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Issue 51. May / June 2017 80p

Parking Meters- time for a rethink?



Red sky at night... Seller's delight!

The spring and summer months are without a doubt the busiest and most successful months for selling property in coastal areas.

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Traffic jams solved

Dear Broadie

Further to your recent article highlighting the problems of navigating a vehicle through Albion Street, I do believe I have the answer.

All we need to do is to manufacture a number of human cannonball type guns or trebuchets and associated catching nets in an around the town. Visitors and locals alike could then simply walk into town instead of driving and be transported in a fun and orderly fashion by being catapulted through the air in the direction of their desired destination, and then caught safely and securely in a net. A fun and efficient service for all.

I envisage no problems whatsoever with this service - a fee could even be charged to pay for operators and upkeep.

Dave. St Peters

Lost & Confused

On a recent visit to Birchington in North Thanet I was surprised to see a man wearing a jacket with SSE emblazoned across the shoulders. I approached the chap and asked him if he was lost as his compass was clearly out. He proceeded to give me some old flannel about reading electric meters.

It is especially confusing when I get on a 'South Eastern' train when I want to head North after only recently paying my Southern Water bill. I wish these firms would make up their minds where we are.

Dave. St Peters

Grey day

Regarding the recent letter by J Dillon concerning Grey paint What has everyone got against Farrow & Ball, especially their range of very fashionable greys? Don't you all know Magnolia went out of fashion when Anna Friel was busy kissing another girl in 'Brookside'?

In an article in the Telegraph just the other day David Cameron announced that he'd had his new garden caravan painted in Farrow & Ball colours 'Clunch' and 'Mouse Hole', which seem to me two colours that are almost but not quite appropriate.

Dave. St Peters

Bankers

How terrible for poor old Natwest and Lloyds to have to shut their local branches as they feel they can no longer keep them open due to the lack of footfall because of internet banking. Perhaps the residents of Broadstairs could have a whip-round to help out these struggling businesses in the hope that they may be able to make ends meet and remain open. I'll start the pot off with fifty pence - who's next?

Dave. St Peters (no relation to the other Dave)

Banking with TDC

The closure of the Natwest and Lloyds in Broadstairs High street is actually no big deal. Local firms will no longer need to pay in cash over the counter as all spare change can now simply be fed straight into the local parking meters. With this in mind, perhaps a council member could let us know when there will be shoots installed on these meters so we can feed in watches, jewellery and maybe even the shirts from our back.

James. Lindenthorpe Rd

Parking gamble

Here's an idea to put a smile back on our faces. Why not add handles to the right hand side of parking meters, which when pulled gives the would be motorist a chance of spinning the wheels to maybe win big. Just a simple affair is all that's needed - get three smiling 'Chris Wells' mug-shots in a row and get an hour extra. What with the popularity of those online casinos you'd probably even get people playing it who don't own cars

Janet

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Apparently there's going to be an election in a couple of weeks - well who knew?

Being politically minded sorts (Yes, in answer to the question on Facebook - and always have been) 'I know what, why don't we hold back the next issue of The Broadie a couple of weeks which will give the main players in the election some time to write 500 words which we'll then publish gratis'. Seems like a good idea. Free space to air their respective ideas and views which would help local floating voters make up their minds.

So we mailed the political parties involved with the exact same email, we got replies to say thank you and yes, and then nothing.

Later that same week we received the 500 words from the Labour Party. Another week later - 'Should I chase the rest up?' I wondered. But then got to thinking - if political parties can't be stuffed to pull their finger out and actually talk to the electorate - especially when they're getting access to potentially more than 5000 people without any expenditure on their part - then I can't be stuffed to chase them up.

We could give you the 500 words sent over by Labour but then we'd be accused of solely working for that party - so unfortunately that's the end of that idea. But we thank them for their response.

If it's your first time voting then well done, get out there and take an interest, look at what's on offer and who best sums up what you want for the future.

What are you really interested in, is it housing? The NHS? Social care? Education? Poverty, debt and inequality? Are you concerned about security and defence? Peace and justice? Development in poorer nations? Or is it just what the papers and national media want you to believe it is all about - personalities and their own personal agendas.

The archbishops of Canterbury and York recently issued a three-page letter to the clergy urging consideration at the election of the virtues of love, trust and hope, and reconciliation based on cohesion, courage and stability, and expressing concerns over poverty, housing and debt. Perhaps these should be the issues discussed in public and the media rather than various political vanity projects.

Be part of the society you want to see - Choose wisely and vote.

(The Green Party supplied something too, just as we went to press)



Parking piracy on the high seas of Thanet

Not content with pursuing an increase in parking charges to help plug a funding gap, TDC are now considering gaining additional revenue by putting in more pay and display meters around the streets of Thanet and adding to residents parking places, thus gaining even more income from already hard pushed families.

Commonly called a tax by other means.

That's tax on your vehicle, tax on the stuff you put in your vehicle, tax on the roads you drive, tax you pay on the tax on the roads you drive and now further tax on where you're able to park.

Parking is difficult enough in Broadstairs, especially in the summer months with the influx of the much needed tourists and we could all do without the further insult of having to pay just to park up and go home after a long day at work.

Attempting to be fair to TDC - In a way you can see what they're trying to do, and that is to get some extra cash out of those visiting the towns and beaches; basically getting 'In on the action' and making a few bucks. Beaches cost quite a bit to maintain and there's no easy way to get coins out of pockets and into the coffers from those just visiting to take in the sands, especially considering beach access must remain free.

And, It's not necessarily the fault of local government.

When you consider the big squeeze from central government hitting budgets up and down the land it isn't surprising that they're attempting new ways of increasing income.

Jonathan Carr-West, the chief executive of the LGIU, (Local Government Information unit) said council finances were at breaking point: "Council budgets are stretched beyond measure. Increased demand coupled with the management of nearly a decade of cuts from the government has left local government at breaking point. Everyone is expecting someone to fail. They are just hoping it won't be them."

"Councils have no faith in the system. They are patching together their finances by putting up council tax, drawing down reserves and increasing charges. Increasingly they worry that they will not be able to provide the vital services that people rely on." (Guardian 09/02/17)

If you think that paints a bleak picture then imagine what will happen when the upcoming crisis in adult social care starts impacting local services even more than it is already.

A senior Conservative peer has warned that councils will need to slash a range of essential services after ministers released a funding settlement for councils that offered no additional money during 2017/18.

Gary Porter, a senior Conservative peer has warned that councils will need to slash a range of essential services after ministers released a funding settlement for councils that offered no additional money during 2017/18. Lord Porter chairs the Local Government Association, said authorities would have to cut back on filling potholes, collecting waste, maintaining parks and running children's centres and libraries in order to plug growing funding gaps.

He expressed "huge disappointment" about the decision not to increase funding, warning that while councils would impose tax rises, the money would not be enough to prevent services, including social care, from being hit.

The trouble with simply increasing parking charges is that it is rather a blunt instrument, TDC will surely gain cash in the summer months from visitors who expect to have to put a few quid in the meter but at the same time, your average local family that is already invested in the area will have to pay to get their kids down onto Joss Bay, and then pay

another small fortune should they wish to actually shop in town - it's just another discouragement for High street shopping which nudges consumers' money over to the corporations with large free car-parks, which in turn means less cash remaining within the local economy.

There's been much talk of using the extra money gained through increased parking to 'Fill holes in the budget', A budget that has been drastically cut by the Conservative government as part of the seemingly never ending austerity drive - (and you can argue about that one till you're blue in the face).

However (and I might be wrong) the monies gained through parking fees supposedly can only be spent on transport and environmental projects

I suppose each of us could rely on public transport to get about in Thanet, but unfortunately public transport costs in the UK are in the top five highest in the world according to (amongst many other studies) the Transport Price Index, with regular users having to fork out over 14% of their wages on travelling to and from work - compare that with the 2.4% paid by the French; who incidentally have a nationalised rail service that ironically also run a number of successful profit making franchises on the UK network.

Well done us.

The powers that be tell us that privatisation works and is greatly more efficient but ignores the fact that Nationalisation clearly performs well for other countries and the people who benefit are the consumers not the shareholders and wealthy executives.

How else can we make some money for our benefit? (And I fear someone might take this seriously *)

1. Meters in street lights. If you want to be lit up - put the coins in at the lamp-post.
2. Sure the beach is free but you must walk down these toll-steps to get to it. Just simply pay the attendant in the brown jacket sitting in the little wooden box at the top of the prom'
3. Number one or number two - it's fifty pee to pee or a pound or two to poo.
4. One for the Kippers. 'You don't sound like you're from round these parts - have you paid your FAT, that's the foreigner added tax'
5. Feed the seagulls - pay a fine (News just in - they are taking this one seriously in some towns in the UK)
6. Empty drive tax. What do you mean 'No Car' that's good parking revenue going to waste, so up goes your council tax.
7. School children. Look at them on their immense school fields playing tag, kicking a football about and generally having fun whilst taking up perfectly good parking room or housing space. Well buster - the fun stops here or pay an hourly rate on all that area you insist on taking up.
8. Parks. Exactly, the name gives it away. Let's use them for their suggested purpose and simply park. It'll cost you a pound or twenty though.
9. The Sands. Simply add cement and let the incoming tide do the rest. Six hours later and there's hard standing for everyone. We could even plant meters as it starts to set.
10. Local businesses. Taking up room with all their staff. If they simply just all closed down everyone could then go to Westwood Cross and we wouldn't have any of these parking problems.

11. Pothole tax. (Similar to treading on the cracks in the pavement tax) You drove into it. You made it bigger. You pay.

12. Gone missing tax - The amount of time spent out of town by certain councillors - except when they hang about outside the polling station on election day and only election day.

13. Evil megalomaniac far right headline tax. (If only)

14. Council tax - tax paid by TDC high earners to the coffers when the populace doesn't get the service they pay for

15. Albion Street tax - Enforcement of parking rules in Albion Street

16. Litter tax - They could make a killing every year just by turning up at four o'clock and watching the beach from the prom'.

17. Social media tax. Fine enforcement against the sort of dumplings who insist on hijacking local social media groups to push their own highly opinionated agendas against anyone and or everyone. Often angry, often abusive and often completely baffling in their ability to understand the concept of rational, logical and calm thought.

18. Drunk tax.

19. Litter tax part 2. Still using Graphene thick rubbish sacks and then leaving them outside the front door at two in the afternoon? Yes.

20. Promise tax. So what did it say on your manifesto when you took over the local / parish / County council / Parliamentary area. Did it happen? No? Here's your fine.

21. Southern Water executive tax. I don't need to explain do I.

22. Advertising - Let's get it out in the open with sign-written clothing 'This Constituency MP was sponsored by' (Fill in as per local scandal)

23. Solar panels and or Wind turbines on top of anything TDC owned - Parking wardens hats, Waste vans etc

24. TDC Detectorists - we get 50% of finds or the beach gets covered in ball bearings

25. Spooky revenue - sure Botany Bay looks lovely but lets make some real money with some sightings of the unexplained. I'm sure Chris Wells wouldn't mind a bit of dressing up in a fake 'Bigfoot' costume and running through Northdown Park pursued by Iris Johnston wielding a wobbly a camera

* We were going to suggest the TDC lottery as a bit of a lark - and then what happened?

Part of that UKIP Local election Manifesto 2016

patrolling the streets when the police are not available, cleaning public toilets or gritting pavements, UKIP councillors roll up their sleeves and get on with the job. In council chambers, UKIP councillors are fighting for older people's services and accommodation, fighting to save our post offices, protecting green spaces, opposing parking charges and road tolls and fighting against wind farms and overbearing large housing estates.



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In a rare public appearance outside Southern California, Dame Zandra Rhodes has generously agreed to host what promises to be an entertaining and enjoyable evening at Holy Trinity Church, Broadstairs, focussing on her extraordinary life and work

On Saturday 27th May at 7pm, where she will be

'In Conversation' with Dennis Nothdruff, the curator of the Fashion and Textile Museum in London

Zandra has designed for clients as diverse as Diana, Princess of Wales, Jackie Onassis, Elizabeth Taylor and Freddie Mercury. She continues to design for the rich and famous around the world from royalty to rock stars, including HRH Princess Michael of Kent, Bianca Jagger, Kylie Minogue, Anastasia, Paris Hilton, Joan Rivers and the late Isabella Blow. This is sure to be an extremely popular event, so please note the date now and tell your friends! Refreshments will be available

Tickets £10 are on sale at Victory News in Nelson Place and also via Frances Lowden in the Parish Office open Tues - Fri 9.30am - 12 noon' email holytrinity2009@live.co.uk Telephone 01843 862921. Don't miss it!

Water Water Everywhere

£2,000 000.
Fine handed out to Southern Water in December 2016 for polluting the beaches of Thanet
£284,000 000
operating profit made by Southern water in 2015/16
£37,000
Monies paid out to local businesses in compensation
£20,000,000.
Fine handed out to Thames Water for releasing 1.9 billion litres of raw sewage into the Thames 2013/14
£742,000 000
Thames Water operating profit in 2014/15 increase of 9%
£800,000 000
Water companies have pocketed an £800m windfall as a result of a clumsy price cap that failed to take into account tax and interest rate changes, according to the National Audit Office (NAO). 2010 -2015

Wind turbines

Love them or loath them - and like most subjects nowadays they do seem to divide opinion quite dramatically. It looks likely that there'll be another few on the horizon before too long.

We haven't seen any actual proposals yet but we were visited just the other day by a lady who was accosting residents to find out their views on the idea of placing another 34 turbines out at sea - presumably in the view of Broadstairs. Watch that space



Congratulations

(Photos. Left, right, below)

Peter Shaw re-elected as Broadstairs town Mayor with his wife Frances as Mayoress, pictured here presenting The Millennium Cup to Mark Strand for his care of the town war memorial

The Mayoress Cup awarded to the Harbour and Seafront Group

Charlie Leys elected as Deputy Mayor and Yvette Wood as Deputy Mayoress



Bowl a maiden over?

Broadstairs Dickens Festival are seeking 22 gentlemen to take part in the Victorian cricket match (with interruptions) on the first Saturday of the festival, June 17th. Previous experience is a positive hindrance. It's all in fun, refreshments afterwards. Interested? Please contact Lee.wellbrook@gmail.com



The Number 56 bus

A Big thank you to all the people who recently opposed KCC's plans to withdraw sections of the 56 bus route in St Peters village and Broadstairs town centre. The petition exceeded in total more than 1500 signatures and demonstrated how important the 56 bus is to the community and a strong and cohesive community spirit. We understand parking restrictions will be introduced on Hopeville Ave which should enable the bus to continue on the present route through St Peters village. Investigations by TDC and KCC into measures for easing the route through Broadstairs High Street and Albion Street are ongoing and in the meantime the plan to withdraw this section of the route has been put on hold. The route is currently running as normal. We hope measures will be taken to enable this situation to continue.



Sold out

The twenty two workshops at the Dane Valley Enterprise centre have now been sold off at auction after they were placed on the councils 'Asset Disposal Register' - even after a campaign to save them led by the residents and Labour Cllr Jennifer Matterface garnered plenty of support. The units sold for a total of £415,000. Business owners at the site now have a wait to find out who their new landlord will be and whether rental prices will start creeping upwards. According to Cllr Chris Wells the money raised will 'fund important capital projects'. What we're going to do for spare cash once everything else is sold off remains to be seen.

Where does it all go?

The local authority in the South East of the UK with the most employees who received remuneration in excess of £100,000 in 2015-16 was Kent County Council with 26. (Source - the Tax Payers Alliance)

According to TDC website for 2015/2016 the only two TDC directors/executives salaried above £100K are the 'Chief Executive and the Director of Shared Services. Another four Directors earn between £83K to £95K.

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Hut Envy

By Anon - Delivered in a plain brown envelope

You couldn't imagine anything more British could you? The beach hut has long been associated with the UK coastline, brightly coloured made of ship-lapped timber, full of buckets, spades, inflatable beach goods, tea and coffee making facilities, windbreaks, deckchairs, old Aunt Agnes who visited last season and was forgotten about until just recently and only survived over winter by eating what was left in the small fridge and anything that had crawled under the door.

We'd like to think that they're a purely British phenomena but we'd be wrong, they're all over the world. Yes even the French have beach huts, sure they're more shabby chic than Farrow and Ball but they serve the same purpose; and that purpose is to allow beach hut owners to compete in a game of one-up-manship with the adjoining beach-hut owners. 'Yes you at number thirty six, sure you might be fantastic at airbrushing a photo-realist design inspired by your favourite surrealist all over the outside of your seaside shed but look I've got a Tassimo machine and a small generator and I can play Miles Davis at full tilt on my vintage record player.'

'Ah, but number thirty four just look at the outside of yours painted in B&Qs cheapest of cheap 'Misty Buff', compare that with my Vintage paint designed by bearded people with top knots from a commune near Islington and anyway Miles Davis is so yesterday, just listen to my collection of rare Japanese Thrash Metal'

Yes you know who you are!

Here's how the local 'Your leisure' website describes the procedure for getting one.....

'There is an excellent range of chalets available. They can be hired on a daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal and annual basis. The chalets are very popular with both visitors and local residents. At some times there is a waiting list so please let us know your requirements at the earliest opportunity'

Sounds simple, doesn't it?

What they didn't mention was that the 'some times' may well refer to a period of six years to a decade - and the earliest opportunity refers to 'at birth'

And tell me, how did you get your beach hut in the first place hey? Who did you have to schmooze up to at the annual TDC Christmas party? How many drinks did it take? Was there a brown paper package tied up with string involved? Or did you just offer more than cold hard cash? Hey, Tell me!

I can't get one. By Neptune I have tried. I've phoned, I've used aliases, I've even said I'm a terribly important celebrity who will do wonders for the local economy once the press start photographing me by my new beachfront bijou summer residence. Nothing. Not even the offer of a tent.

First I was on the list, I then moved up the list. The list got lost. I was informed I was still on the list. I received my new place on the list. I'd gone back down the list.

How can this be I enquired? Who on god's green earth can be more important than a local resident and is able to jump in front of me on the list? 'Hmmm', came the reply. And yes, Hmmm's are not normally

good news.

'Perhaps it's because you might not have answered your phone when we rang so we moved on to the next one on the list' Well that certainly might have happened, I might well have not answered a phone call, I did go to see that play at the Marlowe last June, perhaps it was then when I turned the phone off or maybe at the funeral in September. Perhaps next time someone could pop over to my house and paint it in big letters all over the veranda. That or just leave a message perhaps.

Shortly after that conversation the ridiculous paranoia started. I bet it's those new monied middle classes, coming down here with there fancy London ways buying up the property and snaffling my beach-hut for a better price than I can offer. I started trawling beachy blogsites by the sort of people who have enough time on their hands to run beachy blogsites* so I could find out who these people were and what they were up to. I called up TDC each week to see where I was on the list. Was I going up or down. Why when a new family took up residence on Stone Bay did I not go up one place. Why was there a family from Whitstable camped on mass in front of another, haven't they got their own beach huts. Who are these people?

So another year goes by and another year without a lovely little spot for me and my family. Which only leaves me a few beachfront joys left.

For starters there's joy of using the windbreaks of the beach hut owners who have staked out a plot as they believe they therefore own the sand from the front of their hut going another twenty metres towards the sea. It's only a matter of time until little picket fences start going up with notices saying 'Please don't Park in front of my drive'

There's also the look in their eyes as you walk round with a clipboard and announce that evictions will start taking place for the under-use of these small seaside residences.

And then there's the price (if I could only get to pay for one). The economy bumbles along at two percent growth, share dividends are down, and as for my ISA - well that was a waste of time. Not the same story for 6ft x 6ft square timber sheds, by crikey no, I should have invested in pine. I'm sure the council are actually attempting to solve the apparent funding crisis simply by relying on rising hut fees and car parking charges. 'Sure prices are going up' I can hear them saying at a meeting, 'But at least we can now afford a proper Christmas party'

There are of course alternatives to beach huts.

With just one old bicycle a six month course on 'Welding for beginners' and all the pallets you can find at the back of B&Q, you can easily construct a pedal powered shed on wheels. With the addition of voluminous wheels this can be pedalled down onto the sands and even into the shallows as per Victorian times.

Tents - They come in many shapes and sizes and are supplied with a simple set of instructions which helpfully have caused more marriage breakdowns than Barbeques, the Internet and those pay per view channels in the far depths of the TV menu put together.

Various paint shades are available from Vintage paints specialists for only the price of one weeks wages. We like 'Hipsters Frown' by 'Tallow & Hall' or the lovely deep blue of 'Sunken sneeze' by Shoreditch favorites 'Ennui'



continued . 'Push part A into Part B, feed the co-joined Part A/B into part C taking care to lift the flap on part D. Once pushed through all the way clip the ends of Part A/B into the brass ferrules Part F and velcro Part D over the exposed central part of Part A/B'

Aaaaarrggghhhh I can't take anymore.

Stay at home and fill the garden up with sand.

A great option with all the comforts of the home without the delights of having to mix with people who insist on listening to Drum and Base within earshot and have no knowledge of the term 'Have you no dignity'.

Sure all the cats from the neighbourhood will be attracted to this new communal litter tray but you can turn it into a game and give prizes out to the kid who finds the most buried kitty treasure.

Go to the park

There's a ton of space at Northdown, trees to play hide and seek around, huge swathes of grass and no-one's going to get toes full of sands or bring back a bucket full of exhausted crabs.

Circling the wagons

It's a terribly British thing to do is 'Putting up a fence'.

Using windbreaks, separate off a square or circle on the beach. You can make it as big as you like. You can even get a tarpaulin and cover it over. It's your bit of beach now. Nobody else can have it, nobody else can even see it. And later on when you get home you'll have the joy of searching the local Facebook groups to see all the posts about the dumpings on the beach that 'Circled the wagons'

Just will someone please get me a beach-hut. The kids would really like one; to be fair they really would have preferred one when they were still children, but hey, grown up boys nearing thirty really aren't that grown up are they

** if you're in any doubt about how to find them, just search for pictures of 'Bunting' on Google, they'll definitely be the same people*
By Geoff

Park pond-life

What utter moron(s). Completely unbelievable that this sort of bone headed twit actually exists, lacking in any ability to comprehend right from wrong. There can't be many people who can understand the thought process that went into setting fire to the children's play area up at the recreation ground by the train station. I can't, I really can't. How did the idea first start, what was the long or short term goal in the persons head. Even the worst criminals has a desired outcome in their heads they hope to achieve.

On the plus side and as always the community will pull together, the vandalism will be fixed and the person who did this will continue in the abject misery that is their life.

The Show of Shows

Another amazing hit for Broadstairs and St Peters Bowls Club.

Every year the Broadstairs and St Peters Bowls Club present a show. This has a threefold effect. It unites the players throughout the winter months when the season closes, it keeps them fit and active, puts the club on the map and raises its profile, it brings in much needed revenue, not to mention the huge amount of fun they have rehearsing.

This year they paid tribute to the great British and American Song Book with their performance of 'The Show of Shows', featuring songs from "Singing in the Rain", "Oklahoma", "Chicago" and "A Chorus Line" to name but a few.

It was staged at the Bowls Club to sell out performances on March 3rd 4th and 5th. With a percentage of the ticket money going to Cancer Research.

The company worked so hard and consequently achieved heights they never thought possible. There is a huge sense of pride amongst the members for having rehearsed and performed a great show.

Who knows what they'll come up with next year. One thing for sure it will be filled with fun and laughter. So well done to them all.



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Fireworks are weather permitting and timing may vary on the evening, scheduled 9.45pm. Arrive early to avoid disappointment.
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SEAVIEW



I'd be less nervous about Brexit if that stack wasn't inching its way to Europe.
I heard it has ambitions of becoming an offshore tax haven en route.

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Books by the locals

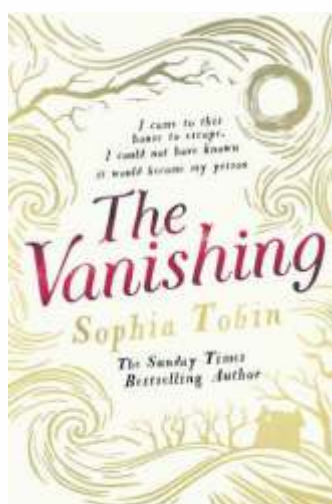
The Vanishing by Sophia Tobin

This is the third book by Sophia Tobin, and one that held my attention from beginning to end. It is the story of a young woman (Annaleigh) sent from London to work as a house-keeper for a reclusive farmer and his sister on their farm located on the Yorkshire Moors after the previous housekeeper disappeared.

It is very reminiscent of 'Wuthering heights' and brings to life the desolation and bleak greyness of the moors and the beauty and danger associated with it. The poverty of the times also rears its ugly head and the sights and atmosphere of London in the early 19th century are described well enough to smell. Whilst there is a naivety to

Annaleigh she comes across as an intelligent woman who is being slowly trapped by her circumstances. A great Victorian gothic read of madness, love and revenge in the same vein as some of the classics. Definitely worth a read.

Available at locally at Waterstones or online
MAC



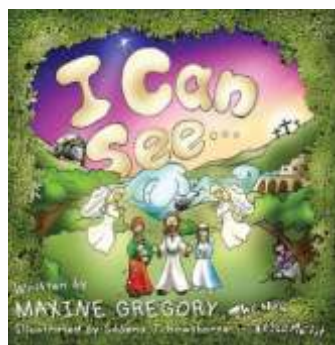
I Can see - The New Testament

by Maxine Gregory

If you take a really careful look. You can see who's hiding in this book! Through an interactive combination of playful rhymes and bright illustrations, children will enjoy solving clues to uncover a host of characters from the New Testament.

They will have great fun discovering Mary amongst the sheep or Zacchaeus hiding up a tree. They will be amazed when they see Jesus turn water into wine and make lame men dance! I Can See The New Testament is a brilliant tool for bringing to life the stories of the bible, both at school and in church. The children's picture book covers a range of stories from the New Testament, journeying through it with Jesus in an engaging and memorable way. It includes an uplifting ending where all the characters, irrespective of their past differences and struggles, join together for the coming of the holy spirit, to highlight the message of forgiveness underpinning the New Testament

Available locally at Victory News, Broadstairs or online at most good booksellers



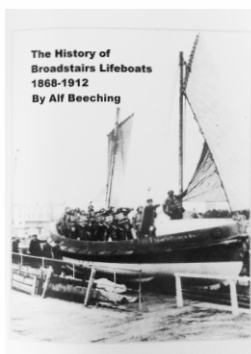
The History of The Broadstairs Lifeboats 1868 - 1912 by Alf Beeching

'It is over 100 years since the Broadstairs lifeboat station closed, but try and imagine what it must have been like to put to sea in an open pulling and sailing lifeboat on a bad winters night with the sea rolling relentlessly on to the shore in an attempt to throw back mans best efforts to conquer her' says Chris Sandwell in the introduction. This book goes attempts to show the reader just what it was like

It must have been terrifying - The book gives a very interesting history including recounts of many of the Broadstairs lifeboat rescues with some previously unseen pictures.

If you're in any doubt about how brave the lifeboat crews were back in the day (and still are) just take a look at the wreck sites on page 58.

Available at Victory News, Broadstairs priced at £9.95



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There's just no money in banking.

First Barclays, now Natwest and then Lloyds. All gone from our town, and all with the same story to tell of lack of footfall due to the rise of internet banking.

At a quick glance this seems not unreasonable considering that even local branches have to remain relevant and profitable to remain open and so, as with any other business, if the numbers aren't coming through the doors then it's time to give it up. But hang on a mo - what are the actual figures and could anything be done about this if the willingness was there? According to Natwest, counter transactions are down 43% since 2010 and mobile transactions are up 400% since the same time.

Eh? down by nearly a half but online they've gone up by 4 times as much - where's all that new business come from and are they just including the fact that because it's so easy to check something online we often do so even if the necessity to do so is not there. Pretty much like checking your e-mail every hour when you really don't need to.

Government figures suggest that 56% of us use online banking, which is quite a number; however this still leaves 20 million customers in the UK who do not

Available statistics say that since 2011 the average bank now sees only 71 customers per day. So how many did each Broadstairs branch fare, were we above average or below?

If you consider that the likes of Barclays and Lloyds would probably quote similar figures isn't it beyond the realms of possibility that in these modern times, the monolithic banking industry couldn't work out a way to open branches together, thus making one high street bank that can perform counter service for customers of all banks, perhaps with separate single counters within. Money would be saved on rent, rates, staff and expenses. Hard working staff could retain their jobs locally, the bank would be three times busier than it is at the moment, customers who are still suffering austerity measures for the banking industries shady and arrogant behaviour get something back for the money that has been spent, each and every town that previously had the service of the three main banks still retain that human contact available to do things such as - perhaps pay money in, which unsurprisingly is quite a necessity for many small businesses in the country.

One way in which the banks could remain relevant is through a little blue-sky thinking. A Nationwide branch in Caversham, near Reading, was slated for closure. It certainly couldn't warrant a full-time mortgage adviser and other experts. But the society instead installed Skype-style screens so customers could come in and speak to experts directly, if remotely. It was a big success - sales rocketed - and "Nationwide Now" screen-based advice is being rolled out in every branch. Locations once considered borderline are now secure (Guardian 19/09/16)

In 2017 Barclays profits rose threefold to £3.2bn.

Lloyds profits rose from 1.6bn in 2016 to 4.2bn in 2017

The RBS group which owns Natwest didn't fare so well with a loss of £7bn. The 2016 loss was caused by £10bn of one-off items, including £5.9bn set aside for looming fines and legal costs, largely related to a forthcoming penalty from the US Department of Justice (DoJ) for mis-selling toxic bonds in the



run-up to the financial crisis. This didn't stop them paying out 343 million in bonuses the same year. Profits are expected to return in 2018

With regards to bank closures Rob MacGregor, the Unite union's national officer, summed it up: *"Its ruthless approach to pay for the mistakes of the past jeopardises customer service and risks leaving communities and businesses reliant on their local bank branch high and dry."*

The Robin Hood Tax Campaign, which campaigns for a tax on banks to tackle poverty and climate change, said: *"Barclays boasts of trebling profits and making hundreds of their employees millionaires but nothing has improved for most ordinary people since the banking crash. The harsh reality for millions is the daily struggle to make ends meet."*

Natwest went on to announce that they've only had four complaints. Of course you've only had four complaints. Why the hell do you need to put such ridiculous spin into your leaflet. You've only had four complaints because people know that huge corporate business doesn't give a damn about your complaint so why waste your breath. What would have changed your mind - fifty complaints? Three hundred?

No, the deal's been done, and the customer once again comes last.

Please pop into your local post office to discover what banking you can do at their counter service.

From what we can ascertain, you can pay in cash for most of the main banks over the counter, however the transaction is not necessarily instantaneous as it was with your own bank. Cheques can take extra time too.





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The next generation

They were so good last time - here's a couple more selected pieces from the pens of Dane Courts talented young minds. Their second published selection is entitled 'Spring Awakening'.

Controversy or Compliment? Is Film the New English. by Megan Tudor

"Why can't we just watch the film?"

The question we all asked our English teachers. A cause of controversy for many an avid literature fan. However, the idea that English is limited to literature and literature only is increasingly becoming a more archaic opinion as we move through the years. Although on the surface we may not consider film an obvious form of English, I would like us all to reconsider.

First of all sit, think, and name any book series you like....

Stop.

Now I can almost guarantee that 90% of you thought at least one of the following:

Harry Potter
Twilight
The Hunger Games
Divergent
Et cetera, et cetera.

Notice the recurring theme?

Well all of these famous series have been converted into....films! This may be a common argument, but adapting literature into film is an example of how closely linked the two media are, one falling into the other. The similarity between the visual nature of reading and the visual nature of film is frequently demonstrated in both industries, and although reading a book may be considered more beneficial than sitting in a cinema, we cannot deny the close relationship they have in society today.

Furthermore, reading is not always the easiest or most beneficial way of exploring English for many people, an example being the study of *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. As a student I will fully confess my love for Shakespeare, yet countless others are put off by the nature of his narrative and language. Therefore, when we studied this particular play one of the first things we did was watch the Baz Luhrmann adaptation starring Leonardo DiCaprio, a cinematic masterpiece no less. But, not only did this film encourage genuine enjoyment of Shakespeare (with the help of young Leo of course), but seeing the work come to life (without sitting in a theatre for three, long hours) demonstrates one of the countless benefits of film and as a result why we should embrace it as the long lost form of english we have all been waiting for; or, at the very least, accept its use as a literary tool.

If we can call Shakespeare a literary genius, why can't we

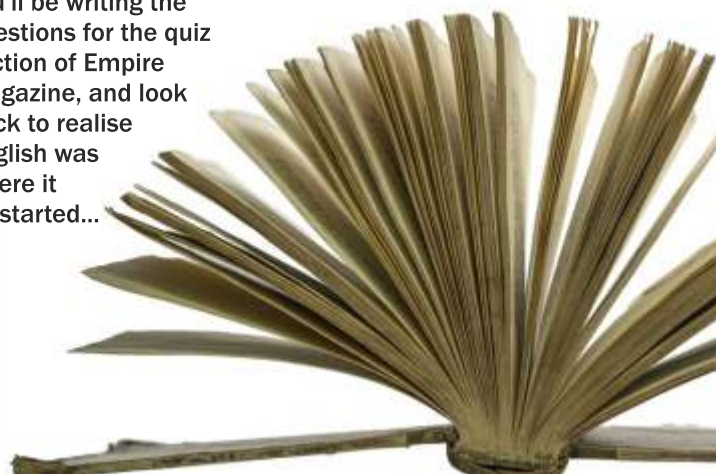
extend the courtesy to legendary filmmakers? They both had to write a script after all.

Stay with me a little longer. Consider the idea that Music may also be the gateway to understanding written works. This is a seemingly far-fetched idea, I know, but Music is a form of creative writing that requires similar understanding to that of a poem or short story. Yes it may not strictly be English, but to dismiss the process of creating rhythmic, rhyming lyrics as strictly for the arts is simply incorrect. For example John Lennon wrote not one but TWO poetry books, both of which have been published and republished since the first came out in 1964. I agree that it seems absurd to put Music in the same category as English, but it may have similar benefits to that of Film and Theatre and therefore once again must not be cast aside in these changing times.

And finally, from a magazine point of view we can easily dismiss Media subjects as Non-English Literature based, and at times this may be the case. But I would like to consider the evidence that comes from the word magazine itself, meaning: "periodical publication containing articles and illustrations, covering a variety of content". As a magazine it is very easy to shy away from the idea that we are NOT purely restricted to English Literature, easy to cower in the face of diversity, but we should not be afraid. Entertainment comes in many forms, and Film is most certainly one.

To conclude, why shouldn't we include Film reviews, Agony Aunts, Horoscopes, Fashion pages and whatnot in our subject of English? Why in this modern age would we restrict instead of embrace? Because from my point of view, not only is media useful, it is also a familiar and fun way to encourage teens to start writing and developing the skills they may not always enjoy.

Who knows... maybe one day you'll be writing the questions for the quiz section of Empire Magazine, and look back to realise English was where it all started...



by Antonio Romei

On my way to the meeting I made my way across a public garden - the one place of beauty amongst an urban city of madness and chaos.

The flowers danced with the breeze, while the stems of the tulips tickled my feet in a playful reminder of the place's overwhelming charm.

The endless rows of red and yellow mimicked hundreds of school children struggling to contain their excitement, while the delicate structure of each leaf on the tree was a harsh reminder how this could all be stripped away within an instant.

Nevertheless, I had to move on, and as I walked on, the transformation became clearer.

Each individual blade of grass had been replaced by a thick layer of greyish concrete, only designed to suck the life out of the area and drain it of all hope; the flowers, replaced by endless rows of chewing gum which stuck to my shoes like hands latching on for dear life.

The vibrant red colours replaced by the brick red pigment of the towering buildings.

Later that year I returned to the same public garden just to admire it one last time, but it wasn't quite the same.

The grass was grey, the flowers were chewing gum and the leaves where hundreds of stressed suited businessmen.

It was no longer a garden, it was a building.

I was too late.



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Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.
Barbara De Angelis



That's what the BBC Radio Kent March initiative of '#onegooddeed' was all about. They asked Broadstairs to bring together local people who might be prepared to work together, to achieve something positive for our town, and set an example to the rest of Kent of just how community can and does work together daily.

So we did. On March 7th between 10.30 and 5.00 more than 150 people gave what time they could litter picking and tidying, to show everyone how much we love living here and how proud we are of our community and our town. Aged from 3 to 84, giving an hour or in some cases 10! , everyone that came, or supported the project did their bit. A real testament to our willingness to be kind, positive and in tough economic times understand we all have to do our bit too for our environment and where we live. Picking up one plastic bottle, dealing with what your own dog does daily all helps keep Broadstairs as we all want it to be. Erica North hosted a live outside broadcast on Viking Bay, and then from Memorial Park, to encourage more people to help others by showcasing Broadstairs and the great people that live, work and volunteer here.

So a huge THANK YOU to everyone that took time out to help. Many, many individual volunteers of all ages and members of: Rotary Club of Broadstairs, Thanet Volunteer Bureau, Information Kiosk, Broadstairs Tourism and Leisure Association, Broadstairs Walks, Broadstairs Chamber of Commerce, Broadstairs and St. Peter's Town Council, Thanet District Council, Star of The Sea, Thanet Coast Project & Coastal Wardens, Folk Week, Kent Catering Company,

Broadstairs and St. Peter's Bowls Club, Broadstairs Food Festival, Broadstairs Blues Bash, East Kent Coast Guard, Deal with it, Kent School Of English, Visit Thanet. You came, you helped, you gave what time and support you could. You were all brilliant. You made Broadstairs proud.



A little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money.
John Ruskin

If you have a couple of hours, even one day a week that you feel you can spare, think about how much help, pleasure and support your helping hands will give to whatever cause, local, regional or National floats your boat. There are many organisations and groups locally that would welcome your time and your kindness. You will never regret it.

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So, logically, I decided the only way to suppress the feeling was to move to Australia and see what life out there would bring. Within a week, I'd brought my flights and sold the campervan, invested in a new rucksack and turned up at Heathrow as a 30-year-old backpacker ready to embrace whatever and whoever came my way. It's just what that feeling does to me; it forces my hand and tells me to do it, to stop saying no and not to worry about 'what ifs'. For the two years I spent exploring Australia, the feeling never came back. The challenge of a new country, its customs, wildlife (motto of the trip - if it moves, don't touch it), its people had been enough to keep the feeling at bay.

Taming that feeling

Ah crap, I've got that feeling again. It's a feeling of restlessness, an acute awareness of the fact that, with every tick of the clock, I'm getting older. Time waits for no man, as they say. If I'm honest, it's not the feeling that I mind as much as how it unnerves me a little and knowing what I need to do in order to be released from it. I know when I feel like this, change is in the air and I tend to make rather big decisions in a rather small amount of time. It's this feeling that has shaped the last six years of my life and will continue to do so at least for the next four years.

The feeling doesn't have a name; it doesn't need one. As I get older and expect it, I've come to realise it's been with me my whole life. Only now, in adulthood, have I come to understand it. It confused me as a teenager but it wasn't that strong back then so it was easy to suppress. Now when it comes over me, it's an irresistible call to action. It consumes all my thoughts nearly every minute of every day until I give in knowing that it is ultimately what I want. A change, a challenge. Only then will it go away.

I remember first feeling its full force back in the summer of 2011: the need for a change, a challenge, an adventure. So I did what everyone else would have done in my position. I sold everything I owned – my cottage in Thanet Road, my car and nearly all my possessions, quit my job and moved into what would become my first of three campervans at the age of 26 and invested what little I had left on building a life on the road. Five years, dozens of countries and thousands of miles later, I still say it was the best decision of my life. And it was all because of that feeling, even if I did get thrown out of Rouen in France for bringing the city to a standstill. To this day, I still say the road signs were wrong! Two years ago I got the feeling again. I'd just returned from roaming around Europe, doing odd jobs here and there to make ends meet when one evening, parked up at Joss Bay, it swept over me. I recognised the feeling immediately but I couldn't work out why it was back. After all, I had changed my life entirely since it last surged through. Every day had now become an adventure, everything was new and different. It was what I needed, it made the feeling go away. But I couldn't shake it off; like the smell of seaweed on a hot summers evening down Broadstairs' pier, it just wouldn't go away. For days it hung around until I realised what it meant. After five years of living in campervans, I needed a new challenge. Now I won't say I've mastered the art of van living but it certainly doesn't represent the challenge it once did. The feeling was right. It was time for something new.

by Sam Johnson

It wasn't until I boarded the plane at Perth airport with only a couple of hours left on my visa back in December last year that I felt it again. This time I knew why it was back. The last thing I had planned in my life was to make sure I made this flight. I hadn't put a single thought into what I'd do on my return to the UK. The feeling was right again: I needed a new challenge. By the time my flight landed in London, I'd formed a new plan to keep the feeling at bay.

In a few months' time, I will set off on an adventure that will undoubtedly be the hardest thing I've ever tried to do. Over a four-year period, I'll attempt to cross 35 countries, 5 continents and cover over 50,000km on a bicycle to see if I have what it takes to cycle around the world, wild camping by the side of the road each night. Now, it's true that this feeling of mine prompted me to take on a new challenge but it's not the first time I've considered trying to cycle the world. It's been a long-standing dream of mine since I was young. It's just that now is the first time everything required to take on such a trip seems to have fallen into place. I have time, zero commitments to anyone apart from family (and they are pretty used to my absence and spontaneity) and, to a certain extent, money. I decided on that flight that if I don't do it now when everything is right then I never will. Cycling the world is nothing new; people have been attempting it for a long time.

Thomas Stevens, an Englishman from Hertfordshire, became the first person to cycle the world over two years between 1884-1886 - on a Penny Farthing, no less. Since Thomas completed his bone-shaking ride and proved to the world it was possible, plenty of people have tried and a good number of them finished. The Guinness World Records have even published a list of guidelines for those attempting to cycle the world in the fastest time – the men's record is currently held by New Zealander, Andrew Nicholson in a time of 123 days 43 minutes and the women's by Paola Gianotti of Italy in 144 days. Whether trying to be the first or the fastest, everyone has their own reasons for jumping on the saddle.

Some try to raise money for a charity, others make a documentary and some just want to create life-long memories but all who attempt the challenge share one common motive: the desire for adventure. It's impossible to attempt a trip of this length and complexity on a bicycle and not expect it to be quite the challenge, especially when you're going solo. For me, though, it's also just a continuation of living

Dinner time for Sam - somewhere in Belgium



the life I love and in a way that satisfies that feeling.

Over the last few months, you might have seen someone riding around on a clearly very overloaded bike, sweating and swearing his way up the High Street or looking decidedly wobbly and pretty scared going round the roundabouts at Westwood Cross. If so, that was more than likely me and I apologise to you now if the sight of me made your children cry. I realise it's not my best look. And if the two young men in the Ford Focus who shouted, "Where you going on that thing mate, Mars?" in reference, I'm guessing, to the bulging pannier bags, happen to read this, well, now you know!

Maybe after this trip, the feeling will let me be, but I doubt it. Anyway, life is better when I just accept it, listen and act!

If you'd like to know more or follow me on my journey, you can check out the other pages on this website. You can see the full route through all 35 countries and keep up to date with where I am and how I'm doing through the weekly blog posts. I'd love to hear from you too. By the time this goes to print, all being well, I'll be a couple of weeks into the trip and I'll be missing Broadstairs and its people, so do get in touch, even if it's just to say hi

Pedaling the Globe has now teamed up with Unicef UK and is aiming to raise £50,000 over the duration of the trip.

How to Donate to Unicef?

Donations to Unicef as part of Pedaling the Globe can be made through the JustGiving Page at .

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All donations made to this page go straight to Unicef UK

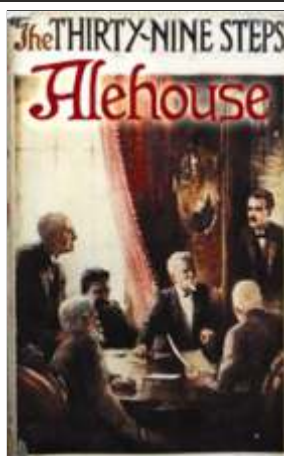
How to Help Sam?

Fancy buying Sam a coffee or just giving him a pat on the back? You can help keep Sam on the road and achieve his target of raising £50,000 for Unicef UK by donating directly to Sam either via the PayPal link on the website or at

www.gofundme.com/help-sam-raise-money-for-unicef-uk

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Sam is already on his way - why not wish him luck and donate



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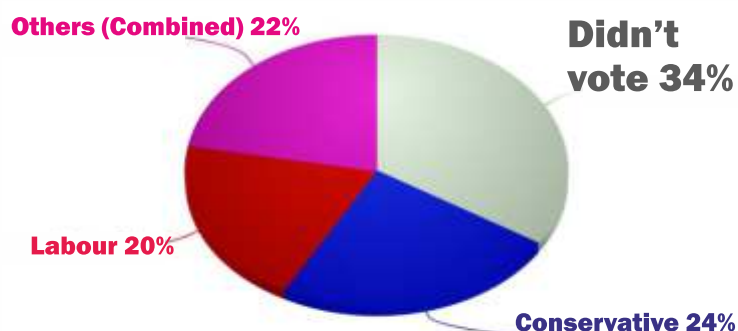
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That chart you need when someone says 'It makes no difference if you vote or not'



2015 General election - The people with the biggest influence were actually those who chose not to choose

reality-chart.com

Super Council

The idea to merge four local councils (Including TDC) into one large super council has fallen at the last hurdle after Shepway got cold feet and ran back to their mum's house, and frankly, who can blame them.

Whilst there was much talk of saving lots of money with the merger some felt rather disappointed at the lack of anything at all that could be described as 'Super'.

'Not one special power' said a councillor who wished to remain anonymous, 'I'd have liked an 'Iron Man' suit, but no they weren't going to let me have that were they, all they offered was a poxy cape with KCC printed across the back'

April 9th

Could go down as the busiest day of 2017 after temperatures reached unusual highs for early April. Not a parking space was to be had without first a fist fight, and even Albion street was pretty full with a complete disregard for anything resembling a parking restriction. and a seemingly complete lack of anyone willing to enforce them

The beach was full, Ice creams were eaten, Crustaceans annoyed and hypothermic children were swaddled in rough towels as many ignored the plague of goose-pimples and took the first swim of the year in the bracing North Sea.

Metal detectorists reported later that same day they'd taken a massive haul of gold rings - still attached to frostbitten fingers.

Getting their S#*% together

TDC are to spend approx £20K on a high tech DNA scheme to help catch irresponsible dog owners who fail to pick up their pooches poop.

The scheme involves inviting dog owners to register their pets on a DNA database which would then allow operatives to check deposits against registered pups.

It is indeed commendable that attempts are being made to tackle the issue of dog fouling, however you can't help but think that perhaps the sort of owner who lets their pooch foul a pavement and then fails to 'Scoop the poop' is unlikely to be an owner who would be interested in registering their dog in the first place. The scheme is hoped to be self-funding in that it will rely on income from fines handed out. -

TDC were unavailable for comment when asked if they had considered adopting the same scheme for some humans too.



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Who was Frank Wales?



On the wall to the side of the entrance to Holy Trinity Church, Broadstairs, is a Memorial to 30 young men from the Town each of whom died fighting in the Great War. One of these is Frank Wales. Who was he?

He was not more special than any of the others on that list of names that hangs either side of the Cross. He has been

singled out by me because (a) my cousin Ray and I have been looking into his life as part of our research into history of the Young family - he is a distant relation of ours; and (b) the 7th June 2017 marks 100 years to the day that he died in action in the Battle of Messines. On that day next June, we shall be visiting the site where Francis died; the cemetery where his body now rests; and the Menin Gate. We shall pay our respects to him and to all of those who fought in that War.

Each of those names on the wall represents a real person who lived an ordinary life in Broadstairs before responding to the National "call to arms". Frank was typical of those men so his story might just help us to remember all of them with a little more clarity.

Our picture of him is not complete so we would love to hear from anyone who can provide more information.

What do we know so far?

Frank was actually born on Tottenham. His mother was born in Broadstairs and christened at Holy Trinity as "Frances" but was always known as "Fanny". She was the daughter of William Wales who lived at 1 Leslie Cottages in Union Court, off Harbour Street.

As a point of interest, William was a member of Broadstairs Lifeboat Crew when they had two boats; the Culmer White and the Mary White. In 1857, he took part in the rescue of the crew of the American ship "Northern Belle" off Kingsgate. Both boats had to be manhandled across land from Broadstairs to Kingsgate before being launched to effect the rescue. The whole action took place during snow and hailstone blizzards. He was later presented with a silver medal on behalf of the President of the US for his part in the rescue (and that's not 'Fake News!').

Like many young Thanet women at that time, Fanny moved to London around 1880 to find work "in service". While there she had two illegitimate sons (their father is not known but that's another story!). The second was Francis Joseph Young. Life for a young woman with two illegitimate sons would have been extremely difficult so it is hardly surprising that in the early in the 1890s, Fanny and the two boys moved back to Broadstairs to live with her father, William, at 1 Leslie Cottages.

Just around the corner at that time, in Church Square, lived the Crouch family and the Young family. Both of these families were involved in the boating life around the harbour, including the lifeboat so were closely connected to the Wales family. One of the Crouch family, Alice Gertrude, had become the wife of Uriah Young; our Great Grandmother and Great Grandfather. Alice had a brother, William George Fields Crouch, with whom Fanny Wales formed a close relationship, so much so that on Christmas Eve 1900 they were married at Holy Trinity Church. The couple went on to have four children. More to the point, Frank now had a step father.



It is worth noting that our hero was always known in his family as "Frank". However, in adulthood, for official purposes, he always used the name "Francis". It is as "Francis Joseph Wales" that he appeared in the 1911 Census forms, and on all of his army forms. When his family put his name forward

for the Memorial, however, they would have used the more familiar name of "Francis".

By the time of the 1911 Census, when he was aged 23, Francis and his mother were still living with the 87 year old William at 1 Leslie Cottages. This was probably because his stepfather, William Crouch, was away serving in the Navy and they had no place of their own). Frank was unmarried and working as a Plumber & House Decorator. The next year, however, on 8 April 1912, he married Kathleen Mary Pollard in Holy Trinity Church and they set up home at, firstly, 4 Albert Street, Ramsgate and then they moved to 31, Bloomsbury Road in Ramsgate. The couple had three children in 1912, 1914 and 1917 (N.B. Francis died before the birth of the third child).

Then Frank joined the army.

He enlisted at Ramsgate 'For the Duration of the War' on Friday 3 September 1915. He became Private Francis Joseph Wales, G/9882, 10th(S) Battalion, of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment. His Battalion comprised 1000 men made up of four Companies named A to D, each with up to 250 men. Frank was in "C" Company.

After training at Aldershot, his Battalion moved to France in early May 1916. The division then remained on the Western Front until October 1917. As soon as arriving in France, they were in action and in July were involved in the horrors of The Somme, including the Battle of Flers-Courcelette and the Battle of the Transloy Ridges.

During 1917 the Division moved on to Flanders, where routine trench defence and occupation was punctuated by various "skirmishes" leading up to the "Big Push" that became Battle of Messines. One single sentence like that masks the dreadful privation, danger and terror those men experienced for months on end, both on The Somme Campaign and in Flanders.



It was in the Battle of Messines, on 7th June 1917, probably from shellfire, that Frank was killed.

It happened in an attack on a raised bank called the Damm Strasse (to the east of St Eloi and Voormezele). At 3.10am on the morning of 7th June with 19 huge mines were exploded across a 7 mile stretch of the Front Line. The second biggest (96,500lb / 43 tons / 43,771k) was at St Eloi, less than half a mile from where Frank's Company were waiting to "go over the top". Curiously, the Battalion Officer's Diary for that action makes no reference to the exploding of the mine (it was claimed that the explosions could be heard in London – a bit hard to believe but they were loud); he merely writes of the barrage under which they began the attack.

The explosion and barrage weakened but did not neutralise the German defenders so that as they arrived at the Damm Strasse, they still met resistance in the form of shelling and machine guns.

Frank was numbered amongst the 33 "Other Ranks" in his battalion who died on the 7th and 8th June. Following his death, he was initially posted as 'Missing,' but later the Army Council made the decision that for official purposes, it was to be assumed that he had died on or after Thursday 7 June 1917.

Initially he was buried underneath a hedge in a field close to where he died with two comrades; a Lt Purves from the Middlesex Regiment and an unidentified Sergeant. At a later stage, possibly in 1919, the three were disinterred and moved to the cemetery at Voormezele (Enclosure No.3.) south of Ypres, Belgium.

Sadly, although the action itself was successful, the Allies could not sustain the push and in subsequent months the ground was lost and the Allies were forced back to almost where they had started.

Frank's death would have had quite an impact in the community around Holy Trinity, especially those in Church Square and Union Court, as he had many relations still living there. Similarly, we should also not underestimate the effect his death had back at home. Apart from the grief, his widow was left with three children and a pittance to live on. She would have been dependent on the family helping out. So, if anyone has any further information about this family, we would be pleased to receive it. If anyone remembers it on 7th June, please spare a thought for a Broadstairs lad who, along with many others, gave his life for this Country.

We shall remember them

Gordon Young



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The Vintage Wardrobe 98B High Street, Broadstairs, CT10 1JB

Hello and welcome to the Vintage Wardrobe where you will find an eclectic mix of beautiful vintage clothing and other 'lovelies' I also have a wide variety of costume jewellery and other accessories. The shop is new to Broadstairs but I have enjoyed all things vintage for many years, initially trading at local markets before embarking on a retail adventure here in Broadstairs. You may have a party to go to, or simply love vintage clothing as much as I do. Either way come and have a browse and a friendly chat. I am open from Tuesday through to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm.

You can phone Ashley on 01843 863418

Scalpworx Clinic

135 High Street
CT10 1NG
07834639679

Local surfer and first aid instructor Andy Webb from Broadstairs has recently opened the Scalpworx Clinic. Scalpworx Clinic is by appointment only as discretion for its clients is of utmost importance. Scalp micropigmentation



is a procedure for both men & women suffering from hair loss. Unlike a hair transplant this procedure has greater success rates while still giving a natural look of a full head of hair placing small dots on the scalp to replicate hair follicles.

For more information & photos please contact Andy Webb
info@scalpworx.co.uk

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In addition to micropigmentation the Scalpworx Clinic also offers nail care.

Three Graces

2 The Broadway,
Broadstairs
CT10 2AD

Tel: 01843 446450

Hi my name is Lulla, I live in Broadstairs and had in my time studied art in Brighton, before deciding it would be quite fun to run my own restaurant (which I did in Canterbury for fourteen years). I then decided to go down the academic route to become a teacher and I taught locally. BUT, I have been passionate about starting my own local gift shop where I would also be able to indulge in some art work myself.

I particularly wanted to stock up with beautiful products which were not only good quality, colourful and pleasing to the eye, but which were also fairly traded, ethically produced or artisan. This, as I was to find, was not easy. I spent some months researching and visiting suppliers (all of which were quite far away). I now have some beautiful hand crafted gifts for adults and children from different countries as well as home. These include hand crafted ceramic art from Poland, Czech traditional wooden toys, jewellery from India and home, handmade raffia bags by artisans in Madagascar, naturally scented



candles, oils, creams, soaps and bath bombs. I have also managed to find lovely greeting cards which are different, arty or cultural. While stocking up at home (till I got the shop ready), I noticed some of the bath bombs had been diminishing rather quickly. Yes, I had tried a couple myself and given one or two to my granddaughters to test, but I had accounted for those. Then one evening a lovely smell was wafting through the bathroom door, aha my other half (who had never before shown any interest) Well at least he had used a man bath bomb this time.

Email: lulla53@threegracesgifts.co.uk

Facebook: Three Graces Broadstairs

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Michelle and Agi and their four cats have recently opened the business where Salon Bohemia used to be.

It's a completely new adventure for them with Michelle's previous career as a personal trainer and Agi's as an antique dealer and they hope that the cosy, lounging atmosphere they have created will be inviting to all. Cocktails will be half price 7 - 9 pm Mondays and Thursdays and they will soon be arranging singles evenings, one night per month.



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House of Martin - Menswear & Music

Just a couple of doors up from the High Street car park entrance you'll find a handsome wee shop selling something to send you music lovers all weepy eyed. Yes, even Broadstairs is attempting to stay ahead of the times with the resurgence of that lovely tangible disc of joy, the Vinyl LP. House of Martin sells the stuff - especially the good stuff. (The Kinks, Beatles, Rolling Stones, Oasis, Stone Roses, etc). And as the name suggests, there's Menswear too. (Brands include Hunter & Nelson, Weekend Offender, Marko Johns, Tootal, Bold & Noble with more to come).
01843 860949

The Rustic Co'

Looks lovely, there's some marvellous pics' of their dishes if you fancy looking them up on Facebook or Instagram. We haven't eaten there yet but we'll be sure to do so - The Avocado on toast with poached eggs looks really rather fab.
Call them up on 01843 319879 or just pop in and see them for Brunch, Dinner and Cocktails

The 39 Steps Alehouse & Town Brewery

Last but not least, the 39 Steps has moved....just not far. They are now situated on the corner of John Street & Charlotte Street and what a cracking job they've made of it too - a real asset to the town. Fabulous architecture inside and with a viewable brewing area too. They've added to the Real Ales with draught, tins and bottles and now there's wines and spirits too.

Opening night was absolutely heaving - something that we're sure will continue



The Brigadier

I've voted quite a number of times since coming of age and so far I've only not bothered in one election. That one was a choice between the Welsh wonder Mr Kinnock and that dear old thing Mrs T. There was a hair's breadth between them in my opinion at the time - I just couldn't decide which one I despised the most. In the end I couldn't stomach it anymore and simply gave up and retired to the bar to watch Dimbleby and a young Paxman waffle endlessly and frankly ruin my evening. Of course one of those prospective candidates went on to win the blasted election and that ruined everyone's next five years.

It all seemed a lot simpler in Clement Attlee's time, a much more civilized affair with cozy fireside chats with the PM over the airwaves. Not too much to worry about in those days; would the law banning men from going out the house without a hat ever be repealed, would it ever come out that it wasn't true that smiling during photographs gave you Ricketts and would the Daily Mail ever again support a far right, nationalist campaign.

Electioneering consisted of taking tea and cake with some of the electorate with only the merest hint of a soundbite.

Interviewer - probably a Dimbleby: 'And what would you say to the announcement that Mr Churchill believes you to be in error Mr Attlee'
Clement: 'Well, I'd say he is quite wrong'

And that was the election campaign over and done with. No Battle buses, no appearances on popular chat show wireless broadcasts to discover who put the bins out (the butler of course)

Now it's all Tory Scum this and Loony Leftie that - I really can't be doing with all that animated fake hatred and bluster, people are generally good hearted no matter what they believe politically (except the likes of the EDL), a recent interview with Mhairi Black the wee Scottish lass who won a seat for the SNP up in Scotfordshire really highlighted that point. Mhairi is an excellent MP with a fire in her belly and a don't mess with me attitude. You'd imagine she'd eat Tory MPs for breakfast, well turns out she has become firm friends with her almost exact opposite, Eton educated Conservative MP Jacob Rees Mogg - she even joked that he was her 'Boyfriend' If those two can get on will we shortly be seeing Jezza and Treez popping out for coffee and croissants: probably not.

I will be voting this time and I will also be telling the busy body outside the polling station to mind their own bloody business if they ask me whom I voted for.

And here's a tip - I also find it terribly irritating to run the gauntlet of various Rosettes whilst entering and exiting the building. It's like being at the local gymkhana, especially considering there's always a few horsey types there you think should probably be carted off to the knackers yard.

But that's enough about that

What I really want to talk about is Grandchildren.

You see, number six arrived a few months back and is now busy growing into a small chunk of a child, he'll doubtless soon be wearing the braces I've put by and donning the flight cap and goggles that I believe should be compulsory items for baby bouncers and the like.

What is a grandparent to do nowadays - even with our own children it was relatively easy to get them presents that didn't necessarily involve batteries and a degree with honours in computer programming, the odd Action Man / Barbie Doll for Christmas, maybe a Scalextric set if you really wanted to get technical. Not anymore my dear reader. Everything I perused the other day in a monolithic toy store needed at least two sizes of battery, had three lights and a down-loadable computer applications for the phone. The last application I needed for the phone was a loudspeaker I could turn up to twelve and that one attached at the wall with four brass screws.



"What's that on the wall Grandpa", asked #03GCM (3rd in line Grandchild Male). "That's my phone my dear boy" I replied "Don't be silly grandad that's not a phone, how can you take a picture with that"

Which in my mind is a strange thing to say.

Does the Kettle come with an ironing board? Can I use the gas fire as a typewriter? Does the sink in the downstairs toilet double up as a urinal for workmen - (okay, sorry bad example)

"Well grandad look at my phone and we'll take a Selfie" said little one.

We looked as he held up the small oblong block in his hand in a moment not unlike the start of '2001 Space Odyssey', I half expected him to throw it in the air. He clicked a button and there we appeared for all to see.

"Does this mean I'll soon be trending on Twitface with Kim Kardigan" I replied not quite knowing where the words came from

"See Grandad, you do know a bit about I-phones and Apps after all, I'll set you up on Facebook if you like"

He went off happy as Larry only stopping at the door to say that he'd send me the picture he'd taken.

Three weeks later and the postman still hasn't been.

Like I said at the beginning, it seemed much simpler back then. Just as a certain newspaper suggested recently - perhaps going back to the 1970s wouldn't be so bad. A funded Health Service, free University education, retirement at 65, most people could buy a house, and a pension to look forward too.

Can't wait.

The Brigadier



I was on guard duty just the other day and someone posted a letter in my mouth

That's nothing. This doubles up as a hovercraft

*Don't forget the 80th year of the
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Broadstairs Folk Week – 11– 18 August 2017

So where is the 2nd largest venue in Thanet from 11 – 18 August 2017? Yes - full marks – it is the Folk Week Concert Marquee in Pierremont Park.

Created over a week – with a lot of sweat and tears from the volunteer technical team – (new strong types always welcome) the Concert Marquee and the Jack Hamilton Beer Tent (lovingly crafted by Jenny and her team) is the heart of Folk Week.

This is where the headline acts appear

(see www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk for details) – on a proper stage with professional lighting and sound systems and seating for 600 people. It's really like a theatre setting – you won't be sat on the floor on a picnic rug while 500 people obscure your view of the stage. There are no screens to compensate for the musicians playing in the distance. This is a different type of festival experience that is more intimate than standing in a field hoping that the band will take a break so you can give yourself an hour to get to the toilets...Toilets – always an interesting topic for festival-goers. There are loos at the concert marquee aplenty. The atmosphere changes in the Concert marquee area over the course of the day – in the mornings it's coffee and cakes from the Larder Company and the hordes of knitters arrive – their handiwork is evident around the park in the form of knitted seagulls, hedgehogs, mice etc . Meanwhile, voices ring out singing sea shanties, gospel, songs from Africa, Sweden and Japan – or in intricate harmony in the marquee vocal workshops.

Lunchtimes see the opening of the Shepherd Neame Beer Tent and a chance to enjoy a beverage whilst listening to a variety of festival musicians leading a join-in lunch-time session – anyone can pop-in and have a listen.

The programme of ticketed events begins with the afternoon

concerts at 2.30pm until 4.30pm and then the evening concerts start at 7.30pm until 10.30pm. Ticket holders come from all over the place –they're a mix of people who have week or weekend Festival Tickets and people who have bought tickets just for one event. Non-ticket holders can still get a drink at the bar and enjoy the convivial atmosphere with other like-minded folk – with a small f and a big F!!!

There are too many concerts with fantastic musicians to feature here – but if you fancy a top-notch tribute to Dylan; an evening with a Scottish band featuring the BBC Radio 2 Folk Singer of the year 2017; a lock-in dance culture clash of folk; the songs of War Horse – or a special appearance of Liam O Maonlai of the Hothouse Flowers – then you'll find them on the concert marquee stage.

The whole line-up of this year's festival – not to mention the past xx years has been created by Artistic Director Kim Headley – and the secret is out – this is her last year in that post. Finding a really inspirational mix of musicians to play at Folk Week takes years of experience and knowledge – she is



truly a hard act to follow and the festival has been lucky to have her at the helm. We will all miss you. Hankies at the ready!

Folk Week is all about joining in – with such a concentration of musicians and dancers in the town for a week – there's a whole range of workshops on offer. This year, try your hand at Banjo, Bluegrass, Blues, Bodhran Basics & Beats, Brass Instruments, Concertina, Danish tunes, Ensemble Playing, Fiddle, Guitar, Harmonica, Irish Tunes, Melodeon, Octave Mandola, Percussion, Saxophone, Session Tunes, Ukulele and Whistle. Or your feet at: Appalachian Dance, Country Dancing, Flat Footing, Lakeland Stepping, Longsword, Medieval Dance, Morris or Southern African Gum Boot Dancing.

Don't forget the Night Owl ticket offer at the Pavilion on the Sands – for £50 you can dance the night away for all 8 nights – which is a bargain – every night costs £11. This year, there's everything from Gumboots Reggae, Undercover Hippies, Noble Jacks to Mr Tea & the Minions – kicking off with the Demon Barbers Dance Party on the first Friday.

Families are very well catered for at Folk Week – just turning up at the bandstand and watching the antics of the Hooden Horses, Clarence the Dragon or enjoying the free music and morris sides – is enough for some people. But there is much more going on with family ceilidhs, music sessions for young people, a tiny puppet theatre, magic shows, Bobo the Magic Bird, Magical Mermaids, Panic Circus and the Creative Tent.

New for this year are the Days of Dance, Music and Song for 7- 15 year olds with no experience necessary, they can do African Gumboot Dancing, Morris, Appalachian or Longsword; play Percussion or Ukulele and join a Big Band – or sing along with Granny's Attic. Exhaust your offspring for only £10 per day or £3 per session!

There are over 250 volunteers who work hard during Folk Week – but they also have a lovely time and make lots of friends. Some of the workforce teams are already full – but there are still opportunities to join if you fancy contributing time and effort to a wonderful community event.

Thank you to everyone in the town and beyond who supports Folk Week – the festival is a registered charity and not for profit. At this point, could I plug the Co-op's membership scheme? Folk Week is one of the causes you can choose to support when you do your shopping – right until October – so it's definitely worth doing and a fairly pain-free way of donating. Why does the festival need support?; because Folk Week brings in £2.3 million into the local economy and has lots of free events that bring thousands of visitors to the town.

The Souvenir Programme is published in June – available at many venues around the town - and there is lots of info and online booking on www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk. We're hoping to have the App too.

Box Office for phone bookings - 01843 604080 – and the Folk Week Office is still in Pierremont Hall!!



Movies at the Palace

Mindhorn (15)

Directed by Sean Foley, UK, 2hr 11m

Starring Julian Barrett, Andrea Riseborough, Kenneth Branagh and Simon Callow

Friday 19 May / 7.30pm Saturday 20 May / 6pm Sunday 21 May / 7.30pm Monday 22 May / 6pm Tuesday 23 May / 3.00pm Wednesday 24 May / 6pm

Thursday 25 May / 6pm From the anarchic minds of The Mighty Boosh and Steve 'Alan Partridge' Coogan, comes a future classic of British comedy. A has-been tv actor, best known for playing the title character in 1980s detective series "Mindhorn" relishes reliving his past glories when an inept serial killer says he will only speak with the police through. Detective Mindhorn, whom he believes is a real person. It's an endearingly bonkers premise which delivers some of the best laughs in British cinemas in years. Hilarious, zany and oddly affecting, it's destined to be quoted endlessly in the fashion of the best Python or classic Partridge. A real tonic!

Mulholland Drive (15) – restored version

Directed by David Lynch, USA/France, 2hr 27m

Starring Naomi Watts, Laura Harring, Robert Forster, Ann Miller and Justin Theroux Saturday 20 May / 8pm Tuesday 23 May / 6pm Thursday 25 May / 8pm

David Lynch's (Blue Velvet, Twin Peaks) towering achievement is given a spanking new restoration just before his new Twin Peaks airs this summer. A hallucinogenic noir-esque trip deep into the dreams and nightmares of two aspiring actresses, Betty

(Naomi Watts) and Rita (Laura Harring). Arriving in Hollywood with their sights set on stardom at any cost, the pair find reality slowly blurring before their eyes as Rita loses her memory relying on Betty to help her figure out an ever-deepening mystery. Described by Lynch himself as a 'psycho-genic fugue' the one thing you can be sure of is that all bets are off and anything can happen. Beloved of critics and fans alike this is a film that never quite gives up all its secrets while seducing us time and again to take that dark trip down Mulholland Drive. Aside from the iconic Angelo Badalamenti score, the ravishing photography and stylistic brio, what really fascinates is the sheer humanity – for good and bad - which grips like a vice. A bonafide masterpiece indeed, shown here in a gorgeous new restoration, from the UK's Independent Cinema Office.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul (tbc)

Directed by David Bowers, USA, 1hr 30m

Starring Jason Drucker, Alicia Silverstone, Owen Aszatalos and Chris Coppola

Friday 26 May / 3.00pm Saturday 27 May / 3.00pm Sunday 28 May / 3.00pm Monday 29 May / 3.00pm Tuesday 30 May / 3.00pm, Wednesday 31 May / 3.00pm Thursday 1 June / 3.00pm + Friday 2 June / 3.00pm Saturday 3 June / 3.00pm Sunday 4 June / 3.00pm

Based on the record-breaking book series, the latest Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie finds the Heffley family on a zany road trip to attend Meemaw's 90th birthday party. Naturally it all goes hilariously off course, mainly thanks to Greg's newest scheme to get to a video game convention and (finally!) become famous.

A Dog's Purpose (PG)

Directed by Lasse Hallstrom, France, 1hr 40m

Starring Dennis Quaid, Josh Gad and Peggy Lipton

Friday 26 May / 7.30pm Saturday 27 May / 7.30pm Sunday 28 May / 7.30pm Monday 29 May / 5.30pm Tuesday 30 May / 6pm Wednesday 31 May / 5.30pm Thursday 1 June / 7.30pm

All dogs go to heaven – that is unless they have unfinished business here on earth. A delightful adaptation of the best-selling novel which tells the story of the same dog being reincarnated through his many lives as he searches for his true purpose. Produced by Steven Spielberg and from the director of Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, this is a wry, amusing and thoughtful shaggy dog story for all of us who love our canine friends.

Call 01843 865726 - Harbour Street, Broadstairs



The background image shows a kitchen area. In the upper left, there is a wooden countertop with a sink and a dish rack. A bowl of fruit and a banana are on the counter. Below the countertop, a dark grey cabinet is visible. The floor is covered with a dark brown carpet featuring a repeating white geometric pattern of interlocking circles and lines. The text 'Broadstairs Carpets' is overlaid on the top half of the image.

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