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April / May 16

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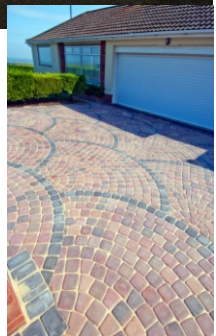
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Your letters thebroadie@googlemail.com

Art on the Front

Hello Broadie Editor and Team

Having just read my Feb/March edition of your esteemed publication, I notice that this edition seems to have majored on arty/crafty stuff in Broadstairs. Do you think that you could possibly give the Broadstairs & St Peters Art Group a bit of a "puff" in one of your forthcoming editions?

The Group has been going now for 42 years, and has around 100 members of all ages, from teenagers to those of a more mature nature.

We meet monthly from September to May at Holy Trinity Church Hall, by the Albion Street Car Park in central downtown Broadstairs, where we have nationally and internationally renowned artists visit each month and give us demonstrations of their work, sometimes completing two paintings in one evening session.

From May through to August Bank Holiday - on seven Sundays - we exhibit our work (weather permitting!) on the railings of Broadstairs Seafront (by the lift). So far as we know, we are the only Art Group in the South East who exhibit regularly in this way.

This years seafront exhibition dates are 22nd May, 12th and 26th June, 31st July and 14th, 28th and 29th August. The work exhibited is for sale, but primarily it is to show the general public the sort of fantastic talent that is around in Thanet.

Our members show a wide range of amazing work, from stained glass and embroideries through to ceramics and paintings in all media, shapes and sizes!

We also have a formal Annual Exhibition, this year in the King Street Gallery in Margate, from 30th May to 13th June. So if any of your readers would like to join the Group, see our demonstrations and exhibit their art work in our exhibitions, perhaps they could email us at bandspartgroup@talktalk.net

Or, on the other hand, just stroll along the seafront on the exhibition dates and look at our work - and perhaps buy a very affordable piece of original art work!

With many thanks - I really can't believe that The Broadie has been going since 2008 - seems like only yesterday I got your first edition - time flies doesn't it!!

Angela Carpenter

(Not only down on the seafront - Angela also produced the front cover for us this issue)

Broadie 4 the EU?

Dear Broadie

Following the clearly politically biased and I hope unintentionally misleading article 'Thanet of the Apes', I was wondering whether, to provide balanced journalism, you will be providing an alternative article to counter, or will you simply be changing the front page header to 'The Broadie. For the EU by Broadstairs'?

p.s. bar the bourgeois left wing political bias, many thanks for an otherwise great publication.

Best regards

Paul of Broadstairs.

(Balanced? Journalism? What here? Just trying to give the other view seeing as the Daily Mail, Express and Telegraph are so prevalent in our fair town:

We heard the leave the EU want us to weigh everything in pounds and ounces again, re-install the shilling and guinea and send an expeditionary force across the channel, y'know - just in case. Any truth or just a rumour?

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More Letters.....

Loopy loop indeed

Dear Editor,

I was very interested to read Fairfax Carswell's article "Looping the Loopy Loop" in Issue 45 of The Broadie.

It is excellent that he has highlighted some more of Thanet's lesser known history but I take issue with some of his facts.

Fairfax is correct that there were four airfields here at one time.

Wikipedia RAF Manston article reveals there was a grass airstrip at St Mildred's Bay Westgate in WW1. Very dodgy with planes landing in the sea until they realised it was better to use it as a seaplane base.

Manston itself started up soon afterwards, in WW1, also initially on grass.

Less well known is Nethercourt Airfield Ramsgate (now the site of the Nethercourt housing estate).

It opened in 1932 and though there were no local flights between Thanet towns as described by Fairfax, Hillman Airways operated flights from Romford Essex to Ramsgate.

Lastly, there was Ramsgate Municipal Airport. Probably many lifelong residents of Thanet will remember it was on the site of the now Pysons Road industrial estate. Closed as "recently" as 1968. More info can be found at the following links:

https://en.wikipedia/wiki/RAF_Manston

www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk

Michael: A Broadie enthusiast

Small Black bags

It is bad enough the dog owners that don't pick up their dogs mess thus giving decent owners a bad name. What is worse is the Gutless Scumbags who pick the mess up to make sure they are not seen and fined, and then dump the bag round the next corner at their first opportunity or in some cases over peoples garden walls.

This is especially prevalent up around the Chess board, but is now quite common to see little black bags all over Broadstairs. The council officers need to be more vigilant and catch and fine these dregs of humanity.

Terry

The Chessboard, Broadstairs

Bowls in Broadstairs - 100 up

1916 - 2016

Massive celebrations are a foot this year for Broadstairs and St Peters Bowls Club. They are delighted to report that the club has been running for 100 years.

This being their Centenary year they have plenty to celebrate. Just to have reached this stage having survived the terrible war years, opening its doors originally for the home coming hero's of World War 1, they stand victorious at having fought through adversity to emerge in 2016 a very popular successful club.

The members of Broadstairs and St Peters Bowls Club owe a great deal to their founder members and as such are the care takers of this wonderful old club and have a duty to uphold the standards and traditions set out all those years ago. They are extremely proud of their heritage and therefore wish all towns people of Broadstairs and the surrounding areas to come along and celebrate with them on this wonderful achievement.

On Sunday April 17 th they open their doors to bring in the new summer season, and at 2pm the Mayor of Broadstairs will be in attendance and as tradition dictates will bowl the first bowl of the season along with the local papers and photographers, so come along and participate in the excitement of the day or stay and watch the first game.

There is so much planned for the public to participate in.

The Open Day will be on Saturday May 14th, this is where the public are most welcome to join in the celebrations.

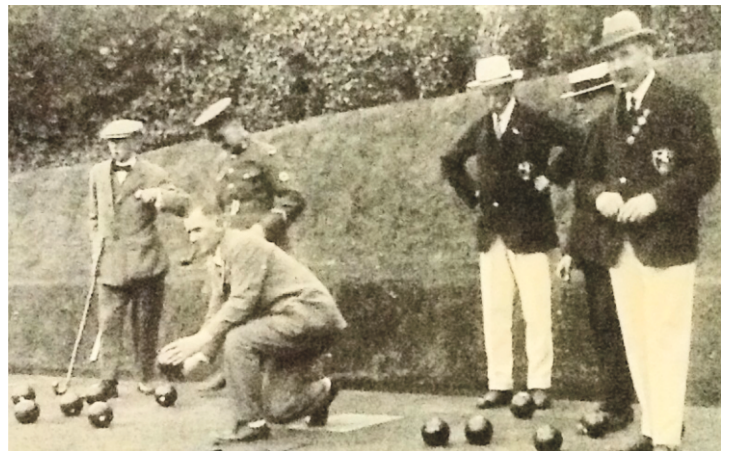
There will be stalls, tom bola's, crafts, cakes, raffles and refreshments and a unique opportunity to try your hand at bowling free of charge.

They have everything you need to get you started, bowls, shoes and training from our qualified coaches, come and chat to our members. Broadstairs and St Peters Bowls Club have players of all abilities in the club so don't be shy, remember you are never too young and never too old to play bowls. It's sociable, challenging, good for you and fun.

Anyone wishing to gain more information about joining or in fact have information for them about the club all those years ago, they would love to hear from you.

They would also welcome anyone who has reached the grand old age of 100 or anyone who's family members have memories or are in fact past members of the club.

Please ring Jo King (Publicity Officer) on 07812522720 or e Mail jaking48@gmail.com



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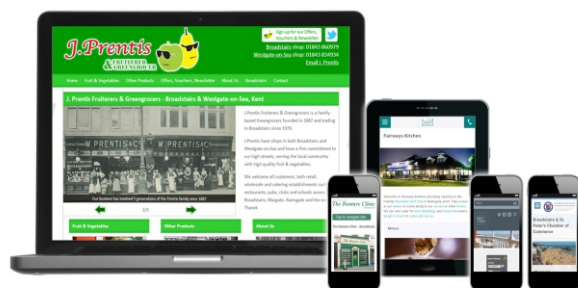
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Folk Week 2016

'Holy Moly'

Broadstairs Folk Week – 5– 12 August 2016

Yes it's the 51st Broadstairs Folk Week – not quite as sexy as the 50th from a marketing point of view – but still an achievement. Let's look into the crystal ball and see what the next 50 years promise for the festival....Pierremont Park suddenly increases its capacity and a 10,000 seater tent appears – the Rolling Stones acoustic folk trio are booked (poor Mick) ; local authority funding goes through a renaissance and agrees that as Thanet is the leading light for festivals in Kent which bring in amazing economic benefit – funding will be allocated on a 10 year basis in advance, copper-bottomed, no questions asked, with built-in inflation; the torchlight procession is reinstated with an advance tank regiment patrolling the crowds and using water cannon on anyone drinking lager; the Broadstairs Folk Week workforce is recognised as an amazing bunch of people and all given MBEs....

So all very positive then...not only that, Folk Week manages to remain true to its roots with a love for all things folk – such as Morris dancing, the fantastic new generation of folk musicians from Britain as well as the well-loved performers of slightly greyer hue but continues to book some unexpected acts for a folk festival...and the weather forecast is sun and no thunderstorms.

And back to 2016 – this year you can party to the small hours with Andy Kershaw spinning discs; get a full-on blues fix with Andy Fairweather Low and find some sneaky jazz vibes seeping in too. If you want to find out what's really hot in the folk world – this year's festival line-up truly reflects that. There's been an absolute revolution

in the last 5 years in English folk music and whereas there used to be a distinct lack of young performers – nowadays there's an embarrassment of riches. False Lights are a folk rock outfit that you probably won't have heard of but they will be blowing off the concert tent roof on the Saturday night; The Young'uns are unashamedly folk – but have very trendy young beards; Megson, Sam Kelly and the Lost Boys, Will Pound, Dan Walsh, Granny's Attic and many more of the bands are full of energy and guaranteed to get you up and leaping about – especially Blackbeard's Tea Party. Late nights at the Pavilion are basically one long feel-good party from the very start – with Tankus the Henge, the Turbans, Gentlemen of Few, Holy Moly and the Crackers and Beggar's Belief to name a few.

This year, Folk Week has a new-style Children's festival with lots of fun for all ages – come along to the Bandstand on the first Friday at 3pm to jam with Alphonse Daudet Touna who welcomes all instruments, all abilities and all ages and somehow gets everyone playing together! Now is your chance to get your rhythm going on the comb and paper or your Stradivarius.

Music Sessions are an important part of the festival, but for young musicians it can be a bit daunting to turn up in a pub and try and play or even join in with a workshop – so there are some special young sessions called Fun Vibes and Step Up and Play: if you're aged 12 – 25 and would love play in a music session -join Tom and Phoebe as they welcome the exciting young performers such as



Sam Kelly & the Lost Boys

Granny's Attic, Talisk and others booked for the festival for a chat, some tunes. Bring your guitar, fiddle, beatbox, djembe or just yourself!

Now, ladies and gentlemen – the Craft Fair – this does not open on the first Friday – so please tell your friends who are booking a coach from north Wales in anticipation of a fun day looking at embroidered flannels and fudge – to wait until Saturday 6th when it is open, And talking of stalls, at the time of writing, there are still 3 inside stalls the Craft Tent available to book for Folk Week – we are looking for craft-based, creative, original and preferably Thanet-based people. We know you're there, get together, book a stall, sort out your staffing and sell each other's stuff...as long as it's not jewellery, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone in the town and beyond who supports Folk Week – the festival is a registered charity and not for profit and every year we need more support – especially as grant-funding is shrinking at an alarming rate. Treat yourself, buy a ticket, a T-shirt, sponsor – and enjoy a week of brilliant music in August. The Souvenir Programme is published in June – advertising space still available at time of writing – and there is lots of info on

www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk

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The truth isn't out there

or if it is, it's incredibly well hidden

Stay or go, go or stay. Anyone else fed up to the back teeth with people who have such a certainty in their own belief that 'It must be so' and therefore anyone else is a simpleton buffoon?

I suppose the last ten years have been leading up to the 23rd June, ten years that's seen the surge of a UKIP as a knee jerk against a rise in immigration from parts of the world that we long ago viewed with distrust, safe in the belief that the 'East European accent' would only be heard in spy thrillers and not on the streets of our towns and cities. We're told by some that multi-culturism doesn't work and that some groups will not integrate, that Mr Tebbit's cricket match test has been shown to be true and now deportation will start for those immigrants who don't earn the required amount.

We're informed that Europe is great or Europe is rubbish, that all our problems as a nation can be solved by staying in or going out, with both sides completely ignoring the fact that the day to day running of the country is what will make or break us, our future is already in our hands yet has been mishandled by successive governments who have enabled the rich to get richer whilst demonising everyone at the bottom layers of the pyramid, who in turn have had the responsibility of all that has gone economically wrong foisted upon their weary shoulders. Would we even be having this conversation had not the banks gone bang with all our hard earned?

The leave side bangs on about how much is spent per day on staying in the EU whilst completely ignoring the receipts we take back.

The stay side produces spurious nine million quid leaflets with claims that are readily countered and pulled apart.

And all the time those who are certain that their preference is the undoubtable way to go, endlessly try and push their point of view onto others. How can anyone be that sure? Why are they so certain beyond belief?

Well let me tell you, they're not. They can't be. And if they say they are then they're idiots. Because politically, economically and socially nobody is sure what will happen until it does - thus it has ever been so.

One thing that is certain, there will be an awful lot of money made whichever way it goes. Many people assume that because the economic centre is intrinsically bound to major national and international decisions, any event that is perceived not in the economic national or international interest will mean money will be lost left right and centre. That may well be true for the likes of everyday folk who have a few quid tucked away in shares - not necessarily so for the banks though.

If the leave campaign wins then one thing is certain, the GBP will fall against pretty much all major currencies. That's not scare-mongering, that's pretty much a given, and if you say otherwise then you've not got much experience of the foreign exchange. That will

affect you and me, however the banking centre will doubtless be making immense profits on the likes of the FOREX markets where they'll be betting against the good old pound and making billions. Markets don't care which way the coin falls, they care which way market sentiment lies and how much money can be made. If the Stay campaign wins then the pound will spike higher and the same money will be made - in the world of banking, perceived bad news is a chance to make money as much as good news. They really don't care which way.

Your decision will not be made on hard facts, we're not in receipt of hard facts as everything is open to so many interpretations that are swayed by political beliefs, social events that have formed our own opinions, which newspaper you read and or believe, even who said what on a TV show. Perhaps we should let only those under thirty vote as they're the ones who will have to live with the decision for the longest; although I'm not sure that idea would be so popular with the leave campaign

They'll be those who vote out for nothing more than thinly veiled racist and or xenophobic reasons who believe the likes of groups such as the buffoons from 'Britain First'. There'll be those who want out because the Daily Express and Sun have printed another load of scandalous lies about Muslims, Romanians and Immigrants and or Refugees (depending on public perception at the time).

Emotion will decide the referendum, not cold hard facts

Those who wish to stay in may do so because they believe we'll somehow be safer in the EU whilst completely ignoring the truth that nobody knows if that will actually be true or whether statistically any of us are actually in real danger anyway. There's some who believe beyond doubt that mass immigration has only been good for the UK by citing some pre-selected figures that only support their argument whilst ignoring the ones that have differing views.

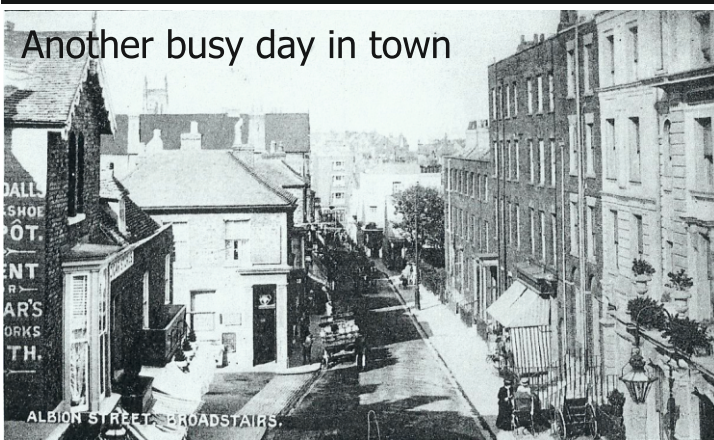
Just do me a favour, I don't care which way you vote, that's your personal choice, just don't accost me in Broadstairs High street. I have a major distrust of anyone who wishes to press their own point of view onto others, especially when you could be at home painting the shed or off fishing for the day or anything else more interesting than badgering the public into supporting un-verifiable arguments for or against an issue.

I'm not sure which way to go, but I suspect I'll go with my gut instinct. If you're so sure you're sure, then perhaps you should stop and think why, because frankly I really don't know how anyone can be that sure without the truth the whole truth and nothing but.

Emotion will decide the referendum, not cold hard facts. The truth is most certainly NOT out there.

Geoff

Another busy day in town



After Mick Glover's fascinating visual tour of old Harbour Street, I'd like to offer this modest portfolio of my old haunt of Albion Street. At first glance, nothing really changes across the centuries, does it? Looking upwards from Alexandra Road junction there's hardly anyone about, which means early morning for the Working Classes and shopkeepers prior to the Rich Lot stirring about mid-morning; or it's afternoon closing time. Of course we simply must consider that out of sight round the corner at either end is a sign saying : Road Closed. Thus everyone's stayed away and instead sauntered off to Ramsgate. In those times, it was the town Gas Co. who'd be digging the road up every year. Cantwell's has been replaced these days by a quality Fish & Chip business incorporating Dickens Walk, and opposite is the entrance to St Mary's Road now a private development cul-de-sac. The chap posing in the bowler hat outside Barfield House is, well, a poser. Actually, this ' Broadstairs Man-of-Mystery ' seems to turn up a lot, centrally posed, in most of the other iconic panoramic pictures of the town even if an awful lot of gents therein seem to dress very much alike. Anyone noticed this? Anyway, enough of late Victorian photographic conspiracy theories.....The two little folks peeping out upstairs above Cantwell's are children.



Now, looking down Albion Street, it's about 10am onwards, and the Posh Lot are up and about ready for the Reading Rooms, coffee at The Albion Hotel or just promenading. The horse-drawn Landaus are out ready for taxi-ing in the designated rank outside the Albion Hotel (just out of sight), and the usual trouble's brewing with pedestrians versus delivery cart traffic down towards Cantwell's and the Baptist Chapel (recently the Albion book shop and adjacent Toffs & Tarts). Pavements narrow as ever (go on, have a closer look – what's changed?) and slow-moving or stationary traffic congestion from shoppers



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and those deciding it's more practical to walk in or across the middle of the road. Ladies' large skirts mean it's always ' High Noon ' stand offs to see who passes first and who avoids sweep-cleaning the shop fronts. Trust me, it still goes on in Dickens Week and how much time and cost does it still take to fully launder a dress like that?! Speaking of Toffs, here's a witty observation of the pleasure to be had back then enjoying the street's several quality hostelries, some of which survive right up to the present day. The drinking facility of this postcard is imagined, but you'll find a similar fountain at the bottom of the steps to Viking Bay from the Albion Hotel. Presently painted gloss black. Look out for the beautiful ornamentation including the Stalk (or Crane) fittingly symbolic of.....water. Beautiful, eh?

Simon Gerrard



Lawrence Vernon Mee '(Vernon)'

I met Vernon a few years back when I stopped to congratulate both Vernon and his wife Ruth on their always impeccable sartorial elegance. Whenever I saw the pair of them either in town or at an event they always made me smile, and perhaps inspired me a little to put a bit more effort in when visiting the wardrobe. He will be greatly missed.



His wife Ruth writes

Vernon was born in Norfolk in 1942, the youngest of three brothers. His father served in the RAF and the family lived in an idyllic village called Methwold.

Later a job change for his dad propelled the family to Manchester where he quickly learnt to be streetwise in a very tough area. It was in these early adolescent days he discovered a passion for cycling. With a growing number of friends, he became part of the 'Mod' set, visiting the clubs, wearing the fashions of the day and listening to the vibrant music. A move to the Leeds area provided an opportunity to meet Blues player who became a lifelong friend. From then on, Blues music played a large role in his life. He ran a classic men's shop, in a pit village near Leeds, and combined cycling and the love of menswear by riding out into the Yorkshire countryside with his tape and pattern books, in order to measure farmers who wanted suits. The shop flourished as a result.

By this time he was married with a small son and when a divorce ensued, moved south to Kent with four year old Adrian. Five willing aunts at Westgate helped Vernon with the boy's upbringing. Vernon found employment at Debenhams, Canterbury and rose to Menswear department manager, but was keen to work in London.

Another good friend, James Hemfield, secured a position for him in one of the shirtmakers in Jermyn Street in the West End. This fuelled his sense of high taste and elegant fashion. He commuted from Westgate, wearing elegant bespoke suit, waistcoat, pocket-watch, double-cuff shirt & silk tie.

Fellow commuters acknowledged this vision of male attire. He met and served the rich and famous and used his engaging personality on the shop floor. Then, a job of a lifetime, at 'Turnbull and Asser' enabled him to take the silk tie and gown collection to Milan several

times a year. He was ecstatic and felt like a prince.

Commuting took its toll though, and the days were long, so in the 1990's he married Ruth and stopped the endless travelling, settling for a job at 'Savoy Tailors' (later 'Moss') in Canterbury, but his West End finesse set him apart. Finally retirement came and the annual Broadstairs Dickens Festival gave him the chance to find all manner of Victorian/Edwardian costume and accessories.

He began to build a large personal collection and gave talks, parading around his audience in his own definitive style. People were fascinated and more societies and clubs began to book him. With his wife Ruth at his side, he was recognised as the most dapper gentleman in Thanet and was always immaculately attired and groomed. He kept himself fit by cycling up to forty miles a day on one of his five bicycles. His flamboyant sense of style, his engaging personality, his fund of entertaining stories combined with his ability to make friends will be sorely missed. He collapsed on 24th March with a massive brain-bleed and died in QEQM on 25th Good Friday.

We'll leave the last word to Vernon who wrote back in the Christmas Issue, No 26:-

Well chaps, as the Christmas season approaches, why not surprise the lady (or ladies) in your life with a little style and panache? Perhaps a touch of yesteryear - Edwardian or Victorian style dress-wear. For example, a smart blazer style jacket or your summer linen garment with a colourful waistcoat for Christmas dinner (white jacket if you are lucky to own one) plus a nice crisp shirt complete with smart dark trousers or chinos.

No, not your jogging bottoms or those old jeans this time thank you. You should wear a tie, bow-tie or even better a cravat to complete the ensemble. This will then enhance your look when cutting the Turkey. Why, James Bond will not even get a look in with the new debonair you in command of festivities! Of course if you run to a double cuff shirt with links it must be a neat way of avoiding the washing up etc. Also the ladies will be full of admiration for the new 'smart you' which, at least gets an extra helping of pudding. Who knows, you may be allowed a nice snooze in the chair as a reward for such efforts. For the traditional Christmas walk wear a decent overcoat with cap or hat and scarf. Leave that old anorak behind in the closet. Your lady will certainly be in her festive finery after all!

Yours Faithfully

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This January I spent a long and joyful evening in front of the fire with the Brigadier at his rather palatial home. Having discussed all the finer things in life such as Whiskey, British sports cars and Bakelite, the topic got on to my incredible lack of academic qualifications. The Brigadier found it surprising that a successful and charismatic gent such as myself could get this far in life with nothing more than a cycle proficiency test and a Blue Peter badge. He was kind enough to point out that Bix, his grumpy and slightly deranged cat was, on paper almost as successful as myself. My reply was simple. A degree in leisure and tourism isn't going to be much good when the phones are out, the WIFI's down and you've got a street full of zombies banging on your door. Good point well made was his response. Off the back of this discussion we decided that I should write down all the practical skills that I have learnt and get them published in The Broadie. After all, when the WIFI's down what else are you going to read?

So every issue I will describe a useful and practical guide on everything from how to split logs properly to the most humane way of stopping a badger from stealing your packed lunch.

As yet we haven't a name for this column. So far it's a battle between 'Things to do when the internet is down', 'toughen up office boy and get your hands dirty' or a 'step by step guide to lots of stuff by Wally C'.

And so, this issue I will be giving a step by step guide to....

Kick starting a British motorbike.

You may be wondering how useful this bit of information may actually be? Well let me tell you...

- 1, If there WAS a Zombie apocalypse (see article) the easy start, 'boys' bikes will have been taken and will all be out of fuel.
- 2, Not knowing how to kick start a bike will dramatically reduce your chances of John Connor sending you back in time to save the human race from the Terminators.
- 3, If you have found a deserted kick start bike there is every chance it will be a classic British bike. This has two bonuses. The only thing cooler than riding a British motorbike is Clint Eastwood smoking a cigar, riding a horse. The other and perhaps less obvious advantage is that the inevitable stream of oil pouring from any number of places off the bike will create an oil slick thus reducing the speed of any zombie making chase.

Step 1. Locate the fuel tap (under the fuel tank). Turn it to 'ON'

Step 2. Locate the choke lever. (On the carburettor which is the thing the air filter is attached to). Push down on lever.

Step 3. Locate the decompression lever (usually under left hand grip on handlebar). Squeeze it with your thumb.

Step 5. Locate the kick start lever (right hand side of bike near your knee). Flip the little pedal out.

Step 6. Kick the bike over three times (this primes the engine)

Step 7. Turn the ignition key to 'ON'

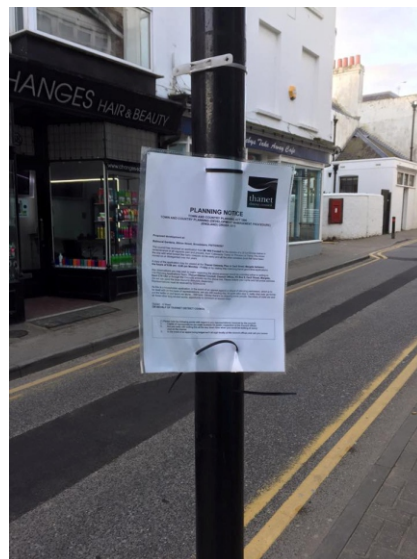
Step 8. Gently kick engine over until you see a little needle near the speedo move to the left.

Step 9. Gently kick engine over until needle is in middle position.

Step 10. Release decompression lever and kick the bike over like you've seen in the films.

Step 11. Ride off in to the sunset looking the best you probably ever have.

NEXT ISSUE.....How to stop mice from nesting in your beard whilst sleeping outdoors without a tent.



Statue...What statue?

Who's the naughty wee blighter who put this planning notice up, eh? Who is Mr Will Fondell and does he?

Will TDC send the boys round if you disagree? Are you really better off looking at saucy pics' on the internet?

And how exactly do you spell Thanet?

All these questions need answering - especially on April 1st when this notice was posted.

Proposed development at:

Balmoral Gardens, Albion Street, Broadstairs, FH/TH/90567

The council has received an application from **Mr Will Fondell** for the erection of a 30 foot Bronze statue in remembrance of all vagrants past and present, from 'Catweazle Tramp' to 'Princess Lei Tramp' (You know the one with what looked like hairy cowpats on his ears) and all the other nameless souls that have been moved on or disregarded over the years.

A copy of the application may be viewed at the **Thanet Gateway Plus in Cecil Street, Margate** between the hours of 9.00 am - 6.00 pm Monday - Friday or by visiting <http://planning.thanet.gov/online-applications>

Any observations you may wish to make regarding the above proposal should be submitted either in writing to The Planning Applications Team, **Thanet District Council, Council Offices, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ** or through the Councils website via the above link. **Please include your name and full postal address.** (So we can send the boys round to dissuade dissenters) Representations must be received by 02/04/2016

As this is a household application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations, are you still reading this, for gods sake stop it, really stop now, go home put the kettle on and leave me alone...Still here - blimey there's no stopping some people. Secretary of state etc and all those other long winded words, opportunity to comment at appeal stage

Signed: K Weed
ON BEHALF OF THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

- (*) Please note the following points with regard to any representations received by the council:
1. Copies of representations are made available for public inspection at the Council offices
 2. Are you really still reading this all the way down here when you could be looking at saucy pics on the internet
 3. In the event of an appeal being lodged we'll all sigh loudly at the council offices and call your names

The Brigadier

Well, I wasn't going to write anything this time around until I received a visit from young Mr Wally. He was in a bit of a state as he felt under some pressure to write an article for the editor. I assume the illustrious boss has something over on him, perhaps photographs in an illicit pose or information that could be embarrassing should it ever get out to the National Sheep board or Farming Union.

Still, I digress. The silly so and so managed to shame me into getting the felt tips out again and here I am.

Isn't Broadstairs looking Spic and Span at the moment. 'Blimey' you say, 'Are you sure'. 'Has TDC remembered where St Peters Road leads and finally purchased a new broom'. Well yes and no.

Those fine ladies and gentlemen from the Town Team and Broadstairs Harbour & Seafront Group have been working their socks off to paint the 'Waterloo Stairs' (That's the Zig Zag ones down to the beach), they've been down the Harbour having a paint up and organising removal of sand from the Harbour area, (a job that really should be being tackled by the local authority; but let's not open that can of worms eh'), tidying flower beds and generally taking very active measures to help Broadstairs look its best. Jolly well done to them all - now perhaps they wouldn't mind taking a look at my back yard as the vegetable patch is frankly atrocious.

I'm not a great gardener it has to be said, I really have no issue with eating the produce, but as papa once said, 'It's all well and good growing flowers to keep bees happy, but you can't do it from the Billiards room with a small dry sherry in your hand'. I'm just not cut out for digging up Brassicas or pruning Turnips, the only Hoe I've ever grappled with was during a few years in Marakesh and as for 'Chittin' my taters', well I tried it once but the doctor sorted that out with a strong smelling cream.

I mention this allotmenting nonsense as a good friend has just taking on a plot up at Culmers land (other allotments are available). What plans they have; herbs and Pears, Apples, Blackcurrants, Caulis and Courgettes. The plot is absolutely vast and costs the price of a night out, and that's for the whole year.

This is where my earlier conversation becomes relevant. Some of you may remember that Mr Wally did once produce a column to inform and entertain the reader about his own lovingly prepared plot at the same site of permacultural fun and jollity. I passed some back issues of his musings to the new growers only to be told that they're more Monty Don than Monty Python. However to show they meant no harm they did provide me with a bag of fresh Rhubarb which I was to 'Take home and turn into a crumble'. 'My dear ladies' I quickly retorted, 'I'm sorry to say I have about as much ability in the kitchen as I do in the garden, I do however know my way round the blender so a stalk or two and a few quick blasts with a quarter bottle of Vodka and some sugar will provide me with ample nutrition to see me through the rest of the day'. (I'm sure that was one of Mrs Wally's top tips)

I'm sure my friends will have much fun up at Culmers and I wish them well. As for putting my name down on the waiting list - Well, I really don't think that is going to happen any time soon. Not all the time that you can wander up the pathway to Vere Road car park and find everything that an aging man needs to stave off the ravages of breathing oxygen. I do of course mean the hedgerow by the allotment fence that last year provided 'Hops' for sleeping, Blackberrys for Vitamin C, Elderflower for cordial, Grapes for one of your five-a-day, and Sloes for chutneys. Just because all those ingredients have uses in alcoholic beverages has absolutely no relevance whatsoever. Honest.



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'When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the Gentleman?'

Thanet and the Peasants Revolt of 1381

by Kevin Crace

Although I have used the generic title of the peasants' revolt for this article, it is a title bestowed upon it by the victors, and does no real service or representation to the Great Revolt of 1381. When the flames of revolt took hold across the kingdom it was fanned not only by peasants, but also by the artisans, the middle class and in some cases the landed gentry.

The revolt had numerous causes, including the aftermath of the Black Deaths' rampage across Europe in the 1340's, the high taxes repeatedly raised to fight the Hundred Year War against France, the corruption of central and local government, and the taxation by the abbeys for which the peasants were tithed to work. The trigger for revolt came on 30th May 1381, when a tax-collector was physically assaulted at Brentwood in Essex. From this, open revolt quickly spread across the entire South East of England and in Kent, mobs stormed gaols and burnt public records of taxes, debts and records of serfdom.

Popular history tells us that the Revolt had three leaders, these being the radical priest John Balle (who questioned the authorities right to govern the common man with his battle-cry, 'When Adam Delved and Eve Span, Who Was Then The Gentleman?'); Wat Tyler, leader of the Kentish rebels, and Jack Straw.

The first time that there is any public record of Jack Straw is from an incident in Thanet. It occurred two weeks after the uprising began, on the 13th June 1381, when a group of rebels including the Chaplin, the Clark and Sacristan of St John's Church in Margate made a proclamation in the church 'by commission of Jack Straw and Wat Tyler of Essex', that an attack should be made on the house of one William Medmenham, the coroner of Kent. The proclamation was read again that same day at St Lawrence Church in Ramsgate. The people of Thanet rose, along with the whole of Kent and Essex. The next target was the hated Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Simon Sudbury. The rebels in Canterbury stormed the Cathedral to find him and to give summary judgement; but fearing for his life he had fled to seek sanctuary in the Tower of London. Unable to catch Sudbury, the rebels led by Wat Tyler marched on London, only stopping to regroup at Blackheath.

The Rebels never wanted revolution, they did not want to remove the

14 year old serving monarch Richard II (who by now had also taken refuge in the fortified Tower of London); they held him innocent of any blame, and in their view remained loyal to him. The rebel's targets were the people around him, people they viewed as being the corrupt hands controlling behind the scene.

With the authorities unable to peacefully persuade the rebels to return home, the mob finally entered London. With the supporting London populous, they opened the gaols, burned legal documents, executed anyone connected to the government that they could find, destroying numerous buildings in the Temple and raised The Savoy Palace to the ground. The Savoy Palace was home to John Of Gaunt, a manipulative and corrupt military leader who was a particular figure of hatred for the mob.

Unable to contain the mob, Richard II agreed to meet with them and their leaders at the fields near Mile End. Here he acceded to most of their demands, including the abolition of serfdom and the hated 'poll' tax. Meanwhile, with the King away, rebels had managed to break into the Tower Of London. Here, discovered in prayer, Simon Sudbury was dragged out by the mob and beheaded. His head, with his Mitre nailed to it, was paraded through the streets on a pole. With demands acceded, the authorities hoped and believed that the rebels would return home, but it was not to be and the anarchy and rampage continued in London unabated and started to spread northerly across the country. Everywhere corrupt local officials were being tried and executed by the people. In a further attempt to stop the revolt from spreading the King agreed to meet with the rebels and their leaders again, this time at the fields of Smithfields.

At Smithfields a large army of Rebels stood before the king and a contingent of his still loyal army. King Richard and some of his officials' rode out to meet Wat Tyler. Negotiating on horseback between both armies, an argument broke out between Tyler and the Kings companions; legend has it that they were insulted by Tylers' refusal to remove his hat before the King. Whatever caused it a fight broke out between these



St Johns Margate



men and Tyler; during which Wat Tyler was slain by a sword which was carried by The Mayor Of London, one of the Kings companions' that day.

Wat Tyler dropped dead from his horse in front of the rebel army. With nothing to lose the young King seized the moment. He rode alone straight up to the rebels and made them swear an oath of allegiance to him; and giving the condition that if they returned home now there would be no recompense for the rebellion and that he would honour his commitments to them.

The rebels to a man immediately ceased hostilities and returned to their communities. With the revolt now broken King Richard swiftly re-established order and set about rescinding his previous grants and promises.

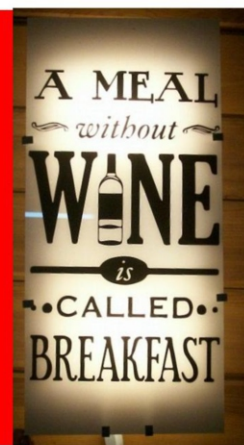
Retribution was merciless. Jack Straw and John Bale were both independently captured and hung-drawn-and-quartered, their heads being displayed at Traitors Gate in London. So all-encompassing was the revenge of the authorities for such a rebellion, that everyone in Canterbury was sentenced to death for their part in the storming of the Cathedral (this sentence being commuted some years later). The merciless justice carried out by the Judiciary meant that by November over 1,500 rebels had been rounded up and executed, many no doubt from Thanet.

Never would such a popular uprising ever again happen. Fail as the rebellion did, the seeds of change had been sown. The years following the rebellion saw parliament loosen the tax laws causing England to withdraw from the Hundred Year War; and many years later bringing an end of serfdom. And it would be another 600 years before another government would attempt to bring back another poll tax.

Kevin Crace



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SLIDING TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Broadstairs Tourism Expansion Proposals.

The following are ideas set forward by a local resident to expand the overall touristic appeal of Broadstairs and its environs. Whether they will ever be realised falls upon the powers that be. But clearly these are probably the best ideas the town has ever received, so they should probably just agree to them.



'We love Broadstairs, but we'd love it more if Rodney could spend ten minutes punching someone until his knuckles bled whilst I try out my new hessian bikini on the death slide'

The Viking Bay Slide.

What better way to launch with abandon into the salty brine of our beloved coast than a 90 metre waterslide?

Let's consign to history the fusty old method of entering the sea by simply walking into it. Modern tourists need a more adrenalin-fuelled means of aquatic penetration and here is the solution: a waterslide stretching from the cliff-top down to the waters. For a modest but reasonable fee, customers will enter the slide on a hessian sack and begin an exhilarating nine second thrill ride down into the North Sea. At the slide's exit, the

customer will be flung on an arching trajectory of fun.

For generations people have enjoyed entering bodies of water via a slide, be it at popular American water parks or that place in Deal. Why deprive Broadstairs visitors and residents of that same enjoyment?

CONCERNS:

What if it's low tide?

Customers will enjoy a 25% discount at low tide. They will land on a collection of crash mats. The last thing we want is for users of the slide to plummet onto unforgiving coastal rock formations. Or claim for injuries.

Who will collect the hessian sacks?

We'll hire local youngsters to stand on duty and remove them. They could be paid with free goes on the slide.

What if someone gets stuck?

Vaseline.

'Bare-knuckle at the Bandstand'

What better way to expend some of that lively summer energy than engage your fellow holiday-makers in a bout of ruthless pugilism?

The bandstand has been a focal point of spectacle for three centuries. Predominantly and traditionally a music venue, let's consider daytime displays of competitive violence. This would be a peak-season event in which participants would sign up and be paired with an approximately equal opponent. Bouts would be refereed by an elder of the town, and last no longer than four hours.

Primarily, this is an innovation for the benefit of local business. Local purveyors of cooked snacks such as pies and pasties, as well as traditional seaside confections like sugar pansy-wheels, frosted milk mounds and rum n'butter trifles would do superbly well by selling to spectators during the barbaric and bloody daily events. Additionally, with the expectation of mass footfall, local advertisers could be charged a premium for ring-side hoardings.

Winners/survivors, once discharged from medical supervision, would be presented with an award by the mayor. Conceptually, a summer-long tournament system should not be discounted.

CONCERNS:

Won't people get hurt?

Yes.

Is this not a return to primitive social barbarism?

While some tiresome bleating by the 'elf and safety PC brigade is anticipated, we are confident that the majority of common-sense folk will see no harm in watching two people beat seven bells out of each other for public amusement.



The 'ECO Positive' Treadmill

In this era of climate consciousness, is it not time that tourists had a chance to balance their carbon footprint?

One thing that any visitor to Broadstairs might dwell on while enjoying their holiday is 'Am I destroying the planet for future generations by travelling here?'. Let's allay their fears by giving them the facility to put something back: A network of treadmills placed in Victoria Gardens, wired directly into the National Grid.

Entry into Broadstairs would earn visitors an 'ECO token'. These will require the users to run on the treadmill for five hours per day, after inserting their token into the ECO Positive treadmill unit. Users who complete the required hours would be rewarded when leaving the town by not being fined £500.

CONCERNS:

Is this not a form of blackmail?

If asking people to be conscious of the dangers of climate change is blackmail, then yes.

Wouldn't the kWh generated by human muscle energy be relatively negligible?

Maybe. It all helps.

Kiddies' Stadium of Silence

Why not make children's seaside holidays extra special by building them their very own arena of quiet?

Since 1988, the paddling pool constructed between Viking and Stone Bay has kept children amused with its opportunities for looking at seaweed, getting cut by sharp rocks and tormenting crabs. This year's initiative would convert the paddling pool into a seated arena, where weary parents could leave their over-excited offspring here to enjoy an afternoon of silent reflection. Children would enjoy hours of sitting in total silence, with a strict no talking policy. The longer they stay silent, the more fun it will be.

Local bars, pubs and restaurants would benefit from the extra revenue of parents who would offer their custom, safe in the knowledge that their sons and daughters were safely preoccupied with the thrillingly muted stillness of the Stadium.

CONCERNS:

What if it proves too popular for the venue's capacity?

In busy periods children would need to be given a limited time to spend at the venue, and learn the valuable lesson of taking turns.

Wouldn't children prefer making a noise and playing?

Personal introspection can be just as fun as running about and shouting like a maniac.



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The Four Agreements

I have read probably thousands of books ranging from Das Capital (author Karl Marx) to the Bible(authors various) but the book that has had most influence on my life is The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruez

I bought my first copy from the Albion Bookshop about 20 years ago and have bought many further copies which I have distributed to family and friends.

In the book Ruiz speaks of the Toltec of southern Mexico and goes on to talk about the domestication and the dream of the planets. All very interesting but the crux is about 4 agreements that you must make with yourself. If you make them I will guarantee, mark that word guarantee, that your lives will be happier and you will be contented. I try hard to live to them.

Agreement 1: (This is the most difficult one)

Be impeccable with your word. Ruez spends 20 pages on this so to summarise is difficult but it means to speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid either using your word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love.

Every time I open my mouth I try to ensure I live up to this. The self-deprecating witticism I am dying to utter is merely another poisoned arrow aimed at my self-esteem. That piece of information about that man, information I am not even sure is true, will do no good if let loose in the world. At these times I should be still and silent. Most of the time I fail miserably. There are times when I don't speak up and fail to be impeccable, out of a fear that what I have to say will change how people see me. I often fail them too. But still I try to remember.

Agreement 2.

Do not take anything personally. "Nothing others do is because of you.

What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinion and actions of other, you won't be a victim of needless suffering."

I find that this is a hard one to adhere to. But it can be the most liberating. That realization that we are each in our own reality, our own "dream" and that what others say or do is just a manifestation of this can be a relief. If a man uses words to deliberately hurt me then this is a projection of his reality, of his own misery really. He needs my compassion not my own self pity.

Agreement 3.

Don't make assumptions. We have the tendency to make assumptions about everything. The problem about making assumptions is that we believe they are the truth. We could swear they are real. We make assumptions about what others are doing or thinking-we take it personally-then we blame them and react by sending

emotional poison with our word. That is why whenever we make assumptions, we are asking for problems. We make an assumption we misunderstand, we take it personally, and we end up creating a whole big drama for nothing.

Agreement 4.

Always do your best. "Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self judgement self-abuse and regret."

I am lazy. About lots of things. Sometimes doing my best comes easily ,when the circumstances and my mood is right. When it's a sunny day and a walk in the park does not feel like exercise, it just feels like a walk in the park. On other days I don't want to do my best. At the first hint that I am unwell, I will cancel a visit to the gym knowing full well that a visit to the gym is the best thing I can do for myself at that time. And not doing my best does lead to self-judgement to self-abuse and to regret. Doing your best is like an absolution. A pardon. A sweet release.

All this just provides a glimpse of The Four Agreements; to get a real insight you need to read the book.

My friend and I slag each other off when we get it wrong, which happens often. "that's not very Four Agreements of you" we say. I keep it beside my bed and when I am failing to keep the agreements it helps to pick it up. This grand design for life is a great read-its just the living aint easy.

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New Owners for the Palace Cinema in Broadstairs

From this weekend, the much loved little Palace Cinema in Broadstairs has new owners, husband and wife team Simon Ward and Corinna Downing.

They take over from previous owners Colin Jay and Sean Mills who had during their eleven years at the cinema re-named it 'The Palace' (having been 'The Windsor' for its first 40 years), refurbished the Grade II listed building and installed state of the art projection and sound equipment; the Palace has been extremely fortunate to have them.

Simon and Corinna look forward to building on the legacy of previous owners' commitment to ensuring that The Palace continues to thrive both as a unique community resource and also as a star attraction for visitors to Broadstairs:

Film programme - They will soon begin to increase the number and diversity of films on offer;

Staff - They have recruited students as Front of House staff from the Media Department at East Kent College;

Funding - They have received support from Kent County Council's Small Business Boost scheme.

Broadstairs residents Simon and Corinna have both spent their working lives in and around the cinema industry, as freelancers and with senior roles in film programming and film education for local and national organisations including the British Film Institute and the Independent Cinema Office.

Further information

Palace Cinema information & bookings:

www.thepalacecinema.co.uk. 01843 865726

La De Da

La De Da Boutique has just opened up on the high street where the old Thomas cook used to be. Stef & Sharon are the directors who also have a boutique in Herne Bay.

We love Broadstairs and wanted to open our second boutique in this

lovely town. We have lots on offer such as Italian clothing, layered clothing, linens, scarves, bags, sandals, smellies and much much more. We work very hard on our pricing with currently nothing over £40. Also managing to offer a wide age range.

The Bakehouse

"Gary and Marie are very pleased to have finally started their new venture at the Old Bakehouse in Broadstairs High Street. Very best wishes to Peter in his new adventures. With the help of Rose-marie, Karen, Ashleigh, Amy and Keira, we very much hope to maintain the great range of bread, cakes and pastries baked on the premises, with the addition of some new exciting products".

New Kent Art

Two local artists, RA exhibitor Brian Hodgson and Karen Hiscock-Lawrence, are setting up a studio and affordable gallery space for well known and emerging artists based in Kent, to hire and showcase their work, as well as holding open shows throughout the year. Changing exhibitions every fortnight will provide residents and visitors to Broadstairs with an exciting art experience, as well as a hub for artists and makers to pop in for a chat. They hope to create an intimate, fine art gallery space focussing on local artists, with stunning work in both traditional and contemporary styles, together with a working studio with resident artists.

Why not see the delights for yourself at New Kent Art, 49a Albion Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1NE. www.newkentart.com

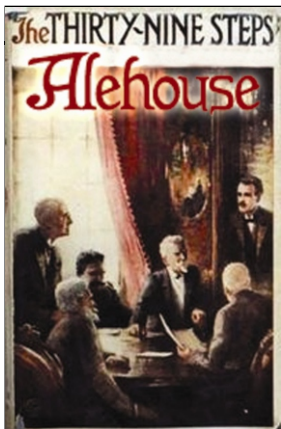
The Boutique, 74 High Street.

The Boutique is under the new ownership of Laura. A wide variety of lovely clothing and accessories for ladies. - Go take a look.

Info' kiosk

And last but not least - the lovely voluntary team are back on at the information kiosk on the seafront and are looking forward to another great summer





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DEAR SIR: WHAT IF THE ZOMBIES ATTACK

Many readers will be aware of the array of questions that need answering with regards to social, crime, environmental and economic issues that affect the lives of residents of the Isle of Thanet. So with that in mind we'd like to completely sweep under the carpet all that baloney and instead focus on the one pressing subject that could yet effect all our lives in a very serious manner indeed. Oh not bloody Manston airport I hear you cry?

No, not Manston, not even Dreamland or the Turner gallery or the price of fags.

What we're concerned about is the potential for surviving the zombie apocalypse.

Did you know at present there's absolutely no local plan in place should the dead come back to life and start feasting on the flesh of the living?

My good chum Fairfax Carswell informs me that this scenario does indeed appear to have started in some of the more sleeper corners of Birchington but as yet it has not spread.

Thanet is a rather too crowded area of South Kent, so surviving such an event is likely to be challenging, perhaps a bit like trying to get through the roadside drinking crowds in Albion Street during Folk Week with the addition of nasty bitey people, blood and vomit - okay sorry, bad example.

Assuming that at some stage in the future the rise of the undead does indeed occur there are many options to consider should we wish to survive; What type of Zombie are we dealing with? Where are we going to live? Where's the food coming from? Will 'Tesco' sell out of Guacamole? And who's going to do my hair should 'Malcolms' become infested with brain eaters?

Which sort of Zombie do you prefer?

Are they the fast on their feet running sort such as in the films '28 Days Later' or 'World War Z' or perhaps the easier to maim slower breed of Zombie from 'The Walking or Living Dead'. Obviously the slower ones are preferable and easier to deal with as a simple screwdriver tip to the cerebral cortex seems to make a pile of inert zombie meat in just seconds. Either way you've got to defend yourself should they get the chance to get up close and personal.

There's a great lack of gun shops in Broadstairs which means that whilst the Zombie apocalypse will undoubtedly be rather more dangerous in the UK as we won't be able to kill them from a safer distance, does mean that the chances of lead bullet through the temple from a trigger happy American diminishes greatly, all in all our British disaster will be a much friendlier more pleasant affair than our colonial brethren. We should also be aware that because we'll be dealing with British zombies there's a better chance they'll be willing to stop biting around two in the afternoon, this is because they may well retain a small semblance of memory that reminds them this is the time that everything stops for tea.

On the off-chance you are not bosom buddies with a psychopath, weird man from the pub who stares a lot, grumpy farmer, historic military re-enactor or bloke who looks like he might have been in the CIA, means you probably can't get a gun. Fear not. Now is the time to take up Archery, buy a catapult, join in with a Morris dancing team (For the big stick), become a cricketer.

Items that have proven to be ineffective against physical assault in the past and are therefore best left alone include collapsable deckchairs, cheap brollies, water pistols and any number of other

shoddily manufactured items that may be purchased from one of the numerous Isle of Thanet based pound shops. If all else fails and you must improvise a weapon quickly I can recommend ladies stillets, those annoying wheeled pull along vanity cases, Blown hard plastic packaging which is surely responsible for more accidental finger amputations than a cigar cutter, or any number of battery powered tools available from the male dominated 'Go over there section whilst I'm choosing cushions aisle' of any of the major DIY stores. Having said that, I'd advise to leave the cordless Sander on the shelves as this would only serve to make an angry zombie even angrier, albeit whilst wearing a much smoother complexion.

Where's safest?

Well, you need to see them coming. It's no use hiding away in a pub with big windows and a restricted view. This means the Neptune is out. You'll need a number of exits to increase your chance of escape, this means 'The George' is also not in the running as they like to keep one door shut after 9pm. The Charles Dickens, The Royal Albion, and most of the other bars and pubs have too many windows. This only leaves the Tartar Frigate - an ideal location for Zombie apocalypse survival because, there's two entrances, small windows, there's even an emergency backdoor, once out of the building a number of escape routes become available from across the beach, up the alley to Bleak House, out to sea in a borrowed boat, back up to the Neptune or towards Stone Bay and the apparent safety of the strong doors at Kingsgate Castle.

What happens when the food runs out.

This is why Broadstairs wins hands down. To survive once all the supplies of Butter beans at Victory Stores have been exhausted means we'll have to start farming again - yes even with the fear of Zombie attack. If only we had a farming area which had a large undead-impenetrable metal fence around it. Tahdah - I give you 'Culmers allotments'. It ticks every box and will remain impenetrable, but only if someone doesn't keep forgetting to lock the gate eh?

Who will decide what happens and who is in charge?

We fully expect there to be an organising body of people along the lines of a local council. These few men and women will need to listen to the views of those lucky few that remain uneaten by their dead Aunt Ida and will put in place laws and procedures to ensure the furtherance of the human race. Once the initial peak in zombie numbers is dealt with (peak Zombie) it is expected that daily life will eventually resume some sort of normality with everyday issues such as 'Who is responsible for clearing up half eaten body parts' and 'Which coloured bag should I recycle re-animated dead pets in' being taken care of with a simply FAQs (frequently asked questions) page on the new 'So you survived the Thanet Zombie Apocalypse' website.

Housing is the one issue that by the very nature of the disaster will be a problem solved by misfortune. There will be houses for everyone and with the boom in the new 'House clearances and Zombie infestation' market, those who survive will unlikely to be out of work. Mortgages will also become a thing of the past as for some reason we're expecting that most London based banks and lending

houses will also have been put out of business either by the very nature of the capitalist society and the fall in confidence in the pound and the associated financial issues caused by the inevitable bear market, or the fact that most mortgage lenders are highly likely to be targeted by disgruntled undead ex-customers who vaguely remember being shafted once too often by highly inflated charges. 'Quick lets run to defend Santander as the Zombies have reached the banks and are destroying all the mortgage files' is a shout you'd be highly unlikely to hear. That's shelter sorted, Food ticked off, we can defend ourselves from future death-eater risings and there'll be a lot more room on the beach next summer - starting to sound more of plan than a worry isn't it?

Of course a Zombie apocalypse is a very unlikely scenario, it is probably something you shouldn't concern yourself much with. 'I'm sure TDC will have it all in hand by the time the cornflakes have started to go soggy' you may well think in a vacant or pensive mood without giving much more than a moment or two to the possibility. And do you know what? You're probably right, there probably won't be an undead disaster in Westover Road. Albion Street will probably only see tourists and bewildered foreign students this summer. And the local council probably won't have members who look like they've just got out of a grave and are ready to gorge themselves on your entrails. Probably.

* from a letter received at Broadie Towers

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CRAFTY BROADSTAIRS

BROOCHES

I have always loved wearing brooches and am not averse to wearing two or three at a time. Most of which are of very little value other than being pretty or 'just' the right colour and mostly gathered from second hand shops before they were 'vintage', jumble sales or purloined from great aunts or similar.

Having reached the age when there are extremely cuddly grandchildren to pick up I've had to review my brooch wearing to prevent scratching small people and have been driven to thinking about un-scratchy brooches.

So with the help of friends here are a few of what we have come up with. These are just some of the knitted and crocheted ones, special thanks to Lin from The Bottleneck. There were also felt gingerbread men, a felted fox and some lovely fabric flowers.

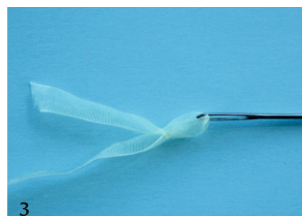
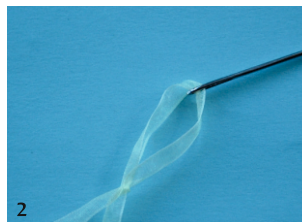
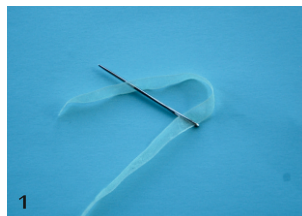


SILK RIBBON BROOCH

Silk ribbon embroidery is one of those old skills which seems to have faded but is so effective and just takes a bit of practice and know how.

The fabric and needle you use depends on the thickness of ribbon. I find thin organza ribbon is great to work with or thin real silk ribbon if you want something special. The fabric needs to be of a loose enough weave that the needle plus the ribbon can get through so practicing with some thin ribbon and hessian is a good way to start.

Threading the ribbon onto the needle is different than usual in that you sew it in place.



As a base I've used a large button (5 cm/2") or you could use a circular disc of thick card and even pad it with some wadding. Trace round the button onto the back of the fabric. Make a dot where you want a centre of the rose to be and then draw five lines of equal length from the dot like the spokes of a wheel.

Now using a strong thread of the same colour as the ribbon, I use two strands of embroidery thread, follow the spokes making a thread frame for your rose.

Thread the ribbon from the back of the fabric to the front at the centre dot and weave through the spokes so that you go above one spoke then below the next which is why it has to be an odd number of spokes.



Continue until the spokes are covered then sew it off at the back of the fabric.

Finish off your brooch with embroidery or beading and sew it onto your button.

Brooch pins and similar jewellery bits are called 'findings' and Willow Fabrics have brooch findings which are easy to attach to fabric.



Most of the town's costumes for the Festival are made by the Busy B's Sewing Group.

The Busy B's Group was founded in 2002 by Louise Woodcock and Beryl Pinnaffo from the Dickens Festival and has been going strong ever since.

They make lots of Victorian and clothes from other periods. They also advise on how to look after and maintain clothes - and even help with any other kind of sewing.

They meet every third Tuesday at Crampton Tower at 7.30 it costs £2 with Tea or Coffee provided and new members are always welcome. Contact Number (Louise) 07763866624.

Their extensive knowledge of period costumes was seen beautifully in the outfits of the Regency Ladies on the pier to welcome the Waterloo Dispatch last year.

Please send me any photos of your non-scratchy brooches to thebroadie@googlemail.com

Maggie

BUSY B's

In preparation for the 79th annual Broadstairs Dickens Festival, on Saturday 18th - Friday 24th June 2016 the annual Costumed Presentations was held on April 11th at Crampton Hall.



Coastal Communities Team Thanet

The Coastal Communities Team Thanet was formed in late 2015 with representatives of each of the 3 major towns on The Isle of Thanet, working with Officers and Councillors from Thanet District Council.

Coastal Communities Teams have been formed UK-wide since Mid-July 2015, at the suggestion of central Government, and specifically Mark Francois – The Coastal Communities Minister.

Ultimately their intention is to formulate a comprehensive economic plan and strategy for each town, and then to assist them to be 'funding ready' to bid for Coastal Community Funds and/or the new Coastal Revival Funding – published as £90m & £3M respectively. It's about real community engagement and involvement in the development of seaside towns and the restoration of heritage attractions. Because the people who live in the towns that need revival support are the best people to say what needs to be done.

In the long term, the aims and goals are to help bring jobs, growth and prosperity back to our seaside towns and cities.

The teams, which bring together local business, councils, residents and special interest groups, will help co-ordinate regeneration projects in their area and get the opportunity to shape the next wave of the successful Coastal Communities Fund.

Each of the three Isle of Thanet towns has been allocated an interim grant of £10,000 from The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

This is to be considered and spent as seed funding to support the identification, investigation and planning of specific, local projects, which, on delivery will feed into and help achieve a definitive economic plan for each town and in turn the Local Plan

Rosalind Binks from Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council and Kerry Millett from the Broadstairs Town Team have represented Broadstairs & St Peter's on the Thanet Team to date. Both Ros and Kerry are constantly in touch with a wide range of Broadie people, groups and businesses and are well aware of the general concerns which folk here tend to share.

Working in conjunction with Thanet District Council, and the representatives from the other Thanet towns, several projects have been identified as being important for our area and pertinent to the aims, goals and intended outcomes of the requirements of the Coastal Communities initiative, which includes all the towns being able to work towards those goals in a strategic way, to identify and then apply for potential much bigger funding

streams to thoroughly address the specific projects which matter most to our town being able to thrive in the future.

The projects and areas for further investigation are required by DCLG to be classified into Themes as identified by the original Government plan.

Each project will need to have an outline cost plan and an estimated timescale for delivery.

Four specific Themes have been identified for Broadstairs with the initial emphasis on the town centre, harbour and Viking Bay:

1. An attractive location to live, work and visit
2. Celebrating our heritage and culture
3. Financially sustainable diversification and expansion of the local economy
4. Connectivity within the Isle of Thanet, whilst retaining and protecting our environmental assets, vistas, views and green spaces, enhancing the sense of community.

Several iconic projects have long been widely recognised as needing to be addressed. Some are long term projects requiring large budgets, some medium term, whilst others are short term 'easy wins' where completion would inspire and motivate both local support and participation in other worthwhile projects and could help towards applying for larger Coastal Revival and Lottery funding bids.

All of these projects evoke strong feelings and passion from many people in the town.

In order to be able to investigate key next stages of development, several small, specific projects within Broadstairs and St Peter's have been identified for each theme, for seed funding from the initial grant :

The Old Look Out, Viking Bay

Memorial benches and their maintenance

Wayfinding and signage including walking tours and trails

Language tourism and its development for the town.

Harbour and Bay maintenance

Maintenance of key vistas

Above eye level vistas in the centre of town and building condition and maintenance.

The steps leading to Viking Bay from the promenade.

An engagement programme with local stakeholders going forward.

If you'd like to know more, to support the Coastal Communities Team, or to help with the planning, logistics and delivery of the short-term seed-funded projects, or the longer-term Coastal Communities Fund projects please contact either:

Ros Binks : roskbinks@tiscali.co.uk or

Kerry Millett: info@broadstairstownteam.org.uk





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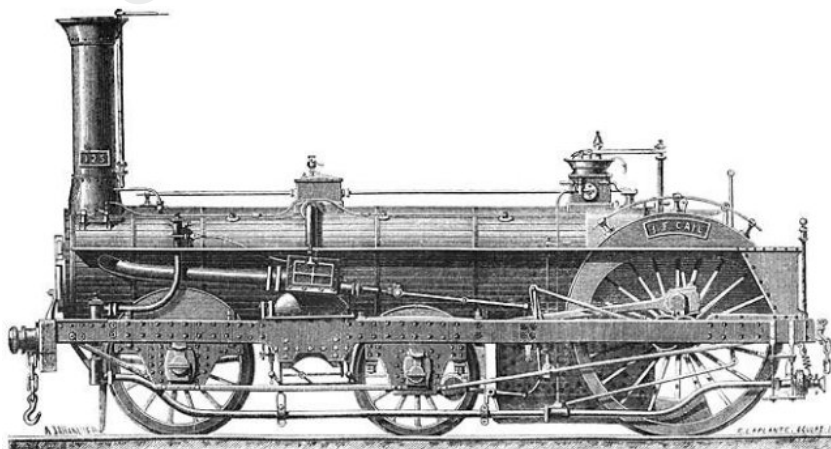
Bicentenary of internationally famous Broadstairs Victorian Engineer and Designer Thomas Crampton

Sharing Heritage: Crampton 200 celebrates £10k Heritage Lottery Fund grant Crampton Tower Museum has received a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Sharing Heritage1 grant. This exciting project, Crampton 200 in Broadstairs and led by Crampton Tower Museum has been given £10,000 to celebrate 200 years since the birth of Thomas Russell Crampton. We will be marking his bicentenary by launching a replica 5" gauge steam Locomotive the 'Thomas Crampton' during our celebratory open weekend on the 6th and 7th August, and an exciting project to develop a new model railway layout of Broadstairs and trail leaflet with local school children and families with talks, workshops and much more.

Crampton Tower Museum in Broadstairs celebrates the life and work of local engineer Thomas Russell Crampton. The Museum has a varied collection of objects relating to Crampton, transport and engineering, and the local history of Broadstairs. An internationally important Victorian locomotive designer and engineer, Thomas Crampton developed a number of engineering innovations, including the first effective telegraph cable under the English Channel, between Dover and Calais, a series of steam locomotives for the Great Western Railway, the London and North Western Railway, and the South Eastern Railway, and the Crampton Locomotive, which was used across Europe and the US.

The project will celebrate Crampton, and highlight the sites and structures associated with him around Broadstairs, enabling visitors and residents to learn about the long connection between the internationally famous engineer and the town. The project will train local volunteers to run the new steam locomotive, and hold workshops with school children and families to design and create the new model railway layout and trail leaflet on Broadstairs. The grant will add value to and enhance the existing activities and displays at the Crampton Tower Museum.

Commenting on the award, Peter Shaw said: it's great that we have been awarded this grant and we can't wait to get started. We love where we live and know there's so much more to discover about our past. We are all really excited about telling other people about our findings and sharing our heritage and history with them." Stuart McLeod, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund South East England said: "Sharing Heritage is a wonderful opportunity for communities to delve into their local heritage and we are delighted to be able to offer this grant so that Crampton 200 can embark on a real journey of discovery. Heritage means such different things to different people, and HLF's funding offers a wealth of opportunities for groups to explore and celebrate what's important to them in their area."



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