

For Broadstairs by Broadstairs

60p



THE Broadie

Issue 26

Dobbin tells all
From the 'Orses
mouth

Make your list
Presents from
your town

Mrs Wally
Christmas Eve
treats for all

Naughty oldie
Granny does like
her Sherry

Hello old Bean
The Evils of the
brown drink



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Letters - 3

Christmas humbug - 10

Christmas makes - 12

Pride in Thanet - 17

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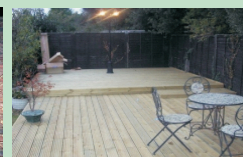
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Your Letters

Nice & Tidy, Tidy & Nice

Dear Broadie
We recently visited friends in Germany & noticed how clean & tidy their town looked with hardly any litter. It turns out that each householder is responsible for keeping the area outside their property presentable & they are also asked to help elderly neighbours clean up. Perhaps we could adopt a similar system here?

Yours sincerely
Linda Owen p.s. Very good report & comments about Folk Week

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Dear Broadie
Really enjoyed the latest issue - it's great to see some honest reporting and we particularly value the Folk Week..... article.

Regards
Jonathan & Penny Moxey

Dear Broadie
Thanks for talking sense about Folk Week it is a great week & one to be celebrated, it is only one week in a year an important week at that! If we had 51 Folk weeks a year I could understand all the fuss!!

Lin Beckett

Who is the superhero

Dear Broadie Mag'
Now that about fourteen percent of the eligible populace has voted in a police commissioner for the area, is it possible we can now have some sort of super-hero akin to Batman? Every Hollywood film I've seen where they include a character named "Police Commissioner",

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there has always been a caped crusader willing to take on the bad guys. Perhaps we could even have a lamp shining in the sky above Pierremont hall in times of peril. Whatya think?

Name and Address supplied. Broadstairs

Halloween Thanks

Really proud of all the retailers in Broadstairs. They are giving away sweets and treats to all the kids, despite the difficult trading conditions. Streets are full of happy kids in Halloween costumes, looks very vibrant. This sight makes me happy.

Well done Broadstairs. Proud of you all....

Kevin
Church road

Dear Broadie
Thank you Broadstairs retailers for showing such generosity of both goods and spirit. It was a truly communal feel to the town and a joy to be part of. You should all be very proud as you made many children extremely happy. Thank you from us all!

Abby

I love Broadstairs and this event showed what a great town we live in. Well done Fiona for the brilliant idea. Hope it becomes a tradition. And a special mention to Blackburns who were amazing! X

Natalie

My kids loved the Halloween event, what a great way for kiddies to have fun safely and also avoid scaring the life out the elderly.

Jo



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It's all coming down

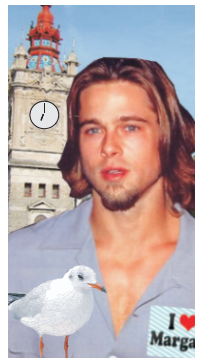
Coming soon to Broadstairs, visit 8 - 12 High Street (Y'know the Panther Securities building) - A Wasteground. Yes it would seem the news we printed from Laura Sandys in the last issue regarding the site was a load of old pudding. There'll be no improvements to the building as it stands, in fact, far from it, as it wont even be standing. The lads and lasses working away in there from the start of November, (including young adult workers on the Thanet Outreach Project) have informed us that any work going on at the moment is just stage one of the demolition process and that the whole building will be down by Easter. We can only hope that Panther Securities act with some degree of corporate responsibility and don't leave a rubble filled gap in the High Street for long

RNLI Kiosk

Many thanks to all the people who have who have contributed towards the RNLI by shopping at the Broadstairs RNLI Kiosk in Harbour St. We re-opened in late April this year, being run as a satellite of the Ramsgate shop and I am pleased to say we were well supported by Broadstairs residents and visitors alike. Some people may well know that the Broadstairs Ladies Lifeboat Guild is due to be wound up in December, this does not mean the shop will cease to operate. It was run this year by myself, my partner and some great volunteers and will be open again in March 2013, weather permitting and be operated by the same group of people. We are not able to open during the winter months as we lack light and heating, but will try to be open some weekends up to Christmas for Christmas cards etc, as long as the frostbite doesn't kick in. Best wishes on behalf of the RNLI for Christmas and the New Year.
Roy, Linda, Tony & Abi, RNLI Volunteers
Broadstairs

Brad Pitt, down to Margate

Hollywood A+ listed Brad Pitt has apparently been hanging out in the fair Isle of Thanet, it is not yet known whether or not he has been so taken with the place he is looking at houses in the Cliftonville area, but surely he'd be mad not to. You can get a seven bedroom town house for a steal in Cliftonville and think of all that room for the kids, and so convenient for the Post Office for all those postcards Ange' will be writing. But still, whilst its great to see a modern screen icon in town, you've got to admit - he's no Reg Varney. Now there was an actor.



Brad' in Margate?
an artists impression

Talking of Margate

Scary Mary Portas has been in town drumming up support for her new TV Show....Sorry, we meant Mary Portas has been in town drumming up support for Margate. Jolly good we say, there's no such thing as bad publicity, unless of course you're a local business that happens to write about the superiority of DFLs of course. Tune in next issue when we give you a crash course on identifying coffee machines.

Genuine overheard Conversations

"Do you know what, that man was possibly the most antagonistic ignorant man I have ever met, he wasn't there to help, he was there for his own self importance" - On a Broadstairs Councillor



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New Years Day Charity Event 'Wired' 3pm

Any Charity prize donations gratefully received



Scandinavian Sparkle

Thanet received an international clean-up this week as 15 Danish students helped to add Scandinavian sparkle to local streets.

Taking place on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 October, public and private areas of Birchington, Broadstairs, Margate and Westgate all benefited from the work, which included weeding, footpath clearing and walkway brushing. Benches and steps also received a jet-clean from the enthusiastic students who were working alongside Thanet District Council as part of a volunteer organisation project called Pipeline. Pipeline representatives work with young people alongside local authorities in serving the wider community through clearing projects. Volunteers also improve park spaces and making a contribution to making the environment safe and clean.

Teams comprise volunteers, wanting to play their part in investing in the community of Thanet on a practical level.

Thanet District Council's Cabinet Member for Commercial Services, Cllr Alan Poole, said: "This was a brilliant opportunity to enhance the good work already undertaken by the council. Keeping the streets clean is a top priority for local people and this exercise allowed us to carry out additional targeted clean-ups of both public and private areas. The volunteers did an amazing job and I'm thrilled with the results."



The Fix

Author:- Keith Nixon - Local chap

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He thinks things can't get any worse, until his sociopathic boss – Hershey Valentine – is murdered and he finds himself the number 1 suspect.

As the net closes in Josh discovers that no one is quite what they seem, and that sometimes help comes from the most unlikely sources...

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Mrs Wally @ Christmas

Blimey, it's that time of the year again already – where did 2012 go? What a year it's been, since I last sat and planned my Christmas menus we've had snow, rain, a Jubilee weekend, more rain, the Olympics, Folk Week, a bit of sun, a fantastic food festival. All in all it's been a brilliant year and a Christmas Feast is the ideal way to top it all off. I love Christmas Day don't get me wrong but by far my favourite meals of the season are the tea myself and Mr Wally indulge in when we get back from our traditional gathering in The Neptune early on Christmas Eve evening and the Boxing Day spread I put on for the Watlings every year. Last year I focused on Boxing Day, so this year it's Christmas Eve's turn. This year I've decided to go old school and traditional – I'll be making sausage rolls, smoked salmon sandwiches and mince pies to go with our Chapel Down fizz on Christmas Eve. Sausage rolls are so much better when you make them yourself, if you want you can use ready made puff but I swear by Saint Delia's easy flaky pastry recipe which you can find in her seminal work 'Complete Cookery Course' (my first recipe book when I went away to University) and assure you it really is easy and will make you feel like a smug domestic god/goddess.



Sausage Rolls

For the pastry you'll need; 175g butter (unsalted is best), 225g plain butter, pinch of salt, splash of cold water in a jug. For the sausagey bit you'll need; 450g sausage meat from the butcher, a large onion sliced finely, a knob of butter, some chopped sage, a grating of nutmeg and some salt and pepper. You'll also need a beaten egg to brush over the top.

First of all you need to wrap your block of butter in tin foil and put it in the freezer for about half an hour or so to get it rock hard. All you then need to do is weigh and sieve together your flour with the salt. Take the butter out of the freezer and grate it into the bowl, Delia recommends keeping the foil on the end you're holding and regular dipping of the end of the butter into the flour to stop it sticking. Once it's all grated, mix together with the end of a knife to combine and then gradually add the cold water until it comes together into a dough. You can then give it a bit of a squidge with your hands to bring it all together before wrapping in film or popping into a bag and putting it into the fridge to cool for half an hour whilst you prepare the yummy sausage filling. Finely slice an onion and fry over a very very low heat in the butter for about 20 mins until it's really sticky and caramelised. Put to one side to cool – I tend to spread it out on a tray to speed the cooling down bit up. All you need to do now is smooch up the sausage meat with the other ingredients. Heat the oven up to hot – Gas 7 or 220c – it's important that the oven is hot enough before you put the pastry in to ensure a nice flake. Then take out your pastry and roll out

into a rectangle, depending on how wide it is you'll need to cut it into 2 or 3 long strips – only you know how fat you like your sausage rolls so I'll leave that bit to you. Put the sausage meat on to the pastry in a long worm on one side, fold over the pastry to cover and press together with a fork before cutting into the lengths you want. You can snip the tops with scissors to make a nice pattern if you want before brushing with the beaten egg and putting in the oven for about 20 -25 mins. Yum. If you want to try something a bit more sophisticated could add some chopped cooked chestnuts and cranberries to the sausage mixture. Yum Yum!



Lovely Mince Pies

I don't really like shop bought mince pies but I love home made. I find shop bought pies a bit too stodgy so use Saint Delia's ever reliable flaky pastry recipe to make them light and buttery - If you're making the sausage rolls you can up the quantities and split the pastry between the two recipes. You can make your own mincemeat but to be honest, I just buy a good quality shop bought jar and add some Christmassy extras. Chop up some nuts and dried fruit into a chunky dice and add a splash of brandy and a sprinkle of cinnamon before mixing together with the mincemeat. Once you've greased your tin (use a standard shallow one, the kind you make normal fairy cakes in rather than a muffin tin), all you need to do is cut out two circles of pastry for each mince pie, put one circle in the base, splodge a spoonful of your mincemeat mixture on top and top with the other circle, snip a little hole in the top to let the steam escape, brush with beaten egg, sprinkle a bit of caster sugar on the top and pop in a nice pre-heated oven at Gas mark 7 for 15-20 mins until the pastry has risen and the sugar on top has melted. Leave to cool for a few minutes in the tray then take out of the pan, sprinkle with icing sugar and put on a rack to cool. Serve hot with extra thick cream. I hear Father Christmas likes these accompanied by a nice glass of port.....



Mrs Wallys Top Tip

Instead of sending out Christmas cards to your colleagues this year why not send an email and make a donation to a worthy local charity instead. Last year my team donated funds to the brave New Year's Day swimmers who were raising money for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (www.childliverdisease.org/content/340/Donate). This year, we will be making donations to Oasis – the fantastic women's refuge based locally (www.justgiving.com/oasis-outreach/donate). Domestic violence escalates at Christmas and 70% of those helped by the charity are children.





The Horse's Mouth

Well, what a fun-filled festival we had - no end of hoomans to hound and a lot of sun-bathing to keep our tans going.

Us 'Osses heard some amazing things too - apparently this was the last Folk Week!

Did we upset too many folkies? Don't people like us creeping up behind them and peering over their shoulder?

So we'll be a bit lonely then between 9th -16th August 2013 , will we? Those are the dates we've got pinned on our stable door anyway. Or - is this rumour about the last ever Folk Week, as our good friend Clarence told us before he went to sleep for the year - a load of old waffle? And we've found out - it is a load of old waffle!

He also told us not to worry about the green-field site rumours - apparently, Folk Week was just looking for a stable in a field for us 'Osses - things got out of hand - and the next thing you know - Broadstairs is the next Glastonbury!!

The 'Osses missed seeing loads of children at the Torchlight procession this year, they seemed to have been replaced by some swivelled-eyed monsters from Lalaland. So, in 2013, there's going to be a Festival procession in the afternoon instead. We'll let you know when we've found out more, but don't worry, us loveable 'Osses will be the stars of the show - as usual.

We've heard some weird and wonderful things about Folk Week, we could on for ages but what we do know is that folkies like sitting in pubs listening to folk music, going to concerts, dancing at ceillidhs and learning to play and sing.

There are lots of other things we could tell you about but we'd have to come round your house and knock on the door and we've been banned from doing that since 1839.

Apart from the news that Woody the Horse hasn't washed his socks since 1973, there isn't much more to say - but as soon as we hear more about Folk Week 2013, we'll write to the Broadie and let them know - they are very good at interpreting hoof-prints...

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Mr Dickens' Christmas fable

'Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business' – so said the ghost of Jacob Marley. In *A Christmas Carol*, it was abundantly clear that good old Mr Dickens had a thing or two to say about Christmas charity.

Back then life was more or less a sequence of grim, hungry misfortunes for a great deal of the population. If you weren't being worked into an early grave by an obese, red-cheeked mill-owner, whose idea of human compassion was to allow you an hour off if his machines had shredded your lower limbs, then you were stuffed down a mine at two months old or left to shrivel away in a sewage pipe. It was an age where for every wealthy business man, there were a thousand impoverished and half-starved human husks toiling all hours for a few of his grubby coins.

But what of Christmas? Surely, as in Dickens' story, was it not a time of cheer and hope, a season of goodwill to all men? Not really. When the very-much-dead Jacob Marley spoke of charity and mercy, he was of course relaying what Dickens knew only too well about these virtues having grown up in poverty: there wasn't any. 'Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?' asked Scrooge in earnest, 'Let them go there!'. It was clear: the poor and the starving shall remain so. Christmas was indeed 'a humbug'.

Strangely though, following the immense success and widespread popularity of *A Christmas Carol*, there came a surprising emergence of goodwill from those ruling classes. They who had previously cared not a whisper for those below them, who made fortunes from the unrelenting labour of their workers, who scraped the mud off their boots onto the ragged street urchins, started to wake up to the idea of being a bit nicer.

Rather idealistic of course. No,

this single slim-volume allegory for charitable humanity did not send a blanket of altruism across the land so that all social injustice was, in a jot, eradicated and replaced with a national sense of responsibility for one's fellow man. People still starved; workers still donated their prime of life to the sweat and blood of unregulated hours on the machines of industry. Dickens was good at his craft, but not that good. But there was an influence, a germination of what we regard today as basic sympathy for those in need and those who we exploit.



Let's think anecdotally. Robert Louis Stephenson, author of *Treasure Island* was so moved by the message of Dickens' work that he made it a lifetime vow to give generously. Thomas Carlyle, a famed writer of the Victorian era (whose works now are generally regarded as stupefyingly dull) had an equally baffling attack of the vapours and began to host festive dinners for the poor. Several industrialists in Britain and the United States (for Dickens had great popularity there) made the enormously generous decision to let their workers have Christmas day off.

It would be a wonderful world if such small gestures were in fact universal as a result of Dickens' Christmas tale. Aside from the cathartic bursts of kindness that the story brought about amongst the wealthy, it is argued quite strongly that *'A Christmas Carol'* was still a singularly effective work, which revived the spirit of Christmas altogether. Not so much by a widespread decision to stop grinding poor people into the dirt, but rather the more subtle move to make Christmas a time of joy and merriment for all, and to think charitably for a while.

At the time our esteemed neighbour wrote *'A Christmas Carol'*, the festive season didn't really mean a great deal. To those whose diet was a meagre cup of gruel, it meant nothing. The apathy to both the message of Christmas and its merry celebration was inherited from the age of Puritans, for whom Christmas was the apex of sinful indulgence. It was a tired concept. What we know today of Christmas was indeed significantly influenced by the warmth of the story's conclusion. Scrooge miraculously saw the error of his cruel and penny-pinching ways after learning his lesson from a series of rather patronising ghosts. The following day he thrust himself into the hearths and hearts of his family and friends. And that was the message that did indeed pervade into society and, to some extent at least, why we make such a fuss of it today.

Christmas in the Victorian era evolved into the romantic image of the story; those countless real-life Scrooges began, slowly, to become aware of the countless real-life Tiny Tims who they should help. So as you embrace your turkey and give generously to your crackers, do remember that were it not for *'A Christmas Carol'*, things might not be quite the same. The final, admittedly sickly words of the story uttered by Tiny Tim are famous, but the very last word was the all important one for Dickens' message in his social fable – 'God bless us Everyone'.

by Crispin Smith



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CHRISTMAS MAKES

Come on you lot, it's time you got your creative juices flowing. So here's a few examples for you to play with, all inexpensive and you can buy all that you need in town. We've also included a couple of knits seeing as it's so popular nowadays - and a cocktail recipe for when you've wiped the glue off of your hands and stemmed the bleeding - you might want to get an adult to help you next time with those scissors

Felt Christmas Pudding Decorations

Simple but very effective

You will need:

Felt squares

Cord or ribbon

Brown & white embroidery thread

Some things to decorate your pud
Hot chocolate & a good Christmas film on tv

Cut 2 x 6cm circles from brown felt = pud

Cut 1 x 6cm circle from white felt = custard/white sauce

We found a coke can was perfect to make a paper template!

Cut a 'custard' shape out of a paper circle first to get it how you want it then trace onto white felt circle & cut out

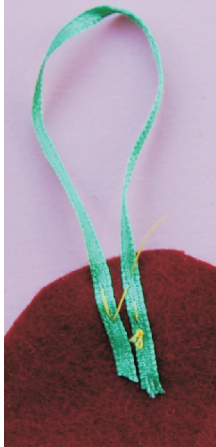
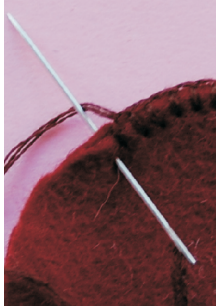
Cut a piece of 15cm cord/ribbon to hang it up with & tack to the inside of one of the brown circles.

Split a length of embroidery thread in half so there are three strands in each half & use to sew all 3 pieces together with blanket stitch with the cord/ribbon placed between the 2 layers of pud.

Attach buttons, beads, sequins or whatever you fancy to the top

Thanks to Becs Decs for the idea & instructions

Felt squares in lots of lovely colours for 65p & everything else you need available from Willow Fabrics, High Street, Broadstairs



Basket of Fruit

You can easily use a cardboard box covered in Christmas paper but make it even more special with a basket. Vintage baskets in all shapes & prices available from Broadstairs Antiques and Collectables. This basket was £9.90. The fruit was all from Prentis and came to £8.59.

Line the basket with bright tissue paper (59p per pack from Expressions)



Basket of sweets

In the same way you may fill a smaller basket with sweets. Lots of lovely sweets available at Sweet Yesterdays. High Street.

Homemade Paper-chains

Cheap recycled and very effective paper chain Christmas decorations

You'll need:

Old catalogues or magazines, comic strips also work well.

Glue

Scissors

Cut your old magazines into strips approximately 300mm x 30mm, depending on how large you want each link to be.

Glue one end of one strip to the other end, link through the next strip and glue again as before.

Carry on until your chain is long enough for your room



The Brigadiers - John Collins Cocktail

2 shot Bombay Original London dry gin

1 shot Freshly squeezed lemon juice

½ shot Monin Pure Cane sugar syrup (65° brix, 2:1 sugar/water)

Top up with Soda (club soda)

Shake first 3 ingredients with ice and strain into ice-filled glass, top with soda, stir and serve with straws and maybe a slice of orange

Traditionally credited to John Collins, a barman who worked at Limmer's Hotel in London. The 'coffee house' of this hotel, a true dive bar, was popular with sporting types during the 19th century, and famous for its gin-punch as early as 1814.

The gin in this recipe is often replaced with Bourbon, but quite frankly, that's just not on.



CHRISTMAS KNITS

You can't get a much more individual present for Christmas than one made personally for you. These two gift ideas should be easy even for a basic knitter and can be decorated individually. The hat could even become a Tea cosy with a little tweaking.

The Egg Cosy can be made from scraps of wool and the Hat from any double wool. Jane from CWool who designed these patterns for us has used wool from her shop on the High Street and the Hat will cost £2.95 for the wool.

For any further information about these patterns and other knitting advice, Jane is the person to ask.

Egg Nice & Cosy

Wool: Aran weight in two colours

Needles: 4.5mm

Abbreviations: K knit, P purl, Sts stitches, K2tog knit 2 sts together. st.st K1 rowP1 row



Cast on 28 sts

Row 1: K1, P1 repeat to end of row

Repeat row 1 three more times

Change to contrast colour and work 12 rows in st.st

Row 17: *K1, K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (19sts)

Row 18: P

Row 19: *K2tog, repeat from * to end of row (10sts)

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through remaining sts and pull tightly.

Sew sides together. Sew button on top

Pom Pom Hat

Wool: Jester (double knit)

Needles: 3.5mm and 4mm

Abbreviations: K knit, P purl, Sts stitches, K2tog knit 2 sts together. st.st K1 rowP1 row

RS right side, WS wrong side, Inc increase 1 stitch, , Sl1 slip 1 st, pssso pass slip st over

Using 3.5mm needles cast on 87 sts

Row 1: (RS) K1, P1 repeat to end of row

Row 2: (WS) P1, K1, repeat to end of row

Repeat last 2 rows 4 times more, inc 1st on last row (88sts)

Change to 4mm needles

Continue working in st.st until work measures 10.5cm from cast on edge.

Shape top

Next row (RS) *K20, Sl1, K1, pssso, K2tog, K20**, repeat from * to ** once more (84sts)

Work 3 rows in st.st

Next row (RS) *K19, Sl1, K1, pssso, K2tog K19**, repeat from * to ** once more (80sts)

Work 3 rows in st.st

Next row (RS) *K18, Sl1, K1, pssso, K2tog, K18**, repeat from * to ** once more (76sts)

Work 1 row in st.st

Continue working as set, decreasing 4 sts every alternate row until 8sts remain

Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through remaining 8 sts and pull tightly

Sew back seam



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Mince Pies for Granny

There she sat, surrounded by her requisites for another night in with what was to be found on Christmas television. Half a pound of Chocolate Brazils, one bottle of sherry, the foul English variety best served in trifles, five Woodbines, one for every hour and her old iron stove with the rusted flue readily equipped with an old black kettle should she decide on tea after the Two Ronnies had done their thing. The cats had run off upstairs, which she thought a little unusual, you couldn't normally extract them from their mat in front of the flames, but no matter, perhaps they'd just be warming the bed for her later. The old man had passed on five years ago, she'd missed him for a while, but it'd not taken her long to settle into a new routine, and now she got to see what she wanted, no more of that infernal sport every Saturday, oh no, it was black and white movies and musicals all the way nowadays. The downside of course was the jobs around the house weren't getting done, the gutters were leaking, the paint on the door was cracked and had turned shabby and dull and the flue was surely in need of a good clean out with a chimney brush.

The old girl sat back, fiddled with the Redifusion knob on the wall and awaited Mr Barker and Mr Corbett to entertain her for an hour or so. Just one more glass of sherry and maybe another mince pie.

That was when she remembered, she'd forgotten her Christmas Eve ritual, the mince pie and glass of sherry for Father Christmas, ever since she was a child she'd left an offering to the yuletide patriarch, not that she was expecting much this year, she'd not heard from her son in about seven months, and not so much as a birthday card from the two grandchildren, but never mind, a mince pie and sherry for Santa was the tradition and she wasn't going to break it this year, plus it gave her something to nibble on in the morning whilst she waited for her porridge to heat up.

Just five minutes now until her favourite comedy duo were on, time to load up the stove with some coal. She had been lucky to have some, all those bloody strikes meant she'd had to get her coal in from another source as the delivery men had apparently "Gone out, as their patriotic duty to their fellow brothers", that's what Enid had told her next door anyway. What awful coal it was though, greasy and dirty, but at least it did burn nice and hot.

Finally she sat down and snuggled into her old rough blanket. The familiar opening credits started of her favourite TV show and it wasn't long before she was in a deep dark sleep.

There weren't many people around at 7.30 on Christmas morning to see the ambulance turn up at the short row of terraced houses where the old lady lived. Its one of the dangers of log burning stoves - not getting your chimney swept, all sorts of things can block a flue which in turn can send poisonous carbon monoxide fumes (depending on what you're burning) back down into the fireplace. Well that's what the Policeman had told Enid after the ambulance slowly departed and the fuss had died down.

Amanda and Don had been in the house for about eleven months, they'd spent another good ten months renovating the old building, doing the work themselves to save a bit of

cash. It was a solid old place, well built and would probably last another millennia, they'd obviously had to update a lot of things but Don had wanted to keep some of the original features. It was a hell of a lot nicer than the rented accommodation they'd had above the ironmongers on Clapham High Street, and so much better for the children to have room to play, oh and best of all it didn't cost them anything, well just the rates and electric.

"I hope there'll be no peeking tonight you two" said Amanda to the twins, "You know what happened last year, Santa nearly missed you out because you hadn't got to sleep by midnight, I want you both in bed by ten at the latest"

"Don't forget the mince pie and drink for Santa Claus" said Jenny "And a carrot for Rudolf" added John.

"No of course not, we can't forget that now can we"

And with that she opened a six pack of mince pies and popped one on a plate.

"Now Jenny, put that over by the fire on the hearth, and John, take this glass and carefully put it next to it, then it's kisses goodnight to your dad and I'll be up to tuck you in, oh and don't forget that carrot"

It took about half an hour to get them to settle, but eventually Amanda came back downstairs to snuggle up with her husband.

"Fancy a glass, Don"? She asked

"Not that awful stuff you've just put in that glass I hope, I never could stand that drink and don't get me started on mince pies, I mean, only the British could come up with a sweet sugary foodstuff that originally was made with meat" replied Don,

"No, I'm not even sure where that sherry came from, its just been kicking around for ages, in fact It might even have been your mothers"

"I'd imagine she probably used it to put her teeth in"

"Oh, Don, don't be so grotesque, I had a sip out of that glass, but you are right it is horrible."

"Come on you, I think they're finally asleep, you know what time they'll be bouncing on the bed in the morning, best we get off too".

The old girl finally awoke, the room was bright - very bright, the cats had obviously got bored with waiting for breakfast and gone out to find their own. She struggled out of bed noticing that she was still wearing her slippers and faded red dressing gown, "You silly old mare" she thought to herself, "next you'll be wearing your boots in bed"

Slowly but sure footedly she made her way down the stairs and into the living room. Everything around her seemed different but somehow familiar, and so very bright. She shook the feeling off, "Now what first" she said aloud "Porridge or Christmas treat". The treat won. She downed the sherry in a gulp, and the mince pie was devoured similarly, followed by a chuckle to herself as if she'd just done something very naughty indeed

Amanda had been right, five thirty they'd appeared around the bedroom door, Jenny clutching her teddy, and John already with a mouth smeared in chocolate.

"Mummy, Daddy, he's been" there's presents in our room and John's already had some from under the tree, can we open the rest now?"

"Yes, we'd guessed you've been at your pressies, I heard you laughing downstairs" said Don as he wiped the sleep from his eyes and struggled to focus on his offspring. They'd always put a few presents in the kids room as it meant they'd get that extra half hour in bed, but it looked like they'd got bored and progressed to the bigger stuff in the lounge "Come on you two, lets go and take a look downstairs" and with that he grabbed one child under each arm and trudged off downstairs carrying two giggling kiddies.

It wasn't until later in the morning after he'd sat down on the sofa and put on the television that Don first noticed the empty sherry glass on the fireplace and the crumbs where once there had been a mince pie. He initially thought no more of it, he was too busy watching John empty a whole box of Meccano onto the living room floor.

It was a little later, after a particularly awful movie by the Children's Film Foundation had finished on TV that Don decided he fancied a drink, that was when he remembered the empty sherry glass.

"Hey, Mandy, I thought you didn't like Sherry" called out Don to the kitchen where Amanda was sweating away over an overstuffed Turkey

"Sorry, you said something about Sherry" said Amanda as she appeared in the lounge doorway carrying a gravy stained tea towel.

"Yes, the sherry, you've drunk the sherry left out for Father Christmas" accused Don

"I can assure you Don, I am not a secret alcoholic that disappears downstairs in the night to consume evil sherry that your mother allegedly used for her false teeth"

"Well it wasn't me either" replied Don, "That awful mince pie from the supermarket has gone too".

"Jenny, John" called Amanda, "Did either of you two have that drink we left out for Santa?"

"Don't be silly mummy, it was Father Christmas of course, we watched him drink it this morning when it was still a bit dark" said Jenny

"Yes, lovey, I know it was Father Christmas, I, I 'err meant another glass of sherry" Fumbled Amanda as she tried not to give the game away.

"It really was Father Christmas mummy, although he was dressed a bit odd" continued Jenny.

"Yes" said John "He looked like he was wearing slippers and a dressing gown, and do you know what - he didn't even have a beard"

Just for a moment the four of them looked at each other quietly and stared.

And to this day, after a few pints down 'The Crown', Don will swear that the photograph of his late mother that sat on the mantlepiece, actually winked at him.



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BELOW YORK GATE

Winter has arrived down here on the sands, another busy summer is over for those below York Gate, the autumn winds are chilly and the rain seems to just hang around all the time.

After a stuttering start the summer finally arrived, Broadstairs held a children's fishing competition that was well attended, with the kids picking up trophy's for biggest fish, most fish and most species, the boat trip was followed by a BBQ and prizes were presented by the Mayor. The fishing in

general for the boats in Broadstairs has been reasonable with the winter fish starting to show in catches already. The 90th fishing festival is due to be held on 24th and 25th of November with reserve dates 8th and 9th December.

Folk Week was upon us in no time, and the Hobby Hosses spread their usual chaos around the town and the beach, Clarence eating up as much money as possible and Morris Dancers keeping people entertained on the pier. One new feature that was welcomed on the beach was a visiting Spanish artist, who's sand sculptures amazed crowds through folk week and beyond.

His sculptures usually lasted until night time when they were trampled on and destroyed by passers-by, all except one sculpture that survived 2 days it was of course a sculpture of Jesus!

Folk week was closely followed by Water Gala day, it was a huge success with thousands of people crowding the beach. The morning was taken up with a teddy bears picnic and a sand castle competition, the competition was judged by local artist Martin Cheek and with 85 contestants it was hard for him to pick a winner, however the castle that he chose for first place was this fantastic re-creation of the Olympic stadium, the detail was amazing down to flags of various nations and a big screen TV. And all contestants were given a free ice-cream by the event sponsor The Harbour Café.

The Ramsgate lifeboats Esme Anderson and Bob Turnbull were in attendance and people were allowed to tour around them during the day. There was 2 flying displays during the afternoon, the RAF Tucano gave a magnificent solo display, followed by a Yak display team who were one plane short due to technical difficulties after take-off, however the remaining aircraft showed off their flying skills to the appreciation of the crowds. Various events took place on the green and bandstand including a fairground and market stalls along the cliff top. The sailing club were out in force displaying their skills to the public. There were beach games and a Punch and Judy too keep children entertained through the day, and the evening was rounded off with a fantastic firework display in the bay, all funded by water gala and various sponsors without who's help the event would not take place.

You always know when winter is here as the (locally known) Worm appears on the beach, it's erected to protect the foreshore from the high tides and possible storms through the winter months. It also provides the children with something to climb and roll down for hours of fun.

Well next stop is Christmas and all of us below York Gate wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year, and don't forget to come and visit us Below York Gate.



Dear Santa

We know you must be very busy at this time of year making all the toys and sitting at your desk checking your 'naughty or nice' list.

We are just writing to give you some handy little tips on how to sit at your desk properly and how to lift all those heavy boxes.

We also want to remind you that Chiropractic is not somewhere you only come on Boxing day for us to sort all your aches and pains from jumping down chimneys.

If you suffer from a niggly back or annoying headaches then come and see us! Don't leave it until the big day to panic and get something done.

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SEAVIEW



January 2nd - 8am

A shared sherry initiates the
'Thank the blazes it's all over' celebrations.

Anyone for a wet bean drink?

What is this obsession with coffee all about. If it's not one cafe that serves the stuff boasting that they've got the best coffee machine in town its another banging on about how many different ways they can

pour hot water on ground down beans and serve it up with milk. Hello - Just to point out the obvious - hasn't anyone noticed, whichever way its served it still tastes of, yes, you've guessed right. Coffee.

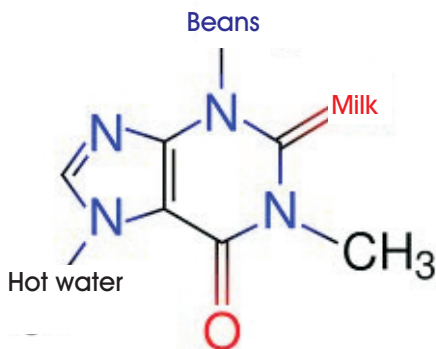
Bored, bored, bored with it. On needing a warm drink in Canterbury recently, I visited one of those dens of bean based vice, I did of course not need Coffee as I am a grown-up. Tea was what I needed. So was I offered an Earl Grey, perhaps a fine Darjeeling, or a tangy Afternoon blend. Not bloody likely, I had a choice of twenty different ways to wet a coffee bean or Tetleys finest. Even with such a miserable choice Tetleys won.

And yes, I do know that every coffee bean variety taste a bit different to every other coffee bean variety, but so too does Robinsons orange squash tastes a bit different to Kia Ora Orange squash, you dont hear everyone rattling on about the mellow flavour of one or the other, nor do you get chumps squirting the correct temperature of cold water onto their concentrated fruit drink using a genuine two grand Sicilian made Orange squash machine.

And why do they insist on giving you what can only be described as "The smallest biscuit in the known universe" to accompany this wet bean drink. What are you supposed to do with a baked product small enough to be made up of molecules not even numbering ten, if you must insist on giving me a biscuit with my coffee, make it a custard cream, oh and I'll have four.

Its not that I mind the taste of Coffee, I'll even have the odd cup. But really, a coffee grinder, does just that - grinds beans, I couldn't care a jot how it does it or whether that grinder comes direct from an old Italian company with offices in Equador, It doesn't matter to me that the hot water is blasted, poured, squirted or sprayed onto those ground down beans, it's just another mechanical process that bores me. Oh and by the way, I'm not interested in being served by a Barista - please - amongst other jobs you perform daily which are equally important and also contribute to your deserved wage, that part of your job is just simply, making coffee. The tea equivalent was of course the less salubriously entitled "Char Lady". Which whilst is now considered sexist in that I dont believe I've ever heard the phrase "Char man", it is still a lot less "up itself" than "Barista", which incidentally is a name which could cause all sorts of problems to a dyslexic person in need of legal help.

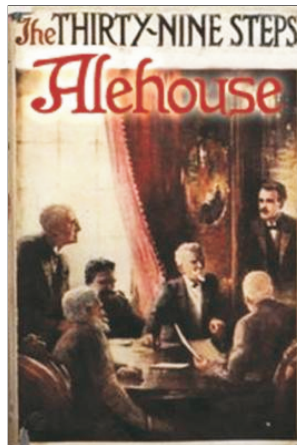
Then in some establishments we immediately move on to first name terms when they enquire as to your name so they can then write it on your "Refillable" cup, a phrase that completely misunderstands the basic premise of the invention of the cup, in that the only cups that aren't refillable are broken ones. Personally when they ask you your name I'd advise answering either Mr / Mrs / Ms / Doctor /



Captain - followed by your surname, preferably a really long hyphenated surname.

Westwood is now (I use the term loosely) fortunate enough to have its own "Drive through" Coffee House - Really, is that completely necessary, surely we shouldn't be encouraging drivers to take on board scalding drinks served in cardboard cups with less than secure lids. Aren't the roads dangerous enough without adding hot wet beanie smelling drivers into the equation?

My best advice: Pick up a jar of Mellow Birds, go home, ready your copy of The Oldie and put the kettle on.



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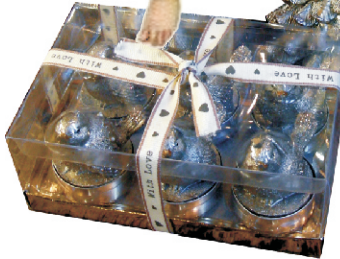
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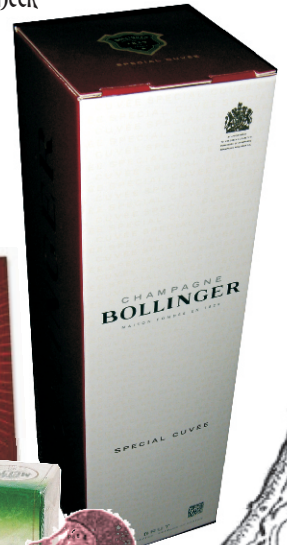
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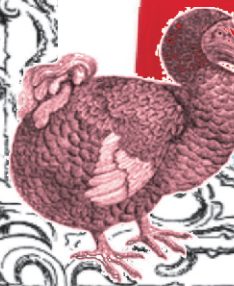
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Cant be bothered with all that trundling off to Canterbury or London or wherever this year. Too many people, not enough readily available Gin and now you cant even light up a pipe on the train. It was all far too easy back in my youth, we'd have a succession of tradesmen turn up at the manor with trays of wares for us to peruse, maybe a new sidearm for Grandpa or some naughty ankle length nightwear for her ladyship from the Madame De Saucisson range of feminine accoutrements and fripperies. Times did change though when I was finally intrusted with enough cash to provide for the whole families Christmas. With hindsight this was quite a mistake when on finally realising on December the thirtieth that I wasn't returning with Christmas presents, my beloved sent out a search party to ascertain my whereabouts. It wasn't until February I returned having been persuaded of the merits of a trip to discover the secrets of the Bongoese Chutney mines on the 'Brangeline Coast' by a fine and upstanding chap I'd met in the local opium den. Never did receive my yearly dividend of one hundred weight of chutney though. That was back in my wild contemptuous youth, I'm a little less adventurous now, no more expeditions into the wild blue yonder, with the exception of course of our yearly trip to the Welsh counties to teach the inhabitants how to speak English, and going by our last trip they still haven't got the hang of it. So here it is, my shopping trip. We'll start at that fabulous shop "Arrowsmiths", where on dropping by to see the lovely lasses therein I was persuaded to purchase some Golden Christmas candles for the Yuletide table. (1) and from just £7.50 a pack.

After such strenuous shopping I felt it was time to take things a bit easier, and being near eleven my tea taste buds were complaining from lack of stimulation, so it was off up to Tecoco for a sip of their finest and to add another pressie to the Christmas stocking of 'Benson' our butler, not for him mind you, he doesn't drink the stuff, but he does so enjoy bringing me tea I thought it would be a real treat for him to have a Tea & Chocolate Presentation pack from Tecoco, from £15.00.

Tea drunk, it was time to shop for one of the younger more glamorous members of the clan, young cousin Pansy. She does so like dressing up and popping off to parties this Sekonda watch (3) from Ashleys Jewellers £40.00 is surely enough to get her noticed, and hopefully she'll know when it's time to leave and return home from now on too.

Now I don't know much about knitting apart from it's got something to do with tying knots in wool with two sticks, but my beloved reliably informed me that this was what she wanted. It's a Merino Wool and Silk Scarf- Knit it yourself kit from Cwool, (4) £30.00.

Benson seemed to be getting all the pressies on the list and at Bay 158 this was no exception, I loaded up with an amusing yet humbuggish "Ho Bloody Ho" Apron (5) for only £15.99 and a Coastal Calender (6) by Emma Ball for £10.99. Bay 158.

Things started to look up after dropping into Victory News, where I purchased a fine bottle of Hendricks Gin (7) for £29.95. Nothing to do with Christmas, I was just getting thirsty.

Of course once you've had Gin you must have something sweet so it was off up to Sweet Yesterdays to purchase some "New Berry Fruits" £3.49 (8) for the in-laws, just so we would have something to shut them up during the queens speech. Oh, and whilst I was there some Beechs Chocolate Marzipan for me (8) £4.79.

Christmas isn't Christmas without far too much posh alcohol, so a quick visit to The Bottleneck furnished me with a very reasonably priced Bollinger (9) at only £32 a bottle, which should be enough to keep the old girl quiet during Countdown. Lastly my little nephew insisted I buy him some action figures, which have apparently changed since my day when we used good old fashioned heavy and healthy lead to make toy soldiers out of, the little blighter wanted something called "Warhammer" (10)

which I managed to procure from "Expressions" on Broadstairs High Street. They've quite a range to choose from. So, happy shopping one and all and have a jolly old Christmas



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Sartorial hints for the festive season



Here at the manor we do try to take our responsibilities seriously, especially so when it comes to our very own sartorial elegance. Her ladyship continually bemoans that I refuse to take enough care over my appearance, remaining unshaven for days and habitually roaming around my private quarters in nothing but longjohns and a pith helmet. If it wasn't for the valet I'd have probably been arrested by now by the fashion police.

We therefore thought it appropriate to include this lovely letter we received from our old Valet, he's written for you chaps out there - yes you at the back in those awful jeans halfway down your legs showing your faded and greying undergarments - it's not pretty, and I'm not interested in seeing your pants young man. Anyway read and heed: **The Brigadier**

Well chaps, as the Christmas season approaches, why not surprise the lady (or ladies) in your life with a little style and panache? Perhaps a touch of yesteryear - Edwardian or Victorian style dress-wear. For example, a smart blazer style jacket or your summer linen garment with a colourful waistcoat for Christmas dinner (white jacket if you are lucky to own one) plus a nice crisp shirt complete with smart dark trousers or chinos.

No, not your jogging bottoms or those old jeans this time thank you. You should wear a tie, bow-tie or even better a cravat to complete the ensemble. This will then enhance your look when cutting the Turkey.

Why, James Bond will not even get a look in with the new debonair you in command of festivities! Of course if you run to a double cuff shirt with links it must be a neat way of avoiding the washing up etc. Also the ladies will be full of admiration for the new 'smart you' which, at least gets an extra helping of pudding. Who knows, you may be allowed a nice snooze in the chair as a reward for such efforts. For the traditional Christmas walk wear a decent overcoat with cap or hat and scarf. Leave that old anorak behind in the closet. Your lady will certainly be in her festive finery after all!
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Daves pride in Thanet

Now in its seventh year, the Pride in Thanet Tourism Awards are organised by Thanet District Council in partnership with Visit Kent, and sponsored by the Kent Messenger Group. This year and after careful consideration, the main Pride in Thanet Award went to Dave Melmoth of the Joss Bay Surf School.

Since 1998, the Joss Bay Surf School has built up a fantastic customer base and caters for all ages and abilities.

Dave said: "A fantastic award, I feel hugely privileged that customers feel they get an excellent level of service. This also comes from the support we receive from Thanets tourism team - I've noticed that as their campaign activity increases, so do the hits on my website, in June this year it received 120,000 hits."

Cllr Iris Johnston introduced the evening's proceedings, and paid tribute to all the winners.

She said: "I'm sure you will all agree, it has been an amazing year. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Torch Relay and the Olympic and Paralympic Games have showcased all that is great about our country and generated an increased sense of pride across the nation.

"We felt this in Thanet in July when the Olympic Torch passed through the area and thousands lined the streets to see it pass by and cheer the torch bearers on. I felt it too in August when I helped host a group of international journalists who were staying in London for the Games on a day visit to Margate - our industry partners worked really hard and went that extra mile to ensure their visit was a success."

She added: "I congratulate Dave Melmoth on his award success, which had been earned through the continued delivery of outstanding customer service. I also congratulate all the other award winners who have worked so hard."

A huge congratulations also goes to the other winners that include - Accommodation Employee of the year - Sylvie Brown from "The Devonhurst hotel" Broadstairs, and the "Team of the year" prize which went to "The St Peters Village Tour".

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Christmas tastings

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&

Sunday December 9th 11.30 am to 3pm



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EVENTS & STUFF

Sarah Thorne Theatre

<http://sarahthorne.blogspot.co.uk>

December

Sat 1st *Ad* Audience with Jack the Ripper.

Sun 2nd Sunday Afternoon Music Making

Sat 8th Auditions

Sat 8th Murder Mystery Evening

Sat 22nd - Mon 31st Russ in Boots

January

Sat 12th - Sun 13th MADS Spring Production

Sat 26th The Bully Wee Band with Phil Beer

Sat 26th The Jive Aces

February

Sun 10th Spring Classical Concerts

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www.thanetfilm.co.uk

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Entrance fee: £5 for members £6 for guests £4 conc (members only)

December

4th The Source [La source des femmes]

11th Searching for Sugar Man



Barn dance

Coming up for two years ago, in response to a lack of a regular local fixture, we decided to organise a Barn Dance ourselves. We wanted to offer friends and locals a continuation of the great dance programme available throughout Folk Week.

So with a simple need to 'meet costs' we hired the St Peters' Memorial Hall (because it has a great dance floor) and booked music and a caller.

Since then there has been a dance with Live music every 8 weeks or so and they regularly sell out before the event!

Whilst it is called a 'Club' there is currently no membership fee. The events are open to anyone who enjoys dancing and we always have a good Caller to teach the dances- so you don't even need to know the steps.

The next date is for our Christmas Ceilidh and we have the superb Climax Ceilidh Band coming all the way from London to entertain. Tickets are £11.00 in advance, £12.50 on the door and for Group Bookings every tenth ticket is FREE!

For tickets call: 01843 601186 or email: jonathanmoxey@tiscali.co.uk or send a Cheque payable to: Broadstairs Barndance Club with an SAE to: 28 Stanley Road, Broadstairs, CT10 1DA.

December Events

Sat 1st 10-11.30am, Christmas Fair, Holy trinity Church

Sun 2nd 10-5pm Broadstairs Victorians Christmas Bazaar, Community Hall Pierremont

Sun 2nd 6.30pm Advent carol Service, St Andrew's Church

Sun 9th 7.30pm An evening with the Broadstairs & St Peter's Concert Band at Christmas, Pavilion

Weds 12th 7.30pm St Peter's Old Boys, Christmas Carols, Memorial Hall St Peter's

January

Mon 7th 7.30pm Broadstairs Victorians, Beetle Drive, Crampton Tower Hall

Chamber of Commerce Quizzes 2013

15th February

10th May

23rd August

25th October

The Seventy Chamber Choir of Thanet present Bach's 'St John Passion'

Date: Saturday March 23rd 2013

Venue: Holy Trinity Church Broadstairs

Time: 7.00pm

Conductor: Clifford Lister

Contact:

www.seventychamberchoir.com
or Tel: 01843 602332

St. Peter's school is having a Christmas market on Thursday 6th December 6:00pm till 7:30pm there will be lots of local stalls and carols around the tree

St Mildreds School

1st December
Nearly New Sale
10am - 1 pm.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

at Broadstairs Adult Education Centre in St Peter's Road,

10am to 2pm on Saturday 1st December.

Our tutors who are expert craftspeople will be selling a range of items including

traditionally-crafted door wreaths, stained glass lightcatchers, textiles, artwork,

sugarcraft, photographs and more.... free demos, refreshments and music in the cafe. All welcome.

Leaflets about courses being run from Broadstairs Library are in the library now, and a new brochure of courses taking place all over Thanet will be available in January.

Scouting for help

Following from our article in issue 25 about the 11th Broadstairs Scout Hut we had some lovely feedback from Tracy.

Apparently a couple who had read the article were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary so donated £40 to the hut. What lovely people.

Cans are still being collected by the group and can be dropped off in the car port to the rear of 26 Victoria Road Broadstairs. If you could crush them it would be really helpful.

Anybody else who would like to help in any way please contact:

Group secretary and scout leader: 01843 866744

Beaver section leader (collectaholic) 07788705403



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