

For Broadstairs by Broadstairs

50p

THE Broadie

Issue 22

On Viking Bay
A Short tale of love
and loss

Mrs Wally
The Veggie Fest'
feast

How much?
It's tough driving
at KCC

Round & about
Which lane do you
prefer?

Silence please
Miming a rocket on
the beach



photo by Tom & James at

eyekapics

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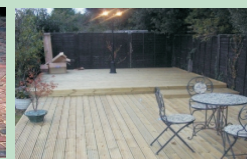
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Your Letters

Here we all are in 2012, we're not only waiting for the warmth of spring to arrive. Many of us are waiting for that warmth to help bring in some added trade to our town. There's no denying its been a tough winter financially for many businesses and it looks like we are still not out of the woods, so please shop locally, then hopefully your local shop, pub or restaurant just might be there next year.

See the New Year in with a Mime

Due to ever tightening of safety controls at our beloved council it has been announced that instead of Broadstairs continuing with its traditional firework displays, henceforth we are to have a wooden pedestal erected in the middle of Viking Bay. (No trees will be cut down to make way for this temporary stage). From this pedestal which will be enclosed by Yellow "No entry" tape guarded by steroid bound dayglo suited stewards at each corner, we will all be able to thrill at the sight of a Mime artist, enclosed in a perspex safety box, (so as to avoid the possibility of flailing arms causing injury). The mime will then



perform his artistic rendition of a firework display for onlookers to see in all its glory, the mime display will be jollied along by helpers throwing vegetarian biodegradable glitter into the air whilst other stewards shine low voltage torches through the sparkling airborne dust, this we believe will help keep the crowds in awe at the magnificence of this fantastical spectacular event.

The new regime at TDC events have however warned that this superb family show may yet have to be cancelled as organizers have to submit the forms a whole eighteen years before the event is to be staged. This is either so it gives enough time for those that administer the rules to grow up or so that there is a sufficient timescale to allow staff members at the council enough time to lose the application three times, spill coffee on it, drive it 5000 miles to South Africa, sharpen their crayons and discover the difference between their backsides and their elbows.

In related news, the newly formed think-tank, the "Telepathic Advisory Group for Safety" will be contacting all events organizers through the ether very soon to update them on any new rules and regulations that may affect their upcoming fetes, fairs and festivals. If you'd like to contact them please pick up the phone and think of a number between one and million.

Gotta go I feel some ectoplasm coming on

Avery Knight
Broadstairs

For another view of what really went on please see page 5

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A Bunch of.....

Sir, Your report that "A Bunch of councilors" were seen in the Albion Street car park led me to wondering if there was a collective term for councilors.

My research into the matter proved fruitless, so I have come up with a few suggestions of my own.

1. A disagreement of councilors.
2. An incompetence of councilors.
3. An expense of councilors.
4. A trough of councilors

Can any of your readers come up with some more?

Yours faithfully

Hugh Jarse
Broadstairs



Crap Christmas Tree of the year award

This year goes to the QEQM hospital who put in this marvellous effort at winter festivity. We added extra points for the orange security fence. We also particularly enjoyed the sign to warn would be admirers of the maximum amount of time that they could wait whilst revelling in the festive atmosphere that the tree undoubtably supplied.

Genuine Overheard Conversations

"We don't go to the sales, only the poor go to sales"

"Bloody Tesco, I queued a good five minutes"

"Sure it was nice to get a new flat screen TV for the bedroom, but it's not really what I'd call a present"

Top Grrrrrrrr

Nice to see the big cheese at KCC Paul Carter is spending our money wisely in these times of austerity. According to the "This Is Kent" website, he's been off for the whole of January taking part in a motor rally from London to Cape Town whilst still pocketing nearly five grand in expenses for said month.

London to Cape Town = 9678 kilometres as the crow flies . Mr Carter would therefore receive almost 50p per kilometre he travels in the month of January.

Ooops there goes another £400K

And whilst we're on the subject of KCC. Shortly before Christmas it was announced that Katherine Kerswell who has only held the post of Managing Director at KCC for the past eighteen months has been made redundant with what is thought to be a payoff figure of around £400,000. That's just the payoff, her yearly salary came in at just under £200,000. I'm sure they'll wheel out the same old line that is supposed to justify all sorts of ridiculous payments to professional management... "We need these salaries to attract the best candidates for the post"....Oh please.

Mr Carter announced that "I and my cabinet have made the decision that to deliver further efficiencies and a more streamlined organisation we can operate very successfully without a managing director."

Strange then that they couldn't operate without a managing director before and felt the need to toss around hundreds of thousands of pounds like confetti.

Mrs Kerswell has apparently left to pursue other interests, presumably interests which involve laughing whilst wheelbarrowing large amounts of lolly to the bank and being unable to sleep at night.

SEAVIEW

Paolo



Fireworks Burt? You want fireworks?

Don't you think there are enough health and safety issues with all these comets, meteorites, star formations and neighbouring galaxies?!!

Quote of the month

Councillor Michelle Fenner: In an e-mail inadvertently sent to the Isle of Thanet Gazette by a councillor, which discussed the harm that could be done to councillors reputations to be associated with the demise of the New Years Eve firework display

"I agree with Iris. The press are so 'stupid', intentionally or not, that they would make it sound as though it is our mistake."

Nearly as silly as hitting the "Reply to all" tab when sending a confidential e-mail, eh?

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much
missed by
all those
that knew
him**

Light the blue touch paper

What really happened with the fireworks this year? Well here goes:- Take your mind back to 1999, fantastic fireworks on Viking Bay to celebrate the dawn of the new millennium & somewhere to be together if all the computers in the world really did crash & life as we knew it disappeared.

Every year since, fireworks have been organised for the night of December 31st & except for a few years when the weather has been too awful, they have been well attended, fairly trouble free & one of the highlights of the year. Even if you were only sitting at home watching the telly, it was somewhere to gather & celebrate something with people you know & live with.

Every year since, the extremely professional fireworks company have sent in their risk assessment to cover the event & every year since this was enough. A few years ago they were super efficient & sent them in, in August but they got lost so went back to sending them nearer the event.

So....what happened this year? Well.....

The fireworks company sent their risk assessment in but the admin team at TDC who had been in residence since 1999 were no more. A new team had replaced them. There had never been a risk assessment of the crowd & this was now seen as a vital part of the event. So on December 19th, the event organisers were told that the event could not go ahead without a thorough risk assessment of the crowd. The potential numbers in the crowd was up for debate & the figures widely differed depending on which side of the paperwork you were sitting. So the assessment had to cover 1000's of people which was a major, expensive task & impossible with only a few days left when all offices were closed for the holidays.

In defence of the event:

should somebody not have predicted it would happen? If they knew that they were going to be more stringent about these things, shouldn't they have contacted the event organisers in good time so that it could be sorted? It's not as if New Year's Eve in Broadstairs is a big surprise & jumps at you out of the blue.

It has been widely stated that the organiser cancelled the event on December 19th when they had the response from TDC. He was given the impression that if he continued with the event & an 'incident' occurred then he may be legally liable. With authorities predicted anything from 500 to 15,000 people attending, it all got a bit out of hand.

In defence of the admin team:

the people who sort these things have events as a small part of a huge work load. They were possibly right that a large group of people in a small area could be at risk. If a risk assessment had been submitted allaying the fears of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) before hand they may have been persuaded that the risks were minimal. No more people than a busy day in the summer & it only lasts 6-10 minutes.

If you are wondering as I did how the fireworks at Ramsgate could go ahead then it's because the crowd are further from the fireworks & spread over a larger area.

What I'm still not clear about is, was this discussed at the TDC meeting before the Christmas break? & if so did they all really go on holiday without it being resolved?

It does feel as if yet again Broadstairs doesn't really matter because it is perceived that we are 'coping'.

Rightly or wrongly, the general feeling is that TDC don't support us as well as they should.

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It's time to break out those leather jackets, bryll-cream up your DA, grab your Pink lady by the hand and get off down to Viking Bay, for it is time for a "Grease" inspired weekend of fun and frolics.

On Saturday 19th May we have the Film on the Beach, which this year will be the movie Grease

on Sunday 20th May, Broadstairs will be trying to outdo its current world record with the "Dancing Queens Guinness World Record Attempt with a new dance being created now.

The film choice was voted for on the Big Broadstairs Weekend website with a whopping 60% of voters calling for the musical that starred amongst others John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

Registration for the dancing queens event will be launched in March

Hazel Pinder-White

Sad to hear that ex-mayor Hazel Pinder-White died.

The well-known and liked local character died last month after a long illness. She loved Broadstairs ever since moving here in the 1970s. She ran The Charles Dickens pub for a while with her husband and also ran "Porto Fino" Bucket & Spade shop in Harbour Street

She is survived by her three children, Samantha, 44, Adam, 46, and Jonathan, 48, and grandchildren Charles, 22, Emily, 18, Max, 7, Lukas, 5 and three-year-old Molly.

A larger than life character who always spoke up for our little town and will be missed by many.



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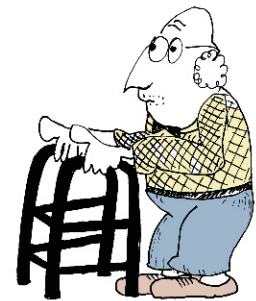
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VICTORY NEWS

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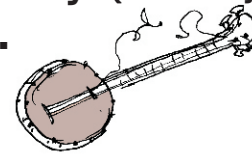
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Stop Press...Mr Wally is nearly home..... It'll be John Craven this and Matt Baker that...they'll be no living with him now.

I'm worn out and hairy. 50,000 sheep, 12,000 miles, and it's still not over.

Dreams of Broadie beach in summer is getting me through.

Highlights include: Serious off-roading near Merthyr Tydfil, being recorded for Countryfile. Adam Henson from the aforementioned programme (Ady to his friends) was impressed by my journalistic skills. I gave him a few pointers of course, y'know, boosted his confidence in front of the camera....well it was the least I could do.

Hope all is well back in Broadstairs without me.

Give my love to Rose

Tally Ho

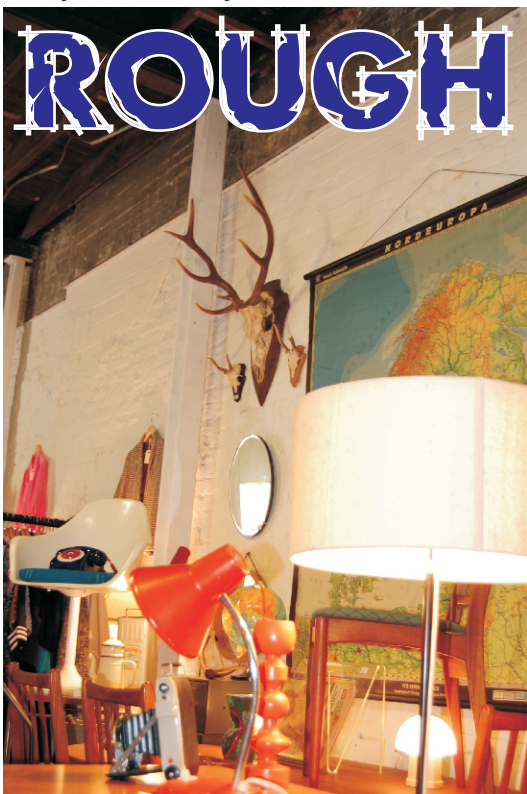
Wally

The Boys done good 1

There's no reason to put the above photo in the magazine, except of course, its glorious. It reminds us why we all love Broadstairs, and also reminds us in these times of winter layers and ice that it will actually get warm again. Taken by Tom & James at "Eyekapics", its also just one of the many that these two chaps have taken (see front cover). We'll hopefully be seeing more of their talents soon. They're a very professional duo and are available for all sorts of photography at talj@live.co.uk

The boys done good 2

Broadstairs chap and all round brilliant musician Mr Tim Edey has recently received the BBC musician of the year award and along with Brendan Power best duo at the BBC Folk awards 2012. Well done Tim and Brendan we're proud of you.



TRADE - Margate

Now we know we shouldn't be sending you out of Broadstairs, but, put your Broadie passport in your knapsack and get yourself over to Margate, not only have they laid their hands on some very impressive JMW Turners for you to peruse in awe at the Turner Centre, but now there's also quite a lot of "bits and pieces" shops and galleries to mooch around, which should then be followed by either a good cuppa-tea at the Cupcake Café or a pint of something Ciderly and slightly dangerous at the Lifeboat Pub. But whilst you're there, here's a must see:- "Rough Trade" on Fort Hill. Described as a collaborative trading space, the premises is divided into a number of separate trading areas with a good mix of antiques, arts clothing, comics and stuff you just want to have a good nose around in.

The brains behind the outfit is "Rox" - this 'ere lady on the right, whose also responsible for the wonderful Margate Old Town Bazaar. Look out for the fabulous retro furniture and antiques on the "ETC" stall and the brilliant Margate T-Shirts and artwork by Jan Wheatley.



Imitation & Flattery?

Well looks like we've gotta get our finger out a bit seeing as there seems to be an influx of other local magazines lining the budgie cages of this fair town.

We noticed last year that another esteemed organ by the name of "Broadstairs Guide & Map". Now i know we make the odd spelling mistook (Odd?). But really if you're going to produce a magazine for the area you could at least get the town right. Take a look at page 38 of "Broadstairs Guide and Map" produced by "Local Authority Publishing Ltd" which incidentally has no known association with our local authority,... i'd guess they might use that name to make you think the publication has some gravitas. Oh, ...the pic on said page is of Broadstairs, the description and title is Sandwich,...they also mention the GLANVILLE Theatre, Ramsgate. Doh!

We've recently also seen "The Weekender" which is a lovely full colour thing for East Kent, all very shiny, bright and new and well worth a look, amongst other articles it has so far discussed DFLs and has a bit about artists....wonder where they got that from.

And last but not least is ThanetWatch, which is so far on its first issue. It's a single sheet affair especially highlighting grievances and grumbles on the Isle.

Parklife

I feed the pigeons, I sometimes feed the sparrows too, it gives me a sense of enormous well being. And then im happy for the rest of the day safe in the knowledge that there will always be a bit of my heart devoted to it - Parklife. (Blur)

The Parklife we are referring to is Pierremont, which for the time being, at least, seems to have been given a stay of execution from having a large community centre from being built on it. The "Great Matter" that has caused so much rows and ructions over the past few years has now been put to bed after the Labour half of the council seized control from the conservatives shortly before Christmas, and recently decided that TDC would no longer lease the land required for the project to Broadstairs Town Council. It's been a subject that has seemingly divided the local council for quite some time, Cllr Wells had described those opposed to the plans as the "Vocal Minority" which suggested that those that did not raise any concerns were very much 'For' the development. Whilst the idea had always been controversial, what really 'did for' the building was the potential loss of parkland and the need for the town council to have to borrow over three quarters of a million pounds to fund the development in the first place. To mere plebeians like us, borrowing that sort of dosh in times of austerity seems just plain daft.

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BFW WELCOMES THE NEW CROWD

Along with policemen and comedians, folk musicians are getting younger and younger and one of the great thrills of putting together Broadstairs Folk Week is the chance to support young up and coming artistes.

It may seem like early in the year to you, but the folk week elves are putting the final touches to the line-up and in 2012 more than ever, there is a very exciting new generation making their presence felt in the concert marquee, the Pavilion and other smaller venues around the town. If you missed Seth Lakeman when he appeared at Folk Week a couple of years ago, now is your chance to catch up with his brother Sean, along with Kathryn Roberts, whose vocal style has been called 'smoky, assertive, sultry, outstanding and darting beguilingly through a range of moods' by Billboard magazine, Acoustic Guitarist and the Daily Telegraph. This duo's eclectic repertoire is a real treat. Now that the land north of the border may about to become the independent republic of Jockland, we thought it about time Broadstairs had a blast of the bagpipes. Breabach is a barn-storming young band powered by the afore mentioned pipes, flute, fiddle, double bass and guitar with some step-dance thrown into for good measure. They open the festival on Friday 10th August. Tartan is not obligatory – they're not the Bay City Rollers.

On the same opening bill, is one of the nominees for the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award – Blair Dunlop is not yet 21 – but he's already receiving breathless reviews from the folk in the know. He may depress those amongst you with ambitions to play the guitar. Upping the age bracket just slightly, Lucy Ward is a 21 year old acoustic artist from Derby. She plays guitar and concertina but considers her voice to be her first instrument. She's been nominated Best Newcomer, Horizon Award in the main BBC Folk Awards – by the time you read this – she may have won it. She's already been to Broadstairs and we liked her music and her stage banter so much, we asked her back.

The Monster Ceilidh Band was responsible for 'one of the most beautifully orchestrated shambles I have ever seen', according to Bournemouth Folk Festival. They blaze their way through traditional and modern tunes and they're on a mission to inject the traditional music of the British Isles with the UK's other great musical exponent – Drum 'n' Bass... Hold tight! James Findlay walked away with the Young Folk Award in 2009 and his album Sport and Play was in Mojo magazine's top ten folk album's of 2011. He'll be singing in the Sailing Club, the Neptune and on the main concert stage – so make sure you catch him and be smug when he headlines in the future

According to the Guardian, Megson is "the most original duo on the British folk scene." Stu Hanna and Debbie Hanna sing mesmerizing songs and will appear in the final Friday concert. Also playing will be Tarras, a six piece hailing from up north, reinvigorated with a new line-up and upbeat contemporary folk.

This isn't an ageist piece – we love the mix of generations at the





festival – but this is a bit of poke at the cliché of bearded old men in jumpers that is trotted out every year. We love old, bearded men in jumpers and wouldn't have a festival without them – but look again at the musicians who flood into town in Folk Week – lots of them weren't even born in 1990 – feeling old?

General Information

Season Tickets are now on sale and individual event tickets will be available from June onwards. If you are a Friend of Folk Week, you can book individual tickets from February 20th onwards – one of the perks you get through supporting the festival.

Our website is being updated, so please keep checking it out for more info – or give us a call on 01843 604080. And remember to book 10 – 17 August 2012 as holiday!

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MRS WALLY Healthy Veg' Fest'

It's that time of the year – after comfort eating through the miserable dark depths of winter it's time to turn over a new leaf and be a bit healthier. Lots of people try to cut down on fat at this time of year whether it be to give their liver a bit of a rest after the excesses of Christmas, for health reasons or to try and lose a few winter pounds. It's easy to cut down on fat in the summer – all you need is a salad and some grilled meat but what do you turn to when it's still cold outside and the thought of salad makes you sad? I had a little think about tasty dishes I make that happen to be low in fat and realised that lots of the dishes I make can be based on a simple, tasty vegetable stew.....

Ratatouille:-

has got a bit of a bad reputation as a horrible slimy health food but it's a cracking way to ensure you're getting a good mix of lots of different vitamins and antioxidants and sneak your five a day in with ease. My version is easy to make and can be used as for lots of different meals.

2 aubergines, 2 or 3 courgettes, a couple of onions – one red, one white, some peppers of whatever colour you fancy, half a butternut squash, a chilli, a few cloves of garlic. Cherry tomatoes – I use a handful of fresh mixed with tinned toms drained of half of their juice. Herbs are good – I use whatever is kicking around the bottom of the fridge, in winter thyme and when the sun starts to shine I use basil or oregano – a sprinkling of ground coriander adds depth and flavour.

This is so easy to make – the hardest bit is chopping the veg! Chop the each onion into 8 wedges, the aubergines into 2cm chunks, the peppers about the same size, the courgettes into cm thick slices, the butternut squash into 1cm dice, slice the chilli and crush the garlic cloves. Heat a non stick pan and add the veg (apart from the squash) one type at a time until they colour and start to brown – don't burn as it will make it taste bitter. Once coloured tip into an oven dish, and mix up together, season with salt and pepper and coriander, stir in the squash, chilli and crushed garlic and add the cherry tomatoes. Cover with tin foil or a tight fitting lid and put in the oven at gas mark 5 – check periodically, when the squash is soft it's ready. Chop the herbs and stir in.

You now have a lovely base for lots of yummy dishes. It can be served as it is as an accompaniment to grilled meat or fish or put on top of a jacket potato and top with some slices of grilled sausages or cubes of feta. You can adapt the basic recipe by stirring through pesto and serving with wholemeal pasta or you could stir through another chilli, some harissa, adding a tin of chickpeas and simmering for 5 mins before topping with chopped coriander and a spoonful of cool 0% fat Greek yoghurt and serving with some cous cous. Or you could use as the basis for the dishes below;

Baked eggs

Put half of the ratatouille in a baking dish, stir in some rinsed and drained spinach and make hollows with the back of a spoon, crack eggs into the hollows – two per person makes a nice supper. If you want you can add a sprinkling of strong cheese to liven it a little. Cover with foil and bake in the oven on a medium heat until the eggs are set – this will take longer if the ratatouille's cold and less time if still warm. This can be served with a chunk of granary bread or some brown rice for a super filling, super tasty health fest. If you're not on a diet, fry off some sliced chorizo and stir into the veg before you add the eggs and fry some diced potatoes in the lovely paprika flavoured oil....yum.

Baked fish

Spoon ratatouille mix onto a large piece of foil with a slotted spoon so there's not too much juice sloshing about. Sprinkle on some black olives and add some thinly sliced fennel if you like its aniseed-y zing and add a few anchovy fillets. Top with a chunky hunk of white fish – whatever's in season or some sustainably bred tilapia. Parcel up by folding the sides over and rolling so it's sealed, pop on a baking tray and put in a medium oven for 15 – 20 mins. Serve with boiled pots or some steamed green veg.

There you go – easy, healthy, tasty and pretty cheap to make, just what we all need in February.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my apologies to Mr Bellingham who collared me at Canterbury West last week to berate me on my lax approach to cooking times. It seems Mr B decided to cook the lovely Madeline the celeriac dauphinoise from the Christmas issue but it wasn't ready when I said it should be. I am very sorry that you had to wait a bit longer than promised Keith. Please check dishes to see how they're getting along rather than relying on my timings – they are only ever approximations as all ovens are different.



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Thanet Wanderers Junior

The junior section at Thanet Wanderers RUFC goes from strength to strength as anyone in and around St Peter's Recreation Ground will testify on any given Sunday. With age groups from Under 6s all the way up to Under 16s, we currently have around 300 active players.

The real youngsters, Under 6s, Under 7s and Under 8s play 'tag' rugby which involves each player wearing a tag on either side of a waist band, attached by Velcro. A tackle is made when an opposing player tears one of the tags off, this is when the gentlemanly nature kicks in and the player has to return the tag back to his opponent.

When the children reach the Under 9 age group, contact rugby starts. The younger age groups play in festivals against other local East Kent clubs, such as Dover, Folkestone, Canterbury and Whitstable.

When they reach the Under 13s, they start to play 15-a-side rugby against all sorts of clubs from all over the Kent. All of the age groups from Under 13s to Under 16s are particularly strong at Thanet Wanderers RUFC at the moment as the club has invested a huge amount of time and effort into these guys. All of them regularly reach cup semi finals and finals with the Under 16s being the most successful of the lot. Mike Pond's side has beaten every side in Kent and has already won the Super 8 which is the premier title in Kent at that age group.

Junior rugby takes place on Sunday mornings from 10am at St Peter's Recreation Ground, Callis Court Road, Broadstairs and if you want to get involved in Thanet Wanderers RUFC, please visit our website at www.thanetwanderers.co.uk. Or if you would like to talk to some-one about the game, feel free to phone Junior Chairman, Carl Hill on 07779 125150 or Director of Rugby, Ian Lodge on 07890 426685.



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The big 200

Enjoy dressing up in strange clothes? Perhaps you were christened Pip Bristlethrash and have an odd affinity to the great mans novels, or maybe you're just wondering why there seems to be nothing on TV but Dickensian costume dramas? Well silly you. Its old Charles 200th birthday this year. And we've got great expectations (Oh how original)

that Broadstairs will be doing its bit to celebrate the great writers works.

They'll be a Gala Banquet at Thanet College on February 7th. The Sarah Thorne Theatre Club will be staging "Great Expectations" at the Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs, on April 28 and 29. The play will be co-directed by Dickens' great-great-grandson, actor Gerald Dickens. The play at this years festival will be Oliver Twist with more events to be announced nearer the time "God Bless us everyone" said Under-developed, vertically challenged Timothy

SHOP WATCH

Dickens Bazaar

Craft USL was a sad loss to our High St but it's great to see such a lovely renovation of an old building. The new incumbents, Stewart and family, are the previous owners of Poundland, further down the High St.

Since the demise of Woolworths there have been lots of things missing. Expressions picked up the slack with toys & party goods and Poundland covered many other inexpensive household goods. The new shop has lots of the previous stock & now has furniture & larger items.

I like many others, was worried that a business selling cheaper stuff wouldn't fit in such a beautiful new shop but well done Stewart. You have brightened up the High Street on grey winter days. I will certainly be nipping in & out of there for loads of bits & pieces & keep trying to persuade myself that I need one of those large illuminated trees.



The shop next to Prentis is empty again. The most recent owners came, did Christmas & left. Perhaps something other than a cheaper card shop would be better in this prime position, doesn't seem to work there. We know of at least one completely different business

that is considering the shop so watch this space.

Boring, Boring, Boring, looks like the building opposite Pierremont Park is going to be a **Co-op**. Shame, because we really don't need another national supermarket in town. Some of you may remember that this development was originally going to house two smaller retail outlets, however and as ever with new developments, profit comes before any sense of what would be right for the high street so now the new build is to be just one large affair. Which will undoubtedly add to the squeezing of the independent shops in town.

Oh, but it will create jobs.....oh give me a break.

Rumours about the three empty shops at the bottom of the High St are getting quite interesting. Might not be as bad as we thought, it might not be another supermarket!!

Won't say anymore in case we frighten it away.

The Old bake House

Lovely to see the new bakery where Dickens' pantry was & it's different enough to enhance similar businesses in town. Peter & family have lived in the area for 27 years, having a bakery in Ramsgate for the past 25 years. They make & sell rustic, artisan bread using the traditional 'sponge method' (Peter says the trendy term for this is 'sour dough'). They use as many local suppliers as possible & gave us one of the nicest quotes we think we have had – "We are happy to be in Broadstairs, Thanet's food capital, to sell the products which are different & which we hope the people of Broadstairs will like" – aaah. We liked that.

Welcome & we are sure you don't need it but good luck Besides their lovely bread, cakes & savouries we loved the chairs outside with the blankets & hot water bottle to keep customers cosy and warm.

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Not magic Roundabout

So what is it with the great British public and roundabouts, and I'm especially aiming my sights at Westwood, in fact the closer you get to Westwood the worse it gets. Up by St George's you've got one where nobody really knows for sure which lane they should be in to continue to Westwood Cross, then you've got another two little 'uns by Tesco and Comet where the previous problem occurs again and everyone forgets the basic premise of giving way to the right.

I don't mind that the larger roundabouts have bred in the last decade and produced a multitude of other rotund little offspring, no far from it. I get the idea, they improve traffic flow, however there's plenty of road users who just don't seem to be able to grab the concept of the roundabout and who seem incapable of understanding the simple task of using one, and what's worse is, now, the powers that be that install the things in the first place can't even get it right.

Why do so many numpties use the centre lane to go straight over and then sound their horn at the poor unsuspecting road user who they've just cut up? I guess for these particular road hogs the Highway Code is merely a set of guidelines to be used at their whim, y'know a bit like how conversing on a mobile phone whilst driving is only dangerous when other drivers are doing it but perfectly acceptable when you really just need to take that ever so important call. And what about indicators, they're a laugh, I'm sure half the driving population think they're just there so you're able to stop in a really inconvenient place and make your car invisible with the miraculous Star Trek inspired cloaking device that is "Flicking on the hazard lights".

Now if you follow the directions at Westwood Cross main roundabout when coming from the Sainsburys direction, the arrows put you in the incorrect lane. Of course the rest of the traffic using the roundabout from every other direction have to make amends for drivers who appear to be in the incorrect position for the exit they are about to take, combine that with waffly indication and those thumbs start reaching for the horns. It's no better in the other direction either, if you travel from Westwood towards the Sainsburys roundabout, there's two huge arrows in the centre of each lane informing you "Ahead Only", so in theory that means you can't turn into Tesco's or Sainsburys....oh dear.

It's just as silly at the large roundabout at Manston, when heading back down the Thanet Way, the directions send you into the wrong lane, "MAR" it says in the left hand lane to go left, which is fine, but then the centre lane is emblazoned with "RAM" which is either an instruction to hit the car in front of you or informs you to go straight across in the centre lane towards Ramsgate.

In both scenarios what you end up with is drivers hooting, beeping and getting cross, but at Westwood just to add to the jolly japes you also get stuck midway across the roundabout because the idiot that designed the mess, put traffic lights too close to the roundabout thus causing traffic flow to start and stop, which in turn negates the supposed benefit of having a roundabout installed in the first place.

So, what are you supposed to do? Follow the directions and put yourself at odds with other road users or drive in the normal lane and put yourself at odds with other road users. The choice is yours

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POLICE - COMMUNITY - SUPPORT

PCSO Lamberton here reporting for duty on the second of now two days of ice and disruption, injury free and back on my feet ready to tackle the icy gauntlet that has been thrown before us. A nice coincidence that I sit here and type away lessening the chance that I may embarrass myself by slipping over. It is in this untimely position that I will undoubtedly be set upon by the young persons of today with a round of snowballs and as I attempt to regain my stance shaking my fist as I go, not being able to catch up with them in fear of slipping again. (The good old days, some of you say). However, things as we know a lot of the time go full circle and if an officer on foot patrol knows these persons nowadays, they would be less likely to throw that snowball but help them up instead ... surprised? I say that with conviction as we have developed a nice camaraderie with a lot of the familiar faces around town. That's not to say that they don't have to tow the line from time to time but as authoritative figures we cannot act with bias or preference. We can act only on information given to us.

Do you know who your local officers are? If not, find out on the web at www.kent.police.uk or call 101 and ask to speak to them. Crime mapping is another great function on the site, it allows you to look at your local area and actually pinpoint where incidents or crime is happening over a set period. An important change for my working habits also, I have now taken over the Bradstowe ward officially and I look forward to meeting new business owners and residents in that area. A larger area to patrol but a change is as good as a rest. I now have further work to do.

UPDATE:-

So, over the last three months PC's and PCSO's in Broadstairs have been working on priorities for each area as outlined by intelligence gathered and supplied from and by the public in various formats and the results are as follows. The below information is updated by various Broadstairs officers

Viking/Bradstowe Wards:-

'You said' - As a result of drunken behaviour persons in Broadstairs were urinating in public, mainly in Albion Road.

'We did' - This information was given to core response teams and local neighbourhood units and we were surprised to find that not one incident was reported or witnessed via public or Police over this period. As a result of this, the priority has been abandoned and a new priority has been put in its place with information coming from an Environmental Visual Audit we have conducted. The priority we will be working on over the next three months will be Graffiti. Mainly focussing on the alleyways in and around town.

Beacon Road Ward:-

'You said' - There are persons acting in an anti social manner causing others alarm harassment or distress.

'We did' - Patrolling the areas in evenings when possible. PCSO James Coleman has been viewing CCTV in the area which has identified 8 young persons causing issues in the area. The main offenders have been spoken to and further meetings with the local authority are being arranged to deal with the root of the problem which seems to be one certain address in the area. The new priority for the area is the parking issues at Callis Grange School

St. Peters Ward:-

'You said' - There are vehicles causing a nuisance in the area of St Peters footpath and churchyard.

'We did' - Joint agency meetings have taken place and various actions were looked at to tackle the problem such as applying for funding for permanent anti vehicle signs. Talks at local schools regarding education on safe driving. Local radio broadcast complete on local radio stations. Vehicles have been seized by officers. We have met with the area commander from the highways department and have discussed the possibilities of resurfacing surrounding tarmac. In more recent times due to the weather and local enforcement the issues has ceased and we have had no further information or calls from the public to say this issue is continuing. Therefore we have ended the priority to make way for another which has not been established as of yet.

Kingsgate:- No information -

The next local East Kent residents meeting will be held Tuesday 3rd April, 7pm at the Community Hall, Pierremont Park, High Street, Broadstairs. Please come along to have your say in what the local authority and Kent Police can do for you. Local business owners and town stakeholders are also welcome.

If you do not want to air your laundry in public then please come along to our drop in centres where you will sit with me and discuss any problems you may have. #

SURGERY DATES

12 Mar 2012 10:00 - 11:00 Surgery at Baptist Church Hall, Queens Road, Broadstairs

16 Apr 2012 10:00 - 11:00 Surgery at Baptist Church Hall, Queens Road, Broadstairs

21 May 2012 10:00 - 11:00 Surgery at Baptist Church Hall, Queens Road, Broadstairs

25 Jun 2012 10:00 - 11:00 Surgery at Baptist Church Hall, Queens Road, Broadstairs

Once again, thanks for reading. Hopefully this article is of interest to you and I really hope to open up discussion with you about any topics you deem relevant. Like I say, ring 101 and ask to speak to me, it can't be simpler.

I'll round off with Volume II'

TOP TIP.

If you see Graffiti in any shape or form, take a picture and send it to the local council via any means, preferably e-mail. Give them the location and ask for it to be removed. It's a free service and is usually depending on volume cleared relatively quickly.

A pleasure once again, Time to tackle that ice.

Regards

PCSO Lamberton 56193 Viking/Bradstowe Wards

WHITE OUT

So, it snowed then. It was almost cold enough for a Cardiff lass to put on a coat. We've had lots of photos sent to us, but here's one by Emma Smith. The National Express coach managed to get stuck up the High Street for a good couple of hours. It's not often you see a coach being pushed up a hill by its passengers. Not sure which PCSO it was helping out on the high street on that particular Sunday morning, but he certainly was being a trooper & a real help to all those stranded motorists.

Also, a big thanks from Victory News-agents to all their paperboys and girls, they all turned up for their paper-rounds, and all managed to deliver.

Here's a tip worth mentioning (I think) for those of you who brave the elements. I hasten to add this was passed on to us by a chap who will remain nameless. Well, this chap suggests that you take a pair of ladies thick tights or stockings and put them on over your shoes, this he informs us helps to grip the ice as you walk along. Personally I think he's just kinky....especially seeing as he was wearing stilettos. It was also lovely to see Vere Road putting in its first bid to hold the next winter olympics, going on the number of people using the road as the next Cresta run. Pity, the poor people who buy a house down there when they're built, they'll never get out in the winter



Photo By Emma Smith

On Viking Bay

They met mostly on the beach, around about two, maybe half past. Her and Micky. She liked Micky,...maybe it was his general demeanour, perhaps it was the way he could always cheer her up, or just maybe it was sheer animal magnetism.

It had been a bad year for Sofi, a really rough twelve months was how she'd describe it, and to be honest it didn't look like it was going to abate anytime soon. She'd always been a little highly strung, taught like a guitar string. She found the beach helped her, it was a place to go for some peace, time to think and let everything just be, she loved how the wind rushed over the waves and snatched her thoughts from her, carrying them swirling away, just leaving a faint saltiness as a calling card. It had been four months since they'd gone, she'd never really known why, after all, she thought she'd been coping well for a new mum, they'd been fed, cared for, washed and above all loved, but that didn't seem to be enough. A succession of official looking people turned up and started asking questions that she couldn't understand or answer. She hadn't invited them into her home, nor had she given permission for her little ones to be man-handled, but what could she do, she had no energy, no will to argue, and then one day, they weren't there anymore.

Micky understood, God knows why a friend like Micky should, but he seemed to care. He'd always been there and he'd always come up with an answer, in fact it was his idea for her to leave,.... just run off and never look back. Maybe she'd find a new life where she could love and be loved again, it wasn't as if she'd anything to stay home for. Of course, him indoors had been no help, oh God, far from it, in fact he seemed happier than ever now that they were alone again with "less mouths to feed", as he put it. "We might even be able to go on holiday this year" she'd overheard him telling a neighbour.

She'd often imagined he was having an affair with that woman next door,... thirty something divorcee with two kids, nasty little brats that shouted at all hours and disrespected her at any given opportunity. Maybe that's where he went at night, only to return hours later stinking of beer and fags, one quick kiss on the head a "good night" and then ten hours of snoring like a road drill.

They'd not shared a bed in eight months, he said she "Needed her peace to look after the little ones" and that their "Feeding at night disturbed him". She couldn't understand how anything could disturb someone who slept as sound and as loudly as him, but there she was, alone in her separate bed.

Micky listened, just like Micky always listened, she liked him, maybe even loved him, but she knew they'd never be a couple again. They'd had their time together, just once. It seemed like years ago, but probably wasn't. She'd have to leave.

Sofi, turned, took one last look at the one she once loved, said her farewells to Micky, slipped her lead and vanished. LB.



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ART NEWS

The Broadstairs & St Peters Arts group was formed in 1970 & now has 120 members. Annual membership is £10. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Holy Trinity Church hall Nelson Place, 7.30 to 9.30pm. At these meetings we have demonstrations given by professional artists on Painting & drawing techniques. We also have Al-Fresco painting days every Thursday starting from April until October.

Our outdoor exhibitions of paintings take place on the railings on the Esplanade overlooking Viking Bay. Sun 10th of June /17th of June/8th of July/29th of July/19th of August/26th & Mon 27th of August from 9.30am to 5pm. We also have a 'Coffee' mornings on the second Tuesday of each month at the 'Ballards' coffee lounge Albion Hotel, at 10.30am.

For more information on Club activities and Membership details .. Either write to Tina Webb (Membership Secretary). 23 St David's Close Birchington or ring Brian Webb (Chairman) on 01843-848016.

Thanet Festival Choir and the Seventy Chamber Choir of Thanet with the Festival Orchestra.

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cali.co.uk**

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

MARCH

Sat 10th 7.30pm - La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi

Sat 17th 7.30pm - Murder Mystery Evening

Sun 18th 7.30pm - Broadstairs Weekend Jazz 2

Sat 24th 7.30pm - Down on the Farm
with Tim Bentinck.

Sun 25th 3.00pm - Spring Classics 2,
Dichterliebe - A poet's love

Fri 30th 7.00pm - Thanet Music & Drama Gala Night

Sat 31st 7.30pm - 2 ½ Ounces of Dolly Mixtures,
The STTC Junior Drama Group

APRIL

Sun 1st 3.00pm - Thanet Light Orchestra

Easter Sat 7th, Sun 8th & Mon 9th all at 7.00pm

They're Playing Our Song, Book by Neil Simon, Music
by Marvin Hamlisch and Lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager.

Sat 14th 7.30pm - Spitfire Solo

Sun 15th 7.00pm - Platform Theatre Company presents
A Cabaret Evening with Rob Rawles & Co.

Sat 21st 7.30pm - Michael Lunts, The Edwardian Cello

Sun 22nd 3.00pm - Spring Classic 3

Beethoven - The Master.

Peter Adams (cello) and Peter Hewitt (piano)

Sat 28th 7.30pm & Sun 29th 2.30pm.

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Great Expectations

DICKENS FESTIVAL 2012

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Promotional Dickens Event at St.
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Festival, fliers &
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Lifeboats

Thanet Film Club MARCH

6th Tyrannosaur

13th The Salt of Life

20th In a Better World

27th Kill List

APRIL

3rd Miss Bala

Sun 7th April 10.30-3.30pm

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BARNABY RUDGE AND MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD — DICKENS

*Attention you
Knitters.*

Look Out For.

*Wool queen, Erika
Knight will be visiting
Broadstairs sometime
this spring to introduce
new and old knitters
alike to the joys of
"Soft engineering".*

*A term she hopes will
become commonplace
for those who like to
think and knit outside
the box. Keep an eye
out for more info at
"C Wool" Broadstairs,
High Street.*

Sat 19th & Sun 20th May

Big Broadstairs Weekend (BBW)

<http://bigbroadstairsweekend.co.uk>

The build up to another fantastic weekend has started. It's going to be hard to follow last years event but this year's is hoped to be even better. Most of us will be happy if it's anywhere near as good as last year's.

Voting has been happening online & by word of mouth & the film Grease has been chosen as the Film on the Beach.

The dance competition which was so well attended last year is on again & the dance is being choreographed & should be available on the website very soon. Not sure what song from Grease it is but we shall all know soon. Fiona is hoping that the

Guinness record which we broke last year will be broken again & in her true 'reaching for the sky but she will probably get it' spirit, she is aiming for 2,000 dancers!!!!!!

Registration for the dance will be much tighter than last year but we will make sure that you know exactly how to do it, well before time.

We rely on you to let everybody you know hear about it, so tell everybody.

This event relies upon sponsorship & donations to happen, last year we made a loss. We need your donations on the day & any businesses who would like to help, there are various ways including banners on the sea front, gifts for the raffle & being posted on the big screen. The two charities being supported are Special Care Baby Unit at QEQM & Royal Marsden.

We also need your help. We didn't even have enough people to collect the money last year so if you want to help you won't regret it, it's a lot of fun.

CRAFTY LOT

There are a couple of craft groups looking for new members, one well established & one brand new.

The Busy B's Sewing Group was founded in 2002 by Louise Woodcock and Beryl Pinnaffo (from the Dickens Festival) and has been going strong ever since.

They make lots of Victorian and other period's clothing & also advise on how to look after and maintain clothes - and even help with any other kind of sewing. New members are always welcome.

They meet most Tuesdays at Crampton Tower at 7.30 it costs £1 with Tea or Coffee provided.

www.thebusybsewinggroup.moonfuit.com or Facebook : The Busy B's Sewing Group.

Contact Number (Louise) : 07763866624.

Helter Skelter indoor children's play centre is starting a 'Knitting Boutique' class which starts on February 20. It's for all ages & levels. Learn to knit or improve your knitting with experienced knitters.

£2 per head or £4 per child to include entry to Helter Skelter. Needles & wool provided for learners.

They already have a knitting group which meets on Mondays 1-3pm. £2 includes a cuppa.

St Mildreds School Events

Nearly New Sale on 21st April; 10.00am – 1.00pm. We will be selling baby equipment, as well as baby, toddler and children's toys, books, games and clothes. There will be plenty of refreshments and cakes to buy.

Entrance fee: 50p per adult on the door.

Ladies Pamper Night on 3rd May; 7.00pm – 10.00pm. Your chance to have a pedicure, manicure, massage, reflexology and much more all at discounted prices.

Tickets £4.00 available on the door (or from the school office the week before the event) price includes wine and nibbles.

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