

For Broadstairs by Broadstairs

60p



THE
Broadie

Issue 35



www.thebroadie.co.uk

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Hey, why not take a look at our typo's, they're free to view, there's at least one on every page, and we'll give you a biscuit if you can find them all. Not a Chocolate Hobnob though; they're all mine.

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Your letters

Doing some lines

Dear Broadie.
Clearly a slow day on line painting duty gave one employee plenty of time to make good around the edges. Just in case anyone was thinking of parking their toy cars anywhere near the steps; Don't.

Regards
Simon Gerrard



It all adds up

Dear Broadie, here's a few figures your readership might be interested in. Perhaps UKIPs Nigel Farage is specifically targeting Thanet because he knows where many stand politically. In case you're interested here's a rough breakdown of sales of newspapers in Broadstairs at one newsagents in town. Amounts per week including Sunday equivalent newspaper

Daily Mail:	1000 copies	Telegraph:	500
Times:	380	Sun:	350
Express:	225	Mirror:	220
Guardian :	130	The I:	120
Independent:	18		

So there you have it. I'll leave you to draw your own conclusions from the fact that the Daily Mail and Daily Express sales combined outweigh the more liberal titles by about ten to one (Many thanks to Victory News for numbers)

George
Broadstairs

On The Buses

Are your readers aware that there is a new bus service in Broadstairs. We've found it very useful as it delivers you right to the St Peters Road side of QEQM hospital. The number 40 runs every half hour picking up from Fairfield Road, Gladstone Road and Pierremont Hall and drops at the old side of the hospital, it's ever so useful for Out-patient appointments. I only mention it as it doesn't seem to be getting much use yet as nobody appears to know about it. As they say 'Use it or lose it', I think if people know its there it'll become very popular. Many thanks Broadie for sharing this

Mary
Broadstairs

Fight that Flab

Sir/madam.
In Waterstone at Westwood Cross the other day I noticed a section named 'Thanet Chart'. In top place at number one was a book titled '100 Ways to Fight Flab'. What exactly are 'Waterstones' trying to say about Thanet?

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Becoming Proficient

On the first week of the summer holidays Vere Road Car Park became the venue for the Road Cycling Proficiency and Test week.

Children who are going up to senior school in September had priority over those who could take their test the following term.

Our voluntary team had been teaching Cycling Proficiency on school

playgrounds for many weeks across the island. Those who failed on the first test could take it again at Vere Road, giving up the first week of the summer holidays.

A crossroad of orange wire and iron supports transformed the tarmac into a road scene with stop signs and traffic lights. One by one I took them through their paces, at the same time reminding the children of the correct position of foot on peddle whilst the other foot remained on the ground, and using the 'Lifesaver' when pulling away from the kerb, there was the 'Hands on Handlebars' instruction after giving a signal when turning right or left and I once remember braking a rule by chalking on the tarmac to show children how to conduct themselves when at a roundabout. At the end of the week all the children took the test, not just the part they might have previously failed and the vast majority passed with flying colours.

I thoroughly enjoyed teaching all the children in the Junior schools across the island with my colleagues, but all good things come to an end eventually.

Kent County Council decided that all future training was to take place under supervision on the open road.

All those memories will soon be under bricks and mortar once the new houses are built in Vere Road car park, so I'd just like to give my thanks to all those children back in the 1980s who took part in the Cycling Proficiency Course and test.

Pam Eggleston

Thanet Disabled Riding Centre gets a boost

Thanet Disabled Riding Centre Chosen as Recipient Charity for the Fosters Law Kent Coastal Marathon

Thanet Disabled Riding Centre has been chosen as the recipient charity for the Fosters Law Kent Coastal Marathon and Half Marathon to be held on Sunday 7th September 2014. The prestigious event, organised by Thanet Roadrunners Athletics Club will see 700 runners compete in a challenging but very scenic coastal route across the beautiful coastline of Thanet.

£1 from every entry will be donated to Thanet Disabled Riding Centre. The centre was set up by Nora Setterfield 38 years ago and is a self contained riding school in the grounds of Maurice House, Broadstairs. The centre caters for approximately 60 disabled people each week, seeing a large proportion coming from local special needs schools, such as The Foreland, Bromstone, St Anthony's and the Royal School for the Deaf in ,Margate.

Debbie Hatt, Race Director for the races said, 'Every year the club votes for a local charity to support. This year we are pleased to choose the Thanet Disabled Riding. The charity does an incredible amount of good for the disabled across Thanet and we are pleased to support them'.

Andrew Barnar, Treasurer for the Thanet Disabled Riding Centre

said, 'We are very appreciative of being chosen as the official charity for this race. Our annual running costs are around £40,000 and these are met entire by generous local support, our own fund raising and nominal riding fees.'

For more details about the fantastic work that the Thanet Disabled Riding Centre does go to: www.tdrc.org.uk

For all enquiries regarding this race, please go to: Fosters Law Kent Coastal Marathon and Half Marathon 2014 (7th September 2014) <http://www.thanetroadrunners.org.uk>, or contact: Email: marathonrace@thanetroadrunners.org.uk

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An Oasis in a troubled land

This sort of dropped in our laps as the last issue was going to the printers, we could have reported on it, however, at the time we didn't really know what to say. Yes words failed us.

When a group of young skaters get together and organise themselves and the local community into action, supply the materials and then build a Skate-park with those materials on long forgotten waste ground you'd imagine that local councillors would be lining up to praise and encourage positive action in the community by the community. Surely this was David Cameron's big society in all its glory. Well, you'd think.

The Little Oasis Skate-park was vandalised by TDC on the grounds of corporate liability, in that they were scared someone would get hurt and then sue the council for negligence. Yes, rather than accept that the Skate-park was lacking slightly on the health and safety front and help those who built it bring it up to spec', they instead sneak about early one morning and bulldoze the lovingly built ramps and destroy the hardstanding whilst nobody was looking .

Presumably TDC will now be taking a bulldozer to any other area that is smooth and flat just in case someone should fall from a wheeled device and become all litigious

So are TDC getting 'all beside themselves' with worry over the idea that little Freddy's parents might sue for millions because little Freddy scuffed his knee? Well possibly, however, little Freddy's parents and the apparent rise of the "Wherever there's blame there's a claim" culture is an out and out myth perpetrated largely by the media who are happy to perpetuate said myth because shock horror headlines sell papers, or the online equivalent.

A government backed study found "No evidence that the system has been flooded with an increasing number of personal injury claims in recent years" and concluded that "the number of claims [had] been relatively stable since at least 1997-1998," the first year for which statistics were available

Janet Paraskeva, then The Law Society's chief executive, commented:

"Ironically, it seems that those who most decry the possibility of a compensation culture are probably responsible for perpetuating the belief that there is one - resulting in more and more of the bizarre decisions by schools and local authorities that journalists are so quick to mock."

Perhaps the truth of the matter is that TDC have found a buyer for the site, which whilst convenient does beg the question; If that is the case why weren't TDC honest about it in the first place? The people responsible for building 'Little Oasis' were fully aware that they could be usurped from their position at any time should an interested party turn up with cash waiting.

In their defence TDC say they are in the process of building three new skate-parks within Thanet, that's 'In the process' as in 'Not started yet'; three skate-parks that will

individually cost more money than they are reasonably likely to recoup quickly from the land where little Oasis skate-park stood. And aren't going to be built with the same community good will and spirit of 'Let's help ourselves rather than wait for a handout'

So what did Little Oasis stand for? Community spirit, Involvement, Outdoor sport, young people of different races and nationalities interacting and looking out for each other. All these things that should have been applauded. To use the excuse of the worries of compensation culture is an insult.

If ever there was an story that shone a light on the utter ridiculousness of factions within TDC, this has got to be it.

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The boys from Broadstairs



What with the centenary of the outbreak of the first world war, you'd imagine there would be a little more information about regarding the names on all those monuments that dot nearly every town and village in Great Britain. Who were these brave souls who laid down their lives in what we so often consider as a meaningless slaughter? Whether the conflict had a greater meaning than the cynics of modern day would have us believe will be debated for ever more, but die they did, and by the tens of thousands.

Local chap Alfred Beeching has been researching the names of those local men set in stone, with clippings taken from the local Thanet newspapers and various other sources, his work has now been compiled into a book.

What is so moving about the names and deaths that appear in the pages is the hope over adversity that is a common theme, a theme that emphasises the British stiff upper lip and the 'Lets get on with it' attitude. From the local lad E. Jarman of the 2nd Buffs who lived at 14 Upton Road, St Peters who joined up aged only 14 years and was only sent home from the frontline after being 'Found out', to Rifleman J Goodey from Baliol Road, Reading Street who was killed by a sniper whilst on his way to get a bath after being at the front line for over a month. Rifleman Goodey had recently written home about being involved in the famous Christmas Day truce, he mentions 'Exchanging cigarettes with the Germans'. Both these stories highlight the heroism of the day and remind us looking on from a century later that these individuals were the same as you or me, perhaps even the kid next door about to start his last year at school. The bravado expressed in the reports back from the front is quite apparent in the earlier months of the war, as Private Bing from Afghan Road, St Peters records in 1914 on rejoining his company after receiving a small wound below the eye; in letters to his wife he "believes the worst blow has been struck and that the war would soon be over". However as months turn into years the language used in the dispatches almost imperceptibly changes as does the frequency of reports of previously wounded men returning to the frontline and thereafter being killed. Many well known local names appear too;

Mr Sherwood Mockett survived after a gunshot wound to the chest in 1917 having previously suffered severe frostbite in 1915. Major Reginald Blackburn of John Street, Broadstairs was killed in September 1918.

Captain Sebag Montefiore died as a result of an explosion in the Dardanelle region on 23rd October 1915.

Rifleman F N Philpott of Richborough Villas, Broadstairs died 3rd July 1915, a soldier who was 'Held in high esteem amongst his colleagues'

Private E Croom of Chapel Place, Broadstairs who was left in a trench taken by the Germans with 'Both feet shot away' announced wounded and missing.

But perhaps one of the saddest entries is Lance Corporal W A Dixon, the eldest son of Mr W Dixon, the principal of Gordon House School, Broadstairs, who joined up a few weeks after the outbreak of hostilities, winning the military medal for conspicuous gallantry in 1917, twice wounded he was killed in action in Flanders on 9th November 1918, just two days before the armistice.

Seeing those names amongst many others written down and realising that there are members of these families still residing in the locality does bring home the enormity of the loss of WW 1.

If you have any interest in local family history or WW1 in general you should take a look at Alf Beechings book, It's just been indexed and re-formatted and has been given a bit of a make-over, not that this really matters as it's the content that's that's the real interest. It's an important slice through of the great war which is soon to be followed up by a further book reprinting letters from local men on the frontline to wives and loved ones back home

Alfs book has clearly taken a great deal of time and research, I strongly suggest you take a look; perhaps flick through it when you have a quiet moment, it will certainly change the way in which you view that fourteen year old kid next door whose great grandad once went to war one morning instead of going to school.

Available at Victory News, Broadstairs

Death of Sergeant Wish 12/06/1915

The sad news of the death of Sergeant Wish, 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action on May 18th was officially confirmed on Friday. The younger son of Mr & Mrs E.R. Wish of Blagdon, Edge End Road, Broadstairs, he was only twenty four years of age and went to the front in December. Before his business career took him to London 'Charlie' Wish was a popular member of the local Cricket Club. His cheerful and kindly nature and fine sporting qualities gained for him, many firm friends to whom his loss in the fullness of his strength will come as a sad blow. Every sympathy will be extended to Mr & Mrs Wish whose elder son is in a POW camp in Germany. A letter from second Lieutenant Bone informed them that Sergeant Wish suffered no pain and died the death of a gallant soldier serving his King and Country on the field of battle

St Peters. Missing

Mrs C E Emptage of St Peters has received news that her husband, described by his Officer as "A Gallant Soldier" is missing. Private Emptage, joined the army in September 1914 and served in the earlier stages of the war with a regiment of Lancers and with the Royal Flying Corps. After being wounded he saw further service in France with the Warwickshire regiment. He was formerly of the employ of Mr H B Bowie of Elmwood Farm

St Peters. Captured while wounded. 12/06/1915

Wounded in the head, back and shoulders Private A White, 2nd Buffs whose home is at Upton, St Peters, is now a POW at Elberfeld Germany. Wounded on May 3rd, he lay on the battlefield until the next day when he was taken prisoner and after remaining in a Belgian hospital for three days was sent to Germany. Private White, who is thirty nine years of age went to the front in April having been on the reserve. He does not complain of his treatment but says he has been well looked after

Lost in Mine Explosion 18/09/1915

It is feared that Private W G Gardner of the Buffs, whose home is at 'Thistle Villas' Reading Street; must be added to the long list of those who have given their lives for their Country. A letter received by his mother on Monday from second Lieutenant Quartermaster; acquainted her with the sad news that her son had been missing since September 1st. When he was on duty in part of a trench blown up by a German mine. Private Gardner's two brothers are also serving with the forces

With thanks to Alf Beeching for use of material



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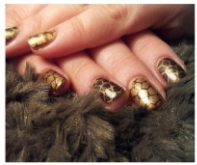
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Ports, Lions, Boats and Flags

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Simon Gerrard

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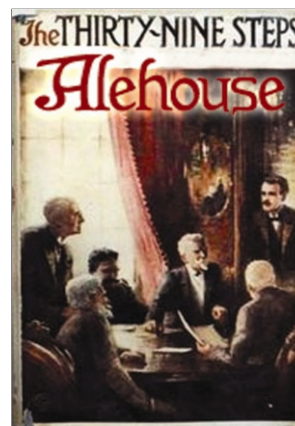
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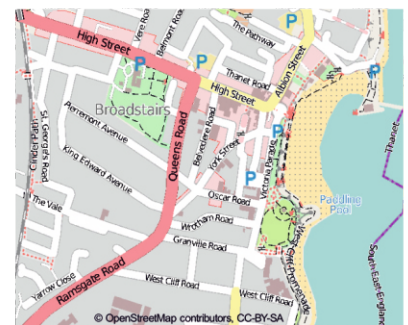
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Pierremont Hall: Asset or not?



Our Town Council has applied to nominate Pierremont Hall as an asset of community value.

Pierremont Hall is likely to be put on Thanet District Council's asset disposal register in the near future. A commercial buyer is neither likely to keep rents / service charges low, nor offer concessionary rates to community organisations wishing to hire a hall or other facilities.

If the nomination as an asset of community value succeeds, a commercial sale of Pierremont Hall has to be suspended for six months to give the community a chance to gather funds and make a plan to purchase the building.

Pierremont Hall was built in 1785-90 for Thomas Forsyth by Samuel Pepys Cockerell, a great great nephew of the original Pepys and at the time was by far the finest house in Broadstairs. Forsyth had returned from working for the East India Company and with the wealth he had accumulated he had the Hall built as a holiday home for his family including the Park which stretched for over 30 acres. The name Pierremont is thought to have derived from the French for St Peter's Mount.

1829: the ten year old Princess Victoria stayed at the Hall under the care of her aunt, the Duchess of Kent who paid Fletcher a the huge amount of 25 guineas per week.

There is a small building in the garden still standing though damaged by fire recently where the princess would practice playing the piano every day.

1912: council bought 3 ½ acres of Pierremont Park from Mr Copping for £2,800 for use as a public pleasure ground.

1913: Mr Dan Mason, millionaire and philanthropist purchased The Maisonette in the High Street from the executors of Sir Richard Wyatt. With his brother Charles, Dan Mason started the Cherry Blossom Shoe Polish Company in Chiswick. The distinctive tin came about as a need to use up wasted tin plate from making their soap company containers.

1917 August: Dan Mason bought Pierremont Park and Hall.

1918 August: Mason opened the Pierremont Social Club for residents and workers in the town. It was also the base for the Comrades of the Great War Club.

1920 March 24th: the social club closed after a dispute between Mason and the council over extending the venue. It reopened next to his premises at The Maisonette in Belmont Rd
1920 May: Mason leased the Hall to Broadstairs Urban District Council for seven years at a rent of £275 per annum. BUDC moved in from the Broadway offices on July 14th
1921 May: opening of a bowling green in the Park.
1922: Mason left Broadstairs for health reasons
1927: Broadstairs Urban District Council finally bought the Hall and Park for £5,500

TDC (Thanet District Council)



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May contain nuts

A recent visit by the Local Government association found some evidence of improvement in the way that Thanet councillors behave. Which in laymen's terms roughly means 'Not much change at all'. The report said "Instances of corruption in the near and far past have shaped your reputation and the continuing behaviour of politicians have only reinforced the negative impressions which people have of the council."

"You have not addressed some behaviours that we described as 'Toxic'. We have found examples of antagonism, hostility, homophobia and discourtesy in the way that some councillors behave".

The report went on to suggest that the behaviour was not limited to a small number of councillors: "We heard some views that implied that the councils reputational difficulties were entirely the result of the behaviour of a small number of councillors"

"Whilst we agree that some of the behaviours are extremely corrosive, we witnessed the poor behaviour of many other councillors during our visit"

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The Joy of Pub



Some of you may remember issue one and two of this illustrious magazine; therein you may remember we included a run down of all the Broadstairs pubs. Well it's been a while, six years in fact; and 'My' what a lot has happened in those six years within the pub scene. We've had pubs change hands, pubs sold off for redevelopment, the introduction of the 'Micropub' and the resurgence of small 'Handcrafted' beers from micro-brewers.

Later on in this issue you'll also find our Crispin messing about in the kitchen with hops and stuff, lovingly preparing home-made ales just to show you how easy it all is.

But back to pubs - Here's a new list in no particular order or preference, with a bit of information to whet the appetite of you fine Bradstonians - Soldiers in the war against sobriety. Now get out there, mines a pint.

Top Left - clockwise.
Neptunes Hall on the corner of Albion Street and Harbour Street. A Shepherd Neame pub with a 'listed' bar.

The Barnaby Rudge, Albion Street (just changed hands) Lively little pub often with live music.

The Dolphin, Albion Street, another lively pub, especially at weekends. Also the oldest pub in Broadstairs with the original parts dating back to the 1600s

Wrotham Arms. Another Shepherd Neame establishment, corner of Ramsgate Road and Queens Road. Well known for live music, especially Rock & Blues.





01843 868641

Until very recently known as the Fayreness Hotel.

It was originally a Victorian private house called Fayreness after the sailing ship HMS Fayreness. During WWII it was commandeered by the Navy as a billet for Wrens until just before the end of the War when it was turned into a convalescent home run by Dr & Mrs Rothwell.

It became a pub and restaurant in the early 1960s and was most recently bought by Shepherd Neame and renamed after the bay it sits above.

BRADSTOW MILL

125 High Street
Broadstairs CT10 1NQ
01843 861108

The Bradstow Mill was actually a mill at the back of the pub which was demolished in 1908. There had been windmills on this site since 1596 as it was the highest spot in the area and was used on Admiralty charts to show the dangerous Margate Sands.

Broadstairs station was built in 1863 and the pub then called the Railway Hotel was built in 1864 specifically to cater for these passengers.

A while later it became The Clarendon Hotel and became solely a pub in 1979 which is when it became The Bradstow Mill

THE CAPTAIN DIGBY

Kingsgate
Broadstairs, CT10 3QH
01843 867764

The Captain Digby is built on the site of the stables of Lord Holland's Bede House which was the building in his grounds at Kingsgate that he used for entertaining his guests. The original being built in the 1760's to resemble a Roman Chapel. He named it The Captain Digby after his nephew Robert Digby. The only name change that it has experienced in its long history is in 1809 when for a while it was known as The Noble Captain Digby. The original building came to an untimely end one stormy night when most of it blew over the cliff. Fortunately the only occupant was a young male servant who slept through it all as the landlord and family were in Margate. It was rebuilt in 1816 in the slightly different and safer position.

It was one of the many public houses involved in smuggling and underneath it there is a large cave presumed to have been used by Joss Snelling and his gang and at one time this could be accessed by going through a trap door under the bar.

19TH HOLE

George Hill Road
Broadstairs CT10 3JX
01843 869548

The 19th Hole as its name suggests is close to the Golf Course. North Foreland Golf Course was financed and expanded by Lord Northcliffe in 1903 when he bought Kingsgate Castle and surrounding land. There was a nine hole course in existence and it was this that he ploughed his love of golf in to. This was halted with the start of WWI when he became Minister of Propaganda. This seemed to upset the Germans, to such an extent that they made a special visit to shell his house here and got a direct hit. Fortunately for him, he wasn't at home.

The pub started off as an off-license before becoming a private drinking club and then as now a public house. One of its famous, frequent customers was Jack Warner of Dixon of Dock Green fame.

BALMORAL WINE BAR

27 Albion St,
Broadstairs, CT10 1LU
01843 865327

The Balmoral Wine Bar was built in 1850 and started life as a hotel. Its hay days were between the Wars when the gardens opposite were the hotel's Tea Gardens, where white coated waiters would serve the

visitors in genteel splendour. It was very popular and there was extensive stabling at the rear.

It stopped being a hotel in 1946, with the dining room becoming the two neighbouring shops and the cocktail bar becoming today's pool room. In the 1990's it was called Bombers and was known for the amazing paintings all over the toilet walls. In recent years the name has returned to the original Balmoral. The gardens opposite although now a public area are still known as Balmoral Gardens but sadly there are no white coated waiters.

BARNABY RUDGE

52 Albion Street
Broadstairs CT10 2UR
01843 867775

The Barnaby Rudge dates back to at least 1830 when the landlord Valentine West called it the British Tar, presumably to encourage seafaring customers. It was renamed The George in 1849. Finally in the 1960's it arrived at its current name. Dickens wrote Barnaby Rudge in 1841, part of which was written at Archway House just round the corner in Harbour Street

BOTANY BAY

Marine Drive, Kingsgate
Broadstairs CT10 3LG

When Lord Holland died he left provision in his will for the Captain's health to be drunk every year on July 3rd unfortunately this tradition seems to have disappeared

CRAMPTONS

139 High Street
Broadstairs CT10 1NG
01843 860 468

Originally built in 1865 after the railway arrived in Broadstairs (1863) and called The Railway Tavern. It was steeped in its job as a railway pub to the point of one of the bars being decked out as the inside of a railway carriage and at closing time, the landlord put on a guard's hat, blew a whistle and played a recording of a steam engine!

It was reinvented a few years ago as Cramptons after William Crampton who built the water tower and worked for the Great Western Railway.

THE DOLPHIN

55 Albion Street
Broadstairs Kent CT10 1NE
01843 861056

The Dolphin is reputed to be the oldest pub in town, thought to be from at least the 1600s. It has the ubiquitous underground caverns and tunnels beneath it and with its close proximity to the harbour the local pastime of smuggling in the past must be presumed although in the early 1800s it was very respectable being the venue for parish meetings. In 1831 a vigilante meeting was held there by local farmers to discuss how they could protect themselves from a spate of malicious haystack fires and farm equipment damage.

There used to be stables at the back which housed the horses that used to bring the coal up from the harbour to the town gas works which was where Albion Street car park is now. It was renovated in 1999 and extended.

HARPERS

8 Harbour Street
Broadstairs CT10 1ET
01843 602494

Haven't got much info on history, but it's a lively little establishment with a warm welcome

Neptune's Hall

1-3 Harbour Street
Broadstairs CT10 1ET
01843 861400

The Neptune's Hall was a row of fishermen's cottages until the current building was built in 1815. In the 1920s it was a hotel with JH Somerton better known as Uncle Mac as a

regular visitor.

It has the unusual claim to fame that in 1999 the internal bar became listed.

NUMBER 23

23 High Street
Broadstairs Kent CT10 1LP

01843 861747

The Crown was built in the 1830s and contains beams made from timbers salvaged from the Northern Belle. It became Ye Olde Crown for a while. It's had a striking refurbishment in the last few years and is now called Number 23.

PEENS

8 Victoria Parade,
Broadstairs CT10 1QS
01843 861289

Previously called Rino's Restaurant and probably part of the Assembly Rooms in the 1800s In 1929 it was a boarding house run by Mrs R Irvine. Now more of a gastro bar than a pub

TARTAR FRIGATE

Harbour Street
Broadstairs CT10 1EU
01843 862013

There's been a hostelry of sorts on this site since at least 1585. The room upstairs, now a restaurant was supposed to be the meeting place for smugglers and Nelson is said to have met with them to discuss the positions of French ships.

It was popular with Dickens and Ted Heath although not quite at the same time and is supposed to be haunted by half a woman in black. Guess what? There are tunnels.

THE BROWN JUG

204 Ramsgate Rd,
Broadstairs, CT10 2EW
01843 862788

Brewery records show the earliest evidence of the Brown Jug as the Queen's Arms Tap in 1795. The first record of it being called the Brown Jug is in 1814 when it is thought to have been an officers' billet during the French



Wars. There are strange murals of tigers in one of the rooms upstairs said to be regimental totems from that time. The building may date back to 1660 as a farm cottage and a series of tunnels used to link it to a nearby farmhouse. Presumably being used by smugglers. A settlement in this area is in the Doomsday Book. By 1900 it had gained serious respectability and was used as a stopping off point for visitors travelling to the deer park. It had the added attraction of a three legged pig! It is also a favourite of Dame Vera Lynn having visited there many times with her parents when she was young.

CHARLES DICKENS

5-6 Victoria Parade
Broadstairs CT10 1QS
01843 869865

The building first came to prominence as Nuckell's Assembly Rooms in about 1800. This was a well to do meeting place which housed a billiard room and one of the town's two libraries at the time. It was a private house for a while, then after the First World War became Andersons Café until the 1960s. After that it was a restaurant and pub owned

by the Grand Metropolitan group and has been as such but under different ownerships until a few years ago when it became a Thorley pub.

THE LANTHORNE
20 Callis Court Road
Broadstairs CT10 3AE
01843 861952

The Lanthorne was built in 1880 as the Callis Court Hotel and then renamed after a refurbishment in the 1990's.

Callis Court Grange was a large house nearby and there are several theories as to where the name originates from. It may have been called after the Caley, Calison or Caleson family or it may have been owned by a Knight of Cales. There was a building on the Grange site dating back to 12th century and at one time it was in a 59 acre estate. It had quite a history but was finally demolished in 1916. The name is also remembered as that of Joss Snellings gang of smugglers

THE LITTLE ALBION
40 St Peters Road
Broadstairs CT10 2AP
01843 602904

The Little Albion started as the farmhouse of a seven acre smallholding belonging to the Croft family for over a century. It was bought by Elizah Nethersell in 1803 at which time it was three houses one of which was a beer retailery. It was then bought by Major William Fitchers in 1843 who turned the three houses into one and rented it to George Hale who was the brewer/innkeeper at the Rose. In 1849 The Albion Inn and Tea Rooms were auctioned and taken over by Robert Cramp from St Laurence. He sold off most of the land and rebuilt the building in its present form in 1860

THE PAVILION
Harbour Street
Broadstairs CT10 1EU
01843 600999

The Pavillion was built in 1933 as the Theatre on the Sands on the site of a bowling green which had previously been White's Shipyard. It was bought by the Broadstairs Town Council for a while and then taken over by Thorley Taverns.

It has had several refurbis to its garden including a recent increase to the terrace.

THE PRINCE ALBERT
38 High St,
Broadstairs CT10 1LH
01843 579650

Established some time before 1845 and as was common at the time, used to have five bars for the segregation of different

customers.

Rebuilt in 1911 as two bars when the High Street needed to be made wider and now just one large bar. And guess what's in the cellar? Yes you got it, a tunnel reputed to go down to the sea. For smuggling of course. At the end of the 19th century the Australian landlord at the time drew crowds to hear his poetry. Unfortunately Mr Barnaschina nicknamed 'Boko of Broadstairs' didn't write any of it down where it could be found so we are denied the pleasure of his ditties.

THE RED LION
Vicarage Street
St. Peters CT10 2TQ
01843 603341

There has been a pub on this site as far back as there are records and always called The Red Lion. It was the centre for many of the towns community activities; there are records of an auction being held there in 1694.

In 1817 the landlord at the time bought two and a half acres of local land and turned it into a pleasure park called Ranelagh Gardens with assembly rooms for recitals and dances. Originally a single storied building it was rebuilt in 1876 and expanded in the 1960s.

BALLARDS LOUNGE
Royal Albion Hotel
Albion Street
Broadstairs CT10 1LU
01843 869895

It started life in 1760 as the Phoenix Inn and had been renamed the Albion by 1816. It has grown organically over the years taking advantage of the increasing number of visitors and residents and its prime position overlooking Viking Bay. At one point incorporating the cottage Dickens used to holiday in. Although when Dickens was



around the Albion had its own brewery, it was their gin that he was fond of. He wrote at the time 'I have discovered that the landlord of the Albion has delicious Hollands'. His name was James Ballard and he was the landlord for 38 years and it is he that the bar is still named after.

In 1978 it was bought by the Marchesi family and then by Shepherd Neame in 2010 when it had a million pound refurbishment.

THE STAR INN
460 Margate Rd,
Broadstairs CT10 2PR
01843 600000

The Star Inn dates back to the 18th century and it's thought to have got its name from being in the spot where an old map of Thanet

had the traditional cartographers star. It is quite likely though that there has been some sort of hostelry there for centuries. Sloe Lane, Star Lane and Poor Hole Lane formed a junction of Roman trackways. Poor Hole Lane is purported to be a mass grave site for the Black Death in 1348 and the Spanish Armada in 1588.

It was used by travellers as a half-way house. In 1825 the choir and church wardens of St Peters Church went there for lunch while beating the bounds for the first time since the Napoleonic Wars. Apparently a wild time was had by all as several choir boys ended up being thrown in the pond!

THE WHITE SWAN

17 Reading St,
Broadstairs CT10 3AZ
01843 863051

The White Swan was established in 1704 and then rebuilt as it is now in 1913. Obviously a smuggling pub because of its closeness to the Callis Court Gang's hold outs.

The house next door called White Swan Cottage is probably the same age as the original pub building. In 1836 a gigantic cabbage was grown in the cottage garden reaching 20 foot high but this was not too odd as the cabbage was a local speciality known as Waterloo Cabbage. It is thought that smugglers used to use the stalks as bludgeons.

Wrotham Arms

Ramsgate Rd,
Broadstairs, CT10 1QQ
01843 861788

Pronounced however you want.

The Wrotham was originally two cottages which got knocked together in about 1850 and became a hotel in 1870. Bed & Breakfast was 2/6d and free fodder if you had a horse, for the horse not you.

THE LORD NELSON

11 Nelson Place
Broadstairs CT10 1HQ
01843 861210

The Nelson was built in 1805 on the site of what had been a Tea Garden but wasn't a pub at first. It was a tailors owned by Richard Norwood. It was then bought by Robert Lawrence when it became a coffee house. Finally in 1815 it was bought by brewer Richard Tomson for £850 and was renamed to celebrate the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the local historical link with Nelson and the town.

In recent years there has been a move in some quarters away from the old traditional pub towards the micro-pub. We now have four of these in Broadstairs

FOUR CANDLES ALEHOUSE

1 Sowell Street, St. Peter's,
Broadstairs, CT10 2AT

Named after the Two Ronnies Four Candles Sketch because Ronnie Corbett lived in the town for a while and it's local wisdom that the sketch was written with Harrington's in mind. They have recently been given permission to start a micro-brewery.

THE CHAPEL

44/46 Albion Street
Broadstairs
CT10 1LX
07837 024259

Most recently a second-hand book shop, the landlord has retained the books, making it a very different drinking experience. The history of the building is probably one of the most complicated and discussed of any in Broadstairs. It would take an article on its own to describe which we have done before and will probably do again

39 STEPS

5 Charlotte Street,
Broadstairs, CT10 1LR
Named after John Buchan's book written in Broadstairs in 1915.

YARD OF ALE

61 Church Street,
St Peters, CT10 2TU
07792 042993

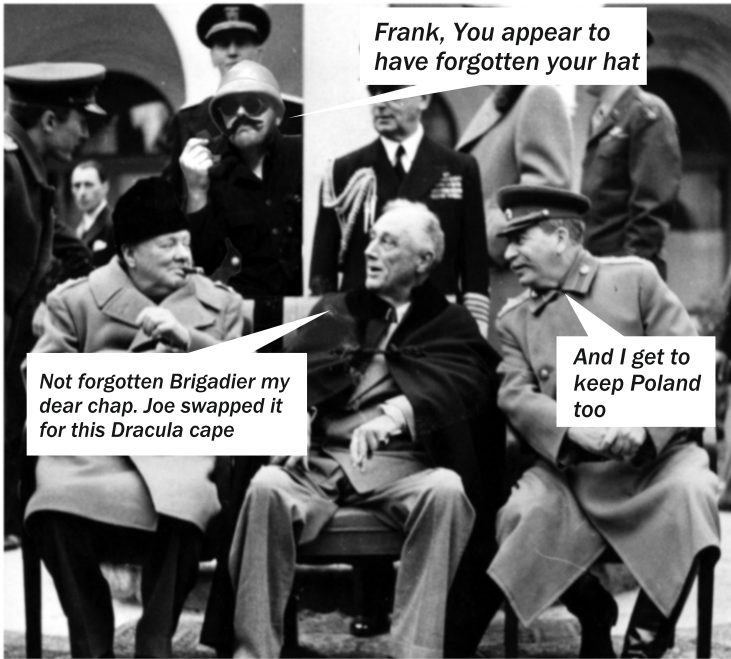
The most recent micro-pub to open, just this spring, in converted stables in the yard of Nobles Funeral Directors.

It has provided the local populace with a great excuse to make death/drinking jokes. If you think of any more we're sure the landlord would love you to pop in and tell him

Written with the great help of Mr John Land's book Thanet Pubs available from Michael's Book shop and Mr Rob Cawthorne's The Isle of Thanet Compendium on sale at various establishments about the town including Victory News



The Brigadier



Frank, You appear to have forgotten your hat

Not forgotten Brigadier my dear chap. Joe swapped it for this Dracula cape

And I get to keep Poland too

There's not much that goes on, on a Wednesday evening in our household. Benson takes the evening off to take part in extreme sports, her ladyship slinks off to her study to fiddle with her crafting things, y'know, normal stuff like wool, glue, explosives. Which leaves me all on me' lonesome twiddling with the buttons on the remote control on the ancient Grundig. "Get a new flatscreen" she's always telling me, "You'll be able to watch the world cup without the grass turning blue after ten minutes". Well I like my old tube, it's served me well over the years, and why on earth would I want to watch grown men dissappoint me for an hour and a half, if I wanted that I'd stare at the mirror. So no, the old telly stays. It does beg the question why are so many of us ruled by that black box of goods that sits in the corner of our main living space sucking all life from each corner of the house, the whole setup of our abodes is arranged around the possibility of seeing Philip Schofield uttering something profound about a reality show buffoon, or maybe even Fearné Cotton reporting on the plight of the Mexican honey Badger.

We really should all attempt to turn the bally thing off and go in search of something less distasteful. Summer is nearly here and with the arrival of Mr Blue sky there's an awful lot more to see and do other than pour over every detail of yet another 1970s sex scandal involving someone we once thought was a jolly fine chap indeed. We used to have a Working Mens Club in the town I used to live in, quite a frightful establishment, especially around ten thirty on a Friday night, absolutely jam packed though. I managed to sneak in by dropping my vowels and scratching myself every two minutes which seemed to be a way of gaining acceptance and respect. There were no televisions in that place, just a compere, a chap hammering an old Hammond Organ into submission and the fine fug of three hundred woodbines being exhaled from emphysemic lungs of a hall full of unwashed workers from the local asbestos factory. We used to make our own entertainment back then, which normally involved running a pot on who wouldn't be there the next weekend.

If you didn't end up down the 'Old Bull and Bush', which was a term for a pub back then and nothing to do with Joss Bay Car Park on a Wednesday evening, you'd go to one of the many local meetings or talks given by one society or another, they might be political, maybe a Hobbyist group. I often spent a wet November night feigning a vague interest in the 'Beaker people of North Kent' just to see if there were any available young lady archeologists interested in a dig back at the manor house; mostly without success. I seem to remember meeting her ladyship in a similar manner after taking in the evening air one day down on the jetty, she approached me asking whether I had ever considered joining the local square dance group, a question that initially threw me, but did end happily after we 'Dozy Doed' around for a good half hour. Women didn't tend to approach chaps back then, not that they were inherently lazy, oh my no, just it wasn't the done thing. My first female friend didn't even speak to me for the first year, instead she relied on her chaperone to communicate with me via semaphore from the next county, a very difficult relationship which resulted in the sending of the Channel Fleet to Jutland instead of asking my then beloved if she would eventually like to meet for tea. What I am trying to communicate to you, my fine reader. Is 'Turn that damn thing off', It's Pimms O Clock down on the pier. I'm thirsty, so come on down and enjoy the summer sun in good ol' Broadstairs town. Come down; point at the ladies in their Crinolines, laugh at the bearded wonders with their bells and hankies akimbo, throw wet seaweed at Lord Neptune on Water Gala Day and stare at the chubby chaps and girls who seem to ignore all good taste and think it appropriate to wear little more than a pair of ill-fitting pants disguised as a swimming costume when walking about in the High Street.

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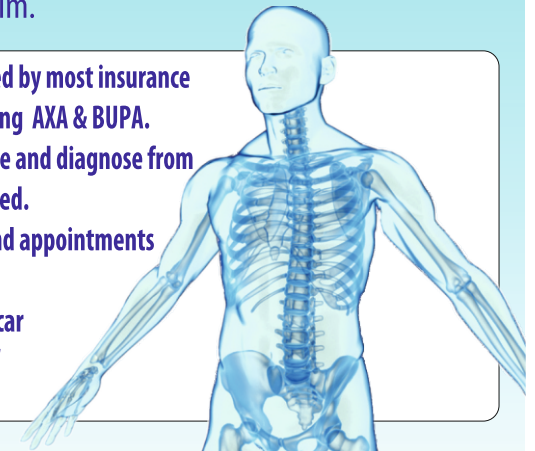
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ਲਾਡ ਵਾਲੀਪੁੰਡ ਵਫ਼ਲੇ ਚੁਰਚੁਰਾ ਫਿਫ਼ਟ

Mr Wally has expressed a renewed interest in reducing our intake of meat recently, I have been cutting down our portions and replacing flesh with fish for a little while but we've decided to bite the bullet and follow a completely veggie menu for a while. Inspired by a lovely meal at Tinker Philpot's house I decided to make our first truly veggie meal of the week an immense celebratory veggie feast – don't worry, I've added a quick chicken conversion for those carnivores out there who need their fix of meat. I'm not normally overly keen on poppadoms but if you're going to have a curry at home, the addition of some crunchy bits dipped in lovely dips lifts it to a whole other level. I'm not brave to have taken on homemade Mango chutney and Lime pickle yet but you'll be the first to know once I take the plunge. I just stick to the easy peasy fresh bits below and get the other stuff from a jar....

ਓਨੀਓਨ ਫਿਫ਼ਟ

- 1 medium red onion – or half a red and half a white if the mood so takes you, 1/3 of a cucumber, de-seeded, a handful of cherry toms – de-seeded, a red chilli – de-seeded, 3tbsp shredded coriander leaves, 1tbsp shredded mint leaves, slice of fresh lemon, a pinch of sugar, a pinch of salt, a very sharp knife. Finely dice the onion, put in a bowl, very finely dice the cucumber and tomato and then very very finely dice fresh slice of lemon and coriander! Sprinkle with a pinch of sugar before mixing all the ingredients together as slowly and as carefully as possible so they don't get squashed and release their juices.

ਰਾਇਟ

- Small pot Total yogurt, 1tbsp finely chopped mint leaves, 1 tsp mint sauce from a jar, ¼ tsp cayenne pepper, big pinch of salt. Mix it all together. Try not to drink it straight from the bowl.

ਐਬਰਗਿਨ, ਸਪਿਨਾਚ ਅਤੇ ਚਿਕਪੇਡ ਚੁਰਚੁਰਾ

Splash of olive oil, 2x large aubergine in 2cm dice, 1x tin chickpeas, a couple of handfuls of cherry tomatoes, a large bag of spinach, 1tbsp garam masala, 1tbsp medium curry powder, 2 cardamom pods, 1tsp cumin seeds, 1tsp turmeric, 1 or 2 sliced chillies, 2 fat garlic cloves crushed, big handful of chopped coriander.

Put the olive oil in a baking dish as if you're making Yorkshire puds and let it heat up in a hot oven for 5-10 mins. Whilst the oil is heating up, put the diced aubergine in a bowl, sprinkle over the garam masala and mix so that all of the aubergine is nicely coated, add the chickpeas and chillies and whack into a hot oven for 15-20 mins. Whilst this is in the oven, rinse the spinach and leave to drain, pop the cardamom, cumin and turmeric in a dry wok over a high heat and let them toast for a minute or so, add a splash of oil and then add the spinach, stir until wilted down and coated in the spices. Stir the wilted spinach and cherry tomatoes through and pop back in the oven for another 10 mins on a medium heat. Stir the crushed garlic and coriander through before turning the oven off and leaving to rest for 5 mins. This will give you ample opportunity to scoff your poppadum and chutneys.

Serve with brown rice for a super healthy dinner. If you are a meat eater who can't bear the thought of leaving it out then you can easily make this a carnivorous meal by slicing some chicken thighs and browning off in the wok before the spinach is added, this will coat the chicken in lovely aromatic spices.

ਕੋਕੋਨੂਟ ਫਿਫ਼ਟ ਚੁਰਚੁਰਾ

- This is the easiest ice cream ever although purists will point out that as there's no cream in it that's not really the right name for it – I suppose it's really a sorbet of sorts.

2 x tins full fat coconut milk, 250g caster sugar, a couple of tsp vanilla extract, 50g desiccated coconut, Chill the tins of coconut milk for a day or so before making this so you've got a head start on the freezing. Pour all the coconut milk and any cream that has separated into a mixer, put on low and gradually add the sugar until it's all dissolved, add the vanilla extract and put on high until it's really frothy and thick, stir in the desiccated coconut. Pour into a silicon loaf tin, cover with cling film and leave to freeze overnight. It won't set completely solid but will leave a nice soft texture that you can spoon straight out of the tub. Serve with a splodge of mango chutney if you've got a really sweet tooth, or stir some raspberries through the mixture before you freeze and garnish with some fresh ones if you want to jazz it up a bit.



Southern Water spread more muck

Locals have been surprised to learn that the 1970s have landed back on our doorsteps after a forty year absence. In scenes similar to the TV series 'Life on Mars' we recently awoke to find that nationalistic politics had once again come to the fore, local politicians had been named as being homophobic and dysfunctional by the LGA, and Southern Water had once again turned our beaches into a cesspit. We're expecting the end of decimalisation at any moment along with the resurgence of flamboyant Union leaders wearing flat caps

After yet another downpour of rain on May 21st, (Really, in England?) Southern Water let more untreated sewage out, resulting in beaches scattered with condoms, sanitary products and other associated nastiness.

Southern Water was recently described by Lord Thomas as having a 'persistent record of criminality and offending', this was after they lost at court when appealing against a previous fine of £200,000 for the very same problem.

In their defence Southern Water suggested that the problem resulted from a 'design fault in the pumps' which was therefore 'Difficult to anticipate'. The company had 160 previous offences.

Difficult to anticipate? After 160 previous offences. Surely that must have been one of the most easy to anticipate happenings since England went out of the last world cup.

It rains in England, quite a bit sometimes; perhaps Southern Water are of the opinion that we're actually located somewhere just south of Monte Carlo, that would explain their laid back attitude and of course the enormous bundles of cash plumping up the mattresses of our lovely local water company.

Just for your information, in 2013 they made £156 Million profit after tax

And then it was gone

Ann Gloag's (the 'Hazel Mc Witch' of the South East), statement on taking over Manston read "Having worked in the transport industry for over 30 years, I believe I am very well-placed to help maximise opportunities for both freight and passengers at Manston."

What she didn't add was the freight she was referring to is the amount of lorries that will be turning up with house building materials, and the passengers are the potential passengers for 'Lydd' that will soon be living there. I guess a 600 million fortune isn't enough for some people.



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Shop Watch

Four new shops, here's their photos. Perhaps a special mention should go to the new toy shop down in York Street. Run by Ashleigh Millward, 'Small World' is a lovely little establishment selling traditional style toys to lucky children (and some oldens' probably too). Oh the joys of a wooden train set!

'Health - e - Vape' is opposite York street Post Office. Smoke / Tar free cigarettes are quite a new concept and have recently been cited as helping smokers to give up on traditional fag smoking. You are also able to smoke these 'Vapour' based E-Cigs inside pubs etc (with landlord/lady consent of course).

'Best Fish & Chips' is the new chip-shop at the bottom of the High Street, we're not sure they need much advertising though as they already appear near constantly packed with the numerous students about.

'Serendipity Interiors' further along York Street has some truly interesting items to add to your home, we'd really love to see some more shops like this one; it would certainly encourage the 'browser' and 'buyer'



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Something brewing in Broadstairs

Herbal Will once told you about the health benefits of one of the main ingredients. Mr Wally consumes it as if it's going out of fashion. The Brigadier bathes in it. Now Mr Crispin Smith will jolly well provide you with enough information to go out and make it.

Recently, I saw a chap perusing the Homebrew section in a supermarket. He had a distinct look of intrigue, as though perhaps he was unfamiliar with the concept of making your own booze. Ignoring the numerous pieces of essential brewing equipment on display, he focussed on the large, colourful cans of malt extract that are the main ingredient of very basic home brewing. 'Makes 40 pints of Beer' they tend to state. He picked up one of the cans, bounced it in his hand speculatively and, with a small nod to himself, placed it in his trolley.

Oh dear. I feared that this poor soul was under the impression that this malt extract worked like orange squash: that you'd simply need to pour a little of it into a glass, top it with water and instantly have a lovely pint of beer. Sadly (or perhaps happily, since if that was the case, I may well now be dead), it's a bit more complicated and involved than that, but not much.

Of course, plonking a can of malt extract into your shopping trolley isn't a bad place to start if you're interested in giving homebrew a go. So long as you plonk down alongside it the other essential equipment you'll need: a 5 gallon barrel, a bottling hose, sanitising tablets, a brewing spoon and plenty of sugar.

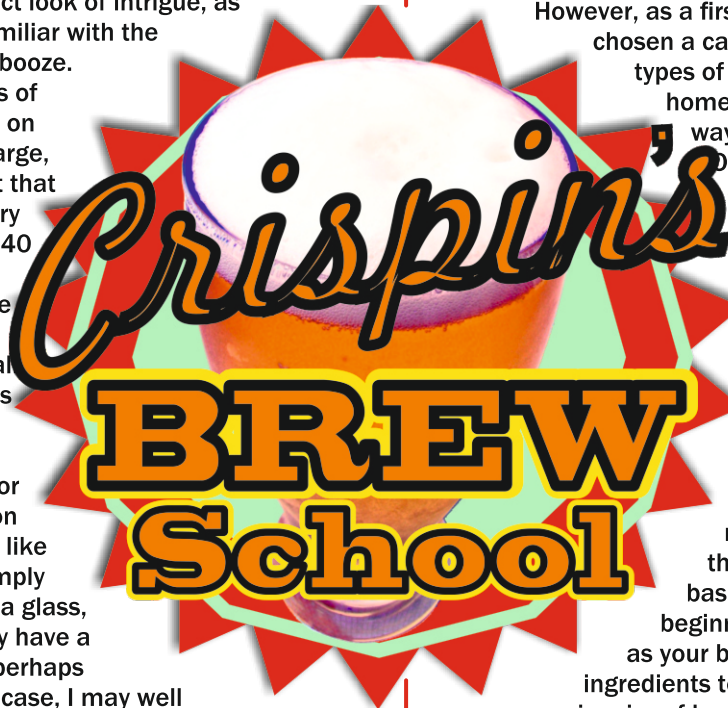
Malt extract is a very thick, very dark syrup. The malt extract method is certainly the easiest way to make homebrew beer, because the hard work of boiling up malts and hops is done for you. Naturally enough then, it's the preferred method for beginners. What you get at the end of your brewing is an entirely drinkable, but rather thin and narrowly-flavoured pint of beer. It will not taste anything like a commercial beer and, so long as one reconciles to that fact, it can still be an enjoyable drink in itself.

The other option is to start entirely from scratch with malted barley grains, which need to be boiled with hops and sugar. It's more involved of course, but still simple enough to perform in a kitchen and it means your beer will very much be your own – it's up to the home brewer themselves to decide what malts to use and in what proportions. Other ingredients such as maize and rice can be used too. Producing a bottle of beer that is uniquely yours is the beauty of this method and, really, what home brewing is about.

However, as a first foray into homebrew, you've wisely chosen a can of malt extract. But which one? All types of beer are represented in the homebrew market, from Pilsner to stout by way of bitter, American lager and IPA. Once chosen, it's a case of pouring the extract into the barrel and adding boiling water and a kilo of sugar, then topping it up with cold water. You'll be faced with what looks like a giant, frothing glass of beer, which now needs just needs the addition of powdered yeast before sealing up.

That's as simple as it gets. You will, however, be rewarded only with the most basic of homebrew beer. But there are some ways to improve your basic beer significantly even as a beginner. If you consider the malt extract as your base ingredient, you can add other ingredients to improve the flavour. Many people pour in a jar of honey, or even melted dark chocolate. In order to give the beer more body, and so produce a more authentic drink, it's worth substituting ordinary cane sugar for 'Brew Enhancer', which is a granular blend of dextrose and malts. Now, you'd have to ask Heston Bloomingdale for the scientific reason for its benefits to the beer, I just drink the stuff. (P.S - As a rather clumsy fellow, I always end up spilling an extra half kilo of sugar into my barrel, which has the disastrous effect of increasing the eventual alcohol content from about 4% to 6%. What a shame.)

The barrel of beer should start to ferment within twelve hours, and it's a good idea to place it somewhere as warm as possible. Some homebrewers go so far as to wrap the barrel in an electric blanket, but that's not strictly necessary. The important thing is that it's left alone to get on with the important task of becoming booze. After seven days, it will have stopped bubbling and you know then that it's time to put it in bottles. This will involve a siphon hose (or some clever barrels have a tap) and whatever bottles you care to use, with a spoon of sugar poured into each



bottle to encourage carbonation. Initially, just using empty 2 litre plastic bottles is quite satisfactory. Once you've brewed a few times and established that yes, you're quite into this homebrewing lark, glass bottles and a capping machine are the way to go.

Then it's a matter of patience. Sadly, waiting is the watchword for the homebrewer, thirsty as they might be. There your numerous bottles will stand (somewhere warm!) temptingly and promisingly, but only a fool would touch a drop before two weeks. Once that time is up, the beer is technically ready to drink but, if you can stand it, an extra two weeks in a cool place will enhance the quality quite considerably. Some dedicated brewers are perfectly willing to wait up to three or four months, but there's probably something wrong with them.

The bare essential equipment I've mentioned will give you a very rewarding first brew, but there are other accoutrements to the process that can be useful. A hydrometer, for example, is a thermometer like device which is used to measure the alcohol content; take a reading before fermentation and then after, then tap the two numbers into an online calculator and you'll have your percentage. The beauty of home brewing is that as you become more involved, there is plenty more to find out about. Indeed, the only boring thing about home brewing is the

issue of sanitation – every piece of equipment you use has to first be laboriously rinsed in sanitising fluid. Skip that process and you run the risk of brewing five gallons of noxious pond water.

Enjoy.

Crispin Smith

Suggested YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CraigTube>; A very informative Canadian fellow who gets totally hammered whilst teaching beginners everything he knows.

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Books and Covers

I was over the park the other day, giving Wilbur (The Wonder Dog) his lunchtime airing, when a huge animal leapt out of the bushes at us. The offending creature was got up in some sort of industrial leather harness, decorated with brass studs, looking, for all the world, like some canine version of a Hells Angel.

"Don't worry." Said the owner, striding over. "Boris only wants to play." The guy was wearing a tee shirt and shorts and sported an array of colourful tattoos from neck to ankle.

I couldn't help notice that, emblazoned on his left calf, nestled among the artwork, was the word "precious".

Although my mind begged the question why he favoured that leg over the other, I decided it would be prudent not to ask.

Since we have touched on the topic of tattoos, I had a rather confusing conversation with my Mother, who informed me that she had read an article in Knitting Weekly or some such, saying that the actress Penelope Keith, had been: "tattooed under protest".

After some research on my part, it turns out that it was Felicity Kendal (the other one from "The Good Life") and she'd got a tattoo at sixty as an "age protest".

Not quite the same thing.

The mental picture of the heroine of "To The Manor Born" being held down while some brute inks a crown and anchor on her bare buttock is the stuff of nightmare.

Where was I ? Oh yes.

So it turns out that Boris did "only want to play." And while he and Wilbur skipped around like a couple of lambs, I learnt that his owner, Andy, a drug counsellor from Peckham , had come with his church group for a day at the sea side.

Having made up my mind not to be so quick to judge in future and wait till I had distilled all the facts before jumping to a conclusion, I found myself shouting at the radio the following morning as I listened to an interview with some wildlife nut who was arguing the case to reintroduce wolves into Briton.

"Idiot!" I cried.

Apparently a suitable sight has already been earmarked with the plan to fence it off and thus allow the beasts liberty to roam within. Food would be provided in the form of a herd of deer.

The interviewer, a John Humpries/ Paxman type, was rightly giving the guy a hard time, saying that the project, however well intentioned, was doomed to failure, as in the end, one of 'em is bound to get out. Common sense was winning the argument.

Then "The Wolf Man", in his defence, pipes up with : "North America has wolves in the wild, they are, by nature quite shy, posing no threat to humans. Do you know how many people were killed by wolves in the United States last year?"

Silence from the interviewer.

" No. Then I'll tell you. None....Where as. " He then added for contrast. " Three people were killed in incidents involving vending machines.".....

VENDING MACHINES!

Now I don't know about you, but given the choice of being put in a locked room with a wolf or a vending machine, I would always have gone with the latter.

Turns out, I was wrong again.

There seems to be no sense to the world any more.

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this article please contact Peter Ellis @ Allweather Clothing. Consultations are free and confidential.



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PHILLPOTT DISCOVERS ANOTHER THING THE ROMANS DID FOR US



APOLOGY FROM THE EDITOR.

In Issue 32 and 33 of The Broadie, we stated that our reporter Albert Philpott was absent due to "Being on a kitten culling tour of the Isle Of Bute".

We now recognise this was an error and that Albert Philpott was actually at the Cath Kidston store in Bude. We'd like to apologise to Mr Philpott and his wife for all the distress caused and in so doing we would ask the public to cease their social network hate campaign.
The Editor.

Well, what a terrible few months it's been.....

A simple message left on the imbecile of an editors archaic answer machine, and my world collapsed around me..... so, this is what happened.....

I persuaded the good lady Philpott that we could have a few days in the West Country visiting her sister Agnes; and that as we were in the locality that we could visit the Cath Kidston shop in Bude. (I was much surprised by Mrs Philpott's enthusiasm for this excursion. As a child, her father had taken her on a trip to the sub-continent, here she had seen men washing their bullocks in the Ganges. So disturbed was she that she immediately returned home, and since that day has generally restricted her travel to no further north than Birchington).

Well, the editor misheard the details of our visit to the West Country and published that we were on a "kitten culling tour of the isle of Bute" (does such a thing even exist.....?)

We hadn't even reached Agnes's bungalow, when on the A326 we experienced what I now know the police call an 'armed stop'..... this being a joint operation between Special Branch and Cat's In Crisis..... Despite our strongest protests we were detained on remand for some weeks (one of them being for our own protection), before the courts were persuaded to release us, when a selection of Mrs Philpott's chintz was produced as evidence for her fondness of Kidston..... Released, but social pariahs, we were forced to hide for our own safety; and it is not until now, with our heads held high, that I feel able to come forward and to tell the public what really happened. As much as I have sore misgivings at writing another word for that swine of an editor, I am still contractually bound, and cannot face another round of legal bills..... so, I will tell you about a conversation that Mrs Philpott and I had the other night..

Sitting around our Grundig Television, Mrs Philpott took a loud nasal inhale and complained about the sulphurous vegetable smell. This I replied was probably the cabbages, you know how they 'hum' this time of year. To which Mrs Philpott retorted that it was the Cauliflowers rather than Cabbages that smelled. The debate that ensued only came to an end when the kipper that was in the refrigerator, for my tea, was unceremoniously slapped around my face. Left to sleep the night in the spare room, it was only when I undressed that I realised that it was actually a small piece of rancid Camembert cheese, stuck between my toes, that had caused the smell (interestingly the taste remained unimpaired).....

Alone in the bed that night I dreamt, I dreamt of a time before Thanet ponged.....

Long ago, there were no Cabbages and Cauliflowers in the fields of Thanet. Then a forgotten crop swayed and stood tall in the cultivated fields. These Triffids were brought to England by the Romans from the Mediterranean. Nurtured and cultivated they thrived in the South East climate.

These plants were the long forgotten 'Alexanders'. It is related to the carrot, with distinctive green florets. Also known as Black Lovage, the stems were used like celery, either raw or boiled, the young shoots and tops boiled, raw or pickled with vinegar, the roots as an alternative to parsnip. Many monasteries also cultivated 'Alexanders' for their known medicinal qualities.

The plant remained the regular food stuff and only disappeared from cultivation due to the arrival of celery and other new breeds of vegetables. By 1557 farmed cultivation of 'Alexanders' was recorded to have ceased, and the vegetable slid from our dinner plates and into the lap of history.

However, these Triffid blighters weren't over yet..... their seeds, cast in the ground, and blown by the wind, now inhabit every cliff top, every byway and every lane of Thanet. The bastard sons of the Roman's seeds now cover our landscape. Instantly recognisable, showering us with flowers of white to welcome the springs arrival.

Now, Mrs Philpott does like her five-a-day, and when she's not doing that she likes to eat fruit and veg; so the chance to go and collect some free 'Alexanders' could not be missed. Like me, if you collect these wonderful vegetables, then always remember to wash them and anything that you get from the hedgerow; and remember that 'chocolate does not grow in hedgerows', contrary to what my mum taught me as a child (I learnt this was a lie the hard way).

Washed, prepared and cooked, I treated Mrs Philpott to an Alexanders-smoothy.

Sadly, Mrs Philpott interpreted the drink as a vague 'dig' about her blocked sinus issue..... Result..... One glass of Alexanders-smoothy poured over my head, and assaulted with an ear trumpet.

Some days you just can't win.....

*Albert Philpott
Somewhere near Balmoral
Gardens.*

**Cavendish Fairfax will be
publishing more old tosh
in future editions.*



BROADSTAIRS TOWN TEAM

Update of Projects for The Broadie - June edition

What an incredibly busy April and May we've had. An amazing amount of support from our community and businesses, mean we have been able to target more projects to make Broadstairs an even nicer place to live and work.

2 major projects for the Town Team and our wonderful bunch of volunteers have been our main focus over the last couple of months - Broadstairs Town Shed and The Town Team Brush Up Broadstairs' Gardens group.

Our Gardens group goes from strength to strength with Ruth Goldfinch at the helm. It's a small, but expanding group of volunteers including local business people and organisations that want to improve the gardens and beds throughout Broadstairs.

We have committed to planting and maintaining three beds, Albion Street Car Park, Queens Gardens, and Ramsgate Road (opposite East Kent College) We've also supported a local initiative in Nelson Place. With co-operation, support and help from TDC and Broadstairs Town Council with funding for plants, and help with rubbish clearance, we aim to have all beds cleared and planted by the end of May and maintained throughout the summer.

We've also helped organise the Town's poppy planting for the WW1 commemorations including the Amenity land at Culmers. Additional one off garden projects are planned over the summer, and the Gardens team will continue to work closely with our 'Litter picking' group headed up by Wendy Carr.

Huge Thanks to : The Potting Shed, The Secret Garden @ Quex, Holy Trinity Church Brownies, (who will be weeding Albion Street on a regular basis as part of their community work), Lilliput Mini Golf for watering our newly planted shrubs and Town Mayor Ros Binks, for providing refreshments for the volunteers at one of our bigger events. The gardening group is a really enjoyable way to put something back into the community. We are a happy group with varied levels of skill & talent. New members are very welcome.

And so to Shed. Our incredible journey continues. Friday 9th May finally saw the unveiling of the plaque by Laura Sandys, to celebrate the finishing touches of the total refurbishment of the old DVLA building AKA 'The Cottage' in Pierremont Park.

The 14 month journey to get the building back into use has been a fantastic experience, at times challenging.. but ultimately very rewarding. We now have a brilliant team of dedicated 'Shed Heads' who have not only done the lion's share of the work to the building, giving up weeks' of their time, but alongside



Claire – our new Shed Co-ordinator, will be managing all the community projects and the manufacture of 'Broadstairs Town Shed hand-made wooden Products which will be on sale very soon! We would not have made it this far without an extraordinary amount of support from local members of our community and businesses, too many to name here, but all of whom have their plaques of Thanks and recognition in pride of place in The Shed.

The shed will be fully open for visitors by the end of May. Details of opening hours and sessions will be published very soon, on our Facebook page, website and via 'What's On Broadstairs' . Our mission is to provide a learning and sharing space where older, sometimes isolated people can share their skills and learn new ones. We'll welcome anyone who'd like to come learn woodworking and carpentry, take part in our computer and cooking classes, or even just pop in for a cuppa. If you know someone who might benefit from visiting this fantastic new meeting place in Broadstairs, please get in touch, or pop along to Pierremont Park and say Hello and find out more.

www.broadstairstownteam.org.uk

www.broadstairstowshed.org.uk

Brownies helping with the flowerbeds in Albion Street



Poppy seedlings emerge at Culmers Allotments

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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. Other times are available by appointment.

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