

For Broadstairs by Broadstairs

60p



THE Broadie

Issue 33

www.thebroadie.co.uk



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And that thing that happened the other night in the pub, y'know involving the man with the funny hat, a budgerigar and a jar of pickled onions. Well that had nothing to do with us, alright.

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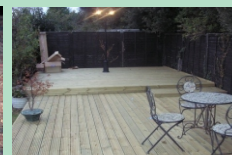
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Your letters

News from the front

On reading the Christmas edition 32 of The Broadie I noticed your request to provide stories from WWI - to be commemorated in 2014. This is just a little anecdote told to me by my late mother, Joyce Newton (born Joyce May in Broadstairs in 1911). When the war was declared over, in 1918 - my mother by then 7 years old overheard her mother getting very excited. My mother was rather frightened since she thought her mother had said "the Germans surround us" - when, in fact, she had excitedly shouted "the Germans surrendered"!

Regards

Anne Ammundsen

Broadstairs

Signs of the time

I noticed on your Facebook page a post from a 'Jo Pollen' who had commented on a particularly ridiculous sign at Pysons Road roundabout announcing "Another Road Improvement by KCC". Now whilst this sign is clearly a pointless waste of money; in that why on earth is KCC spending money on signs telling us they've re-tarmaced a road? I've noticed another sort of seemingly pointless advert being deployed at the moment. Perhaps your readership could enlighten me as to why we now have large advertising displays showing off local schools in the area? Do schools really need to advertise for pupils? Aren't most of them oversubscribed as it is. Surely their advertising budget might be better used elsewhere.

I'm sure there's a reasonable answer, but I can't figure it out.

Confused

Pierremont Avenue

Broadstairs

Surprise uprise

Tell me, who wrote the recent press release from Isle Homes regarding the forthcoming construction of family homes in Vere Road car park? I only ask as they clearly need to calm down a bit and have the trumpet they've swallowed surgically removed from their windpipe. I'm not sure the majority of local residents are "eagerly anticipating" the development or are terribly "excited" by the disposal of a public asset owned by many for the profit of a few. In fact it's a bloody shame TDC were so short sighted as to have sold off the much needed parking area in the first place. My other question is who is going to compensate the business owners in town when the coaches (full of potential consumers) that used to park in Vere road wont be able to this summer? Me-thinks they wont bother to disgorge their customers in search of Summer beach fun all the way at the replacement coach park by the train station, they'll probably go elsewhere instead.

John T

Broadstairs

Bert & Ernie

I was surprised your writer of the article 'The Night of the Hairy Men' considered that Bert and Ernie from Sesame Street were the first same sex couple to appear on our TV screens. I always assumed Morecambe and Wise beat them to it. They did after all share a bed.

G Jackson

London

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I'm Free

I heard recently that another Thanet blogger had been threatened with legal action due to the content of some of their online posts.

The Internet has certainly changed the ways in which we interact and we're now discovering the pitfalls of assuming that what we type into the little silver box cannot be linked to us for all times sake.

Who'd have thought that those comments you wrote on your Facebook page after the second bottle of wine late on a Saturday night could come back to haunt you after a prospective employer decided to do a little digging, or maybe that link you 'liked' originated from a website with rather dubious content and now the police want to have words. Perhaps in the heat of the moment you insulted a religious group and now you're receiving death threats. All events that have actually happened.

There's no easy answer when it comes to the concept of Freedom of Speech, to many people the automatic response is that freedom of speech is an essential, or perhaps a basic right.

Is it though? Are there not limits as to what can be considered free to divulge, how would our families and friends feel if we announced every past transgression or wrongdoing, aren't individuals, companies and even governments entitled to hold on to certain secrets. We all operate self censorship, it's what helps hold societies together. And after all isn't it right that we can't go around levelling accusations at those we don't necessarily agree with if we don't have the evidence to back up our assertions.

The subject has become a bit of a battlefield over the years; those with power have sought to censor the disagreeable and usurp basic freedoms with a desire to control, and perhaps that's why those with a degree of power, whether they be multi-millionaires, politicians, celebrities, religious figures or other opinion holders who have sway over portions of the population have often been the ones wielding the UK libel laws as a tool to silence dissenters. Debate is not their friend, as that interferes with the way in which they operate and questions their authority, perhaps it's not surprising then that these sorts are perhaps more likely to threaten or actually put legal weight behind their outrage at what they consider attacks upon their character; even when an attack upon their character might have instead actually been an attack of their opinions, products or policies

When confronted with a person who holds some power announcing that they will take you to court for 'libel' or to 'Sue' for defamation of character, what they are most likely saying is "Back off, don't argue with me, I am stronger than you", it's a bit like a game of chicken. However if this scenario crops up, those being threatened are much more likely to back down because the one threatening legal action is often in a much better situation to see the defendant in court, even though the outcome of a libel case is often pretty unknowable. The costs of fighting a libel case are extremely prohibitive to most people, and that's even when they have a watertight case against the person or persons they have managed to upset. Add on to that the fact that you may have to pay the other sides costs should the court

find in their favour and it's not surprising that so many people back out of a situation where the outcome might as well be rolled by a dice.

This has been one of the ways in which those with power have controlled those without the power. Libel law in the UK has been a law for the powerful - not the righteous, where the suppression of information has been controlled because the power to stand up to those who have often quite rightly been criticised hasn't realistically been open to the average Joe in the street.

As of January 1st 2014 a new Defamation Act 2013 has come into being, which will hopefully destroy the image of the UK as the libel capital of the world. Claimants will now have to show they have suffered "serious harm" before suing.

The Act includes:-

"New serious harm threshold" aimed at helping people to understand when claims should be brought and discourage wasteful use of court time.

Protection for scientists and academics publishing peer-reviewed material in scientific and academic journals.

Protection for those publishing material on a matter of public interest where they reasonably believe that it is in the public interest

Libel tourism targeted by tightening the test for claims involving those with little connection to England and Wales being brought before the courts.

Introduction of a new process aimed at helping potential victims of defamation online, by resolving the dispute directly with the person who has posted the statement.

Single-publication rule to prevent repeated claims against a publisher about the same material

Justice minister Shailesh Vara said: "As a result of these new laws, anyone expressing views and engaging in public debate can do so in the knowledge that the law offers them stronger protection against unjust and unfair threats of legal action. These laws coming into force represent the end of a long and hard-fought battle to ensure a fair balance is struck between the right to freedom of expression and people's ability to protect their reputation." www.bbc.co.uk

The new defamation act is clearly a case of 'About time too' but it is still very much worth taking time to consider exactly what you wish to say when you're about to 'Go off on one' on a social media site. We regularly have to take down posts when someone hasn't given their prose too much thought, more often than not the fault is not intentional, but just sometimes, not often, we've removed people from our page and deleted their posts because they've strayed into libel, racism and on one occasion, both.

Information kiosk

Broadstairs Information Kiosk is located on the seafront behind the Royal Albion Hotel; it is a joint venture by the following businesses and organisations:

Shepherd Neame Brewery
(The Royal Albion Hotel)

Broadstairs and St. Peter's
Chamber of Commerce

Broadstairs Tourism and Leisure Association

Broadstairs and St. Peter's Town Council.

Thanet District Council

We had a busy 2013 season, opening at Easter and closing on 3rd November. During that time we greeted 20,912 visitors and residents, that's 3,000 more than last year. We hope to receive even more visitors with the new season starting on Saturday 5th April, 2014.

Our busiest day was Water Gala with 304 visitors and during Folk Week, when we extended our opening hours, we had 1659 visitors. The busiest month is of course August with 4809 visitors.

We are lucky to have 48 wonderful volunteers who give their time to us freely to help in the kiosk in good and bad weather always with a smile, offering friendly hospitality and sharing the joys of our beautiful town. If anyone is interested in volunteering please could they contact info@broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk

We would like to thank our Sponsors for their generous donations which help to support the kiosk and thereby helping both visitors and residents:-

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The poorer relation

Dear sir,

Two months ago we had a tidal surge that caused a lot of damage to Broadstairs beaches and beach huts. A lot of mess was caused and the Town Team did most of the clear up. The Boardwalk is yet to be replaced. Apparently, Margate is the priority for a new boardwalk, despite the fact that it has a prom stretching the whole length of the beach, whereas Broadstairs needs a boardwalk to provide full beach access to the disabled, parents with prams, etc.

TDC must put more effort into Viking Bay and the other Broadstairs beaches. A full and proper clean-up is required. The remaining rubbish needs to be cleared away. We need a new boardwalk put down. Seaweed needs to be removed (now and on a regular basis – it only happened twice last summer, and

one of these was a half-hearted attempt on Water Gala Day that still left the beach unusable in places and very smelly!). All these things have to be done before Easter in order to give the town a fighting chance this summer.

We love our town and it's time that TDC, who are happy to receive Broadstairs Council Tax, spend some time and money on us. Broadstairs hosts the event that draws the largest number of people to Thanet (Folk Week) – we deserve to be supported and encouraged by TDC for our success, not ignored and treated as poor relations. (P.S. Give us our weekly and New Year's fireworks back!!!).

Big Dave, Broadstairs

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If you, or someone you know, would like to know more about the mens shed movement and the Broadstairs Town Shed please come along.

www.broadstairstownshed.org.uk



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Broadie Books

Conversations With Spirits by E O Higgins

When E O Higgins was growing up, he was a liar - but he couldn't spell. Now able to do both, he has drawn on these two gifts in order to pursue a career in fiction writing. Since leaving university, E O Higgins has worked variously as a professional copywriter, editor, script-writer and manager of editorial departments. But, it was in a subsequent period of unemployment that he started to write *Conversations with Spirits*, his first novel.

When he is not sitting in fusty North London saloon bars writing about the Kent coast, you're likely to find him hiking around rural Hertfordshire, ruining a perfectly decent pair of brogues.

Trelawney Hart has given up on life.

Indeed, if it wasn't for the cherry brandy in store at his London club, some days he wouldn't get up off the floor at all.

The product of a bizarre childhood conditioning, Hart was raised on a diet of logic and mathematics - which, though endowing him with greatly overdeveloped mental faculties, left him emotionally starved and antisocial.

Twenty years on, Hart has withdrawn entirely from society and now ekes out a feckless, lonely existence, rarely venturing outside the reading-room of The Hyperborea Club.

This lifestyle is summarily interrupted, however, when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - spiritualist crusader and celebrated author of the Sherlock Holmes novels - arrives at the club's door and demands that Hart travels to Broadstairs, Kent, to help him investigate a local man by the name of J.P. Beasant, whom he believes to be a psychic medium of unparalleled gift.

Hart agrees to attend an upcoming demonstration of Beasant's powers, driven on by his anticipation of exposing the psychic as a fraud. However, it is not long before he finds himself lost amidst a series of seemingly inexplicable events - and he is forced to consider that there may be much more to life than he had ever thought possible...

Conversations with Spirits is a comic mystery novel, set over the course of a single lost weekend in 1917. A sharp, beautifully-realised ramble through English society during the last years of the Great War, in the company of a host of vividly-drawn characters - and none so richly rendered as Trelawney Hart: a dissipated genius in a borrowed hat and coat.



Warm Hearts, Warm Hats.

Less than three weeks, more than twenty knitters (some first timers) and 110 colourful hats on their way to children in the camps on the borders of Lebanon and Syria. Thank you Broadstairs.

The major charities are doing an almost impossible job in the camps on both sides of the borders, the hospitals are overrun and just in that area there are hundreds of children who are destitute, displaced and very very cold in the unusually snowy weather.

The Irish medics working with the UN Peacekeeping force in fairly grisly conditions in the hospitals around the Lebanon/Syria/Israel borders are also spending their own time and money on providing a little comfort for as many children as possible – hence the plea for warm hats. A family member mentioned this to me and I knew the core of the Knitting at the Albion group would come up trumps – I thought 50 hats would be very generous. However, word spread, thanks to The Broadie and some friends at Turner Contemporary, and by the time you read this each hat will



belong to a traumatised child as something to 'own', to wear and to remind them that there are still good people who care about them as individuals.

This was just a one off sadly, mainly because of security and logistical issues in delivery. This batch is going out as personal baggage with some of the lads returning to Lebanon after a well deserved break in their six month stint.



Now the Albion knitters are back to planning their next bit of mischief! It will take a lot to beat the yarn bombing of the Bandstand at Folk Week, the Food Fair and the colourful props for the theatre in Margate. Keep an eye on our Facebook page Knitting at the Albion, for updates.

Thea Scott



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Gala support 2014

Broadstairs Water Gala needs support

August may seem a long way off, however when planning events time just seems to disappear at an alarming rate, therefore work is underway for Water Gala 2014.

My remit for the last two years has been to arrange and control the stewarding. I have had a ball and the event has been a great success both years.... So why this article?

Well, Water Gala has been going for over 120 years in one form or another and for the last few years has been looked after by a very small committee who have found it more and more difficult to put on the event. As with most things these days money is the big problem, funding becomes more and more difficult to obtain. From a personal point of view I have also found it difficult to recruit stewards for the day. I am a great believer and supporter of Water Gala and would hate to think it may not happen in 2014.

So what is required? First and foremost money. Water Gala is a terrific event and advertisement for Broadstairs, I fully realise people may not spend money away from the beach area on the day, but I have heard so many times "oh I didn't know Broadstairs was like this, we must come back and stay" Any contributions, big or small from businesses and residents would be most welcome. For myself, if more people could spare just a couple of hours stewarding that would also be a great help.

Please, please support this traditional Broadstairs event in any way you can, there is a great danger that without support it will die and that would be very sad day for Broadstairs.

I am not a member of the committee but please feel free to contact me for any more information about Water Gala and what you can do to help.

Roy Irving can be contacted via the details below.

Tel: 07816383011 email: roy.irving@talk21.com

alternatively see: broadstairswatergala.co.uk - also on Facebook



So what are we to do about the Vere Road footpath?

Well as I see it we tunnel, skilift, catapult, go via Crow Hill, Thanet Road and the High Street - or we wait.

We'll wait.

What's on Broadstairs

What's on Broadstairs is brought to you by Ian Lodge and Gina Harrison who both live in Broadstairs.

Ian is Broadbiz, a website wizard and Gina is the Manager of the Visitor's Information Kiosk.

Ian is the man with the idea and when he approached me at the beginning of December with the concept of What's on Broadstairs, I felt as excited about the project as he did. There is so much going on in Broadstairs but the information is spread out over many websites and many notice boards, the logical solution was to try and bring it together in one place.

With Ian's web design skills and my knowledge on local tourist information we were soon on our way. Even then we had no idea how much information there would be, and having over 275 events on the site already without even including the regular weekly and monthly there is still a way to go.

To make sure the information on the site remains current we will continuously check for new events, some of this will be done manually and some of it will be provided by event organisers and venue owners. The website is designed to clearly display the first forty events in Broadstairs on the Home Page, more detail can be selected for any event and you can also select categories that are of specific interest to you from the menu bar.

So the next time you want to find out what's going on in Broadstairs, there is only one place to go www.whatsonbroadstairs.co.uk, your one stop online guide.

We welcome hearing your thoughts on the website and please don't be shy in telling us about your event. We want to know about everything going on in Broadstairs so that we can make it available to everyone.

We currently have over 350 Likes on Facebook and over 400 Followers on Twitter and those figures are growing daily. If you would be interested in advertising on the website email us for a quote.

You can contact us using one of the following methods:-

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After Broadstairs we are planning to do the same for Ramsgate and Margate with What's On Ramsgate and What's On Margate - keep an eye on Facebook and Twitter for updates or sign up for news on the relative websites.

Ian and Gina

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How the rose has grown



After the recent closure of The Rose public house in Albion Street, local residents have been waiting patiently to see the plans of 'what comes next'. Those plans are now available to view online or at the council offices Margate. The proposed development incorporates the entire footprint of the site including what was previously the rear outbuildings. Whilst initial plans allow for four storeys with the top floor being set back to minimize the perceived height, there are also plans for a three storey building should the four storeys proposal be rejected. The lower floor will remain in retail use with the expectation that it may become a coffee shop / wine bar or similar. Most people would probably agree that as it stands the 'Rose' doesn't offer much in architectural value, however, the brief nod the building gives towards 'Art Deco' has been kept with the sweeping frontage now joining up with the building line of Albion Street.

Personally speaking, I quite like it, although I can see that the four storey build might cause some local residents a degree of concern.

Search www.ukplanning.com planning applications. Albion Street. App numbers F/TH/13/0989 & F/TH/13/0990 for more information

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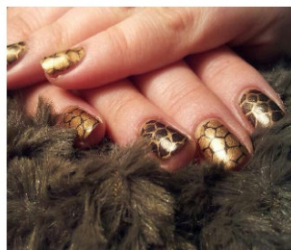
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Punishment from above

A recent meeting at the Walpole Bay Hotel went a bit waffy for Nigel Farage.

The leader of UKIP was met with a volley of shouts from demonstrators who suggested that he wasn't a very nice man at all and that his policies resembled the worse aspects of the reign of a historic figure referred to as Mrs Thatcher (whoever she was).

At the height of the troubles Mr Farage was jostled and then bashed on the noggin with a placard.

Well what can we say about this.....Well, we could say that perhaps the best way to show your contempt for a politicians policies is to simply not vote for them at the ballot box, but then again as approximately half of the population don't vote it's hardly representative.

We could say that the best way to solve an issue in politics is by reasoned debate to really get to the bottom of the problem, but since when has a member of the opposite side ever said 'Mmm, I take your point'.

Perhaps the best advice we can give is to Mr Farage himself. A good left hook and calling the attacker a complete #%%\$, should do it; after all, it worked for John Prescott.

Signs of the times

More signs have appeared overnight in Broadstairs along the Eastern Esplanade. Now whilst I'm sure the no motorhomes will be popular with the residents overlooking the seafront it does seem a bit stupid to be stopping coaches from taking those money spending visitors down to the seafront. It's not as if they've got anywhere else near they can park now that the coach park in Vere Road has been lost for the season. And just for the record, when you've come down from the inner cities for the day to visit a warm sandy beach the last thing you need is to have to trudge all the way down and back up again, laden with all things beachy, to the carpark at the back of the train station



photo by Sue Hehir

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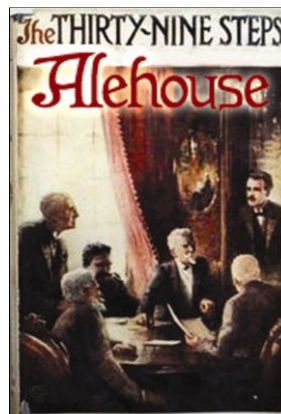
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Broadstairs Cricket Club

Well done to Broadstairs u11 cricket team for winning young team of the year.

Thank you to the coaches Andy Marshall, Chris Kidd, Gareth Palmer and Andy Fowler for helping the boys. Also Teresa Marshall and Sandy Fox for scoring at the games.

Donna Kidd

Broadstairs Evening Walkers

I moved to Broadie just over a year ago, having wanted to live here for over 25 years. We love to walk around our lovely town and coast. I work during the day and it is no fun walking alone in the dark so I decided to take a leap and set up Broadstairs Evening Walkers - there is a Facebook page of the same name. Walks are informal along paths and pavements and around 3 miles in length. We walk for up to an hour starting at 6:15. We meet at The Intolerant Wife in the High Street. Walks will only be cancelled if there are slippery conditions so walkers should come prepared for wet weather! Everyone is welcome, we chat as we walk. People shouldn't worry about not knowing anyone (I didn't know anyone either) as everyone is friendly and welcoming. Yes it might be cold and dark at the moment but walking makes you feel energised and we are certainly not cold once we get moving. I can be contacted via the Facebook page or my mob no is 07775425768

Jacqui Wellbrook



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Vale Road Access – The story so far

Planning Consent was granted to Mr Furmanek of Isle Homes, to develop the Vere Road Car Park in 2010. Thanet District Council Planning took the view that a safe pedestrian route was needed from Vere Road to the amenity land, and that such a route could be provided during construction. This is Condition 7 attached to the consent.

In the interest of highway safety and to ensure the proper development of the site, without prejudice to the amenities of the public.

Condition 7 states: "a safe route for pedestrian between the footpath to the East of the site and Vere Road shall be provided and maintained free of obstruction both during the course of development and subsequent to completion."

Mr Furmanek met Culmers Allotment holders in 2011. He explained the Plan and stated that there would be access across the site for most of the construction period other than for days, or a week or two when work made it unsafe. Allotment holders accepted this assurance, and we heard nothing further for two and a half years. In late December 2013 notices appeared in the name of Uprise Builders, stating that the access route across the car park, would be closed until further notice from January 2nd 2014.

On January 2nd 2014 the Broadstairs Town Clerk met the Uprise site Manager, Mr Haworth at the entrance to the site and 2 members of Culmers Allotments Admin Team were also present. The site had already been fenced off to block both pedestrian and car access. The only topic discussed was Condition 7, and the right of Broadstairs residents to cross the site. Mr Haworth stated that the only way to make the site safe during construction, was to deny access to all members of the public during 2014. Mr Haworth went on to say that all users could walk via the High Street, Albion Street, and Alexander Road. This he argued fulfilled the requirement of Condition 7.

Following a forthright discussion, during which several suggestions of alternative pedestrian routes were suggested, Mr Haworth said that he would go away and reconsider his position. We have heard nothing from Uprise from that day. Despite this offer to reconsider, Uprise have applied to TDC Planning to vary Condition 7 so that the path can remain closed throughout the construction period.

The Health and Safety Executive state that all development sites must be surveyed for cables and hidden hazards before work commences.

Some 3 weeks after clearance began, we hear that there is an 11,000mv electric cable crossing the car park site.

Culmers Admin met Mr Furmanek on the site on January 23rd and despite the additional problem with the cable needing to be realigned by Power Network UK, he stated it was feasible that a safe pedestrian route could be provided by Easter 2014. However, it appears that Uprise are unable to consider any form of compromise, and still want the Planning Department's Condition 7 to be set aside. This application is now out to public consultation and those who wish to object to the continued closure can do so by contacting Thanet District Council Planning Department directly, or by email to: planning.services@thanet.gov.uk quoting Ref. F/TH/13/1035 before February 21st.

The pathway from Vere Road, through the car park and the amenity land, is used, not solely by allotment holders but by dog walkers, holiday makers en route to the beach, people rushing to catch their train, or bus, shoppers on their way to the high street shops. This closure is already impeding the movement of residents around the town, and causing grave inconvenience to many. This is particularly disappointing as we believe that a solution is possible if there was

constructive dialogue, some ability to compromise, and a degree of goodwill, all sadly lacking in the attitude of Uprise, towards so many local people.

*Chris Morrissey, Yvonne Gardner, and Ivan Meades
Culmers Admin Team*

Is there cash in your attic

Broadstairs Rotary Club are planning to help residents in Thanet find treasure in their attic. Over the years, this well-known club, has undertaken a number of interesting activities, and now the members are organising a valuation day which will take place on Saturday 15th March

TV auctioneer Catherine Southon and her colleague Mark Stacey will be available to give their expert opinions and advice on antique and collectible items from 11.00 until 4.00 at Charles Dickens School, Broadstairs Road, Broadstairs.

Catherine & Mark have often been seen on the TV programmes "Flog It" and "Bargain Hunt" and have surprised some lucky owners by valuing some hidden treasures which up until then had just collected dust in the attic. Now with the support of Broadstairs Rotary they hope to do the same for local residents.

The entry fee is just £5 per person but this covers a maximum of 3 items for valuation and of course all profits will go to charity. There will be an extra fee of £2 per item if people wish to bring along more items. This is expected to be a busy event and owners are advised to arrive early. Refreshments will be available.

We are always looking for new members who could give their time and expertise in finding new ways to (a) raise awareness of the Rotary and (b) help find new ways to raise funds for local charities. If you feel that you are that person please call the number below, or go to our website to discover more about us.

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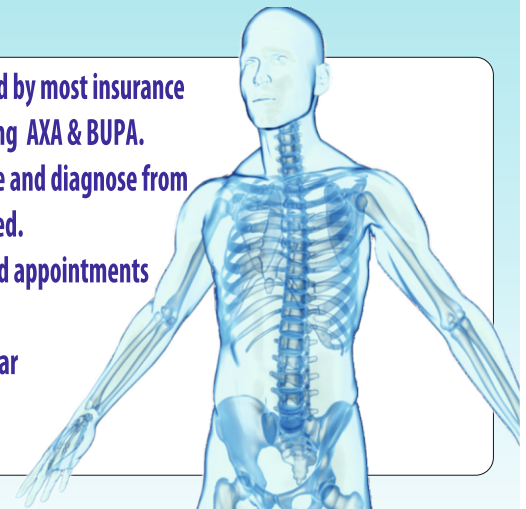
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50 Amazing and Untrue facts about Thanet, to both entertain your friends, and astound visitors from London.

By Cavendish Fairfax *

* Albert Philpott is away this week on a kitten culling tour of the Isle of Bute.

1. More people in Birchington own bidets than anywhere else in the country,
2. The Chas and Dave song "Down To Margate" was originally called Down To Moorefield, telling the story of Dave's granddads cataract surgery.
3. Pegwell Bay is so named due to the high winds experienced there and accordingly the difficulty of securing your washing to a line in such conditions.
4. Victory News in Broadstairs was opened in 1815 to commemorate the end of the Napoleonic War. An ancient by-law states that if you can prove that you fought in the Napoleonic War, then the governor must give you a barrel of rum.
5. The Thanet Loop does not actually travel in a loop, but performs a dodecahedron.
6. Eagle House was where the song Hotel California was written.
7. Ted Heath hated Thanet, and everyone who lived there.
8. People in Thanet own on average 4.3 shoes.
9. If Hitler had successfully invaded England, then he intended to make Monkton his Capital.
10. The Thanet Way is the lesser known follow up song to the 1943 hit single, The Lambeth Walk.

**Doing the
Thanet Way.....Oi !**



11. Charles Dickens never visited Thanet. He did however send a lookalike, in an attempt to have a blue plaque mounted on every house on the island.
12. During the 1980's

Dreamland was owned by the Bembom Brothers. In their native Kazakhstani language the word Bembom means 'he who licks trees.'

13. The first recorded use of the phrase Planet Thanet was made by Queen Victoria in 1870, in a letter discussing the cause of the illness known as Chicken Madness.
14. St Nicholas At Wade is so named because of the former factory

site, that built miniature pottery animals.

15. More cabbages are grown in Thanet than Croydon and Tower Hamlets combined.
16. The eagle on Eagle House is made of solid gold, and is on loan from Ed Balls.
17. The 1970's television program Hill Street Blues was filmed in Ramsgate.
18. Arlington House is where the British Government planned to relocate if London was ever occupied.
19. Van Gogh, never directly cut off his ear. During his residence in Ramsgate, he once had an accident when the telephone rang whilst he was ironing; the resulting injury resulted in the amputation.
20. Thanet's most famous son is Bob Carolgees.
21. A quick look through the local 1941 telephone directory showed that there were more Winston Churchill impersonators in Thanet than in any other British town.
22. The sea water quality in Thanet is so high that it is quite possible to drink directly from the sewage outlet pipe on the North Foreland without any adverse affects.
23. The Queen was once accidentally taken to Balmoral Gardens, rather than her Scottish estate.
24. Thanet is not actually an Island, it is technically an herb.
25. There are more pet shops in Garlinge than there are people who own pets.
26. There are no chimneys located on at Two Chimneys Caravan Park. There are however, three Chimneys located at The Foxhunter Caravan Park.
27. Thanet Council has never won any award for their service and their honesty; they have however stolen three such awards.
28. The river Wantsum was named after a colloquial Thanet phrase often heard to be said by the menfolk of the island at closing time.
29. Thanet was originally named the Isle Of Kingsloe, this was to commemorate a notable royal victory at a limbo competition recorded to have been held on the island in 67BC.
30. St Augustine of Canterbury actually believed he had landed in Peru when he arrived in 597AD, this being due to a compass error that caused him to travel in repeated circles for six years in the English Channel.
31. If you took both little fingers from every person on the island, and you laid these out in one straight continuous line, then you would probably be arrested.
32. Due to an administrative error, the West Cliffs and North Cliffs in Ramsgate are wrongly named.
33. Bleak House is built on the site of a former Butlins holiday camp.
34. The Hanna-Barbera cartoon character Captain Caveman, was based on a former resident of the Northdown Road.
35. If you live in Cliftonville then you are statistically more likely to understand what is being said in Pingu than anyone else in the country.
36. Westbrook is named after Brook Shields, the American film star, who is not recorded as ever having visiting there.
37. Due to an error with signage, in 1978 seventeen people were arrested for removing their clothes at the Monkton Nature Reserve.



.....wish I was somewhere else



38. Statistically, more people in Thanet have a decent internet connection of 1.8 mb per m/s, than teeth.

39. The 39 Steps,

written by John Buchan in Broadstairs, was originally called the 39 Schmucks, and was planned as a Jewish based stage farce.

40. Statistically, more people in Thanet go dogging than own a dog.

41. Dumpton Gap is so named because it was the medieval refuse site. An ancient by-law still exists that states that you may place refuse through the letterbox of any resident there.

42. Six residents of Thanet have won the jackpot on the national lottery, since it started in 1994; all of these 6 winners moved from the island the day their cheques cleared.

43. Judith Chalmers once described the island as the Thanetian Riviera in a 1972 episode of Wish You Were Here?..... she did however conclude she wished she was somewhere else.

44. The "Mar" in Margate is a variant on the French word Merde.

45. In 840 three invading Viking troops fell overboard from their ships before landing in Thanet. Local papers cite that these 3 men did use their shields as 'floating boards' and did surf for three days until they reached safe land in Margate.

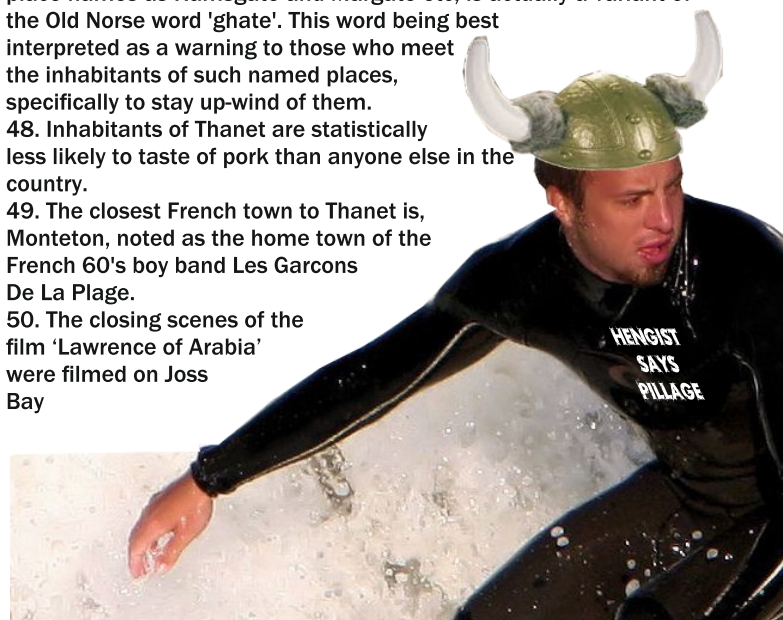
46. Alfred Weasdale invented the Walnut Whip in 1912, after observing a disregarded dogs mess in Ellington Park.

47. The word 'Gate' which regularly occurs across the island, in such place names as Ramsgate and Margate etc, is actually a variant of the Old Norse word 'ghate'. This word being best interpreted as a warning to those who meet the inhabitants of such named places, specifically to stay up-wind of them.

48. Inhabitants of Thanet are statistically less likely to taste of pork than anyone else in the country.

49. The closest French town to Thanet is, Monteton, noted as the home town of the French 60's boy band Les Garçons De La Plage.

50. The closing scenes of the film 'Lawrence of Arabia' were filmed on Joss Bay



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Broadstairs English Centre

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KSE

Kent School of English have a planning application in for 66 High Street to change what was the Investico office into a non-residential institution to include a drop in centre for students and host families



Hinge of London

John Hinge of London started trading in wholesale fruit and vegetables over a century ago. In 1966 the business was bought by Brian Ireton's father who had worked for the company since 1955. Brian took over in 1985 until he retired two years. Recently he decided to get back to the business he has known all his life and where better than Broadstairs where he has lived for the past 15 years.

With the cheerful help of his wife, 3 daughters and occasionally his 10 year old granddaughter he opened Hinge of London in the High Street just before Christmas and has been delighted with how busy and well received they have been.

As much of their produce as possible is bought from local suppliers and farmers. Many contacts were already well forged by his son's business in Birchington, Monty's which he has had for a few years. Brian has a wealth of knowledge about his stock and is always available for advice.

If you aren't sure who he is, he's the one not wearing socks!!

Kerrys Boutique

Kerry's Boutique is where the police office used to be on the High Street by the entrance to Croft's Place car park. Kerry Broadstairs Born



& bred (BBB) has experience of working in the plus size fashion industry, having worked in other stores. She was seven stone heavier when she was in her late teens/early 20's so can fully appreciate how difficult it is to find nice clothes

in bigger sizes. She hopes that women of all ages will feel they can in her new shop.

Tecoco

which was on the High Street opposite Pierremont Park has closed but their goods will still be available on their website Their chocolates are also available at The Intolerant Wife. The shop won't be empty though as Viking Bay Emporium are moving in there from their current shop in Carlton Avenue.

The Old Curiosity Shop cafe

Out for a walk with your doggie? Then why not call in at The Old Curiosity Shop Cafe in Harbour Street. All well behaved dogs very welcome - and their owners too of course.

Warner Plumbing

Warner plumbing have just gained recognition from that old bastion of consumer rights 'Which' magazine.



The consumer group has recently started a trusted trader scheme of which 'Warner Plumbing' is one of the first to be recognised for its outstanding service. Well done to them.

Blackburns

It was so sad to see Blackburns close

its door for the last time. It always seems like a bit of an end of an era when somewhere shuts that's been around for such a length of time. All that we can do is wish the family well and perhaps mourn the loss of another locally run firm here in Broadstairs.

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After the Germans attacked Holland on 10th May 1940, Evert Willem Boomsma served as a Corporal Aircraft Mechanic with the 4th JAVA (Fighter Squadron) at Bergen airfield in Northern Holland. It was not long before the Germans had overrun Western Europe and set their sights on Britain just over the channel. With his grandfather and father arrested by the gestapo Evert was among many young men who dreamt of escaping the tyranny and abuses of the Nazi regime. We'd love to include the full background story, but unfortunately there is just not enough pages. Read on to discover how Evert came to be eating a fried breakfast in a Broadstairs police station one morning in May 1941.



The escape;

I made a few sandwiches and left the house again after a very quick goodbye to my mother.

I didn't dare to go to the bus station, as I felt sure that it would be guarded.

I also wanted to be sure that I'd not been followed by anyone.

So I sat down for a while on a park bench in the Oranje Park and waited until everyone that was there when I arrived had left.

I then walked slowly to the village of Beekbergen.

Once there I was sure I'd not been followed and caught a bus from there to Arnhem.

After visiting my sister 'Gep', I then left to go to Amsterdam and once there I took a long detour to the Konnininneweg, continually convincing myself that I was not being followed.

Lenglets daughter opened the door for me and I told her of my father's arrest by the Gestapo and that they were also looking for me. I was then taken to a safe house

I was taken to the Vondelstraat no 17 in Amsterdam and stayed with Mr and Mrs. Eijk, better known as Bert and Sietske.

During the next few weeks I managed to remain informed as to how the escape attempt was progressing through Lenglet or his daughter.

Govert Steen, our pilot, had also discovered that the Germans were still testing a floatplane, he'd seen it in the Minerva Harbour in Amsterdam.

Beelaerts van Blokland then started to gather intelligence with regard as to how to get to the aircraft and whether he could possibly obtain a dinghy or a floatation bag, so we could reach the plane.

The only other thing we need now for a successful take off would be westerly wind because without that take off from the harbour would be impossible.

On the 5th May 41 the daughter of Lenglet arrived with the news that it was time to go and that it was now or never.

It was that afternoon she informed me that two other pilots had escaped from Schiphol in a Fokker G1 and it was suspected that it had flown to Britain.

If our plan was to succeed then we'd have to go now, tonight because the Germans would soon be making it impossible to get to any aircraft.

I met up with Beelaerts van Blokland and Govert Steen and along with another would be escapee Wiebert Lindeman.

We all decided the best way to go to the harbour were in two's.

Steen and Beelaerts caught the first tram and Lindeman and myself the next.

Each one of us carried a small parcel containing part of the floatation bag and I carried one extra item, namely a Dutch Flag.

Whilst saying goodbye to Lenglet I told him that I'd try to get a message read over Radio Oranje (the Dutch radio service from the BBC) saying "Our Motto Remains, Je Maintiendrai" to let them know that we'd arrived safely.

I'd made that arrangement with my mother and father also before I left.

Lenglet thought that an excellent idea, and with that we left.

But not before we promised that once airborne we'd fly over the house to let them know.

The tram ran as far as Spaarndammerweg and there we got off and walked the remainder.

Steen and Beelaerts van Blokland met us under a nearby bridge. After an incident with a cyclist who aroused our suspicions we didn't feel safe there anymore and decided to walk into the meadow next to the bridge and hide in there for a while.

We lay flat out on the grass and were grateful that it was cloudy and therefore very dark. Every now and then the moon would suddenly appear through the gaps and we could see around us but all remained quiet.

At about 0200hrs we decided that it was safe to return to the bridge and start to prepare the floatation bag.

We got out the bellows and started to blow it up and every now and then it would squeal and give us a fright and stirring up the birds around us but after a while the bag was ready.

We slowly lowered it into the water, Beelaerts got on first followed by Lindeman, who couldn't swim, then Steen and finally myself.

Beelaerts and Steen rowed and I attempted to steer the whole affair with my single paddle. The Gentlemen had however not left me very much room with the result that my backside was dangling in the water most of the time and I found it hard to stay on the bag.

On top of it all it was very hard to steer, one moment the aircraft was on my right, the next way off to the left.

But eventually we did arrive at the Fokker T8W KD+CQ.

We decided to remove the engine covers straight away and threw them into the aircraft and also thought it a good idea to take the floatation bag. That way it would take forever for the Germans to work out who'd taken the aircraft and how and without any evidence to connect us with the escape, and most of all to protect our families that were left behind.

The bag was emptied out slowly and with a whistle, which made us a little nervous but once emptied enough it was stowed onboard.

I took my place in the rear seat clutching the flag I was ready to wave should some fighter decide to attack us, after all this aircraft had German markings and enormous white crosses.

If the Germans didn't try to shoot us down surely the British would try their best, we wouldn't stand a chance with Steen flying a totally unfamiliar twin-engined, he was after all a fighter pilot, not a floatplane pilot.

And on top of all this, Lindeman would be operating the engine controls and managing the fuel systems for him as well as the flaps.

When we got on board Steen was already in his seat getting familiarized with all the controls along with Lindeman who was checking all the electrical systems.

We decided to stay out of sight, in case we were spotted from the shore.

Suddenly we heard Lindeman shout; "Its full!!!!. The bloody thing is full to the brim with fuel. They must have known we were coming for it."

To the east the skies were turning a little brighter so I decided to get out of the

Continued

aircraft to check all was well with the engines.

Lindeman then stopped me and handed me down a few spark plugs.

There was just a chance that the Germans had removed the bottom plugs to let the excess oil drain out so that it did not collect in the bottom cylinder heads.

I felt around the bottom of the engines; the plugs were there.

So I went around to the other side to find things there just the same so I returned back inside the aircraft.

A little later, just around 0700hrs we suddenly saw 2 Arado 196 float-planes fly over the top of us so this was the moment to start the engines. Nobody would think it unusual to see an aircraft start, or so we thought.

Steen started the left engine first, which started straight away. He then throttled the engine right back to enable me to climb down onto the float and move right to the back to untie the strop without me getting blown off.

In the meantime Steen and Lindeman would start the other engine.

Then for some reason the left engine died.

In the mean time I had got back inside the aircraft after having released the float.

The two men frantically tried to restart the left engine which took some doing whilst with just the right hand engine running the aircraft started to twist around in circles with one strop still tightly tied to its anchor.

Luckily we didn't hit anything, but we all panicked a bit because to us it seemed to go on for an eternity but more likely it only went on for a few seconds.

Finally the other reluctant engine restarted and I climbed out onto the other float to release the last rope and quickly climbed back in.

Steen with Lindeman gently controlling the throttles started to taxi out of the harbour onto the Noordzee Canal, the canal connecting Amsterdam and the IJsselmeer to the North Sea.

I was crouched down at this point and couldn't see what was happening outside but apparently we'd gone right past a guard post, complete with guards and machine guns who took no notice of us whatsoever.

All looked perfectly normal, I often wondered what happened to them; probably to the Eastern Front no doubt.

Suddenly I felt the aircraft leap up and thought we were airborne so I jumped up to see, to my amazement we were still on the water but going quite fast now and I started to get worried about whether the floats would dig in tipping us over but the aircraft just continued to bounce along.

Suddenly I could see a huge bridge appear ahead of us, the Hem Bridge, a railway bridge that's no longer there; just as well because it nearly killed us all.

At first I thought we'd pass underneath it or we could just hit it dead center.

I don't know how Steen managed it but we just cleared it by what must have been inches; I'm sure we left some of our paint on the spans.

That however wasn't the end of our problems. Steen first had to get used to the aircraft and also follow the Noordzee Canal towards Zandvoort where we crossed the coast.

Just as we crossed I could see anti aircraft fire and told Steen straight away.

He then immediately climbed into the cloud and for a while we felt relatively safe inside our blanket.

After about ten minutes flying he slowly started to descend again to see where we were. I then suddenly saw the pier at Scheveningen just to my left and shouted to Steen that we were going the wrong way; that's when we discovered that this aircraft had no compass.

Steen turned the aircraft further to the right roughly to where he thought England should be and to get us closer to the coastline. He then climbed back up into the cloud but the further out to sea we flew the less the cloud cover became until eventually it disappeared altogether.

Steen decided to fly just above the waves as low as he dared just touching the wave-tops.

Arrival in England

After flying for about 1hr15 we thought we could see the coastline of Britain so we flew straight for it.

Of course we had no idea where we were but just as we got close to the beach Steen turned the aircraft into wind just before attempting to land.

Of course we were now sideways onto the coast displaying our German markings to all whom saw us and the guards onshore were not slow opening fire on us.

Just at that stage I managed to open the canopy and started to wave my flag when the aircraft hit the water with an almighty crash and bounced straight back up into the air.

I thought it much more sensible now to hang onto something, anything and hope the gunners would continue to miss as well as they'd done so far at least until we were down to stay down. Another crash followed by yet another but suddenly we hit something underwater and got stuck fast.

The aircraft nosed down and at one stage I thought she would go over completely. Steen shouted; "Get out, Get out"

I crawled back as far as I could go and suddenly felt the aircraft settle back down again and shouted at everyone to stay where they were.

Just at that moment I saw Steen hanging half out of the aircraft with his head just inches from the still rotating prop. It had nearly been his last flight, as he crawled back inside. In any case, the flight was now over and we'd succeeded!!

I then got back outside and started to wave my flag like an idiot joined by all the others shouting "We are Dutch, don't shoot."

One of the officers on the shore pointed to the beach telling us to taxi over to them.

That meant Steen had to restart the engines, which he did and as we closed onto the beach I remained on the tail with my trusty flag.

Suddenly something flew up from the aircraft, which later proved to be part of the float.

As we got to the beach I was the first out and managed to take a quick picture of the aircraft with my trusty old fold up camera.

There was no chance of a second one because suddenly a guard appeared beside me and knocked the camera from my hands shouting "No pictures"

We were then told that we'd landed at Broadstairs in Kent.

The soldiers then took us to the Broadstairs Police station where they treated us to a hearty breakfast with all the trimmings, which tasted marvellous after a cold night out. Then a couple of RAF Officers collected us and took us to Manston, just up the road and started to question us about our aircraft and after they'd finished we returned to Broadstairs and spent the rest of the day in the police station. Later that afternoon we were taken to London, to the Patriotic School for further questioning.

When we walked in through the door we met Vos and Leegstra who walked with their blankets down the corridor.

They were the two guys who'd escaped the previous day in the Fokker G1.

We all had a great laugh at the German's expense about how could they be so careless about losing two aircraft that way.



Top left is Leegstra and Vos is bottom row centre, the two from the Fokker G1 which landed at Southwold the previous day. Top rear centre is Bealearts van Bloklund, and on the right is my father Willem Boomsma. Bottom row left is Lindeman and bottom right is the pilot Govert Steen.

But of course the British treated us with great suspicion. How could the German forces be so careless to lose two aircraft in two days? Holland had been after all occupied for nearly a year without any aircraft escaping this way and yet now suddenly two in two days. No wonder the British were careful.

I had all my belongings taken away from me including several items my father had given me and others from the resistance including a cigarette which, I later found out contained a microfilm. I never knew what was on it but because I'd never mentioned the cigarette the British kept us there until I suddenly remembered.

We were kept at the Patriotic School until Saturday 10th May 41 for a full debrief.

That day we were all taken to meet Prince Bernhardt of the Netherlands but on that day he was attending a Remembrance Parade and so couldn't see us but did however see us the following day.

The meeting was very informal but cordial and of course he wanted to know everything that was happening in Holland at the time.

On the 14th May we were to meet Queen Wilhelmina and on our way there we were told that our message had been sent by Radio Oranje, so at least everybody in Holland that needed to know knew that we'd arrived, and then we met the Queen who asked us the shirt off our backs about Holland and how the Resistance was holding out.

Other Information

The family in Apeldoorn and also the Steen family had indeed received the message via the BBC radio service

Steen was killed later in the war on the 5th June 1942 over France flying his Spitfire.

Beelaerts van Blokland, Lindeman and my father survived the war, Lindeman and my father serving with 320 sqdn RAF Neth Sqdn

My fathers mother could then tell my Grandfather, who was still in jail at the time that the escape had succeeded thus enabling him to offset "blame" regarding the Resistance onto my father the escapee. He finally died in a German Concentration camp Neuengamme near Hamburg in March 1943 after being betrayed by his own Countrymen.

Dad died in Dec 1986 and Lindeman shortly thereafter.

They last all met in 1984 when the TROS television CO from Holland did a documentary about them.

And finally

I don't want to claim credit for this story, it's not mine, I just translated his words into English so that his Grandchildren could read it as they speak no Dutch.

The War diaries from Willem Boomsma

"Ik Draag U Op" Produced for the relatives of the Resistance Workers Fund 1940-1945

"MEI 1940" by Wim Schoenmaker/ Thijs Postma

And the family archives from the Family Boomsma.

Rein now currently works at RAF Cosford Air Traffic control, KD+CQ was actually the last aircraft to escape from Holland.

The Germans removed all the elevators from all remaining aircraft after this episode and rendered them useless or exported the remainder to Germany.

Rein Boomsma.

If any locals have any photos or information about this daring escape please get in contact with us at thebroadie@googlemail.com or call 01843 869368

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Ca\$hpoint Card Cloning

After hearing a few stories of card cloning incidents when using a cash-point, here's a few little tips to be safe and help avoid the ever increasing threats of money theft. By no means does this signal an outbreak of cash-point crime in Broadstairs, but hopefully will deter some if ever it happens.

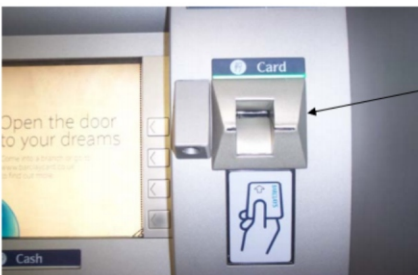
A quick visit to YouTube & search for "The Real Hustle - Card Reader" is a good introduction to card cloning.

Cash-points are typically targeted by stealing PIN numbers as they're being keyed in - look for a hole, roughly 2mm wide that could house a wide angle camera lens or anyone suspiciously close to you. The best way to combat this is to get in the habit of shielding your pin as closely as you can. Without looking like a criminal, see how many times you see what people's PIN numbers are when you're at a cash-point or at a till - it's quite alarming, but it will show you how you can shield your PIN number more effectively.

The other part to the theft is a card reader or 'skimming device' which captures all of the necessary digital data from the card itself. The



Normal



With device in place

skimming device can be used on its own to clone cards, without the need for a PIN number. A skimmer takes the form of card reader, usually behind or an extension of the slot where you put your card. Visually, there will be an unnatural extension sticking out from the slot and it's worth

giving it a wiggle if you suspect it as it will appear loose.

Skimming devices aren't intended to be permanent, sometimes they are only on a machine for an hour at a time before they are removed and moved to another machine, so will only be held on with a form of double sided tape or foam usually. In some instances the entire front of the machine will be fake and placed over the original cashpoint, so check to see if there are any gaps around the outside or if the cash-point recess seems unnaturally shallow. Again, this will not be a permanent fixture, so may appear loose as a tell tale sign as well. Please note -if you suspect any cash-point to have a skimmer on it, LEAVE IT THERE and alert the police. Intel shows that gangs who fit these usually keep watch or are very close by for the duration of the skimmer being active on the target, usually within range of the skimmer to receive data wirelessly on a laptop or other device.

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Don't be distracted by anyone at the cash-point - Over-friendly strangers or someone who points out the tenner "you've just dropped" - One moment of misdirection is all it would take to relieve you of your money or card. Stay focussed and try to minimize your time at the cash-point. Have your card ready and know what you want before you get there. Try to use cash-points that are in well lit, public areas - preferably inside a bank, rather than outside. Personally, I use cashback more than cash-points to minimize card cloning risk. A lot of places only hire the cash-points on their property, so have no control over them other than putting an 'out of order' sign on them if they suspect anything, so it is ultimately down to the banks to rectify any issues that are reported. So, whether you view them as handy, auto-banking, sources or just somewhere to try to post a kebab after a night out, be aware and vigilant and hopefully it will never happen to you.

This QR code is for a short video on the Link website that reveals how criminals can try to get hold of your PIN when you use an ATM that they have targeted and how easy they can be foiled by following some simple steps.

Adam Hogwood



Scan with QR reader for more info

SARAH THORNE THEATRE CLUB

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Box Office: 0845 2626263 www.sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk

Sat 18th January at 7.15pm (Doors 6.45pm) Raw Shark presents A Folk – Dance Night With **The John Langham Band**, Brides of Rain and Green Diesel. Tickets: £8.00 paid in advance/Friends, £10.00 on the doors: Unreserved seating

Saturday 25th January at 8.00pm **Bully Wee Band with Phil Beer**
A welcome return of this popular band joined again by Phil Beer, one half of the folk "super group" Show of Hands. This is a show not to be missed.
Tickets: £13.00 paid in advance/Friends, £15.00 on the doors

Sat 8th February at 7.45pm **The Ghost Hunter by Stewart Pringle**,
Performed by Tom Richards.
A darkly comic one-man show that takes us into the life of a ghost tour with a terrible secret. Tickets: £8.00 paid in advance/Friends £10.00 on the doors

Sunday 9th February at 3.00pm **Spring Classical Concert 1**
A glorious afternoon of Romantic cello music including favourite well known works by Rachmaninov and Faure played by renowned cellist Zofia Lodygovska and the excellent British pianist Mark Fielding. To get into the mood for Valentine's day be sure not to miss this recital! Tickets: £9.00 adults, £6.00 children.
Season ticket for all three concerts £24.00 adults, £15.00 children

Friday 14th February at 7.30pm, Saturday 15th February at 2.30pm
Michael Friend productions presents **The Man of Destiny by Bernard Shaw**.
Napoleon waits in an Italian inn for urgent dispatches. The arrival of a Strange Lady causes a dramatic change in his campaign plans.
The evening will also include a short farce by Bernard Shaw entitled "The Fascinating Foundling", which Shaw himself said was "A Disgrace to its Author".
In association with Pentameters Theatre Hampsted and the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford Tickets: £12.50 paid in advance/Friends, £14.50 on the doors

Fri 21st & Sat 22nd February at 7.30pm Sunday 23rd February at 2.30pm
Hilderstone Players present. **Agnes of God by John Pielmeier**
A court-appointed psychiatrist is asked to determine the sanity of a nun accused of murdering her own baby. The Mother Superior seems bent on protecting Sister Agnes and suspicions are immediately aroused. This powerful drama was the subject of a major film after an outstanding success on Broadway.
Tickets: £8.00 paid in advance/Friends, £10.00 on the doors
A Community Production

Thursday 27th Feb to Sunday 2nd March **Thanet Music & Drama Festival**
Speech and Drama adjudication days. Full details available from the Thanet Festival web site

Saturday 8th March at 7.30pm **The Best of Tony Hancock with Iain Barton**
Iain Barton is legendary comic Tony Hancock as he presents some of the best Galton and Simpson sketches of Hancock's career proving that some comedy is timeless.
Tickets: £10.00 paid in advance/Friends, £12.00 on the doors

Sunday 9th March at 3.00pm **Spring Classical Concert2**
A welcome return of flautist Hannah Lang with pianist Peter Hewitt to play a programme of popular classics including works by Bach, Mozart and Faure.
Tickets: £9.00 adults, £6.00 children.
Season ticket available for all 3 concerts

Saturday 15th March at 7.30pm **The Merry Opera Company presents:**
Kiss Me, Figaro! A new romcom backstage at the opera with classic music by

Mozart, Handel, Puccini, Irving Berlin and more. Written and directed by John Ramster. Music Director: Stephen Hose. Merry Opera's newly commissioned romantic comedy is set backstage at the opera. The show draws on a wide range of operatic favourites, together with some more unusual repertoire and 20th century jazz standards with new translations and bespoke arrangements. The commission plays to the strengths of a chamber opera company working with early career singers and allowing audiences to enjoy familiar arias whilst exploring new ideas. It seeks to make opera fun for everyone and also to encourage those new to opera to 'try it out'.
Tickets: £15.00 paid in advance/Friends, £17.00 on the doors

Sunday 16th March at 2.30pm
Home Sweet Home The STTC Juniors will perform a collection of sketches, short scenes, mime and poetry to illustrate "Home is Where the Heart is".
Directed by Kim Bourne Tickets: £7.00 adults, £5.00 children.
A Community Production

Saturday 22nd March at 7.30pm **Life, Love and Laughter**. From the talented local team that bought you 'Love and Laughter', which was nearly a sell-out last year, comes this long-awaited sequel. As before, all profits go to Macmillan Cancer Support, so come along and join in the fun at a night of comedy, poetry, drama and music, all rolled into one irresistible package.
Compered by Jane Wenham Jones £10.00 all seats A Community Production

Saturday 29th March at 7.30pm **A Meeting of Minds**
A dramatic portrait of Sergei Rachmaninov written and performed by actor and pianist Michael Lunts. A fascinating portrayal, in both drama and music, of the young Rachmaninov and the story behind his famous Second Piano Concerto, best known to the general public as the soundtrack to the film 'Brief Encounter'. This play with music recreates the meetings between Rachmaninov and the hypnotist Dr Dahl to whom the work was dedicated. Integrated into the action are live performances of some of the greatest music for piano, including the famous C sharp minor Prelude and, of course, the celebrated Piano Concerto itself, here given a 'tour de force' performance.
Tickets: £12.50 paid in advance/Friends £14.50 on the doors





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In a memorable scene from Monty Python's *Holy Grail*, a group of medieval villagers, headed by Eric Idle, John Cleese and Michael Palin, implore a village elder to burn a witch. Their 'witch' certainly looks like a witch: she has a wart and a long nose strapped to her face. Allegedly she had turned one of the villagers into a newt (although he got better). So keen are the villagers to watch the witch burn that they would accept any reasoning in order to justify it.

Thus, the village elder explains that since witches burn, they must be made of wood, and since wood floats, then so would the witch. The way to test this is to weigh the witch against something else that floats, such as a duck. Their witch is duly found to be the same weight as a duck, and gleefully the villagers get to burn their witch.

She did have a long nose strapped to her face after all.

This was a brutal and harsh time for society; the medieval period was an age of disease, hunger and tyranny. If your village wasn't habitually starving to death, it was bursting from the pox. All the while, the ruling classes would demand their tithes and taxes from the peasantry. It was also an age of enforced and inherent superstition. Such misfortunes as illnesses, failed crops and infant death were not the result of bad luck, erratic weather or appalling lack of sanitation. No, it was the fault of the old crone on the far side of the village, who cast her spell of Beelzebub and wrought evil upon the land.

And so, many innocent women suffered the most atrocious and agonising death at the stake. The people would be appeased, they had punished the person to blame, and the ruling classes would continue to rule without question.

Fortunately, we don't live in such a brutal and barbaric age. We no longer set fire to people as a standard means to solve social infrastructure problems. We do, however, continue to look for someone to blame.

Recently, there has been an almost jovial outrage and furore about the programme *Benefits Street*, in which the focus is on the residents of a particular street wherein the majority rely, in some degree, on state

benefit. We learn about the lives of various people whose lives are chaotic, ravaged by addiction and criminal behaviour and social frustration; essentially, these are people living half-lives who, to varying degrees (and by various methods) strive for something better.

The outrage and furore I mentioned comes largely from an audience who have contempt for the subjects of this documentary. Certainly, the complaints received (1700 roughly) mainly focus on the supposed attempt by Channel 4 to glamorise this lifestyle of crime and drug use.

Initially, I was inclined to agree. Just what sort of country is this, I thought to myself, where we celebrate and make trivial the squalor of deprived communities? However, as this series has gone on, and we have been introduced and got to know them, it's entirely obvious that ultimately, these are just people. They are a people easily judged because they can quite efficiently be looked upon, admonished and then blamed because they shout, swear, commit crime and abuse drugs. Blame.

Blamed for feeding off the state. Blamed for living in a slum. Blamed for things that, really, they are not responsible for at all. The fact that there are communities in which entire neighbourhoods claim benefits, and some members of that neighbourhood are chronically criminal, does not mean that the taxpayer's purse is being soundly and unjustly rinsed by the welfare system, and nor should it suggest that the welfare budget should be reduced in any one particular area. That a percentage of the population receive money from the government every week is no realistic cause of the recession in 2008 (that was probably more due to banks inventing £1 trillion in money that wasn't real).

I make bold assertions, of course. So let's introduce some facts. Jobseeker's allowance has taken approximately £5.9 billion from the UK welfare budget this year. Disability benefits have cost £12.57 billion. Income support has cost \$6.25 billion. The various benefit categories in total come to £166.98 billion (including £74 billion for pensions). That certainly sounds like a great deal of money. That's because it is – in anyone's terms. The total benefit budget accounts for 23% of all government spending.

But that's where programmes like *Benefits Street* serve us poorly. For anyone not inclined to think beyond their own nose, five minutes of the programme, or a quick scan of certain scare-mongering newspapers, will have them believe that 'benefit claimants' are all people who can't be bothered to flop themselves off the couch and get a job, or malingers who limp about on a crutch and then get photographed fighting a bull on holiday. The fact is that this perception is all based on anecdote. The people on *Benefits Street* are an edited, selected few. The culture of disdain for people in desperate circumstances has led the term 'on benefits' to sound rather seedy, said with a snide smirk by those who don't claim them. In reality, the majority of claimants are simply people who need help while they find a job, or some financial support because they simply don't earn enough. Most people on disability benefit are on it for the very good reason that they need it to get by. Providing this safety net to people who are entitled to it is a mark of a civilised society.

Tax avoidance, which currently is estimated to deprive the country of £35 billion a year, is a means for wealthy people to keep more of their

money. There is no doubt that they receive due criticism for this. It is occasionally mentioned in news programmes that a certain billionaire or other has some off-shore scheme and they are, for a time, gently admonished. However, it surely can't be said that British people who avoid taxes have caused the sort of bread-and-circuses outrage that benefit claimants have. Not by a long margin. There is a certain businessman in the retail industry who managed to legally deprive the state of £285 million in taxes in one year (enough to pay the salaries of 20, 000 nurses). Did Channel Four make a documentary about this man and his continued campaign of greed? Tax Avoidance Street perhaps? Not so much. He does have a knighthood though. And he was called upon to help the government reduce public spending. Remember too: he is just one of many.

So, what of those coarse, depraved scroungers on Benefits Street? Well, I can imagine that they and their like will continue to be blamed and pilloried, and will, for some people continue to represent what the benefit system means. Because it's easy. They swear and drink, they commit crime. The cold-hearted amongst the population will continually think no further than that. However, in the fourth episode of the documentary, a little more insight was given in to various people's lives – presumably the moments of sincerity that were edited out in earlier episodes in favour of the grottier stuff. We saw the teenage girl who so desperately wants to do well in life and the hope-deprived alcoholic who just wants to feel a little better. Anyone who looks upon them and judges their way of life to be simply 'a lifestyle choice', and that the fault is entirely theirs isn't trying hard enough to be a human. The alienation that these people suffer is ingrained deeply through

generations, and an escape is hindered by a lack of so much more than just money. And yet loud people will continue only to look at it in that frame. In fact, these broken people have nothing more to do with national economic downturn than a carwash valet has to the Ford Motor company.

It is only when the country as a whole takes on a new and constructive mind-set of more understanding than judgment, and, in turn the government takes this new ethos as core policy, that we will see an end to the likes of Benefits Street.

by Crispin Smith

Got your number?

£30 Billion

Tax avoided,
evaded or
uncollected
HMRC estimate

£16 Billion
Benefits
unclaimed
(Citizens Advice
Bureau
estimate)

£1.4 Billion. Benefit overpayments
by error (DWP estimate)

£1.2 Billion. Benefit fraud
(DWP estimate)

Rotary Club of Broadstairs



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Entry Fee is £5.00 for up to 3 items; for larger items like furniture please bring photographs. You are welcome to bring more articles to be valued for which there will be an additional donation of £2 per item. There will be an opportunity to enter items in Catherine's net auction. Refreshments will be available.

For more information please phone 07854 286 408 or see

www.rotaryclubofbroadstairs.co.uk

The Brigadier

The Brigadier pictured after the recent Badger cull which resulted in the slaughter of thirty budgerigars due to a mix up of prescriptions at the opticians and rather small type on the orders



'Pancakes' she said. Pancakes? Why on earth is this rather odd and hairy specimen shouting Pancakes at me in a cockney accent ? Shouldn't you be at home loving a duck and keeping your knees up? Well that's what my inner dialogue thought, and frankly, why wouldn't it. Its not often I'm stopped in the High Street by a wildly gesticulating person emanating an aroma of stale Rich Tea biscuits demanding to know the answer to the phrase 'Pancakes'. What can one say to such nonsense but 'Shrove Tuesday'. So Shrove Tuesday is what I said, shrove being the past tense of Shrive, which apparently has something to do with pancakes, look, really, I don't know, don't put me on the spot.

Why is it that mad old biddies are

allowed to parade in full view of the more sane members of the general public? Why are they allowed to carry what could be termed an offensive weapon in the form of an iron skillet? And why on God's green and tarmacked earth does someone feel the need to rush up and down throwing a flour and egg based product into the air whilst members of the local press gaze on with their Mega-pixie digital thingummies taking inane snaps of those poor unfortunates unable to fathom the travesty of serving a chicken based product without devilled kidneys?

Be warned dear reader, there is clearly something askew with food nowadays. Yes I realise the old pancake tossers come from a bygone age of making do and using up what's in the larder, but that doesn't explain the need for them to carry on this way in this age of microwave technology and fully nutritious ready-meals. In my humble experience of using up the leftover supplies I'd say the best recipe I could come up with was to empty the contents of the broken teacup at the bottom of the fridge into the jagged tin of baked beans of indeterminate age and cook it in a pot until it stops wiggling, of course, always go for the subtler hues when it comes to cooking as the fluffy green look tends to taste a little musty, a bit like Benson the butler after he locked himself in that cupboard for a week, (he survived by sucking on mothballs and the turf from the bottom of my wellies). 'Shrove Tuesday' is what I said, this stopped the woman in her tracks. Confess your sins is what it meant, confess foul haridan, confess and weep for thou art a sinner, oh and stop throwing that batter mix in the air and pass me a lemon.

Yes, to 'shrive' is to confess one's sins. Shrove Tuesday falls before Ash Wednesday, which presumably falls before 'Who's going to clean this batter and soot mess up Thursday' and 'I'm not speaking to you' Friday. These odd, ever so slightly befuddled days are the precursor to Lent. Lent being a period of time in the Christian calendar when you it's acceptable to retrieve those garden implements that next door borrowed from you back in August last year.

It's also a time when it's suggested that for spiritual and mental health we should 'Give something up', a tradition I wholeheartedly embrace each year when for about a month I abstain from Gin. Spiritually I feel refreshed, invigorated and cleansed from this foul spirit, however, in contrast my absinthe consumption does rise dramatically, as does my need for psychiatric help. An old chum of mine swears blind that the



hallucinogenic additive 'Wormwood' which gives the aforementioned spirit that extra zing and also quite readily sent the likes of Modigliani and Van Gogh to an early grave is a fine way of combatting the rigours of modern life, a fact that is borne out by his ability to ignore the sort of mad old dear in Broadstairs High street who regularly accosts gentlemen of easy persuasion such as myself.

I guess it's a little akin to the pussy drug 'Catnip' that my old moggie 'Mr Bix' laps up in great quantities from within the tightly crocheted cat toy her ladyship so often knocks up for the ginger beast. It certainly creates one space cadet fluff ball of dribble and claws. However one man's meat is another man's poison (or should that be poisson), in that, the other family pet 'Molly Measles' (feline, female variety) doesn't get it at all, but instead looks on in wonderment and shame at the male in the family making such a fool of himself on a cheap addictive drug.

It's almost like they're human

As for the woman in the street, she eventually left me alone, probably on account of her pancake ending up in my pocket for later along with half a lemon and a sachet of sugar, it'll go nicely with a half pint of Wormwood liquor.

But only during Lent of course.

RNLI Shop update

Roy Irving of the RNLI Kiosk is looking to open up the Kiosk in late March/early April, subject to the weather. Needs a bit of painting etc before that. He could also do with a couple more volunteers, they already have some great people but need a couple more to ensure they are open as much as possible. Normally afternoons. Contact us here at The Broadie and we'll forward your details, alternatively you can contact Roy via his Facebook page or pop by the kiosk and leave him a note.

Songwriting festival?

Here's a note from Trevor who can often be found behind the bar at the Tartar Frigate.

"As some of you may know, I am trying to put together a festival for songwriters, to be held in Ramsgate in July.

The biggest obstacle to hosting this event is money!

I don't have any!

We have been given the possibility of holding a money raising event or two, and also some afternoon pub gigs to raise awareness/advertise these and the main event in July!

Before I confirm, and move ahead, I'd like to know who would be willing to play at these, and how much you would ask for to do so"?

Trevor Harper

It's a hole new world

The amount of potholes appearing in Thanet begs the question whether the old bumper/window sticker of the eighties should be resurrected; remember 'I'm a Thanet Pothole dodger'. Apparently, the increase in potholes is due in part to the continued wet weather turning the underlying ground to mush. (At least that's what we've been told). A very deep hole recently opened up in Percy Avenue, Kingsgate, so deep in fact that it had to be guarded by the boys in blue should anyone venture too near. Personally we reckon it was just an old ventilation shaft from the nearby Kingsgate Metro station, AKA, 'the Cockfosters' of Broadstairs.

Southern Water

Southern Water fined £200,000 after sewage was pumped into the sea off protected Kent beaches have been told they have a "persistent record of criminality".

Southern Water went to the Court of Appeal, claiming its fine was too high.

But the Lord Chief Justice dismissed the appeal and said the company had 160 previous offences. Southern Water suggested his comments were "disappointing".

Lord Thomas said: "Looked at as a whole, there is a persistent record of criminality and offending by this company.

"In the absence of any explanation as to what the board of the company has done to deal with reforming itself - to eliminate its offending behaviour, to explain its conduct in detail in dealing with the incident in question - there is very little mitigation that can be put forward."

Southern Water admitted breaching environmental regulations and was fined £200,000 at Canterbury Crown Court last year but appealed on the grounds that the fine was too high because the court judge did not take enough account of the fact the leaks were caused by a design fault in the pumps and would therefore have been "difficult to anticipate".

They also said the company had not "failed to grasp the nettle" but

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fixing it had proved difficult.

Lord Thomas, sitting with Mr Justice Simon and Mr Justice Irwin, dismissed the appeal and said: "We can see no basis for interfering with the fine - indeed, this court would not have interfered with a sentence very substantially greater than the fine imposed on this company."

After the hearing, Geoff Loader, director of Southern Water, said the company appealed against the fine because the beaches were not permanently damaged and there was no damage to the water quality.

"We thought it was worth a second opinion on that fine. We've had the second opinion and we fully accept it," he said.

Got your number

The last year for which records are available (2012-2013) Southern Water had an operating profit of £331,000,000 which after taxation was still a pretty healthy £156,900,000. The fine therefore represents about 0.12% of the years profit.

Still got the blues

Broadstairs Blues Bash is a FREE Blues music festival which is now into its sixth year. It takes place annually in mid-February in the Victorian sea-side town of Broadstairs in Kent, England, UK. In 2013 we put 43 local, national and international Blues acts into 15 venues in the town and the festival attracted several thousand people. Due to this year's success, 2014 promises to be even bigger and better with more venues and acts coming on board. Broadstairs has a vibrant exciting music scene and with small intimate wine-bars, friendly pubs and bars, larger pubs and one ticketed (250) venue with a huge headline act, it is the ideal town for a Blues festival. The Broadstairs Blues Bash attracts high quality performers, so if you're a fan of old Blues, new Blues, GREAT Blues, this festival is definitely one not to miss.

All the pub & wine bar gigs over the whole weekend are FREE entry and we aim to try and keep it that way, so here's how you can help – Come along, buy a programme, a badge, mug & a T-shirt and spread the word....

Headline Acts

Paul Lamb has spent the last thirty-some years whoopin' and hollerin' in clubs in his native North-East plus a later move to London, in concert and on festival stages, creating a personal synthesis of his harmonica heroes and his own unique and innate talent. His history includes representing Britain in the World Harmonica Championships, working with his particular mentor, Sonny Terry, and with any number of other blues artists who've visited these shores. Over the years Paul Lamb & the King Snakes have won countless awards, sold record breaking quantities of albums and been inducted into the British Blues Awards Hall of Fame alongside the likes of Peter Green & John Mayall. I can't begin to tell you what a fantastic night it's going to be and how proud we are to bring this outstanding Blues Band to headline the sixth Broadstairs Blues Bash!!! BABA JACK is fast becoming one of the most sought after bands on the Blues/ Roots/ Acoustic circuits in the UK and Europe. Their brand of blues is contemporary, powerful and acoustic. They combine great musicianship, passion, energy and charismatic performance to create a different kind of blues and a great show. Their latest album *Running Man* is brilliant. Fact! By the way both Trevor and Paul Lamb were nominated for best harmonica this year and you can see them both here at Broadstairs Blues Bash 2014.





Thanet Film Society

All films screen on a Tuesday evening at 8pm
at The Palace Cinema, Harbour Street

February

19th The Snows of Kilimanjaro

26th Barbara

March

5th The Master

12th 5 Broken Cameras

19th Berberian Sound Studio

26th Amour

April

9th Alps

16th The Hunt [Jagten]

23rd The Joy of Six

30th Bullhead [Rundskop]

Thanet Roadrunners

Thanet Roadrunners AC announce Race Details for 2014

Thanet Roadrunners AC are pleased to announce details of its racing calendar for 2014. The club hold a diverse range of popular events throughout the year including the Kent Coastal Marathon, Harbour Wallbanger beach race and a mountain bike duathlon into the winter. The club's popular beach race the Harbour Wallbanger will be held on Saturday 31st May 2014. Why not make a weekend of it down on the picturesque Kent Coast, feel the sand between your toes and take in around 7k all on the beach from Broadstairs to Ramsgate and back. Postal entries to this race are now open on our website, and on the Runners World website (subscribers only at the moment)

The club will also be hosting the Fosters Law Kent Coastal Marathon and Half Marathon on Sunday, September 7th 2014, where the full marathon incorporates the Kent Grand Prix and the Kent Championships for most categories. It's a scenic run along the Thanet coastline with chip timing, great facilities for runners plus a goody bag and medal for the finishers. Postal entries to this race are now open on our website. Online entry will be available on the Runners World website in the near future.

Thinking much further afield to the wind and rain of the winter, stay tuned for details of the Alan Green Memorial 10 mile race which is traditionally run in December. Moving to 2015, the club's Mountain Bike Duathlon is lined up for January. The road run, cross country bike leg followed by a cross country run makes for a true stamina test! Entry can be as individuals or a two- or three-person team. Dates for these two events are currently being arranged at this time.

For more details about these races, visit our website at <http://www.thanetroadrunners.org.uk>



IOT Geographical Association

Isle of Thanet Geographical Association Programme

All lectures are held at Park Hall, Pierremont Gardens,
Broadstairs and commence at 7:30pm.

Monday 10 February 2014

Dr Summerfield - Etosha National Park, Namibia

Monday 10 March 2014

Heather Willis - Snowdonia and the Isle of Anglesey

Monday 14 April 2014

Malcolm Milham - The End of an Empire

Monday 12 May 2014

Lesley Williams - Travels with a Camera - North America

Monday 9 June 2014

AGM.



And finally - Trampolining Cats?



With thanks to Crispin Smith, Paul Eaton, Sam McQuestion and others for being a bit silly and entering our Facebook spontaneous drawing competition. Keep your pen ready at all times as there's booze to be won



Attention all shore Anglers

Broadstairs & St Peters Sea Angling Society

Broadstairs and St Peters Sea Angling Society have recently been approached by many shore anglers on information about joining the society and are disappointed to hear that at present the society exists solely for boat fishing.

It would seem that there is a demand for a local shore angling group. Therefore we are asking shore anglers if they would be interested in joining a society to fish local shore competitions would they please register their interest by calling either:-

Steve on 01843 865566 or Graham on 01843 602366

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