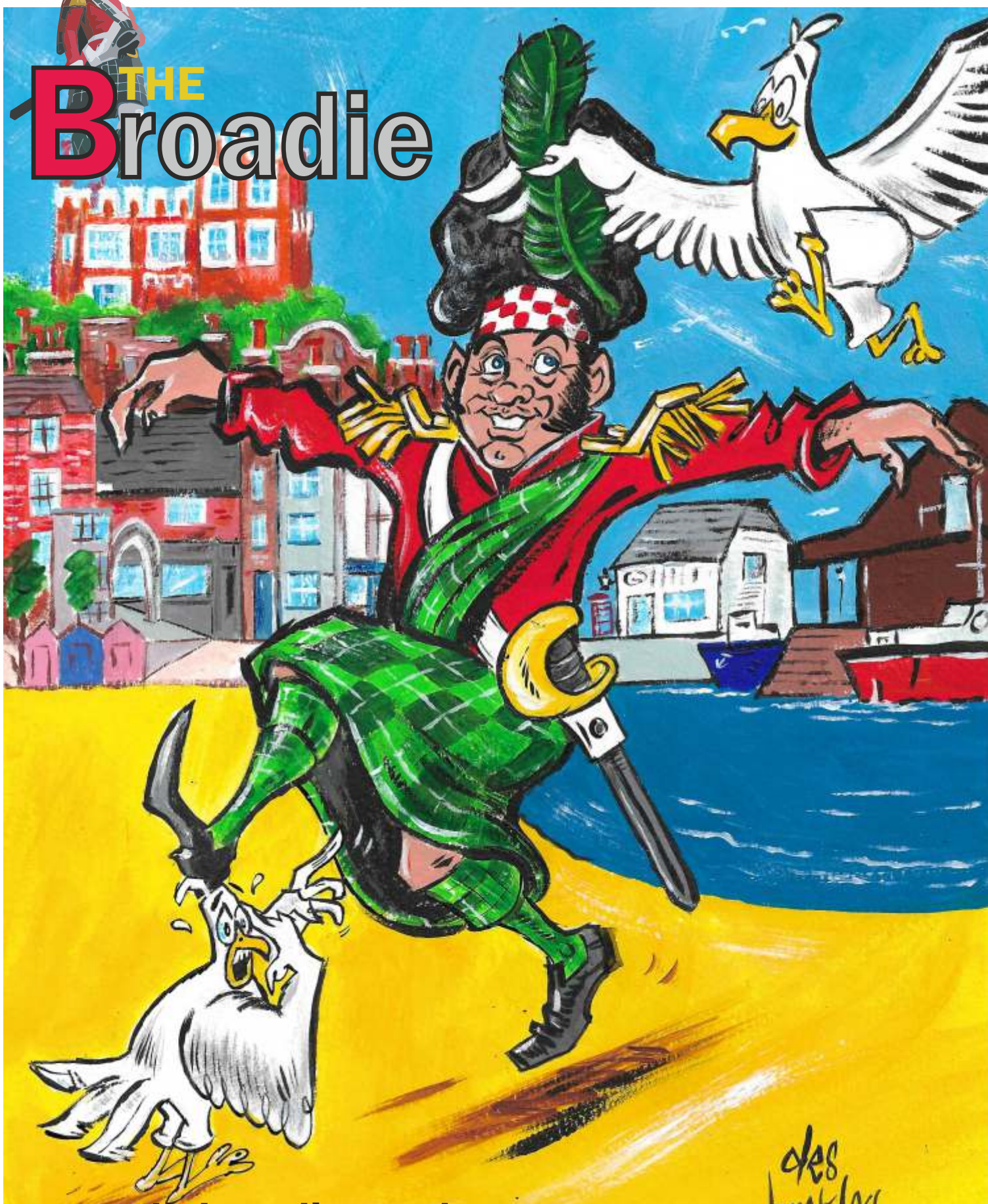


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## The Elephant in the Room

Dear Ed

Just a quick line to THANK YOU for the extra piece you included about my Ramsgate shop The Elephant in the Room what a superb surprise! Thought you'd like to know that lots of discerning customers have popped in to ask if I knew that I'd been featured! It also meant a lot because I opened my first shop in Broadstairs in 1999 Plate Expectations-the paint your own pottery shop before moving to Cornwall for shop number two. After 12 years Thanet drew me back for shop number three where I'm finding it fun to relive peoples pottery experience & also answer the question "Why on earth did you leave Cornwall?!"

All the best. Scott Linton

The Elephant in the Room (There's nowhere quite like)  
Ramsgate

## McNot-a-fan

They are opening a new McDonalds on Westwood Road, Broadstairs, right next to the sign that says "McDonalds: 2 minutes away". Which might seem a bit optimistic, given all the traffic, but you get the idea: there's another one pretty close. Half a mile away, Google maps tells me. Half a mile really isn't far to travel to sate your burgerific lust, so why the devil are they bothering? They've paid £4.2 million for the old Harvester, so they must be pretty confident of turning a decent profit. Could it be because there are three huge secondary schools within a mile radius of the site? Thousands, literally thousands, of school children will be passing the place every day, hooking up to the free wifi while simultaneously shovelling processed carbs down their necks. Now, McDonald's isn't for me. I'm vegetarian, almost vegan, hate all the packaging, the refined sugars and the thought of what ingesting it might do to my body. If you're an adult and take the opposing view, I don't care. Although I'm prepared to bet no one ever exited a McDonalds rubbing their bellies and proclaiming, "Gosh, I feel so much better for that!"

But children are a different matter. Laws protect children from tobacco and alcohol and energy drinks and, recently, junk food advertising, because we recognise they might not yet be informed enough to make sensible decisions about their lives. Maybe they are already: heaps of kids know more than me, God knows, and of course we must educate them that the smiley clown is really just the happy corporate face of a company that is responsible for killing a lot of animals fairly quickly and possibly a lot of humans fairly slowly, all for an enormous profit. But while the lure of the luminous arches remains powerfully strong we have a duty to protect children from the addictive thrill of cheap, brightly packaged fast food. A duty to steer them away from the promise of obesity and health problems, neatly bundled in a pretty box, with a free TV tie-in lump of plastic; or at least make it an occasional treat, rather than a regular component of their diet.

In my opinion this new venture represents an outrageous, cynical decision that will directly impact on the health and lifespan of Thanet's children, already lagging significantly behind wealthier areas. I'm no conspiracy theorist, but combined with the closure of the stroke unit at QEQM, this almost begins to feel like a deliberate, calculated assault.

Melissa Keighley. Broadstairs

## Copped out

I read recently about an incident on the beach involving a feral group of young adults. For those of you wondering why there seems to be so much youth crime in town nowadays I've made a little illustration

John. Broadstairs (see below)



## number 3



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20,000 The drop in the number of police officers in England and Wales between March 2010 and March 2018.



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# 'Scant Regard for it's responsibilities to society and the environment'



Southern Water has been fined a record £126 Million for wastewater spills from its sewerage plants which have affected many beaches in Thanet and all over Southern England on numerous occasions and for intentionally misreporting its performance, thus covering it up. Each Southern Water customer will see rebates of £61 off of their bills accordingly

The environment agency has also started criminal investigations into the

case specifically looking at permit breaches at a number of sites. OFWAT, the water regulator said that the fine was the biggest ever in relation to the size of the total business and would have been larger still if Southern Water had not co-operated with the investigation and addressed its errors.

OFWAT found that Southern Water had manipulated its wastewater sampling process, and therefore intentionally misreported information about its treatment sites Rachel Fletcher of OFWAT said "The findings showed the company was being run with scant regard for it's responsibilities to society and the environment"

"The previous management failed to stamp out this behaviour and failed to manage its plants properly. In doing so, Southern Water let down its customers and operated in a way completely counter to public service ethos we expect"

In 2018 a joint investigation into Southern Water's company accounts by union GMB and Corporate Watch claimed bosses had 'trousered more than £1m in 2018 alone' which represented a 'whopping 60 per cent increase from 2013'.

The union said the money paid out comes from salary, bonuses, pensions and other benefits in the last six years. The GMB highlighted the findings at its congress in Brighton last week as part of its 'Take Back The Tap' campaign to bring England's privatised water industry back into public ownership While water bosses were paid 'eye-watering sums', the union, citing a report by the National Audit Office, said consumer water bills in England and Wales increased by 40 per cent above inflation since privatisation in 1989.

Tim Roache, GMB General Secretary, said: 'Thirty years on from Margaret Thatcher's privatisation of water it's clear this ideological experiment is a complete flop.

'Water is a natural monopoly, that every home, family and individual needs, it should be in public hands not used for shareholder profit.' However, after coming under fire, the industry body Water UK has hit back saying the accusations are 'misleading'. The company says its chief executive was only appointed last year and is one of the lowest paid in the sector.

A spokesperson for the organisation said: 'The GMB paints a very misleading picture of the water industry. The truth is that bills have fallen in real terms for the last five years and will continue to fall over the next five.

'Leakage has been cut by a third since the mid-90s, and the water industry is just about to put another £50 billion of investment into the system. We're delivering for customers and the environment, whereas plans for nationalisation would risk funding cuts and hit the pensions of more than four million public sector workers invested in the industry.'

Southern Water also said bonuses were tied to performance targets related to customer outcomes and environmental protection. Whilst it comes as no surprise that Union leaders want to see utilities in public ownership, Michael Gove the Environment Secretary had a thing or two to say back in 2018 when he attacked water companies for paying their bosses large salaries and huge dividends to shareholders while contributing little or no tax.

"One might hope that companies making such massive profits, paying out such big dividends and supporting such generous executive salaries, would be big contributors to the exchequer through their tax bill, [But instead we have had] 10 years of shareholders getting millions, the chief executive getting hundreds of thousands, and the public purse getting nothing."

He said Anglian Water and Southern Water paid no corporation tax last year, while Thames Water "has paid no corporation tax for a decade". Ofwat, the industry regulator, said that it had repeatedly told water companies that they must do more to make sure executive pay better reflects customer service.

You can but hope that those in charge of the company, including all those amongst the board of directors who take massive bonuses, will be hauled in to face criminal charges and immediately sacked from their positions of power are never allowed that degree of responsibility again.





# Contrarian of Broadstairs

Tell people you live in Broadstairs and you can bet your bottom teacake on their response. "Ooh, Broadstairs is lovely! Isn't Broadstairs lovely? So quaint! You are lucky." Which irritates me, because I'm a contrary tinker, and I don't find Broadstairs particularly lovely, myself. In fact, if I weren't married to a devoted Bradstonian, I'd be caning it up the M2 before you could say Dickens.



Instead, I seem to be stuck here, tied by bonds of love, family and nose to tail traffic, which make it impossible to leave the wretched place anyway. In the belief that true happiness can only be achieved by wanting what you already possess, I decided to make an inventory of Broadstairs' loveliest qualities, and set them down here in the hope they might resign me to my fate. Perhaps they might help you, too, achieve some semblance of zen peace.

First, let's consider the charity shops. Broadstairs being stuffed with the wealthy - yes, it is, don't argue with me, just look at the house prices - their stock is invariably first-rate. I picked up a brand new Warehouse dress for £3 this weekend, and jolly fab it is too. Wearing it I look and feel much posher than I am. Almost worthy of my postcode, if you squint a bit.

There are a lot of really excellent pubs, teeming with local produce. My favourite is The Pub along the Broadway, for its book and board game selection, dog-friendly policy, tremendous array of beers and its handy location a 30 foot crawl from my own front door; but special mention must also be made to Mind the Gap, which serves ciders strong enough to send you dizzy, yet fruity enough you can convince yourself you're taking little more than a restorative tonic, a smoothie with an intriguing kick.

There's an excellent library, well-stocked and well-staffed. We can boast the magnificent Sarah Thorne theatre, too, run by a passionate army of arts lovers, devoted to bringing us life-enhancing drama; ditto the Palace cinema and its splendid film society.

Broadstairs' beaches are among the cleanest and most picturesque in all Britain, stretching for miles of idyllic beauty and translucent surf. These make excellent backdrops for photo-shoots which you can then send to your city-fenced, desk-bound friends, to ruin their day and make them despise you, if they don't already.

Which brings me to the most crucially significant reason to crow at finding yourself washed up here in Broadstairs. You might know about the homeless, litter, graffiti, rampaging drunks, petty crime; the impossibility of parking, driving in or driving out, and indeed of walking into town without bumping into some git in a swirly skirt and ethnic jewellery, cooing improving instruction to darling Tarquin or Tabitha, but you know what? Your pals don't.

They come down for the day and coo longingly over the golden sands, tea shops and cobbles, and wish and wish they were living your life.

If happiness consists of wanting what you have, misery dwells in wanting what you cannot. I'm stuck here and I'm resigned to it. Yet additional happiness can be engendered, I've found, by instilling discontent in one's acquaintances. From this perspective, Broadstairs is indeed exceptionally lovely. Long may its cobbled streets continue to tolerate my unworthy, ungrateful self.

**Melissa Keighley**

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Did you know....New York Was Briefly named "New Orange". Some cats are allergic to humans. The use of the term OMG can be traced back to 1917 Competitive Art used to be an Olympic event. And finally....It's been found that most toilets actually flush in E-Flat. (And yes mine does too as I just checked it with a guitar tuner) Published by The Broadie Ltd., 4 Nelson Place, Broadstairs, Kent, CT101HQ 5000 copies printed. 4500 delivered free to homes in the CT10 area. Copies also available for £1 from various outlets. We can't deliver free to everyone because it costs too much, takes too long, and well....its only a quid

# A Night at the Theatre?

What do Judi Dench DBE, David Suchet CBE and Julian Fellowes DL have in common, apart from letters after their names? They are not only all superb actors, but also are all patrons of the Sarah Thorne Theatre, located in the garden of Hilderstone College in St Peter's Road, which hosts an eclectic mix of professional and amateur shows throughout the year.

Actors no doubt hoping to gain the dizzying heights that the three patrons have achieved will be appearing in the summer rep season, one of the very few remaining in the UK. Having watched each of the plays in 2018, I'm really looking forward to this year's selection!

George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man* is a humorous play that shows the futility of war and deals comedically with the hypocrisies of human nature. The play was first produced in 1894, but clearly the message has yet to get through to world leaders! As relevant today as it was then.....and who will win the girl!!!! 25th - 28th July

Sir Lawrence Olivier played third-rate comic Archie Rice in John Osborne's wonderful play *The Entertainer* way back in 1955. Still applauded as one of the finest stage performances ever, the part throws a challenge to every actor who has since played it, but from what I know of the Sarah Thorne rep company they will rise to the challenge. Miss this play, and you may miss one of the great actors of the future. 1st - 4th August

First performed by the Hull Truck Theatre Company at the 1987 Edinburgh Festival, *Teechers* by John Godber tells the hilarious story of an idealistic new teacher in his perilous first days inside a local comprehensive school. This highly entertaining classroom comedy exposes staffroom politics, moody teenagers and obstructive caretakers, evoking the trials and tribulations of life in a modern school - for teachers and pupils alike. 8th - 11th August

Stewart Pringle's play, *Trestle* which won the Papatango New Writing Prize in 2017, offers a sympathetic view of two senior citizens and suggests that age offers no immunity to passion. A series of brief encounters between natural opposites, united by a need to pack away the trestle table after a function in the village hall, gradually turns into a friendship that prompts the same feelings of jealousy, huffiness and rage you might find in people half their age. 15th - 18th August

I've just had a sneak preview of the autumn season schedule, and there are some little gems promised. It's all there - music, comedy, drama, and of course, the



Christmas Pantomime!  
Contact [info@sarahthornetheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@sarahthornetheatre.co.uk) to join the mailing list.....but meanwhile here are some of the highlights.....  
*Macbeth*, Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedy, adapted by Ryan Pringle to be performed by just three actors in a dynamic modern production that lasts just 70 minutes. Hurrah! Accessible Shakespeare - a perfect introduction to the world's most famous playwright. 14th September

King Henry V111 visits on 21st September when he recounts the events of his long reign, his many wives and children, and invites the audience to question him on any related subject. It's not often royalty visits Broadstairs so practise your bowing and curtsying now!

Many of us still mourn the early death of the great singer/songwriter John Martyn. Fortunately jazz diva Sarah-Jane Morris, with guitarist Tony Remy pay homage to Martyn's bold and tender genius, following their recent release of "*Sweet Little Mystery*", an album of John's songs. 28th September

Described by The Telegraph as "tremendously funny and totally on the ball" "*Choice Grenfell*" celebrates the 40th anniversary of the loss of the great comedienne Joyce Grenfell. With some of her most hilarious monologues and songs "*Joyce*" will be accompanied by pianist William Bleazard. 12th October

Featuring songs from the likes of Al Johnson, Dean Martin and Bobby Darin, Issi Dye, well known on Australia's cabaret circuit performs The

Great American Songbook.  
29th September

October sees the theatre proudly presenting some events as part of the Canterbury Festival -

The Dad's Army Radio Show gets the thumbs up from Barry Cryer, and that's good enough for me...  
An afternoon with the Ionian Chamber Music of Kent may be your thing, or perhaps After Electra, a black comedy presented by Broadstairs Dickens Players which re-imagines the process of ageing within the context of the family.  
Prepare to sit on the edge of your seat if you are brave enough to watch Rumpus Theatre Company's version of Edgar Allen Poe's "*The Mask of the Red Death*". Poe is seriously good at scary.....

For something a little more joyous Thanet Gospel Community Choir visit the theatre on November 9th with their Gospel Legends show.

And the weekend showcasing local talent ends with Thomas Abraham's Parkside Swing Band With flavours ranging from flamenco and gypsy, to jazz and bebop, to country and western, Balkan and Klezmer, and probably several in between, theirs is a modern blend of music presented in the 'Hot Club' style of 1930s Paris. Expect to be entertained by saucy sax, raucous guitars and mesmerising vocals. This band blew away the audience at Folk Week Winter-fest in January. November 10th

There will be more announcements of forthcoming events as they are booked, but I don't think I've forgotten anything...







oh yes you have!!! It's the brilliant Sarah Thorne pantomime which opens on 10th December, and this year it's Cinderella. I've seen two pantos at the theatre now (both of them several times) and they really are good old traditional family panto with a professional cast and live music...and with tickets from only £14 fantastic value for money.

Since I retired I have been a volunteer at the theatre, and have enjoyed some brilliant and diverse events there; despite a lifelong hatred of musicals I really enjoyed the recent production of Oliver which showcased some great local acting talent, with the cast obviously having a great time, and superb music from the 10 piece orchestra. We are always pleased to hear from willing volunteers both front of house and back stage, plus actors/actresses for future plays.

Don't miss out, give this theatre a try – it's in your local town, prices are affordable, and it needs your support ! There is a licensed bar, which also sells tea, coffee and ice creams.

Box Office 01843 863701 or book online at [www.sarahthornetheatre.co.uk](http://www.sarahthornetheatre.co.uk)

*Kim Headley*



**Sarah Thorne Theatre**  
Community interest company

## Who was Sarah Thorne?

Sarah Thorne(1836–1899) Actress, theatre manager of the Theatre Royal Margate, originator of the country's first Drama Schools, **Sarah Thorne**, actress and theatre manager, was born in London on 10 May 1836, the eldest of ten children, Sarah was to become a talented and versatile actress and an able theatre manager. Her stage debut was on 26 December 1848 in a pantomime put on by her father at the Pavilion Theatre, Whitechapel.



After further appearances there, as Little Pickles in *The Spoiled Child* and *The Warrior Boy*, for which she practised broad-sword combat, she played in minor roles at the Surrey Theatre in the spring of 1854 under Richard Shepherd and William Creswick. In the next years she performed in stock companies at Ryde, Sunderland, Newcastle upon Tyne, Sheffield, Hanley, and the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton.

She also joined her father for the summer seasons at Margate, playing opposite some of the leading actors of the day. She first appeared there on 6 August 1855, shortly after Thorne's opening on 28 July. In time, most of her seven brothers and three sisters also performed at Margate.

She became the leading lady at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, where, inter alia, she played Desdemona and Lady Macbeth. Some time between 1856 and 1859 she was married to Thomas Macknight (1829–1899), The couple had two children, Edmund and Elizabeth. However, Sarah Thorne's commitment to the stage and Macknight's interests in politics and philosophy proved incompatible, and after only a short period they lived separately.

Sarah Thorne's first experience of management came in 1867, when she succeeded her father as lessee of the Theatre Royal, Margate; she opened on 29 July with H. T. Craven's *Meg's Diversions* and *The Child of the Regiment*. Her declared policy was to offer the 'newest pieces approved in the metropolis as occasion permits' but never to neglect 'old and legitimate productions' (Era, 4 Aug 1867). Her lease ended when the theatre was sold at auction in August 1873 to Robert Fort, and for the 1874 stock season she held a lesser management role. She returned briefly to Margate at Christmas 1874 during the tour of her now established annual pantomime.

After a period at the Theatre Royal in Worcester, Sarah returned to Margate in January 1879. Committed to the rapidly disappearing stock-company system, she maintained an annual summer season. For the remainder of the year she opened the theatre to some of the burgeoning touring companies, among them that of her brother Tom Thorne.

Sarah Thorne gained a substantial reputation for training young players. In 1885 she opened her School of Acting, advertising for 'Ladies and Gentlemen' wishing to enter the theatrical profession and charging £20 for three months' or £30 for six months' training. The regime, in which she was assisted on occasions by her sister Emily (Mrs Frank Parker Gillmore, d. 1907), included classes in 'voice production, gesture and mime, dialects and accents, make-up, the portrayal of characters, the value of pace and the value of pauses'.

While it was customary for actor-managers to take apprentices, this school is regarded as the country's first formal drama school. In 1894 she leased the Chatham Lecture Hall, which she renamed the Opera House and used as a second venue for her stock company. She is said to have had a 'somewhat imperious manner' (Thanet Times, 3 March 1899), but a Margate contemporary spoke of her generosity, especially to the poor and elderly, whose rent she would sometimes pay herself (Chatham Observer).

Sarah Thorne's last performance was in September 1898, at her benefit at Margate, when she took the part of Parthenia in *Ingomar*. Her last appearance on the Chatham stage had been in May 1896, as Lady Gay Spanker in *London Assurance*. She died at 3 New Road Avenue, Chatham, on 27 February 1899, just as what was to have been a celebration of her theatrical jubilee was being arranged.

She was buried at Brompton cemetery on 3 March 1899. After her death her son, who had been her business manager since the early 1880s, took over the leases of the Chatham and Margate theatres.

Source:- C. M. P. Taylor. [www.sarahthornetheatre.co.uk/sarah-thorne/](http://www.sarahthornetheatre.co.uk/sarah-thorne/)



# Meanwhile on K2-18b



Photographer Gino Cinganelli  
Cast Kellie D  
Leah Meraki  
Lindy Pieri  
Bob Broad  
Darryl Lee Ransom  
Tobias Van De Peer  
Support  
Kathy Hodges  
Dan Hoey  
Stuart Luxford

Some readers may remember that a couple of years ago early morning dog walkers on Botany Bay may well have thought that the alien invasion was in progress, what with all the Cybermen appearing on Botany Bay stomping about on the beach. Gino Cinganelli, the chap responsible for organising the shoot recently returned with an interstellar cast for another venture into the stars and beyond, here's a description and few shots of what went on..

A land where crops don't grow and the air is thin. here is my story line. Conditions on Earth are at the poorest ever. With global warming, climate change, adverse weather lack of food. Our planet will be unable to support life in just a few centuries. The year is 3000AD. Deep space travel is as common as long haul flights. Multi billion dollar company's are now reaching out to find a new home, searching the stars for distant planets that could support human life. Over the past 300 years or so Starships have been travelling across the galaxy exploring distant planets that could home the human race.

These companies know that there is multiple billions to be made if they can re home the rich many light years from Earth.

Our story follows one company and their expedition to

"K2-18b" this star is 111 light years from Earth. The deep space ship has been travelling to this star for many years. The team of Doctors, scientists and biologists are in hyper sleep. The ship is controlled by two androids.

Gino Cinganelli







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## The Perils of the Pier

We thought we'd include this little report from the end of last summer as a warning to parents. A group of teenagers decided to swim in rather a heavy swell from the slipway at Broadstairs pier - unfortunately the conditions were bad enough for a couple of them to get into some trouble. Luckily a Morris Dance side were performing on the pier, saw what was going on and got themselves involved in the rescue. Kids will be kids, but please do have a word with your little darlings regarding water safety as the outcome could have been a whole lot worse than a few tears.



Allsorts (a Morris Dance side made up from several dance sides hence the name) decided to go and dance on the Jetty at Viking Bay. When we arrived we met another side Royal Liberty Morris.

I, a musician with Allsorts decided to go and look at the sea. I then saw a girl swimming by the slip way. Two local boys then shouted to the girl to be careful there is a rip tide where she was. She was then unable to reach to slip way, the boys then shouted to me, get the life belt and send for the life guards. Since I could see the lifeguard station I waved at them to come to our assistance. I returned to the slip way, then three other Morris members, Tom, Dave and Andy joined me. A member of the public rang 999 for assistance.

We then proceeded to lift the two girls from the water one girl with the aid of the life belt. We then dried the girls with towels borrowed from members of the public and took them to the shelter away from the wind. The Morris ladies then looked after the girls with towels and a survival blanket from the fish and chip shop on the jetty.

I then returned the slip way where by this time an adult and a life guard were in the water assisting. The in-shore life boat arrived to assist in the rescue. The waves and tide had increased I asked for the life belt to be returned to the scene where the life guard was having difficulty getting to the slip way due to the tide, so we and other members of the public assisted the life guard in getting out. The adult managed to get out with some assistance.

A life guard from the in-shore boat came to check all was in hand and the ambulances arrived to take over from the Morris ladies. Very good team work from Morris members and the public ended with a successful rescue.

We all returned to our camp site for a change of clothes and warm showers. A member of Allsorts bought us a box a heroes chocolates to celebrate.

Thank you to all involved. **Bob Maddison**

## It's been a 'Good Life' for Tom and Barbara at Culmers

Tom and Barbara Thorpe have just retired after fifteen years of managing their large plot at Culmer's Allotments in Vere Rd, Broadstairs. Chris Morrissey the current Chair of Culmers presented Tom with a parting gift. At ninety-four years of age Tom was our most senior society member. Both he and Barbara have great respect and affection for all the great friends they have made during their years at Culmer's.

At a time in their lives when others might have thought about relaxing and doing a bit less, Tom and Barbara took over a full plot from their friend George who was finding it a bit too much to manage. This was done unofficially for a while to help out, but after a year they went to the council office and made it official. Barbara described how the site looked when they first arrived at Culmer's. 'It was beautifully open, with no fences at all - you could see right across the site. But this all changed when the present large steel fence was put up after a fire. 'It felt much more enclosed. We didn't lose much from our plots before the fence went up - maybe the odd cabbage.'



Chris Morrissey, the Chair of Culmer's presents Tom and Barbara Thorpe with a retirement gift after fifteen years as allotmenters.

Tom had a message for anyone thinking about renting their own plot. 'Have a good shed! The plot makes you get up in the morning. An allotment needs a lot of work and there are no shortcuts, but you just don't notice the weather when you're busy and getting on with it. Harvesting was a busy time, especially keeping up with the raspberries, which was the crop that gave the highest value. We used to picnic on the plot and spend the whole day there. The friends we made including Ted, Pat, Greta and Fran helped to make it a great time in our lives.'

If you're considering taking on an allotment, we have a short waiting list at the moment and some lovely plots.

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# BROADSTAIRS LIT

## Inspiring events all year round

The popular BroadstairsLit party night, to be held at the Pavilion, Broadstairs on 12th September, will this year be a celebration of all things made locally.

The town has a history of being inspirational. Charles Dickens famously wrote part of David Copperfield when staying in Bleak House; John Buchan found the title of what is often hailed as the first modern spy thriller, at the "39 steps" down to Stone Bay. And bestselling novelist Lisa Jewell set her novel The Truth about Melody Browne (Arrow) against the backdrop of our picturesque seaside.

Local author and regular BroadstairsLit host, Jane Wenham-Jones, has set two of her previous novels – One Glass is Never Enough and Prime Time – here where she grew up, and has returned to her hometown for the setting for her sixth novel The Big Five O which is published by Harper Collins. "I love writing about Thanet," she says. "It's so wonderfully diverse. There are lots of real local places mentioned – and a few real people too!"

Jane will be joined by award-winning poet Maggie Harris, author of the short story collection In Margate by Lunchtime (Cultured Llama), who has also been hugely inspired by her life on the Isle.

Born in Guyana, Maggie considers Thanet to be her true home. She first moved to Broadstairs in 1973 and it is where she raised her children, studied as a mature student and became a tutor herself. "I have much to thank Thanet for," she says. "For giving me mostly positive experiences as a migrant, for having the opportunity to share my ideas in my many roles in creative co-ordination. I have Thanet to thank for the many brilliant people I have met and worked with."

These associations have led Maggie to organise hundreds of workshops, festivals, walks and liaisons with artists and writers all over the area. She highlights the places of "interest and beauty" which have informed her work, "such as the beaches, Bleak House, coastal walks, windmills and the Tudor House."

Maggie, whose latest poetry collection On Watching a Lemon Sail the Sea (Cane Arrow Press) is out now, has written many poems about Thanet and will read from her Berbice to Broadstairs collection as well as the work commissioned by the BBC for National Poetry Day, Lit by Fire, which was recorded at North Foreland Lighthouse. "There is so much talent here," says BroadstairsLit director Denise Martin-Harker. "And we will be showcasing some of that creativity on the night with not only writing, but also art and local crafts."

BroadstairsLit was founded in 2017 and has since welcomed a string of well-known names to literary events in the town. Over 200 people packed the pavilion to hear Terry Waite in May, and former Thanet MP, turned prison chaplain, Jonathan Aitken will be speaking at an

afternoon tea on 3rd November. The not-for-profit organisation has also raised over £2800 for charity since it began and there will be a fund-raising element to party night as there was last year.

"We are proud to offer this free, community event," Denise explains, "and we are always touched by how generous our supporters are whenever we raise funds for local causes."

The party will also be a chance to raise an appreciative glass to the BroadstairsLit sponsors, Denise adds. "We are immensely grateful to the support we've had from Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council, Kent County Council, Thorley Taverns, The Yarrow and Sharp Printing, as well as our ticketing outlets at La De Da Boutique and the Home Front Tearoom. Claire Drury and her team at Waterstones have also been wonderful. The growing success of BroadstairsLit has been a real team effort."

All are welcome at the BroadstairsLit party night which promises book signings, readings, a display of local talent and live music from the Hot Rats Acoustic Duo. A night, the organisers insist, that is "not to be missed!"

For full details of party night and all BroadstairsLit events, please see [www.broadstairslit.co.uk](http://www.broadstairslit.co.uk) where you can book your free place.

12th September 2019 from 7.30pm

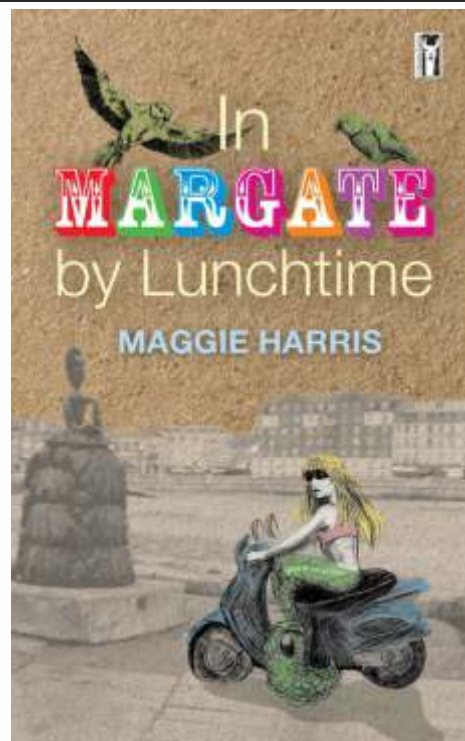
The Pavilion, Broadstairs

Coming next

From Perjury to Passion with Jonathan Aitken. The Yarrow Hotel, Broadstairs.

Sunday 3rd November 4pm

Tickets for all events are available online at [BroadstairsLit.co.uk](http://BroadstairsLit.co.uk) or in person at La De Da Boutique, 52b High Street Broadstairs, or the Home Front Tea Room, 13A King Street Ramsgate. Queries to [broadstairslit@gmail.com](mailto:broadstairslit@gmail.com) or message the facebook page.







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# Beanie Feasts



3) Put on the bbq to char all over, turn regularly  
 4) Take off the bbq and spread the sour cream mixture onto each corn  
 5) Sprinkle over the parmesan and squeeze with lime, I like hot sauce too- whichever is your favourite, Sriracha is good.

I've just had a Monday afternoon off and rather than getting bogged down with everything I needed to catch up on I just sacked it all off and got down the beach. I quickly cooked up a couple of bits of veg that needed using, made a dressing, toasted some nuts and grabbed some bits and bobs I had in the kitchen. I knocked up a wonderful salad at the beach and shared with friends and family after a swim in Walpole, I felt

I'll have to keep this short and sweet as the glorious Sun has been blessing us with it's presence and I am one very Busy Bee-nie!!! Sharing some delicious recipes that scream sunshine and if you're as enthusiastic about this time of year as I am you'll be cooking and boozing a plenty enjoying these warm, bright evenings whilst we can. When I get the chance I love blending and straining a whole watermelon and shaking up with lime juice, fresh mint, a pinch of salt and chilli flakes and tequila/vodka/rum (whatever I have!)

Elotes are a popular street snack in Mexico where they smear the corn on the cob with mayonnaise before sprinkling with cotija, a hard cow's cheese, salt, lime and hot sauce.

If you don't want to bbq the corn just boil until cooked, I guess 10 mins.

## Streetcorn

4 corn on the cob, parboiled for 5 minutes

½ tub sour cream

1 tbsp mayo

4 spring onions, finely chopped

Handful finely chopped coriander

½ tsp chilli flakes

4 tsp parmesan

1 lime, cut into 4 wedges

1) Mix together the sour cream, mayo, spring onion, coriander, chilli flakes and salt

2) Brush the parboiled corn with butter or oil

really swanky but it was easy and didn't take much.

## Courgette, green bean, nectarine & mozzarella salad

1 bag spinach

Big handful green beans

2 courgettes

Couple handfuls tomatoes

3 nectarines

Big ball of good mozzarella

Handful flaked almonds, toasted

Handful mint leaves

Dressing;





1 garlic clove, minced  
 Juice of 1 lemon  
 1 tsp honey  
 Twice as much olive oil as lemon juice  
 Pinch chilli flakes  
 Pinch salt  
 1) Mix together all ingredients for the dressing in an empty jar, pop the lid on if you're taking it to the beach  
 2) Put all the spinach into a bowl or big tuppaware and roughly chop tomatoes and nectarines, add green beans, rip chunks of mozzarella and use a peeler to ribbon the courgette  
 3) Dress the salad, tear the mint over it and scatter on the almonds

As you may have gathered I love sharing food and having a nice drink so snacky bits to whip out when someone pops over for a glass of wine are great! When they're in season I love just snacking on peas straight from the pod, I like food that requires action; slow down the process and enjoy every little bite. For when you don't feel like a pea shelling party this dip recipe is great with crisps or bread and uses frozen peas!

## Pea pesto dip

Half bag defrosted peas  
 1 bunch basil  
 ½ bunch mint  
 2 garlic cloves, peeled  
 Juice of 1 lemon  
 Olive oil  
 Salt & pepper

1) Place all ingredients in a food processor and blitz until as smooth as you like, hummus texture is good.

Drizzle in the olive oil to help get a good consistency

Instagram: @beaniefeasts  
 beanie@lovepoboy.com



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## Broadstairs Library Regular Events

Please speak to a member of staff for more details, call 03000041 31 31 or email [broadstairslibrary@kent.gov.uk](mailto:broadstairslibrary@kent.gov.uk)

### Baby Rhyme Time

Tuesday (except Bank Holidays) 2 – 2.30 pm  
For under 3's and their parents/carers. Songs and nursery rhymes

Charge – free

### Crafternoon Group

Monday (except Bank Holidays) 1.30 – 2.30 pm  
Make friends and relax while colouring, for adults  
Charge – 50p includes refreshments and materials

### Reading Group

First Wednesday of the month 2 – 3 pm  
A great way of meeting people and sharing your views about books. Reading groups generate exciting debates and may lead you to consider books that you would never have imagined reading.

For adults

Charge – free

### Storytime

Friday 9.30 – 10 am

Listening to stories is a great way to develop and encourage children to read books.

For pre-school children accompanied by an adult

Charge – free



## Broadstairs & St. Peters Art Group?

We shall be having Open Air Exhibitions (on the railings down by the bandstand) on the following dates: 7th/28th July and 4th/25th/26th August.

All Group members are encouraged to take part in these exhibitions, and it can be quite daunting to put your artwork (your babies!) up for exhibition, so if some of your lovely readers could find the time to wander along the seafront on those dates and perhaps give a kind word to the artists who will be lurking around, it would be very encouraging. Who knows they could perhaps pick up a piece of amazing original artwork (our members are very talented) for a very reasonable amount.

## Wheels and Fins

The boutique music and action sports festival based at Joss Bay near Broadstairs in Kent, is thrilled to announce that punk-rock duo, Slaves, will headline and curate the lineup for 'The Lighthouse' Main Stage on Saturday 7th September 2019. As heady as the music that Slaves makes themselves, Laurie Vincent and Issac Holman have handpicked a bill of breaking talent fit to blow the speakers into the North Sea including, Willie J Healey, Lady Bird, Queen Zee, Para Fiction, Hockeysmith, FEET, MarthaGunn, and Ditz. For fans of the UK's underground and emerging talent scene, this is not to be missed. Weekend and day tickets are on sale priced from £70 and £40 respectively and are available from [www.wheelsandfins.co.uk](http://www.wheelsandfins.co.uk).



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## Obituaries

### 'Red' Jeff Spooner

Before I really knew Jeff I always described him as 'That bloke with the 'Dartagnon' beard and Moustache. I particularly remember him belting out 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' at one of the Folk Week singalongs. Of course once I'd got to know him, I as well as most other people simply referred to him as 'Red Jeff'; as he was well known for his lefty liberal leaning views - something I approved of wholeheartedly. A great chap, and a finer gentleman you would not meet. Here's a few words from his wife Jenny....



Jeff was a fighter and campaigner of people rights. He did this quietly and modestly. He was, before he retired, the editor of the journals of Unison, one of the biggest unions of the time.

He loved Broadstairs and was known by many as Red Jeff. He enjoyed his pint of beer and was always happy to share his time with fellow enjoyers of beer.

We enjoyed together more than 50 years mostly happy. I fell in love with his brain as well as his body!! He taught me much about fairness and equality for all and we went on marches in support of these aims.

Jeff had been a severe asthmatic all his life before being diagnosed with the hereditary disease of Alpha-1 Antitrypsin. Every breath was precious to him.

He would like to be remembered, if remembered at all, for his wish for a fairer and more equal society for all.

Jenny Spooner

### Ian & Maureen Love

Ian & Maureen. A lovely couple. Both recently passed on after each of them lost their battle with illness.

Ian regularly danced with Hartley Morris Men and both were great lovers of Folk Week. They were very much involved with Napoleonic re-enactments and travelled all over the world in pursuit of their passion. Maureen was a marvel with a sewing machine made much of the re-enactment clothing.

Sadly missed by family and friends.



### Olive Gettins

Many of you will know Olive Gettins who was recently described in her obituary in the local paper as 'Lovely Mad Woman who passed away peacefully on 18th May with her family around her'. The 'Obit' went on to suggest that you could 'Buy something inappropriate in memory of her from a charity shop and give it to someone you love'.

Which was rather lovely and fitted well with Olives artistic (she was an exceptional artist) and somewhat scatterbrain take on life. Another great character gone but not forgotten.



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### Reading Street Open Gardens

Saturday 6th July saw the first ever Open Gardens in Reading Street. The initiative came from, and was fulfilled by, Linda Owen who has won many awards from The Kent Wildlife Trust for her nature friendly garden. It was a community event but was held to raise funds for St Andrew's Church which is at the heart of the village community. The village hall is in need of a total refurbishment so that it can continue to serve the community and extend its reach out to the local people and the groups who use the hall.

The weather was beautiful and about 300 people walked around the village looking at the 10 gardens that opened their gates to show their many differing styles; flowers, trees and shrubs; pots, patios and water

features; and even three tortoises in three different gardens! The Mayor and Mayoress of Broadstairs and St Peters, Paul and Wendy Moore, were joined the Rev Philip Musindi (the charismatic vicar of St Andrew's) and spent three hours enjoying the tour of the gardens and talking to the residents. They were amazed and impressed by the variety of the gardens and ingenuity that the owners employed to create such beautiful spaces.

The gardens ranged from a small courtyard garden, full of interest with an array of shrubs, plants and flowers in the ground and in pots, to

a huge garden that had about 10 contrasting areas of immense interest to tease and please the eye. Some of the gardens were in old, traditional cottages with flint walls and others were modern properties that have embraced the charm of the village of Reading Street.

In the village hall there was an exhibition, set up by Barry Wooton, of the history of the village. The tireless ladies of the church were serving lunches, cakes, teas and coffee for five hours. A huge 'Well Done' to all those who worked so hard to launch what surely must become an annual event in the life of Reading Street Village.

*Right: The Mayor and Mayoress with Linda Owen, the inspiration behind the Open Gardens.*

*Top Right: A touch of the Mediterranean in Reading Street!*

*Top left: Using available space.*



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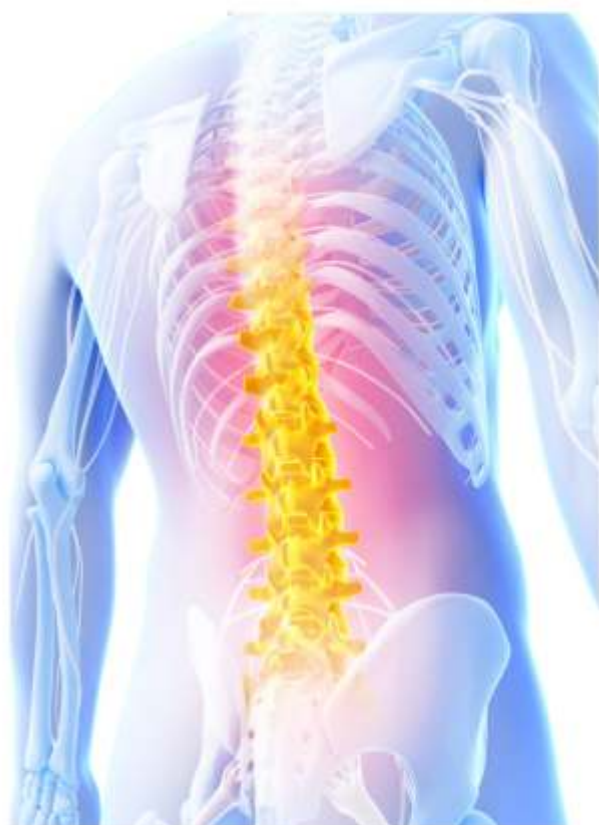
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# FW 54 Here be dragons\*

Hark – I hear the sound of Horses' hooves approaching...and an ominous clacking noise too...yes it's that time again when Broadstairs slightly loses the plot and goes all Folky. The Hooden Horses are on their way and aiming at arriving at the Bandstand around 10.45 on Saturday 10th August which is the first full day of the festival.

There are ticketed events on the evening of Friday 9th August too – the first festival Ceilidh with Swing the Bridge gets everyone on the floor (including bemused foreign students) – one of an estimated 13 ceilidhs during the week – although there might be more.

If you are a Thanet resident over 50 and would like to join in with an activity that improves your social life, health and laughing gear all at once – get yourself to the free Ageless Thanet ceilidh on Wednesday 14th at St Peter's Church Hall – wave your piece of paper proving you reside on the isle – and Mr Doug Hudson of this very town will take you through the steps – ably assisted by his Hot Rats – absolutely FREE!

Elsewhere in the festival there have certainly been some changes – there is no longer a large 600-seater in Pierremont Park. "What!" – I hear you cry – "I didn't know there was one there anyway, so I won't miss it. Are there still free pub gigs?" Yes, of which more later.

Due to a 75% reduction in grant support (not falling ticket sales) – Folk Week is realigning the programme and most of the concerts will take place in the very welcoming Queen's Road Baptist Centre – air-conditioned, comfortable seats and a listening vibe; with the usual cohort of Late Night dance mayhem, workshops, ceilidhs and concerts at the Pavilion. The Craft & Music fair will look a bit different this year too – lots of new stalls, including caterers – and the festival Folk Week real ale bar – run by volunteers and sponsored by Shepherd Neame – will be situated at Victoria Gardens. From around midday to 9pm, you can combine your shopping for fudge, hippy clothing and silver jewellery with a visit to the bar.

Many closet folkies come out of the woodwork during the festival to fulfil their long held desire to learn Appalachian clogging or the hurdy-gurdy – and there's plenty more where that came from – including beat-boxing (oh yes – we are down with the kids); Russian dancing, Ukuleleing, flamenco guitar, Cajun, spoons – 68 workshops when we last looked. Other venues where you can find such bands as the Lunatraktors, magician Alisdair Chisholm and entertainer Anthony J Clarke include the Sailing Club and the Crampton Tower museum.

Yes the man in the pink dress is back again

– and there will be a giant of a girl in the opening Parade on Saturday afternoon with over 20 Morris sides – you won't miss it... What else? Well buying a Souvenir programme will inform you of the where and when's – including the Official Folk Week pub gigs and a full blog of the bands – and your £5 will also go towards funding the festival. It's available in outlets around Broadstairs and also online.

If you look at the weather and decide there's nothing you'd like better than full Folk Week immersion – then get yourself to the Festival campsite at Dane Court School where you will meet a group of like-minded people bent on pleasure and friendship through music, song and dance. That's a mission statement for you.

Box Office Details and more fun facts.... There are more details on the website at [www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk). All tickets are now on sale - Festival Tickets with or without camping for a week, weekend or day; plus single event tickets for dances and concerts.

The Souvenir Programme is published in mid-June and has all the details including the free pub sessions: £6.50 including postage and packing. Credit card booking, Ticket Sales & Information Call 01843 604080 Book online at [www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk) Email: [info@broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk](mailto:info@broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk)

The Albion Street Festival Centre Situated in Albion Street, Folk Week is lucky to make this shop its home during the festival. The experienced team of volunteers can sell you tickets, give you information and make you welcome in Broadstairs.  
4th -9th August - 11am -3pm  
10th – 16th August - 10am - 9pm  
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Broadstairs Folk Week is a registered charity and not-for-profit. Over £2 million is generated into the local economy – not the festival.

All the yellow-shirted volunteers are....volunteers. Please say thank you to them if you see them around the town.

**Jo Tuffs**

**\*Clarence of course**



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# FOLK WEEK 2019

So we're almost there....and the Souvenir Programme 2019 is out now so you can find out exactly where and when your favourite performers will be – in a week packed with around 450 events. Available in a shop or pub near you.

JON BODEN & THE REMNANT KINGS – THE POOZIES – MEGSON – THE OUTSIDE TRACK  
TIM EDEY – THE WILLOWS – DAMIEN & THE O-MEN – GRANNY'S ATTIC – AMYTHYST KIAH

GILMORE & ROBERTS – KITTY MACFARLANE – KABANTU – BELLA, POLLY & THE MAGPIES  
PETE COE – PILGRIM'S WAY – LAURA SMYTH & TED KEMP – BRIAN PETERS – HOT ROCK PILGRIMS  
STRANNIK – ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE – MOONRAKERS – MOIRAI – TRUCKSTOP HONEYMOON NINEBARROW – ALDEN PATTERSON & DASHWOOD – SALLY IRONMONGER – ZULU TRADITION – AIDAN SHEPHERD & CHRIS SADLER – BEN WALKER – JEFF WARNER – RYAN YOUNG – MISHRA – LIZ SIMCOCK – MAMBO JAMBO THE TROUSER TRUMPETS – KENDRICK NEEDHAM – LOCTUP TOGETHER – SKINNER & TWITCH FOREGONE CONCLUSION – THE LUNATRAKTORS – PETE COLLINS – MIKE NICHOLSON

BOB KENWARD – JED GRIMES – IAN PETRIE & SUE HUDSON – IAN K BROWN – LYNNE HERAUD & PAT TURNER – HELEN NORTH – SARAH WESTCOTT – DEREK GIFFORD

INSPIRATIONS INCLUSIVE THEATRE – JOHN & DI CULLEN – GAVIN & JULIE ATKIN – THE FABULOUS FEZHEADS – HOOK, LINE & SINKER – GIDDY YUP – PAUL LUCAS SHEELANAGIG – USHTI BABA – THE VEGETABLE COLLECTIVE – NOBLE JACKS – BANTER – FUNKE & THE TWO-TONE BABY – THOMAS ABRAHAMS

JEZ HELLARD & THE DJUKELLA ORCHESTRA – DR BLUEGRASS & THE ILLBILLY 8 – AARDVARK CEILIDH BAND – HOBO & THE HIPPIES – RODNEY BRANIGAN – BEGGARS BELIEF

ELVIS FONTENOT & THE SUGAR BEES – THE LOWLY STRUNG – THE PINOCCHIOS

THE STARKS BROTHERS – HATTIE HATSTAR – TWO MAN TING – THE BURNING GLASS – TRIO MANOR MANOUCHE – GYPSKAZZ – DAMPIERS ROUND – NARROWLIFT BEA EVERETT – SHEDNESS – HOT RATS – THUMPING TOMMYS – MANOS PUESTAS – TOBIAS BEN JACOB & POLLY MEYRICK – COURTABLEAU – FOOT DOWN – RICHIE TRIANGLE

ANTWERP DEADHEADZ – HAPPY TRAILS – TRIALITY – TRIAGE – HOLLY VEE & THE HUBCAPS KELTER – FAT TUESDAY – MITCHELL & VINCENT – DELTA TOM – CRISIS – MISSOURI GUTTS

PORCH SWING BLUES – NO SECOND SPRING – SKINNERS RATS – RAVELLA BRIDGE – SAM JEFFERSON – SWINGLETREE – FOLLOW THE CROWS – HIGH CHAPARRALS

JUMBO GUMBO – QUIET AMERICANS – SWING THE BRIDGE – CARMEN & THE DEVIL  
ARTHUR COATES – THOUSANDS ARMY – STEVE PATTERSON BAND

## BFW Fun Factishes\*

Local entertainer and Music Hall act Charlie Knockers of BBC Radio Show 'Whoops a daisy' once appeared at Folk Week in its early days. However he was booted off stage after telling a joke which suggested he was more attracted to some of the Hooden Horses than the associated female dignitaries in attendance.

In 1996 a mix up with band names and bookings resulted in the Thrash metal band 'Slayer' headlining the 'Tea in the Afternoon' gig at the Pavilion gardens.

'It wasn't the volume of the music we objected to' said a local onlooker, 'It was the buckets of pigs blood they sprayed over the front three rows just as the cakes were served'

During the 1980s, Folk Week paid for the fireworks and bonfire display on the beach on the Wednesday of Folk Week. Whilst the fireworks went without a hitch it was later discovered that the then committee used the conflagration as a way to offer a human sacrifice (usually of a drunk that was still passed out from the night before) to the Sun god 'Ra'. This was to ensure festival success, sunny weather and no increase in the price of beer. Sadly this ended in 1991 when the crime was discovered. It rained that year.

In 2007 Juggling was banned from Folk Week. As a risk assessment deemed in an unnecessary danger

'Every morning as sure as a clock, somebody hears the Postmans knock' sing the Hartley Morris men. Who seemingly ignore the fact that nobody

delivers post on a Sunday and regularly turn up half way through the afternoon during the rest of the week.

According to Wikipedia :- The earliest known and surviving English written mention of Morris dance is dated to 1448, and records the payment of seven shillings to Morris dancers by the Goldsmiths' Company in London. Sifting through the Goldsmiths records of the time, we can see from their daily journal which is thus recorded in Latin:-

*'Et redde aliquem haberent, tollere sanguinem eorum ducebant choris morris'* Which roughly translates as: 'Will someone pay to get rid of those bloody morris dancers'

The child actor who played opposite James Stewart in 'It's a Wonderful Life' was heard to say, 'Every time a bell rings an angel gets their wings' This may be true.....however during Folk Week the cacophony of Morris bells means that more people must die than usual to keep up with Bell/Angel quotas. Conversely, every time someone sings a miserable Folk song, either a seaman actually drowns or a miner is buried alive.

The Folk duo 'Hudson and Cutler' got the idea for their name from a particularly fine fish restaurant near Winchelsea.

If asked they will regale you with a very amusing story about the night they dined there and why you must never balance a plate of Halibut on your head.

How many roads must a man walk down asked Bob Dylan. I can tell you that after spending three years trying to remember where I'd parked my moped whilst on a day trip to the town of Sandwich, the answer is 87.

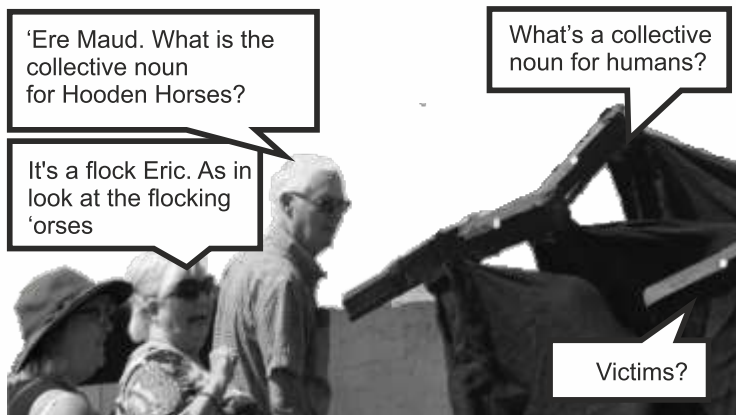
*\*Factishes may not be entirely true and sometimes a downright pack of old nonsense.*

'Ere Maud. What is the collective noun for Hooden Horses?

It's a flock Eric. As in look at the flocking 'orses

What's a collective noun for humans?

Victims?





# FOLK WEEK TEST OF COMPETENCE (FWTOC)

**CPD  
APPROVED**

With the impending exit from Europe we will no longer be forced to follow the lackadaisical Swedish and Latvian Folk Festival-performing-in-public rules. Therefore the English Folk Office (EFOff) are using Broadstairs Folk Week to pilot their exam. The exam will be in two parts, the first being Objective Structured Shanty Examination (OSSE) and the remainder Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)

This year the exam is voluntary but it is suggested that all performers have a go so that when it becomes a legal requirement they won't start getting all whingy and silly and running around moaning about it. Good luck

## OSSE

### Station 1

Demonstrate the correct stance should one need to sing, play the Melodeon and drink from a tankard, wearing a large three cornered hat whilst on a windy pier.

### Station 2

Adopt the correct facial expression for singing about a cliff fall that kills all the crew that were **sunbathing** having a manly discussion on a beach but also exposes a pirate hoard

### Station 3

Whilst singing the 26th verse of 'When All Young Tars Catch Their First Squirrel' a member of the audience still awake, starts to vigorously play their newly acquired tambourine. What is your response?

### Station 4

What is the correct action to accompany a chorus about a howling north westerly as compared to a howling south westerly?

### Station 5

Demonstrate how to tune a hornpipe in a hammock.

### Station 6

Using the medium of dance, interpret the real meaning of the oft misunderstood Radnorshire shanty 'Have you seen my other shoe?'

## MCQ

1) A friend is singing a rousing song he has written about the Battle of Kijkduin and you spot he's singing that it took place on 21 August 1672 when you know for a fact that it was 21 August 1673. Do you.....

- a) Stop to tell him immediately.
- b) Tell him after.
- c) Don't bother.
- d) Admire you new socks.

2) You start to experience tinnitus whilst singing. Do you....

- a) Turn your phone off
- b) Change your key.
- c) Stand on one leg.
- d) Push your finger harder into your ear.

3) Whilst singing a very sad song about being knitted a red vest to go to war, you realise that you have a large piece of toast

in your beard that you were saving for later a couple of days ago but forgot about. Do you...

- a) Eat it.
- b) Drop it in your beer for later.
- c) Ignore it and savour the buttery aroma
- d) Add it to your song so it becomes a prop.

4) You are singing in a local hostelry when some people start talking loudly because you are interrupting their discussion on the delay on Detling Hill on their journey here. Do you...

- a) Ignore them and continue as you were.
- b) Get the audience to tell them to shush.
- c) Sing so loudly that they shut up.
- d) Follow them all day singing.

5) In the 12th verse of 'My Love She Made Me a Cake but I Dropped it Overboard When I was Saving the Cabin Boy' how many kittens did the small brown cat have?

- a) None
- b) 2
- c) 4
- d) None, it was clearly a boy cat.

6) Is there correct number of bottle tops allowed on a Monkey Stick?

- a) No
- b) Yes
- c) What in gods name is a monkey stick?
- d) Mind your own business

7) In the song 'Roll the old Chariot' which possible verse is the least appropriate

- a) A drop of Nelsons blood wouldn't do us any harm
- b) A glass of Creme de Menthe

would be mighty fine and nice

c) I get a bit sea sick so can I get an office job

d) I'll throw you off the Poop if you touch me there again

8) How drunk do you have to be to ask a publican to top up your flowing bowl Is it...

- a) Quite sober
- b) Quite Mellow
- c) Quite unable to remember the next verse
- d) Quite unable to stop yourself singing YMCA to the tune of 'Botany Bay'

9) What do you do when you forget the steps to one of the songs you can sort of dance to?

- 1) There's dance moves?
- 2) Change it into interpretive dance
- 3) Start to floss
- 4) Point at the sky, say 'Oh my god' and run.

10) As a newcomer to Folk Week, should you....

- a) Wear weird trousers that have a vague scent of Patchouli Oil
- b) Get a hair braid
- c) Buy a Banjo with the intent of learning it within the week
- d) All of the above but with three bags of added Fudge.

11)

Everybody can hear you coming so how do you muffle your bells? Do you.....

- a) pull your socks over them
- b) play a tambourine to distract from the sound
- c) get somebody to crochet you some lovely individual bell covers
- d) have a fake set to wear without clangers #pseudobells

For the correct answers please accost a Morris dancer and ask them.





# At the Waters Edge by Liane Smith

Flat handed waves push at the boulders of the upper reaches, yearn for the cliff, fail, turn back, try again. Too far. This secret patch of beach behind the ramp retains an apron of sand and dry boulder at neap tide, just enough to swim from, read or build a castle, the last warmth of sun on your neck. We sip our coffee from thermal mugs and enjoy the solitary beach from the rounded end of the promenade, my feet propped on the rails, J dozing in his wheelchair.

A spaniel scuds around the eastern promontory that separates the main bay from this secret corner, the pursuing tide at his heels. Another follows and the joyful dogs leap at the waves, snapping at sea spray, egg husks and a half-bald tennis ball. A man picks his way around the rocky promontory at the south end of the bay, gathering up lumps of coal left high and dry on an earlier tide. A wave licks his boots and he retreats to a chalky outcrop, jumps for the ramp, nods to us and departs along the promenade, his footsteps brisk, his coal sack slung across one shoulder.

'Is this a contaminated crime scene?'

The enquiry comes from a boy in yellow shorts who is making his way along the stepped sea defence below us, followed by a dark-haired, younger lad. They gain the dry beach and stand below us.

'You need to investigate,' says yellow shorts, waving a hand in the direction of the departing coal-gatherer. Dark hair lopes up the ramp and passes us, giggling. They too disappear round the headland, and a moment later are replaced by a party of students from the local English Language School, one or two conversing in German, most absorbed in their phones. They gather round a young woman in a rust-coloured cagoule, jostling for position on the crescent of beach. She points up the track that ascends via a cleft in the cliff to where, at the top of the path, can be seen a signpost, half obscured by vegetation.

'Can you see that yellow diamond?'

A couple of students look up toward the sign and one trains his binoculars on it. The rest are fixated on their screens.

'If I could interrupt your cyber chat for a moment?'

A few more shift their gaze in the direction of the guide's gesturing hand. She adjusts the hood on her jacket against the wind and continues.

'That sign marks where the first submarine telephone cable left the land to link Britain with Belgium, the Belgian Congo and a place called Banana.'

Banana! The word tosses like a boomerang between the students and, their attention gained, the guide raises her voice above the laughter of the herring gulls and continues.

'Those phones of yours, there's a communication miracle!' The students look from the young woman to their devices, their faces blank. 'You!'

She points at a girl in a yellow beanie who quickly pockets her phone, colouring up.

'No, please – just tell me – who are you texting with? How far away is that person?'

'My boyfriend – Köln – Cologne, I mean.'

'You see – it's a miracle – isn't it? OK, we take it for granted. But just think what it meant to your great, great grandparents to be able to talk to their families across the seas along the wires of an underwater cable.'

A hand goes up. The boy with the binoculars.

'When did this come to pass?'

'They laid the first cable almost a hundred years ago – in the 1920s.'

'How they did – laid – lay the – cables?' The yellow beanie.

'Good question. The cable ships did that job, and it wasn't an easy one during the war that came a few years later.'

A pause as the students calculate which war that was. The guide nods.

'That's right – the one we've just been commemorating. It was a dangerous time for shipping, and the cables had to be maintained to ensure that communication was unbroken – and, of course, to prevent it when that was necessary.'

'Germany und Britain – was there a – continuation of communication at this time?' The binoculars again.

'Good point. When war between Britain and Germany seemed likely, the cables connecting England with mainland Europe were disconnected – until Germany complained and then communication was restored for a few hours.'

'Why only a few hours?'

'Once war was officially declared, it was broken completely.'

'How did they – break it off, this link?'

'A cable ship called HMTS 'Alert' cut the connection.'

'How ...?'

'She literally cut the cable.'

'Perhaps if they had not cut it, there would have been no war.'

He shifts his binoculars to his pocket. A boy in a black sweatshirt raises a hand.

'What will have happened to the cable ship?'

'She did her job all through the war years and then was sunk off the North Goodwin Sands, on 24 February 1945, just a couple of months before peace came – out there, look, where you see the waves breaking.' All eyes scan the horizon. 'That's the Sands.'

'No possibility for landing, for climbing up the rocks?'

The boy in black indicates the boulders scattered at the cliff's foot, no longer fingered by the receding tide.

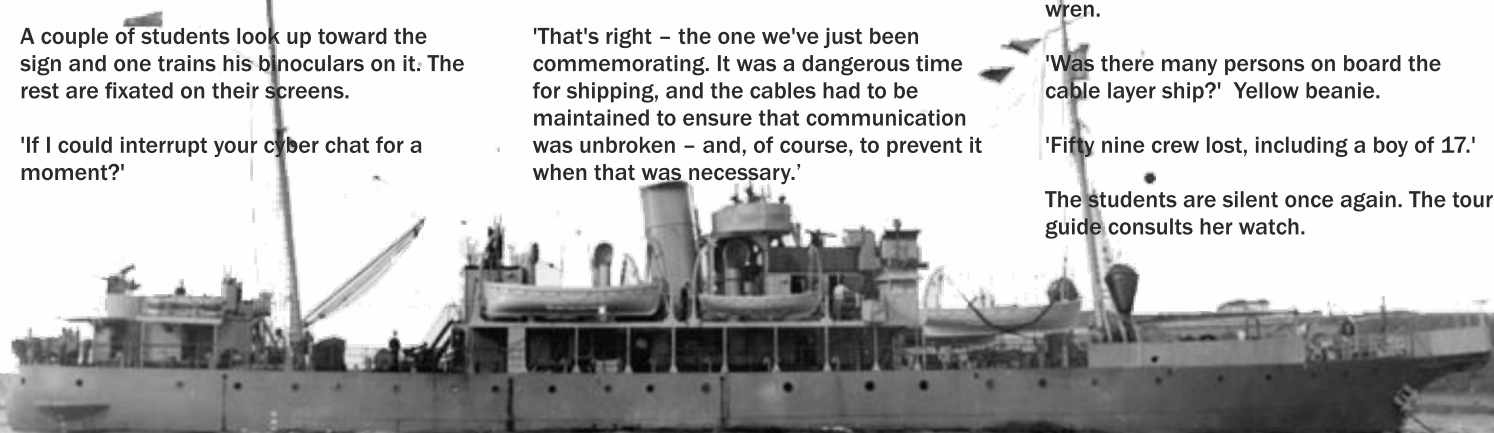
'None. She went down in a few moments, torpedoed by a little submarine called a 'Seehund' – a Seal, we call it.'

Silence, broken by the tumbling song of a wren.

'Was there many persons on board the cable layer ship?' Yellow beanie.

'Fifty nine crew lost, including a boy of 17.'

The students are silent once again. The tour guide consults her watch.





'Time to move on,' she says.

The beach is empty. Walking across chalk bedrock I step over the yellowish snake- fronds of mermaid's tresses until I reach the water's edge.

Did the news of the sinking of the 'Alert' pass along those cables, all those years ago? How many stories of love and loss and drowning were told along underwater clusters of copper wire? The British Telecom website records a few.

One of the seamen who perished on the 'Alert' was Jack Cassingham, and his widow wrote a letter to the GPO, to ask for a pension.

She told how she and Jack had been together for eight years, how she had had an allowance from him, "an unmarried man", as she called him.

She explained that she and Jack had been unable to marry because her legal husband had refused her a divorce, and ended her letter:

'I am,

Yours truly,

V. Cassingham (Hopkins)'.  


She was unsuccessful in her claim. Another 'Mrs. Cassingham', Jack's mother, was awarded the pension.

I kick a lump of sea-coal and agree with the boy in yellow shorts that contaminated crime scenes should be investigated.



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# THE BRIGADIER

I'd just settled down to my third bowl of Crunchy Nut Cornflakes last Sunday morning when I received a tinkle on the telephone by number one son wanting some advice.

Of course my first piece of advice when this happens is 'Don't ask me' followed by 'Buy a bottle of Hendricks if you're heading over' the second of which has served me very well indeed over the years.

However, on this occasion neither advice sufficed, which resulted half hour later in a knock at my boudoir door where I found Benson announcing the arrival of my offspring. As I recall he did the same thirty years previous at the young ragga-muffins birth, but that's another story.

The reason for the dear boys visit? Well, he wanted to know if I had any advice, as he was about to encounter his first work related appraisal.

Advice? "What an earth is an appraisal" I asked with a degree of flummox,

"It's where the person higher up the food-chain at your place of employment decides how you are doing in your position within the company, after asking you a whole host of loaded questions' He replied.

"Oh, yes, we used to call that lunchtime drinks" which reminded me of one particularly hedonistic afternoon in the officers mess involving a vicious game of Moriarty in which all sorts of gripes were sorted out without the need for form filling and tick boxes.

"No Papa, it's not like that anymore, they want to know how I think I'm doing and how can I improve my standing in the workforce" He rebutted with more than a hint of consternation in his voice.

"There's this long form of If's and Buts and 'Where do you want to be in ten years time' questions. he continued

"Well that's too easy for me son, I'd say simply alive"

After showing me the form, I had to admit that life in the workplace has got an awful lot more complicated since we stopped making things and mining things.

The form was utterly ridiculous and only served to show that if the management of this particular firm had to ask these questions then they really weren't managing their workforce at all. If you don't know how your work force is getting on and what they want out of life then in my world the best idea would be simply start talking to them each day.

I can just imagine me asking young Corporal Greggs where he wanted to be in ten years time as he was getting shot at. "Not bleedin' here sir" I would think would be the fully understandable, yet un-eloquent reply.

The whole affair did get me to thinking that what if this 'Appraisal' idea really became much more popular? Would we be seeing a yearly marriage appraisal from our loved ones - I hope not. I can see it now.....

**So, dear. How do you think you have performed in the past twelve months?**

Err, well enough I suppose

**NO dear, Use the smiley face to miserable face logos to pick how well you think you're doing.**

**And in the bedroom. How do you think you could improve the time we spend together in a more intimate manner?**

Err, take my socks off and turn the Archers down a bit perhaps.

**Are there any areas of the marriage that you have found difficult to negotiate over the past twelve months? And how can any issues be resolved?**

Yes, your fascination with watching Piers Morgan in the mornings which could be resolved with either the sacking of Piers Morgan of giving me access to the TV remote control

**And lastly, where would you like to be in ten years time?**

Mmm! Think very carefully before answering that one won't you.



# SHOP WATCH

Plantlet, the Little Botanical Shop opened it's doors on Broadstairs High Street in May. It is run by mother and daughter, Sara and Izzi Brown. Sara grew up in Broadstairs and has always lived locally. You may know her for her jewellery 'Saramica' having traded at the Broadstairs Folk Week Craft and Music Fair for the last five years. The jewellery is all inspired by nature and with Izzi's love for houseplants, this inspired them to open the shop.

Plantlet is a plant lovers paradise! It is an oasis of green calmness, full of well known and more unusual houseplants including cacti and succulents. The 'Prick n Mix' option to choose your own selection of small plants is very popular. The shop also sells jewellery in silver and colourful resin Monstera leaf pieces, cards and gift wrap. There is a great range of pots, terrariums and baskets, including hanging designs and handmade macrame holders. Homewares are also sold including lampshades, decorative tea light holders, candles, mugs and mirrors. There is a good selection of handmade and items sourced from small independent businesses.

So if you are a crazy plant person or are looking for a gift then please visit Plantlet, after all it is a proven fact that plants make people happy.



## Kit Beach

Unit 3 Eldon Place (runs from Chiapinni's to Harbour Street)

The success of their original shop Galloway and Brown in Eldon Place led to the move to bigger premises in Charlotte Street, Kit at the beginning of last year

Liz Galloway has filled the original, smaller shop with beach and children's wear and jewellery and items in delicious colours.

Liz says it's a pop up beach shop for the summer and big thanks to Ryan Elliot and John Bean for their help getting it looking so good.

In other shop news, we are informed that the area at the bottom of the High Street opposite Londis that was demolished a few years back (8 - 12 High Street) is due to have building work started very soon. The plans that can be viewed online at the Thanet District Council Planning Portal. Search Application number F/TH/19/0190 for more details.

The Lord Nelson Pub has been sitting looking quite forlorn now for a number of years - however according to the planning portal, a planning appeal has now been decided and agreed with 'Constraints' see Application number F/TH/14/1066 for more details.





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## What's on at The Palace

**Vita and Virginia - 12A**

The true love story of the affair and friendship between writer Virginia Woolf (To the Lighthouse) and aristocrat Vita Sackville West (played brilliantly by Gemma Arterton).

Saturday 20 July to Thursday 25 July

**Toy Story 4 - U**

Woody, Buzz Lightyear and the rest of the gang embark on a sublimely funny and moving road trip with Bonnie and a new toy named Forky. Are the Toy Story movies perhaps the most perfect series of children's films ever???

Tuesday 23 July to Thursday 1 August

**The Dead Don't Die - 15**

Jim Jarmusch's wry apocalypse comedy (zomedy?) with the coolest cast in living or undead memory including Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton, Tom Waits and Adam Driver.

Friday 26 July to Thursday 1 August

**Pavarotti - 12A**

A lovingly crafted, inspirational and moving portrait of the man behind perhaps the finest singing voice of all time.

Saturday 27 July to Thursday 1 August

**Speedy - U**

Harold Lloyd's madcap New York silent comedy certainly lives up to its title with spectacular action and jaw-dropping laughs. With live accompaniment by the amazing Lillian Henley

Sunday 4 August

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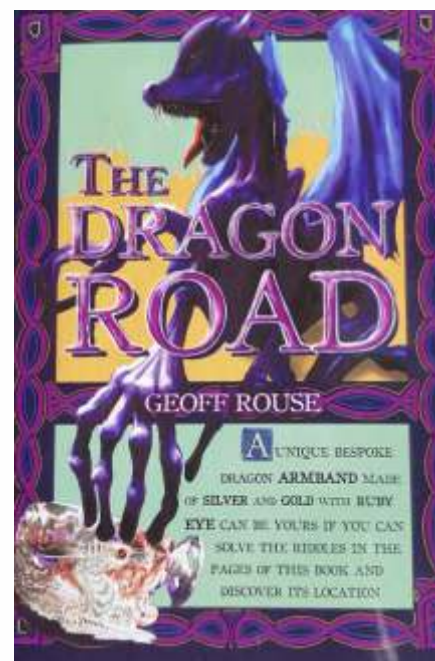
The Dragon Road by Geoff Rouse.

This book is the latest by local author Geoff Rouse, and offers the fascination of a complex puzzle, the excitement and setbacks of a quest, and – to really motivate the reader – the chance of a reward! If you can solve the riddles and correctly identify the location of the bespoke Dragon armband, that will be your prize. A unique piece of bespoke jewellery, the armband is made from silver, gold and ruby by Kent goldsmith Daniel Wilde. You will never see another like it.

Your quest is guided by intriguing text and enhanced with beautiful illustrations by local artist Aaron James Smith. Dragon Road is a quest hidden in the words of a number of speakers and players, the text designed to mystify as well as illuminate, the artwork to delight the eye. The cast of characters will help and hinder your quest, but all will teach you something. Quirky and original, it will provide families or individual seekers with provoking and stimulating questions, and the possibility of being the first to conquer the quest and win the prize will make it hard to put this book down.

Take the challenge – compete with your friends – but remember, there is only one prize, so don't share any ideas with them!

The book is available from Amazon priced £11.99 for hardcover: paperback £6.99; and Kindle £3.99.



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