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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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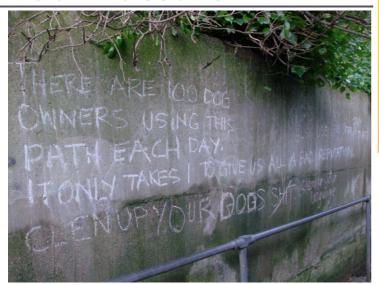
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Your letters



Just thought we'd include this as it was sent over to us by Simon Gerrard. And interestingly there has been a marked drop in the amount of dogs mess around this area since the chalking appeared.

Madman on the loose

Are any of your readers aware that there is a maniac on the loose in old Broadstairs town. Up until now this has not been made public as those in authority fear that residents wont sleep safe in their beds. So far it is known that five innocents have been cruelly dispatched. You have been warned.

See page 18 for more gruesome details

Regards

Melissa

Silly old duffer

So, Mrs Gloag, turns up, buys an airport for a quid, says, she'll turn it into a vibrant business, then five months later discovers it's not going to work. Tough business decision, or Asset stripping and profitable building land. Personally I couldn't give a hoot. All that interests me is I now wont have to read silly old duffers arguing over the pro's and con's of night flights in the local paper like we've had in nearly ever single edition for the last fifteen to twenty years.

However I am expecting the same people to start arguing the toss over the colossal housing estate that's probably about to be dumped on their doorstep.

I lived for many years at Dungeoness and now almost constantly glow in the dark. Did I complain? No. The superpowers I gained are fantastic.

Name and address supplied Broadstairs

Hard hitting journalism

Dear sir/madam. May I enquire if you will be following in the footsteps of The Sun newspaper who recently published a hard hitting interview with David Cameron by that giant of political insight James Corden. I'm assuming The Brigadier will be getting the low down on the local political elite for the elections next year

Yours Faithfully. A loyal reader

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The Brigadier

One of the little herberts recently lost a tooth. before you ask it had nothing to do with me, no children were hurt in the writing of this column. Isn't it odd that as adults we're happy to tell our beloved kiddiwinks that there is an itsy bitsy sprite watching over them, ready to swoop down and snaffle their body parts away as soon as they have been made redundant with sugary drinks and chewy bars. It's a great shame the idea hasn't lasted well into old age, the idea of jollying home from the QEQM with your redundant hip joint tucked in your zimmer ready to stash it under the pillow for the Hip fairy sounds like fun, if a six year-olds tooth fetches around a whole pound I feel sure that a used hip joint has got to be worth at least a couple of hundred.

Of course, in these days of the free market there must be rival companies vying for the patronage of you the customer, I can only therefore assume there must be some sort of trading standard for each and every bit of replaceable body part, I'm not referring to the strange and obscene trade in used body parts that are harvested from the poor in the developing world (Apparently you can't call it the third world anymore), what I mean is if a tooth is worth a guid, then how is that calculated? By weight, content or rarity. You may think it strange to ask but as I lost two frostbitten toes during an ill-fated expedition to Iceland (The country not the supermarket) I need to know; Benson snipped the blighters off with a scout knife and preserved them in a bully beef can full of gin when I discovered they'd turned a strange shade of black. Admittedly rations ran low on that particular trip into the frozen wastes so we fricasseed one over an open fire rather than miss elevenses altogether.

You might ask why this sudden interest in getting a few pennies together. Well, the old manor house is looking a little sorry for itself, the stair carpet is as threadbare as her ladyships socks, the paint on the ceilings regularly showers us with a fine white dust that appears to give me the worse case of dandruff I've seen since the youngest attended junior school in 1974.

Does anyone have dandruff nowadays, because virtually everyone had it back then, if you didn't; you could buy it in little packs so you didn't feel left out. I believe it started to die out with the advent of Vosene shampoo, a highly medicated affair that either cured you or made you smell like a public convenience. We made our own cures back then you know, I remember the school Nit-Nurse calling me in to comment on why my son smelled of strong drink when he was only seven. 'He smells of Vodka' she said. 'Well yes, wash their hair in it and all the little blighters get tipsy, sing rugby songs and then fall off"; never had trouble with Nits, did have problems with alcohol though.

So yes, we need some cash for renovations, apparently we've got to go all GILMI, or (Get A Little Man In) as her ladyship likes to say.

We'd normally send Benson up the ladders, but at nearly ninety it doesn't seem fair to watch him climb the rickety steps, he's probably better off outside digging the footings for the new summer house anyway; you can't easily fall off the floor, although their was that time. I'm tempted to sell off some family relics, there's grandpas medals from when he helped relieve Gordon, no fighting involved, the Generals ceremonial trousers got stuck whilst parading one day, and Gramps was always such a whizz with a bayonet. Her ladyship has a fine collection of what I term womanly fripperies and Fluff and nonsense which I feel certain she wont mind me taking off to the rag yard to gain a few coins. No, I can see no problems arising from that transaction. And lastly there's my shares in Manston Airport, they must surely be worth quite a bit by now. Would anyone like to make me an offer?

The Brigadier



Hot water and beans

The ever increasing march onwards towards coffee based domination of The Isle of Thanet has moved a step closer after the chain 'Costa Coffee' recently moved into Margate High Street. The move towards total Coffeeisation of the Thanet High Street is expected to be completed once a Coffee group chain eventually decides to invade Broadstairs with their fancy coffee ways and overly expensive pastries of supposedly Danish origin

The Broadie has long sinced championed the move to recognise tea varieties other than PGs finest in these new fandangled chainstore meccas to the Brown bean based brew, but as of yet the best most of them can come up with is an insipid Earl Grey and if you're lucky something that tastes like Tea with a dissolved extra strong mint in it.

At times the obsession with Coffee seems reminiscent of the Tulip mania of the 17th Century, especially considering the inflated prices charged when someone fluffs up milk with air and mixes it with bean juice, however as with the Tulip we will all eventually come to our senses and once again fall in love with a hot drink that doesn't require a Barista to spend ten minutes twitting about with

Separated at birth?





Egon Spengler

Mr Wally

chocolate shakes, fairy dust and other such unecessary accountrements solely intended to delay the drinker of Tea

Demolition man

Here we go again. The long running saga of the Panther Securities owned 8 - 12 High Street has entered the next phase. Panther have recently attempted to secure planning permission to demolish

the buildings on their High Street plot, it is not known if this is because they are about to start building their long awaited redevelopment or whether they would just like to see a bleedin' great hole on Broadstairs High Street.

It is undoubtably a shame that Panther have been allowed to run the buildings into the ground over a fairy lengthy period instead of being made to keep their commercial properties in a good state of repair, safe and available to rent.

We can but hope that when they do get round to finishing the demolition (For it had already started) that they use a slightly safer method than they did when they spilled the old Thanet Printing Works building into the top of the High Street in Ramsgate without bothering to inform those annoying irrelevancies, namely other road users and the general public.

New on the menu - A Sunday joint

Councillor Driver recently chaired a discussion over the possibility of a Cannabis Cafe opening its doors in Thanet. Now you can argue all you like about the for's and against's, but one things for sure, at least the nearest convenience store will do well out of the influx of clientele with a severe attack of the munchies.



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Two Posties, One Hoodie an Old Boy and the Hulk

Wednesday morning, 19th february. Todd the Postman is in Waldron Road when an alarm goes off in a house somewhere ahead of him. He sighed. Thing is, alarms go off fairly frequently and truth be told, no-one takes any notice of them. So, as a postman, you're left to hum along until you're out of earshot. This time though someone did respond. An elderly couple had driven up to a large house overlooking Dumpton Gap, and when Todd arrived, were standing on the drive almost like prospective buyers.

"Excuse me, this is our sons house. But we're a little afraid to go in"
Todd knew the house, and the owners. He remembered the BBC
selecting the house for some locally shot series about love. The actress
Jane Horrocks was filmed in the kitchen. He also recalled another
occasion where upon approaching the front door the beautiful glass in
the window alongside was missing. He';d assumed they were having it
renovated. Only upon closer inspection did he see it lying inside,
smashed by a garden ornament amongst the debris.

"i'll....Er.....come in with you" he squeaked.

They entered. All seemed quiet. Todd breathed out. They each looked in a different direction, Todd into the dining room. O' lord! what had once been a rather fine door had been quite literally, smashed in with the force of a truck. There was glass everywhere. Instantly, into Todds mind came a picture of the 'Hulk'.

You see, he'd grown up reading comics, his mind was addled with them, and now this green wild-man, and especially his catch phrase sprang to mind.

"It's clobbering time!"

He looked at the stairs. Could the lunatic that had done this still be up there? Of course he could!

Then he realised that the lady was speaking to him Dazed, he crossed to the alarm, pressed reset and yelled

"Punch in the code, i'll look away"

The silence was better. Calmer. Well, at least he'd been able to hear if anybody was movin g about upstairs now. He looked again at the remains of the door and heard once more in his head the roar..

"It's clobbering time"

The elderly couple were too were dazed. Of course they were, this was their sons house, they would have probably once sat in that room eating their Sunday roast whilst chatting away.

"Let's phone the Police" he said

Unsure of the local number they simply phoned 999 and Todd encouraged the lady to speak. She was the epitome of civility. Speaking through her shock in a rather distant and pleasantly meandering manner, which unintentionally gave the woman on the other end of the line the impression that this was not an emergency.

"We'll have the police there in fifteen minutes"

O' dear. Todd looked once again at the stairs. The couple clearly had no such concerns. Perhaps they were just braver.

Surreptitiously he began a kind of unspoken 'Let's wait outside' movement. The couple unconsciously stood their ground. Todd glanced back at the stairs. Suddenly they heard a car; a Policeman had arrived after only a matter of minutes since the call.

"We've just arrested a bloke up the road, it was probably him" said our friendly constable.

Meanwhile

Bob is also a postman. he delivers along Salisbury Ave and Cliffside Drive. He was having a good day. In the space of barely a week we'd entered a new, more benign season; big news to a Postman. Bobs

mood reflected this improvement.

Looking up ahead Bob noticed an old boy with a walking stick accosting a much younger man in a Hoodie.

"What the?"

Before Bob knew it, things got physical. The Hoodie appeared to have something the old boy wanted and an intense grapple had ensued. The Hoodie barged the chap and he went down sending the fought for items cascading every which way.

Bob is very different to Todd. He hadn't blown his brain-cells on useless comic strip nonsense and junk culture. No thoughts of rampaging green musclemen entered his mind. He simply dashed over to help in some way.

"He's just burgled a house down the road" gasped the old chap. Bob studied the felon. Clearly he wasn't quite right. Atger apparently robbing someone's property he'd sauntered off in a weird kind of slow motion. Slowly enough for the heroic older fellow hobbling along on his walking stick to catch up with the villain.

Even now, outnumbered, the reprobate was calmly engaged in picking up his spoils.

Bob helped the old chap up and immediately he set about the Hoodie again. "Dont hit him,, he'll sue you and then get away with it" shouted Bob, crystallising all our fears. The next few moments were, as they often say, A blur. The Hoodie went down, then, from the ground made a grab for Bob's manhood. Bob was spoken for, as were they. He stepped back. The old boy and the Hoodie were wrestling, the Hoodie had something in his hand, a strange object, which later proved to be a setting for a jewel of some sort. He was lashing at the old boys arms with it. There was blood everywhere.

Between them, Bob and the old boy held him down and Bob produced a mobile to summon the Police. Then on a whim he took a couple of snaps of the Hoodie, who on closer inspection was older than he at first

thought, nearer forty than twenty. It was later when the events were all pieced together. The Hoodie, after having smashed in the back door and ransacked the bedroom of the house in Dumpton Gap, had calmly set off up the alley which leads to Seacroft Road. Unbeknown to him, the fabulous old boy was hot in pursuit. (Sadly Bob never discovered this wonderful mans name, but i salute him here. Well done sir, you are a credit to us all). Eventually the old boy caught up and luckily, Bob was on hand.

The halfwit Hoodie had £80 and a quantity of Marijuana on him. the Police phoned Bob that evening and said that the Hoodie would end up in prison for this. Sad really.

Todd the postie



At your convenience

It's a strange thing to name them: Public Conveniences, they are after all neither public, nor convenient. Once again the start of the tourist season caught TDC out by going and starting before our glorious council were ready for it. An influx of tourists turned up as the sun shone, sales of Tango went up, Ice-creams devoured and then the crossed legs started with local retailers experiencing the Pre-Easter cry of "Can I just borrow your toilet please". The same old story appeared on Thanet's beaches too with bins overflowing and seagulls merrily rubbing their wings together in a chip bag feeding frenzy. If only TDC had something that they could look at each year to enable them to roughly estimate when they might start expecting to see the sun to shine, y'know, something that gives an intimation of hours of daylight, what the weather might be like etc.

A Squeak under a pound

A discount store in Ramsgate as recently re-opened after being shut down due to an infestation, shoppers spotted a deal that was too good to not miss. The deal. Buy one mouse get ten free.

Separated at birth?





Lilv Connell

Fluffles

Friends of St Peter's Churchyard Graves.

help tend neglected plots.

This is a big task that the volunteers have taken on, but leader Brian Sleightholm and his team are confident more volunteers will come forward and give some time to tend a grave and make it a hobby along with finding out the history of the gravestone and burial.





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Are now a 7 strong team and still want more volunteers to come and 'It is very satisfying to tidy each plot in what was a previously very overgrown area', says secretary Lorraine Reese. On a nice day it is lovely to work in the tranquillity of the churchyard, with the birds chattering and low voices of walkers out with their dogs.

> St Peter's Churchyard has always been a popular walk for dog owners, and visitors tending their own graves are always around. The volunteers always have time for those walking or visiting and are a friendly bunch and will stop and chat and talk about what they are doing if you interested in hearing.

Avril Kilner is a 3 year volunteer and has carefully tended the Sutton grave, belonging to the Sutton seed family, and Andrew Devine gets much satisfaction from tending the civilian war dead graves, Samuel Grover and Joseph Forde.

Lorraine Reese tends the Nuckell's tomb that has its connections with the Nuckell's Alms houses in the High Street St Peter's, and other graves. The team are pictured by the Anne Nuckell's Grave.

There is always support from other team members and the plan is to gradually plot all the tended graves with volunteer names along with any history of the grave tended. A monthly meet of all volunteers is on the first Wednesday of each month for a chat and coffee, along with sharing of each other's experiences of work in the churchvard. There is a small amount of funds to cover costs. Please think about coming and being a volunteer, it is very rewarding . You can give as much time as you wish to fit in with your schedules. Contact Brian Sleightholm on 01843 864746 to register your interest

Broadstairs and St Peter's in the Great War – Then and Now

The project's aim is to enable young people and those with learning difficulties to engage with aspects of remembrance and commemoration on the centenary of World War I.

Poppies will be sown as part of this project in some of our schools, in designated flower beds and around the World War I war graves in St Peter's churchyard.

Schools, youth groups, cadet forces and organisations that support those with learning difficulties are invited to participate in this project. Creative ideas include photographing all the stages in growing poppies, collecting and pressing petals, harvesting seeds etc.

We have plenty of poppy seeds!

If your group would like to join in this special project please contact Barbara Wallace – barbaramwallace@sky.com (07976970726) For more details and how you can collect some seeds

The 2014 Real Poppy Campaign

Plant Your Town Red!

You may (or not) be aware that the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War One is 4th August 2014, a unique campaign has been started to plant real poppies to coincide with this centenary. The bright red Flanders poppies (Papaver rhoeas) also known as corn poppies, will be planted by thousands of people all across the nation during spring 2014 – for flowering late July/early August. The Centenary Poppy Campaign – formerly called the 2014 Real Poppy Campaign is the brainchild of The Greenhithe (Kent) branch of the Royal British Legion, Chairman, Phil Berry said; "We would like to see the UK covered in real Flanders poppies during August 2014, just imagine thousands upon thousands of bright red poppies growing alongside motorways, hundreds in every garden, hedgerows, fields, window boxes - the entire nation covered in poppies."(*)

During WW1, the total number of military and civilian casualties was an estimated 37 million. There were over 16 million deaths (an average of almost 10,000 per day) and more than 20 million wounded ranking it among the deadliest conflicts in human history. The use of the poppy was inspired by the World War I poem ' In Flanders Fields' Its opening lines refer to the thousands of poppies that were the first flowers to grow in the churned-up earth of soldiers' graves. The

2014 poppies will commemorate and honour the

huge sacrifices made by so many.

A flowering success rate of around 85% is estimated if correctly planted. Only sales of the official website seeds will benefit

The Royal British Legion but

wherever the seeds originate,

this campaign plans to be a bright and vivid reminder of all those lost lives.

Instructions on how to grow the Flanders Poppy (Red Corn Poppy)

 Botanical name Papaver Rhoeas
 Seeds are sown directly into the soil in March, April, May or June and flower in June, July and August.

It takes 10 – 30 days for the seeds to germinate, for prolonged colour, seeds can be sown successively. The seeds need to be planted in well drained, moist soil in a full sun position. They require light and space

to germinate.

Preparing the ground and sowing
Dig the soil over until it is well broken down Make sure the soil is not waterlogged as the
seeds will rot - Use a rake to make light surface
lines for sowing - Mix the seeds with some sand
for ease (about a teaspoon per packet) and

scatter carefully along your lines- Rake over gently to cover seeds- Do not bury seeds too deep as they need light to germinate.

Care of plants and watering

Providing it is warm enough seedlings will appear in a couple of weeks-During this stage the ground should be well watered but not over watered-If planting in your own garden use a nozzle for a fine water spray- Ideally, once the seedlings are 2 inches high they should be thinned out to one every 6 inches.

Maintenance & collecting seeds

Dead head the poppy flowers as soon as the blooms start to fade and wilt as this will encourage the plants to bloom throughout the summer-Collect seed pods from the discarded flowers –Dry and brake open the pods to collect seeds for future sowing or leave to self-seed and perpetuate for next year.

Do's & Don'ts and Helpful Tips

Do be a considerate poppy grower

Don't plant near agricultural land or areas of scientific interest

Don't introduce foreign species

Don't fertilise as this will encourage rival weeds

·Do plant a few seeds at a time every week or so, rather than all in one go

Don't plant in grass

Do ask if you are not sure if it is ok to plant (see contacts)

Contacts and Further Information

Barbara Wallace - email: barbaramwallace@sky.com tel: 07976970726 For seeds (also available from B&Q where £1 from every packet sold goes to the Royal British Legion)

·If you are a school or organisation for young people or people with learning disabilities wanting to get involved in Broadstairs & St Peters Town Council's WW1 project – Broadstairs & St Peters in the Great War, Then & Now

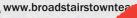
For Royal British Legion donations:- Clive Richards - email: cliver@1964@yahoo.co.uk

Ruth Goldfinch - email: ruth@broadstairstownteam.org.uk Information on where you can plant if you are unsure.

For help preparing the ground and sowing seeds we can put you in touch with willing hands.

Websites of interest :

www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary wildseed.co.uk/articles/2013/11/11/poppies





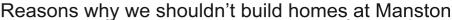


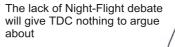


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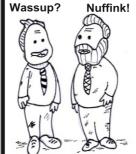
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* That's what a bloke in a pub told me

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Manston gets the rocket

Yugoslavia, that's were we went And the South of France where a lot of money got spent Onto Dublin too to sink the black drink Then Amsterdam Where the dope made me pink But it looks like that's it No more chocks away. It just didn't take off It just doesn't pay. So offers please, we'll be having a stall. A Spitfire, a Hurricane We're selling it all. A 737, a shed load of bits A wing from an Airbus And some wiring kits They'll have to fill in the bunkers And the Nukes* must all leave Well that's what some in the ministry Might have you believe The grass is all going The concrete might stay It'll save time and money When they build t'motorway to connect big ol London with Thanet-By-Sea. Via Manston Garden City Home to thirty thousand and three Night flights on the agenda caused argument and grief And Boris's island named by Our great London chief Third runway for London Was the name of the plan But no runway in Manston Relieving the jam Will they build t'train-station for Manston-On-Sea The new garden city for thirty thousand and three Coz, they'll have to build t'station For residents nearby to get them to London They wont be able to fly Because one things for certain As we're really this poor There's not the employment to support many more Though they'll build all the houses At Manston-by-the-Sea There's not job opportunities

By Anne G aged 14 and a half

for thirty thousand and three

*so a bloke in a pub told me



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Thanet Film Society

Tuesday 22nd April at 8pm Inside Llewyn Davis Tuesday 29th April at 8pm

Age of Uprising: The Legend of Michael Kohlhaas

Tuesday 6th May at 8pm

Love is in the Air Tuesday 13th May at 8pm

The Stuart Hall **Project**

Tuesday 20th May at 8pm Wake in Fright

Tuesday 27th May at 8pm Wolf Children

Tuesday 3rd June at

8pm Only Lovers Left

Alive Tuesday 10th June

at 8pm We Are the Best





The recent front cover of Issue 33 of The Broadie showing St Peters Church rather fittingly coincided with the start of a fundraising campaign to restore the tower to its former glory. How many readers have driven past the church or walked their dog in the churchyard, yet never gone into the church? Parts of the Grade 2 listed church date from 1070; the exterior is built of local flint and stone and the interior has lovely stained glass windows and Victorian murals of Saints and Angels: Think Pre-Raphelites!

The 15th Century tower is the highest point in Thanet. It was used as a signalling station during the Napoleonic wars in the early 1800s. From then the tower has had the right to fly the White Ensign, usually only flown on Royal Navy vessels and at Royal Naval establishments. recently the tower has been used to relay mobile phone signals from St Nicholas at Wade Church to East Kent College, then around Thanet.

The people of St Peters may love or curse the church bells, but after 9th March they wont hear them. The tower is falling down and the vibration of the bells is exacerbating the problem. the base of the tower is taped off because of the dangers of falling masonry. The clock will soon be removed before it falls off and its chimes will be silent. Despite being a clock for the community, TDC says it's not their responsibility. If nothing is done soon the tower will fall down and the church will have to close. The official St Peters fundraising campaign has now been launched. Initially £250,000 is needed to restore the tower, clock and window; urgent work. A grant for this amount has been requested from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This passed stage one of the process, the second stage has to be submitted by August. the St Peters Church has to raise at least 5% of the £250,000 to show the importance of this landmark building to the community, and it has to submit plans to open up the usage of the Church site by the community.

The church and tower are already an integral part of the St Peters Village Tour which attracts around 1,000 visitors each year. Plans include replacing pews with more flexible seating to enable arts and cultural events to take place in the church and to refurbish the three church halls, especially improving disabled access and facilities. The total estimate for all the plans is a mind-boggling £1.14 Million, but first the tower must be saved! there are many fundraising events planned. Information about these and the Fundraising Campaign can be found on

www.stpeterinthanet.org.uk or www.facebook.com/stpeterstower or phone the church office on 01843 866061 9 - 12 Mon - Fri Please support us if you can Caroline Pile



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I must go down to the sea again

the lonely sea and the sky. I left my socks and pants there. Seashore Safaris - Thanet's Marine I wonder if they're dry? Spike Milligan

Captain Cuttlefish's Epic Adventure

The Isle of Thanet is about to set sail! Join Captain Cuttlefish for a wild and wacky storytelling voyage miles into the past and deep into the future. Discover lost fishermen, magic creatures, oysters on the move and maybe even the occasional sea squirt!

Fishy tales, fun games and sandy art with Scandalmongers, suitable for ages 4-11vrs with an accompanying adult. Participants should wear appropriate clothing for art and games on the beach!

This is a NEKMPA event supported by a 'CC2150 Kent Community Grant Scheme' to help raise awareness of climate change within the coastal community. The event will last for approx.1.5 hours.

Broadstairs Viking Bay - Friday, 11 April, 11am ·Margate Main Sands - Thursday, 17 April, 11am Ramsgate Main Sands - Good Friday, 18 April, 11am

Coastal Community Events: Big Spring Beach Cleans - with Surfers Against Sewage!

Fri. 28 March, 2-4pm - Joss Bay Sat. 29 March, 2-4pm - Walpole Bay Sun. 30 March, 2-4pm - Viking Bay

There beach cleans are organised by Surfers Against Sewage. For further information: http://www.jossbay.co.uk/

http://www.sas.org.uk/

Seaweeds and their Secrets -**Dumpton Gap**

Walk and talk with Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum)

The Thanet Coast's chalk reef provides a perfect substrate for algae communities. Join Ian Tittley to find out everything you would like to know about seaweed, their uses and properties. Please wear appropriate footwear suitable for walking on the chalk reef & rockpools.

> Suitable for adults (14+). Meet: Bottom of slope to beach, Dumpton Gap, **Broadstairs (CT10 1TJ)**

Sat. 19 July, 11am (2hrs) ·Booking essential: opens in June (www.nekmpa.org.uk

Week

- various bays around Thanet

Explore Thanet's chalk rocky shore for its fascinating rockpool wildlife - with help on hand to identify your finds! Identification sheet & equipment is provided. Wear suitable footwear for rocks and rockpools! All events last for 2 hours and are suitable for ALL the family, but particularly 4-14s; £-donations welcome! Wed 30 July, 9am - Minnis Bay, Birchington (CT7 90R) ·Thur 31 July, 9am - St Mildred's Bay, Westgate (CT8 8TR) ·Fri 1 August, 9:30am - Nayland Rock/Margate Main Sands (CT9 1XN)

Sat 2 August, 10:00am - Botany Bay, Broadstairs (CT10 3LG) Sun 3 August, 10:30am - Louisa Bay, Broadstairs (CT10 1PU) Mon 4 August, 11:00am - Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs (CT10 1TA) Seashore Safari bookings - open in July (www.nekmpa.org.uk)

Seaweeds and their Secrets - Botany Bay

Walk and talk with Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum) The Thanet Coast's chalk reef provides a perfect substrate for algae communities. Join Ian Tittley to find out everything you would like to know about seaweed, their uses and properties. Please wear appropriate footwear suitable for walking on the chalk reef and rockpools. Suitable for adults (14+).

Meet: Kiosk at bottom of steps, Botany Bay, Kingsgate (near Fayreness Hotel: CT10 3LG)

Sat. 30 Aug, 9am (2hrs)

·Booking essential: opens in June (www.nekmpa.org.uk)

Beachwatch Big Weekend - Thanet

Join a beach clean and litter survey, as a part of the Marine Conservation Society's annual national campaign (20-23 Sept). Event lasts for 2.5 hours - gloves, sticks and bags are provided. Sat 20 Sept. 10.30am - Plumpudding, Birchington Clean along the refreshing 'Northern Sea Wall' beaches at the very western end of Minnis Bay, heading towards Reculver. Meet: Outside 'The Minnis Restaurant', Minnis Bay, Birchington CT79QP.

Sat 20 Sept, 2.30pm - Pegwell Bay, Cliffsend Clean along the National Nature Reserve beach, near to the chalk

Meet: On the beach below the former Hoverport access road (nr Viking Ship Picnic Site, Cliffsend CT12 5HY). Book (from August): www.nekmpa.org.uk

Below York Gate

by George

Winter is finally over down here on the beach, and what a winter we've had. We didn't see any snow and ice but boy did we see some water, wind and rain.

The major event to affect us down here was the big storm surge on that first week of December – the largest since the 1950's. The Harbour community joined together to prepare the area by sandbagging the business and houses below the gate. By 9:30 pm, we were all sitting in the Tartar Frigate waiting. High tide was due at midnight-ish. It looked as though nothing was going to happen. The wind had died down and the sea didn't look like anything spectacular, however, suddenly at twelve the wate rose quickly. It crept relentlessly up the concrete slipway and moved into Harbour Street. It sloshed its way around the public toilets into the gents, and then the ladies. Eventually, it was two feet deep outside the Frigate and had risen behind the Harbour Café to about a foot below the beach-side windows.

It was very strange seeing the sea at the same level as the top of the pier. the boats in the harbour all at full stretch on their moorings, their ropes looking as if they were about to snap at any moment. The beach huts near the harbour floated off and around the bay. I wouldn't be surprised if some Frenchman has a new shed on his allotment reclaimed from the sea. Many of the huts did a trip around the harbour and ended up smashed to pieces on the wooden slipway, their contents spilled out all over the beach, with a lot being buried in the sand that had been washed along the bay. During their journey, they bashed the rendering off the back of the café and smashed the back steps leading up from the beach to the back hatch. The boardwalk also took a hammering with most of it being washed along the beach. (The council tell me it should be rebuilt and replaced by the week before Easter.) Further down the beach, Roger's Ice cream stall had the front bashed in by the surge, and water got into the serving area in the Viking Bay Café . The lift from the prom to the beach also didn't escape getting flooded, something that four months later is still to be remedied. We were relatively lucky on this occasion. It was a flat calm sea which minimised the damage. Whilst a few of the winter storms brought 70 plus mile an hour winds, the night of the surge was quiet and calm, the wind died off and, although there was a small swell, there were no crashing waves that would have caused a lot more damage to the properties below the gate. As usual, people got their entertainment where they could - quite a crowd turned up to see what was happening. We had some of the local lads surfing a beach hut outside the Frigate. That beach hut was probably the only one to survive from this part of the beach. The local Fire brigade attended and of course the Police were on scene to make sure everyone was safe.

The next day saw a salvage operation by the beach hut owners, people picking through the masses of beach chairs, windbreaks, picnic tables and various beach sports equipment. The weird thing was that in some cases people had to dig through around three feet of sand just to find their missing bits and bobs, so savage had been the flow of water. We're glad to say that winter is fast becoming a distant memory and we have begun to the annual preparations for the beginning of the new season.

Following refurbishment, The Boathouse is ready to open again very soon, they've been busy sourcing exciting new stock to compliment the existing range and fill the extra space. For the younger customer there'll be crab lines and bait, shells, resin boats, magnets and an assortment of items at pocket money prices. There are seaside mementoes, cards, local art and crafts, glassware, Dunoon fine bone china mugs (which are proving to be very popular), fishermen's smocks from Cornwall (for children too), T-shirts, Breton tops and caps. The rather large seagulls have apparently also been a firm favourite - you either love them or hate them, (you'd be amazed at

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how many people love them!) New ranges will include a selection of Jersey Pottery, table linen from Spain, lighthouse lamps, decorative floats and buoys and some lovely model boats and yachts. Many customers have also found interesting pieces in the second-hand section which will continue, there'll be more ships' lamps which have proved very popular and make great decorative features. John and Gail look forward to welcoming back existing customers, you'll find them by the red 'phone box on the pier and I'm sure they will be delighted to see you.

The Pavilion on the sands is in the process of building a new tea room just below their balcony. it should provide some shelter for visitors when the weather is inclement.

York gate house has been decorated and had some pigeon preventing strips put on it, it's something we all welcome, but we did have to question the timing of the operation, as the road closure and the closure of the harbour car park just as the weather has picked up has hurt all the businesses down here below the gate.

Wyatt & Jones are already getting back in full swing, and should be open 7 days a week by the time this is published.

Chris has opened up Blue Anchor gifts and is providing the early visitors with their buckets and spades.

Harbour Café is open for business as usual, with Alison and Dave serving fish, chips, ice cream, doughnuts and drinks for the beach. The Tartar Frigate is as usual providing beer for the beach and still have their songwriters den every week, giving newbies a chance to sing in public.

The businesses down here below York gate wish you all a happy Easter and let's all hope for good weather and a fantastic start to the season.

What a great lack of culture

Mods, Skinheads, Rockers, Rockabilly, Goth, Punk, Biker, New Romantics, Hippy. Where the hell is the up to date version. Surely we're due some sort of new form of youth culture other than the overblown makeup, primping and 'You've been Tangoed' look of the spoilt little prince/princess.

There's no youth culture to shake a stick at, at the moment. Nothing that leaps out at you. Where's the protest song? Where's the angry young men and women. The only person the BBC turns to when they feel the urge to discuss something a bit lefty and to do with music is Billy Bragg, but he's knocking on a bit now; can't someone jump in and take his place? Or do all the younger bands really not want to change the world. (See what I did there)

Where's the band with something to say and something to shout about. It's not as if there isn't plenty of reasons to be taking to the streets, the apathy is deafening. Sure we've got the earnest and bearded young hipsters at the moment, which is nice, but they all seem too busy being bearded, earnest and emanating a look somewhere between Mumford and Sons and re-runs of the Open University from 1974.

Those, much cleverer than myself, and with swathes more time on their hands, blame (If that's the right word) the lack of movements on the neverending influence of the internet, which has speeded up the rate in which we consume music and ideas, it's all a bit quick they reckon, with the next big thing sucking in your money before the last big thing has had a chance to hit the ground and run for a bit. When you consider how few bands nowadays manage to produce an album once a year, it rings quite true. Gone are the days of two or even three per annum, therefore following a look, or a bunch of musicians is nigh-on impossible

Whilst some rather well off Etonians at the top are dismantling those hard fought for services that we're promised to the people, fattened little Neros are finding new and exotic ways to spend the earnings of the masses whilst the Hoorays announce that we're all in this together and there's rarely a tweet from our youth. Not a dicky bird.

I jumped with joy when they rioted in London over the University fees saga, but it was a short-lived and largely media staged managed affair that watched and photographed as apparent wicked youth smashed windows and created hoopla. Perhaps if those picture takers really gave a hoot about anything other than 'getting the picture' for their paper or website they might have actually put their cameras down and either helped the protest or alternatively stopped the offenders from committing crime in front of them.

You might argue that no youth culture ever changed anything, well you're wrong; from the protesters at Kent state University and the Freedom bus, they marched and they changed the world. Vietnam, the sexual revolution, the huge advances in race and gender equality to name but a few.

So where are they when we need them? Are they really all at home plugged in, staring into the great void of the X Factor or downloading the

next version of 'Call of Duty' - electronically lobotomised by technology, unaware that the present is quickly becoming the past without them noticing the sun is coming up, the day is beautiful and their own involvement in

whole scheme of things is not opt-outable

I did take a look online to see if there were any I'd missed and sure enough therein I discovered a sprinkling of youth culture from Sea-punks with their turquoise hair, to revivalists, sure there were a few others, but not enough to gain the moniker of a youth culture.

One truly blessed little group did make me gag on my Custard Cream and rant on for a full five minutes about 'This is why the world is in the trouble it's in' they described themselves as 'Haul Girls'. Eh', what do they do? Pull things along on a rope all day....No, their aim in life is to go shopping, take their hard earned booty back to the glamourous pad where they reside in comfort and opulence and then make videos for the internet about what they've bought and how they're going to wear it, use it, or eat it. They might highlight the ever present ogre of rampant consumerism but It's hardly a vouth movement, is it?

At least when they were fighting on Margate seafront you knew there was some life in them, the wind in their hair and words in their mouths.

To be fair though, we shouldn't stereotype, I'm sure there are plenty of 'Active' groups of the younger generation, it's just that they're not easily recognisable from their dress, music or surrounding culture. Neither should the younger generation burden much blame, as our whole society is largely run from the top down by the personality-less mediocre male politicians in ill-fitting suits, these highly spun individuals seem un-able to actively encourage the younger person to mark their 'X' on the ballot paper by aiming their policies and manifestos squarely at the 'Grey Vote'. The old political idealists finally died out when Tony Benn left the building; sure he might not have been much of a sucess but at least he had a belief in issues important to him and didn't sell his soul down the river to gain some fleeting power. There are no more Tony Benns, what we're left with is buffoons like Boris who play to an audience, pretending to be a loveable rogue. Boris for Prime Minister - god help us.

'This machine kills Fascist' wrote Woody Guthrie on his guitar. Just maybe It's about time that statement was reloaded onto instruments everywhere.



North Korea announces all male members of the population must have the same haircut as their leader

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The Broadstairs Jelly Baby fiend from page 3



A terrible sight to behold on a Broadstairs railway bridge. Shocked local residents awoke to find death on their doorstep. The five victims all came from the same tight knit community. The grandfather, of one of the deceased, a Mr Harry Bo, reported that his family were left totally speechless. What sort of individual would commit jellycide by the railroad tracks? If you think know the Broadstairs Jelly baby fiend e-mail Broadie crime-stoppers at thebroadie@googlemail.com. There's a sherbert 'Dibdab' waiting for anyone who can give information that results in a successful prosecution.

Friendly Fiona Wins the day



Well done Fiona and crew, a great day for Broadstairs and Helter Skelter

Fiona Crawford owner at the Broadstairs soft play and café with Liberis CEO Paul Mildenstein on the day they found out that Helter Skelter had been voted Britain's Friendliest Business.

Broadstairs Spring Fair

Saturday April 19th 10am - 5pm Sunday April 20th 10am - 5pm Monday April 21st 10am - 5pm

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The Powell-Cotton Museum

The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens in Birchington has been shortlisted from 350 hopeful museums around Britain to just 5 finalists competing for the UK's most inspiring museum 2014. As the only Kent museum shortlisted, they are asking for Kent's vote to help to secure the title for the county!

The Powell-Cotton Museum is home to one of the most outstanding natural history collections, recently televised on BBC2 Collectaholics 23rd March 2014. With an international reputation for the quality of its specimens and its commitment to using those collections for education, science and research, this museum is truly a national treasure. The historic Quex Gardens are currently enjoying a period of restoration and investment and are a hidden gem just now being discovered. Director, Karen Botha is delighted that the Museum, House and Gardens has been shortlisted to the last 5 museums saying "This is a tribute to the museum Trustees who are unfailingly supportive, and to our staff and volunteers who work so hard to ensure that all who visit us learn a little about the cultures and natural history of the countries represented in the museum, and having had a wonderful time exploring the house and gardens. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team". The Guardian Culture Pros Network has teamed up once again with the annual Museums + Heritage Awards to launch a search for the UK's most inspiring museum or heritage visitor attraction of the past year. Last year's winner was the Grant Museum of Zoology. But who should win this year? The winning attraction will gain the recognition of its peers and visiting public alike.

Voting closes at midnight on Friday 11 April 2014, with the winner

announced at the Museums + Heritage Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 14 May.

Visit www.quexmuseum.org to cast your vote.

Tel: 01843 842168

Email: enquiries@quexmuseum.org

Egg-Stravaganza for Easter in Ramsgate

Over this Easter holiday, there will be plenty of activity to enjoy in Ramsgate. There's the LOOPING THE LOOP festival of contemporary live art – it's live, local and yours for the taking – with performances involving breakdance, a beauty queen and her bassett hound and baseball as well as street theatre. The monthly HANDMADE FAIR is on Easter Saturday 19 April and shops around town are joining together to have an Independent Easter with Indie Retail.

From 5 – 19 April there will be an Egg-Stravaganza Easter egg hunt around the town's shops, cafés and restaurants. A family-friendly fun day of entertainment and the very important prize-giving of donated eggs will be on Saturday 19 April in Charlotte and Albert Courts, off York Street in the centre of town. As a charming area surrounded by cafes, restaurant, micro-pub and shops, it's a great place to while away Easter Saturday! There's also an Easter Bonnet competition open for anyone of any age to enter. It's all traditional fun and entertainment, playing to what Ramsgate does so well, providing an honest, friendly seaside experience, with good value and good heart.

Any shops wanting to take part will be given posters and the materials for the hunt. We'd love to hear from anyone willing to donate eggs as prizes! We'd also welcome performers who'd like to take part on 19 April. For all details, please contact kylaxp@hotmail.com or call Suzy, the Town Promoter, on 07939 542990



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No s'UPRISE'

It was no surprise to those of us gathered at The Council Chamber, in Margate, that Uprise, the contractor developing Vere Road was granted permission to remove condition 7 from the planning application. This gives them the right to close the site for the duration of the build. The expected date of completion is December 2014. In order for them to get the right to ban the much used access route, through to the allotments, amenity land and sea front they used the health and safety card. Once this card has been waved about the easiest option for the council is to agree with them despite the fact that the planning officers had originally believed that it was possible to keep the route open during the build. Despite the fact that there has been quite a lot of public disquiet with how the whole thing has been managed only 2 members admitted visiting the site prior to the meeting. One of whom Councillor Hayden admitted an error in the councils handling of the application. He stated that the council should have been more robust in drawing up the conditions. For this he at least apologized not that helps the hundreds of people who are inconvenienced but perhaps shows some thing else. Councillor Binks also visited and was surprised by the hostility she encountered from Uprise when she offered 10 different options which would give either access or limited access during the build.

From the beginning of the build in January it appeared obvious that Uprise were determined to have their way as it is so much easier for them to close off the area. Uprise are an out of town company who seemingly have no interest in the needs of our local community. Isle Homes, the developer, who are local, seem to have no influence in how Uprise manage the site.

A local allotment holder we spoke to summed it up as such. "We can only hope that when Uprise pack up and leave town the buildings they leave behind are better than their public relations".

Yvonne Gardner









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More Events.....

9th May 7.30pm EARLY SUMMER QUIZ @ CRAMPTON TOWER HALL Broadstairs & St. Peter's Chamber of Commerce 'Early Summer Quiz', teams of 4-8 welcome. £5 Bring your own food and drink 25th May CHARITY DOG SHOW @ VICTORIA GARDENS Dog show at Victoria Gardens, Broadstairs raising funds for Guide Dogs/Dogs Trust and Cinnamon Trust.

Refreshments and trade stands as well as representation from the three charities.

Full information and schedule on or ring 07774 619019 31st May 9.30am HARBOUR WALLBANGER RACE HQ - BROADSTAIRS **PAVIION**

Harbour Wallbanger -7km race on the beach from Viking Bay, Broadstairs to Ramsgate Harbour and back.

Profits from the race going to Ramsgate Lifeboat

7th June 7.30pm WHEELS AND FINS SUMMER SHAKEDOWN @ THE **PAVILION**

Building of the success of the last two years of Wheels and Fins Festivals and the huge turnout for the Christmas party we will be bringing you a summer pre festival party. This will also be an opportunity for us to release the band lists and events for the 2014 Wheels and Fins Festival.

14th -20th June BROADSTAIRS DICKENS FESTIVAL @ A VARIETY OF **VENUES AROUND THE TOWN**

In 1937, to commemorate the centenary of the author's first visit, Gladys Waterer, the then resident of Dickens House, conceived the idea of putting on a production of David Copperfield and of having people about the town in Victorian dress to publicise it.

Thus the festival was born and, with the exception of the years of World War 2, has been held annually in the third week of June ever since. All details of events available nearer the time on their website



There's going to be a toyshop in town......Hooray! Just on the corner of Chandos Road and York Street where the doll's house shop used to be. We'd love to tell you more about it but sadly just haven't had time to catch up with 'Ashleigh' whose the fine lady in charge. We'll hopefully have more for you next time.

Further on down the road a bit is Serendipity, a very nice Antiques and Retro shop. Therein is a world of one off pieces and designs of yesteryear, very now and very in. Go take a look.

There is also going to be a new Micro-pub in St Peters in the old yard behind Nobles Funeral Directors. (No jokes about stiff drinks please) The name. 'The Yard of Ale'. Hopefully open by Easter.

The Chiapinis Ice Cream, parlour in York Street is undergoing a bit of a refit as they're intending to serve alcohol too

There's been a few fallen by the wayside in the past couple of months. 'Well suited', 'Blackburns' and 'Esme's to name three. Hopefully they won 't stay empty long

Oh and last but not least, we'll be getting a new Chippy where the Victorian Tearooms were.

All Human life is here......

Before anyone gets their knickers in a knot it's not another have a go at Westwood Cross article. We were having a discussion over a couple of Shepherd Neames finest just the other day and the topic of shopping came up, to be more precise, the subject of 'where' was the shopping experience of choice for those few sat around the table. I'd like to report it was Margate or Ramsgate or even Broadstairs High street, but unfortunately (and realistically), none of the above. I guess that means Westwood won? You may assume. Well no, wrong again.

The top shopping destination within a reasonable distance was without doubt our very own local City centre, Canterbury.

Why Canterbury?

Closeness, Architecture, Range of shops, Parking facilities, Culture, Arts and Museums, Buskers, Street food, a mix of new and old catering for all tastes, and finally and perhaps most importantly one person suggested the phrase made famous by a Anthony Burgess (albeit cut short) 'All life is here' The trouble with the local High Street is it no longer has the big named stores and retail that Westwood Cross has. Nor the money to tidy up the frayed edges. And the trouble with Westwood Cross is it doesn't have what the local High Street has, for no matter how it is marketed it is not a High Street, there's no community, no independent retail, no arts or culture, no real buskers, just a shrine to consumerism without the soul and vibrancy of the High Street. There's a lack of life at Westwood, there's nothing there that reminds you that there is more to your day than large neon signs and 20% off offers, even the homeless are moved on from Westwood. What one lacks the other has and vice-versa.

It's mostly quite a polished act wandering around the Streets of our nearest City, and as a town we could learn a lot. All life certainly co-exists quite happily in Canterbury, where a visit to the big named shops can often take in ten minutes listening to some truly fantastic street musicians, followed by lunch at an independent vegetarian Café, a wander round a heritage site or museum followed by a hot drink and cake at one well known Coffee chain. All the time surrounded by the largest mix of people from all walks of life that you're likely to interact with.

When we consider our local High Street we really need to be realistic, we're not yet going to be getting big named stores back in the locality, that is not until they realise that local convenience shopping for goods other than food or provisions could easily transpose itself back to smaller stores, exactly how the likes of Tescos Metro moved back into the towns they helped ruin in the first place with their out of town Mega Marts and dubious marketing methods.

We've really got to learn to play to our strengths, yeah sure another Coffee shop is nice, but really, I'd much prefer a shop we hadn't got already, something that would make me want to use the local High street, shops that drag you in and keep you there long enough to use the local Café, Pub or Coffee shop. I notice there is to be a new 'Toy shop' in town, and 'damn good show' I say. That's the sort of shop we need, the trouble is we don't need just one, we need another twenty independent shops all opening up together, all with their own unique selling point and browsability. More antique and bric-a-brac, kitchenware, clothes, craft, art, vintage and retro. Once we have that we wont need the big names because people will come here because the town has more to offer, we won't need to look longingly at the queue of cars waiting to park next to the outwardly facing hoardings gravitating the shopper ever closer. In the past there have been moves to 'Guilt' the shopper back to the High street with 'TDC' sponsored loyalty cards and 'Save our High Street' slogans. Do you think they work? No, neither do I. What your local shopper wants and needs is choice, and a desire to visit. All the local shop owner needs do is attract like-minded other entrepreneurs. Offer that choice and shopping experience and give the very best service they can. It's that simple. It's been achieved in other towns and could so Kalli easily be achieved here.



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Broadstairs Folk Week 8 -15th August 2014

This is the last Broadstairs Folk Week in Broadstairs; the festival is moving to Quex Park."

ONLY JOKING - BUT THAT GOT YOUR ATTENTION.......

If Folk Week organisers had a pound for every time people stopped them in the street or the pub and repeated this rumour, then the festival wouldn't have to apply for grants, sponsorship or organize street collections!

With the launch of the new Broadstairs Folk Week website, here are some facts about the festival:

Broadstairs Folk Week is an independent, not for profit, registered charity that organizes a folk festival in the town. It is not a council-run event.

Folk Week fund-raises in many different ways to keep the festival in Broadstairs and also applies to the local authorities for grants and to local and national businesses for sponsorship.

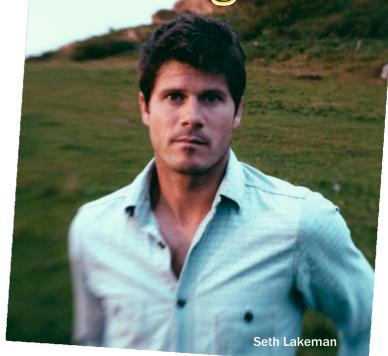
•Folk Week works closely with the council and the police and is very grateful for their support in ensuring that the festival is family-friendly and safe.

The vision for the future is to continue working together to keep the festival welcoming, friendly and financially able to stay in the town – the Folk Week organisers are not interested in moving from

Broadstairs but need support from a variety of sources to stay put. There are a whole host of events going on throughout the town from early in the morning till late at night – the website is being updated from now on with new information.

Festival Tickets are now on sale for a day, weekend or week – with or

without camping. You can book online, over the phone with a credit card or download a booking form and send it to us with a cheque.





Individual event tickets will be on sale from May 12 - online, by phone or from the Festival office.

Headliners this year include Seth Lakeman, Bella Hardy (who won BBC Radio 2 Folk Singer of the year this year), Dick Gaughan, the Folk Week Patron himself – Tim Edey, Peter Knight's Gigspanner, the Moulettes – there are hundreds of musicians and dancers poised to descend on Broadstairs and if you visit the website – there are links through to individual websites to sample the live acts. It's a great way of discovering new favourites.

The Big Parade was such a success last year with families lining the streets to enjoy it and it's returning this year on Saturday 9th. In fact, if you're looking for family-friendly events – there are loads in the festival – some completely free of charge. Clarence the Dragon makes his regular appearance at the Hobby Horse Club every day and generations have grown up enjoying the free music, song and dance and the peculiar antics of the Hooden Horses. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in the Young Folk workshops and a special Children's Show with Hand to Mouth Theatre performing Piggery Jokery – a classic.

The Souvenir Programme will come out in June and have all the details of the pub gigs – plus hour by hour details of each day of the festival so you can get out your highlighter pen and work out how you are going to get from the Concert marquee to the Pavilion via Crampton Tower and the Sailing Club without missing a note!

Next year – 2015 – is Broadstairs Folk Week's 50th anniversary – we're planning for it already – but in the meantime – we hope you enjoy this year's Folk Week and the long, hot summer with record temperatures (or is that another from the Broadstairs rumourville?)

www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk info@broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk



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Samaritans offer 24 hour, confidential, telephone, email and face-toface support to those who are distressed or suicidal, lonely, depressed or simply want to talk over something that's troubling them. Please ring 01227 457777 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Can you help US?

You can join us at Canterbury Samaritans as a Listener or as a Support Volunteer.

Listening Volunteers talk to callers experiencing many forms of distress and anxieties.

Support Volunteers provide a valuable service helping to promote our service to the local community and raising funds through publicity, local events and sponsored activities.

If you are interested in joining us please ring 01227 457777 or apply online at Samaritans.org and click on 'apply to volunteer'.

Information Kiosk

Broadstairs Information Kiosk is located on the seafront behind the **Royal Albion Hotel.**

We are currently looking for volunteers who are able to spare a couple of hours a week on a regular basis betweee April and October The role of the kiosk volunteer is very important, your smile and warm welcome may be a visitors first impression of the town. Your friendly approach, plus the information you provide will help visitors enjoy their stay and may encourage them to recommend Broadstairs and make a return visit themselves.

If you would like to become a volunteer or would like more information please message vai facebook or email:

info@broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk

Money for old tarmac

There's a bit of a 'to-do' in Albion Street Car-Park, where TDC have recently increased the price of the yearly permit by approximately eleven percent. Yes, eleven percent when inflation runs at around two percent, wage increases struggle on one percent and base saving rates fail miserably to even reach three percent.

The only things that have perhaps increased by eleven percent are MPs salaries and councillors waistbands.

Vere Road

So the footpath is going to stay shut. TDC decided that due to that all encompassing, excuse to stop just about anything, 'Health & Safety' reasons. Allotment users and walkers can just jolly well go the other way. Now I know a thing or two about Health and Safety and work related problems, The major chemical firm I once worked for looked at it like this. You take the problem, namely 'keeping continued access to the site' and then you find ways to do the job you need to perform without disrupting the issue you are attempting to solve. The problem always without fail was solved, usually quite simply. You just have to have the motivation to succeed in the first place. And that's what I'm guessing is missing. Sure it could have involved extra costs, but surely that should be a bourne by the company making the profit from the inconvenience caused.



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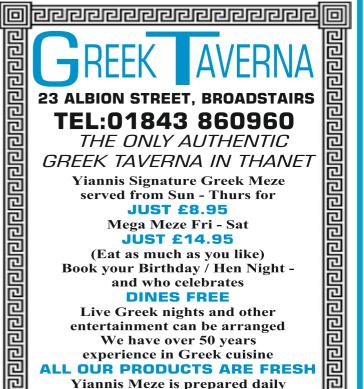
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Mrs Wally's pasta fix

So here we are again, Spring. What a lovely time of year. It's nice to see the trees in bud, hear the birds calling for mates and feel the warmth of the sun on our faces again at last. It won't be long until we have gardens and allotments full of the new season's tender delights but until then it's all a bit thin on the ground. This issue it's all about pasta, we don't eat it that often but it's fast becoming a weekly occurrence – I'm sure it's because it's easy to rustle up a dinner at this time of year out of store cupboard and fridge staples and a few bits of veg. I have no idea what shape of pasta should be used – we tend to just have Fusilli (twists), Penne (tubes), Orzo (rice), Linguine and Spaghetti in our cupboards and I just pick whatever I think might suit. This will not make purists happy but, these dishes are most definitely not Italian, nor are they traditional – they are just quick easy meals to make when you get in from a long day at work and a lazy one for a Sunday lunch.

Spicy Chorizo and vegetable bake

I made a dry ratatouille to go with lamb chops and purple sprouting broccoli (thanks for that Jimbo Norman – it was delicious) on Sunday and made enough to have plenty leftover to make a quick dinner midweek - Spicy Chorizo and vegetable bake. I've shared the ratatouille recipe before but here it is again in case you missed it.

Step 1 -

Ratatouille – you'll need a couple of frying pans, some olive or rapeseed oil - Quex barn do a lovely local one – and the following veg – 1 x Aubergine 1cm cubes, 2 x courgette chunky slices, 1 x red pepper thin slices, 1 x tub chestnut mushrooms quartered, 1 x large onion thinly sliced. Cherry tomatoes – a punnet. Basil, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper

Put pan 1 on a low heat with a splosh of oil and add the onion to caramelise slowly on a very low heat.

Put pan 2 on a high heat with a splosh of oil and fry the veg one by one until slightly browned and starting to soften, putting the veg in a baking dish as it's done.

Once all the veg is in the dish, scatter the cherry toms and softened onion over, crush a couple of garlic cloves, on top add a handful of chopped basil and thyme, cover and cook in the oven for 30mins on Gas 5.

Step 2

- Pasta Bake – you'll need 400g fusilli, 1 x chorizo picante, a block of feta, a tin of chopped toms, a splosh of red wine and the leftover ratatouille and grated parmesan to top.

Put your pasta in a pan of boiling water for 10 mins until al dente, drain and pour back into the stock pot. Fry off the chorizo, discarding the fat left in the pan, cube your feta and mix together with your veg, add the tomatoes and the wine there mix into the pasta. Put in a baking dish and cover with a sprinkling of parmesan before baking at gas 5 for 20 mins.

Pasta with roasted squash and hazelnut

pesto

I am always going on about squashes. I love them all but my absolute favourite is the Coquina squash. This is an alternative way to serve it and make it the star of the show.

1 x large squash - coquina, crown prince or butternut, 1 x wedge of Ossau Iraty or Old Amsterdam cheese cubed, a sprig of sage, a sprig of rosemary, salt pepper, 100ml or so of olive oil and a handful of hazelnuts or almonds.

Step 1

Give your squash a good scrub, halve, de-seed and chop into 2cm chunks, drizzle with olive oil and chilli and stick in a hot oven (gas 6 or 7) to roast until nice and soft.

Step 2

Whilst your squash is roasting, you need to whizz up a nice pesto go with it. First you need to toast the nuts, until they roast a little, then put into a food processor along with the cubed cheese, strip the herbs from their stalks and add the leaves only, and start to whizz adding the oil as you go until it forms a nice thick pesto.

Step 3

All you need to do is cook up some pasta, and stir through chunks of squash with a generous dollop of pesto. The pesto stores in the fridge for a little while as long as there is a layer of olive oil on top.

Continued

Sunday lunch pasta

This is a real showstopper. You roast a leg of lovely spring lamb directly on a shelf in the oven whilst a baking tray full of pasta and sauce on the shelf below catches the juices.

1 x leg of lamb – carefully trimmed of excess fat, 1 x 500g packet of orzo pasta, 1 x onion diced, a couple of tins of chopped tomatoes, chopped mint, chopped thyme, crushed garlic, salt and pepper.

You need a deep baking dish for this. All you need to do is put the tomatoes, onions, herbs and garlic in the baking dish and place on the middle shelf, pop your lamb on the top shelf and roast for about 3 hours on a really low heat – gas mark 2. Check every half an

hour or so and if the sauce is getting too gloopy add water to thin it down. After 3 hours, take the lamb out of the oven and leave somewhere warm to rest.

Add a mug full of water and all of the orzo to the baking dish and give it a good stir before popping back in the oven. The pasta will soak up the juices in the pan so keep an eye on it and give it a stir and add a bit more water every 10 minutes to stop it going dry and

sticking. Once the pasta is cooked, all you need to do is carve the lamb roughly – we end up with big chunks of it and carry to the centre of the dinner table. The pasta will have taken on all the lovely flavour of the lamb and all you need to do is help yourself to a spoonful of heaven. This is great with a Greek salad on the side and a bottle or 2 of wine – obviously!

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The completely untrue and fictitious story of successive British governments attempts to swap Thanet for Gibralta

Presented as a pile of poppycock over numerous paragraphs by Cavendish Fairfax *

* Albert Philpott is away. Detained in custody following his reported kitten culling tour of the Isle of Bute.

Newly declassified fictitious top secret files, released by the Spanish Government, have revealed what many of us on this Island have known about for years; namely, that successive British Governments have attempted to swap Thanet for the rock of Gibraltar.....

Many of us were aware of the rumours. Many of us had heard the whispers from behind the closed doors of those in the know; or seen a shadowy figure wearing a sombrero and clicking castanets in the corridors of power. Indeed, when I told the editor that I was submitting this article, he recounted the tale of his father, replanting his allotment as an olive grove in preparation for the day. But it is not until one reads these newly declassified files that one really understands the numerous attempts that were made, and ultimately the reason they failed.......

The earliest recorded approach by British Government in this whole dastardly saga was in 1698, a full 6 years before we even captured Gibraltar. On this occasion we seem to have requested swapping Thanet for 5 donkeys, a selection of lace fans and three barrels of olive oil. Having studied the files I can see no response to this proposal, nor any other related correspondence. Following this there seems to have been a number of years of silence, before the British Government started with the approaches again. However between 1850 and 1950 the British appear to have made another 16 approaches, all of which seem to have been totally ignored by the Spanish Government.

The final entries in the Spanish files are a report on a proposed bull-fighting ring in Westwood Cross, and a memo requesting designs for both the Spanish Thanet stamp, and Thanet peseta

Before we look further into these files, let me address why Britain would consider ceding Thanet. To answer this one has to understand that successive British governments always believed that Gibraltar would ultimately lead them to war with Spain; a war we could ill afford, or possibly even lose. So the government was always keen to find a solution, and the only obvious solution was a land swap. Thanet becomes attractive because access to it can be easily controlled and with a bit of polishing it may be possible to 'sell' to the Spanish.

All of this leads to the real key attempt to Swap Thanet, and do you know what? They nearly pulled it off.......

In 1972 the Edward Heath administration considered the possibility that war between Britain and Spain, over Gibraltar, was a real possibility. Cross referencing the Spanish files with files obtained under the freedom of information act from the British Government

reveal that the government secretly set in motion a plan they had drawn up and called Operation Polish The Turd.......

Basically, the British Government put in motion a series of secret initiatives that would prepare the island to be handed over to the Spanish Government. All departments of the government were activated; from the Department of Parks and Recreations (who secretly owned Ramsgate's Westcliffe Boating Lake, and Monkey House. Here they experimented on finding the perfect breeding pairs to be released wild in Cliftonville, to compensate the Spanish for the loss of the Monkeys on Gibraltar); through to the Department of Agriculture (who had drawn up secret plans to disguise the cabbage fields as lemon groves, and to blame the cabbage smell on people living in Folkestone). Indeed, even the Met Office was drawn into the deception, for it is here that they myth of Thanet's micro-climate was conceived. Misinformation that we still believe to this day.

Better prepared than ever before, the British Government made their move in 1972. The Spanish files report that the initial contact was made at that year's European Song Contest, where Wogan, acting as a secret intermediary, passed a note to Nelly; from Nelly, Tim and Tony (Spanish entrants, noted for their song "Someone's pinched my maracas').

Spain, now ruled by the notorious General Franco appeared more receptive than previously. Maybe they too were scared of war, maybe Franco feared his own internal position was in danger, or maybe he fancied a pint down Margate with all his family...... whatever caused this more positive response from Spain is not recorded in the files and was probably only ever whispered into the ears of men, whose ears have subsequently been cut off....... In 1973 Spain and Britain formed a secret working party to evaluate the feasibility of the proposal. Wogan was no longer

involved in the affair, and the working party seems to have been mediated by Nicholas Parsons (This strange choice may have been made due to Parsons capability to speak Spanish. and to get the Spanish to talk for 60 seconds without hesitation or repetition). Representatives of the Spanish government visited the island



Spains General Franco (Right) visiting Dreamland on a weekend off from saluting. Here he can be seen with a Bavarian friend attempting Margate's version of the Lambeth Walk (See previous issue)

secretly during the summer of 1973; and generally they seemed very pleased with the progress and overall proposal. The now defunct Broadstairs Bugle newspaper for August 17th 1973 notes that 'The council have muted the idea of renaming Poorhole Lane as Ole Alley' and 'there is wild rumour that the Thanet Loop will be replaced with a horse drawn cart'. Both of these stories seem to have raised concerns with many Islanders, who wrote to the Bugle, demanding that the Government denies or confirms the rumours circulating. It seems that now the Spanish where keener on the deal than many of the locals would be.

The final entries in the Spanish files are a report on a proposed bull-fighting ring in Westwood Cross, and a memo requesting designs for both the Spanish Thanet stamp, and Thanet peseta. And this is where it all goes wrong and the whole proposal of the swap comes to an end......

The Spanish files, the British Files not even the Bugle; no one seems to explain why Spain suddenly and instantly pulled out of the negotiations...........

But reading between the lines, I believe I can now answer this mystery. Having researched the Spanish press and interviewed survivors of the Franco regime,

I can safely tell you why Spain pulled out......

The problem they discovered was that the outline of Thanet, now sitting before the Spanish on prototype Thanet stamps and Pesetas, bore an absolutely uncanny resemblance to Franco picking his nose........

Outraged, insulted and feeling humiliated, Franco withdrew from all negotiations and killed any member of his staff who knew of

the negotiations or saw the stamps and money. Never to be spoken of again, if it had not been that Franco died some three years later, and some 40 years later had not the Spanish Government declassified these secrets.......

So what did us people of Thanet get from all of this..... Well, not a lot really. Just a 1972 by-law that states 'Margate beach must always have at least 5 donkeys on it

at any time', and the 'micro-climate'......

The Thanet Peseta, The Cliftonville Chimp and the hanging olive groves of Garlinge were I'm afraid all lost to history.

Cavendish Fairfax

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Saturday 3rd May at 7.30pm

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With Lance Pierson – Actor, Belinda Yates – Soprano, Heather Chamberlain – Keyboards.

Celebrate Shakespeare's amazing range of work in this the 450th anniversary year of the Bard's birth.

Tickets: £12 paid in advance/friends or £14 on the doors.

Sunday 4th May at 7pm

Saturday 10th May at 7.30pm
Baroque Theatre Company Presents the Comedy

"UP POMPEII"

By Miles Tredinnick. Directed by Adam Morley. Produced by Claire Bibby Based on the original characters devised by Talbot Rothwell and Sid Colin for the Frankie Howerd .BBC comedy, this hilarious romp through ancient Pompeii brings back all the television favourites in this full-length play. As

Lurcio attempts to deliver his prologue and begin proceedings, he's quickly caught up in the myriad of liaisons in all quarters of his master's house. Why does Ludicrus not leave for the Senate meeting in Rome? Why does his wife return so quickly from the country? Who will take care of the escaped slave firl. Voluntus, and will Nausius's love poetry.

of the escaped slave girl, Voluptua, and will Nausius's love poetry improve? Whilst growing chaos ensues, an increasing rumbling is heard in the distance – what could that possibly be? A riot from start to finish! Tickets: £12.50 paid in advance/friends or £14.50 doors.

Saturday 14th June to Wednesday 18th June.
Nightly at 7.30pm, except Sunday at 4pm.
The Broadstairs Dicken's Festival present a Community Production of

"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD"

Adapted by and Directed by John Goodrum.

All seats unreserved and available from the STTC Box Office, Dickens
Festival Kiosk and on line from www.Broadbiz.co.uk
Tickets: £10 adults, £5 children paid in advance.
£12 adults, £6 children on the doors.

Saturday 21st June at 7pm.

"DAVID COPPERFIELD - THE CONCLUSION"

Performed by the STTC Juniors under the Direction of Kim Bourne. "We being where we left "The young David Copperfield" behind. Davey, now a young man, embarks on the next part of his journey, discovering both new characters and along the way, some rather memorable ones from his past." Tickets: £7 adults, £5 children.

Sunday 4th May at 7pm Gimme ABBA presents the

"40 YEARS OF ABBA TOUR!"

£13 paid in advance/Friends, £15 doors.



Wednesday 28th May to Saturday 31st May. Nightly at 7.30pm with Matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm. Ramsgate Operatic Society presents

"PURE

IMAGINATION'

A journey through musicals.Tickets: £10 paid in advance/friends, £12 doors. (A Community Production)



Friday 16th May at 7.30pm COMPANY GAVIN ROBERTSON present

BOND

An unauthorised James Bond parody! Tickets: £12.50 paid in advance/Friends, £14.50 doors.

Saturday 24th May at 7.45pm

"PHIL BEER"

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Phil Beer is one of the most popular ambassadors for acoustic roots music. A dazzling instrumentalist, he is perhaps best known as a top flight fiddler and plays in the all-star line-up, Feast of Fiddles. But his skills don't stop there, he also plays slide, Spanish and tenor guitar, mandocello, viola, mandolin and South American cuatro, not to mention contributing rich

vocals.

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"Claras Gift"

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Robert Schumann – music. Adelbert von Chamisso – poetry
Steve Trafford – new English translations. With Elizabeth Mansfield: mezzo
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Glorious music, ridiculous words! Among contemporary listeners this is the near
universal response to Schumann's famous song cycle. But in Clara's Gift, a very
different interpretation is uncovered and celebrated, as the story of Robert
Schumann and his beloved Clara unfolds. New English translations of the songs
are interwoven with spoken passages from their love letters, from Janice
Galloway's biographical novel Clara, and from Elissa Guralnick's essay 'Ah Clara, I
am not worthy of your love'. The evening culminates in a complete performance
of this marvellous work, sung in the original German.
Tickets: £12.50 paid in advance/friends, £14.50 doors

Sunday 22 June at 3pm.

"THANET LIGHT ORCHESTRA"

in concert.

Tickets: £8 paid in advance/Friends, £10 on the doors. Children half price. (A Community Production)

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to record their memories of The Great War. Sat 26th 10-4pm

A day of batik – printing & dyeing MAY

Sat 3rd 10 - 1.30pm Illustration Workshop - storyboards Sat 3rd 10-4pm

> Stained Glass day Sat 17th 10-3.30pm

A day of pen & ink - 'The Descriptive Line' Sat 17th 10-4pm

Illustration – Children's books day Sat 24th 10-4pm

Floristry – floral cupcakes day

JUNE Sat 7th 10-4pm

Stained Glass introduction Sat 21st 10-4pm

Floristry - Contemporary Flowers Day

Crampton Tower

The following community based groups have regular meetings at Crampton Tower Museum:

Monday - Thanet Archaeological Society and Broadstairs Victorians

Tues - Victorian Sewing Bees

Wed - Stage Door (Children's Theatre group), Crampton Scalextric Club and Phoenix Quilters

Thurs - Timaru Slot-racing Car Club

Friday - Kent Music Youth Orchestra and Ramsgate and District Model Engineering Club

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES From Nov 1st to the third Sat in March, the museum will be open weekends only between 1pm & 4pm. From the third Sun in March, we open daily from 2pm - 5pm.

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26 Mon LANDSLIDE COUNTRY BAND



JUNE

1 Sun KENT COASTAL CONCERT BAND 8 Sun INVICTA CONCERT BAND
*15 Sun 3.00pm- 4.30pm BAE SYSTEMS BAND 22 Sun CANTERBURY BRASS BAND 29 Sun EAST PECKHAM SILVER BAND JULY 6 Sun SNOWDOWN COLLIERY BAND 13 Sun t.b.c. KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING A 100th anniversary commemoration, in music and song, of the outbreak of WWI

20 Sun KENT POLICE BAND 27 Sun BETTESHANGER COLLIERY BAND AUGUST

3 Sun BIRCHINGTON SILVER BAND *16 Sat 2.00pm- 4.00pm BURT BUTLER'S JAZZ PILGRIMS

17 Sun UK PAPER BAND
24 Sat FAVERSHAM MISSION BAND 25 Mon
EK1 31 Sun THANET CONCERT BAND





THE Intolerant Wife Food for everyone—for those with or without food intolerances and allergies

- Licensed Café -

Breakfast - Snacks - Lunches Homemade Daily Specials Cream & Afternoon Teas Cakes freshly baked

Open seven days a week

- Celebration Cakes baked to order -
 - Parties & Functions catered for -
 - Retail & Online Shop -

Rosie Lea Tea & Accessories Artisan & Belgium Chocolates

30 High Street Broadstairs

@intolerantwife
f theintolerantwife.co.uk
for table bookings t 01843 309839 or e-mail
thetoleranthusband@theintolerantwife.co.uk

Food for everyone

definition: (1) food suitable for everyone (2) a place where food is available or cooked to order according to whether or not the customer has special dietary requirements such as food intolerance or allergy, eg dairy-free or gluten-free, or follows a vegetarian or vegan diet