For Broadstairs by Broadstairs

Broadie

Issue 44



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Are you hanging all your stockings on the wall? Well, no. Me neither. It's not that I object to stockings or any other items of ladies hosiery, it's just they look at me funny when I go into the shop to buy them. I was recently informed by a very kindly gent that they are ever so good for keeping warm in the winter weather 'I wear the under my slacks' he said.....However it was fifteen degrees on that day, so I'm not convinced that was the full

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Your letters thebroadie@googlemail.com

Union Square

Your issue August/September about The Square on pages 20&21 written by Robert Dew was very interesting. The following info I was able to ascertain from Kelly's street directories concerning these 7 nineteenth and twentieth century fishermen's cottages. (Robert may be interested)

CLEANFAST 07934 349 872 LONG REACH window cleaning

No 1:- 1920's - late 1930's George William Pantony

1940's - Mrs A Dew

No2:- 1940's - 1960's Mr William & Mrs E S Morgan

No3:- 1940's - 1960's Jessie Hillier

No4:- 1920's - late 1950's John Wardle - carpenter

No's 5&6 1940's - late 1960's Mrs A Dew No7:- late 1940's - late 1950's Mrs Parry

As per the advert in your earlier issue, from 1970 - 1974 nobody was listed in Kellys' at No's 1 - 7 despite the proposed sale on 28th January 1970 by Daniels (Kent) Ltd for all the houses.

Today the old houses No's 1-7 still remain, with No's 8&9 introduced in the year 2006.

Kind regards. Mick Glover

Trouble at the Pump

Dear Sir/madam

On the off chance that the person behind the counter at the Sainsburys filling station is reading this. Could you press the button the enables me to purchase petrol as I've got to be at my girlfriends mums for Christmas dinner and I've been here a good three days already Thanks.

James. Broadstairs

Never in the same room

Dear Broadie.

Am I the only one to notice the resemblance between happy go lucky TV Star & all round nosher Greg Wallace and local councillor Jason Savage of St Peters Ward.

Does anyone know if Cllr Savage can get through a family size chocolate cake in under two minutes, because I'm betting Greg can. Perhaps we could organize a competition

Thanks again.

James. Broadstairs

Thanks James, do any other readers know of other councillor/foodie TV Star look-a-likeys?

All this Fuss

Dear Broadie.

All this nonsense about Manston airport, I don't know if any of the supporters have noticed but the only planes I've seen there are locked in a building, I don't know about you but in my mind if

you've got an airport you really need planes too. I'm also not sure you can fit many passengers in a Spitfire.

Thanks again, again.

James. Broadstairs

Double Trouble

Dear Broadie, I know you've taken an interest in this event. It seems TDC aren't allowing next year to go ahead due to a double booking. Surely two events can be considered on one weekend? Here's what appeared on the Ramsgate Sprint Facebook page

Regrettably we have to make the following announcement: RAMSGATE SPRINT REVIVAL DENIED FOR 2016

Ramsgate Sprint Revival will not be going ahead for 2016 following a decision by Thanet District Council.

The Council has confirmed that land hire for the 2016 Ramsgate Sprint Revival dates has been granted to Lark in the Park, a community event provided by churches in Thanet. Despite an application for the 2016 sprint being made just 10 days after the 2015 event, senior management at the Council have confirmed that the decision has been made on a first come, first served basis and that consideration of community benefits was not part of the process.

Generally acclaimed as one of the best events in Ramsgate for many years, the Sprint Revival brought together a varied programme of attractions for all ages including the return to Ramsgate of vintage motorcycle sprinting, live music, fairground and Wall of Death motorcycle stunt show. The event can also be shown to have generated £350,000 for the economy.

Key to the success was a "window of opportunity" in the motorcycle calendar when the event could come together at the historic Ramsgate venue. Event organisers have been unable to find suitable alternative dates.

Jan. Broadstairs

Black Friday strikes again

Our condolences to the family of 'Tiny Tim Gilhooley' who met his demise this morning.

He was sadly trampled underfoot as customers rushed to get four pence off a Pot Noodle at a Black Friday event in town. **Wal Mart**

USA



Down by the Docks

After stumbling upon an old painting languishing in the dusty corner of an antique dealership, local historian Simon Gerrard thought that he'd add it to his collection of all things Broadstairs. Simon, the chap responsible for a number of 'History Boards' dotted about town decided that with his new found moment in history he'd update his board entitled 'Ship Yard'.

For those of you not in the know, the Shipyard in question was located approximately where the Pavilion now stands. The board will replace the existing panel located just to the left of the main entrance to the Pavilion.

It's difficult to believe that once upon a time you'd be able to see the masts of boats such as the 'Brig' or the 180 ton HMS desperate rising above the cliff-top as work was carried out below.

The artist is thought to be J Williamson a 19th Century artist who resided for a while in Broadstairs and was obviously a fan of a Turneresque sky.

Perhaps you've got a piece by the same artist lurking somewhere in your home?

If so Simon would love to hear from you.

The Blame Game

Just a quick rundown for those still following the Manston Story after the council voted against backing a CPO with the US firm Riveroak. Roger Gale MP for Thanet North blames Chris Wells and his party UKIP

Madeline Homer of TDC threw her teddy from the pram threatening the possibility of legal action after suggesting Roger Gale acted inappropriately in calling for regime change at TDC. So presumably she blames Roger too.

Ray Mallon (the ex police superintendent who resigned his post after admitting 14 charges of misconduct) who now works as the Spokesman for Stone Hill Park (that's Manston to you and me) blames Roger Gale

Chris Wells the ex conservative blames Riveroak, the US Hedge Fund The breakaway group of councillors formerly of UKIP led by Konnor Collins now the DIP or DIG party - (depending on who you talk to) blames Chris Wells

Riveroak blames Chris Wells and the Officers involved in compiling the report on whether Riveroak would be a suitable CPO partner. Manston supporters don't appear to be blaming anyone according to the websites (not so sure what some are saying on social media mind) but are still reticent, as is ClIr Wells that the search for another CPO partner should continue.

Ships & shipbuilding here, now *The Pavilion*, date to AD 1424 & earlier according to historical accounts. Ancient Thanet forests supported commercial boat building and two local shipwright familes arose. *Culmer(s)* built the first jetty & *'broad'* stairs by today's dance floor for better clifftop, St Mary shrine & harbour access. *White(s)* built up this shipyard & its quayside boundaries still remain below at the beach.

Popular 11th - 15thC 'Cog', & 16thC 'Brig' ships built here were involved in Britain's Empire, European, Hanseatic, E&W Indies, Africa & fishing trades throughout the Age of Sail. Notable examples were The Kent (354 tons) & HMS Desperate (180 tons) for the Royal Navy. The two 19thC Shipyard pictures (right) show vessels being processed by this yard.

Broadstairs' Civic Crest commemorates the iconic 'Brig' & this 19thC stained glass town window 'Wavecrest', plus this Jersey Post stamp, both illustrate the famous medieval 'Cog' with its ancient shipbuilding principles preserved in the 'Hugin' Longboat at Cliffsend in Thanet. Whites relocated to Cowes in 1824 becoming a world-famous shipbuilding company.





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The Brigadier

'Keep young and beautiful, It's your duty to be beautiful, keep young and beautiful, if you want to be loved'.

That was once considered a harmless little ditty when it was performed by Eddie Cantor in 1933. However, I'd never really thought

too hard about the lyrics in question as I wandered the house with this little nonsense tune spilling from my mouth. It wasn't until a weighty object of some worth bounced slowly yet forcefully off of my shoulder smacking me square on the temple did i realise that it was causing a fair deal of consternation with my long suffering loved one.

I was challenged with the words, 'I hope you're not referring to me you silly old man' from my wife, who appeared to be brewing her very own storm cloud.

After composing myself and removing the Narwhal tusk from where it had become imbedded in the plaster after it's unexpected meeting with my bonce I replied that, 'I - Err', who, what' as I was a little confused as to the problem.

'What on earth old girl, what is the problem and why the heck are you launching watery Unicorn tusks at me'

'The song,.... have you no idea how insulting and demeaning that is to women'

'Well no' I replied, 'I'd never really considered it, I always thought Eddie was a nice chap loved by women everywhere' How times have changed. Dear me, I'm not suggesting for a moment that their hasn't been a huge leap forward in the way we treat each other when it comes to race issues and sexual equality of all persuasions, it's just it can be rather confusing for those of a more ancient disposition, and harder for us to keep up. In general, my rule of thumb is treat everyone how you'd like to be treated yourself, but as I found out and am reminded of by the lump on my brow, you can slip up without thinking about it. Poor ald Eddie would probably be stripped and flogged if he sang that

lump on my brow, you can slip up without thinking about it. Poor old Eddie would probably be stripped and flogged if he sang that song now, in fact I'd go as far to say that his record has about as much chance of a comeback as something by Rolf Harris getting in to the top ten; which is another thing her ladyship had to remind me about but just the other day as I found myself singing 'Tie-me-kangaroo down Sport'; like I said, it's easy to forget, and unfortunately when it comes to stars of stage and screen from the 1970s the censor list is getting longer as nasty seedy little pasts catch up with the perverts from a bygone age

On an unrelated note I believe I've come up with a way to save High Streets up and down this great nation with just a simple piece of legislation. All Mr Cameron needs do is ban a number of obscure but necessary items from being sold at all existing retailers, for example all of a sudden you wouldn't be able to purchase Cutlery, or maybe Chisels and other woodworking implements - just a few items that wouldn't really be missed at the likes of Tescos or B&Q. Of course the ban wouldn't apply to new businesses on the proviso that all they would be allowed to

sell would be the items on the list. All of a sudden we'd get interesting and quirky shops springing up all over the country selling the items that you just can't get anywhere else, not big enough businesses to require super store status but enough to fill up a gap in the market on your local High street. Here's to the day when 'Spoons R' Us' is up and running and just imagine the hours of browsing available in 'Chisels UK - For all your chiselling needs'.



I don't often read the Sun newspaper as I have an infinite dislike of that antipodean philistine Rupert Murdoch or 'Stinker' as I call him (which I realise will only have meaning to those of a certain age), here is a paper that thought it a good idea to publish a countdown to the actor Emma Watsons 16th birthday, quite a shocking act of misogynism and an open encouragement to those with loose morals, especially those who have a penchant for younger prey. This grubby little rag has the nerve to accuse a politician of disrespecting remembrance day because a bow wasn't deep enough to satisfy the sort of people who think it fine and dandy to hack the phones of the families of dead servicemen.

I very much understand the importance and relevance of remembrance day and remember the fallen in my own way, however the whole affair is starting to feel a little hijacked by those with axes to grind, whether that be politicians with agendas who have a fixation on how many degrees constitutes a bow, far right organisations such as 'Britain First', who believe the woes of the land can be fixed by raising the drawbridge and stewing in their contempt of the rest of the human race, or the sort of people who tut wildly because you are somehow disrespecting the dead by wearing your poppy on the wrong side, not wearing a poppy, wearing a different colour poppy or don't say the lords prayer or sing an anthem or are willing to perform whatever tradition is foisted upon us next by the holier than thou who are in some sort of 'I'm more humble than you' competition.

If you want to do something real then put some money in the pot, get out there and volunteer at 'Help the aged', go and dig over old Mr Smith's garden and get his fags from the shop, paint old Ethel's garden shed that was left over from when she used to hide in it as the bombs fell back in 1940, don't complain and whinge that everyone else must conform to the rites and rituals that you do, we have a long fought for freedom in the UK that allows us to have our own opinions, which is surely the whole point of what some of those brave people fought for.

The whole point of the day is to remember those that gave their lives in times of conflict, many didn't want to do what was expected of them, many of them fought not for their country or some noble cause but for their mate beside them, they weren't all heroes, and few thought of themselves as such, it's a word with many meanings to many people, a word quite often disliked by those in the services and a word that's been so played out the term has become cheapened over time.

In my mind the act of remembrance is a personal moment between you and the past, whether that be because of a family

APPROVED

member or maybe a particular place or time. The only benefit that your act of remembrance and associated giving brings is to those still living and hopefully the realisation in future that war is such a terrible thing that it will ever only be remembered as opposed to sought.

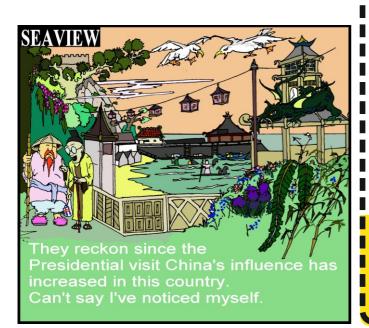
The world takes another step closer to madness with yet more terrorist atrocities, I can only hope that maybe on this occasion time will be given for a more measured, reasoned response which will take into account whether more harm than good will come of it. It does make you wonder what the world would look like now had the western powers not gone into Afghanistan and Iraq.

However I suppose it's too late to wonder the what ifs - As well over one hundred and twenty families mourn the loss of a loved one, it's surely worth remembering all those people from every race and religion who have lost there lives over the last year, not just in mainland Europe, but all over the globe too. May they all rest in peace.

All that remains to be said is that we wish you all the joys of the festive season from up here at the manor. As I write this my beloved already has her hands on the bottle of Baileys, Benson is busy hanging tinsel off of the hat stand, Mr Bix has a wreath of Mistletoe slung around his neck and there's a tremendously large Ginger wine awaiting me along with a pipeful of old shag.

Merry Christmas everyone

The Brigadier



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Falling in Love again

Rebuilding our relationship with the natural world can re-animate our own lives, as well as the ecosystem.



When the robin was voted the UK's national bird in June, we chose to celebrate half of a broken relationship. The robin is to the wild boar what the oxpecker is to the Cape buffalo: it has evolved to catch the worms and insects exposed by their grubbing. But boar are mostly absent from the UK, so its survival often depends on finding the next best thing: human gardeners. This is why the robin is so tame in this country. As far as the bird is concerned, you and I are just fake pigs.

We are surrounded by such broken relationships, truncated natural processes, cauterised ecologies. In Britain we lack almost all large keystone species: ecological engineers that drive the fascinating dynamics which allow other lifeforms to flourish. Boar, beavers, lynx, wolves, whales, large sharks, pelicans, sturgeon: all used to be abundant here, all, but for a few small populations or rare visitors, are missing.

The living systems that conservationists seek to protect in some parts of this country are a parody of the natural world, kept, through intensive management, in suspended animation, like a collection in a museum. An ecosystem is not just a place. It is also a process.

I believe their diminished state also restricts the scope of human life. We head for the hills to escape the order and control that sometimes seem to crush the breath out of us. When we get there, we discover that the same forces prevail. Even our national parks are little better than wet deserts.

Our seas were once among the richest on earth. A few centuries ago, you could have watched fin whales and sperm whales hammering the herring within sight of the shore. Shoals of bluefin tuna thundered up the North Sea. Reefs of oysters and other sessile animals covered the seabed, over which giant cod, skate and halibut cruised. But today, industrial fishing rips up the living fabric of all but 0.01% of our territorial waters. To walk or dive in rich environments we must go abroad.

Though not, I hope, for long. A new organisation, Rewilding Britain, has been launched. (It was inspired by my book Feral and I helped to found it, but I don't have a position there). Its aim is to try to catalyse the mass restoration of the living world, bring trees back to bare hills, allow reefs to form once more on the seabed and to return to these shores the magnificent, entrancing animals of which we have so long been deprived. Above all it seeks to enhance and enrich the lives of the people of this nation. I hope that it might help to change the face of Britain.

Already, local projects hint at what could be achieved. In the southern uplands of Scotland, the Borders Forest Trust has bought 3000 hectares of bare mountainside and planted hundreds of thousands of native trees. The community of Arran seabed trust in the Firth of Clyde managed, after 13 years of campaigning, to persuade the government to exclude trawlers and scallop dredgers from one square mile of seabed. The result, in this tiny reserve, is an explosion of lobsters, crabs, scallops and fish. It's now trying to extend the project to a larger area.

In Sussex, the Knepp Castle estate gave up its unprofitable wheat farming, released a few cattle and pigs and let natural processes take over. Now it hosts some of Britain's highest populations of nightingales, purple emperor butterflies and turtle doves. Partly through ecotourism and accommodation and selling high-grade meat, it has become profitable. In south London, the Wandle Trust has turned a mangled and polluted urban river back into a beautiful chalkstream, supporting kingfishers and wild trout. Wonderful as these projects are, until now they have lacked a national voice. Britain remains in a state of extreme depletion.

Some people argue that we should not seek to re-establish missing species until we've protected existing wildlife. But nothing better protects our ecosystems than keystone species. Beaver dams provide habitats for fish, invertebrates, amphibians and waterbirds. In Ireland, resurgent pine martens appear to have pushed back the grey squirrel, allowing red squirrels to recolonise. One study suggests that our woodland ecology cannot recover unless half the country's deer are culled every year. Lynx could do it for nothing. Functional ecosystems, in which dynamic living processes prevail once more, are likely to be more resistant to climate change than stagnant collections in virtual glass cases.

Over the past two years, there has been a surge of enthusiasm for change. A poll in Scotland found that 60% support the reintroduction

of beavers, with only 5% opposed. 91% of respondents to a survey by the Lynx UK Trust supported a trial reintroduction. Researchers at the University of Cumbria digitally altered photographs of Borrowdale in the Lake District, adding or subtracting trees. 69% of the people who saw them favoured the images with extra trees. A video extracted from my TED talk, about the relationship between wolves and other wildlife, has been watched 18 million times.

But the interests of local people must never be overruled. Rewilding must take place only with active consent. Already, landowners are coming forward, proposing to rewild their own property. Community groups, such as Cambrian Wildwood in mid-Wales, are seeking to buy and restore surrounding land. What rewilding offers is a new set of options in places where traditional industries can no longer keep communities alive, where schools and shops and chapels and pubs are closing and young people are leaving the land to find work elsewhere.

In the hills of southern Norway, the return of trees has been accompanied by a diversification and enrichment of the local economy. There, the small income from farming is supplemented with eco-tourism, forest products, rough hunting, fishing, outdoor education, skiing and hiking. The governments of Britain now claim to be willing to pay for the protection of soils and watersheds. These are likely to be more resilient sources of income than the current farm subsidy system upon which all hill farming in this country depends, whose gross injustice – transferring vast sums from the poor to the rich simply for owning land – is as unsustainable politically as it is ecologically.

Perhaps most importantly, rewilding offers hope. It offers the hope of recovery, of the enhancement of wonder and enchantment and delight in a world that often seems crushingly bleak. My involvement with rewilding, to my own amazement, has made me much happier and more optimistic than I was before. I feel an almost evangelical sense of excitement about the prospects for change. I want

other people to be able to experience it

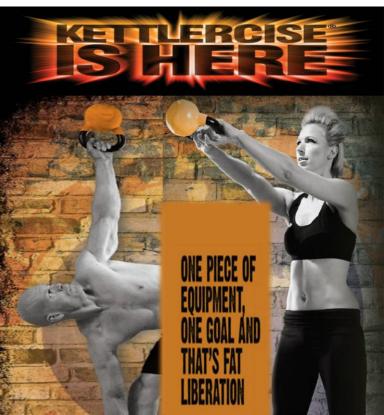
In 2009, the rewilding pioneers Trees for Life released some wild boar into an enclosure at
Dundreggan, in the Scottish
Highlands. Within twenty minutes, robins came down from the trees and started following them. Their ecological memory was intact.
When I've accompanied from deprived London boroughs to the woods and rockpools for the first time in their lives, I have seen something similar: an immediate, instinctive reengagement, the restoration of a

broken ecological relationship. Once we

have richer wild places to explore, we won't need much prompting to discover their enchantments.

George Monbiot www.monbiot.com





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It's the Christmas Countdown,



Ho Ho Ho, let me see what I have in my sack for you....... Here we go, a selection of completely untrue and made up seasonal facts about Thanet and associated shenanigans.

Presented in a half-hearted manner, over a Christmas countdown of twenty five points, to not only baffle the occasional visitor, but to also take your mind off that Boxing Day hangover.

- 1. The song The Twelve Days Of Christmas was written in 1342 and attributed to a Lancastrian monk known as Brother Ethrod. However, evidence now suggests that an earlier Thanetian version of this song existed. In this earlier version two extra days are added; these being thirteen Staffies crapping and Fourteen benefit cheques a cashing.
- 2. A local Thanet law from 1768 says that the position of Father Christmas in Debenhams must first be symbolically offered to the head of the council. Rumour has it that on two occasions this invitation was taken up, and on another occasion, whilst the position was turned down, a job was found for the council leader as one of Santa's helpers.



3. The yearly Jockney knees up (like Cockney just more Scottish) at The Neptunes Hall often attracts many stars of Film and Television. Many local attendees still memorably recall an incident two years ago when Gyles Brandreth accompanied Hugh Laurie on the piano with a heartwarming

rendition of that old favourite, 'Little Donkey'. (Thurs 10th December for this years singalong at the Neptunes Hall)

4. Although seldom practised today, Thanet is unique in the Christmas tradition of nailing a cauliflower over your front door and sniffing people under it.

- 5. Christmas Eve was originally called Christmas Weave and was the day you traditionally gave each other a present of a wig or merkin. Such was then worn whilst eating the following days Christmas dinner. This tradition seems to have died out after the introduction of the Christmas cracker, with the paper hat replacing the wig.
- 6. Like Santa, Margate has its own Grotto. Discovered in 1835 The Shell Grotto was originally called the British Petroleum Grotto, until it changed its sponsor.
- 7. Due to a printing error, the famous Broadstairs New Years Day swim of 1998, was accidentally advertised as a Nude Years Day Swim. Sixteen people were subsequently treated for hyperthermia and one old lady ended up having a stroke.
- 8. Although the tradition no longer exists, Boxing Day was when you had the opportunity to fight any neighbour over any grievance from the year before. Fighting always took place from midday onwards and gauging was allowed. At dusk a bell was rung, all fighting stopped and no more mention was allowed of that years' grievances.
- 9. David Blunkett has been chosen to switch on this years Christmas lights in Acol.
- 10. Although tradition dictates that all decorations must be brought down by the Twelfth Night, a growing trend of people who can't be stuffed has seen the retention of lights across Thanet for the entire year.





11. Operation Yule Log is a secret emergency plan that can be activated by Southern Water should the North Foreland pumping station break down over the festive season.

12. In Thanet, leggings have replaced stockings as the clothing item of choice to hang up over the fireplace on Christmas Eve.

13. Before the advent of Christmas tree decorations they were traditionally adorned with various root vegetables. A cabbage was used on top of the tree and strings of onions used for tinsel.

14. New Year's
Eve was traditionally the day that you told your partner what you thought of their cooking over the previous year. Then you would sit back and watch the fireworks go off.

15. Charles Dickens ironically based his character 'Tiny Tim' on a local child glutton by the name of Timothy Gilhooley. Tim reached the dizzying weight of twenty seven stone but unfortunately met a terrible fate when his fathers employer did not heed a series of vivid dreams one evening.

16. A little known fact about Charles Dickens was that he was a devotee of the Rastafarian religion, even speaking in fluent patois. It has been said that he based the character of Jacob Marley, in a Christmas Carol, on Bob Marley, chains being used to denote dreadlocks.

17. The Christmas nursery rhyme Little Jack Horner (sat in the corner, eating Christmas pie.....) was originally written about Jack Warner, the deputy of FIFA. The plumb referred to in the Rhyme relates to the missing \$174,000,000 from the Fifa coffers

18. Thanet is suffering from such a severe crime wave this year that Police have warned people not to leave the doors open on their advent calendars.

He's behind You!!

19. During a performance of the Pantomime Aladdin, performed at Drury Lane in 1776, the Dame was fatally assaulted from behind by a member of the cast. Since this date a bye-law has been in force that compels the audience to warn any member of cast if another actor sneaks up behind them.

20. Blitzen, the brown nose reindeer, sits right behind Rudolf pulling Father Christmas's sleigh. He is said to run as fast as any of the other deer, but isn't so fast at stopping.

21. The Christmas cracker has become a stable of the Christmas meal, with its contents of a hat, a joke and a novelty toy. Invented by Arthur Braithwaite in 1807 the original crackers included a knife, a brick and razor. Upon pulling these original crackers, guests were encouraged to assault each other with the implements. The banger in the modern cracker is a symbolic reminder of this original violence.

22. 'Holidays are coming' says the Coca Cola advert. But with nearly 39 grammes of sugar per can what is actually coming is type two diabetes a serious weight problem and slowly dissolving teeth. Merry Christmas





23. Theorists have argued that the guiding star over the stable in Bethlehem may have actually been the North Foreland lighthouse. However this theory has been countered by the argument that even God would struggle to find three wise men and a virgin in Thanet.

24. The Coca Cola truck will once again be visiting Thanet this year. The Coke advert starring the now iconic truck started in 1995, coincidentally Farmer Arthur Higgins of Broadstairs also advertised his Cauliflower delivery business the same year with an advert on the side of his Ford Transit van that read 'Christmas is a' coming, get two Cauli's for fifty pee'. Sadly Mr Higgins venture didn't quite capture the public mood in the same manner as Coca Cola and he went bust the following March.

25. Between 1890 and 1902 Brussel **Sprouts were left off of the British** dinner platter on Christmas Day because of a trade disagreement between Britain and Belgium. However all was not lost. After the failure of his Winter Cabbage crop at the local Culmers allotment, Cyril Cracker of St Peters wrote to the 'Times' to suggest simply swapping the elusive Sprout for a peeled back Cabbage. The downside was this resulted in the great Cabbage mania of 1892 which saw the humble cabbage exchange hands for as much as two hundred guineas each.

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(Public Performances)

Sat 19th Dec

Sat 19th Dec. 6.30pm Sun 20th Dec 2.30pm Mon 21st Dec No Performance Tues 22nd Dec 2.30pm Wed 23rd Dec 2.30pm Thurs 24th Dec 2.30pm Fri 25th Dec Christmas Day No performance Sat 26th Dec Boxing Day No performance. Sun 27th Dec 2.30pm Mon 28th Dec 2.30pm Tue 29th Dec 2.30pm

Tickets from £11.50 and there are no booking fees at this theatre.

The popular, professional, traditional pantomime season at the Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs continues this Christmas with Aladdin. Directed by Michael Friend, written and the Dame performed by John Goodrum and produced by Michael Wheatley-Ward. Choreography by Melody Ashton and the Masque Theatre School. Live music under the baton of David Ruddock. Also in the cast are Broadstairs favourites, Lisa Payne as the Genie, Steven Martin-Bradley as Wishee Washee and Roger Smythe as Abanazar. As usual Sarah Thorne encourage local youth and there is the welcome return of Johanna Pearson-Farr as Princess Jasmine. Johanna started with the Sarah Thorne Juniors under Kim Bourne and is now at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London.

We also welcome Lydia Crosher as "Aladdin". Lydia is well known for her work here at Sarah Thorne and twice winner of the Best Young Player award in the Kent Drama Festival. She is also a Member of the National Youth Theatre.

- See more at: http://www.visitkent.co.uk/events/212993/#sthash.Nj8vPl8K.dpuf



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Praying to be on time



Here's a thing spotted on Facebook. Who'd have thought that Broadstairs train station was a place of worship - although thinking about it, there's regular attendance, everyone on the platform is praying for an arrival, and when they do finally leave many are hoping to be off to a better place - perhaps they have a point.

Five things genuinely overheard on **Broadstairs beach this year.**



·My dad says, if it doesn't swim down the Thames then don't put it in your mouth.....

·Why do they allow so many seagulls on the beach.....

Do people live in these huts, because it could be an affordable option......

Didn't you go to school with Charles Dickens.......

So, if they invented the sandwich in Sandwich, where does the baguette come from......

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Eighty Nine years an Unbeliever

Yes we know we'll get letters, and we'll probably happily print those with the opposite viewpoint. But let us just marvel at the great range of differing opinions on the subject. Here's one from REH from up there on God's own windy corner at the Foreland. Hang on, did I say God's?

Some thoughts of an atheist in his 89th year.....

I am getting a little bit worried about my mortality. People of my own age, and younger, are dropping like flies. We are "in the death-zone."

Death is a no-win situation for atheists. If you're right, you don't get to tell anyone; if you're wrong, everyone, including God, gets to tell you. That's the scary bit.

There is, of course, an upside to being right - you don't have to worry about being tormented for eternity by some divine psychopath. The downside is that you are inevitably going to find yourself, like Monty Python's Norwegian Blue, "stone dead, demised, passed on, no more, ceased to be, a stiff, extinct in its entirety, an ex-parrot."

Death is first and foremost an affront to my ego. It's not the fear of eternal damnation that bothers me about dying, not even the terror of the unknown; it's the "no more, ceased to be, extinct in its entirety, ex-parrot" bit that gets up my nose. How dare things go on as usual with me not there! How dare my great grand children grow up - go to university - get married - have children themselves all without me. How dare people continue to conduct conversations without seeking my opinion! How dare there be newspapers and magazines and books and radio and television and the Internet and yet-to-beinvented forms of mass communication without my being in on them! How dare I not exist!

'In a culture that believes in neither after life nor reincarnation, memory is the only place left for identity to go.' But then a piece of music or a poem will be in the same memory. Am I nothing more than the half remembered piece of advertising jingle or a limerick?

"Vanity of vanities," saith the preacher, "all is vanity." And mark that REH fellow down for the sin of pride.

There is a view among my religious acquaintances that I will undergo a last-minute conversion. I doubt it. If there is a god, I'm sure she's not going to be fooled by a piece of self-interested, panic-induced hypocrisy like that.

And anyway, I just couldn't do it. Belief in god or an afterlife just doesn't make sense. Humans have been around for four or five million years. Billions and trillions and zillions of us have been born, lived and died, and there isn't a single verifiable example of survival after death, not a shred, not a scintilla, not a scrap, not an iota, jot or tittle of evidence of the existence of a divine being. Thank god for that!

Still, there could be an argument for hedging your bets, just in

case. Trouble is, it's not just a simple choice between believing and not-believing, between theism and atheism. Put your money on the wrong nag - Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity - and you're a gonner. "You know the odds," says the celestial bookie, "now beat them!" I prefer to put my money on the nose. Win/lose. No great dividend either way. But whichever horse romps home, I'll still have kept my dignity and self-respect. Imagine for a moment that I'm right, that there is no god. Imagine that every time you get down on your knees to pray, you're actually talking to yourself. Imagine that each time you call on god for help in time of trouble, only the wind hears you. Imagine that for years you've glorified and worshipped, no one. Imagine that the guilt, the self-denial, the lack of having fun on Sundays have been totally without point or profit. Imagine the centuries of church ritual, the pomp and circumstance were all mere dressing-up and play-acting.

Imagine that the churches, cathedrals, synagogues, temples, mosques are nothing more than monuments to man's despair and delusion. Imagine that all the martyrs to religious belief, all the victims of religious persecution, died in their hundreds of millions for nothing. Imagine that everything you were taught, believed, clung to for meaning and comfort is wrong. Imagine that it's all been the most terrible joke, the most cruel hoax conceivable, and you are the butt of it. Doesn't bear thinking about, does it? Which is why so many people don't.

On the other hand, I could be wrong. God may not be non-existent, she may merely be painfully shy. And if she does exist, there's just the possibility that she may be assisted by a devil. Everyone who saw Monty Python's Life of Brian ("He can't take a joke after all") and atheists ("You must be feeling a right lot of charlies!"). Well, that would be embarrassing, I admit. But I'm betting it's never going to happen. I'm betting that god doesn't exist.

And have I never had a moment of doubt?

Oh yes - when we had a storm a few years ago, with the thunder and lightning rolling in from the English Channel such as I had never witnessed before. And then when the lightning struck my daughters house just 50 metres away, wrecking the chimneystack. I did have a moment of doubt then. We atheists hate lightning.

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Mrs Wally's off the wason

It's Christmas!!!!

Woo Hoo - it's the most wonderful time of the year again. I love Christmas, if only for the two gloriously cosy weeks I get to de-stress after a hard autumn at work. My aim is to replicate the incredible calm I felt after my fantastic holiday in Cyprus in the company of Jill, Gill, Lynne (and Wiggy). My plans for this Christmas are to chill out and treat myself to some of the quality food and drink I enjoyed then and bring a bit of sunshine to my winter. Our holiday was defined by the mid-afternoon 'cheekies' the gang whipped up every afternoon at about 3 - it was too hot for me to imbibe anything but iced tea at the time but I've decided that the cocktails I was introduced to will be just the ticket for lazy afternoons cosied up by a roaring log fire whilst playing board games with friends.

Cheeky number 1 - Aperol spritz

This is the best way to drink prosecco I have discovered yet - it's a classic cocktail that started creeping back into fashion a few summers back. It is lowish in alcohol and reminds me of a refreshing, bitter-sweet orangey version of Pimms. You need to try it for yourself - it's pretty hard to describe but trust me, it's delicious!

You need; Aperol, prosecco, soda water, ice, a nice thick slice of orange and a nice big glass.

Put a big handful of ice in your glass and top with your slice of orange, this works on ratios; pop 2 parts of Aperol and 3 parts of prosecco in the glass, give it a stir and add a nice big splosh of soda water. I have it on good authority that it tastes pretty good with a shot of Hendricks gin in it as well if you prefer it stronger.

Cheeky number 2 - Brandy sour

This was a revelation for me a non-brandy drinker, it's another old-fashioned cocktail that made a convert of me. The Brandy sour is a traditional Cypriot beverage steeped in history and is traditionally made with 2 parts Cypriot brandy, 1 part Cypriot lemon squash, a few drops of bitters and soda water - you may not be able to find these ingredients easily in Broadstairs but I had a

delicious British version made for me in a little speakeasy in Margate a couple of weeks ago and I watched the barman make it; You need: a large brandy, the juice of half a freshly squeezed lemon, a splash of sugar syrup, a few drops of bitters to taste topped up with soda - it was delicious and is easy peasy to rustle up at home.

Christmas cheeky – Mulled cider or mulled apple juice

Mulled wine is lovely but I think mulled cider or apple juice is a lot fruitier and definitely a bit more Kentish. You can buy Biddenden's lovely spiced Monk's Delight cider from the equally if not more lovely Bottleneck - this is great, but is quite boozy at 7.5% so I like to make my own using a lower strength alcohol base. Alternatively, you can forgo the alcohol completely and

Alternatively, you can forgo the alcohol completely and just use apple juice. It's really easy to make and there's something very cosy about a mug of warm grog on a cold winter's evening.

You need; ½ litre of apple juice, 1½ litres of still cider, strips of peel from an unwaxed orange and an unwaxed lemon, a couple of star anise, a couple of cinnamon sticks, 3 or 4 cloves and a spoonful of honey or demerara sugar.

Put the cider and apple juice into a saucepan with the spices and bring slowly to the boil with the lid on. As soon as it starts to simmer turn off the heat and add the peel. Taste and

add honey or sugar if you want.

Christmas cheeky 2 – Boozy hot chocolate

Now, if you can't decide between another

chocolate or another drink I find the best option is to have both. These are very rich so this is enough for about 4. You need; 100g Dark chocolate, 1 litre milk, ground cinnamon. Booze - crème de menthe if you like mint, Chambord or kirsch if you like black forest gateau. Grate the chocolate into the milk and slowly heat until the chocolate melts - keep stirring until the milk starts to steam - don't let it boil. Take off the heat and add a shot of whatever floats your boat. Enjoy.





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1. What goes with the flint Swastika in the wall of the building opposite Lloyds bank?

a. Did Adolf's Aunty Hildegard & Uncle Gunter live in Broadstairs for a few years when Gunter worked for Rediffusion Television?

- b. Was it the remains of a design for a crocheted Folk Week blanket?
- c. Was it put there as propaganda during the brief five week extreme right wing take-over of TDC in 1926?

d.

2. When are the fireworks on?

- a. Every 3rd Thursday of Michaelmas?
- b. When Mars, Pluto, the Starship Enterprise and the Town Mayor are in alignment?
- c. When the moon is at 2/17th of a gibbous?
- d. Rarely

e.

3. When did the Broadstairs Metro close down and why?

- a. Eh? what on earth is the Broadstairs Metro
- b. 1968 because of a incident involving a dead badger
- c. 1982 just after the last visit to Broadstairs by the pope

d.

4. Ted Heath famously enjoyed what in Broadstairs

- a. Messing about on the briny with sailors
- b. Waving his baton about at classical music events
- c. Going to church to have a tinkle on the organ
- d. Dressing up as a Morris Man and waving his hankies

e.

5. The Brigadiers cat is named

- a. Cromwell
- b. Mandy
- c. Mr Bix
- d. Molly Moo the Pussel squee.

6. It is said that Broadstairs resident and Fortune teller Madame Yolanda believed her deceased husband came back reincarnated as

- a. A Pelican
- b. A Cat
- c. A Pigeon
- d. The milkman

e.

7. Beach etiquette. When settling down for the day on Viking Bay do you...

- a. Form a ring of windbreaks, remain within the ring and lounge in a nonchalant manner with your trousers rolled up
- b. Spread out and kick a football about with your radio blaring out

e.

- c. Park yourself near the sea on that nice flat sand then wander off to go crabbing as the tide starts coming in
- d. Carry on walking round to Stone Bay

8. Crampton Tower was originally

- a. The South coasts answer to the Leaning Tower of Pisa
- b. Just a water tower
- c. A place for Lord Northcliffe to keep his pet ducks
- d. Early attempts at a theme pub
- e.

	_
9. When buying a house in Broadstairs you need	d
a. A formal letter of introduction with references from a current	e
'esident o. A knowledge of local pubs as residents use these as	15. If TVs Trevor Neal were to open up a business in his
andmarks when giving directions	home town of Broadstairs with his comedy partner Simo
c. A great love of the humble Cauliflower	Hickson. What might it be?
d. Your own blog site so you can bang on endlessly to those you	a. A pub
eft behind about how marvellous this seaside lifestyle is.	b. A disco where pants may be swung
2	c. A Laundrette that refuses to wash duvets
	d. A local decorating business
10. Broadstairs resident Oliver Postgate, co creator of	e
Childrens TV programmes such as The Clangers was once	
told off whilst at the BBC because	16. Where can this piece of architecture
a. Bagpuss ate one of the mice from the musical mouse organ	be found? See pic
b. A BBC executive said he was unhappy because in an episode	
Major Clanger' had sworn after kicking a door even though the	
Clangers were voiced using a Swanny Whistle.	17.The screenwriter Bruce Robinson
c. Noggin the Nog was extremely frightening for small children	grew up in Broadstairs. Which loosely
d. a BBC executive believed the stories on Bagpuss were just	autobiographical cult film is he responsible for.
too left wing'	a. The Fifth Element
	b. The Big Lebowski
11. Clarence the Dragons actual name is	c. Withnail and I
a. Mandy	d. The Man who fell to Earth
o. Geoff	e
c. Henrietta	40 Which well known Breadsteinstrade neuticularly in
d. For goodness sake it's Clarence you twit	18. Which well known Broadstairs trade, particularly in
	the 1700s was said to be the main employment of residents
12. Which occasional writer from The Broadie has	a. Foreign exchange students
appeared twice on BBC Countryfile (Not that the person	b. Mining chalk
ever brings it up in conversation)	c. Tourism
a. The Brigadier	d. Smuggling
o. Mrs Wally	e
c. Crispin	
d. Mr Wally	19.What is the best way to carry your shopping home
9	rather than fork out 5p for a bag?
	a. Knit your own bag from old socks
13. Why does the boat featured on the Broadstairs 'Stella	b. Strap it all to the back of a small child
Maris' crest appear to have a broken mast?	c. Use independent shops
a. Because legend has it that Joss Snelling sailed a boat into	d. Learn to juggle during Broadstairs Folk Week
the caves at Kingsgate without taking note of the height	e
restriction	
o. Passing ships would lower the top section of mast when	20. What is going to happen to Pierremont Park now that
passing the Shrine of St Mary as an act of homage.	TDC are selling the building? (see page 29)
c. Whoever first painted the picture ran out of room on the	a. It's to be a young gentleman's academy of sheep shearing
canvas	and llama husbandry
d. Top masts often broke under the weight of the numerous	b. It's to be housing for all the new spies being employed by the
seagulls that perched upon them	government as they will apparently be working underground in
e L4. Charles Dickens was a regular visitor to Broadstairs.	the old bunker c. It's going to be replaced by a massive transmitter so that we
Name four places he stayed. And one where he definitely	can all watch the telly and get decent phone reception
did not.	d. It will be a retirement home for Councillors where they can
3	be let off the lead in the grounds and can do no harm to the
)	local population



Forgotten Pubs of Broadstairs

The Five Tuns Inn was an 18th Century smugglers pub situated in Union Square and behind The Neptune Hall Hotel. However little is known of its past history including the names of any landlords. Strangely a J Williams street directory for Thanet of 1849 does not even mention the Inn. One story recorded occurred in the year 1807. A group of off duty customs men visited the pub for a drink. However some poorly hidden contraband was found by chance and the incident reported to the authorities. The pub's demise probably occurred in the 1860's due to its smuggling activities.

The origin of its name is unknown except that the word tun comes from a twelfth century Middle English term for a large beer or wine casket, usually equivalent to 252 gallons. This was an imperial measure of capacity equal to 4 hogsheads. So perhaps five tuns of beer was kept in stock when this drinking-house opened!

The building then became the private residence of William Wales and his family, believed to be called No's 1&2 Leslie Cottages. His claim to fame occurred earlier in 1857 whilst a member of a local lifeboat crew following a career in the Navy. On the 8th January the American cargo-ship "Northern Belle" beached whilst rounding The Foreland in very bad stormy seas. William in the lifeboat The Culmer White helped save the lives of all the crew from the ship and were taken to The Captain Digby to recuperate. The Mary White was the other lifeboat used in the rescue. It is recorded that the crew of a Margate lugger boat The Victory with 9 men on board sent to assist however, capsized with all lives lost. As a point of interest the American President Franklin Pierce in office between 4/3/1853 and 4/3/1857, awarded all of the lifeboat men a large inscribed silver medallion and £20 each for their bravery.

Mr Wales lived in the square until 1911 when the building was condemned and probably demolished later, he died in 1914 aged 91. A Mrs Wales is recorded as living at No's 5&6 up to the 1930's.

Mick Glover



Another busy year in the kiosk

It's hard to believe that our Information Kiosk on the promenade above Viking Bay has just finished its fifth year. Kiosk manager Gina Harrison said "it was open for even longer this year and it still went by in a flash.

Mayor Rosalind Binks opened the Kiosk on 2nd April and we remained open until 1st November where normally we close during the week from October.

We have 52 happy volunteers and we are very grateful for the time they give us in manning it."

It's a pleasant way to spend a couple of hours helping visitors from all over the world and local people find out about what is happening in the town and near about, volunteers soon learn which is the most relevant leaflet for each question. You become a dab hand at knowing when it's possible to walk to Botany Bay depending on the tides, who in town sells beach towels, what beaches you can take your dog on and where the nearest camp site is. Some questions get repeated often, such as where are the toilets and who sells the best fish and chips? Some questions are harder like when is it going to stop raining?

It does have one of the best views in town to work from and volunteers remain neutral when asked about where to get the best cup of coffee.

A constant tally is kept of the number of enquiries and each year it has increased. There has been a competition running since it closed this year for people to guess the final total which will end on 30 November just before we go to print with a bottle of champagne for the closest winner.

We can't enter because we know that it was 20,345 which just shows how important the kiosk is.

Gina

pic:

Roy Irving mans the deck with a little help from a four legged friend (who is surely crying out to have a TS Elliot style poem made up about them - anyone? - The cat not Roy)



Geoff Payne stores if memory serves me well



Gordons Newsagents - now a restaurant



Looking at his shoes, I'd say early 80s When once we owned a large coach park





Five oranges for 45p, surely not



Bottom of the High Street?



Back before the stupid new road scheme

'Fish & beer' back in the day



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



Here's a rather Interesting article by Dr Bill Moses of 'Ramsgate Ferries'.

Can a Ferry port at Ramsgate work? Would you use it? Should 'Ramsgate Ferries' be allowed to run it? Have a read and decide....

Sourced by George Rusiecki.

Ramsgate harbour was conceived as a port of refuge following the Great Storm of 1703, an event described as the worst disaster to befall the Royal Navy in peacetime with the loss of 13 men-of-war, 40 merchant vessels and 2,168 men. Local wrangling with Sandwich over who would host the decreed safe haven delayed construction until 1749. It was finished just over 100 years later in 1850.

Despite being awarded the unique title of Royal Harbour Ramsgate in 1821 by King George IV in recognition of the hospitality he received, the port was not a total success. John Smeaton was called in to solve the build up of silt in the port but despite his and subsequent efforts the dredging legacy remains to this day.

Ramsgate was an important setting off point during the Napoleonic War but promptly transformed 200 years ago into an extremely popular destination for tourists arriving on steamers from London. Indeed many believe to this day that seaborne tourism can once again revitalise Thanet's economy for the benefit of the entire community.

In 2015 cross-Channel travel or perhaps the lack of it has been the focus of many and for three main reasons, namely striking French seafarers, the immigrant crisis and the consequent reduction in ferry and Eurotunnel capacity which resulted in Operation Stack, two words that send shivers down the spine of many who very regrettably suffered its consequences.

The scene is nevertheless set for a return to the days when the travelling public and the freight industry had more than one short sea

crossing to consider, remembering that it was not so many years ago that the choice included passenger and/or freight ports such as Dartford, Sheerness, Ramsgate and Folkestone as well as Dover.

Despite the fact that as a nation we need to be mindful of the country's single route vulnerability and the apparent ability of immigrants to circumvent tunnel security, nothing here suggests that a ferry service from Ramsgate would resolve matters that have plagued intra-European travel and trade during 2015. The capacity that could be mustered would be limited even if as some have suggested,

ships were diverted from Dover and so any thought of Ramsgate being a solution for Operation Stack should remain in the dreams of politicians and others who simply fail to understand the demand and capacity dynamics of cross-Channel trade.

Enter the fray Ramsgate Ferry with a ferry industry career stretching back 45 years managing ferry brands including Olau Line (Sheerness), Sealink (Dover & Folkestone), Stena Sealink (Dover & Folkestone), Hoverspeed (Dover) and Sally Line (Ramsgate).

In recent years the ferry sector has had to contend with the loss of duty free, low-cost airline competition and a number of other challenges, not least of which was the arrival of the Channel tunnel, an event that witnessed the end of Sally Line amongst others. In recent times the Ramsgate Ferry team has advised governments, private equity and banks on a global scale and has undertaken commercial, technical and operational due diligence for businesses worth several billion dollars.

In contrast the Ramsgate Ferry proposal should fit neatly with its council ownership because it has as much to do with the revitalisation of Thanet's economy as it does use of the port or as a contribution to Channel capacity.

Although more than capable, the Ramsgate Ferry team does not propose to operate a ferry service but rather acts as an enabler. To be clear on this point, we have analysed every potential route from Ramsgate to mainland Europe, the matrix including diverse vessel configurations i.e. conventional or fast ferry, multipurpose and freight-only as well as scheduling variations, all of which is ready to share with potential ferry operators.

At its peak Sally Line, a brand that to this day brings a smile and happy memories to people far and wide, carried nearly 2 million passengers whereas Dover today handles around 13 million.

Ramsgate Ferry forecasts a modest 500,000 in the second year of

Ramsgate Ferry forecasts a modest 500,000 in the second year of operation allowing a comfortable period of awareness and product development. The proposal would encourage economic vibrancy for Thanet's High Streets, hotels, restaurants, retailers and events, in fact if 10% of 500,000 passengers spend just £20 each in a café, restaurant or shop, the business impact would be a £1 million a year. Furthermore, if only 5% of passengers stay in the area for two days or nights, the contribution to the local economy could be a further £5 million. Despite modest estimates it is not difficult to conclude that there is nothing that could inject the same level of vitality into the area and that is before we factor in 300 quality jobs.

Regrettably the campaign is far from straight forward however as Thanet District Council was approached as long as three years ago in our wish to see a return of a passenger and freight ferry service but offers of marketing assistance were repeatedly rebuffed as officers were allegedly in discussion with potential ferry operators.

That said, the only tangible thing that has happened in the last three years has been the collapse of the incumbent freight ferry operator, Slovenian owned TransEuropa Ferries owing Thanet council tax payers £3.4 million, annual losses for the commercial port of around £1



Pic courtesy of Ken Larwood

million and a fine of £2.3 million resulting from the illegal banning of live animal exports all of which has damaged the reputation of the port amongst tose in the ferry sector.

On the 17th anniversary of Sally Line's demise the port still patiently awaits a success story and one that as a result of its public ownership and the opportunity to attract tourism could truly benefit the area, its economy and its people. Thanet is a cul-de-sac, a special case with more than a few challenges, issues that will not be addressed by tinkering at the edges. Two thirds of Thanet is surrounded by sea and unsurprisingly therefore history has shown that tourism and trade has always played a significant part in the area. Indeed, there can be no doubt that the ability to connect Thanet's three proud towns and villages to mainland Europe with all that entails in terms of tourism, trade and employment provides a serious and very real opportunity to regenerate the area.

So what happens now?

Well, there is a great deal to do ranging from much needed dredging and the revitalisation of an otherwise sad and largely neglected ferry terminal through to a concerted and professional marketing approach which specifically targets companies that our experience indicates should be interested in a coherent, well constructed and viable proposal.

The terminal itself is in need of investment estimated at some £280,000, but this can be phased in and paid for during the inauguration by earnings generated by a new passenger and freight service. Water depths are insufficient on one berth whilst another has been virtually abandoned. The remaining central berth has recently had the water depth increased for the recently acquired Gefco business.

Thanet District Council needs to adopt a more conciliatory, on-side position embracing genuine and 'free' specialist expertise. To be clear on this point and unusual though it might sound, Ramsgate Ferry seeks no payment for its services. Ramsgate Ferry does however need to adopt a lead management role both operationally and from a marketing perspective in order to make the reputational difference that is desperately needed if the port will ever again echo to the sound of arriving and departing passengers.

Ramsgate Ferry's proposal, which is also linked to the Royal Harbour contains a cash positive result even before a ferry service appears over the horizon, a true win-win for the council, council tax payers and port users, whether leisure or commercial.

Leaving to one side the practicality of finding a ferry operator why should a passenger and freight ferry service from Ramsgate work?

The scene is set:

Firstly, we need to remind ourselves and potential ferry operators that Ramsgate is arguably the most attractive port anywhere as well as being adjacent to the only Royal Harbour in the country

Attractive does not always translate to practical however, and yet Ramsgate's commercial port is well served with an access road and tunnel paid for by Kent County Council and yet hardly used

The High Street is within easy reach as are the towns of Broadstairs and Margate with a wide variety of restaurants, shops and visitor attractions

Ferry terminal space is plentiful with ample capacity

The Ramsgate Ferry team has managed the port in the past

Apart from Dover, the commercial port of Ramsgate is the closest useable facility to mainland Europe

A number of ferry terminals and support facilities in France and Belgium would welcome the return of a passenger ferry service with open arms

There is recognition, political will and indeed urgency along the mainland European coastline to seek the economic stimulation and employment prospects that could be derived by a passenger and freight ferry service

Tourism would pump economic lifeblood into Thanet's coastal community and a return it to more plentiful days

The cost of cross-Channel travel is likely to increase now that for the first time ever there are only two ferry operators from Dover, in fact we understand that increased freight charges have recently hit the haulage industry hard

The service itself would need to be substantially different and we are ready to share a blueprint that is based upon considerable experience gained in a number of locations all over the world

A ferry service from Ramsgate would never detract from its Heathrowtype neighbours, but it is nevertheless eminently capable of offering personable style and an onboard retail and food and beverage offer that would impress, offering quality and value at the same time as rewarding the operator with repeat business and loyalty

Suitable vessels are available that can be secured at competitive rates and if called upon we have the means of sourcing one or more appropriate vessel/s and the expertise to set up a ferry service from scratch to inauguration

Interestingly, and without any promotion Ramsgate Ferry has already been approached by two financial institutions, two potential ferry operators and authorities on the other side of the Channel who are enthused by the Ramsgate Ferry initiative

For would-be ferry operators Ramsgate is not the only option however as evidenced by requests we have had from interested parties to consider alternative North Sea and Channel ports ranging from Ipswich to Folkestone. The opportunity is clear but it clearly needs to happen now!

But what is Thanet District Council doing?

A good, perfectly reasonable question particularly if you are a local council tax payer.

It is 17 years since the geographic position of Ramsgate and indeed Thanet was underlined on the map thanks to Sally Line and its connection with France and Belgium. Since then, a period during which Thanet District Council has been navigated by Labour, Tory, Labour/Tory and latterly UKIP administration, new business and revenue highlights for the commercial port have been conspicuous by their absence.

That said, a contract has recently been secured by Thanet District Council with a car importer. No vessel arrivals have yet been sighted although some cars have been delivered by road. In the meantime, we have an assurance that the ferry terminal will not be turned into a car park and that importantly it will not be allowed to act as a hindrance to any possible passenger ferry service.

Hopefully vessels will soon be sighted on the horizon particularly as from an income perspective a recent and specific dredging campaign of a quarter of a million pounds, unless underwritten will clearly take some recovery.

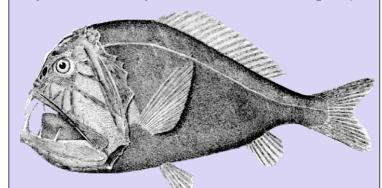
What can Thanet residents do to help?

Quite simply log-on to www.ramsgateferry.com for more information and to sign in your support of Ramsgate ferries if you so wish

Dr Bill Moses Director

W www.ramsgateferry.com
F_facebook.com/ramsgateferry

THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY



The Ninth of July 1574. In this Fish (under the Cliff, a monstrous fish shot himself on shore, where (for want of water) he died, the next day, before which time his roaring was heard above a mile; his length was 22. yards long, the nether Jaw opening 12. foot, one of his eyes was more than a cart, with six horses, could draw, a man stood upright in the place from whence his eye was taken, the thicknesse from his back to the top of his belly (which lay upward) was 14. foot, his taile of the same breath, between his eyes 12. foot: three men stood upright in his mouth, some of his ribs were sixteen foot long, his tongue fifteen foot long, his Liver two Cart loads, and a man might creep into his nostrils.

Richard Kilburne

A topographie or survey of the county of Kent London 1659

www.kentarchaeology.ac

Bah Humbug George

When the playwright George Bernard Shaw visited Broadstairs as a young man he applied to be the lighthouse keeper at North Foreland Lighthouse but

inexperience.

He originally came to
Broadstairs to avoid
celebrating Christmas!
Mind you when he died
Oscar Wilde said of him
"He hasn't an enemy
in the world and
none of his
friends like him"

was rejected due to his

Thanks to Bob Cawthorne for permission to use this from his excellent tome The Isle of Thanet Compendium

Community Centre

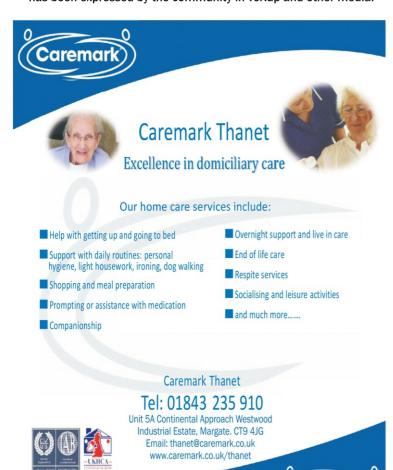
UPDATE

The Town Council has had productive and amicable discussions with Thanet District Council and is getting ready to make a decision whether to bid for Pierremont Hall and the other park buildings and / or Retort House. The Town Council has undertaken a number of investigations into the feasibility of acquiring the buildings and expects to make an informed decision at some point in late



November or early December 2015. That decision will include whether to bid for both sites, only one site, or neither site, as well as how much to bid and what community and other benefits can be offered by the Town Council.

Thanet District Council will then decide whether the Town Council's bid is good enough, probably at a meeting in January 2016. The Town Council appreciates the support for this initiative that has been expressed by the community in voXup and other media.





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The year of The Big Shed



When the first 'men's shed' in Kent was opened in Broadstairs in May 2014 by the Broadstairs Town Team, no one truly knew the impact it would have on the local community.

For decades, men have 'escaped' to the shed at the back of the garden for some space and time to themselves, perhaps to make things or maybe just to contemplate in tranquillity.

Well, in recent times, that 'humble' shed has taken on a new meaning, with special 'sheds', like the one in Broadstairs, being built or repurposed to take older men, who are no longer employed, away from potential isolation and offer them a place to meet, make, mend, share skills and learn new ones over a cuppa, with other guys. The concept started in Australia in 1999, borne out of a need to deliver important health and well-being messages to men of a certain age, who are very often reluctant to speak about the very issues that should concern them. Having them in one place, in a social, friendly, relaxed environment, made that easier.

So powerful was the concept, that 'Men's Sheds' has become a world-wide grass roots movement for meeting, making, fixing, talking, and working shoulder-to-shoulder. There are now over 1000 in Australia, 226 currently open in the UK, with 2 more opening each week and 89 more planned for 2016. Many sheds, like the one here, welcome both men and women.

The Broadstairs Shed all began when the Town Team made a successful funding application to The Big Lottery. The project brought the community together and, with the help of volunteers and unbelievable support from local businesses, the unloved old DVLA building next to Pierremont Hall in Pierremont Park was converted into a small but, thanks to the efforts of all our Shedders and Shed Heads, perfectly formed workshop and meeting space, where woodworking, computer classes and much more happens three days a week. The Broadstairs Town Shed now has 90 members of both sexes, and wonderful new friendships and working partnerships have been forged. "Before joining the shed I was inactive and bored....since joining the shed I have changed beyond belief. I have something to look forward to and enjoy doing...Antidepressants vs the shed...no contest!"

"I have made new friends and got involved in the community"

"An opportunity to get out and meet people....The shed is a place to relax and have happy banter with like minded people"

"Thank you, you have given me back my husband!"

However, just one year on, the popularity of the shed has meant that larger premises are now required. After much searching, the team finally found the perfect location – a building that some know as the old tram shed, just off Northdown road and, conveniently, on The Loop route. But, with almost 5000 square feet of space, most of which is in need of significant renovation, as well as specialist kitting out as woodworking workshops, a metalworking space, meeting rooms and other craft areas, this is an enormous task. The plan is to open the new Big Shed in late Spring 2016.

The challenge is enormous, but the project is lucky enough to have amazing support from the community and local businesses that have offered materials – not to mention a fabulous resource of retired carpenters, general builders, boat builders, surveyors, and engineers at its disposal, who will be carrying out the majority of the work.

The Shed needs you

Sustainability is key to the long-term success of the Shed. It costs over £ 2000 per month to keep the shed open for three days a week in our current space. The figure for the Big Shed will be more like £2700, so a big fundraising push is being planned. Thankfully, if the support that has already been given by community so far is anything to go by, then the chances of meeting this target are good.

The team is in the process of applying for funding, and, over the last year, has raised considerable amounts through fundraising activities. While this will carry on into 2016, the shedders would be delighted to have more support.

Already, the project has been shortlisted for The Thanet Gazette's Heart of The Community award, so it needs your vote - between now and 20th December via a coupon in The Gazette, or via text and we'll be advertising the important number very soon. This will boost funding, but it will also raise awareness of the Shed.

So, here's to 2016 - the Year of The Big Shed. You can help make it happen, and help the wellbeing of even more people in the community. If you would like to get involved, please contact: Claire Shelton on 01843 869738 or 07597 349290; claire@broadstairstownshed.org.uk. or via Facebook.

The Shed, Pierremont Park, Broadstairs. Open Tues 11-4 Weds & Thurs 11-4.











SHOP WATCH

Connections 53 High Street

Connections which opened in September looks like it just sells phones at first glance as you wiz past but you'll be amazed at how much there is in there if you go in for a look. Not only does he sell and repair phones and tablets but Saad the owner replaces screens, sells dvd's, games, speakers,



memory sticks, travel adaptors, keyboards and a whole load of other interesting computer gadgets. Saad moved to Broadstairs from Dundee in 2002 and loves the town and is enjoying being part of the ongoing wealth of independent traders we have in our town.

Matt's Headroom

We spent the whole year before he closed guizzing Allweather Pete about what business was going to replace his when he closed but we had to wait until September to discover that Matt's Headroom

relocated from the top of the High Street into the premises. The wellestablished 21 year old business looks very bright and welcoming in their bright new shop



Spinning Tops Children's **Entertainment**

I'm starting a new

business called spinning tops children's entertainment. And I will be putting together some amazing party packages that include magic Shows, games, music, bubble shows, balloons and themed piaret

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I grew up in Ramsgate but now live in Broadstairs and have been working as a magician for 14 years. My new kids' shows have been specially created to keep your children engaged and entertained so that any stress is off the adults.

I have a Facebook page called spinning tops children's entertainment. Once it is up to 200 likes I will be giving away a free magic show.

To book you can call Clint on 07730326815 Or email clint.stevenson@hotmail.co.uk





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1. YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT.

2. THEY'RE FROM BODMIN OR NEWQUAY DEPENDING ON WHICH FLAVOUR YOU CHOOSE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHICH FLAVOUR?

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And finally. Happy Christmas one and all and may all your puddings contain a sixpence

