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Hands up who reads this bit. Yeah thought as much, I don't know why I bother I really don't. Sitting here with bloody fingers bashing away at the keyboard in the vain hope that someone will notice me, nothing. not a bean. No Christmas cards no cash pushed under the door in a brown envelope. It's not fair I tell you, not fair at all

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This issue we've included a few different contributors just to mix things up a bit. We have a piece on Europe by Laura Sandys MP, Broadstairs own resident physicist (bet you didn't know we had one) Joe McEvoy talks about the joys of discovering the seaside and there's an important lesson on staying warm by George Monbiot.

We hope you enjoy their articles as much as we have enjoyed sourcing them.

# Your letters thebroadie@googlemail.com

# Don't believe the sell by dates

**Dear Sir** 

Many thanks for 'The Broadie' which has been coming through my letter-box regularly. I enjoy it so much. My friend across the road from me also sends her thanks.

I came to Broadstairs in March 1985 so I am just a new-comer. My writing is very bad as I have that awful 'Carpal' thing in both my hands, I am past my sell by date as well as I was born in 1912

Yours sincerely Margherita.

Our pleasure Margherita, and here's to 103.

# **Plumbing around**

Dear sir

Your assertions are correct when it comes to the costs of heating systems for large building such as Pierremont hall. Of course installations cost a lot more in large buildings due to the increased size and therefore associated distance between heating units. The main boiler itself is also more expensive due to the increased output requirements. However, where public bodies get their quotes from has always been beyond me. Like you say; think of a number and add a couple of zeroes.

I would suggest that perhaps they start looking for companies with a few morals when next they next decide to do some work at public expense.

Name and address withheld

### What If

Perhaps a reader could enlighten me. If Pierremont Hall is closed down and sold, would the new owners object if I brought along my brood of six very noisy children to play on the swings in their new garden

George, Broadstairs



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# It's the Broadstairs 2015 news round up.

## The hidden face of UKIP?

A local UKIP councillor gets sacked for making 'Jaw dropping' comments. No really? A UKIP member saying something stupid. Whatever next? - A Conservative Cabinet Minister having been educated at Eton.

## If you build it, they won't come

Just when you thought it was safe to go in the water. Just when you'd imagine that most right-minded people realised that Thanet's economy is largely tourist based. Someone comes up with an idea to create a large dirty, noisy brick making factory slap bang on Port Ramsgate seafront. News that it will create 5000 jobs and untold wealth in the locality can only be days away.

## **Errant Landlords**

Pierremont Hall is almost a ghost ship with only the Folk Week office and the Town council remaining. Lack of maintenance of electrical and heating systems have been blamed for the wholly avoidable predicament. Perhaps the landlord who has let the hall fall into disrepair could apply to the council for some funding to bring it up to spec' - Oh, no, wait a minute.......

## **Pub Landlord stands up**

Comedian Al Murray will be standing for office at the forthcoming election. Mr Murray the 'Pub Landlord' will be standing for the Free United Kingdom Party FUKP. His election pledges include reducing the price of a pint of beer to 1p. And creating a demilitarized zone between North and South Thanet Mr Murray has set up a campaign website which carries the slogan: "Other parties offer the moon on a stick. We'll do better than that: a British moon on a British stick."

When interviewed he said: "It seems to me that the UK is ready for a bloke waving a pint around, offering common sense solutions." Detractors have suggested that the forthcoming election could become a media circus especially if any more nut-jobs throw their hat in the ring

## **Nut-job Throws hat in ring**

The Al-Zebabist Nation of OOOG A registered political party pushing for the eradication of Broadstairs and the establishment of Thanet as a Zebabist state run by Boalia Law will also be appearing on your ballot papers. Some of the less controversial election pledges from the Nation of Ooog include:- Outlawing the Gregorian calendar and replacing it with the Zebogian calendar, as revealed to the Prophet by OOOG Himself. The Zebogian calendar year consists of 72 weeks broken into 12 months (OOOGuary, Zebruary, Zerch, Zepril, Zey, Zeene, Zely, OOOGust, Zeptember, 000Gtober, Nozember, Dezember). These are broken into 5 day weeks (Zeeday, Zebnesday, Zebaday, Zebadiahday and 000Gday). The calendar began with the birth of the Prophet, and shall end with his death. His death is prophesied to occur at the age of 33, at some point during the year 34 AZ. There is no year zero in the Zebogian calendar, only before and after Zebadiah. Vote Al Zebab or as they say in the Nation of Ooog - 'Ooog Akbar'

### Pub turned down

A planning application for the Lord Nelson pub site has been initially turned down by the Town Council after concerns were voiced over vehicular access, the number of units in the development and concerns that the property should remain as a community hub (pub or coffee shop) in that more evidence was needed to demonstrate there was no longer a need for the public house.

Now we're all for being careful when it comes to planning applications but a little bit of consistency wouldn't go a miss, if you're in any doubt take a look at how many units were allowed in the proposed development owned by Panther Securities at the bottom of the High Street. You can also tell that whoever came up with the statement regarding the need for evidence to demonstrate there was no longer any need for the pub, has not been out drinking much in Broadstairs in the last couple of years, a town where empty pubs abound whilst landlords watch and wonder where on earth all their customers have gone.

### **Costa Coffee**

Work at the old Barclays Bank building is well underway / complete (Delete as applicable) to turn it into a Costa Coffee shop. Now I'm not too familiar with the many and varied ways of drinking hot bean juice, but what I have been led to believe is that the new (really not very British) way of serving a member of the public coffee is for the Coffee person (Barista) to ask your name and then write whatever you say on the Coffee receptacle. I'd like to furnish you a small piece of advice from the comedian Dave Gorman should you find this new concept a little irritating. When asked what name to put on the Coffee cup, simply say 'My name is 'Coffee Two Sugars'.

# Special Measures please Mr Dickens

Charles Dickens school has made some progress after a report by Ofsted in September 2014 placed the school in special measures. Ofsted have now described the school as 'Fit for purpose' New measures put in place since the downgrading include:-New systems for assessment and tracking student progress. Changing how students are organised, i.e. moving to a year-based system.

Year progress managers have been appointed, supported by year support officers and progress support workers.

The governing body is being reconstituted to improve the governance of the school."

Source. Isle of Thanet Gazette

### I'll have AFT

The first batch of beer has been brewed by the Four Candles Alehouse, now Britains smallest Micro-brewery. Situated in Sowell Street, St Peters. Landlord and beer connoisseur Mike Beaumont brewed the first batch of his 'Easy to drink with a slightly bitter edge' beer in aid of the 'Brain Tumour Research Charity'. The Beer, entitled 'AFT' will hopefully become a regular tipple at the Micropub, but get in quick before another bloody beer swilling prospective MP beats you to it.

More news on pages 5 & 9

# The Brigadier

'Don't worry, we don't last forever, some things are bound to drop off along the way'.

Yes, that's what the middle aged bearded male nurse informed me when I turned up to complain about my knees. Of course I'm not the first to



complain about my knees, my dearly beloved has never been a fan ever since she caught a glimpse of them one year whilst holidaying in Marrakesh, 'And you can put those awful things away too' is how she put it; although I'm only assuming it was my knees she was referring to. Anyway, I've wandered from the path again.

A lovely doctor's surgery it is, and one of the few you can just turn up to, as the name suggests they have a twice weekly surgery, quite a rarity nowadays.

How times have changed, my first brush with the medical profession occurred at the tender age of five years old when a doctor of some renown proceeded to grab at my ne'r-do-wells and ask me to cough, not in a good way either like an over friendly uncle, but an unusual way to check for a sore throat nonetheless. As we have discovered in the last few years, we can't always trust those who we were once taught to respect; I did get three mint humbugs out of the deal though, so not all bad.

There were no fumblings in the undiscovered regions of the southern hemisphere on this visit however, which at my age was mostly a relief but on reflection a slight disappointment too.

I'll be getting a few appointments in the post to go and see the good people at Margate hospital who will doubtless appreciate the wonders of my fine set of leg axles.

'We can do wonders with knees' the nurse offered. 'it's not like the old days when they just sat you in a wicker chair and pushed you to the park once a week, you'll be sprinting up the high street in a few months'.

'Now look here young man, I've not sprinted since Adolf took a pot shot at me with a Messerschmitt, I didn't enjoy it then, so I'm confident I'll like it even less now' I replied.

'Take my word for it, you'll be happy once you've got new knees' he continued.

I'm not sure how I could take his word for it as he did look a bit young for that sort of nonsense, unless of course it's one of those groovy fashionable procedures that the younger generation seem to love so much, a nip here, a tuck there or half a pound of liquid fat sucked out through your belly button. We really didn't need that in my day, we rarely witnessed the sight of skin other than when the doctor grabbed your nuptials or the school Matron showed you her cleavage as she hugged your tears away.

Skin is so much more in vogue today, from the painted people who readily show their Tribal body art gained after battles fought and foes defeated; even though they work as a plumber, to the weird and wonderful ones who pierce themselves with all sorts of implements, deporting themselves as if they'd spent many long years living with an undiscovered tribe of South American Amazonian pygmies. I recently witnessed one young chap with ear lobes so wide you could fit a whole fist through it clutching a pineapple. It did nothing for me except fill me with wonderment as to the reason why. I suppose the point is that he is young, virile and has his whole life ahead of him and he might as well do as he bloody well pleases

before the many and varied joys of adulthood such as responsibilities, mortgages and making ends meet knock the life from his sails.

So I suppose the nurse has a point, I will probably be less grouchy, I doubt I'll need a constant supply of medication except of course the stuff that comes in a bottle marked Gin and I'm sure I'll be looked after superbly by the nurses and matrons whether they're pierced, painted, male, female or not quite sure which side they should button up a shirt.

The Brigadier

# **More News**

## Definitely drowning - not waving

The Drowned man is drawing rave reviews from visitors to Margate Turner centre. The 'dead body' exhibit is a model 'selfie' of the artist Jeremy Millar. Overhearing a fabulously dressed couple who were scratching chins whilst admiring the work we can report that, 'It's shocking yet brings out the frailty of human existence, the horror of the unknowable marks on the skin combined with the belief that the model may yet rise from the dead and move sends shivers down the spine'

Other pieces at the exhibition include a photograph of Tracey Emin with her kit off and a cat with five legs.
But ignore me, it's all actually very good.

### £250K grant to boost tourism.

Blah blah blah. £250K from the government to boost tourism. No it's £250K from the taxpayer. But don't worry it probably wont be seen anywhere near Broadstairs as the cash will apparently be used to develop the community beach hut scheme in Margate and Ramsgate. Funds will also be used to stage seaside events and encourage local pride of the coastline.

Communities minister Lord Ahmad visited Margate the other week to announce the extra cash 'What we're looking for is to ensure towns such as Margate this and Margate that and Margate, Margate Margate.

### **Lost in Broadstairs**

Lost Councillor. Hasn't been seen in Broadstairs for years yet still manages to get elected. Last seen in 2012 wearing Blue rosette asking for your vote, not sure what rosette he's wearing nowadays. Call TDC Margate should you find them

# All your eggs in one basket

After the shelving of the Tesco seafront store in Margate it has been announced that a Tesco in Chatham is to close its doors, this comes after the food giant announced they are pulling out of a number of further developments, including one in the Strood region.

What on earth has this got to do with Broadstairs. Well at present not much. However, Is this the start of things to come? Is the retail park at Westwood a flash in the pan that could end up the same way once the Internet finally does away with the huge shop experience. And does the local council have a contingency plan should it all go terribly wrong for the corporate retail sector as store numbers drop and shoppers forego the out of town experience for the convenience of the High Street.

We don't know either, but as Bob once said 'The times they are a changing'

# **Lightly Inebriated**

Dear Thanetians,

With the start of the new year, an election year, I feel it is time I throw my candidacy out there for the good people of Thanet to vote for. My party, the United Kingdom Lightly Inebriated Party (UKLIP, not to be confused with UKIP) would be proud to represent you in government. Currently our policies are vague but often align with popular opinion and can be washed down well with a pint of beer. We are one of the few parties out there that represent the working man (but not those damn breast feeding women) and to show this, we are going to both cut taxes for the top 11% of earners in the UK and improve public services at the same time. It's not everyone that can improve services whilst cutting their budgets but I'm unconfident that we can do that. Pint of beer anyone?

Our policies don't just relate to the UK, oh no, a corner stone of our policy is to remove us from the European Union. My German wife (go figure, I'm anti Europe but married a German) often asks me why. Let me tell you what I tell her.

Europe is taking our money and sending red tape back in our direction which we have to accept. If we were to leave the European Union, the money we save could be used to pay for the red tape that will have to replace their red tape and of course pay for again the European red tape we will need to actually be able to trade with Europe on now less favourable terms.

Legislation in all areas will be much the same with the added benefit that we will lose our leading position in Europe that allows us to guide policy.

I'm parched, beer anyone?

It is important not to forget the financial benefits of leaving Europe. With 20% of tourists being Johnny Foreigners and the Thanetian economy being heavily reliant on tourism, if we make it harder for them (700 million of the blighters) to come here and our feelings known that we don't want to be part of their union, I'm sure the local economy will thrive. Genius I know, let's have a beer.

If we think of the wider implications, London, the financial capital of Europe where vast wealth flows through trickling down to the rest of the country, will become harder for businesses to operate in and many will relocate to mainland Europe taking their tax payments with them...we don't need their euros when we have beer. Pint anyone? After all that beer I fancy a 'Ting-Tong' sort of nibble...yes, you heard it, political correctness is rubbish and I want to do away with that. I want to be able to generalise about people on their nationality (especially a country with 1 billion people and a massive economy we trade with...always good for the leader of a country to call people names). If someone is different I want to be able to say so in a derogatory manner, I didn't do enough of it as a child in the playground so I want to make up for it as an adult. But first let's have a beer.

Right, I've stated how I intend to stuff up, er, I mean fix the economy and international relations, shall we have a crack at the environment. Green energy is nonsense. It's not as if fossil fuels will run out or that we are subject to the pricing set by foreign countries which can have a devastating impact on our economy. Fossil fuels also don't cause global warming, with Thanet being located on the sea front, rising sea levels will have no impact what so ever. Let's frack, let's frack the hell out of the country. Local residents are always delighted when it causes a mild earthquake to rattle their windows and is always a good to laugh about over a beer.

So, let's recap. I will represent the working man with tax cuts to my rich

buddies I sometimes go fox hunting with, I want to remove us from a leading position in a union that allows us to compete with global behemoths such as the USA, India and China. No more red tape from Europe as that will all be replaced by UK red tape that has to meet European standards anyway if we want to trade with them.

I want to do away with political correctness so we can insult people for being who they are, much as you would in a playground.

I want to make it harder for the people in Thanet by cutting foreign visitors through restriction of movement and stop those pesky Euros flowing into the local economy and most importantly I want a beer to show that I am a man of the people.

I hope I will see you vote for me in May, just tick the box next to my

Warm regards, United Kingdom Lightly Inebriated Party

Ian Caplis for UKLIP (not to be confused with UKIP



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# Community Policing

POLICE

Residents of Broadstairs, I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and new year.

It gives me great pleasure to say I will

be writing for the Broadie Mag. Look out for the new column from Kent Police in the Broadie Mag - we plan to discuss local policing matters in Broadstairs, highlight the community events we attend, offer crime prevention advice and let you know a little more about operations that Kent Police will be conducting in Broadstairs. We have three Police Community Support Officers for Broadstairs which some of you will already know. We have Gemma Davis, Jack Williams and myself, Ollie Stevens, who cover most of Broadstairs. Please go to the Kent Police website for further information on which areas of Broadstairs Gemma, Jack and I cover.

During the winter months when the days are shorter, crime can increase in all areas across Kent. So please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via 101 or email csu.thanet@kent.pnn.police.uk , if you would like one of the Broadstairs team to come over and give you relevant crime prevention advice. If you see us about then please feel free to approach us and ask us about any of your queries.

Thank you to everyone who attended the last Broadstairs Neighbourhood Engagement Meeting (NEM) on 20 October at St Peter's Church Hall. Over 100 people turned up which I think was a fantastic turn out. Some really good and positive points were made which we are continuing to address on a daily basis. Most of the issues raised from the last NEM related to vehicle nuisance such as speeding and parking in a number of areas in Broadstairs. We have been keeping a close eye on those matters as well as other policing matters locally.

On the subject of nuisance vehicles, we have attended Salisbury Avenue and Rosemary Avenue in regards to a high volume of reports suggesting vehicles are using those roads as a cut through when

clearly signage states that it is 'access only'. We attended on 6 November with one Sergeant and four PCSOs from 8am to 9.15am. For the hour and 15 minutes we were there we stopped 110 cars using the road as a cut through and advice was given to those drivers. We will be attending that area again to conduct the same checks soon and action will be taken against those who ignore the restrictions. Lastly, I would like to say a big thankyou to the schools we attended for Road Safety Week back in November. We were warmly welcomed and we enjoyed giving the students an educational presentation on Road Safety. For any information on Road safety week please go to , the next one is 23 to 29 November 2015.

Kind Regards PCSO Ollie Stevens 58713

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# Something of the night

Midnight.--Woke up from few minutes sleep by hearing a cry, seemingly outside my port. Could see nothing in fog. Rushed on deck, and ran against mate. Tells me he heard cry and ran, but no sign of man on watch. One more gone. Lord, help us! Mate says we must be past Straits of Dover, as in a moment of fog lifting he saw North Foreland, just as he heard the man cry out. If so we are now off in the North Sea, and only God can guide us in the fog, which seems to move with us, and God seems to have deserted us.

Bram Stoker - Dracula

Or alternatively how the local electorate may well be feeling at the moment with the fog of electioneering nonsense that's already started down here on the Foreland.

Some might say that Thanet in general has already had too much blood sucked out, not Ex-Tory leader Michael Howard though, he was recently spotted visiting prospective Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay's new campaign office at the Broadway. Famously described by Anne Widdecombe as having 'Something of the night' about him, and thereafter mocked by 'Spitting Image' as a vampirical character, Mr Howard turned up to wish Craig Mackinlay well in his ambition to lead Thanet South back on a less negative path (that's 'A rhesus negative').

In other election news that is sure to sends shivers down the spine two other hopefuls have been on the campaign trail, unfortunately they've just been in the wrong place.

Perhaps the Sat Nav in the car is on the blink, or maybe the compass on the poop deck is as broken as some of their policies.

Either way will someone please inform Nigel Farage and comedian Al Murray that Thanet South does not have Margate as part of it's constituency and therefore could they perhaps answer why on earth they keep visiting Margate to campaign for election. Margate is Thanet North, and as far as we know there will be an election there too involving candidates other than a comedian who likes a beer or two and bloke named Al.

It has been suggested that locals may like to re-instate the 'Bottle-Light Signal'. (see The Isle of Thanet Compendium) Back in the age of smuggling this signal was concealed in the wall of no 26 High Street, St Peters to inform whether there were any revenue men in the locality. Apparently you had to know where exactly the signal was and it could only be viewed from a certain angle. We are suggesting a similar scheme to warn of prospective parliamentary candidates on the prowl, some suggestions already in involve a system of colourful shirts worn by Ken from the Neptune. I.e. Blue to warn of Conservative candidates in the area, Red to warn of Labour, and Black or Brown to warn of Nigel.

# **Scratch and Sniff cards**

Dover district council recently announced that they will be giving out scratch-cards to responsible citizens who clean up after themselves and or their dogs. The 'Pick it - Bin It - Win It' campaign hopes to positively reinforce the use of bins in the area by rewarding those who clear up with the chance to win £25 in shopping vouchers Cllr Nicholas Kenton, DDC Cabinet member for environment said: "We are delighted to launch this new campaign.

"DDC continues to work with all our partners to encourage people to pick up after their pets, and to put rubbish in the bin.

"As well as continuing our robust approach to enforcement, we also

want to reward positive behaviour and support a range of education initiatives.

"We are delighted to work with partners on this scheme, and we thank the Town Council for funding the vouchers." http://www.dover-express.co.uk

# The Broadstairs Town Team needs you.

Yes, and you at the back hiding behind your copy of the Beano. Go on, spare an hour or two to help keep your town spick and span. Are you good with a paint brush, an expert with a trowel or a novice with a garden fork and a watering can? If so Broadstairs needs you. If you fancy getting involved contact Ruth Goldfinch for projects: ruth@broadstairstownteam.org.uk or Wendy Carr for painting, and litter: wendybroadstairstownteam.org.uk

# Join the petition

We're not always convinced that petitions really do much, however they do more than doing nothing at all. With that in mind get yourself over to the website

https://www.change.org/p/thanet-district-council-stop-the-broadstairs-sell-off

This is where you'll find a petition recently started by our soon to be ex-MP Laura Sandys. If you hadn't guessed it's regarding TDC continued interest in selling off the family silver such as Pierremont Hall or York Gate House to all and sundry in the vain attempt to get some money in the coffers that they will doubtless waste on paying to a chief executive who neither deserves a six figure salary or really earns it.

## Coast

Coast magazine has once again featured Viking Bay Broadstairs as one of the top ten tourist destinations for a day by the sea. Coming in at number seven Broadstairs main bay was praised for amongst other things, local facilities and the rock pool for a fun place to take kiddies fishing for small fry.

In a less salubrious publication Joss Bay car park has been named in the top ten for altogether different reasons.

# The Highway code in other languages

Now we know they're not the best at knowing which way the traffic is coming from and they can be irritating at times but that certainly doesn't mean we want to see the little darlings injured. We are of course talking about our foreign students who are, as far as we are concerned are very, very welcome here. Unfortunately a young Spanish student was recently injured after being hit by a car at the Broadway. We wish him well towards a speedy recovery. We're apportioning no blame as we no not who was at fault, but perhaps it's a timely reminder to drivers that speed limits in town are there for a reason, car indicators are indicators so everyone else knows where you're going, mobile phone use when driving is illegal and the fact that you never know what a pedestrian is going to do next means it's probably best to drive accordingly. And don't get me started on the bozo's who STILL don't know that the right hand lane on a roundabout is for turning right or anywhere past 180 degrees and not for going straight ahead



# Let's stay together by Laura Sandys

Political fashion has left the Europhile out in the cold over the past 10 years. It hasn't been easy to get air time to articulate a case for a stronger and more powerful Britain shaping politics and policy at the heart of Europe. But fashions turn, and the European

Movement, which I now chair, is regaining its stature as a strong voice for the silent majority. Europhiles are again making their case, reshaping our movement to amplify the argument that the UK's future needs a strong voice at the European top table.

Those already at the door marked "exit" embody a strange combination of defeatism and lack of ambition. They pose as the great patriots, but would any prime minister or British monarch (at least since Elizabeth I refused to marry a continental king) develop a clear policy to reduce the UK's influence in Europe? That is what exit means – a real and highly substantive reduction in the UK's influence with our neighbours and in our power to shape Europe's policy. I do not see how anyone could think that a UK sitting on the outside would be a more powerful country; that withdrawal from any international club would enhance our international influence; or that leaving a trading organisation could in anyone's mind reflect an economic strategy that will serve British business and jobs better.

And what about our own United Kingdom, an increasingly difficult settlement between four nations. For a start, withdrawal would not support a stronger union because pro-European Scotland would be back at the "independence" ballot box within months. It is Northern Ireland's future stability, however, that would be most compromised; all political understandings would be threatened, the economy would be destabilised, and cross-border trade totally compromised. A political impact assessment of the consequences of European withdrawal for Northern Ireland would be a terrifying document to read, for the people of Northern Ireland and the coherence of the UK. Within years it would be irretrievably damaged, politically and economically.

But we should not be satisfied with simply having a go at the bolters. We have a responsibility to be clear about why Europe matters and what it can now and into the future deliver for this country and all our citizens. For too long people like myself have been complacent.

Being part of Europe matters – looking at a map confirms that we are part of it whether we like it or not. Movement, flexibility, a choice of 27 other countries where you can live, work, trade and travel with much greater freedoms than any other group of 28 nations in the world. We take this for granted. So we must be

clear that we are putting at risk real freedoms, not fictional or theoretical freedoms. Freedoms that young people take up when they study abroad, and when hundreds of thousands of pensioners move to Spain.

And this freedom delivers us immeasurable domestic benefits. In places such as Thanet free movement fills our seaside towns in summer, while our language schools are packed with European students; even our fishermen, notoriously Eurosceptic, sell their fish in French fish markets – and get better prices. If there were ever a false prospective being sold by the outers, it is that small businesses will benefit from withdrawal from the largest economic market in the world. Big businesses can relocate to another European location at the drop of a hat. Multinationals will start to use continental suppliers who they know are up to speed with product standards. The smaller company, meanwhile, trying to maintain its market within a European supply chain, will have an uphill struggle.

We are heading for a difficult time economically that will last for many years. With a realignment of our economy in relation to emerging economies there will be a need to shape new ideas to secure a prosperous Britain. We will not be able to secure this stability politically and economically without building coalitions and sitting at the top table. We will need and want to work with our neighbours for our common interests, and I am sure all Britons would be horrified to find that life-changing decisions were being made in Brussels without us even being invited to put our view forward. At this particular moment more than any, for us to be retreating to the exit of the most powerful economic grouping in the world would be perverse at best and deeply unpatriotic at worst.

The European Movement believes that together we can achieve so much for the UK through working with other countries. We should be greedy about free trade with Europe, plus the US, plus other countries across the globe. Not, as the bolters propose, the rest of the world without Europe. We must secure an "EU plus" not a "minus EU" strategy. If we'd had the lack of ambition in the 1700s that some have today, we wouldn't have got as far as the Channel Islands, never mind America and India.

There are few here in the UK or beyond who would say that all was right with Europe and its institutions, but all political institutions – domestic and international – are under threat and in need of fundamental reform. At such a time of change and reform it is critical that we have a voice, that we have influence, and that we are able to shape our future with our neighbours rather than being isolated from them. Only then will we be able to build a stronger nation within an increasingly strong Europe.

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# All change at the Broadway

After the foreseeable unmitigated disaster of the privatisation of the Broadway Health centre which saw patient numbers drop by nearly forty percent, it is with some relief that the excellent Doctor Malik of the Albion Road Surgery, St Peters is stepping in where profit hungry firm 'Concordia' failed. Patients are being advised that they will need to register with Dr Malik's surgery should they wish to join the new practice.

Numbers registered at the Broadway surgery fell from over 8000 down to just over 5000 after patients complained about service levels, never seeing the same doctor twice and numerous other complaints associated with the problems of private corporations putting profit before patients. At present the Albion Road surgery is to remain open



and in late news.. Margate apparently isn't even in the Thanet South constituency Nigel

So why are we campaigning here then Al?





The comedians

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# A shockingly good idea



"Hey Mike the ambulance crew did a fantastic job saving my brother (even though he lay on the floor with no pulse for 50 mins), they managed to get his heart going again with their defibrillator. We should have more of them available throughout the community".

That's how the story of the Broadstairs Jetty Defibrillator started. About 2 years ago Mike Dadd was a Community Resuscitation Development Officer, working for SECAmb and the British Heart Foundation. I pointed out to Mike that there was no defibrillator coverage for the harbour side of the beach and no coverage for the beach during the winter, so I asked Mike what were the chances of getting a defibrillator so as to meet these shortfalls. Mike pulled some strings and lo and behold managed to get one. Initially we based the defibrillator in the Harbour Cafe and let the relevant people know it was there so step 1 was achieved.

A defibrillator is an advanced bit of kit that can restart a heart when a person is in cardiac arrest. This is when the heart goes into Ventricular Fibrillation or other rhythms and a person will stop breathing. Their heart will start to vibrate instead of pumping, if defibrillator treatment is given swiftly it is possible to restart the heart's natural rhythm and save the persons life. It does this by applying an electric shock to the heart to reset the electrical rhythm. A few months later Mike suggested we might be able to use the telephone box on the Jetty as a permanent home for the defibrillator. giving people 24/7 access to the equipment, we decided this was the best way forward to give the greatest coverage to the area. The phone box was being decommissioned by BT and was available for the Parish Council to adopt for one pound. Mike presented the benefits of the defibrillator to the council and contacted BT to seek permissions with the help of the Community Heartbeat Trust. Subsequently the council put a three month consultation period in place to see if there were to be any objections to the scheme. The three months passed and there were no objections however the valuation office agency (VOA) had by then got involved, they had decided that although BT do not pay business rates on phone boxes the minute we placed a defibrillator in the box it was liable to

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business rates!!! They asked the princely sum of £576 per annum for us to provide this lifesaving piece of equipment, for free, to the public. We were aghast at this and started a campaign to have this eliminated which also included a segment on the ITV Meridian news. The upshot of the campaign was that the business rates were reduced, but not eliminated, something that in my opinion is totally wrong. With agreements to go ahead in place we sought to get the phone box refurbished and with the help of 'Nutkin' and the British Coatings Federation (BCF) and P&P Electrical Installations Ltd we were able to restore the box and rewire it to meet modern standards and the defibrillator was placed securely in the box available for the public to use in time for summer 2014.

The official opening of the box was on January 22nd 2015 when the Mayor of Broadstairs Councillor Binks officially declared the defibrillator available. A legacy has been donated to the council to provide funds for any further work required to support the defibrillator for the next 5 years.

Further training in the use of the defibrillator will be provided by Mike at regular intervals building up to the summer for anyone interested at venues around the harbour, although anyone can use it, as the equipment is user friendly and talks the person through the process of saving a life.

If anyone else would like to donate a defibrillator for public use please contact the Broadie and they will put you in-touch with the relevant people.

George Rusiecki, Harbour cafe

# New Jersey to Broadstairs and a nine out of ten

Well who'd have thought we have our very own astrophysicist residing in Broadstairs. Joeseph McEvoy recieved a MSc in physics from the University of Pennsylvania and PhD from the University of London. He has worked as a research associate at the RCA Research Laboratories in Princetown and also spent considerable time as a research scientist for the USA working on solid state physics. During this time Joe



The Author with Stephen Hawking in 1995

discovered he had a flair for teaching that really inspired students to learn. He has been very active in Science journalism and broadcasting, he has written various books from 'Eclipse' - a history of Solar Eclipses, to the more recent (and superbly written - as my son is reading his treasured signed copy at the mo') 'A Brief History of the Universe'. Joe also worked with Stephen Hawking on the book 'Introducing Stephen Hawking', a graphically illustrated work that makes the whole subject assessable to even a science-phobic reader such as myself, another title in a similar vein is 'Introducing Quantum Theory'. Joe and his wife Patricia spend their days in London, the USA and of course sunny Broadstairs, which as every Bradstonian knows is definitely the centre of the Universe

# Broadstairs - 'Nine out of Ten'

We first discovered Broadstairs just after the Millennium celebrations, sometime in 2001. As empty-nesters in a London flat, we were interested in finding a seaside town in which we could purchase a second home as an investment - hopefully a town that had sandy beaches like those we were accustomed to in the United States. As transplanted Americans from New Jersey living in London since 1973, we were used to with wide sandy beaches like the cities along the Atlantic Coast. My wife took holidays in Atlantic City where her family had properties and I worked as a teenager in Wildwood, NJ.

We had searched many locations in the British Isles in an attempt to find beaches we liked. Much to our disappointment, we were not able to do so. Cornwall and Devon seemed too far away from London. Even though we were attracted to the charm of such lovely areas as Whitstable in Kent and Eastbourne in Sussex, these areas had stones or shingles, not inspiring to us transplanted Yanks. We had never even heard of Broadstairs.

The suggestion to look here came strangely from our bank manager who mentioned that Broadstairs was a town where people bought investment properties and many services and facilities of the town catered for holiday lets.

So sometime around 2001, we visited the town and walked along the coast taking a close look at the Seven Bays of the area from Botany Bay to Dumpton Gap. We were astonished. Not only were the beaches sandy, they were empty! I recall asking my wife Pat at the end of the day what she thought of Broadstairs on a scale of 1 to 10. Her answer

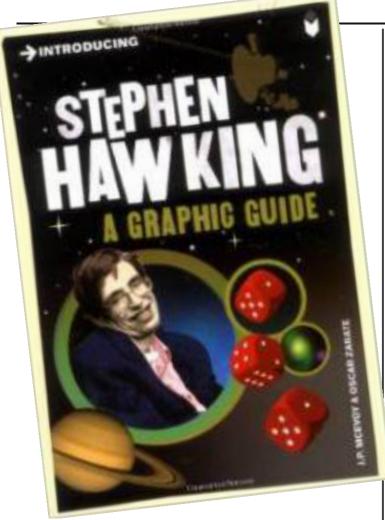
was a very emphatic 'Nine'.

Shortly thereafter we purchased a small flat on the seafront at Victoria Parade and became familiar with the delights of the town . . . ice cream at Morelli's, the unusual films on Tuesday evenings at the Palace Cinema and the excellent seafood to be enjoyed all along the coast from Margate to Ramsgate. In no time, we became interested in a larger property and began to look for a house.

Immediately, we were taken aback when we overheard a conversation by someone from down under complaining that there were no seaside properties left in Broadstairs. In a panic, we noticed a 'For Sale' sign in Rectory Road and soon we were the proud owners of a terraced house on that street. We sold the sea front flat in no time.

We have been surprised over and over again about how little Broadstairs is known. That is, except for the cognoscenti, many of whom were brought here as children with their bucket 'n spade. Maybe it's because the locals like to keep a little quiet about how salubrious it is being here. A few years ago when one of the national newspapers published a piece touting Broadstairs as second only to St. Ives in Cornwall for a seaside destination, one could hear a collective groan from the residents fearing larger crowds of visitors.

In 2007 my wife decided that she would take an assignment with VSO, an organisation for individuals of all ages to volunteer in places like Africa and further afield. She chose Ethiopia and started on a two-year program as a teacher trainer in the the small town of Asella about 175 kilometres south of Addis Ababa. The question was . . . what was I to do? I had recently sold my travel business and was looking forward to developing a new career as a writer, mainly in the history of science. I had a good start with books about Stephen Hawking (1995) and



another on Quantum Theory (2007) published in the popular Beginners series by Icon Books. They both became best sellers and were translated into a dozen languages. Now I had a new commission which was more ambitious: A Brief History of the Universe as a part of the Brief History Series by the publisher Constable & Robinson. This was to be a review of the great discoveries - from Stonehenge to the Big Bang - which has led to the present day understanding of the nature of the Universe. So, we decided to rent the London flat and I would live in Broadstairs full time and write while my wife was away.

Broadstairs is an ideal place for a writer, especially if living a block from the seafront. Typically, one looks for a quiet place with an offbeat atmosphere, peopled with congenial neighbours and numerous diversions. The Broadstairs area was perfect. To an American, the lack of commercial development along the coast is astounding. For example, what could be more glorious to cyclists than the Viking Trail threaded all through the towns of Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Margate? (If I'm sounding like the Thanet Tourist Board, I can assure you it's unsolicited praise as I'm not on their payroll.)

The first activity of the day, after the morning paper from Victory News and coffee on the terrace of the Albion Hotel, would be to look

at the tide tables published on the internet. From these tables, one is able to predict the high and low variations of the sea level before scheduling any long walks along the beach. This I did frequently during my sabbatical from marriage and walked to as far afield as Ramsgate and beyond.

I was particularly intrigued on one of my walks by discovering the disused Hoverport landing site at Pegwell, just beyond Ramsgate. In the late 70s, the Hovercraft was our family's favourite mode of travel to the continent and our youngest son thought that inventor Christopher Cockerell was the most clever man in the world. How sad now to see the eerie, vacant parking lot where we waited for the technological marvel of the day to skim across the surf, descend on the beach and load up with automobiles.

Many locals have noticed me traipsing along on the firm sand washed by the channel, frequently with my walking sticks. I think I became known as 'the man without a dog'.

A definite feature of this little town is the variety of eateries here. Deciding on lunch was always a pleasurable chore for me. Often I would opt for fish 'n chips at The Charles Dickens or an Italian pasta dish at the wonderful Posillipo right on Albion Street. In the evening, the charming Thai for Two or the Broadstairs Tandoori tempted me away from another stir-fry at home. (My specialty) On Wednesday evenings I would carry my Baritone Ukulele down to The Tartar Frigate and join in on the session of folk songs. In short, I was very content and didn't miss London very much.

By the way, I should mention that I did finish the book, and almost on schedule.

One negative aspect of our success in renting our property has been that we have still have not experienced the excitement of the Broadstairs Folk Week. Although Dickens Week has delighted us several times, we have been able to rent our house so easily during the month of August that we give up those dates to some regular clients. This will become history though as we intend to keep that week open some day soon for our own use.

Broadstairs is a great place to have a second home as many displaced Londoners have found. As you approach the town from the M2 and swing onto the A299, it can't be denied that one has a feeling of leaving behind the hyper world of the metropolis. As you continue, the only options are to go into the sea or park the car and get on your bike.

Yes, my bank manager was right, Broadstairs was indeed a discovery and a gem of the Kent coast.

### J.P.McEvoy

Readers can access the author's Amazon page at...
http://www.amazon.com/J.-P.-McEvoy/e/B001K87JBE
and join his blog:
Reflections of An American in London at...
http://joemcevoyblog.com



It always amazes me how few sea-anglers you see anymore, not the ones on the boats who toodle off at high tide and only return only once they have enough on board to trail a low flying stream of gulls behind them, I mean those hardy bunch, who sit there with a pack of Shiphams paste sandwiches and a flask of tea waiting for the knock -knock of the rod as a fish from the deep nibbles on a cocktail of squid and lugworm.

Perhaps it's the draw of the electronic screen that keeps the younger ones in the house and away from the often grim reality of the UK weather systems or maybe it's the sad reality that there just seems less to catch in the oceans than there was twenty or thirty years ago.

Is that the point though.

Of course the top reason to wander off into the element with rod in hand is the idea that you'll be able to come home happy in the knowledge that you've actually achieved what you went out to do, whether that be having something in the bag for dinner or the very fact that you have overcome nature and yet tipped your hat to them too by putting the creature back in alive and well. That base instinct that is only sated once we've either picked the berry, gathered the mushroom or caught the fish, is still very much within us all, as whilst we may have evolved enough to organise others to do our hunting and gathering the brain still delights in remembering the old ways.

I wasn't much of a sea-fisherman when I was a kid, it was always rivers and lakes that interested me most, however the three

months of the close season from March to June always brought out the heavier rods and tackle from the back of the shed. With a garden fork strapped to the crossbar of the bicycle off we'd go down to Kingsgate bay to either dig for lugworm or turn over rocks in search of the elusive 'soft-backed crab.

We weren't alone either, you could always guarantee there'd be two or three other groups of mostly boys down there with battered fishing equipment in various states of disrepair. You were rarely alone on the rocks of Thanet, there would be the gill-netters who strung lines between rocky crevices, to the curious kids searching rock-pools at low tide for the weird and wonderful monsters of the deep, there was always the adults who seemingly managed to catch something every cast with their superior rods and tackle, and the screech of the herring-gull slowly edging nearer and nearer to your bait bucket when your back was turned. I remember once cycling down to Joss Bay for a spot of crabbing with my mate Mick when we stopped dead in our tracks to find the comedian Freddie Starr' booting up with his best Punger Hook in hand, off for a bit of crabbing himself, that might not seem like much nowadays but you must remember Freddie was one of the biggest stars of the time on the three channels of TV. That certainly gave us something to brag about to all our mates who didn't show that day.

Saturday morning was without doubt the best time, especially if the tides were kind and allowed for a full day of bait collecting and then fishing until the sun went down. Then followed the dark and ever quietening walk back from the rocky sea edge, up and off the beach and through the wooded lanes of Kingsgate with paraffin powered 'Tilly lamps' lighting the way in spooky yellow glow. I'm not actually sure we ever expected to catch anything at all; sure that was the idea, but the adventure of it was what aided our transition from boys to men and it's probably what really took us off the following weekend to do it all over again. Thinking about it now, some thirty something years later, I'm not convinced we ever ate a shimmering bass, a green sided Pollock or a Fat headed Cod when we got back from our weekly jaunt to the rocks of Kingsgate, I know the cats did very well out of it once the little Pouting had been boiled for half an hour and the whole house had been fumigated with the fishy odour of bubbling small-fry.

About three years ago a local chap I know related the story about how he took his son fishing down on Stone Bay for a few hours, not really expecting to catch anything but happy to introduce his son to the concept of the fun of the outdoor experience. One cast and a two and a half pound Bass later that son has something to remember for the rest of his life. I've still not forgotten my first catch, and I can probably still recall the first catch of each species too, and to quote Wordsworth 'when in a vacant or pensive mood' I sit and think about going off into the great outdoors with a bag of tackle and flask of tea and a horde of chocolate and imagine the tip of the rod bending or the float sliding off into the depths to signal a bite. That's when I actually get excited again and get to thinking it's about time I retrieved the battered reels from the attic and dusted off the thick warm fishing jacket that the cat took to sleeping on and get myself off for a few hours to commune with nature whilst listening to the rolling of the waves and enjoying the downtime we all need so we can

communicate with our inner self and clear our heads of the trials and tribulations of modern life.

One thing Thanet has an awful lot of is coastline, and viewed from the waters edge far out on the rocks that coastline can be really quite breathtaking.

From an adult's point of view looking back at the enjoyment I had over the years I would strongly recommend you take your children too, definitely one at a time though. They will thank you for it, maybe not straight away, but eventually they will thank you.

For Broadstairs and St Peters Sea Angling Society see www.broadstairsandstpeterssas.co.uk for contact details



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# Volunteers, please!!

Thanet Community Support Partnership is a central point of contact for a group of organisations who support older people in various ways. The aim is to reduce isolation and boost their morale by way of recruiting volunteers to pop in on someone regularly for a cup of tea and a chat, help with shopping or maybe go for a drive just to break the day up.

### Here are some of the comments from our volunteers:-

"It's very rewarding and I look forward to each week"

"I feel good about myself"

"I really enjoy being more active in my community"Thanks to Emy, a volunteer Befriender, Margaret's loneliness is an old memory..

The interactions I have with my friend are just as valuable to me as they are to her"

"It's about meeting people, helping others, feeling needed"

# Here are the comments from some of our people using our service:-

"We have become great friends and feel very comfortable in each other's company"

"As I don't get out much, having a volunteer has given me much more to look forward to"

If you think you could help out in any of the ways above contact Lou or Fran on 01843 597115

or go to www.thanetcommunitysupport.org

Thanet Community Support Partnership is hosted by Thanet Volunteer Bureau



"Thanks to Emy, a volunteer Befriender, Margaret's loneliness is an old memory..

# Thespians! I said Thespians.

As we all know Broadstairs and Thanet in general is bang full of artistic types dressed in fabulous cravats loudly pontificating on whether Larry or Johnny came top trumps as the actors actor. We must surely also mention the tremendous amounts of musicians that abound in CT10.

A chap who I hadn't seen for twenty something years popped down from up north a couple of weeks ago, he lives in a medium size town in Yorkshire twenty or so miles from a large city, he was amazed to see so many different gigs, plays, clubs and artistic nights out available in such a small town. 'Eee, tha' as to travel twenty mile if thee want music oop arr end of things' he said. 'You're lucky to have it I can tell thee'. Which roughly translated means they don't get many pub gigs up North.

It shouldn't come as much of a surprise then that Broadstairs has in recent years been noticed by the arts, whether through good press in the national papers or the fact that more London media types are starting to yearn for the more peaceful life by the seaside. Janet Thomas of The Broadstairs Chamber of Commerce recently sent us out a list of some of the filming events in town in recent years. We've included the information below so you can peruse at your leisure.

### **Tatler photo shoot**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x80GG1MioEl

### **Derek in Broastairs**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFH\_XgJa0xEhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5BluF3FThA&index=14&list=PLNxVOa1uMZedQJgqNdy7DnAlpLu6wDevM

Cerys Matthews - The One Show http://vimeo.com/82557202
Bebe Black - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smJtbpqc3GE
Bats for lashes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXK0Ejzin4c
Anna Neale https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X9mbRYjTy8
Whistle and I will come

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btFKFXiYNbE

**Thandavaam** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JY0iXp0T09c **BP commercial** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II4QybKHcSY https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmFCGmQ4c0g

**Waitrose** - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\_BaVvKAvJo

### **McDonalds Happy Box commercial**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6DAwX\_NChwhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owS-c4uV24I

**Hunderby** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy0oYzia1sg **Top dog model** – Rottweiler

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmOFeM2sCrQ

**Last heroes of D Day** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_mca-6XCmig

### **Nat West Twins advert**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHG3hVTzwyk

### **Holiday of my lifetime**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjEILcEHBeM

That's not a definitive list as there has been the recent filming of The Lady in the Van starring Dame Maggie Smith.

The group 'Scouting for Girls' filmed a video in various locations including 'Arrowsmiths',

The utilities firm EDF Energy filmed an advert featuring Harbour Street and the pier

and a one off feature about the actor and comedian Tony Handcock was also filmed along the seafront



Ramsgate's offer for shoppers continues to expand and on Saturday 14 February there is not only the town's regular Handmade Fair to enjoy but also the opening of the new Petticoat Lane Emporium.

Furniture restorer Richard, with

Ruth and Kevin, are behind this brand new business. They have taken over the old skating rink on Dumpton Park Drive and turned it into a huge emporium of all things vintage, retro, collectable or craft. With 150 individual units, the choice is enormous and it provides a superb way to find and buy intriguing items.

Not far away at the seafront on Marina Parade, at the Ramsgate Tunnels you will find the monthly Handmade & Vintage Fair, open all day from 10am to 5pm. There is always a really great collection of varied goods including jewellery, original art, ephemera, pickles, preserves and produce, all from East Kent artisan makers.

Entry is free to both events and parking is available nearby, either in a car park or on the road side. Entertainment is promised at

the Emporium and Tunnel Tours will run every 2 hours, where you can hear the story behind these wartime shelters, carved out of the chalk cliff in 1939.



# Thank You Broadstairs

Claire, The Shed Heads and all the shedders would like to say thank you Broadstairs for your votes to get us the funding and then supporting us over our first year in operation We could not have done it without you

Skills are being passed on, new skills being learnt, friendships formed, a sense of community fostered Computer classes are now up and running, we have lots of community carpentry projects on the go and we are developing new products for sale to sustain the project, which is fantastic!

# We need your help

We need your help again please. There are now so many members and people wanting to join, plus other activities planned that we need a larger home.

# Know of a building

If you know of a building, in or close to Broadstairs that might be suitable, we'd love to hear from you Budget is limited but we have willingness in abundance to do work. The space needs to be 1200sq ft. plus. If you'd like to know more about the Shed, or think you might know just the right spot.

# Contact The Shed

Contact Claire on 07597 349290 or claire@broadstairstownshed.org.uk
Broadstairs Town Shed is next to Pierremount Hall, Pierremount Park, Broadstairs CT10 IJX
Open Tuesday I Iam-4pm, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday I 0am-4pm





# Broadstairs Folk Week – 50th Anniversary – 7 – 14 August 2015

There are still a lot of people around (relatively hale and hearty) who recall the beginnings of Broadstairs Folk Week fifty years ago with great affection.

It's not always the performers they remember – but the friendships made that have lasted a lifetime and the often bizarre events that happened during the course of the festival week.

Pierremont Park was the focus – as it is now – but the Folk Week set-up was very different in the early days. Cover your eyes health and safety executives – who can forget the speakers wedged into the trees and the First World War tent for the performers?

Nobody expected Folk Week to become the tourism attraction it is now, attracting thousands of visitors to the town. Nostalgia for the days when the hard-core folkies were able to watch morris men dance unmolested outside the Neptune is still pretty strong. Those weird people with beards are now lost

amongst the very trendy people with beards.

But hey ho – times change and the pros and cons of a large festival are probably well known to residents – lots of people = economic benefit and entertainment but also = noise, litter and unfortunate behaviour from a minority.

Look a little harder beyond the crowds on the pavement and you will discover a folk festival that still loves the music and in 2015 is celebrating its roots as a traditional dance event, founded all those years by Jack Hamiltion.

This is your chance to contribute to Folk Week by getting up and DANCING. Surely there's no excuse now that we're all Strictly fans? And ceilidh dancing is easier – there's someone there to tell you what to do all the time. There's loads of opportunities during the week – from the family ceilidhs every lunch-time to the late –nighter at the Pavilion. And it doesn't have to be English traditional style – this year there's also Cajun and Zydeco, belly-dancing, break dance, hip-hop, Appalachian clog and flat-footing.

Nowadays, arts funding has to be justified by linking into a social benefit – so what could be better than giving your heart

a thorough work-out and laughing your head off as you canter through a Longways set with somebody's granny? That's social engineering at its best.

If you really can't get off the sofa at this time of year- now's the time to write new words to the shanty song - Nelson's Blood. Three verses/one chorus - sum up the spirit of Folk Week - any entries alluding to plastic glasses or portable toilets will be recycled promptly. Entries in by 1 July. Put 12th August into your diary now - this is Golden Wednesday - a chance to dig out all that 80s bling you thought you'd never wear again or buy it at an exorbitant price now it's called vintage. Strut your stuff in head to toe gold lame to celebrate Folk Week's 50th anniversary. You have been warned.

Have I mentioned the line-up? Kate Rusby, the Spooky Men's Chorale, Demon Barbers XL, Flook, Tim Edey, the Broonzies, Steam Chicken, Phillip Henry & Hannah Martin, Edward II – and hundreds more musicians and dancers for your delight. Festival season tickets are on sale now – for day, weekend or week tickets. If you're a Friend of Folk Week – Priority Booking for headline events begins on 1st February. We are aiming for 50 new Friends this year – so if you'd like to be sure of a ticket for your fave – join the Friends and support the festival too.

Even in this digital age - we'll still be publishing a super

duper 50th Anniversary Programme- but also an App and we occasionally try and tweet something interesting.

Come and join in -that's the message for the 50th - play the spoons, singalong with the Spooky Men, strum a uke, shake a clog.....more info throughout the year on www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk







# Brush Up Broadstairs Garden Team needs you!

We're a small enthusiastic group of local volunteers who love gardens and gardening, helping to plant and maintain sites within Broadstairs, so we can all be proud of the place we live in We're looking for more people to join our very friendly group.

# All we ask

A few hours now and again to help, is all we ask. No special expertise required, just enthusiasm and willingness to help dig, plant & weed.

# Contact us

If you'd like to know more about what's involved, think you can spare a few hours occasionally, Ruth would love to hear from you. ruth@broadstairstownteam.org.uk call: 07969368765

BROADSTAIRS



# VICTORY NEWS

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I believe that's were Seth's 'Intolerant Wife' now sits



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Before the Canadian Pizza shop was built



Junction above Upton playing fields I think.

£1.86 a Gallon!



With many thanks to David Hopker for the huge database of photographs through the ages.

# Twenty More fun fings you probably didn't know

by Broadstairs eminent historian Fairfax Carswell

Fairfax Carswell, Broadstairs leading conspiracy theorist, returns with a selection of completely untrue facts to both entertain the reader and astound the casual visitor. Here, presented over some twenty points, in a most sloppy manner by a man whose eyebrows meet on his top lip.

Ted Heath (Glorious former Prime Minister and son of Thanet) real name was Barrington Heath, Ted being a nom-de-plume. People called him Ted on account of his fanatical appreciation of rock-n-roll music, and the fact that he usually wore a sky blue drape coat and brothel creepers.

Ramsgate is a Cinque Port. This bestowed title is in recognition of the fact that every year the town sinks a further two feet into the ground. It is predicted that in 2034 the town will officially be a full sank (Cinque) port and will finally be below water level.

•The Scottish band The Proclaimers, sang that they would walk 500 Miles. If they did indeed walk 500 Miles from their home Town of East Lothian, then they would fall down on the door of someone in Acol. And if they walked 500 more, then they would drown in the English Channel.

The local martyred Saint, Thomas Beckett is often referred to as Thomas A Beckett; the A being the initial of his middle name, Albert. Coincidentally, it is said that Wilfred Bramble modelled his character Albert, from Steptoe And Son, on Thomas A Beckett.

Due to a printing error in the 1968 'Visit Thanet' poster advertising campaign, Stone Bay saw the arrival of over 20,000 very disappointed hippies.

Local animator Oliver Postgate created his popular children's television program, The Clangers, after seeing a debate being held in TDC chambers. The Soup Dragon being based on an unnamed local independent councillor.

The Scotsman figure head situated on the jetty is not actually a Scots man. The carving is in reality a likeness of a Mrs Edith Coalscuttle of a small town outside Perth who once visited Broadstairs in a Charabanc mystery tour trip

Dreamland has been beset by disasters, including numerous fires, due to an ancient curse, dating back 1771. When it is said a local witch said "there shall be no peace on this land, until you have built a housing estate and access road......"

Saint Nicolas at Wade should have been called Saint Hector at Wade. Saint Hector being the patron Saint of many causes, including waders, tall ladies and the skin on custard.

Beano's is the fourth largest fast food retail chain in the world, feeding an estimated 14,000 people an hour.

Margate has a well documented historic connection and ties to

North Korea. This dates back to 1972 when the current glorious leader, Kim Jong-un, was the Punch and Judy man on Margate sands.

Saint Peters Village graveyard contains the final resting places of many noteworthy people. Among who is the noted escapologist Gabriel Sadwick. Sadwick was interred in a grave in the ceremony in 1872, and later found under the Coop car park, some 200 metres away, when it was renovated in 1981.

Barry Scott, from the Cillit Bang adverts, owns the freehold to Pierremont Hall.

The fountain in Morellis was one of a pair that stood as the centre pieces in Saint Mark's Square in Rome. Mr Morelli liberated it at the end of the war.

When first modelled in Broadstairs in 1951 the Flip-Flop caused outrage and consignation. The resulting protests and symbolic flip-flop pyres are responsible for the current damage to the ozone layer and ultimately global warming.

With a local pub named after him, the real Captain Digby was an entirely different person than you would expect. Rather than the hearty pirate displayed by the tavern; the only person recorded under the name Captain Digby turns out to be a tug boat captain on the Thames, who lead an uneventful life and took early retirement. There is no record of him having preference for a curry on a Wednesday either.

The former cast of Fraggle Rock are employed across the island, in a number of car cleaning ventures.

On a royal visit to the island in 1887, Queen Victoria, whilst sampling Thanet's noteworthy sea food, was heard to comment that she was impressed by the cockles, but sadly let down by winkles. This event was the catalyst to the great winkle debate of 1887.

Dane Valley was originally meant to be called Dame Valley, this in turn being a tribute to Dame Thora Hird. The council where however forced to change the name to Dane at the last moment, when Dame Thora took out an injunction preventing any connection with the area and her name or likeness.

The council accidentally advertised the island for sale once on the Buy-Swap-Sell website. Before the advert could be taken down they received one offer, to swap it for a welding mask.

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**Cold Comfort** 

In which the author recounts a chilling and idiotic brush with death.

By George Monbiot, published in the Guardian 31st January 2014

It was a beautiful morning, a Saturday in October, and I was having tea with my next-door neighbour. We began talking – for this was almost 20 years ago – about the road the government was intending to build around the town of Newbury, some 30 miles away. When the machinery moved in, we planned to join the protests. People were already starting to build platforms in the trees. "Let's go down and take a look."

A train was due to leave in half an hour. We threw sleeping bags and warm clothes into our pannier bags, jumped on our bikes and sprinted to the station. We arrived just as the train was leaving. "Why don't we just cycle there?".

We had missed our breakfast and had no food or water, but there were bound to be shops or pubs along the way. We would keep off the roads as much as possible, following bridleways and footpaths. At first we sailed along, feeling buoyant and free. It was one of those autumn days in which the sky seemed cleaner and brighter than at any time during the summer. Then the paths started cutting across fields which had recently been ploughed, and our urban bikes became snarled up with mud. A pregnant grey cloud blotted out the sun and hail began pelting down. This was the point at which my friend discovered that his raincoat, which had been clipped to the top of his bike rack, had fallen off. He went back to look for it. I decided to wait in the field.

The hail soon turned to rain. I was still steamed up, so it felt refreshing as it soaked into my t-shirt. After a while I began to feel a little cold. But – and this is the nail of idiocy on which the story hangs – I thought of Exmoor ponies and the way they stand with their backs to the rain until it passes. If they could do it, so could I. By the time my friend returned I was shivering. But I was reluctant to change my clothes, as I knew we would soon get hot again crossing the fields. The rain had ceased, but now our bikes slithered across the wet path. By the time we hit firmer ground I was very hungry. I was surprised to find that I was still shivering.

We rode over the downs to a village in which, we were sure, there would be a shop. There wasn't. The pub was shut. No matter: we would eat in Newbury. By the time we reached a long slope leading up to the Ridgeway – the Neolithic path that traverses southern England – I had ceased to feel either cold or hungry. Mind over matter, I told myself: I had triumphed over discomfort. But there was something wrong with my bicycle. The wheels wouldn't go round. I turned the bike over and found to my surprise that they spun freely. I started pushing it up the hill, but again it seemed to be snagged. My friend gallantly offered to swap. But there was something wrong with his bicycle too. It felt absurdly

heavy, and the wheels also seemed to be jammed. We remounted when we reached the Ridgeway. Even on the level track I could scarcely force the pedals round. We reached the metalled road, and I sat like a pudding as we freewheeled down a shallow slope. Then I slowly toppled off the bike. I stumbled backwards into the hedge beside the road, where I lay spreadeagled.

"Are you all right?".

"I've never felt better. But I can't actually move." I felt as if I were lying in a warm bath. I could move my mouth and eyes but little else. I had never experienced such deep peace.

"Um, I think we should get some help," my friend ventured. "No really, I'm fine." "I think we ought to get help." My friend, who is not renowned for his assertiveness, stood by the road, half raising a hand to the passing traffic: "Um, excuse me ... Would you mind ...". I watched with amusement as the cars whizzed past. Then a big black thing stopped and a blond giant stepped out. He was dressed in black, he had a crewcut and muscles everywhere. He brushed past my friend and seized me by the shoulders.

"What's your name?" "George." What's your name?!" "I just told you – George." "What's your name?!!" Who was this rude man, I wondered, and why couldn't he just leave me alone? He turned to my friend. "What have you got in your bags?" "Um, sleeping bags, coats -". "You're carrying sleeping bags and he's – f\*\*\*, I've seen it all now."

He pulled out a sleeping bag, lifted me up as if I were a cat and dropped me into it. "What's your name?". "I just told you -". "Shut up! What's your name?". He walked into the road, his great hands raised to the traffic. The first car stopped. "Chocolate, sweets, whatever you've got." Terrified, the woman in the car scrabbled in her bag, then handed him a bar of chocolate. He returned to me. "This is very kind of you, but I'm quite all right really -" "Shut up! What's your name?" He started feeding me the chocolate. It was plainly safer to obey than to resist this madman, so I ate it. He called the ambulance. "Really, there's no need -" He stopped more cars, forcing them to disgorge a pile of sweets and chocolates. "I don't have much of a sweet tooth to be honest -" "Shut up! What's your name?"

The ambulance arrived. They wrapped me in a space blanket and took my temperature. They seemed to be making a terrible fuss about nothing. The black car drove away. They put the sirens on and kept using the thermometer: my temperature had fallen, I was later told, to half a degree above the point at which they would have lost me.

In hospital the nurse told me I would need "the full treatment". "No. What?" "Hot chocolate and toast and honey." Half an hour after I arrived I sat up and swung my legs off the bed: suddenly fit and well and buzzing with sugar. It took me a few hours to realise that the blond giant (we guessed he was an army paramedic) had saved my life.

www.guardian.co.uk www.monbiot.com



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# Arabian Nights on the esplanade

With the regeneration of Margate bringing flocks of arty folk, foodies and young fashionistas setting up shop in all number of places, 'pop-up' is no longer an exclusive term. But, Broadstairs is yet to welcome the pop-up restaurant scene. Alas! We certainly aren't deprived of a diverse selection of delectable cuisine in the town, but for us locals it may be time to switch it up.

Naturally, my interest in this underground dining movement began with a good old Google search of supper clubs and popup restaurants in the Thanet area: the results were disappointing. According to the great and knowledgeable Google the only pop-ups in Thanet in recent years have been in Ramsgate;

- 1)'Burgers & Bordeaux' at the Ramsgate Maritime Museum last Summer
- 2) 'Chez-Amelie', a one off fundraiser at a couple's home
- 3) Occasional pop-up restaurants at the Queen Charlotte pub

Each of these events has its own unique appeal, the quirky atmosphere of the Maritime Museum, the intimate supper club nature of Chez-Amelie show cases the cook's talent from the comfort of their own home as well as raising money for a charity dear to their hearts, and The Queen Charlotte exhibiting a broad variety of international cuisines. However, the first two examples were one offs and The Queen Charlotte now has a resident chef and a set menu.

So, here's what I propose...

We spark a supper club movement in Thanet and foodies welcome guests in to their homes for an exclusive dining experience where good food and fresh company is shared without the price tag of a restaurant and with the opportunity to showcase your own culinary skills and passions and share that with likeminded people.

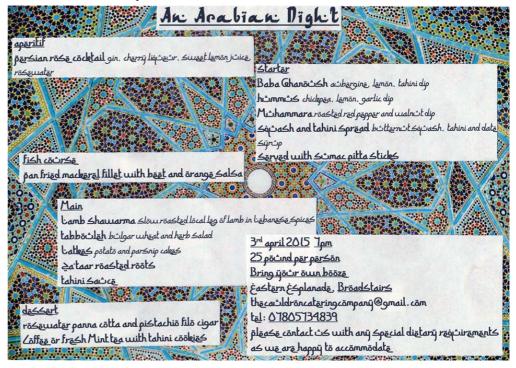
Venues open their doors to guest chefs and allow them to run a pop-up restaurant. There are countless pubs, hotels, galleries, churches (the list goes on) that lack punters through the winter months or in fact just through the week that could seriously benefit from a fresh clientele coming through their doors. Venues should hire out their kitchen for a small fee or for nothing if they are going to profit from the

arrangement, and allow budding chefs to utilise the space as well as bring new faces through their doors.

My dear friend Christina and I will be leading by example on this one as we are hosting a Middle Eastern pop-up restaurant in a B&B at Stone Bay on April 3rd. This is the first of this kind of event that Christina and I will be hosting and we are excited beyond words to begin sharing our ideas and creations as well as meeting new people. Despite our curiosity and enthusiasm for socialising outside of our usual realm this premier event will be a pop-up restaurant where diners are seated with their own group at the table they have reserved. But, if supper club dining appeals to anyone else out there please get in touch as we would be thrilled to host an evening with all diners seated round one big table together- and hopefully in an exciting location too!

Collectively we are The Cauldron Catering Company and we are literally bursting with ideas for fab foodie ventures (sometimes too much for my tiny kitchen to handle). We have been writing menus inspired by venues and hope to get lots of places on board. Please head to our Facebook page for more details of An Arabian Night; our premier pop-up restaurant, and we will be posting recipes, photos and future events, all using the best local and seasonal produce as well as Christina's wonderful wholefood creations designed for delicious, healthy, energy boosting snacking!

By Beanie Holden





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May to JUNE 2014 LISTINGS. Unless otherwise stated all productions are Professional

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st February at 7.30pm, Sunday 22nd February at 2.30pm Hilderstone Players present

# The Tempest

By William Shakespeare (Abridged version)

The Tempest, the last play Shakespeare wrote alone and one of only two with original stories is the product of a mature mind, still romantic but with the focus shifting from revenge to forgiveness. This production uses music, special effects and a much abridged script to bring the magic of the language and this great play alive for a modern audience.

£8.00 paid in advance/Friends £10.00 on the doors

Sat 28th Feb & Sun 1st March

# **Thanet Festival Drama Adjudication Days**

Full details available from the Thanet Festival website www.thanetfestival.org.uk

Saturday 7th March at 7.30pm.
The Merry Opera Company presents

# The Barber of Seville

by Rossini

Merry Opera perform Rossini's comic masterpiece of sparkling music and irrepressible characters.

£15.00 paid in advance/Friends £17.00 on the doors

Sunday 8th March at 3pm

# **Spring Classical Concert 2**

Sasha Crisan, cello and Mark Fielding, piano. Music by Schumann, Grieg and Bridge.

£10.00 adults, Children £7.00 Season ticket available

Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm (Doors 7pm) Raw Shark presents 'The Wantsum Brewery Sessions 2' Folk Dance Night with

# Tankus the Henge

plus support. £8.00
paid in
advance/Friends,
£10.00 on the doors.
Unreserved seating
plus the Wantsum Real
Ale Bar

Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm

# The Vampire & Mrs. Riley

It was perhaps the most bizarre pairing in the history of Cinema. Arthur Lucan, a British drag act and Bela Lugosi, fading Hollywood horror star, were thrown together in 1951 to make a cheapo B movie called Mother Riley Meets the Vampire. But beneath the washerwoman's apron and the vampire's cloak are two men who stand at the crossroads of life. Their moments of greatness are behind them and a frightening future lies ahead. When the cameras stop rolling and the lights fade, all they have is each other.

£11.00 paid in advance/Friends £13.00 on the doors Sunday 29th March at 3.00pm

# It's Hard to Say Goodbye

The STTC Juniors will perform a collection of sketches, short scenes and poetry exploring our WW1 theme and all those affected by it. £7.00 adults, £5.00 children

Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm

# JULIE FELIX

in concert

Julie Felix celebrated 50 years in the world of music last year. In 1964 Julie arrived in the UK from California and became the first solo folk artist to be signed to a major

British record company. In 1966 she became the resident singer on "The Frost Report" becoming a household name. She appeared in her own TV series' for the BBC and recorded hit singles.

£12.00 paid in advance/Friends £14.00 on the doors

Thursday 16th April & Friday 17th April at 7.30pm.Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th April at 2.30pm.

Ramsgate Operatic Society present

# **HMS Pinafore**

or the lass that loved a sailor
by W.S. Gilbert and A. Sullivan.
ROS present Gilbert and Sullivan's splendid

comic opera of unrequited love and class heirarchy. The noble British Tar is fine in a fight and a gale, but what happens when he aspires to love above his station? Some of the best songs that the Victorian duo wrote.
£10.00 paid in advance/Friends

£10.00 paid in advance/Friends £12.00 on the doors

Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm

### Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm

# Ladies GoDiva

An outstanding triumvirate, in the mould of Fascinating Aida. They are hilarious, glamorous 'old school' divas with big voices and even bigger personalities. Performing original songs penned by the hugely talented and celebrated Helen Goldwyn this trio, all of whom have graced the West End

sound with a vintage feel. £12.50 paid in advance/Friends £14.50 on the doors

stages, love to have fun and mix a modern

Sunday 22nd March at 3.00pm
The Pantaloons Company present

## **Bleak House**

based on the Charles Dickens novel.
Join The Pantaloons Theatre Company
for a fog-filled adventure in Victorian
London. When a dead body is
discovered in Mr. Krook's Rag-and-Bone
shop, a web of mysteries starts to
untangle,

with far reaching consequences.
Hilarious, tragic and romantic by turns,
Dickens' darkly comic masterpiece is
retold by The Pantaloons in their own
inimitable style. A company of five actormusicians bring the novel's cast of over
50 characters to life in a thrilling tale of
love, skulduggery and spontaneous
combustion...

£10.00 paid in advance/Friends £12.00 on the doors

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th April at 7.30pm

Sunday 12th April at 2.30pm. Broadstairs Dickens Players present

# The Children's Hour

by Lillian Hellman
The Children's Hour tells the story of a
pair of New England women, who run a
girls boarding school. Their lives and
school are turned upside down when a
conniving student, Mary Tilford, spreads

an unfounded rumour about a lesbian

relationship between the two headmistresses with catastrophic results. This forceful, emotive and passionate play describes how attitudes in the 30's can cast a shadow over innocent friendships and how gossip can wreck lives and reputations.
£8.00 paid in advance/Friends
£10.00 on the doors

Sunday 26th April at 3.00pm

# Spring Classical Concert 3

Peter Hewitt, piano. Schumann
"Carnaval", Beethoven
"Moonlight Sonata"
Tickets: £10.00 adults, £7.00
children.
Season ticket available

# **Walking Tours**

In Broadstairs & St Peter's you will find lots of interesting and historic sights.

Some of the local walking tours are detailed below.

ST PETER'S VILLAGE TOUR FREE award-winning guided walks begin at St Peterin-Thanet Church in St Peter's and take place from May through to September. You will see

the past brought dramatically to life by costumed characters. Special tours may also take place at other significant times: Please see leaflet (available locally) and our monthly calendar of events for dates and times. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL: telephone 07546

514948 or visit the Village Tour website.

ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD TOUR

A guided walk, with local stories, around interesting graves of St Peter's churchyard. ST PETER'S WAR GRAVES TOUR

Two separate walking tours (World War I and World War II) around the graves, hearing stories of those who died in the two World Wars.

### THE TOWN TRAIL

A self-guided walk around the town. There are illustrated boards located around the Town providing an insight into the history of some of the Town, people and buildings.

To book, any of the St Peter's Tours, please telephone 01843 868646 or visit the Village Tour website BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

### **GA Isle of Thanet Branch**

Secretary: Derek Wilson
Annual membership of the Isle of Thanet
Branch is £15.00 with a concessionary rate
of £3.00 available for students. The charge
to attend lectures for non-members is £3.00.

### **Programme**

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

### Monday 9 March 2015

Tony Ashby – Moving Oil Rigs in the North Sea

### Monday 13 April 2015

Graham Gosden - What Thanet Council does with recycled household Waste

### **Monday 11 May 2015**

Christine Wissink – Effect of Climate Change on Kent Coastal Communities projected to 2150

Monday 8 June 2015

AGM and Social

### 4th Broadstairs Scouts.

We are celebrating he groups 90th year as a group. With some new leaders, new ideas and extra camps the children are having a busy time.

Our openings for the sections are as follow's.

Beavers Wednesday 4.30pm - 6pm Cubs Monday & Wednesday 6.30pm - 8pm Scouts are now on Thursday nights 7pm -9pm.

and fund raising indoor Boot Fayres now starting September through till March/April.

For extra information contact 01843 867590 or www.4thbroadstairsscouts.org.uk

# **Town Council news**

If you are interested in becoming a Local Councillor, why not come along to the Kent Association of Local Councils Election Awareness Event on Tuesday 24th February in the Community Room at Tesco Extra Broadstairs from 7pm to 8.30pm. Refreshments are being served from 6.30pm onwards.

### **Local Plan**

The Thanet District Council Public Consultation on the Thanet Local Plan Preferred Options is taking place from 9 January – 6 March 2015.

The public are invited to attend 'drop in sessions' where you can engage with planning officers. There is also be an on-line survey for residents to submit their views from 9 January 2015 and a hard copy survey will be available for those without computer access



# Neighbourhood Plan for Broadstairs and St Peter's.

We have nearly completed Stage One: Getting Established.

What happens next?

Thank you to everyone who responded to the District Council consultation on the designation area for our Neighbourhood Plan.

Thanet District Council's cabinet will now consider the designation in the first few months of 2015, probably in April.

Why has the Town Council asked for a Neighbourhood Plan area covering all of Broadstairs and St Peter's? It carried out its own consultation, and 92% of respondents said the Neighbourhood Plan area should be the same as the boundary of the parish of Broadstairs and St. Peter's. The other reasons are set out in the Town Council's application for designation to Thanet District Council. For more information see http://www.broadstairs.gov.uk

## Mini Mag on the way

In the coming weeks every household in Broadstairs and St. Peter's will get a copy of a mini magazine delivered to them. The aim is to raise awareness and levels of engagement with the Neighbourhood Plan, which in turn can help inform the Local Plan and also to encourage completion of a future housing needs survey. Copies of the magazine are also available from the Town Clerk's Office at Pierremont Hall, which is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

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