Soc 865566 Walkers' Friend 07801 508958 Yoga 864532

Thanet Film Society <u>tfs@thanetfilm.co.uk</u> 15th Dec: <u>Afghan Star DVD</u>, 5th Jan: Broken Embraces 12th Jan: Fish Tank 19th Jan: Sin Nombre, 26th Jan: Bright Star,

7-9pm Every Fri St Peters Old Boys & Comm Association, WHIST St Peters Memorial Hall 864162 Every Weds & Fri 5-7pm Beginners Skating Every Tuesday 5-7pm Advanced Skating Every Sat & Sun 5-6.30pm Climbing Club **Revolution Skatepark & Climbing Centre** 866707 www.revolutionskatepark.co.uk 4th Broadstairs Scout Group Mon & Weds Beavers & Cubs Scouts Tues uniform shop Belvedere Rd 226486

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