



For Broadstairs by Broadstairs

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THE Broadie

Issue 47



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Is it over yet? Can I come out of hibernation and go back to the pub and not be engaged in political debate by someone I've never met, someone who really does have the most single minded belief in their own opinion.....Well?

Good. I'm glad its done. Now we've an awful lot of healing to do. Love and Peace

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Paddy Moyna

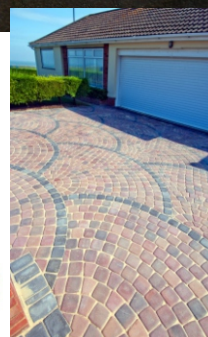
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Your letters thebroadie@googlemail.com

What's wrong with a Misty buff

Dear sir/madam

Am I alone in noticing the glut of properties in town that have been taken to task with the expensive yet superb range of paints available from 'Farrow & Ball'.

Not a day goes by without me noticing a newly window shuttered property sporting 'Elephant Breath', 'Mouse ear' or 'Bludgeoned Penguin' (Not sure about that last one).

Is this further proof of the ongoing gentrification of Thanet or should I just stop paying so much attention? And whatever happened to good old Magnolia?

Geoff, Broadstairs

Missing a runway

Dear Broadie,

I have just read, with interest, your article in issue 45 about the various airfields dotted around Thanet.

I was surprised not to see any mention of, what I'd always heard referred to as, "Ramsgate Airfield", which was located on the area of land bordered by Pysons, Rumfields and Northwood Roads.

Now, of course, the "tree estate" and Patricia Way Industrial Estate takes up the space but I remember when I was young, about 1960, going to various grass-track race meetings there and, when it was quiet, flying kites, collecting mushrooms and butterflies in the field. I will have to look through our old family photos as I'm sure that we'd have some - somewhere!

David Brears

The Art of Chivalry

My friend and I were walking to Ramsgate through King George VI Park on Wed 22nd June and were quite a way along when we realised that she had lost her jacket. So we turned round to try to find it and just as we did a cyclist passed us going the same way.

I called out "If you see a white jacket" and he waved. So without having had the time to say more I hoped he'd realised that we would like him, if he found it, to move it off the path to stop it getting trodden on.

But no such luck.

No, after a couple of minutes he reappeared the jacket in hand and flying past us held it out for a handover any relay team would have been proud of. He then turned round and went back on his original course our thanks hopefully reaching him in his speedy retreat.

So thank you whoever you were - you made two ladies very happy. So pleased there are still some chivalrous Knights about even if they are now on bikes!

Joan Barker. Broadstairs

Pop up Park

Sorry, can't resist. Has anyone else been up to the pop up park at WWX.

I was just wondering if anyone was interested in starting a one a side football league?

Paul. Broadie

Meanwhile

There's a really big pothole in my road that nobody seems willing to fix, even though I've phoned three or four times.

Seeing as there's now £350,000,000 available weekly could someone come and fill it in. £35 at the most I reckon.

Geoff

St Peters

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Turner turns

In his grave, in his grave! The purples, blues, oranges and reds of the watercolour sky meeting the choppy blue grey waters of the North Sea, - where does earth end and heaven begin in this bounteous wealth of colour and form.

The rich golden powdered sand spreading before us cascading through our toes and reminding us of childhood days gone by. The shiny metallic whiteness of freshly powder-coated aluminium emblazoned with the letters RNLI stuck slap bang in the lovely vista. Eh, What?

Yes, the RNLI need to move the Lifeboat station. Fair enough we hear you say, what a fine organisation, saving lives in all weathers. Give them the resources they need.

Well yes, maybe. But the RNLI in their infinite wisdom are sticking to their gunnels against a sea of opposition and are attempting to proceed with their plans to build the new lifeboat station right next to the beach Café on the site that currently houses the beach volleyball courts.

The RNLI has recently defended their decision to go ahead with the proposal saying that there is no other feasible place for the new station to be built.

Those opposing the scheme argue that there must surely be other options available considering the amount of coastline around the Isle of Thanet, especially considering the importance of tourism to Margate and the long association of Margate sands with wide vistas and unspoilt views.

It's also been suggested that the plans have a little to do with self promotion, in that a more visible location means better income for the charity.

Historic England have slated the proposal and a petition against the development has so far gained over 3400 signatures.

"The plans they have submitted show that they wish to build the new station in a central location on the beach. This would significantly detract from the views looking out over the Sands and from the beach looking inland, obscuring many historical buildings and completely changing the face and character of the seafront. It would also significantly reduce space available to beach goers."

The proposal would have a profound and negative affect on both residents and business' alike. Margate has been a seaside resort for over 250 years and the Margate Sands is what defines and distinguishes Margate as both a place to live and as a destination"

Source: <https://www.change.org/p/thanet-district-council-save-our-sands>

Tea, Biccies and a spot of mowing

The volunteers at St Peter's churchyard are looking for extra hands on their working parties to cut grass.



We have a great team and great camaraderie and love working in the churchyard, it's peaceful and the wildlife is amazing. All you need is to like dogs and the outdoors the rest is easy. We do tea and biscuits break. It starts at 9.30 meet at the entrance at the Coop side in Hopeville avenue St Peter's, come later if you wish, stay as long as you like.

Telephone Lorraine or Brian on 01843869965/01843864746

All the people, so many people

After the recent announcement that a 'Pop-Up Park' will be installed at the Westwood Cross shopping emporium an un-named source has suggested that more attempts at Thanetian corporate hostage taking may well be on the cards.

'You just keep an ear out on local radio' said the young whistleblower when we met him on a moonlit night at the Nash lane roundabout.

'Call me 'Deep Goat' he announced, 'If they ever find out who gave the game away, I'm done for, they'll ban me from Matalan and as for 'me Mecca membership they'll probably drum me out of the bingo hall as fast as a clickety-click' whilst pulling the head off 'me lucky 'Gonk' for good measure'

So why have you brought us here on a dark and dank Wednesday night we asked.

'They want your lives mate, they want control, you see if you're not at Westwood there's a danger you're spending money elsewhere. And elsewhere is no good to them now is it?

'Any day now you'll hear news that the old 'Staples store' will be opening anew as 'Birth-U-Like' for all your maternity needs from Caesareans to Water-births, it'll compliment the new build by the roundabout which is highly expected to house the funeral chain 'Six-Foot-Under''

'That's just the first stage, there's also plans afoot to re-route the Margate and Ramsgate roads so they loop round behind the Star pub on one side and Lidl on the other and join up somewhere near Sainsburys, once stuck in their confusing one-way system drivers will endlessly circle the 'Cross' until they tire and through sheer exhaustion pull up to visit one of the many mediocre restaurants for sustenance'

The hush-hush initiative is highly likely to inflame tensions between the Westwood Cross management and independent business owners when the pre-planned exodus gathers pace as increasing numbers gravitate towards the centre of the Thanet universe.

'What on earth is going on' said aged shopkeeper Cyril Duck, *'I turned up to unlock my shop this morning and gaze upon the glorious sunrise over the bay and was greeted by a 200 ft banner strung across the beach with the words 'This sunrise is sponsored by Homebase'.*

Of course we cannot at this time confirm the veracity of what we've been told, nor can we confirm the rumour that Waterstones at Westwood will shortly be installing a new blue plaque outside their business with the line 'Charles Dickens lived here'

An announcement of an almost unbelievable amount of job vacancies is expected imminently. We await with interest whether there will be further capitalist fundamentalist assaults on local attractions and facilities already available all over the Isle of Thanet

In other news, Thanet resident Marjorie Plank has been arrested and charged with an anti-social behaviour offence after being discovered making herself a cup of coffee at her place of residence. For those of you who may be unaware, a local bylaw of 2008 states.

'It is henceforth an act of misdeed to knowingly consume coffee bean drinks and bean derivatives within the confines of ones household when alternative means of supply exist within a one mile radius of the aforementioned location.'

In memory of George Frith

Dear Sir,

Years ago George commuted to London for his work as a highly skilled projectionist/cinematographer. I used to see him at dreadfully early hours at the station. Even then, he was always laughing and smiling. I wrote the following in 2006 after he had retired and it takes on for me now particular poignancy.

5.53 am Broadstairs Station.

The ghost of Georgie haunts this awful place
It's dark and wet and smells of waste and fear
The train will come and start the reckless race
For London Town and busy thoroughfare

He paced the platform and smiled his way
From seaside town to urban working strain
With five hours tedious travel every day
Through mist and snow and fog and sun and rain

George is now silent in his retirement
I walked alone to the seaside train
He was funny and effervescent
I sit and look out through the pain.

God bless him.

Judge James O'Mahony.



Thanet Life - The darkside

A mum-of-five from Ramsgate – who previously managed to get so inebriated she was arrested onboard a flight from Turkey – has now been jailed for fornicating in a Ramsgate park... in full view of a child.

Maxine Cocks, 42, who managed to miraculously avoid prison after the drunken air-rage incident has been back in front of the court for further drunken shenanigans.

Eye-witnesses phoned the police after seeing her engaged in sexual intercourse. The Police then arrested her for outraging public decency, but before being taken back to the station the pair were taken to a nearby Harvester Restaurant to freshen up.

Judge Simon James jailed her for a year after she admitted outraging public decency, handling stolen property and another offence.

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The BBi *(Broadstairs Beauty Index)*

For years there's been many indices available for the general public to gauge exactly how certain segments of society are faring. Be it the financial sector with it's very own FTSE or the many other indices connected to Technology or Foodstuffs.

With that in mind brave Bradstonian Eric Strumspuckle has taken it upon himself to see just what differing sectors of Broadstairs can do to measure their contribution to society.

Eric spent many years working for the Institute of Middle Class studies in London and was responsible for such statistical essayic gems such as 'What do you mean you don't sell Saffron' - Poncey Food availability in Coastal towns' and 'Let's not go to a hotel, lets buy a cottage' - Holiday habits of the unfeasibly rich.

The High street has in the last decade seen a sea-change in shopping habits with multi-nationals foregoing their once dominance of the market and moving lock stock to out of town developments, just as we've seen at Westwood. This left a lot of empty properties into which the service sector readily sprang. Hence the proliferation of Salons, Hairdressers, Nail Bars and shops catering to every beauty frippery and fancy.

But what does that mean? Is it akin to the old joke - (Q 'Why do people wear makeup and perfume? A. Because they're ugly and they smell). Or are we simply getting more beautiful due to the extra time and effort put in by our visits to the beauty sector. As with all indices the information is there, the difficulty is in making sense of what it all means.

Does the increase in Beauty sector availability in Broadstairs mean we're getting uglier and need more help to combat the problem - Have we reached 'Peak Ugly?'

Or is it just the opposite, we're all becoming much more attractive, fragrant and lovely due to the increase in beauty outlets - Have we reached 'Peak Beauty?'

Other charts available in previous years have shown that Broadstairs reached 'Peak Coffee Saturation' in 2010 when the 'Machiato' found new fame after previously only being a minor character in a Shakespeare play. The 'LUSTHLI' index (Let Us Sell That House Leaflet Index) showed us back in 2007 that peak dinner party chat about how much Derek and Melissa's house was actually worth had definitely been reached.

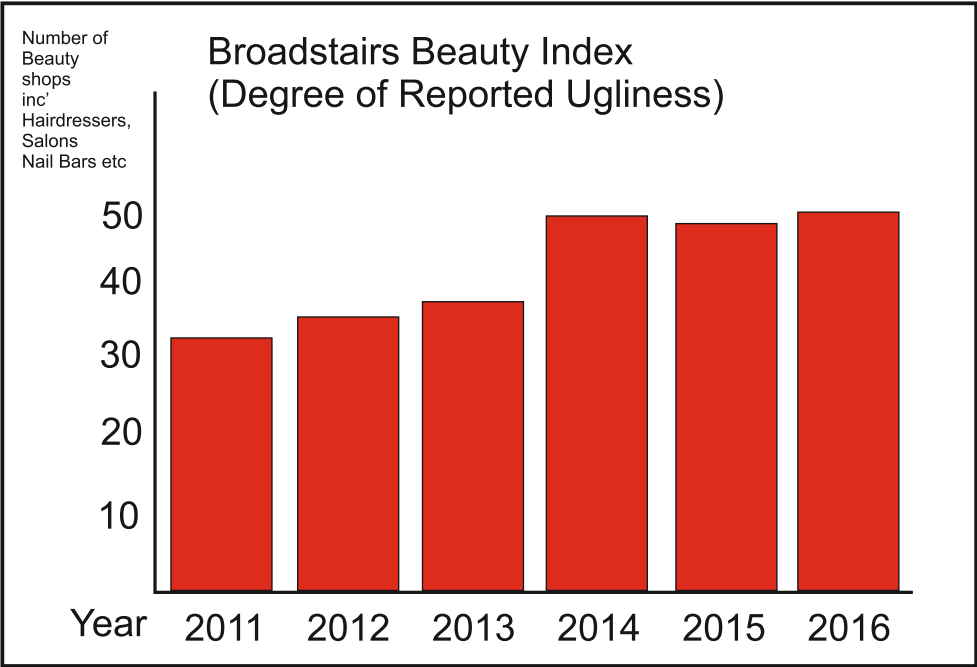
It is thought there is still some way to go before peak 'Oh blimey not another financial disaster in Thanet' is reached on the TDCFUi index.

Eric has promised his work will not stop anytime soon and is currently working on projects such as 'Peak Beard - when will they start shaving again' and 'Really, Can't I just have Fosters' - A study of Micropubs in the South East.

'Statistics are extremely useful tools' said Eric. 'Without individuals such as myself how would we have ever found out how many times Clarence the Dragon has returned from being away, how much acreage will be needed in future to site all the benches needed for those that have died but really liked the view when they were alive. And the proportion of apparent born and bred locals who still can't answer question fourteen on the questionnaire carried around by foreign students'.



'Poncey foods' readily available in town



You can't deny the importance of Statistics nor can you ignore the fact that the industry that has grown around their very existence is extraordinarily important to the UK economy. In one school in Broadstairs it is thought that schoolchildren are responsible for a ten million pound spend per year on coloured pencils due to the seemingly monthly ritual of making graphs of the colour of passing cars - although ever since 2005 red pencils have lost their market dominance to the grey or silver pencil.

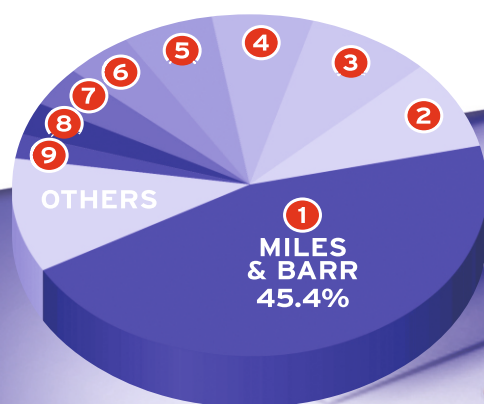
We'll leave the last words to Eric. 'If we can interpret statistics successfully we can do away with the very late reactionary nature of our High street, we've had to get uglier first to become more beautiful - perhaps in future we'll remain as beautiful as we are now and it will all be down to the hard work and thought that went into the Bbi. You'll thank me one day - you really will'

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Craig and his battle-bus

Some Conservative general election victories could be voided if illegality is found, says judge

District Judge Barron has raised the prospect that some of the Conservatives' general election victories could be voided as he granted more time for Kent police to investigate allegations of fraud in the conservative general election campaign

A Channel 4 investigation raised questions about Tory election spending in South Thanet where much was at stake against UKIP and Nigel Farage. Judge Barron said: "In my judgment the combination of circumstances before me is wholly exceptional and goes far beyond the usual circumstances that would exist in a typical case where election offences are being investigated."

Nine police forces are now investigating claims Tories breached spending rules

The police have been granted an extension to the investigation which was due to expire on 12th June, a move that was opposed by the office of the South Thanet MP Mackinlay.



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The Brigadier

Sorry to go all morbid on you again so soon after the last time I became a little obsessed with all things dead, but it happens to us all eventually. And so I must inform you dear reader of the passing of that magnificent marvellous moggy from the manor - yes Mr Bix has snuffed it. A notable Broadstairs cat of some renown who became famous in his older years after those people at this magazine instructed me to write nonsense on a semi-regular basis a few years back.

He'd reached the grand old age of eighteen years, quite surprising considering his ridiculous adventures over the years from getting trapped in a disused building for days on end to his penchant chasing down sausages from goodness knows where and dismembering them on our kitchen doormat - some cats bring in birds and mice as an offering, Bix preferred processed meat products.

For a number of years we lived in one location in town. Now, due to growing family numbers we temporarily moved to a larger location whilst keeping the other pad within the family. Bix initially moved with us, however due to his sheer bloody-mindedness he decided that it would be best if he went back to the other house as that's where the food cupboard was. For two weeks we continued to collect him from the other house and take him back to the new abode. Of course, once the growing family grew up and dwindled we returned to the other place and Bix performed the exact opposite procedure as he'd eventually got used to the food cupboard's new location. Another strange trait of his was the obsession with risk assessing doors, openings and anything involving a hinge. Often he would sit there just patting the cat-flap back and forth or opening the cupboard door beneath the stairs or the dressing room door just to watch it fall back to the closed position via its own gravity, not just once or twice but for a good ten minutes

As many readers know already I do like to take in the evening air, especially during the summer months and can often be found meandering towards a watering hole or two, on the way I've found it quite common to need to tip my hat to a number of Broadstairs moggies which has got me to thinking that Broadstairs is one of those towns where you'd easily be able to collate a second edition of poems in the style of TS Eliots 'Book of Practical Cats'

It's time to sign off now as the remaining pussy Molly Measles, (so called as she was really quite spotty when she was younger after an allergic reaction to fleas) is calling for attention in with her glorious Eastern Semi-Siamese wail. I will leave you with my 'Eliotesque' attempt at 'Mister Bix the Brigadiers Cat'

*Old Bix he was a ginger cat who resided at the manor
A notable cat of much renown, a fine reliable planner
He'd map the route from house to house and sometimes on the way,
He'd stop for five just by the church and hear the organ play.*

*On brighter days he'd sit outside only if the door stayed open
For doors ajar were best by far a rule that went unspoken
Unless of course the door was open when he'd first got there
In which case, the door was shut with a flash of ginger hair*

*He'd smoke a bowl of catnip or two with a look of fascination
Enabling him to create mind maps by means of triangulation
Soliloquies he'd perform on lights out from Macbeth and Othello
Whilst sharpening claws on furniture and her ladyships old Cello*

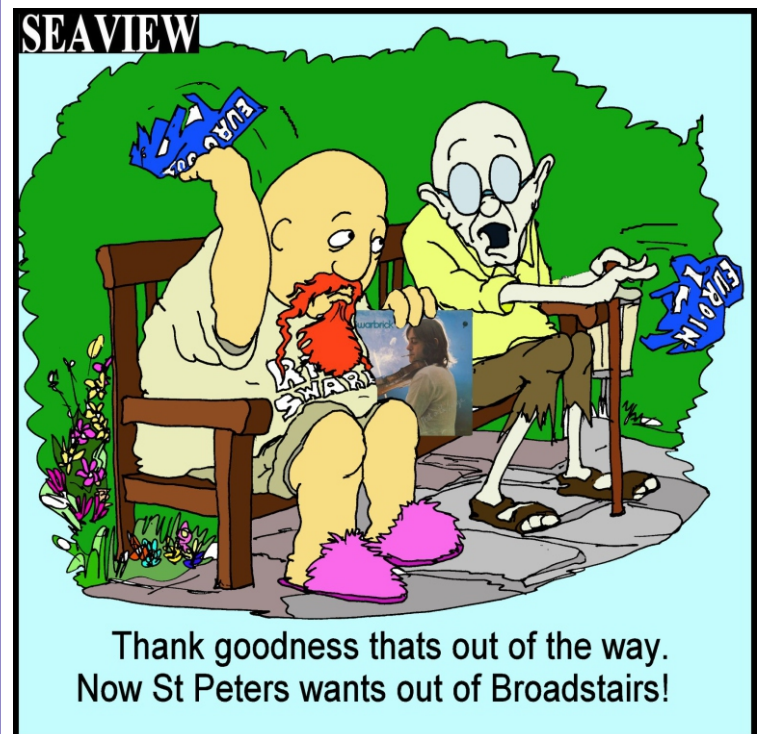
*In later years the voice was lost whence came the silent Miaow
Just open mouth a blink of eyes and then I don't know how
he conveyed his thoughts from cat to me without a sound so made
Whilst staring still but purring hard and remaining quite staid*

*At five o'clock with food all cooked it was time to dress for dinner
The placemats laid, the ears all combed and stomach feeling thinner
A seat all set for ginger Bix should some food be on the platter
from Pheasant legs or Peas and Jam or food that makes cats fatter.*

*So spare a thought for your pussy cat for they really like a ditty
They read it to their chums at night and find it rather witty
To read of Bix or Skimbleshanks or characters there's many
From Broadstairs town, where cats renown are more than ten-a-penny*



'Yes it's definitely knackered' - Bix liked to get involved in engineering projects.



**Thank goodness that's out of the way.
Now St Peters wants out of Broadstairs!**

Wet weekends in August and first impressions

Wake up, open the curtains and with dread you notice the rain spots hitting the pane. Oh god, what are we going to do today. Fear not, it's only eight o'clock, there's time a plenty to find a fun event or plan a wander through the countryside, all you need is your trusty smartphone an internet connection and a quick type of 'What's on in Kent' into a search engine and you'll be off on your way to something exciting yet informative where you'll purchase that thingamy you've been searching ages for and at less than the price of packet of budgie seed.

Well yes, maybe

Alternatively, the rain may well get a little heavier, all that is available is either yet another trip to Howletts, a talk on Brass rubbings in a far off country chapel or an exhibition of farm machinery through the ages in the garden of a down at heel pub in Aylesford. The time will have course moved on from 8am to 10.30 am in as much time as it takes to drink one cup of tea in bed and you've just received a phone call from number one child asking if you can go over to their place to help them remove a bent aerial from a precarious rooftop.

There's a major downside to Thanet life, and that is how you escape it. I know, I know 'Why would you want to, it's lovely here i hear you cry' and yes, i agree it is at times and in certain places, but really, nobody wants to be here all day everyday do they? And if i've seen one so called independent craft market at Westwood i've seen them all in all their resplendent imported goods glory. If you do fancy getting away from the manor for a while, you must endure the hour and a half drive before you actually manage to travel to a geographical position that has any sort of hinterland different to the one we're used to, i.e. one without menacing great seagulls and the sound of traffic, that is of course if you're successful in your attempt at leaving Thanet, if it's not the traffic holding you back it's that large set of clouds that appear over the horizon from Deal to Reculver that can stop you in your tracks as you head away from the bright sunshine of our coastline.

Looking for something to do often involves much the same mechanisms as deciding what to watch on terrestrial TV; the first look through the What's on guide is filled with the expectation of a film you've never seen but have always wanted to, the second look through is resigned to the fact that there may be something slightly interesting on Channel 4 and the third scan ends up with settling for yet more repeats of the Big Bang. Many's the time we've thought, surely there'll be an Antiques fair on at Detling where we'll find that old kitchen cabinet that'll finish off the look for under sixty quid, whereas we actually end up at a boot fair in Sandwich where the best purchase is a weak cup of tea-esque drink served in a polystyrene cup and a book on Aardvarks written in Spanish with a foreword by Jimmy Cricket.

And then there's the weekends where you do actually have to go over to number one offspring's place as they've put the aerial on upside down and need a hand to rearrange the positioning. That's the weekend when everything you've ever wanted is on a stones throw away - Jamie Oliver has the day off and is appearing in Whitstable to teach you how you do actually make that meal in fifteen minutes,

there's a show of TT winning Manx Norton's with test rides for all at Brands Hatch, and the actual Holy Grail is on display at a castle in Snodland. But no, you're up a ladder fighting off seagulls attempting to get a less than fuzzy TV screen for offspring that still insist on watching Jeremy Kyle, resentful that come next weekend all that will be available will be a new display of Tracey Emin's nether regions at a well loved gallery or a cake contest at a village hall in Manston.

Once you've finally found something to do and are there doing that something, there comes five o'clock - yup, time to go home.' If I've been away for a while I try to take in the homecoming surroundings with fresh eyes - What if i'd never been in Thanet before? What is my first impression?

On the way back from the West Country one year we had the bright idea of stopping off somewhere we'd never been. Now Basingstoke wasn't my first choice I admit, however that is where we ended up, hoping beyond hope that behind all those absolutely massive metal sided building stood a small ancient medieval town worth a look. Not a chance. If there is such a place it's not easily found, the neon signs of all those once High Street favourites blocks the view, addles the brain and destroys all hope that somewhere with any design worth at all actually still exists in Britain. Why on earth did we become such design philistines when it comes to retail parks? Why do we imagine that by nailing some bronzed wood to the side of a rapidly constructed mega-store it therefore suddenly transforms it from blank grey warehouse to artisan seller of all things unique. Now I know that many locals love it there and it certainly can be useful to have a shopping centre near your doorstep, but well, the prettiest way into the three main towns of Thanet is really not via Westwood.

I'm not just here to have a pop at our very own retail park, they're not alone, frankly they're all pretty horrible. Even 'Bluewater' was intentionally built in a big ditch so it couldn't be seen. Things do fair better as you near the actual towns; greenery abounds, interesting architecture appears, the tree lined road past the Broadstairs schools is actually a pretty pleasant entry to the town, even St Peters welcomes you by the road humps with the church tower beckoning you in.

Perhaps we all hanker for all things older too much, (except maybe TB and Rickets) I'm sure that all those new builds that look like modern doctors surgeries - you know, all white paint, black edged windows and flat beech doors with portholes are all lovely inside and are great for modern living. But the truth is, just like the modern retail park, they'll date very quickly, they won't ever appear on any postcards, we won't remember them as all that is fine about 'This England', and in many years time we won't be flicking through the Thanet History pages to view photos of old stores such as Primark, pictured with their workforce out in front saved for all eternity

Next time you're coming back from a day out hang-gliding in Maidstone, take a look.

What is your first impression of Thanet?

What should it be?

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The writing on the wall by REH

I am fortunate to have a small study and on one wall I have 3 certificates which I cherish and have had framed.

The first is my apprenticeship certificate which was issued by the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Braziers indicating that I commenced my apprenticeship with Hopes Heating and Lighting on the 27-6-1941 at the age of 15 years and that I completed the apprenticeship on the 27-6-1947 when I became a Sheet Metal Worker.

It also states that the certificate is, to the owner, recognition of his apprenticeship and a guarantee that his shop mates will assist him to the utmost of their ability to become a competent workman.

I continued with Hopes Manufacturing duct-work for ventilation systems for a further 10 years interrupted by a break of 4 years when I was called up by the RAF.

The next certificate is made out to R.E.H. Citizen and Blacksmith of London when I was admitted to the Freedom of the City of London on the 23rd day of October 1972.

The Freedom of the City is an honour bestowed by a municipality upon a valued member of the community, or upon a visiting celebrity or dignitary. Arising from the medieval practice of granting respected citizens freedom from serfdom, the tradition still lives on, only the title of "freeman" confers no special privileges.

Freedom of the City of London

New freemen are enrolled in a ceremony in Guildhall, when they receive a guide to conducting their lives in an honourable fashion and an impressive sealed certificate. There are a number of rights traditionally but apocryphally associated with freemen—the right to drive sheep and cattle over London Bridge; to a silken rope, if hanged; to carry a naked sword in public; or that if the City of London Police finds a freeman drunk and incapable, they will bundle him or her into a taxi and send them home rather than throw them into a cell. While sheep have occasionally been driven over London Bridge on special occasions, the rest of these "privileges" are now effectively symbolic. The right to herd sheep and cattle across London's four bridges technically no longer applies, as there are no livestock markets in the city. Nevertheless, this right has been exercised periodically in modern times:

On 19 August 1999, Jef Smith, a freeman of London walked two sheep over Tower Bridge to bring attention to the rights of older citizens.

On 17 June 2006, a flock of about thirty sheep was driven across the Millennium Bridge to mark the start of London Architecture Week.

On 31 August 2008, Amanda Cottrell, marched six rams across London Bridge to promote fundraising for the restoration of Canterbury Cathedral and "a scheme backing local food production".

On 17 September 2008, the Lord Mayor of London, and some 500 freemen drove a flock of Romney ewes in relay across London Bridge to raise funds for the Lord Mayor's charities..

On 8 April 2013, Stephen Fry tweeted that he and a fellow Freeman identified as Doris walked Grace, a year old lamb, across London Bridge. This was filmed and shown on his documentary series Stephen Fry's Key to the City.

Prior to 1996, the Freedom was only open to British or Commonwealth citizens over 21 years of age and of good character. There is a long-standing tradition of admitting women, who used to be called 'free sisters' but who are now also called Freemen.

The Freedom of the City of London was, in the earliest times, an essential requirement for all who wished to carry on business and prosper in trade within the Square Mile. As a result, the privileges attaching to the Freedom were eagerly sought, while the duties and obligations of freemen were faithfully observed.

The close connection between freemen and London's government can be traced back to the Saxon folkmoot and to the 'Great Concourse' of the early Norman kings. As London grew, its population, trade and craft industries expanded to such an extent that it became impossible for all freemen to be directly involved in determining the evolving structure of local government. As a result, the relationship between freemen and the government of London changed to representation through the Masters and Wardens of the Guilds and Livery companies.

It remains necessary to this day for all liverymen to be freemen of the City, and it is the liverymen who elect the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs of the Corporation of London. Although it is no longer necessary to be a freeman to work in the City, the proud history of the City of London is such that large numbers of men and women have rightly regarded it a privilege to be admitted to the Freedom of the City.

The Freedom of the City of London was, in the earliest times, an essential requirement for all who wished to carry on business and prosper in trade within the Square Mile. As a result, the privileges attaching to the Freedom were eagerly sought, while the duties and obligations of freemen were faithfully observed.

Freedom of the City of London is only granted by the City of London, which also holds an extensive archive and library of historical records.

The third certificate is for The Pickwick Bicycle Club and indicates that I was elected a member on the 2nd day of December 1982. There was and still is a seven year waiting list to join and I was a guest for 8 years prior to being elected.

The Pickwick Bicycle Club was formed on the 22nd June, 1870, when six cycling enthusiasts met at the Downs Hotel, Hackney Downs, East London, and decided to form themselves into a bicycle

Until smoking was banned everyone was given a clay pipe with bowls of shag on the table and after the loyal toast, the toast was 'Gentlemen You Must Smoke'

club. As the formation coincided with the death of Charles Dickens the name "Pickwick" was chosen in honour of the novelist. From that time onwards the Pickwick Bicycle Club has an unbroken history as an active cycling organisation and in the worthwhile task of spreading fellowship and conviviality.

The Pickwick Bicycle Club is not only the oldest cycling club in the world but it is also the oldest Dickensian Association.

On election each member is given a sobriquet and are named after the male characters of Pickwick Papers of which there are about 180. My sobriquet is Tommy the Waterman and I appear very early in the book. . As the club is an all-male preserve even the female characters in the book are allotted to men.

We meet twice a year for lunch at the Grand Connaught Rooms. In December we hold the Annual Garden Party and in May the Presidents Luncheon and usually seat about 600. Our lunches are quite famous and invitations are much sought after.

We have the usual toasts with the Trumpeters of the Life Guards playing when the speakers are announced and we all sing 'We Thank You for Those Few Kind Words' followed by 'Why was he Born so Beautiful'. Until smoking was banned everyone was given a clay pipe with bowls of shag on the table and after the loyal toast, the toast was 'Gentlemen You Must Smoke'. We have the punchbowl wheeled in by two Chelsea Pensioners and we all sing 'The Old Brigade' as they wheel it in.

With a good meal, a constant supply of wine and much conviviality a Pickwick good time is had by all.

This from a little book called "The cyclist's Companion"

"The oldest cycling club in Britain was formed at the Downs Hotel on the 22nd of June 1870, just days after the days of Charles Dickens. The building where the first meeting took place is marked by a historic plaque.

Members are mostly leading figures from the bike industry (the U.K boss of Specialised, Richard Hemington, reportedly joined as 'The Convict' in 1999) with a good smattering of city gents from the worlds of banking and law. The club organises rides at home and abroad, including one called 'Mr Pickwick goes to France'.

But it could be argued that the main focus of activity is fine dining and hobnobbing at the legendary bi-annual luncheons, at the New Connaught Rooms in London's Covent Garden, which members attend in the Pickwick uniform of brass name badge, straw boater and club tie."

One of the few insights into the secretive meetings for club members and their guests was given by Godfrey Smith, Sunday Times columnist in 1995:

"I spent last Thursday in a time warp. The Pickwick Bicycle club was holding its 125th anniversary lunch, as befits the oldest bicycle club in the world and the oldest Dickensian association extant, did it in splendour. After the steak and kidney, the punch was ceremoniously wheeled in by two Chelsea pensioners while we sang The Boys of the Old Brigade. Trumpeters of the Grenadier Guard serenaded us.

"A clay pipe and Pickwick shag was placed before every one of the four hundred men there, for need I say this was stag do, and indeed one of the most disgracefully politically incorrect rave ups it has been my pleasure to attend for many a long year."

REH

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News of the Booze

I know, I know. We could have started with a bottle from Gadds or the Four candles, but No, off we go to the distant corners of far flung Deal to feature our first snifter..... Stop moaning and tough it out buster there'll be others along soon!

This 'ere delight was sent in to us by local lad Simon Gerrard. The trouble is we don't know where he purchased it from. Anyone?

Back to the important stuff - what's it like?



This tinnie is named 'Smugglers Stout', it comes in at 5.5% so stronger than your average with a chocolately smooth slightly, and I do mean slightly sweet finish. I tend to steer away from cans, but with the influx of American craft beers seemingly cracking the problem of that 'Tin taste', Time and Tide brewing have followed suit - yes no nasty tinniness in this one. Cracking drink and I'm looking forward to getting 'me mits on another one from their range, the 'Spratwaffler Pale Ale' - whatever a spratwaffler might be? Looking online the best option to buy at the moment is via www.alesbymail.co.uk who stock the full range of craft ales from 'Time and Tide brewing.

St Peter's Church Fête

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On 22nd June, we welcomed over 100 people to the opening of our Big Shed in St Peter's. The Broadstairs Town Shed initially opened 2 short years ago in Pierremont

Park, as a place for people to get together, learn, create and make connections – and boy we've done that! Our Shed therapy resonated with so many people that we quickly realised that our little shed was too small. Just over a year ago, we met Willow Winston, a sculptor, who showed us this incredible building and through her generosity and open heart has allowed our Shed to grow. It's been a privilege to watch this building take shape and become a living thing, but also to watch the relationships and friendships being made through the process.

To give you an idea of the scale of the job we have used:

150 litres of paint
100 sheets of Caberdek flooring
150 sheets of plasterboard
100 sheet of stirring board
1000m of timber
5000 screws

About a million teabags and the same no of biscuits...

But it's not just about the numbers, we've seen old friends come back and re-engage, and we've met and made many new connections. And not forgetting the wedding of course... not bad for 5 months!!

We've again been floored by the support of local businesses, in particular Alastair at OFP Timber frames for the majority of wood used,



particularly in the tunnel & Mark & Ben @East Kent Hire for their loan of site equipment at the drop of a hat.

Grants received from The Robert McAlpine Trust and Henry Smith Foundation kickstarted the project at the end of last year. And we're very pleased to have just received another grant of £5k from the Anton Jurgens Trust towards our running costs, and

£5k from KCC Members Grants towards our roof. We still have a way to go and will be fundraising for the remainder of the funds for a new roof and lift in the coming year.

It goes without saying that the biggest thank you's need to go to the people who have been here, painting, fixing and drinking those million cups of tea. All our Sheddies and volunteers who have helped with the renovation.

From the height of the tunnel to the covering on the floor there's nothing that they haven't investigated, argued err... I mean debated.... They've been here day in day out through freezing temperatures and torrential rain...we're still



waiting for the heatwave, and have really gone the extra mile to make the building happen.

Our open day was about celebration and thanks – not just celebrating the opening of our wonderful new building, but celebrating all that has been achieved since the Shed. The Big Shed is about community and we are excited to see what it can develop into – and our partnership with the other organisations here today (Health Trainers, Incredible Edible Thanet and Jackie Raines) are just a taste of what we plan to do. In the coming year we are also going to be involved in National Playday, working with the Garden Gate on the Shelters project, and also with St Mildred's School.

If you or anyone you know would like to get involved with the Shed, or have a project you would like us to get involved in, please contact Claire Shelton,

Space Invader or Defender?

Arcade Tales

DID YOU PLAY, WORK OR JUST HANG AROUND IN ARCADES? CAN YOU REMEMBER THE WAYS THAT WE PLAYED, THE THINGS WE GOT UP TO? CAN YOU HELP US TO CAPTURE THE REAL HISTORY OF THE BRITISH ARCADE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

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Canterbury Christ Church University

Here's a magazine to interest all those gaming enthusiasts who gathered in the arcades of Thanet in the days before home games consoles such as the Atari or Super Nintendo.

Do you remember gathering around ten deep to watch your mate play Galaxians, Mooncrest, Asteroids and Battlezone, the thrill of getting the Frogger frog to the other side of the road without getting squished or perhaps you really did believe you were 'Tron'.

Dr Meades has a number of shared memories from the male view of all things 'arcadian', and not much from the feminine side, he'd also like to hear about the arcade gangs that appeared from each of the towns. Take a look at www.arcadetales.com

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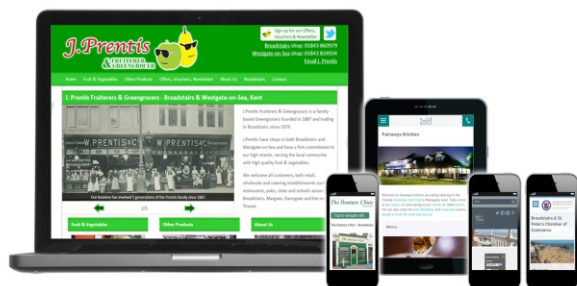
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12th July - 17th July - 'Three is the Magic Number' - Brian Hodgson, Karen Hiscock-Lawrence and guest Linda Edgeware

19th July - 24th July - Darren Lewis glorious oil studies

26th July - 31st July - Kent Coast Prints Photography by James Davies

2nd August - 14th August - 'A Festival by the Sea' - Folk Week in Broadstairs - Group show with over 15 local artists from all disciplines

16th August - 28th August - Anthony Giles - Turner-esque Seascapes and landscapes

Water Gala day - Weds 17th August

the theme for this years Water Gala is Caribbean. This theme will extend to the entertainment and music on the day.

During the day we will have secured the services of a professional Steel Band to play sessions at the Bandstand, this will include have a go sessions. In the evening the steel band will make a few changes to their line up and morph into a Caribbean show band, playing great summer music for everyone to enjoy and dance to.

We are just waiting for some pictures and links to come through to us, as soon as they do we will post them on this page for all to see.

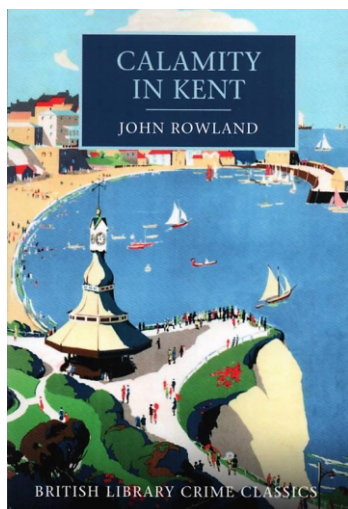
Please don't forget the theme for the whole day is Caribbean, so the beach hut and sandcastle competition will follow this theme and we would like those who attend to join in, wearing the brightest clothes you can find, generally getting into a laid back, Caribbean mood

A Calamity in Kent

I Thought 'Broadie' followers may be interested in the murder mystery book 'Calamity in Kent' by John Rowland currently on sale at Waterstone's and available on Amazon and Kindle. It's a murder mystery set in a seaside town called Broadgate in 1950 (an undisguised Broadstairs and a bit of a giveaway because of the cover!). That the murder victim's body was found underground will be of particular interest to 'Broadie' readers, although, sadly, in the old beach lift not the much late, lamented underground railway!!!

Not the best murder mystery I've ever read but quite readable and probably of interest to locals, if only for the cover.

John Ray. Broadstairs.



The Boathouse

The boathouse, Viking bay, Broadstairs is the most photographed building in Thanet. It is a central piece of the Broadstairs fishing fleet heritage. This grade two listed building and other parts of the seafront and harbour have been allowed to fall into disrepair, which led to the formation of the 'Broadstairs harbour and seafront group'. The group is now linked with the Boadstairs town team and has raised an amount of money to begin the work required to regenerate our iconic building.

Sadly we have run out of money to finish the project. So far we have

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replaced rotten boards, filled, sanded and painted, leaving the beach facing side complete and looking like its former wonderful self. We have three sides to go and the construction of two new stair cases as well as a new balcony.

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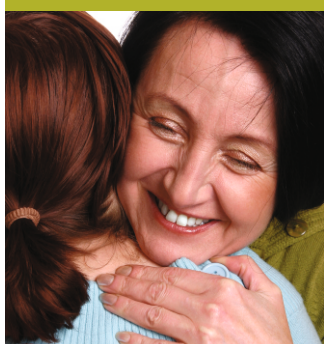
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Phil and Debra who own and run Verreys want it to be a café for the local community, we have lots of interesting projects in the pipeline, including nutritional workshops, exercise classes. Verreys is proud to be part of the Ageless Thanet project.

Not many people know about our peaceful and sunny courtyard garden where dogs are very welcome.

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The Bandstand Cafe

The entertainment hub of Broadstairs is expecting a bumper 2016 summer season. The cafe at the Bandstand is under new management, June & Steve Hodgson, Owners of Lillyputt Minigolf and winners of several local tourism awards are delighted to have the opportunity of running the Bandstand Cafe. With live music and entertainment 6 afternoons a week, freshly ground coffee, hot and cold food and, of course, those world famous Lillyputt Toasted Tea Cakes, it's sure to become a summer favourite.

Footprints in the Sand

is a new, independent shop opening on 2nd July in the heart of Broadstairs. We are a new concept in gift shops, catering for you, your dog and all your friends. If you're looking for quality accessories for your 'best friend' then you will find them here. You'll also find quirky and stylish gifts, many with that special seaside and nautical flavour for those less furry friends. An ideal gift for everyone. A gift for all seasons



Houdinis Magic Bar

What a great concept - a superb look to the place and fantastic entertainment. It's hard to believe but at full capacity Houdinis holds sixty people, and whilst there you're guaranteed a fun magical time whilst having a drink - go on, you work too hard, get up there and have the night off. Houdinis is situated on the corner of the High Street and Carlton Avenue

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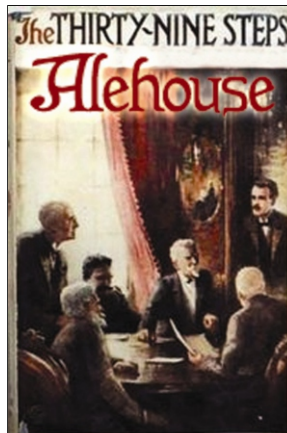
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Getting crafty in the garden

Fingers and legs crossed we should get good enough weather to spend time in the garden soon although while I'm writing this there are no gaps between the rain drops, hay ho any day now...

While waiting for these halcyon days perhaps you could help me out and make some lovely crafty things for the garden. I've asked lots of pals to come up with different ideas and lovely things but the more the merrier so please have a go and send me any ideas and photos for the August edition.

I would be particularly interested in any wind chimes you've made or fancy having a go at. There are lots of great ideas online and useful tips especially for the hanging bit at the top, ideas like using a tin lid or an old cd.

Pom Poms en masse

Whilst looking for something different in the way of garden decorations I chanced upon what has temporarily become my thing to do when I'm avoiding doing everything I should be doing, thing – making pom poms in bulk – genius.

I was planning on making some of those cardboard circles to make some and then I found this idea in Pinterest, I've altered it somewhat but there's loads of scope for interpretation with these things so have a go and enjoy.

In the original blog I found they use the legs of a coffee table but I found my old clothes horse much easier.

Hopefully the pictures are self-explanatory; let me know how you get on.





Two more local craft groups where your company would be very welcome.

The Crafty Broads

meet every month at Bessie's Tea Parlour in Albion Street at 7.30 pm.

There's a variety of activities going on both individual and group projects and all skill levels welcome. There's always someone to help if you're stuck on something, the constant buzz of conversation and laughter and a ready supply of tea, wine and cake available over the counter.

The group is well attended so please email thecraftybroads@gmail.com before going

There's also a Facebook group with all the latest goings on and ideas for projects.

The Wanderers

meet every week at a variety of places at 12 am on Tuesdays.

They are known as the Wanderers because they change their venue every now and again but are currently meeting at the new café in Oscar Road, You and Me Café.

Bring your knitting or crochet along and meet some new people.

Both these groups and the Thursday morning group at the Albion are an excellent way to meet people if you're new to the area, your circumstances have changed or you just want to do something different with a group of like-minded people.



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Faifax's A-Z Of Fannit Facts & Fancies

Look out. He's back. That old rogue Fairfax Carswell (OBE) presents a positive A to Z of untruths, bunkum and humbug, to both entertain and confuse the casual reader. Don't believe one of his darn lies.



A is for ABBA:

The popular 1970's music combo are often cited as being Swedish. In fact they hail from Garlinge. Indeed, their name is a acronym for the original routing of the Thanet Loop: Acol – Birchington – Broadstairs – Acol.

B is for Balmoral Gardens:

Between 1821 and 1827 Balmoral Gardens was the site of Wally Wilton's World of Winkles. This mollusc based theme park and entertainment complex survived for 6 years before being pretty much wiped out by the great whelk blight of 1827.

C is for China:

Katie Melua famously sang that there were Nine Million Bicycles in Beijing, where as last

year there were thirty seven bicycle thefts reported in Thanet. Coincidence?

D is for Dane Park:

Dane Park is names after Rosa Parks. In 1955 Rosa famously refused to be a part of racial segregation and would not sit at the back of the bus. In 1984 she was invited to Thanet by the then council and offered a free ride on the Thanet loop. Again, she refused to ride at the back of the bus. However this wasn't to do with racial segregation, but because there were chips spilt over the seat.

E is for Elizabeth the First:

Much enamoured with Thanet, Elizabeth the First passed the Proclamation of Island, which first recognised Thanet as an island..... That and the fact that we were surrounded by water.

F is for Flatulence: Famed for our love of the Cabbage, Thanetians have been ever since plagued by the resulting wind. Early cures included: Eating cabbage whilst standing on your head; Inserting live mice into your nose and ears whilst eating it and digesting a 'quart' of sand after your meal.

G is for God:

Early editions of the Bible state that God created Cliftonville on the 8th day, which then raised the ecumenical question as to why couldn't he have rested on that day too.

H is for Ted Heath:

Renowned for his passion of sailing, Ted was often said to have been sighted on a Sunday morning just off Ramsgate harbour, securely tied to a buoy.

I is for incense:

Joss Bay is the home of the joss stick. Originally these were made from dried cabbage leaves being tied around drift wood and were sold to day-trippers who wanted to take them home to remind them of the smell of the island.

J is for Judy:

Whilst Punch and Judy performances can be traced back to the early twelfth century; the first known performance where Punch displayed his now familiar voice can be directly traced back to Broadstairs Beach in 1876. Here, one Mr Arthur Smallshanks, victim of a previous saw-mill accident, gave Mr Punch the voice we all know and love.

K is for Kent:

Until 1771 Thanet was joined to the French mainland, and only broke away from such that year. Slowly drifting across the English Channel it took a further four years to reach England and to become designated as a part of Kent.

L is for Lighthouse:

Building work on the North Foreland Lighthouse was started in 1826. Due to a lack of funds the Lighthouse operated for the first three years without the light being fitted. In its' place the keeper sat on a spinning chair whilst holding a Zippo lighter.

M is for Mods and Rockers:

Although Broadstairs never had to put up with the blight of the Mods and Rockers fights of the 1960's, we did however have to put up with the lesser known New Romantic bank holiday battle of 1983. This resulted in a number of scuffles around town, and all the blusher being looted from Superdrugs.

N is for Nudism:

Broadstairs Nudist Club ran from 1976 to 1979, and was located on the site of the present bowling green near to the train station. Although popular, the club, which was open 365 days a year, was forced to close after the unseasonably cold winters of 1978 and 1979. Conditions becoming so

unbearable that members were only able to describe themselves to each other.

O is for Orangutan:

The Monkey house on the West-Cliff of Ramsgate housed two Orangutans called Bob and Dave, until they escaped in 1971. Not only did they managed to evade capture for the next four years, they also managed to get elected onto the local council.

Oh one does like to be besides one's seaside



P is for Pier:

Broadstairs Pier was built in 1872 and was over twenty three miles in length, extending to within one mile of the French coast. Papers of the day commented that Thanetians would take a leisurely stroll to the pier's head in order to taunt the French with bars of soap. The French in retaliation would flick horseradish sauce at any unfortunate soul who lingered too long. The pier itself was destroyed in 1876 in an unfortunate incident involving a hot air balloon and an ignited pickled egg.

Q is for Quarantine:

With the water surrounding the island acting as a natural quarantine zone Thanet was able to survive the ravages of the Black Death as it spread across Europe. We were however not so fortunate in protecting ourselves from the great bubonic epidemic of 1661, which left many inhabitants with a permanent limp.

R is for Rock:

Margate is the home of the 'seaside rock'. These confectionary delights were originally made from pieces of actual rock and this practice only ceased at the turn of the 20th century when a number of parents threatened to sue for damage to their children's teeth.

S is for Saint Nicholas at Wade:

St Nicholas at Wade was originally named Saint Nicholas Be Weighed. This strange name being due to the colloquial tradition of weighing anyone who wanted to play the part of Father Christmas. The medieval records of the parish indicate that the desired weight should be no less than three pigs and a goose.

T is for Time:

Thanet is unique in having its own official time zone. This being 34 years behind Greenwich Mean Time.

U is for Unicorn:

Plagued by reported sightings of a Unicorn traversing Broadstairs High Street every Saturday night, the investigating police found no evidence other than an abandoned traffic cone and numerous cans of strong lager.

V is for Vikings:

The Viking long-ship at Pegwell overlooks the old hover port. Ironically, if the Vikings had invaded England using hovercraft, rather than long-ship, then they would have been far faster and more efficient at capturing the country.

W is for Westwood Cross:

Boots the Chemists now stands on the historic site of what would have been Bob Carolgees childhood home. This fact is marked by a Blue Plaque in the foot care isle.

X is for eXtreme:

In 2018 Broadstairs is due to host the world championship of the new sport



With me 'little stick of Margate Rock.



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Extreme Whelking. Described as a cross between kick-boxing and mollusc farming, this sport has been taking over the internet for the last few years, and the 2018 finals will undoubtedly see a major investment in Broadstairs infrastructure and facilities; with over 20,000 people expected to attend the week long event.

Y is for Yams:

An attempt to replace the islands staple vegetable with the more exotic cousin, the yam, resulted in what became known as the Yam Riots of 1441.

Z is for Zombies:

Legendary movie director George A Romero filmed the opening sequences of Dawn of the Dead in Cliftonville. He said that this was done to save on makeup and special effects.



Down to Margate



Finally, they've done it. For all of you who've been concerned about the costs of taking your family along for a daytrip to Dreamland, worry no more. Entry is now free, all you have to do is either pay to ride or buy a wristband to have a go on anything you like.

We visited just the other day and I must say, I wish I'd gone sooner, I was surprised how impressive the site is, an absolutely fab place for families. All the staff seemed incredibly upbeat and fun seemed the order of the day - despite the financial worries looming large on the horizon. We're now looking forward to a nice warm evening in the summer so I can plaster my beard with sticky candyfloss whilst queueing for the Scenic Railway and pointing at all the dazed and confused people coming out from the spinning G-Force ride where you stick to the walls as the floor disappears.

Get yourself along there - you've absolutely no excuse anymore and all those staff need your support.

Eddie Kemsley, on behalf of the Dreamland team, says

'To celebrate our first birthday, we're delighted to announce that Dreamland will become free to enter from 18th June 2016. Dreamland's management team made this decision after all pricing models were trialed during 2015. We received lots of customer feedback on pricing and we listened. We believe this new pricing model is the best option and will please as many of our guests as possible. It's been an exceptional year since Dreamland's magical opening evening party on the 19th June 2015. Dreamland has helped Margate to make headlines over and over again and the town is buzzing with new energy and visitors.'

Many Margate businesses have told us that they have flourished within the past year and the best is yet to come, as with our new pricing policy, Dreamland will be accessible to all. We firmly believe Margate and Dreamland is all set to have its most phenomenal year yet.'



Lost and Found

Our Island

Nameless Island

Food → crab, Fruit, Fish, coconut...

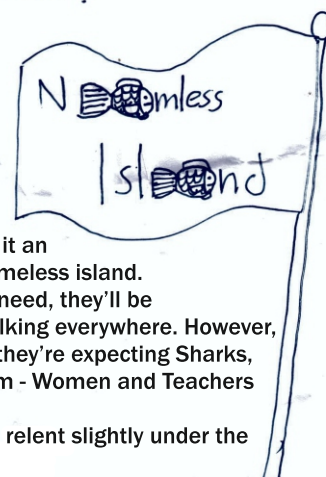
Live → beach

transport → walking

Language → New Language

Dangers → sharks, insects, pirates, women, teachers

Rules → ~~NO RULES!~~ no ~~rules~~, teachers



Where: Albion Rd Car-park

What have we got here? Is it an actual island? No, it's a nameless island.

They know what food they need, they'll be living on the beach and walking everywhere. However, when it comes to dangers they're expecting Sharks, Insects, Pirates and, hmmm - Women and Teachers too.

They do however appear to relent slightly under the header 'Rules'

What a strange island that'll be

Small Furry Animals

Don't forget to get those knitting needles a-clacking-away. What for? Well someone has to knit all those woodland animals up at Pierremont Park during Folk Week and that someone is you. Get yourself along to the Facebook page 'smallfurryanimals' for ideas or help with patterns - there's plenty of knitters there to give you a hand. Even the Brigadier has promised to have a go.

The Referendum

The Leave campaign won - but you probably know that already. Which means there's 3% less disgruntled people now than there were a few weeks ago. Except all the ex-disgruntled are now grunted and all the ex-gruntled are now disgruntled.





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Stuff to do

Mondays

6.30-8pm Cubs. Scout Hut, 35 Belvedere Road 01843 867590
7.15-9.15pm Broadstairs Writers' Circle 1st & 3rd Mondays The Brown Jug Pub 01843 602853

Tuesdays

6.30-8pm Scouts Uniform Shop Scout Hut, 35 Belvedere Road 01843 867089

Wednesdays

4.30-6pm Beavers. Scout Hut, 35 Belvedere Road 01843 867590
6.30-8pm Cubs. Scout Hut, 35 Belvedere Road 01843 867590
6.45-8.15pm The Wednesday Warblers Adult Singing Group United Reformed Church Hall 07768 862422
7.30-9.15pm St. Peter's & Broadstairs Horticultural Society Community Hall, Pierremont Park 01843 861479
No meeting Aug, Dec, Jan

Thursdays

9.15-11.15am St. Peter's Old Boys – Coffee Morning All welcome St. Peter's Memorial Hall 01843 864162
9.45-12.15pm Broadstairs & St. Peter's Morning W.I. 2nd Thurs Holy Trinity Church Hall 01843 604763
7-9pm Ballroom/Latin American dance All Welcome- St. Andrews Church Hall 01843 863730
7.30-10pm Timaru Model Car Racing Club Joyce Smith Building, Crampton Tower 01843 603152
7.30-9pm Thanet Amnesty International 2nd Thurs in odd-numbered months Friends Meeting House 01843 604828
7.30-9.30pm Broadstairs Recorded Music Society 1st & 3rd Thursday 11 Grosvenor Rd 01843 861054

Fridays

7-9.30pm St. Peter's Old Boys – Whist All welcome St. Peter's Memorial Hall 01843 864209
7.30-9.30pm Scouts. Scout Hut, 35 Belvedere Road 01843 867590

Saturdays

9am – Noon Fundraising Indoor Boot Fayre (September – April) Scout Hut, 35 Belvedere Road 01843 867590
10-11.30am Saturday Shop 1st Saturday in month Holy Trinity Church Hall 07532409790

Sundays

7.00am P.F.A. BOOT SALES 1st Sunday March to October Charles Dickens School 07853027483
9am – Noon Fundraising Indoor Boot Fayre (October - December) Scout Hut, 35 Belvedere Road 01843 867590
6-8pm Juggle Time Youth Circus Ages 8 to 16 Broadstairs Youth and Leisure 07828 388145
for further info Centre, Albion Street CT10 1NE

Stuff to see

Broadstairs Summer Fair

2nd & 3rd July
10am – 10.30pm
Victoria Gardens and Promenade
Free family summer fair with children and adult games and rides, crazy golf, crafts, fun fair, music on the bandstand and more

Broadstairs Town Walk

2nd & 3rd July
2pm
07968 985544
Leaving from the Broadstairs Visitor Information Kiosk at the Albion

Hotel Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm... until the last weekend in August (weather permitting)
This gentle stroll around the beautiful beach, harbour and promenade of Broadstairs will take you through 600 years of history in just under an hour.
Pirates, smugglers, heroes, soldiers and bathing belles. Stories of writers such as Charles Dickens, Hans Christian Anderson and Ronnie Barker are all included in this fun walk.

St Peter's Village Fete

2nd July
10 – 3pm
01843 866061
St Peter's Village Green
In the church hall stalls selling locally sourced goods - books, bric a brac, cakes, fresh produce and raffle
On the green there will be a dog show and children's entertainment

St Peter's Village Tour

7, 14, 21, 26, 28, July
4, 9, 11, 18, 25 August
9.30 am
07546 514948
Booking Essential
During the walking tour with your guide, you will meet many costumed characters from past centuries. You will see the flint built church and find out a little more about its long history. You will hear of conditions in the workhouse, the Newbolts breakfast concerts for hundreds of fashionable people, the tower used in the Napoleonic wars, famous (and infamous) local residents and our ancient seat of local government for the area.

Thanet Farmers' Market

10th July, 11th Sept
9.30 – 1pm
Locally produced food and drink including meat, fish, fruit and veg, eggs, bread, cheese, cakes, jam, chutney, fruit juice, cider and beer.
Guest craft stalls and Market Cafe.

Stitch 'N Bitch With The Crafty Broads

14th July
11th Aug
7.30pm
01843 862559
The Crafty Broads meet once a month in Broadstairs, all crafters welcome
Join a fun group of ladies who like crafting

St Peter's Churchyard Tour

20th Jul, 20th Aug
2pm
01843 868646
Booking Essential
Our Churchyard Tour is around the attractive and pleasant churchyard of St Peter's. The churchyard is one of the longest in the country. Your guide will show you the graves and tell stories of various and interesting local people. The earliest grave we have found dates back to 1623.

Great Broadstairs Bake Off

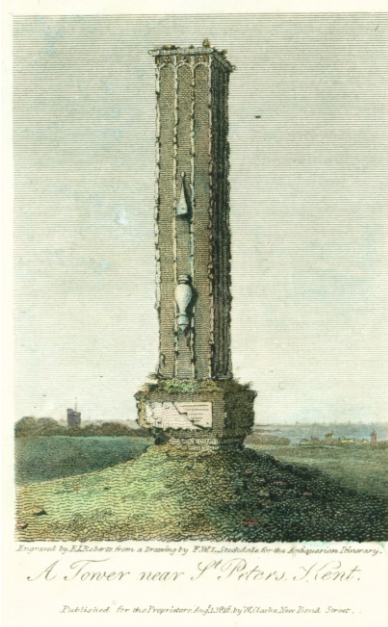
26th Jul, 23rd Sept
7.30pm
01843 862559
Great Broadstairs Bake Off (GBBO) is held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, a theme is set for the meetings in advance, giving you plenty of time to decide what you will bring along.

The Whitfield Tower



I have spent a couple of year`s looking for the exact location of the lost historical structure called the Thanet Needle or (Whitfield`s Tower) , which was supposed to have been built on the highest point of Thanet and used as a plotting marker for boats out at sea ! . I had no luck on google/internet/ research just false trails. Last week on a visit to my pal Will Friend who has a long rich family history on the Isle i hit the jackpot and in more ways than one ! , for he had some remains of the actual tower itself including the plaques that were on the needle base and the bobble off the actual top of it ,and knew exactly where it once stood, imagine my amazement ! . With his kind permission i have taken some photos of the remains and Will has given me some amazing unseen photographs of the actual Needle which is a first for me and probably everyone else! On the next page I've added what history is known about it and words from Will friend himself for your information. An amazing part of our Hidden History brought to light . Enjoy the article. Frank Leppard .





"The Whitfield Tower Monument' was a seamark , for ships to take bearings from, erected by Trinity House , with permission of Quex Estate who then owned the land. This may have replaced an earlier tower shown in the print. I have a print of the later tower , the 'bobble' off the top , and the two plaques off the base. It toppled over in a storm in the 1970's, and was cleared away by the Steeds who farmed the farm at that time. Clearly Foreness & White Ness points and the North Foreland have always been an important land falls for shipping entering the straights of Dover , and embarkation points for shipping heading north to the East Coast, the Low Countries or up the Thames. There are lots of sandbanks such as the

Margate Hook on which to come to grief if you don't have an accurately plotted starting point. The trees along Northdown Hill and Reading Street were only planted by my grandfather in the 1920's and so the monument on the 'Northdown' would have been clearly visible for many miles out to sea in most directions."
Will Friend, East Northdown Farm.

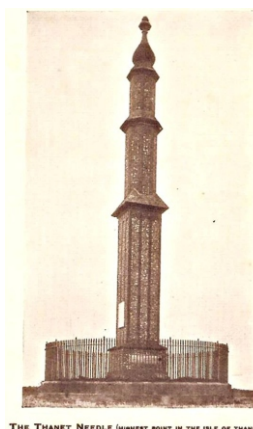
Lord Holland built the tower "To the memory of Robert Whitfield Esquire who owned the land before him ". The ornament and under Thomas Wynne Esquire, the adorning of Kingsgate". Robert Whitfield sold his land to Lord Holland and then acted as agent and builder to him and also built Hollands Follies in Kingsgate. The tower was blown down by a gale in 1818, but was re-erected by the Corporation of Trinity House as a guide to navigation.

Built in 3 stages on a plinth. Flint-faced with cemented decorations. The lowest stage is square and the other 2 are octagonal. Trefoil pattern on all 3 stages. Onion-shaped finial.

So it started out as a Monument to the memory of Robert Whitfield and then rebuilt and converted to a beacon by Trinity House ! .

The Plaque reads

PERMISSION TO RAISE THIS BEACON WAS LIBERALLY GRANTED TO THE CORP OF TRINITY HOUSE BY I.P. POWELL ESQ OF QUEX HOUSE IN THIS ISI AND ON WHOSE ESTATE IT STANDS



Top left: *The original folly.*
Bottom left: *Farm workers with needle in top left corner*

Left: *It was later discovered that Manston is in fact the highest place on the Isle*

With thanks to Frank Leppard & Will Friend for the article and images. And thanks to Mike Child for the 'Folly' image

The Palace Cinema

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FILMS JULY 2016

Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie (15)

Fri 1 – Thurs 14 July. MATINEES: 3.45pm on Tues
EARLY EVENINGS: 6pm on Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues + Thurs 7 July
EVENINGS: 8.15pm on Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues, Thurs (later start Thurs 14: 8.30pm)
Directed by Mandie Fletcher, UK, 1hr 31min
Starring Joanna Lumley, Jennifer Saunders, Rebel Wilson and John Hamm

Tale of Tales (15)

Sun 10 – Thurs 14 July 5.15pm – Thurs 14 8.15pm – Sun 10, Tues 12
Directed by Matteo Garone, Italy/France/UK, 2hrs 14mins
Starring Salma Hayek, Vincent Cassel, Toby Jones and John C Reilly

Maggie's Plan (15)

Fri 15 – Thurs 21 July
MATINEE: 3.45pm on Tues
EARLY EVENINGS: 5.30pm on Mon, Weds; 6pm on Thurs
EVENINGS: 8.15pm on Fri, Sat, Tues
Directed by Rebecca Miller, USA, 1hr 39mins
Starring Julianne Moore, Greta Gerwig and Ethan Hawke

Elvis and Nixon (15)

Fri 15 – Thurs 21 July 6pm – Fri, Sat, Tues 8.15pm – Sun, Thurs
Directed by Liza Johnson, USA, 1hr 26mins
Starring Kevin Spacey, Michael Shannon and Sky Ferreira

The B.F.G. (PG)

Fri 22 July-Thurs 4 August
MATINEES: 2.15pm on Mon, Weds; 3pm on Sat, Sun, Tues, Thurs + Fri 29
EARLY EVENINGS: 5.15pm on Mon, Weds; 5.45pm on Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues, Thurs
EVENINGS: 8.30pm on Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues, Thurs

Directed by Steven Spielberg, UK/Canada/USA, 1hr 57mins
Starring Mark Rylance, Rafe Spall, Bill Hader and Rebecca Hall

VICTORY NEWS

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