

Wednesday 19th June 2019

Issue 226

THE LOOKER

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Cover image by Susan Pilcher



District pays respects for D-Day Veterans

IN THIS ISSUE

Migrants make landfall at Greatstone

Princes Parade one step closer...or Not?

Brave boy walks for charity • Lydd Club Day picture Special

D-DAY REMEMBERED

by David Wimble



New Romney British Legion played its part in one of the most significant battles of the Second World War, which many claimed was the beginning of the end of the war.

On Thursday 6th June 2019, over 150 people joined together opposite the Mulberry Harbour at Littlestone to commemorate the most extraordinary combined army, naval and air operation on a scale never before seen and never (fortunately) replicated since.

The invasion force in 1944 featured over 6,500 ships of all sizes making the treacherous trip over the channel, along with over 18,000 allied paratroopers who flew into the invasion area, with one main aim to capture the Pegasus Bridge and create a back guard for the sea born attack.

Over 132,000 soldiers were landed on five designated beaches, code named, Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sward.

It has been called 'The Longest Day', the biggest amphibious invasion of all time, and the beginning of the end of the Second World War. However it is described, D-Day is undoubtedly one of the most significant turning points in a six-year war that witnessed the deaths of an estimated 70-85 million people.

It brought together the military might of the US, the British Empire and a handful of other Allied Countries to launch a full scale assault on Nazi-occupied France. In doing so, it would not just secure a foothold in Europe, it would open a new front against the German war machine.

Thousands died on the beaches of Normandy and in the fields beyond them. Millions now visit those beaches in memory of the sacrifice they

paid and the horrors those who survived went through.

But while countless Hollywood films have been made about those first crucial 24 hours, the day had been years in the planning and would lead on to many months more fighting before the defeat of Adolf Hitler and the end of the war.



On 6th June 2019, the countries involved came together to remember the price that was paid 75 years ago for that epoch-forming effort to defeat the Nazis.

It was encouraging to see so many people attend the service and especially to see members of the Sea and Air Cadets paying tribute. The Guest of Honour was Romney Man Fred White who at aged 17 embarked on what most of us can hardly imagine.

With next year commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, The Looker will be doing its best to remind our readers, many of who were not even born at the times of the Second World War, of the 'Ultimate Sacrifice' that not only our troops, but those of all forces paid, so that we can enjoy our freedom today.

And in the words of the now famous dedication by John Maxwell Edmonds:

*When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.*



EDITOR'S WORD

Welcome to Issue 226,

Once again lots to report in this edition. Firstly I would like to say how great it was to see so many people attend the different D-Day services across the district. In this issue you can see how the commemoration covered the generations.

There is also coverage of Lydd Club Day which signals the start of the festival season. The event was very lucky with the weather with only a few showers mid-evening, and was enjoyed by hundreds of people and Kim Gandy reports for us on Lydd's special day.

You will also read a report on an extraordinary young man who has battled the odds to try and raise money for Cancer Research.

As ever there is information about local clubs and in this edition, we feature the St. Mary's Bay Short Mat Bowls Club and again invite anyone who would like to promote their club or association to send us information and we would be very happy to publish it.

Also in this edition, you will read about the latest landings on our coastline by migrants heading over the English Channel.

With better weather being promised over the coming weeks, it is a problem that is starting to be more widespread. So much so that most of the media companies have stopped reporting on the crossings.

Once again we find Andrew South departing The Looker to concentrate on his opportunities as a senior press officer for the local Green Party. This has left us with a vacancy within the paper and we invite budding reporters to tell us about what is going on across the region.

We have been asked to bring back our food review which we look forward to doing over the coming editions, so if you own a restaurant and would like your venue promoted to thousands of our readers both online and in print, get in touch.

With the readership of The Looker growing, we are looking at expanding the paper into Folkestone over the coming months and as such we are looking for new team members to act as freelance reporters. So if you have what it takes, then please contact David Wimble on 01797-364837.

David and the team



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Dungeness lifeboat assists yacht in the shipping lane of the English Channel

On Monday 10 June at 5.50 pm, the UK Coastguard asked for Dungeness Lifeboat to assist a 28' yacht, sailing from Eastbourne to Boulogne with 4 persons on board, 9 miles south southeast of Dungeness point, becalmed and experiencing engine failure in the south west lane of the English Channel.

Once on scene, the Lifeboats Coxswain Stuart Adams, transferred one crewmember aboard the casualty to assess the situation and attempt to re-start the engine. Unfortunately this was not possible so a towline was established and the casualty was safely towed to Dover Harbour, being the nearest safe haven.

Coxswain Adams said 'the casualty did everything possible but due to the fact he was in a busy shipping lane, we needed to tow him swiftly out of danger. Our volunteers did a tremendous job once again and the persons on board the casualty were very grateful for our assistance'

The RNLI lifeboat returned to Dungeness, was refuelled and made ready for service by 11.30 pm.



Yacht being towed 10.06.2019
photograph by volunteer crew member Simon Collins

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Flood gates open as nearly 40 migrants stopped in one day

By David Wimble

The Looker has been following the story of migrants attempting to cross the English Channel for nearly two years and in that time we have been accused of 'sensationalising the Issue' and told that it would only be a very few numbers.



Last Wednesday at about 6.45 a.m., we had a message sent to us by a local fisherman telling us that a dingy was heading towards Greatstone beach, and sure enough

about 15 minutes later, nine migrants including one very small girl found themselves being interviewed by Kent Police and Border Force officers before being taken away for questioning.

Wednesday was the busiest day of the year so far with authorities dealing with three separate incidents, involving a total of 38 people on the British side of the Channel, plus another involving 15 people on the French side.

The Home Office confirmed a Border Force Coastal patrol vessel intercepted 29 men, women and children, from two small boats travelling across the Channel towards the UK coast. Meanwhile, the French authorities intercepted a fourth small boat with 15 migrants on board and this was returned to France.

All 38 people, who presented themselves as Iraqi and Iranian nationals, were medically assessed and have now been passed to immigration officers for interview.

Although there has been a media blackout over the past few weeks, it is understood that Border Force and naval clippers have picked up a number of small dinghies over the past few weeks. One person who asked us not to mention their name said, "It is my understanding that over 250 people have been picked up trying to make the treacherous journey over the channel, in what are not much more than leisure dinghies, many of which would normally be used only to tender to boats in a harbour and certainly not for making a 25-mile plus trip across the worlds busiest shipping lanes."



A police spokesman said: "We were called to a report of a boat containing people on the shore in Dungeness Road area of Lydd at 7.17 a.m. today."

The official figures mean that since November 8th there has been 69 incidents involving 724 people. And these are just the people who are known to have been picked up and do not include the 868 people, if those stopped by the French and brought back to France are included, making nearly 1,600 people who have attempted to make the journey.

With the summer weather comes the reality that there are still thousands more waiting to try and cross the channel, despite the 'Jungle' encampment near Calais being disbanded. The migrants who come mainly from Iran and Iraq with the rest travelling from Eritrea, Somalia and Syria, have now dispersed further inland making it harder to track their movements.

It is understood that gangs of traffickers from all over Europe are working a black market in selling inflatable boats.

A British Home Office spokesman said: "Anyone crossing the Channel in a small boat is taking a huge risk with their life and the lives of their children. Since the Home Secretary declared a major incident in December, two cutters have returned to UK waters from overseas operations. We have also agreed a joint action plan with France and increased activity out of the Joint Coordination and Information Centre in Calais."

On this occasion no Lifeboats from Dungeness or Littlestone were launched, but with the weather set to improve it has been said that the next four months is probably the best window of opportunity.

One RNLI Crew Member told The Looker: "It is only a matter of time before lives are lost, when you see how small these boats are, they are being driven by inexperienced sailors and it would not take much for one of these boats to capsize."

A HM Coastguard spokesman said: "HM Coastguard is committed to safeguarding life around the seas and coastal areas of this country. We are only concerned with preservation of life, rescuing those in trouble and bringing them safely back to shore, where they will be handed over to the relevant partner emergency services or authorities."

Pictures by Susan Pilcher





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SILVER CITY REUNION 2019



On the 13th July 1954, the inaugural flight took off from the newly built Ferryfield Airport at Lydd. To celebrate this important event in the history of Silver City Airways, the Silver City Airways Association will be holding their annual reunion, 65 years to the day, in the Biggles Bar, Lydd (Ashford) Airport from midday on 13th July, 2019.

Were you an employee of Silver City Airways, Aviation Traders Engineering Ltd. or any other Company based at Ferryfield? Then we look forward to seeing you on the 13th July. If this will be the first time you have attended please leave a message on 01797-366346. This is in order to get numbers for the buffet. Entrance is £12 and a raffle will be held, for which donations will be appreciated.

The Association also welcomes folk who, although not an employee at Ferryfield, have an interest in the Car Ferry business. The membership is a one off fee of £10 which entitles attendance at the annual reunions and receipt of the Newsletter. Application forms can be found on the Silver City website.



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Dymchurch Recreation Ground and Parish Council Meeting

by Bridget Fowkes

Dymchurch Parish Councillors voted not to demolish the pavilion on the recreation ground by August 31 as proposed by the previous council due to asbestos in the building and its inability to raise funds for a new pavilion, to include a parish council office. The pavilion does need a new roof, a local builder who has had a look at the building said there is one small area of asbestos and as long as it is not touched it is safe. The council suspended standing orders to allow them to discuss this item.

The Chairman, Cllr Deana Coker said they have been asked by a group of youths to meet with them in regard to a new skatepark as Dymchurch no longer has one, there has been interest shown by a football club to use the recreation ground. The council are looking at funding for some of these projects, they have had offers of funding for the pavilion, they have been offered scaffolding, others have offered their time to get the pavilion back in use. If

any other sports would like to use the recreation ground the council would like to hear from them.

The new Cllrs fought the election as the Friends of Dymchurch, having fought to stop houses being built on part of the recreation ground, they had a lot of support in the village in opposing the housing.

At the start of the meeting the temporary clerk, Jeff Lawrence said it was necessary to confirm the AGM. This was necessary as the councillors had not had their declarations signed before the council was handed over to the new Cllrs, due the fact that clerk was not present, at that meeting in May the outgoing chairman told them clerk had resigned, he could also have witnessed their declarations but as they were not witnessed the meeting was legal. All this has now been rectified and Cllr Deana Coker was elected as chairman and Cllr Merlin Redding as vice chairman.

During the meeting the clerk said there was a planning application from the parish council to enlarge the council office, the new council does not intend to go ahead with this.

The previous chairman's expense grant was £500, while cllrs voted for this to remain Cllr Coker said she is not happy for the money to go into her personal account and suggested that it should only be paid when necessary, also she and other Cllrs hoped that some of this money could be donated to groups within the community. The temporary clerk said he's asked for the auditors to come in as the last internal audit was done by the outgoing clerk.

The temporary clerk has looked into the possibility of boot fairs being held on the recreation ground, up to fourteen a year can be held providing there is a charge and all boots have public liability insurance. This would bring funds in for the recreation ground and the pavilion.

There was a letter from the Ship Field Resident's Association that is fighting a proposal to build houses on the land behind the Ship Inn and the Bowery hall. The association has written to the government as they are concerned that the Bowery is being allowed to fall into disrepair, the area being proposed for development also has a public footpath going through it.



MONTHLY RECORDING TASK DAYS – 2nd Monday Of The Month

Each month we will visit a different site around the Marsh and record as many plants and animals as we can. Training will be given and at each visit we will focus on a different species group, some sessions will be based on a single site whilst others will take the form of a gentle stroll. In addition to this regular programme there is a series of special events where you can learn more about specific groups from experts in their fields.

DATE	EVENT	COURSE DETAILS	LOCATION	FURTHER INFORMATION	LEADER
05/07/19	An Introduction to Habitat Survey and Assessment	This course aims to provide an introduction to habitat survey and assessment methodologies with a particular focus on neutral grassland habitats. Participants will learn about key indicator plants that can assist surveyors in the recognition of neutral grassland types and in the assessment of their condition.	Visit the website for location details	Suitable for adults with previous botanical recording experience including experienced amateur plant recorders and graduate ecologists looking to develop their field survey skills	Lesley Mason
07/07/19	Kent Field Club Walk	A walk along the Royal Military Canal to record as much of the wildlife as possible	Kenardington	Open to all with an interest in wildlife recording	Stan Smith
14/07/19	A wildlife walk along the Royal Military Canal	Join us for a gentle stroll along a section of the Royal Military Canal to learn a little more about the creatures that have made the canal their home.	Kenardington to Warehorne – stop at Woolpack inn	Suitable for all ages but participants will be walking around 2-3km in total at a gentle pace	Stephanie D'Agorne of Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership
30/07/2019	Batty about Bats!	Come and join us for a fun few hours of bat based crafts and activities designed to introduce young children to the wonderful bats we are so fortunate to have in Kent.	St George Ivychurch	Ages 0-11 with accompanying adult. Drop-in throughout the day	Shirley Thompson/ KMBRC staff

For more information and how to book please visit www.fifthcontinent.org.uk/whats-on
Or contact the Fifth Continent Biodiversity Officer stan.smith@kentwildlife.org.uk | 01622 357897

This Scheme is a partnership of organisations led by Kent Wildlife Trust and supported by the The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The partnership includes; Ashford Borough Council, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre, Visit Kent, Natural England, Kent County Council, Romney Resource Centre, Rother District Council, The MACH, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, RSPB, Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, The Diocese of Canterbury and Romney Marsh Area Internal Drainage Board.



Lydd Twinning Weekend May 30th- June 2nd

A lovely sunny evening greeted the arrival of the friends from Etrechy on the Thursday evening, at 5pm, when the hosts met the guests to relieve them of their luggage! After being associated with Lydd for 35 years, we found out West Rype is not the same as The Rype, and we found ourselves waiting in the wrong place! We soon met our guests, and they had a tour of the church and Guild Hall at Lydd, and enjoyed a meal with hosts later.

Friday was a packed day for the visitors, visiting the Guildhall for a talk on the history of Lydd, a look at the town museum, and a guided ramble around the town. After a picnic lunch on the Rype, the afternoon saw the guests visiting New Romney, being brought over on their coach. At 4pm they had a well-earned rest, and just after 6pm, the party made their way to St Mary in the Marsh church, for a talk on the history of the church and village, and a concert by the Haywardians, a local choir based in St Mary's.

The Songs were a mixture, of classical, modern and fun pieces, including two moving songs from Les Miserable, and a French folk



song, which were greatly appreciated by the guests, with Gallic noisy insistence on an encore! Thanks were given to Twinning secretary, Jenny Cavanagh, for being the MC with her fluent French, and to Andrew Sinden who introduced everything in French.

The party then moved over to the Star pub, where everyone enjoyed delicious Cottage Pie out in the garden. It was warm, sunny and still, perfect weather for the outdoor event. Everyone was hugely entertained by the large group of dancers and musicians of Romney Marsh Morris. They performed many dances, with marvellous musical accompaniment. After a number of intricate dances, the guests were invited to take part, and many "stepped up the plate" and had a hilarious time, and went home with a leather badge as honorary members of Romney Marsh Morris!

Saturday saw all the French guests go to London for the day, while the young people had their football tournament. (More details to follow) More entertainment and food and a disco was provided at Heron Park for the party, but many of the older people decided that a day in London on a very hot day, was quite enough.

Too soon, on the Sunday, it was time to say goodbye to the guests. The coach was due to leave at midday, and our guests, and quite

a few others, went down to Dungeness to see the unique landscape, flora and fauna, and the "petit train" With many Au revoir's we said goodbye in the approved French French fashion, to new friends and old.



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Kian – the boy who triumphed over adversity!

by Kim Gandy

As I stood on the doorstep of the Russell household, notebook and camera in hand, for my latest assignment, nothing could have prepared me for the sheer force of energy that is Kian Russell..

Kian, 11, stood beaming in the hallway as I entered and welcomed me with a cheeky smile and a cheery greeting.

Inspired by having read, on social media, about this courageous young man's recent participation in a walk from Camber to Sandgate, I sipped a cup of tea as Kian's story unfolded.

Kian's mum Gemma explained to me some of the trials and hardships endured by her charismatic and very charming son, in his early years. "Various family problems and emotional traumas had left their mark on Kian, who, as a result, suffered from a severe speech impediment and a weight problem. So much so, that we couldn't get his armbands on when we took him swimming. Kian also struggled with reading and writing during early school. We also had to bring in a speech therapist."

Kian took up the tale: "I had asthma and was quite heavy. I couldn't do what I wanted to do. One day I couldn't get up the stairs properly and couldn't breathe. It was then I remembered what mum and dad had once told me. They told me I could do anything I wanted to do but I felt wheezy, like an old man.

"So I decided I would get fit and eat properly and get involved with some exercise."

Mum Gemma, a former Slimming World consultant added: "Kian had some issues with food and I had been trying to help him but now he was determined to do it himself, so we devised a healthy eating plan."

Recently, Kian, who is now a boy scout, undertook the 20-mile trek from Camber to Sandgate in aid of Cancer Research, raising £318 for the charity.

Diminutive dynamo Kian beamed: "Now I want to do much more. I want to do more sponsored walks and perhaps some bike rides. I eventually would like to do one of the bigger



more spectacular walks when I'm older, perhaps the Great Wall of China or something like that.

"I want to help people. I like people to be happy. I like to see them smile. What I hope to do is improve people's lives in any way I can."

Kian is not the only talent in the household. Sister Keira, 10, is a competition gymnast and is equally proud of her brother's achievements, as is his dad Lliam.

Mum Gemma produced an impressive array of awards won by both young people, including swimming diplomas and good citizen certificates.

However, Kian is not stopping there: his next project is to become a St John Ambulance cadet to learn first aid and volunteer with the service, in order to broaden his knowledge of how to help others overcome problems and set himself on course for a career. Kian is not sure what that will be but we can be pretty certain that, whatever it is, Kian's natural philanthropic nature will prevail.



Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers

This month's demonstration was presented by Gill Smaggasgale entitled String Spirals. For those of us of a certain age it brought back memories of math & art lessons making the string rings, everyone enjoyed this workshop and has given us lots of ideas to use in the future.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th July 2.30pm – 4.30pm at St Mary's Bay village Hall.

This is a workshop, on how to make a, Carmen Rose design with Anne Luckett. Visitors all welcome with refreshments available.

For 2 more information contact Gill on, 01797 367258.

Look forward to seeing you.



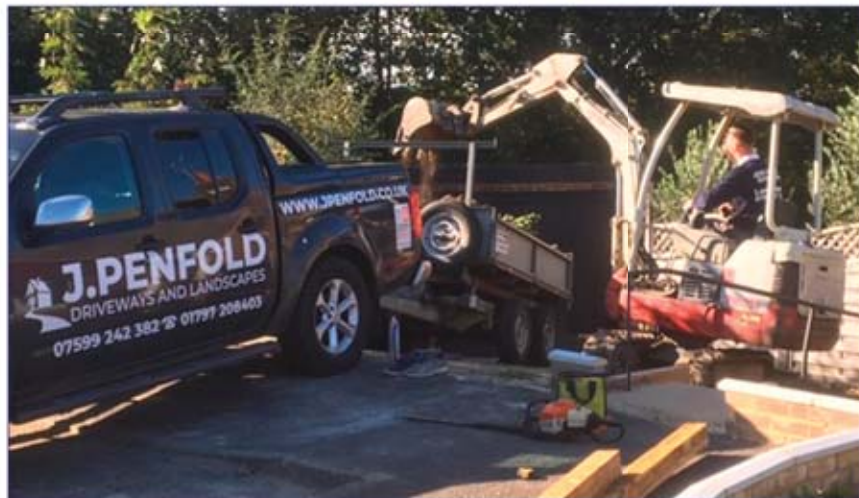
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Princes Parade judgement day looms

Depending on your point of view, the future of Princes Parade will be decided next week in one of the most controversial planning decisions since Lydd Airport.

The Liberal and Green party have come under some criticism that they are NIMBY's (Not In My Back Yard) as they are using an excuse that it is 'stealing beautiful open green space', but have kept very quiet about much larger planning developments elsewhere in the district.

The housing is seen by some as a golden opportunity to develop what was formally an ex-waste site into an exciting public area, with landscaped parklands running alongside the Royal Military Canal.

Social media remains split on the subject, but Andrea Bruce posted on a facebook site: "This is all about the wealthy people up on the hill complaining about their views being blocked. They do not give a F**K for younger families that would love to use the new proposed leisure centre. They all live in this simplistic green bubble, who do not care about the future. They claim it's a beautiful open space; the reality is it is an overgrown brown field site."

Another person wrote to The Looker calling themselves the Pro Princes Parade Preacher saying: "The Green Party are holding Hythe residents to ransom. They got into a position of power on both the town and district Council on a one ticket manifesto. The way I see it they don't want to build on Princes Parade, but happy for other people to have the building work near them. How many people from Hythe have actually tried to take a walk over this 'beautiful unspoilt landscape'? My guess is not many because if they had they would realise that you cannot walk across the majestic fields as they would paint it. The site is an eyesore and the council have come up with an exciting plan to bring a new lease of life to the town. Think of the future generations and back the plan."

A Green Party campaigner told the Looker; "This could just be the start. If the Hythe Imperial realise that there is more money in developing the golf course then they may well want to put a further 300+ houses there."

Graham Shaw from Dymchurch posted: "Here we go again. The Green Party are banging on their self righteous drum about taking away their beautiful green field sites. Why have they not commented about the hundreds of houses being built on Romney Marsh? Not a peep from them. This is all about people who only care about themselves. I really hope that it does get



built, even though I wish it was being built on the Marsh."

Liberal Democrat Councillor Tim Prator is putting forward a motion at the planning meeting in an effort to block the application. Seconded by Cllr. Lesley Whybrow, the leader of the Green Party group in the Council calls for the withdrawal of the proposals to develop the site, and instead build a new leisure centre at Martello Lakes in West Hythe.

When this was mentioned in the local press, Steven Gregory said: "Again this is typical of what happens when people start playing politics. What Mr. Prator is saying is we don't want the hassle of this building so we will propose that is built at Martello Lakes. He has not said how he would pay for it? Perhaps he is against the pool so he can build even more houses there!"

Siobhan Cowling said: "For people who claim to be so green, this is obviously a double standard. This is a brown field site, why have the Green Party not been banging their drum about the developments at Shorncliffe Barracks. Perhaps they should turn their heads the other way as behind Hythe are some of the most beautiful green field sites. The way they talk it is like there is no Town Green, or no beautiful hillside around them. I think the plans for the extended promenade and lovely landscaped park land will enhance the town and not distract from it.

The vote at the planning meeting is on Wednesday June 26th and can be seen live on the council website: www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk



Memories of Doris Lilian Hopkins (formerly Ditcher), 1922-2019

Lilian was born in Lydd to Frank and Flora Baker and she always looked back to her early life on the Marsh, where she recalled many fond memories of times gone by.

Lilian had a large family, with eleven brothers and sisters, and grew up living at Westbrook Farm, Lydd. Her sister Florence and husband Mick often featured in her memories as did her grandfather James Baker who lived at Lower Agney. Her family was shaped by the loss of several children, some close to birth, but most significantly by the sad loss of her elder sister Maude, who tragically drowned in a dyke after following her sister Louise Mary into the water to try and save her.



Born into a family of Lookers, it was on the Marsh where Lilian's love of animals began. Surrounded by sheep and at times lambs and many keen sheepdogs, there was no shortage of life and love. Growing up, Lilian was fond of many of the family dogs, including Spot, a collie so named for the white patch of fur around one eye.

It was a hard although honest life on the Marsh. There was always plenty of work to do and the weather was often inclement. It made many of the activities we take for granted today challenging, like Lilian's journey to school, walking miles through pasture – rain or sunshine. As Lilian grew up, she worked in the fields, narrowly avoiding disaster when a bomber dropped its load on the workers out in the fields close to New Romney during the Second World War.

Lilian married her first husband and subsequent father of David, Gordon Ditcher, in November 1941 at Old Romney Church. The family lived at Stonebridge Cottages in New Romney along with Lilian's parents and uncles Ray and Ern. Following the sad death of Gordon during the last war, Lilian then married her second husband Thomas Hopkins. With Tom, Lilian raised David, Brian and Dorothy and in 1948 the family moved from Stonebridge Cottages to make a new home at Rhodes Minnis.

As well as dogs, horses, ponies and cats were an integral aspect of Lilian's early life, continuing in importance throughout her life. Although not a race-goer, in later years Lilian used to enjoy watching point-to-point with sister Flo and Mick Huggett. Horse racing was also one of a small handful of activities to ever entertain Lilian through the television. With a friend she rescued two ponies, mother and daughter Sugar and Spice, and much of her time went to helping to support and look after them.

Many visits were made back to the Marsh which she so loved, bringing her Great Granddaughters for rides on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, visiting Dymchurch, Dungeness, graves at New Romney and Lydd, and of course The Rod and Line fish shop at Littlestone for lunch.

It was at Rhodes Minnis where her immediate family remained, with each member moving on in their own time.

Lilian had suffered with Vascular Dementia for several years and left in 2015 being the oldest resident. She moved to Brambling House Care Home in the aptly named village of Shepherdswell, and then to Barham House Nursing Home where she peacefully passed away at the age of 96½ years. Her final resting place will be at the churchyard in New Romney, where she will be reunited with her parents and many other family members.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lifeboat comes to the rescue of sailors

Lydd Meeting Point, Hardy Hall, 10 a.m. Littlestone Lifeboat was out on exercise last Sunday morning when the crew saw a small sailing dingy capsized with two crew members in the water. The boat was then re-righted and the crew taken back to the Varne Boat Club where one of the sailors was checked out by paramedics.

More than he bargained for

A man from Sandgate got more than he bargained for when he went to London for the day a couple of weeks ago. When he called into a shop for a can of coke, he purchased two scratch cards and Richard Pike was surprised as he scratched off each panel to find out that he had won half a million pounds. He is reported to have said, "I never have any luck. I join in the sweepstake at work and my horse is always the first to fall. It took a few moments to sink in, but when it did I could not stop beaming!"

New mentoring group to start soon

A new business start-up club is being formed by The Looker editor and Terry Botfield. They set up the Marsh Networking Group and decided to start the group to assist people in not only setting up their business but also to support small businesses over the first few years of their existence. The group will provide access to bank managers, accountants, marketing and promotional experts and legal advice. The Looker will feature more information on this in the coming editions.

Missing Cat

A reward has been offered for a small tortoise shell cat called Mr Simpson after the cat went missing in New Romney. The three-year-old cat was last seen in Blenheim Road in New Romney last Friday. If you have any information, please call 01797-366227. He has a bright pink collar with a small brass bell around his neck, he has been chipped, so if you should find the cat please contact the owners or take it to your local vets.

Romney Marsh Day Centre

Owen Leyshon will be giving an informative talk all about the Romney Marsh Partnership at the Romney Marsh Day Centre, situated at Rolfe Lane in New Romney on Friday the 21st June, from 11am. Admission is free.

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Spoiled rotten for food

We are inundated now about how we are complete wasters of food, so we were delighted when Folkestone & Hythe District Council revealed its support for 'Love Food Hate Waste's Spoiled Rotten' campaign. The Council is calling on people to take action and spot their food waste traps, from over-buying milk "just in case" to buying a bag of apples when the recipe only needs one or two.

Love Food Hate Waste has shown that 7.1 million tonnes of food is wasted every year in UK homes. Their research shows:

- One in four people admit they are poor at judging the right amount of food to buy.
- In the UK, 20% of the food we buy ends up in the bin.
- We throw away the equivalent of 3.5 meals per person every week in the UK. That wasted food costs money – roughly £230 per person annually in the UK
- Some 30% of people don't check their fridge before they go out to the shops, and nearly half of us forget to check the freezer.
- Only 56% of 18–34-year-olds make a shopping list, and research shows that this group wastes more food than most.

The campaign says if lists aren't your thing, why not grab your phone and take a picture of the contents of your fridge – a #FridgeShelfie – before you leave the house? It's a quick and easy way of remembering what's in there when you get to the shops. Furthermore, a #shelfie doesn't have to just mean the fridge. Check the cupboards and freezer before you head out, too.

The campaign has many other tips, including:

- One potato, two potato...ask yourself if you need the whole big bag or if it might be better to pick a few loose ones. Smaller packs

are also an option – when it comes to loaves of bread, bigger isn't always better. Research shows that there is a higher rate of food waste per person in single-person households, so if you're buying for one try a smaller pack.

- Get freezer friendly. If your fresh fruit is going off before you can eat it all, try buying frozen instead. It lasts longer and can be whizzed up into a delicious smoothie.
- Takeout tips. If you've been tempted by a takeaway, check what's in your fridge before you order – you might have something to pop in the freezer to keep it from going off.

Jenny Carr from Love Food Hate Waste said: "We enjoy an abundance of food everywhere we go, from farmers' markets and supermarkets to restaurants and cafes. It's never been easier to enjoy food. The problem is, that means it's also never been easier to waste it. UK households produce 70% of the country's overall food waste – 7.1 million tonnes – which is equal to 3.5 meals per person every week! "It's easy to be tempted – we're only human after all! However, if it's going to end up in the bin, don't buy it. By buying what you need, you can save your food from the bin – helping your pocket and our planet."

Cllr Stuart Peall, Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Regulatory Services, Waste and Building Control, said: "Folkestone & Hythe District Council is committed to reducing food waste. This campaign is asking us all to consider what we buy. The research has shown we often shop without checking what we've already got at home or our busy lives mean we often leave salads to wilt in their bags. By following these simple tips from this campaign, we can make a big difference to food waste in Folkestone & Hythe." The campaign website is at: www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/spoiledrotten. The message is quite simple – think before you waste

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Lydd Club Day



The Lydd residents of 1868 could never have imagined that 151 years later, still attract hundreds of people from miles around.

Last weekend, Lydd was abuzz with pirates, tigers, queens, princesses and a huge fairground, side stalls, a beer tent and most local organisations showed up. 'The Firing of the Maroon' by local garage owner Phil Usher started the day. Glamorous young ladies, energetic "Tigers" on motorbikes and an array of activities kept everyone entertained. The day was a Rype, alive with colour and noise.

This year's "queens and princesses" of Lydd and surrounding Kent towns were crowned in the 'Lydd Queen's Court' resplendent in a Landau, owned by Lydd Museum. A visiting drumming group, Hastings-based Section 5, added a blaze of drums. A drama was added by Portsmouth based "Tigers", a group of astonishingly talented young people. A touch of Trinidadian style was added by the Croydon Steel Orchestra, and New Romney based dancers from the Emma-Lou Dance Troupe gave the day a twist. The day was rounded off by the Lydd who added the cute factor.

The occasion had begun with the increasingly popular boot fair, which was enjoyed by many guests in the Community Hall. The fairground was already buzzing with activity. Young families enjoyed the donkey rides and basked in the sunshine, until the ubiquitous wind cooled down the proceedings. However, this did nothing to dampen the excitement.

the crowning of the Club Day Queen. The parade wound its way through Lydd, with many thoroughfares.

As the moon came up and the night fell, the day enjoyed a boost, the popular evening event concluded with a rousing and noisy display of colourful fireworks and the town square became the centre of activities until the late evening.



7 – June 15, 2019

by Kim Gandy & David Wimble



their annual Club Day would, d.

and pageboys as the Rype once again became the centre of attention with a showcasing their own part of the town's fabric.

event with a bang!

of cute children and babies in fancy dress brought the huge heart of Lydd, the

, Dover, Faversham and Aylesford, were transported in colourful floats, with drum and pulled by the Dungeness Lifeboat Crew.

amatic black and red colour and some phenomenal drumming and even more adept young motorcyclists, whose youngest rider was just five years old.

a youth and community project from the London borough.

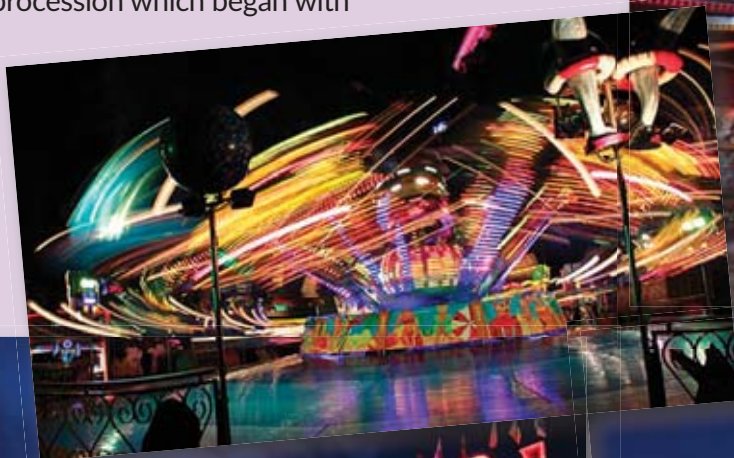
the audience a sample of their terpsichorean talents, including some tiny tots

was followed by a luncheon for local and visiting dignitaries and activity well in advance of the start of the festivities in the arena.

until in true Marsh fashion, the sky began to cloud over and the fog to deter the procession which began with

green and then d's historic

the fairground it was suitably busy display of n's pubs then well into the



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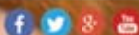


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LOCAL CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Short Mat in St Mary's Bay

Short Mat Bowls was originally introduced into St Mary's Bay around 1994 by a Mr Bert Humphries. The timing seems to tie in with the new village hall since I have a copy of the minutes of what I believe to be the first AGM of the St Mary's Short Mat Bowls club dated March 9th 1995. The minutes show the club had received a grant of £500 from Kent Rural Community to be spent on Bowls equipment, and noted the hall was due to be completed on March 12th 1995, with the first bowling on March 15th.



Apparently all was not well with the organisation since a meeting on March 12th passed a motion of No confidence in the Chair and Bert Humphries was effectively dismissed, and a Mr S Lakin took over the chair. Things obviously settled down with money coming from the session fee of £1 and weekly raffles with prizes donated by members. The membership at June 1995, just four months after opening, stood at 40 and an additional grant of £200 was received from Shepway Advisory Sports Council and the Club was in a healthy financial state.

Over the years with an aging membership and people moving to other areas and a lack of recruitment meant the roll of members has diminished somewhat. The club is still active with three sessions a week and we play in the Shepway winter league, finishing third this year beating other local clubs.

Short Mat is a basically simple game of getting your or your teams bowl, or wood, closest to the Jack, a smaller heavy ball placed in a designated place on the mat. The Mat is 45 feet long and 6ft wide. The skill comes from the fact the bowls (woods) all have a bias, meaning they roll in a curve. Depending on how the wood is played the curve can be to the left or right. The curve has more effect as the wood slows. There is a 12 inch block of wood in the centre of the mat that has to be bowled around. It is a competitive but friendly and social game and at St Mary's Bay our membership is just £10 annually with a £2 "session" fee each time you attend, but that includes Tea or coffee and biscuits at the half way point. Sessions are usually around 2 hours.

We play in the Village Hall on Sundays at 10:30, Tuesdays at 2:00 and Wednesdays at 7:00. Do feel free to come and see the game being played or maybe join in a game. The only requirement is that you have flat shoes, we can lend you the woods, until if you join us you obtain your own. The first game is free, followed by three more where you would be expected to pay the session fee, before deciding if you wished to join us.

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GARDENERS' CORNER

The Chelsea bunfight is over for another year

With a little too much time on her green fingers for a change, Debbie Ward ponders upon the role of the Chelsea Flower Show.

All this fresh, bracing air has been making me ill. Taking to my bed with a chest infection was just the place to binge-watch coverage of the Chelsea Flower Show on BBC iPlayer. The last time I actually went to Chelsea was in 2006, and I thoroughly recommend staying at home to watch it. I was lucky enough to have free tickets but even then I resented the train fare to pitch up to a garden show where one can only queue up to glimpse each garden for a minute or two from a single point while being jostled by impatient crowds. When a Chelsea TV presenter gave viewers the advice not to try to see everything in one day and perhaps come again later in the week, I nearly choked on my honey and lemon. Clearly, he's not buying tickets at £107 per day, no strawberries and cream included.

The flower show itself, the Floral Marquee, is a piece of theatre that is worth seeing in real life. Television really doesn't do it justice. The colours, the perfumes, every single spectacle is a show in itself, a perfection of confections of floral flights of fancy everywhere the eye falls. Fabulous!

But back to those gardens. Chelsea's garden designers have always had their critics, but is it not so that Chelsea gardens are the equivalent of fashion's catwalk? Flamboyant exaggerations to provide inspiration rather than to be slavishly copied? "What can the ordinary gardener take away from this for their own garden?" is the question put to every garden designer every year

and every designer has the answer along the lines of "the spirit of the garden". Perhaps a garden gnome sprayed gold in place of a contemporary silver spiral towering over the pond?!

There was more and more hard landscaping and fewer and fewer plants for quite a while. The expanses of – well, patio seems too small a word – leisure areas, rills and statuary abounded, punctuated by the traditional Chelsea blue planting. How could next year be bigger, better, slicker?

Then Diarmuid Gavin arrived in 2011 with his Irish Sky garden, a futuristic garden of pools and grasses with a cherry picker holding a metal pod garden over them. Then-presenter Alan Titchmarsh nearly had an attack of the vapours. As Gavin won a gold medal ('Best Show Garden' went to Cleve West with a minimalist expanse of patio and lots of water features reminiscent of sewage pipes in a sea wall), Titchmarsh was duty bound to visit it and interview Gavin, and as I remember it, the former's thinly disguised contempt was only slightly more entertaining than the latter's equally thinly disguised glee. It was a shame I was abroad for Chelsea week and beyond in 2012 as I missed Titchmarsh's reaction when Gavin returned with a seven-storey pyramid garden. I still look at pictures and wonder how long it took to strategically place all those Chelsea Pensioners around it.

After that, everything started to change. The

phrase sustainability had crept in and the acres of concrete were frowned upon. Homes had to be found for the gardens to be moved to once the visitors left. The gardens had more actual plants in them. Housewives' favourite Alan Titchmarsh was booted out as presenter in favour of more organic housewives' favourite Monty Don. Was Chelsea putting on a show for people who gardened rather than people who paid people to garden for them?

Not a chance. In 2015 Dan Pearson won Best Show Garden with a bit of countryside inspired by "a less trodden part of the Chatsworth Garden". Not a cottage garden or a patch inspired by a wildflower meadow. A bit of rough farmland with some trees and ferns and weeds on the banks of a stream, with a few big rocks dotted around. I'm a big fan of naturalism, but gardeners seemed to think that the pendulum had swung too far in the other direction.

This year, I felt right at home with what I saw of Chelsea. Lots of manicured naturalistic planting, reused materials and plenty of wildlife-friendly ideas to bring the natural order of things to the fore: more 'leave-it-and-let-the-wasps-eat-the-greenfly' than squirt-everything-that-isn't-a-ladybird-with-insecticide. And as soon as I'm up and about again, I'll be sure to tell the Under Gardener to raise the blades on the mower and let the daisies do their thing and dot the lawn...



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Oh My Dog!



It's soon to be holiday time and of course you want to take Fido with you.

But have you thought about their needs for this special trip as well as yours?

Dogs these days are rightly considered to be worthy members of people's families. Many people love taking their precious pooch on holiday with them, but do they consider all their needs prior to the big departure?

All the best holidays start off with a car journey, so your dog needs to well managed whilst on the road. A seat-belt harness is essential kit and these can be purchased for not a lot in a local pet shop. They need to be connected to your car's seat belt clip in points.

If you are putting your dog on the back seat it is always best to have them in the middle in between the front two seats. This way should there be an accident, they can move forwards without smashing into the front seats. A purpose-built crate is best in the car, but I realize space may well be an issue and not every dog will tolerate this.

Lovely pictures on Facebook of your dog hanging out of the window with the wind in their jowls/ears are nice, but honestly, don't do that, it's pretty stupid. Your pooch is likely to get a foreign object in their eye or, heaven forbid, sustain a more serious injury, please don't be that person.

You would be a fool not to make the most of the rest stops exercise to allow your friend to get out, stretch their legs, have a good dig around in the grass and generally work their brain as well as their bladder.

I am not going to tell you how to find a dog friendly place to stay as that would be an insult. My only point here is making sure if you are having overnight stops on your journey that your pit stop location is also dog friendly. Be careful that some places who say they are dog friendly may very well have differing interpretations as to what this means. For me it equals my dog can sleep in my room and move around inside the venue. For other places, they might have a secure garden with a kennel for them overnight, is this OK for you and Fido? Check first, then check again.

Remember it's not just a self-catering house or a hotel you can choose, camping with your dog is a really great way to enjoy a hound-based holiday. Walking through forests or across fields with your pooch is a great way to bond with them, after all, although you might not realize this, you are seen as pack leader and they will love exploring new places with you.

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1st NEW ROMNEY SCOUT GROUP

Chocolate all the way....



'One amazing Team Effort involving the whole community' - was how spokesperson Janet Thomas described the Big Chocolate Dream - a combined AGM and fund raising evening for 1st New Romney Scout Group. As part of their interface with the local community Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers decided to fund raise for New Romney Counselling Service. The youngsters chose a Chocolate Themed evening to raise funds, with a Chocolate Raffle; Tombola; Ping Pong Choc; Smartie Snooker; Teddy Bears Picnic and a Chocolate Treasure Hunt. One of the highlights of the evening was the Choco Kebabs -

amazingly Chocolicious. Their hard work paid off as the group - with a huge amount of support from parents and friends and the community, raised £828 for the New Romney Counselling Service.

The evening commenced with the formal proceedings plus Beaver and Cub entertainment. Awards were presented to adult Leader Leah Ann Mooney for



her work with the group. Louis Allen was also presented with his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award - Congratulations to him.

The group also collected an award from the Mayor of New Romney, Paul Thomas. In recognition of one of their greatest achievements to date - Let's Cover the Marsh in

Poppies, a hugely successful intergenerational, community inspired living history project for which 1st New Romney were awarded a Pride of New Romney Award, collected by Gary, Veronica and Rick. The group would like to say a huge thank you to everybody throughout the Marsh for their fantastic contributions - YOU are the real stars.



Caroline Allen Chair of the 1st New Romney Scout Group thanked all the Leaders and supporters for their amazing contribution to the Group's success. She also appealed for adults to come and join The Scouting Adventure via the 4 Week Challenge which the group are actively promoting. Echoing the words of Patron of Scouting HM The Queen, she stated - 'Our young people deserve the best - Scouting is a global force for good. Scouts are helping others and making the most of their lives. As



adults we need to support and guide - being part of the Adventure is fun for adults too - so come along and find out how you can help. Let's work together to keep Scouting firmly on the map in New Romney'

For more information visit www.1stnewromneyscoutgroup.org OR come along to a meeting.

Contact Janet 01797 363657, Rick on 01797 320768 or Gary 01797 364632





Our Man in Westminster

DAMIAN COLLINS



On Thursday this week the Conservative Party will start the process of electing its next leader and our new Prime Minister. I believe that person must be someone with the drive, personality and intelligence to solve the greatest political crisis Britain has faced in decades. One that has seen the Brexit deadlock shake our public institutions to their foundations. For me, the candidate best placed to succeed in this mighty task is Boris Johnson.

We need a leader who can get this country moving again; starting with fixing Brexit. Boris is right to say that the UK should not seek an extension to the Brexit deadline, and that we must leave the EU at the end of October, whatever it takes. Constantly trying to bring forward a withdrawal agreement that has been rejected time and again by parliament will only prolong our national nightmare. The collective failure of the government and parliament to deliver on the result of the 2016 referendum, is about more than policy and process. It has rather caused people to question our entire political system, and the motivation of the people chosen to serve within it. This crisis of confidence is being ruthlessly exploited by extremist voices and other malign forces, whose purpose is to sow hatred and division, and left unchecked will become a real danger to the entire democratic health of the nation. When extremist voices have risen in the past, one of the biggest failures of the established political parties has been to continue their internal squabbles, rather than recognising where the real threat lies. Despite the past differences people may have had during the referendum, to allow that campaign to define us, and for the labels 'Remainer' or 'Brexit' to be continued to be used as terms of abuse undermines us all. We have to work together to deliver Brexit and the leadership the country needs beyond that point.

As a former Mayor of London, Boris Johnson understands how local and regional government can be a catalyst for economic development. He knows that the combination of infrastructure investment and lower taxes for businesses drives up investment and creates jobs. We need a radical plan to accelerate investment in parts of our country that over recent decades have felt increasingly left behind. Boris has also highlighted the need to tackle the housing crisis; the failure to build enough affordable properties is putting not just home ownership, but the opportunity to rent somewhere decent to live, out of reach for many families and working people. As Conservatives, we also believe that aspiration starts with education, and Boris is right to pledge that one of his priorities will be increasing the funding per pupil for schools. I support his commitment as well to prioritising action against the county lines drug gangs that are fuelling crime and violence in some of our most deprived communities and exploiting vulnerable young people in the process.

Last Friday I was delighted to visit Mundella Primary School in Folkestone, to join the students for a 'Be Internet Legends' assembly given by a team from Google. The children were told about the importance of protecting their personal information and checking for bogus websites. Digital literacy is an important life skill and should be part of everyone's education.


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LOOKER LETTERS

Dear Looker,

Art Exhibition brightens up Church



The Monday Group of the St Mary's Bay Art Club held an exhibition at St. Nicholas Church in New Romney last weekend. The Club has two groups Monday and Friday at St Mary's Bay village hall, in the afternoon, 1 to 4pm.

The public said how much they enjoyed looking at our pictures, browsers, and cards, we also had a raffle. Pictures were donated for

the raffle by Helen Taylor, Jim Dunning and John French.

The weather was not very good, we did quite well with sales, and give 15% of our sales to St Nicholas Church, which we have done for many years. The Friday group are having their next exhibition in November.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Joan Reynolds



Dear Looker,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only the entire committee of Lydd Club Day but also the townsfolk who really make the day feel so special.

A special mention should go to both Nigel Hawkins and Barbara Walker, who have spent years working behind the scenes to ensure that the day runs faultlessly.

The rain stayed away for most of the day with a quick shower in the evening, unfortunately the other thing that stayed away was the Mayor of Lydd! This annual event is a show piece for our community and it is always on the same date every weekend every year. It was so nice to see members of other local councils attend the formal luncheon, he was also absent the previous week at the towns twinning. He really should be ashamed of himself.

A 'Local Lydder'

Mrs P's Diary

Desperate to take the weight off my feet, squeezed into a lovely pair of red shoes, bought from a charity shop, I grabbed the last seat on the Folkestone bus last Friday.



I noticed the elderly woman ensconced by the window. She was wrapped in a yellow oilskin, although it was warm and sunny, and had a kindly face. I smiled at her. "Did you know that it's talk on the bus day?" Horrified I said no but realised that there was a hubbub of noise and the Man at the back seemed to think that he had to talk to all the passengers at once.

Anyway, before we got to the Seabrook Road, I learnt that she was off on a jaunt to have a look for some new sandals. She usually goes to Dymchurch to feed the seagulls some crusts. She has a pet seagull who taps on her window every day.

He is named Harold. She told me about her projects, making a skirt from old ties and collecting Tunnocks tea cake wrappers to decorate the Christmas tree...

As I reached my stop I said goodbye and asked where she lived. I shall be calling on her. I also spotted her foot gear. Long red socks and carpet slippers. Bet she's comfy. Obviously people do chat on the bus but this publicity made it easier for the more retiring types to take a chance. And I felt cheered in playing a small part in this and gaining an interesting and eccentric new friend.

Now, I must get some carpet slippers with a sturdy sole... And a couple of packets of tea cakes - gulls might like them....



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LOOKER SPORT

LOCAL CRICKET

**Brookland 186-6 v
High Halstow 185-8**

*Brookland won
by four wickets*

The home side won the toss and put the visitors in to bat. High Halstow finished on 185-8 after their 40 overs with Craig Pearce taking 2-31 and Nad Campbell 2-52.

Two good innings with a 42 from Fran Bryley and 41 from Jack Savage helped the marsh side to a four wicket victory in the 29th over. Joe Bryley finished on 32 not out.

New Romney 331-3 v Wittersham 117-6

New Romney won by 214 runs

A great result for New Romney in this high-scoring friendly game.

New Romney won the toss and elected to bat and made 331-3 after 32 overs. The highlight was a magnificent double century from Luke Payton, his second three figure score in consecutive matches. He finished retiring on 214 not out and he was ably supported by Elliot Symonds who finished with an unbeaten 61.

The visitors could only manage 117-6 off their 32 overs. The wickets were shared amongst the New Romney bowlers with the best figures coming from Elliot Symonds who took two wickets for 14 runs.

Great Chart 112 all out v Brookland 197-6

Brookland won by 85 runs

Brookland picked up 12 points in this Kent Village League match and after four games, they are second in the table.

Great Chart won the toss and chose to field. The Brookland middle order got amongst the runs with Nad Campbell scoring 45 and Scott Balcomb finishing on 40 not out with the Marsh side showing 197-6 on the board after their 40 overs.

Great Chart struggled from the start and some excellent bowling from Craig Pearce saw them all out in the 29th over for 112. Craig finished with the figures of six wickets for 17 runs after nine overs and Nad Campbell took 2-6 and Sam Lancaster 2-22.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 20th June

Lydd Meeting Point, Hardy Hall, 10 a.m.

Keep Fit/Dance Class, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 10.15 a.m.

Heysham Hall Computer Club, Heysham Hall, Lydd-on-Sea, 7.30 p.m.

Dymchurch Heritage Group, Methodist Church, 7.30 p.m.

Friday 21st June

Flower Festival (inc. Bingo 2.30 p.m.), St. Mary's Bay Church, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tai Chi, beginners/intermediate, St Mary's Bay Village Hall, 11 a.m.

St. Mary's Bay Art Group, Village Hall, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Whist & Scrabble, St. Peter's Church Hall, Greatstone, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday Children's Club, Romney Marsh Community Centre, New Romney, 6 p.m. (7-10 years)

Lydd Foodbank, Hardy Hall, 6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Pulse Youth, Romney Marsh Community Centre, New Romney, 7.30 p.m. (11-15 years)

Sequence Dancing, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 22nd June

Coffee Morning, Methodist Church Hall, New Romney, 10 a.m.

Coffee Morning, Newchurch Village Hall, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Summer Market, Dymchurch Village Hall, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Flower Festival (inc. Concert 2.30 p.m.), St. Mary's Bay Church, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Charity Fun Day, Shepherd & Crook, Burmarsh, 12 noon

Sunday 23rd June

Flower Festival (inc. concert 2.30 p.m.), St. Mary's Bay Church, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday 24th June

Crafters & Knitters, Hardy Hall, Lydd, 10 a.m.

Dymchurch Meeting Point, Methodist Church, 10 a.m.

Scrabble & Rummikubs, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 10.30 a.m.

Greatstone Singers' Rehearsals, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 1.15 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.

New Romney 65 Club, Prescott House, Rolfe Lane, 2 p.m.

Bingo, St. Mary's Bay Church Hall, 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 25th June

Coffee Morning & Bric a Brac, Heysham Hall, Lydd-on-Sea, 10 a.m.

Greatstone Meeting Point, St. Peter's Church Hall, 10 a.m.

Dymchurch Art Society, Village Hall, 1 p.m.

Romney Foodbank, Romney Marsh Community Church, New Romney, 5.30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Drop-in Centre, Romney Marsh Community Church, New Romney, 6.30 p.m. (16 years plus)

New Romney Craft Group, Old School, 7 p.m.

Wednesday 26th June

St. Mary's Bay Computer Club, Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Pop-Up Café, Ivychurch, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Purly Girlies for Knitters, Brooks Café, Hythe, 2 p.m.

Woman's Wednesday Club, Heysham Hall, Lydd-on-Sea, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Romney Marsh Walking Society, Oakdene, Bonnington, 6.30 p.m. (3 miles)

Country Mice Needle Craft Club, Old School, New Romney, 7 p.m.

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Thursdays: Footcare 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tai Chi 9.30 a.m. Seated Tai Chi 11 a.m. - 12 noon

Fridays: Hearing Aid battery service 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Footcare 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tone Up & Tighten Up 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Mondays: Footcare 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Romney Marsh Friends Group 10.30 a.m. One You Weight Management 1.30 p.m. **First Monday of month:** Hearing Aid Clinic 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Tuesdays: Hearing Aid battery service 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. NHS Health Walk 10 a.m. Stop Smoking Clinic 12.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday of month: Hearing Aid Clinic 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: Tone Up & Tighten Up 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Art Group 11 a.m. - 12 noon. Pilates 4.15 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.



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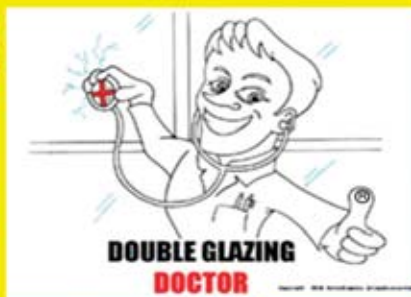
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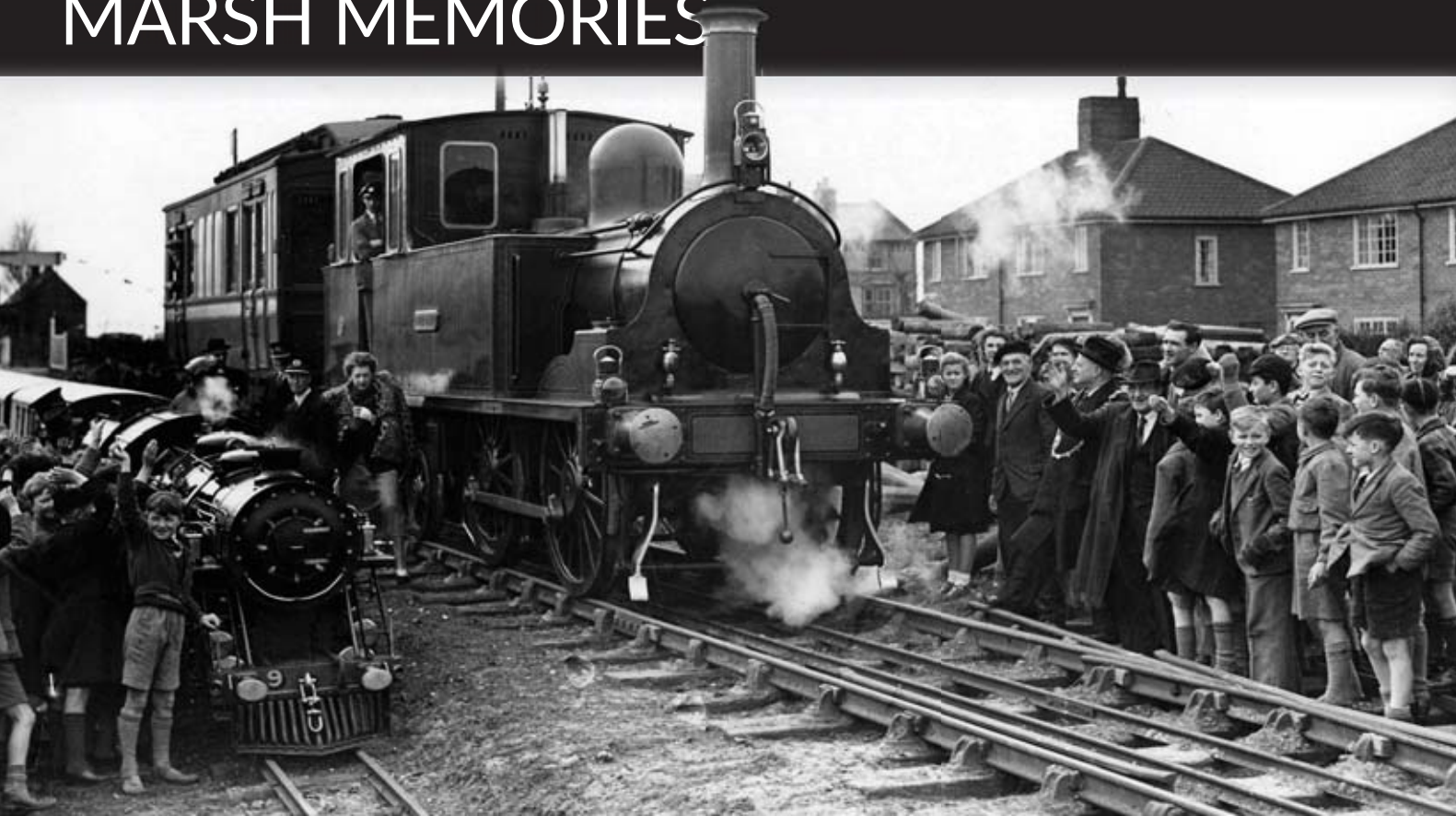
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MARSH MEMORIES



‘Dunrobin’

Dunrobin was a small standard gauge 0-4-4 tank engine built for the 4th Duke of Sutherland in Scotland in 1895.

The Duke also owned two coaches and one of the unique features of the locomotive was the enlarged footplate and enclosed cab with a four person upholstered seat set high up at the back. It was used until around 1920 to pull the Duke's private train between Dunrobin Castle and Inverness. In 1949, the new British Railways revoked the powers of the Duke to travel in his own train and so the locomotive and coaches were sold. The loco and the four-wheeled saloon were bought in 1950 by Captain Howey who owned the RH&DR to be displayed at New Romney. The locomotive ran a large part of the 750 mile journey from Scotland under its own steam.

On arrival at Ashford, Dunrobin ran into the main line platform where the Mayor of New Romney, Alderman J. Wiles, climbed aboard

for her final trip – the 22 miles across Romney Marsh to New Romney. At every crossing and halt, people gathered to wave a greeting of goodwill. Arriving at Appledore, the tablet was handed to driver Charles Tibbles and fireman Ray Johnson for the single-line working to New Romney.

Just before noon, the train pulled into New Romney station where the Mayor alighted and complimented all concerned on the comfort of the journey. He congratulated Capt. Howey upon the acquisition of such a unique and historic example of locomotive engineering. The railway crossing gates at Station Road were opened and Captain Howey, accompanied by Mrs. Howey on the footplate, drove the loco across the road to her new home on a section of main line track alongside Langport Road. The loco was there, not to work but to become a museum piece, although it was steamed occasionally during the next ten years.

Following Howey's death in 1963, the locomotive and coach were exported to Canada in 1965. They eventually arrived at a

living history museum at Fort Steele Heritage Village in British Columbia. The loco and coach were used extensively to take passengers around the park until it was relegated to standby service when the heritage town welcomed two larger locomotives that were more representative of those used in the area back in the hey day of railroad construction and travel. Dunrobin was in service until 2005 when major repair bills caused the museum to look for a new owner.

In 2010 Beamish Open Air Museum in County Durham purchased the loco and coach and brought them back to Britain. Dunrobin and its coach began its journey back to the U.K. by rail to Calgary and then by road to Halifax, before being shipped back to the U.K.

The pictures show the loco arriving at the RH&DR at New Romney in 1950 (*top*). The loco and coach alongside Langport Road with George Barlow on the footplate (*below, left*); and the loco in Mountfield Road before starting its long trip to Canada in 1965 (*below, right*).



CHURCHES CORNER ROUND-UP

Food Banks. The Rainbow centre in Folkestone help to supply and run the local food banks. The banks on the Marsh are held in New Romney, in the Community church, on Tuesdays from 5.30-7pm, and in Lydd Hardy Hall on Fridays, from 6.30-7.30pm. If you have problems feeding your family, you can obtain vouchers from the Community church on 01797 366855 or Rev Chris in Lydd, 01797 320345.

They have a list of immediate necessities including LL milk, tinned meals, coffee, tinned cold meat, tinned Rice pudding, and instant mash. Many church have collections points, and all tinned and packet food, well in date, is welcome, but at the moment, they DO NOT need tinned beans, teabags, pasta or dried rice.

Jam on the Marsh.

This big cultural Festival is taking place between July 4th and 14th. Many of our churches are venues, and there are events to suit all tastes and ages. Many this year are participatory, and on-going exhibitions. Do pick up a leaflet and find out if there is something to you taste, details of booking are in the leaflets.

Please note there will be no Romney Marsh benefice magazine in August (New Romney, Old Romney etc)

Brookland, St Augustine.

Pop up café and Information Hub. The next visit is on Friday, July 5th from 10am-noon. The recent visits have been very successful, refreshments and delicious cake available, come along and join in a morning of meeting friends old and new. If you need help with transport, ring Liza on 07771 661871, or Kathy on 07431 737041.

Burmarsh, All Saints.

Church Barbecue. The annual BBQ will be held on Saturday, July 20st at La Toppa, at 7pm. Tickets are £13, and children under 10 half price, and are available from Heather on 01303 873781 or Gina on 01303 872341. . Please bring your own drink and glasses, and there will be a raffle. If you would like to donate a raffle prize, speak to the organisers. Proceeds will be divided between the Hall fund and church funds.

Dymchurch, St Peter and Paul.

Summer Market. Saturday, June 22nd in the Dymchurch, Village Hall, on Ogarswick Ave, from 10am-1pm. Many interesting stalls craft stalls invited. If you would like to book a stall, ring Chris Clark on 07740 395497. There is plenty of parking in the attached car park, but don't forget to pay! It is a pay and display car park.

The Searchlight Theatre company is coming to the church on Monday, July 8th at 7.30pm, and will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary by performing "Send in the Clowns" Tickets can be bought from John Richardson on 01303 980027, or on the door on the night.

St Monica's RC church.

Sunday, Mass at 8.30am. Vigil, the evening before Holy Days of Obligation, at 7.30pm.

Fairfield, St Thomas.

Sunday, July 7th, Holy Communion, 10am.

Greatstone, St Peter.

See Lydd notes, for details regarding the new curate, Jackie Darling.

A monthly craft market by Marsh Makers is held in the church hall on the first Saturday of each month, so the next one will be on Saturday, July 6th from 10am-2pm. Many home-made items for sale, including craft, food and preserves. A professional bakery is also in attendance.

Afternoon Tea takes place on Saturday, June 29th, from 2.30-5pm. A spectacular tombola, (every prize a winner) will take place, with delicious cakes, and the proceeds are for the Dementia café. There is not a set price, but donations are invited to help this very worthy cause.

Ivychurch, St George.

Pop up café. The next visit of this community initiative will be on June 26th, from 10.30am-12.30pm. It also serves as an information hub so if you need any advice, do come along. Everyone is warmly invited, and tea and cake will be served. If you need a lift, ring Liza on 07771 661871.

Lydd All Saints.

The new curate, Jackie Darling will be ordained Deacon in Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday, June 29th at 11am. Her first service in the benefice will be on Sunday, June 30th, and will be the annual patronal service at Greatstone St Peters. In case you were wondering, in the C/E clergy are ordained first as a deacon, with limited authority with sacraments, but taking part in all other aspects of ministry. A year later they are ordained priest, with full authority in all church matters.

Summer Fair and teddy bear parachute jump. The summer fair will be held on Saturday, July 13th from 10am-2pm. There will be many interesting stalls, delicious refreshments including tasty rolls for lunch, and many craft stalls. If you would like to book a stall, ring Pat on 01797 320108. If you want to give your teddy or favourite soft toy the thrill of their lives bring them along between 10am and 1pm. Parachutes will be provided! The cost is £2 per teddy.

A new choir, the Romney Marsh choir, will be holding their first concert on Saturday, July 13th at 8pm. (Same day as the summer fair) Singing has become a popular and healthy past time on the Marsh, so come along and support this new group. There is no admission charge, but donations are invited for local charities.

Methodist Church.

Dementia Café. The church hall hosts this event, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, so the next one will be on July 2nd from 10am-noon. Refreshments, and information and help available to all involved, both patients and carers. All warmly welcome, even if you just want to find out more.

New Romney, St Nicholas.

Messy church. June 28 3.15-4.30pm This activity for all children takes place on the last Friday of each month, and is full of fun, stories, music, worship, and learning about the Christian Faith. There will be no messy church in August. The success of this group means that more helpers are always needed. Ring Penny on 01797 362560 if you are interested.

There will be no coffee morning in July, because of a wedding that day.

Please note that several of the Jam concerts are in St Nicholas, so do have a look at the programme.

Romney Marsh Community Church.

As well as the usual Sunday services at 10.30am on Sundays, there are many youth and children's sessions, during the week, for youngsters of all ages. At the Sunday morning service, the youngsters can leave for part of the service, for their own age groups, and babies and toddlers can be left in a well-equipped crèche, with police checked helpers. Ring church office on 01797 366855 for any queries.

The community church belongs to a grouping of like-minded churches called "Salt and Light" An inspiring couple, Dave and Chris Richards, among the leadership of Salt and light, are visiting the church on Sunday, June 23rd, and will be speaking during the morning service. All are invited to attend to hear of the work of Salt and Light.

Snargate, St Dunstan.

Next service, Holy Communion, 9am, Sunday, June 23rd.

Snargate Church is to be the Venue for several of the Jam concerts and all are invited to look at the leaflet, and find out which will be to your taste. Booking details are in the leaflet. Of special interest is the annual visit of Narropera.

Narropera. The annual picnic and Opera evening will take place on Sunday, July 7th. The Opera featured, is The Marriage of Figaro. The much enjoyed and appreciated event will commence with a picnic, in the field opposite the church from 5pm onwards, with hot drinks served in the church from 6pm, and the Opera will begin at 6.30pm. Not a whole opera, but a group of internationally renowned performers, who will narrate the story, performing highlights from the opera itself. After the concert, many retire to the traditional local pub, the Red Lion, which is famed for real ale, and traditional atmosphere.

St Mary's Bay, All Saints.

Flower Festival. Takes place Friday June 21st-23rd, and the theme is "A World of Colour". Raffle, tombola and refreshments, including ploughman's lunches, available. There will also be other activities including, on Friday, 2.30pm Bingo, Saturday, 2.30pm, a concert including the Townsend Dancers, and on Sunday at 2.30pm a concert by the Seaside Singers.

Tea and Bingo. Monday, June 24th 2.30pm in the church hall.

Church Chuckle

A vicar was preaching a very long and dull sermon on the prophets in the Old Testament. The congregation were getting restive, but the vicar droned on and on. Eventually he asked a rhetorical question, "and where shall we put Isaiah?" Losing patience, a farmer stood up and said "he can have my seat, I'm going home for my dinner"

Wit and Wisdom

If there seems to be 6 places for every penny, tha hast to mak every penny do t' work of 6! Yorkshire saying.

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