

THE LOOKER

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Cover image by Kim Gandy

Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Issue 227

Hythe residents given 'False Hopes' over Princes Parade

IN THIS ISSUE

Royal Visit to the Marsh • Sun shines on Air Show
Countdown to the Country Fayre • Sally celebrates 50 years in Lydd
and much, much more...

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EDITOR'S WORD

Welcome to Issue 227,

With the Summer showing signs that it could be a good one, despite the recent showers, lightning and storms, the district kicks into gear with lots of public events with the JAM on the Marsh getting underway from tomorrow the 4th July for 10 days, bringing a mixture of Music, Art and Culture, Theatre and Photography.

The District has also just commemorated Armed Forces Day with an Airshow put on by Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Folkestone Town Council. At the time of writing, it is expected that the star attraction will be a performance of world class aerobatics by the Red Arrows and in this edition, we hope to also have pictures of the day.

The Marsh also had a Royal Visit this week when the Queens Cousin, Princess Alexandra of Kent, visited Romney Tweed at Old Romney. Our reporter Kim Gandy obtained some exclusive photos for the paper.

You will also see that we have started putting news in from other parts of the district. This is the first stage of us increasing the circulation of The Looker to cover the whole district.

Originally we thought of launching a stand alone publication for this, but realised it would just make more sense to enlarge the paper.

Although we know our readers are very loyal to The Looker, we hope you embrace the new formats of the paper, but for us it is the obvious way to keep it free as we can now attract more advertising to cover the costs.

We would also like you, our readers, to get more involved in The Looker. As you will read in this edition, we are not afraid of covering contentious issues, which many people agree with but also at times many people may disagree with. The Looker was always set up to be a publication where the reader can dictate the content. And over the years we have been more than happy to print letters that are at polar opposites.

As we head towards the anniversary of our first issue, we will give a more in depth look at the team behind what is 'The District's Favourite Free Newspaper'. If you have any things you would like to see covered in The Looker, please email: info@thelooker.co.uk





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Princes Parade, the saga continues . . .

Hythe and District councillors were claiming a victory, believing that they had stopped development of Princes Parade, on Wednesday night at the Folkestone & Hythe District Council meeting.

The Motion was brought by Tim Prater acting as spokesperson for the Green Party, who suggested that the site was one of 'Outstanding Beauty' and that the amount of contamination was unknown and for that reason alone it was ludicrous to even think about developing the site. Hythe Mayor Douglas Wade explained that on this occasion the ecology of the site as somewhere that birds nest was more important than a new swimming pool, hotel, homes and jobs.

The council has to date spent in excess of £750,000 on planning for this site as part of its core strategy, which working to government guidelines dictate that nearly 5,000 homes need to be built across the district over the next ten years to meet with housing expectations.

During the last election, the conservatives lost every seat in Hythe on what was seen as a protest vote against the pool. However, some people have accused the Green Party of being NIMBY's with one Hythe resident in the gallery shouting out, 'We simply do not want the pool or any of your houses' which gained a big cheer from the gallery.

Hythe Green Party Councillor Jim Martin claimed that although the

District Council had some excellent officers, he questioned their ability to make the sums stack up.

Mr Prater stated that the rightful place for the pool was The Martello Lakes site, stating that it had excellent road connections and was ready to develop. The only thing he did not explain was how he would make up the approximate £15 - £20 million pound shortfall in the cost of building the pool there without the housing to pay for it.

When it came to the vote, the conservative administration lost out by one vote as one of their councillors was unable to attend.

One of the biggest jeers of the evening came when Looker editor David Wimble explained why he wanted to back the pool. He later said: "This was a very hard decision for me, yes I would love the pool to be at Martello Lakes and it would suit the Marsh better, but no one has come up with any way of paying for it." He also pointed out that the people of Hythe are complaining about 150 homes of which nearly 1/3rd would be affordable homes. And yet they would get a swimming pool and leisure centre, landscaped parkland and play area.

He said, "On the Marsh we have had 100's of homes built with nothing to sweeten the deal. I think that if you offered this to our residents they would bite your arm off. My biggest worry now is that Hythe still needs to fulfil its housing quota and so they will now probably have 150+ homes and no pool, which I believe is very short sighted."





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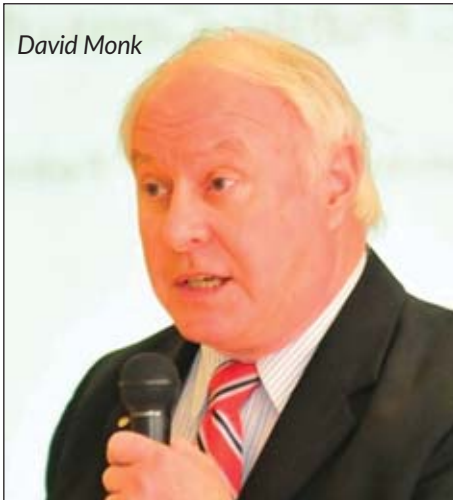
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As we went to press, Leader of the council David Monk exclusively told The Looker, "Whilst we lost the motion by one vote last night because one of our members was on holiday it was not a binding vote as its proposer well knew. None of the NIMBYs made any sort of declaration of interest

David Monk



which is strange? NIMBYism is the main threat to future generations, we've got to build more houses in our district for local people and houses create jobs. All the time that there is a shortfall in available housing, rents will be extortionately high. Our ambitious plans for Princes Parade will help to address that problem and breathe life into this former tip, which is at present, underused.

"This is an opportunity to provide 150 new homes including 45 affordable units, addressing local housing needs. A new, modern swimming pool and leisure centre for the community will also be delivered as part of this development, plus commercial spaces including a café, restaurant and a boutique hotel. This will help expand the range of services at the seafront and bring economic activity to the site. Just under half of the site will be parkland and green space and with the wider public promenade it will open up an area, which can't be used today, for everyone to enjoy.



"We have been through a long and detailed process to develop this scheme including a full ecological assessment and many mitigating factors have been built in. The financial viability has also been questioned but we have checked, and checked again, and it stacks up. Princes Parade is a fantastic opportunity. It will change an underused, unloved space into an area with housing, leisure, commercial space that will benefit us and the future generations of our district."

What do you think. Was this the right decision?

E-mail: info@thelooker.co.uk

SHEPWAY GREEN PARTY PRESS RELEASE

26 June 2019

Uproar as council says vote to stop Princes Parade development 'not binding'

Green, Liberal Democrats, Labour and UKIP councillor voted tonight to withdraw controversial plans for the development of Princes Parade, on the seafront at Hythe, but Folkestone & Hythe District Council say the 15/14 vote is not binding on the Council's cabinet.

The motion was tabled by Councillor Tim Prater (LibDem) and seconded by Lesley Whybrow, Leader of the six-strong Green group, for the first full meeting of the district council since the Conservatives lost control at the local elections on 2 May.

The motion called on the Council to withdraw its own proposals to develop Princes Parade, and instead build a new leisure centre and swimming pool at Martello Lakes in West Hythe.

Tonight's debate drew attention to the damage the development would cause to the environment, its impact on the Royal Military Canal (a scheduled historic monument) and its huge financial risks.

An alternative site for a leisure centre and swimming pool has long been available at Martello Lakes in West Hythe.

One of the two UKIP councillors elected on 2 May, who, with an independent councillor, have propped up the Conservative administration since 2 May, joined opposition parties in voting for the motion.

There was uproar from the packed public gallery when Leader of the Council David Monk queried whether the vote 'was legal' and an officer confirmed that the motion would not be binding on the executive.

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Lydd Speedway is setting out to encourage more youngsters to have a go at speedway. Holding practicing, training and racing from March til October. Club membership is free but riders do need their own equipment. Anyone is welcome to come along to the 10th Annual British Veteran Speedway Riders Open Championship on Saturday 6th July and see for themselves what the sport is all about. There will be speedway bikes from all eras and a support event for the under 15s.

The venue is Lydd Speedway, Belgar Farm, Romney Road, Lydd TN29 9LS. Admission is FREE and refreshments will be available. Rider introduction is at 3.30pm and the first race at 4pm.

Any enquiries to Malcolm Smith on 07870 471770 or email lyddspeedway@gmail.com



ROMNEY MARSH THEATRE CLUB

This friendly club has been running for many years and aims to run a coach once a month to local and London theatres for the latest in live stage performances. Occasionally we will do a trip to famous London landmarks, or local places of interest, but our main aim is to make it easy to see a show with the least possible aggravation. Our coach meets at the bus stop opposite The Ship in New Romney High Street, takes you to the destination with time for lunch or some shopping, arranges very good seats for the afternoon performance and brings you back to New Romney again in the evening. We usually have a few spare seats on the coach each time, so offer members a coach only seat for £15 to our destination where you can lunch and shop. This includes places like Bromley, Eastbourne, Bluewater and Dartford. Members are sent details of our trips, either by letter or email, roughly a month in advance. Membership for one year for two people is £5 for email, or £15 for two people if you would prefer to receive your information by post. *Details from Barbara Smith 01797 363174, or rmtheatreclub@btinternet.com*

Lydd Golf club open day - 26th July

Lydd Golf Club are hosting a family friendly Open Day, offering the opportunity for local people to go and experience what the club have to offer. Head PGA Professional Nick Warwick will be providing free taster sessions for both adult beginners and juniors, with the aim to entice new people to the game. There will also be the opportunity to play the 6 hole pitch and putt course for free, discounted range balls and the main course will be just £10 per round!

'We are excited to open our doors and showcase what we have to offer here. We have the perfect set up for people who have never played the game before to come and give it a go in a fun, friendly environment. Historically, golf has a reputation of being an exclusive sport. Our plan is show how we provide something different here and welcome everyone into our club, from complete beginner to experienced players.'

A BBQ will be available and the club will also be providing a free bouncy castle. For more information or to book your activities, please call 01797 320 808 option 1 or email nick@lyddgolfclub.co.uk

Cowboy/Cowgirl Banquet 13th July

FOLKESTONE LION'S CLUB are holding a Cowboy/Cowgirl Banquet on Saturday 13th July from 4pm at the Fountain Public House. Seabrook Road, Hythe, CT21 5RT, with a barbeque of burgers, sausages, beans, (cowboy style) cost £7.95. Country and Western music plus live music due TWICE will entertain from 8pm. All welcome, put your cowboy hat and checker shirt on, come join in the fun.

9th - 11th July JAM take Romney Marsh schools to Dymchurch beach to watch stunning beach artist Jon Foreman at work, then make their own design.

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JAM on the Marsh - Selling Fast!

JAM on the Marsh starts this Thursday and runs through to Sunday 14th July. Three exhibitions can be seen daily throughout the festival, for free, at venues across the Marsh. There are eleven musical events, three nights of theatre, a free Children's Sunday when Marsh children can enjoy story-telling, clowning and art, a sold-out Churches Tour and two poetry recitals; one of which will include an open discussion about your Marsh, becoming part of a new choral piece for 2020.

Ticketed events are selling fast, with some sold out already. Full details of this spectacular multi-arts festival, with events for all the family, can be found at: www.jamconcert.org/events

4th – 14th July		
<i>Sculpt the World:</i> Beach Art by Jon Foreman	Dymchurch Beach	Daily – tide dependent
<i>Live within the Scenery:</i> Photography by Amos Miller	Romney Marsh Visitor Centre	Daily 10-5
Romney Marsh Students' Photography Exhibition	End of the Line Restaurant	Daily 10-5
	RH&DR carriages	
Thursday 4th July		
<i>Nell Gwynn</i> , Changeling Theatre	Old School Garden, New Romney	7.30
Friday 5th July		
The King's Singers	All Saints, Lydd	7.30
Saturday 6th July		
<i>Come & Play</i>	St Leonard's, Hythe	10.30-12 midday
The Symphonic Brass of London	St Nicholas, New Romney	7.30
Sunday 7th July		
Children's Sunday	Romney Marsh Visitors Centre	10-2.30
The Grier Duo	St Leonard's, Hythe	2.30
<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> , Narropera	St Dunstan's, Snargate	6.30
Monday 8th July		
Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra	St Leonard's, Hythe	7.30
Thursday 11th July		
Selwyn College Choir / The Singing Stars	St Leonard's, Hythe	7.00
Canterbury Cathedral Girls' Choir / Onyx Brass		
Michael Bawtree		
Friday 12th July		
Yuanfan Yang Piano Recital	St Nicholas, New Romney	5.30
ART OF MOOG: <i>Bach on Synths</i>	St Dunstan's, Snargate	7.30
Saturday 13th July		
<i>Come & Sing</i> with Rebecca Lodge	St Dunstan's, Snargate	10-1
Jonty Driver Poetry Recital	St Mary in the Marsh	4.00
London Mozart Players / Michael Bawtree	St Nicholas Church	7.30
<i>We are not Shellfish</i> , Sabotage Theatre	St George's, Ivychurch	7.30
Sunday 14th July		
Grahame Davies Poetry Recital & Discussion	St Mary in the Marsh	3.00
<i>We are not Shellfish</i> , Sabotage Theatre	St George's, Ivychurch	4.00





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• Selwyn College Choir, Cambridge • London Mozart Players
- Theatre:** Changeling Theatre • Sabotage Theatre
- Poetry:** Grahame Davies • Jonty Driver
- Photography and Art:** Amos Miller • Romney Marsh Students • Beach art with Jon Foreman
- Children's Sunday:** Story Telling • Clowning • Prop Making • Nature Sculpting
- Romney Marsh Churches Tour:** Four churches and pub lunch



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Fisheries Blessing Tradition

Since 1890 the Blessing of the Fisheries procession from St Peters Church down to Folkestone Harbour has taken place each year. Today, as is tradition, parishioners, fishermen, clergy, servers, choir, civic dignitaries including Folkestone Town Councillors and Chairman of F&HDC Cllr Mrs Berry - assembled outside St. Peters Church to form the procession. At the front was the Town Clerk and the new Mayor of Folkestone Councillor Jackie Meade looking splendid in the red Mayors gown, with gold chain of office, in readiness to process down to The Stade to arrive in good time for the start of the Blessing of the Fisheries service.



It was an overcast but very warm day and the procession, led at the very front by the Civic Warden in his gold edged jacket, waistcoat and three cornered hat - and bearing the heavy ornately decorated Mace over his shoulder, finally reached The Stade about 3.15pm. The procession was met by a crowd of local people and children who had gathered there and together they formed a semi circle around the lectern to hear the service. Bishop Roger Jupp SSC officiated at the service in which he blessed Folkestone Fishermen and the Fisheries - and today's calm weather meant that folk didn't need to hold onto their 'order of service' sheet too tightly. The sound of community voices singing hymns, accompanied by The Simon Langton Brass Band, carried some distance.

After the service the procession returned up the hill back to St. Peters Church where there was closing prayers and a blessing, before refreshments were served to all outside.

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Landrovers – a cranky family member

by Jan Holben

I am sadly challenged when it comes to telling one vehicle from another – they all just look like cars to me and I usually tell them apart by colour – for example I know my daughters car is royal blue and my sons car is (looked out of the window to check) silver grey. I can identify a Mini and I can recognise a Volkswagen – and I can mostly recognise a Land Rover especially if they are the older models – I am pretty sure I couldn't recognise the current models.

In it's favour my Land Rover is big (aren't they all) so I can easily find it in the supermarket car park as it stands slightly higher than surrounding cars – it has a huge boot which my huge doggie fits into nicely and finally, it tows my touring caravan a treat. These simple facts are probably why it is my favourite motor.

My Land Rover fetish started with an old County 110 (V8) which I bought some years ago as a project car for my partner to work on in his spare time. I was always a little scared to drive it because it felt so basic and yet so powerful. There was no air-con – just a flap vent you would open and which let air directly in from outside, complete with flying things. There was no sound deafening or ABS or any computer wizardry – but my goodness could it tow my little caravan easily. So, there you have it – the sum total of my understanding of cars – and it has to be said, even older Land Rovers defy my understanding because they seem to be a law unto themselves. Here are a few Landrover idiosyncrosies which we have learned to love.

The Three Amigos: As we drive along we often get the now familiar sounds 'bing bing bing' – and my partners will say – 'nothing to worry about – it's just the three amigos'. In fact if we complete a journey without the 'three amigos' I am left wondering what went wrong. The 'three amigos' in case you are wondering are three warning lights on the dashboard that always appear together. If you check out the Landrover forum (which by the way is excellent) you find there are whole threads devoted to the 'three amigos' – and, boy you haven't lived on the wild side if you haven't experienced at some point the 'three amigos' binging away.

Leaks: Landrover seem to suffer from water ingress, a lot. Water gets in through the sunroof, the roof guttering, A pillars and windscreens but my Disco2 is not half as bad as the County 110 –



when water would come in the doors and just about everywhere else. Again, when you check the Landrover forum – it's very much par for the course. I suppose if you are going through a lot of off-road puddles at least the water that leaks in can then leak back out again. One piece of LR Forum advice suggested putting a couple of de-humidifiers in each of the door pockets – well it's one solution!!

Grease Nipples: Yes, you read that correctly! My Disco2 has some grease nipples and we like them. The thing with grease nipples is that when they need to be topped up with grease you can do it yourself – whereas if you don't have grease nipples you will have instead the prepacked type which come (as it says on the box) prepacked with grease – and when the grease is gone – you have to buy new ones. So we like grease nipples – they are cost effective and they work.

Owning a Landrover is a bit like having a cranky and sometimes dysfunctional family member – and when you join a Landrover forum, its like joining a big family club for families with wayward children. Having said that most forum members are amazing at helping you get to the bottom of your mechanical or electrical problems, the advice is unparalleled and often given with a huge dose of humour (or sarcasm) for fair measure. If you do buy an old Land Rover and get to know it – you will either rue the day you ever set eyes on it – or you will learn to love it just the way it is – this little sign probably says it all.





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MARSH CHOIRS come together for music extravaganza

All Saint's Church in Lydd will be the venue for this year's most spectacular free musical event on the Marsh, when five Marsh Choirs come together for the first time in a unique concert to celebrate some of the best in classic rock, pop and soul music.

The 'Cathedral of the Marsh' will be the host to around 200 members of the individual Marsh Choirs from Lydd, Dymchurch, St. Mary's Bay, Appledore and Hythe performing a wide range of classic songs by the likes of the Beatles, Coldplay, The Darkness, Whitney Houston, The Killers, Beyoncé and the Eagles among many other legendary acts.



The music begins at 8pm on Saturday, 13th July at All Saint's Church, when the pews are expected to be filled by hundreds in a celebration of the amazing effort made since January by singers who have had little or no singing experience since their school-days.

"This event is the culmination of six months' hard work by the five Marsh Choirs, starting from scratch and being inspired to perform in the finest and most beautiful venue on the Marsh," says choir-master Carly Bryant, an internationally successful musician in her own right who has released six albums of self-penned and produced work, and performed to hundreds of thousands of music fans across the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia.

"It is a tribute to how far the choir members have come – from taking the first step to come along and join in to being good enough to put on a spectacular public performance they can be proud of."

The event is free but is being held in aid of Caring Altogether in Romney Marsh (CARM), the amazing charity which tackles the problem of isolation and loneliness in our unique rural environment. "So bring plenty of cash to support CARM, enjoy the bar and take advantage of some of the other stalls available on the evening!" urges Carly. For Carly, bringing the sounds of contemporary and classic popular music is the next stage of a journey making music across four continents – and now arriving at the Fifth Continent...

Check the Marsh Choir Facebook page or www.marshchoir.com

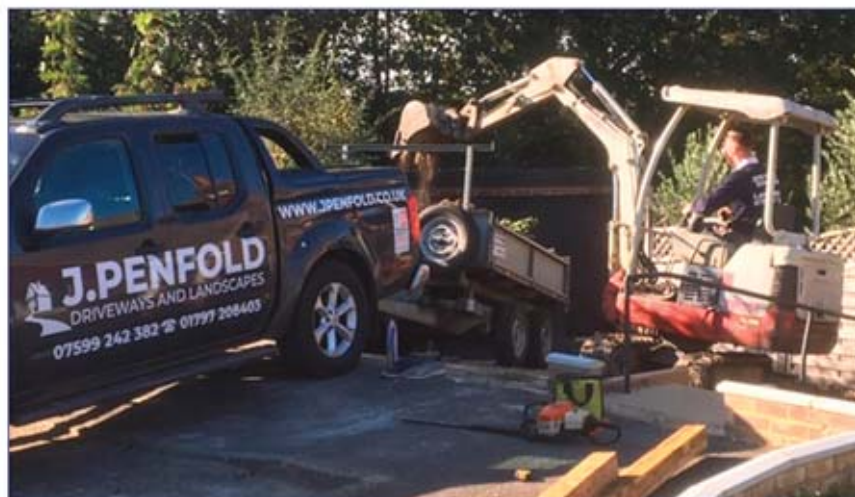
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ARMY ADVENTURE DAY 2019

Lydd Town Council would like to thank Lydd MPGS Platoon who once again ran the Lydd Ranges Adventure Day for 77 Year Six Pupils from Lydd and Greatstone Primary schools.

The Adventure Day was a short taster of Army skills. Pupils fired air rifles, handled a selection of Infantry weapons, peered through thermal night sights, crossed crocodile infested rivers during the team building tasks, learnt how to use maps, practised camouflage and concealment and learned how soldiers cook in the field. Despite the rain the children thoroughly enjoyed the day.



The event was sponsored by Lydd Town Council from money donated by Lydd Municipal Charities which had been earmarked in the Town Council's budget for this event.

The Town Council paid for the prizes and for the costs of lunch and the coaches to and from each school. Medals were presented to all of the pupils at the end of the day by the Mayor of Lydd, Cllr Graham Snell, Major Rick Beven and the Town Clerk.

Paul Smeed, ESS Support Services World Wide, prepared a fantastic lunch of burgers, hot dogs and doughnuts which were an instant

hit with the children. The undoubted stars of the day were the 18 soldiers from Lydd MPGS Platoon soldiers who set up and ran the events with help from the Physical Training Instructors at Shorncliffe Garrison.

Minden team from Greatstone Primary School won the team task, crossing the crocodile infested river in the quickest time. Lacey from Minden team was the top shot with a score of 94 out of 100.

The Adventure Day concluded with a guard dog display apprehending an intruder on a military base.



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CXK Awarded Integrated Communities Innovation Funding for Trailblazing Employment Project



After a competitive tendering process, the government's Integrated Communities Innovation Fund has awarded £183k to Kent-based charity CXK to fund a trailblazing employability project to support disadvantaged, unemployed young people.

CXK'S Working Heads project will deliver a new way for people living marginalised and isolated lives in Kent and Medway to showcase themselves to employers. Young people who are out of education, employment or training, and who struggle to create a good 'first impression' with a written CV, will be able to create video CVs as an alternative to the written form. The video CVs will be uploaded to an online portal, which is accessed by employers looking for candidates to fill existing job opportunities.

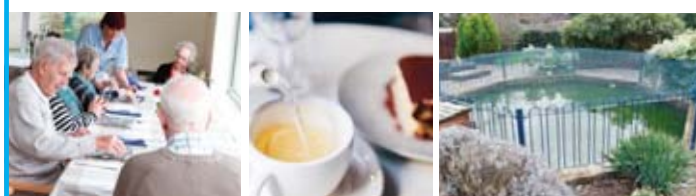
Anthony Hollingdale, Project Manager of Working Heads, said: "At CXK we're dedicated to supporting individuals to progress towards sustainable education, employment and training, and we're excited to be able to support local young people to access employers in a really engaging way, without the need for a written CV, which some young people find really difficult to construct. At the same time, we can offer employers a really convenient way to get an accurate representation of a candidate's personality and skills."

The web portal is currently in development and will be launched in September 2019.

Any organisation wishing to receive full details about Working Heads should contact: Anthony Hollingdale, 07725 445477, anthonyhollingdale@cxk.org.



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MARSH MAGIC



Miles of sandy beaches under a blue sky seen from Dymchurch

A man who left Kent more than 30 years ago returned to Looker territory to visit one of his favourite places and catch up with old friends – a journey down memory lane on his 1100 cc motorcycle – known as Betsy.

The vast blue sky together the seemingly never ending expanse of green that is this unique tract of land simply took my breath away. I approached the Marshes from Lympne on a very clear, cool morning with a breeze blowing in from the sea.

The view was awesome – you could see for miles. The sea was deep blue and the rays of the sun were scattered by the waves and dispersed in all directions. It looked as though the English Channel stretching from Hythe to St Mary's Bay through to Dungeness had been under a magic spell, with glittering jewels continually appearing and disappearing, like sparkling diamonds destined to adorn a necklace to be worn by a striking queen in some mystical land.

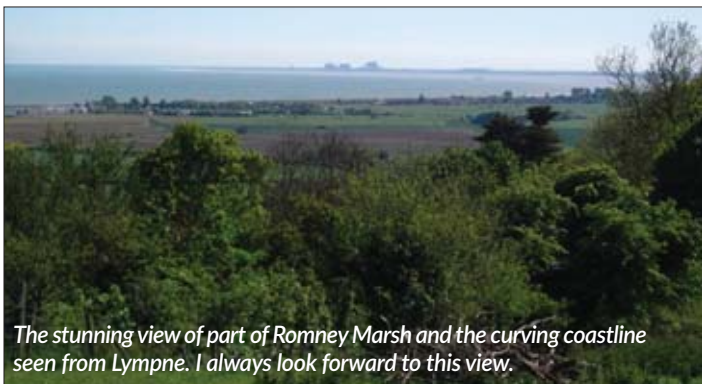
I started to descend Lympne Hill and the horizon with the heaving waves seemed to come ever closer, as though I was being drawn by some unseen hand further and deeper into a truly magical realm.

There is real beauty here, both in the iconic landscape, which is a gift of the sea, and in many of its people who extend a warm welcome to strangers and returning travellers. You can see it in the look of those who greet you, for the eyes are the gateway to the soul.

I follow the winding lane to the sea wall and the unique briny aroma of the flowing and ebbing tide is delivered by the on shore breeze – another gift of the sea. I spend some time in Dymchurch and enjoy much needed refreshment. A walk along the sea wall brings back many happy memories. I fire up Betsy and travel along the A259 to New Romney and Littlestone, following Coast Drive heading to Dungeness, a desert of shingle, which is unique.

Time to move on again to Lydd and from there I take the road and head for the Brenzett Straight. I travel along this road and end up in Snargate at the unique Red Lion pub. Step into the Red Lion and you are instantly transported back in time to a point where yesteryear comes to life before your very eyes – you've only got to walk through the door to see what I mean!

I ride on to St Clement at Old Romney; I think this is one of the loveliest little churches in England, with its pink pews and 560-year-old Yew tree. I park up and walk around the church and enjoy some peace and solace in its interior. Lydd Airport is the next stop and I enjoy a mug of tea and a meal in the brilliant Biggles Bar and restaurant. I used to visit as a child during the 1960s with my dad and watch the aircraft land and take off.



The stunning view of part of Romney Marsh and the curving coastline seen from Lympne. I always look forward to this view.

The lovely St Clement Church at Old Romney with its 560-year-old Yew tree.



I now journeyed to Littlestone where I was to spend several very happy and comfortable nights at Mulberry Cottage around 80 yards from the sea. This amazing value bed and breakfast comes courtesy of Helen and Paul Sanderson. There was a large double garage so that Betsy could enjoy a quite night's sleep after all her hard work!

Next morning I continued on my travels stopping off at St Mary in the Marsh, home to two wonderful old buildings - the lovely little church of St Mary the Virgin, which dates from medieval times and the amazing Star Inn. The Star Inn is hundreds of years old and has a lot of history, I've known the pub for around 40 years and the current owners extend visitors a very warm welcome.



The Star Inn at St Mary in the Marsh.

As I walked in I met Michelle who was working at the bar and her stunning smile took my breath away. I came through the door thinking how things might have changed and the combination of Michelle's smile and beautiful eyes stopped me dead in my tracks! I can remember thinking wow! We chatted for about half an hour and she was both very intelligent and thoughtful, one word comes to mind – 'amazing'.

Soon it was time to continue my travels and I headed inland and over the hills to Smeeth to catch up with my brother Russel and his lovely wife Sarah. I spent more comfortable nights at Mulberry Cottage and days touring around the Marsh off the beaten track meeting old friends and some new ones. For me, this was an amazing journey where I met some wonderful people. As Betsy and I headed up in to the hills on the way back to Wiltshire I thought of what an old friend said, 'Mark, don't leave it too long next time'. Until we meet again.

Princess Alexandra tours the churches of Romney Marsh

by Kim Gandy

The marsh's medieval churches were once in danger of becoming lost treasures until the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust was formed. Nowadays the churches enjoy loving restoration and constant interest of visitors from all over the world.

However, a number of them were recently honoured with a surprise patronage from Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra on an official visit to Romney Marsh, specifically to see the iconic landmarks.

The Princess, who is first cousin to both Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, had expressed an interest in visiting the area and began her trip at the Marsh's Community Interest Company, Romney Tweed.

Among the notables to greet the Princess were: Viscount de L'Isle, MBE, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent and Viscountess De L'Isle; Paul Barrett MBE, High Sheriff of Kent;



Mrs Ann Allen MBE, Chairman of Kent County Council and Superintendent Nigel Brookes, East Division, Kent Police.

The Princess, who appeared extremely clued up on the Marsh, the power station and the problems of low employment in the area, was given a tour of the company's headquarters at Old Romney. She expressed great interest in the high quality, attractive designs, picking up and inspecting fabric swatches, which she proclaimed with a smile: "...isn't at all prickly!"

She spent considerable time discussing the textiles and the processes with Weaver in Residence, Rosie Green and laughed and

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joked with founder Patricia Alston. At one point, she was seen playfully laying a fabric swatch across the shoulder of Lord Boyce, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

The Princess was delighted to be presented with a roll of fine Romney Tweed and a small Tweed carrying case. She appeared very enthusiastic about the quality, colours and designs but lamented "I haven't seen a sheep yet!" However, she was quickly reassured that there would be "plenty in the fields around the churches".

After her visit to Romney Tweed, the Princess was taken on a guided tour of the churches at Old Romney,



Brookland, Fairfield and Ivychurch, accompanied by council members of the Trust and greeted at each one by the respective incumbent priests.

Many of the Marsh's much loved ancient edifices were once surrounded by water but most now enjoy the pastoral peace and charm of the inspirational landscape, where sheep often graze amongst their ancient walls and memorial stones.

The Trust's work has laboured to bring these much-loved churches back to life and even to preserve the ruins of Hope Church of All Saints and Midley Church. The Trust often runs tours of the churches. If you wish to know more,

or become a member of the Trust, please log on to: www.romneychurches.org.uk



Folkestone Armed Forces Com

The sun shone and thousands flocked to Folkestone for the Armed Forces Day last Sunday. The day, which was organised by Folkestone Town Council, is probably the biggest one day free event in Kent, with an estimated 40,000 people attending.

Roads around the Leas were closed off from mid-morning as early birds arrived to see the day officially underway. An introduction was read by the worshipful Mayor of Folkestone, Jackie Meade followed by a rousing performance of God Save The Queen carried out by the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, followed by standards of all the armed services being presented at the band stand and the ceremonial raising of the standard, to start the rest of the days events.

The Leas was packed by lunchtime, when the aero legends Dakota dropped six free-falling parachute jumpers who undertook three separate styles of jumping from the historic World War Two war bird, with two 'stream lining' and hitting speeds of over 160 mph as they swooped down in special winged jump suits, followed by two traditional free falling 'jumpers' and lastly two who performed a tethered dive spiralling down toward the beach drop zone. This was followed by the unforgettable sound of a single Merlin engine as a Spitfire performed a number of long arching loops and turns at eye level over the sea.

At lunchtime, dignitaries were treated to a reception luncheon in the Channel Suite of the Leas Cliff Hall, which acted as the base for the public address system and local radio station Academy FM who interviewed a number of the different armed forces.

All the time the action was in the air, it was matched by the Leas being swarmed with thousands of people from the majestic greens outside the Metropole and Grand Hotel, right along the top of the Leas to the World War Two Memorial Arch. In the main arena, displays by the local First Battalion of the Gurka Rifles demonstrated their unique fighting skills and a demonstration of Taekwondo. Not to be out done, different cadet groups then took part in a Tug 'O' War, with stall holders doing brisk trade in the fantastic warm sunshine.



One of the busiest trading stalls was the Red Arrows stall, which was ten deep as people eagerly awaited the display.

It was one of the few chances to see the Red Arrows' minute display, which due to operational schedules, as they are about to undertake a ten-week tour of Canada. As ever the team did not fail to impress, as they crossed the terrace roof tops exactly on time, putting on a kind world class display that has made them one of the most popular aerobatic display teams. As the crowds stood in the sun, the Folkestone & Hythe District Council who organised the event, said:

"This has been a superb day and helps show the support of thousands of people. Both the District Council and the Folkestone & Hythe District Council have worked so hard to build this event year on year and today has been a fantastic day."

Community Fun Day

which was jointly promoted by Folkestone & Hythe District Council and 100 people attending.



Airmans Monument on the Leas



Princess of Wales Regimental Band



The Standards



Jackie Meade & Folkestone Councillors



*Ann Berry with David Monk
(Chairman & Leader of the District Council)*



Folkestone's New Mayor Jackie Meade with The Gurkas



As was the Red Arrows merchandise truck, eagerly awaited the main highlight of the day. to see the Red Arrows carry out a full 20-yr operational schedules will be quite rare this year as they make a ten-week tour of North America and they are not fail to impress as they came streaking exactly on time to the second, performing the manoeuvre made them indisputably the worlds number one. As the crowds started to leave, David Monk from Folkestone District Council who helped sponsor the event said, "It's a real help to showcase the district to tens of thousands of people. Folkestone District Council along with the Town Council have worked hard to build on the success of last year and today has been superb!"

Search for Romney's missing church

An archaeological excavation has been carried out in St Martin's Field, New Romney, to look for the remains of the church which gives the field its name. Volunteers on the Fifth Continent Project, led by Heritage Officer Dr Lucie Bolton, excavated a number of test pits looking for the remains of the building which was taken down in 1549 after permission was granted by Archbishop Cranmer. The population of New Romney was decreasing and the town could no longer afford to maintain two churches. As St Nicholas' church was in better condition, it was decided that St Martin's should be taken down and the material sold off.

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Previous archaeological work carried out between 2005 - 2007 found a number of graves in the field but the location of the church was still not known. The size, age and what the church looked like are also unknown. These are some of the questions Lucie and her team hope to answer with their investigation. The group spent three days excavating the test pits. After a disappointing first day with no sign of the building, the team were thrilled to discover what appeared to be a buttress of the church on their second day and what looks like another buttress on the final day. They also found a number of medieval floor tiles, glazed and unglazed roof tiles, pottery and a single piece of window glass.

Now the task of processing all of the artefacts begins. The volunteers will carefully wash, label and record each artefact before sending the material to specialists who will provide a date range for the finds. Once this has been done the material can then be put on display in New Romney for everyone to see.

The team plan to return next summer to do some more excavation where they hope to discover how big the church was. If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the project, please contact: lucie.bolton@kentwildlifetrust.org.uk



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Dymchurch and Salbris Twinning Associations

The Dymchurch Twinning Association along with the new Chairman of the Parish Council and President of the Twinning Association, Deana Coker and Heather Bateman, the Chairman of Dymchurch Twinning, were given a surprise on the Friday evening when Deana Coker was asked to unveil a sign, it is as a new Road in Salbris that has been named Dymchurch and is in direct alignment with the village.

The visitors were taken to the agricultural show on Saturday with an emphasis on honey making, in the evening the evening they dined with residents of Salbris, the whole weekend was packed with activities and gourmet delights which Deana Coker thoroughly enjoyed on her first visit to Salbris, she was made to feel welcome on her arrival and thoroughly enjoyed the visit.



Photo from left to right: Jaque La Fosse, President of Salbris Twinning Association, Deana Coker Chairman of Dymchurch Parish Council and President of Dymchurch Twinning Association, Mr Oliver Pavay President of Communaties and Communes of the region of Sologne de Rivieirs and Mayor of Salbris, Heather Bateman, Chairman of Dymchurch Twinning Association.

The Twinning Association started with the fire fighters of Dymchurch and Salbris, the parish council became involved some years later when the late Cllr Joyce Cockerill became chairman of the parish council. She with the Cllr Joe Turner met representatives of Salbris at the TML offices in Cheriton where the Twinning documents for the village and Salbris were signed.

The parish Cllrs will be busy this Saturday, June 29 as there is an open day at parish council chamber with an exhibition by the Heritage Group.

Bloomin' Good Festival

The Flower Festival at St Mary's Bay was held from 21st - 23rd June 2019. The displays were amazing and



from the left: Sylvia McNeill, Brenda Burchell, Judy Keeler and Gill Singfield

it was a wonderful weekend with refreshments, concerts and stalls in the church hall. A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible and to all the people who took part.

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The Political Bit

DAVID WIMBLE

They say that a week in politics is a very long time and when I was elected I promised to write a monthly update on what I had been up to. As many people know, after the district elections no one party had an overall majority. In fact the council was very split, with Hythe being represented by the Green Party who stood pretty much on a single issue of Princes Parade, Labour had gains in Folkestone and the rest of the seats went to the Conservatives, Liberals and UKIP. At this point parties started talking to each other about the possibilities of working together in a working alliance.


I was asked to side with the Conservative party, something I thought long and hard over, and this is the first time I have actually written about my reasons why. Many people will know that I stood formally as a Conservative councillor, so I knew most of the people within the party. Whilst I sympathise with some of the green issues that the national Green Party represent, I was not given any information about what they stand for other than being very keen on stopping Princes Parade. The Labour Party which is heavily 'momentum' politics, is something that in my opinion goes against what a district council should do and that is not have politics at a

local level. The Liberal Party did not seem to be standing on any issues that affected Romney Marsh but as a party I admire their stance of remaining in Europe, but again a view that I and the majority of the district voted against.

So when I was offered the chance to work alongside the Conservative party, I thought better the devil you know. BUT I did so at a price. I have asked for assistance with giving the Marsh its fair share of help in implementing some quite exciting projects. And it has to be better for the Marsh to have someone on the cabinet controlling the council than a single backbencher. I do want to make one thing very clear though, and that is that I did so on the condition that I vote as an independent and not with the party line. So I still maintain my independent stance.

Since being asked to join the Cabinet, I have been working almost full time attending the Civic Centre at least three times a week. I missed one meeting for planning, not because I did not want to go, but because I was sent to a meeting near Nancy in France.


Part of the deal about being a district councillor is for me that your town comes first in your priority, but all councillors are meant to work together for the benefit of the whole district. As such, part




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of my portfolio is Tourism and Regeneration, which for me is a great thing to be involved with. One of the current issues is what will happen to the town centre in Folkestone, with the imminent closure of Debenhams? When you see the lengths that the council go to, not only try and protect jobs, but to try and improve the district, you have to be impressed. The problem is most people do not realise what they actually do. I did a Meridian TV interview about promoting the district and when you are made aware of some of the exciting projects being lined up over the next four years, you realise that the council has a mission to make our district the place to live, work and visit.

Also I have re-introduced a District Council surgery which I take every first Friday of the month at the Assembly Rooms in New Romney from 4.15 until 5.30 p.m. and this has already proved popular. I am also working with a group of local people on launching a business start up mentoring service, which you will read more about in the weeks to come.

No one will ever thank you for being a councillor. Most things have to be a carefully weighed up decision and when it comes to planning issues, you cannot be too emotive and have to abide

purely by planning law. This is something that some councillors are struggling with at the moment. But in finishing this first article, I want to remind people that I am prepared to work with any person or party if it benefits the district.

Finally, I have already helped local businesses with planning applications and requested that the Romney Resource Centre is now fully subsidised on its rates for its Mountfield Road site. Again, something that I promised to do as part of my manifesto. The Resource Centre should be playing a very important role for New Romney over the next few years as the Mountfield Estate is developed and I was pleased to help play a small part in that.

By the time you read this column, Princes Parade will be a known entity, either being given the final green light, or being held up again. As I mentioned, you sometimes have to vote on proposals on the facts and not let emotions get in the way. It will be an interesting meeting.



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Lyons Emporium – Lydd's Own Legend

by Kim Gandy

Imagine back in time, before the advent of the supermarket, local stores that were an Aladdin's Cave of fancy – and practical – goods, old fashioned, courteous service – and a shopkeeper who knew all the locals by first name.

In this age of instant shopping at the press of a button on a keyboard, with items arriving on your doorstep the very next day, it is all very convenient but nothing compares with good service and value on your own doorstep.

Lyons of Lydd easily rolls off the tongue and this store is not only an institution in the town but also of Romney Marsh and beyond.

Sally Lyons' parents, Benny and Mary, arrived in the area as the power station at Dungeness was just being completed in the late 1950s. Benny Lyons set up a store at Dungeness, supplying the workforce, who came from all over the country, with work clothes and other durables. Eventually his enterprise found its way to Lydd High Street in premises close to the site of the present-day pharmacy and subsequently to a site next door to the present-day Spar mini supermarket.

Through the years, Sally and her parents became part of the fabric of Lydd, dispensing quality goods at fair prices and the store eventually moved to its current location in Coronation Square in 1983.

Sally, who has worked in the family business for 50 years, is now the sole owner and runs her store with some help from an assistant. She knows most of the locals and their children and folk from other parts of Kent who come



She continued: "A lady from a film crew came in recently, to buy an apple corer. She wanted to use it to enable her to put string through pineapples to hang them from trees. I get all sorts of requests for random items!"

As I wandered around the shop, I was reminded of the comedy series, *Are You Being Served?* Gents clothing was neatly hung from circular rails, with shoes, hats, ties and all manner of related accessories. There was even a changing room, to help customers make their choices.

Ladies' wear included, as did the men's, both practical and more frivolous items including sassy summer sandals – and colourful accessories adorned the walls and hangers. The middle of the store is largely given to hardware and household goods, with everything from duvet covers to air pumps and spades. Children's paddling pools and buckets and spades added a bright splash of colour and all kinds of smaller objects such as decorative coin purses and miniature torches on key rings nestled in trays on the counter.

"I sell a lot of things that you can't even find in neighbouring towns," Sally informed me. "I deliver tights to a lady in New Romney because most big supermarkets and other outlets are some distance away."

She added with a smile: "You can't even buy a pair of knickers in New Romney but you can here!"

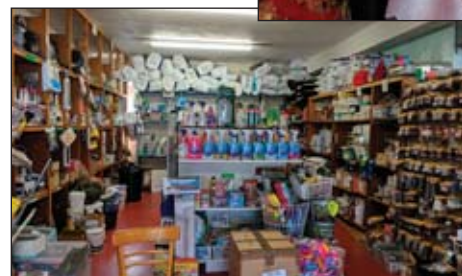
As closing time approached, Sally began to bring goods in from her pavement display. A steady trickle of customers popped in for random items. I offered help but Sally beamed: "I know where everything goes".

I was in no doubt at all that Sally Lyons knows a great deal. She is much more than Lydd's only "superstore". She is an institution in itself: a confidante, a friend, a font of local knowledge and a one-woman community hub that provides much more than a couple of biros or a roll of Sellotape. **Sally Lyons is a Lydd legend.**



from far and wide to shop at her emporium – for this shop can only be described as such.

Whilst I was there, a steady stream of customers rolled in, with requests for items



and in the space of a few minutes, left with an array of products varying from tomato plant food to batteries and a reel of white cotton.

Sally informed me: "We are well supported by local care homes whose staff and relatives often purchase comfortable Velcro slippers and old-fashioned pyjamas, which I stock because they are so popular.

"I have builders that come in for paint and sometimes tourists come in for beach items but it's mainly local people and those who have lived in Lydd but moved out of the area and still come back here to shop. They come from as far away as Tunbridge Wells."

Whilst talking to Sally, several families came in, all referring to her by her first name. "I know most of them," Sally smiled. "I see and hear most things that go on, being so central – and people tell me things. I have one lady who comes from Ashford just for a look around the shop and a chat but she is not from Lydd originally."





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GARDENERS' CORNER

It's Pimm's o'clock but don't pass on the mint

Mint is a battle to be won and the prize can be wonderfully refreshing. Debbie Ward puts up a fight and enjoys the spoils of war.

Mint. Where the Pimm's would we be without it? As the sun has finally deigned to show its face, it's time to dig out the biggest glass jug we can find and gather together the ingredients for the most elaborate of summer drinks. The afore mentioned Pimm's No1, lemonade, oranges, strawberries, cucumber and mint. Lots of mint.

Now, gardeners have a love-hate relationship with mint. On the one hand it grows so enthusiastically one can always provide enough leaves for a whole Pimm's party. On the other hand it grows so enthusiastically we spend far too much time weeding it out of where it is not supposed to be. It spreads by runners fairly deep underground, deeper than a trowel goes, so it often pops up in the most unexpected places, far from the original plant.

There is a school of thought that planting mint in a bottomless bucket keeps it in check. This method merely encourages the plant to immediately send runners just outside the bucket, throw up shoots and completely surround it. The hapless misled gardener spends the following weekend scratching his head wondering where the bucket has gone. And the following weekend wondering where his border has gone. Mint is fast, very fast. And cunning.

I inherited a greenhouse with borders completely infested with mint. Mint is not the hardiest of plants so it made a beeline to a warm place to spend the winter. I spent a considerable amount of time pulling the roots out while it was dormant.

As spring came I pulled out every bit of that poked its head above ground. I planted my tomatoes and the day after a flush of mint seedlings covered the borders. (Did I mention mint self seeds too? This is a very determined herb.)

But mint is a joy that makes it worthwhile battling it into submission. Common garden mint is a bit wishy-washy, sweetish smelling when crushed in the sun but almost completely tasteless in salads and drinks and useless for cooking. Moroccan mint is a much better multi-purpose variety, making a fine-looking, bushier plant as well as faring better in the kitchen.

For those of us partial to mint tea, there is no finer mint for this than chocolate mint (closely followed

by black

peppermint).

It does have a

hint of chocolate

about the fresh leaves,

but that disappears when a generous handful is soaked in boiling water for ten minutes. The result is a robust, flavoursome, refreshing drink that will stand up to a digestive biscuit, and that cannot be said about many herbal teas. The plant is much better behaved too, and if kept on a warm, bright windowsill, has leaves all year round. I got mine from the plant stand by the antiques shop in Appledore station car park.



Whatever your favourite minty tippie, chin chin!



Moroccan mint makes an attractive, upright, tightly packed, robust plant



Chocolate mint leaves make the most delicious tea and the plant is more delicate in habit

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Dungeness: A Utopian Society

Dungeness has been described as many things over the years but now it's officially an Utopian Society that has achieved peace and stability through the prohibition of monogamy, privacy, money, family, and history itself. Well that is the description given in a brand new multi-million TV drama series called 'A Brave New World', which is currently being filmed on the private estate over the coming weeks.

There has been lots of local speculation as an unusual structure started to be built over recent days with people wondering if it was another 'Des Res'? But the structure is part of the set for this new production which is starring actress Demi Moore in a shooting schedule in the UK on the Dungeness estate.

The show is reportedly costing Steven Spielberg's Amblin Television Company \$360 million to produce and it is hoped that it will attract similar audiences to the Netflix production 'Breaking Bad' which it co-produced.

The series is based on the book 'Brave New World', a dystopian novel by English author Aldous Huxley, written in 1931 and published in 1932. Largely set in a futuristic world state of genetically modified citizens and an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel anticipates huge scientific developments in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation, and classical conditioning, that are combined to make a utopian society that goes challenged only by a single outsider.



When The Looker went on to the set to meet some of the crew and take some pictures, they were told that, "Dungeness is a superb location and we have been given great assistance by the estate management team. As a location, it does not get much better. The site has everything that we were looking for such as desolation and outstanding unique beauty."

The film unit are believed to be filming for the next couple weeks and also have been filming on the Ministry of Defence ranges as well.

When the new building was constructed, lots of people actually stated on social media that it fitted in well and that it was a shame it could not stay.

Dungeness is a regular filming location for films and pop videos but it is designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest and companies have to comply to conditions set down in strict guidelines and monitored by the estate managers who insure that film crews do not interfere with the peace and tranquillity of the area.



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Book Review

250 YEARS SINCE HYTHE WOMAN BURNED AT THE STAKE by Mark Newsom

Book review by John Wimble

This little book by local author Mark Newsom, marks 250 years since a local woman, Susannah Lott was burned at the stake. She was found guilty of poisoning her husband whom she had married for his money.

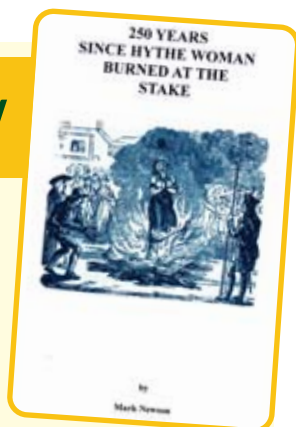
In Mark's book, he goes into the background of death by burning which apparently had a long history of capital punishment.

Susannah Lott was married to a wealthy Hythe butcher, John Lott, but got involved with a certain Benjamin Buss, the brother of her sisters' husband. Mark goes into the detail of the relationships between the three people which resulted in the death of her husband. The 'Shepherd & Crook' at Burmarsh features in the story as does the 'Royal Oak' near Eastbridge.

This interesting little book is written by Mark who is a member of the Marsh Ink Writers Group and also includes some line drawings of the time.

The book is £2.50 including postage & packing or only £2 for collection from Old Romney.

Contact Mark on 01797-361817 for further details.



LOOKER LETTERS

Dear Looker,

On Friday 21st June Owen Leyshon came to the Romney Marsh Day Centre, to talk about the Countryside Partnership.

He brought with him leeches, newts, tadpoles and even a grass snake (all in secured containers I am pleased to say).

His talk was packed with information including how they look after the Dungeness Estate and the surrounding area. He was pleased to see such a large turn out.

I would like to thank The Looker for promoting this event.

Kindest regards, Vicki Dawson (RMDC Volunteer)

Dear Looker,

I've just wasted two hours of my life watching a live webcast of the recent Folkestone & Hythe District Council meeting. What a shambles.

There was some guy rambling on at great length about 'Deliveroo' and 'Ubereat' whatever they are? What on earth has this got to do with local residents?

Then the great debate regarding Princes Parade at Hythe. As one councillor said, there are pros and cons and these were aired by both sides. Fair enough and after the vote, the anti-Princes Parade won the evening by 15 votes to 14. So this should be the end of it then. Oh no, the Leader of the Council said that the vote was not legal and would not be binding on the Council!

So what was the point of having the debate if at the end of it, the Council don't like the decision and ignore it? What a farce. A bit like Brexit!

Yours truly, Romney Marsh Resident

Dear Looker,

I write to express my concern over what to me seems to be the excessive number of bags received appealing for unwanted clothes in support of a number of different charities.

Of course, like all households I imagine, we have received many of these collection bags over the years but in the last three weeks or so we have received six sets as photo below.



- 2 from
againstbreastcancer.org
- 2 from Rainbow Trust
- 1 from bliss.org
- 1 from Leukaemia Care

While accepting that these are all worthy good causes, it does seem to me that they are all attempting to solve one problem while

contributing to another in that most of these plastic envelopes containing plastic bags must surely end up in the (plastic) waste bin where they will ultimately be adding to the mountains of plastic that we are all supposed to be working to eliminating.

Surely as charities, they must realise that there is a very limited amount of clothes that any one household has to dispose of at any one time and be aware of their responsibility to help in the resolution of the plastics packaging issue.

Yours faithfully, Trevor Harrison New Romney

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Our Man in Westminster

DAMIAN COLLINS



I was shocked to see the result this week of the investigation by the water and sewage regulator Ofwat, into Southern Water's business practices over a seven-year period, from 2010 to 2017. The company has been hit with a record fine of £126m as a punishment for spills of wastewater into the environment from its sewage plants. Ofwat has also found that Southern Water deliberately misreported its performance by manipulating its wastewater sampling process. This meant that it was providing inaccurate information about a number of sewage treatment sites, to create a more favourable impression of the effectiveness of their operation. Southern Water's failure to operate its wastewater treatments works properly has meant that there have been unpermitted and premature spills of wastewater from those treatment works - where wastewater has not gone through all of the processes it is supposed to before being released into the environment.

The scandal here is not just their failure as a business, but the deliberate attempt to cover up for their mistakes, despite the detrimental impact they were having on their customers and the environment. The £126million penalty levied on the company will take the form of a direct fine to be paid to the regulator, and a rebate to customers, which will see each one receive at least £61 deducted from their bills over the next five years. Southern Water's new management team need to work with Ofwat to put right what has gone wrong. Any further failings from the company on this scale, should seem them lose their operating license. This case further underlines the important work that independent regulators do to hold companies like Southern Water accountable for their actions.

In more positive news I was delighted to see that passengers using Folkestone West railway station will benefit from a substantial grant from the government, to create a new hub for cyclists. Following a successful bid by Southeastern trains, the station will receive £66,000 of funding from the Department for Transport, supplemented by a further £24,000 funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy. The new hub will mean 40 new spaces for cyclists, supporting sustainable, environmentally-friendly travel to the station. The hub will also include a repair stand and a pump and will be protected by a swipe card entry system and CCTV.

Finally, I was very sad to learn in the last week about the passing of Reg Belcourt, who had previously served for 16 years as a member of Hythe Town Council. Reg was also a prominent Rotarian, member of the Chamber of Commerce and for many years was responsible for the Christmas lights and Hythe in Bloom. With his late wife Keren, they brought up five children of their own, as well as providing a home for many more that they fostered. Reg was much loved and truly gave back a huge amount to this community. He will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends.

Council tackles hoarding and bed-blocking with innovative schemes

Two innovative schemes have been funded by Folkestone & Hythe District Council, using Government money aimed at helping people stay safe at home.

The council is using some of its Disabled Facilities Grant fund to pay for two specialist caseworkers: one to help residents with hoarding issues, and another to make sure people who have been treated in hospital can return home when they are well. All too often, patients' discharge is delayed because their homes need minor adaptations to help them manage better and stay well.

Both projects are delivered in partnership with Peabody home improvement agency and Cllr David Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Housing, Transport and Special Projects, said they would make a real difference to people's lives.

He said: "I'm delighted that we are able to fund these two new services. "Hoarding is an issue that is very much in the news and Peabody offer a sympathetic but effective approach to help people tackle it. "We also hear a lot about people being stuck in hospital even after they are well enough to go home, so if our funding can help tackle that and free up beds for other people then it is certainly a good use for the money."

Peabody's Home Straight co-ordinator Jayne Langran works with clients to understand the cause of their hoarding and to help them tackle it and change their ways - for good.

Hoarding can have a huge impact on people's lives, from forcing them to sleep in a chair because they can't get to their bedroom, or leaving them at risk of injury because there are no safe pathways through their home.

The service is available to adults living in the Folkestone & Hythe district who are older, have a long-term health condition or who live in homes with issues that affect their physical health.

People can refer themselves, or are referred by professionals such as GPs, housing staff or Social Services. Friends and family can also refer people, as long as they have their consent to do so. For more information, email Jayne.langran@peabody.org.uk or call 07975 236210.

Health and housing co-ordinator Nicole Foad-Bailey is based at the William Harvey Hospital and works with patients who are well enough to go home but have housing issues preventing their discharge. For more information call 0800 028 3172 or email hia@peabody.org.uk

Money is also available from the Disabled Facilities Grant scheme to pay for adaptations to people's homes, including wet rooms, ramps, rails and stair lifts. For more information visit <https://folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/housing/disabled-facility-grants> For more information please email communications@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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Foot Health Practitioner



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Who doesn't like a holiday in their own touring caravan – going anywhere you want to go, with hardly any notice, UK or abroad. I know its not every-ones cup of tea, but as I drive around I have noticed a lot of touring caravans, and I am happy to say I am a touring caravan owner too.

We just love the freedom of setting off and after the initial stop off somewhere (usually Belgium) then you can quite literally plan your route as you go – at least thats how it works for us. One year we started in Belgium, then moved in Luxembourg, then Germany, Switzerland (omg the snow covered mountains) and then back through Belgium (avoiding the French tolls as much as possible) and finally into France to cross at Dunkirk.

It's not for everyone – but it suits us and luckily our huge doggie likes it too – this year we will do it all again – but thats another story and I will tell the gory details about that soon. For now, I wanted to give some advice about things to consider when looking for a good caravan storage facility. If you have your caravan on the drive – look away, this is probably not for you.

When deciding which storage facility is the right one for you – these things should be taken into account:

- **Ease of access:** During what times can you access your caravan for cleaning or maintenance, what are the opening and closing times of the site, what time do the barriers close at the end of the day, if you want to arrive back or leave in the small hours of the morning does this facility have a late arrivals area outside where you can park up. Is the storage facility a caravan campsite itself – you may find it useful to stay there for a few days before you travel, to get your caravan ready for the holiday, or just to take a mini break.
 - **Security:** Is your caravan stored with other caravans in a dedicated fenced area or in a field on its own, is there good security lighting, is the area monitored by CCTV.
 - **Hard Standing:** More and more caravan storage facilities are providing storage on hard standing – such a blessing if its been raining heavily.
 - **Proximity to Port:** Its actually quite nice to have storage which is somewhere between where you live and where you may be going (in my example, we want storage on route to Dover)
 - **Cost of Storage:** I phoned around extensively – and in very general terms decent storage would cost from £400 to £600 per year. If you are a member of Caravan and Motorhome or Caravan and Camping Club – check out their storage facilities, sometimes they offer preferential terms to members. You may also get discount on Caravan insurance through your membership if stored on one of their sites. Seasonal booking is more expensive than booking for the entire year.
 - **Bonus/Extras:** Does the storage site have an Approved Workshop nearby to deal with those irritating repairs that sometimes crop up. Will your friendly storage facility manager tow you out of storage onto a caravan pitch for a small, or no, fee.
 - **CaSSOA** – is the storage site a member of the Caravan Storage Site Owners Assn, this indicates the site meets high security standards.
- There are some great storage facilities in this area, and a few not so great ones – so my final bit of advice is – as the saying goes **Caveat Emptor** (buyer beware).

NEW ROMNEY COUNTRY FAYRE sponsors photoshoot - 27th July 2019

New Romney Country Fayre will take place on Saturday 27th July 2019 on St Martin's Field and the Fairfield Road Recreation Ground, New Romney. 2019 is a special year, as it marks the 25th Anniversary of the Fayre. Proceedings will start with a vibrant and noisy parade through the High Street at 10.15am, with the theme of "English Country Garden". The Official Opening will take place at 11.15am.

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Holiday Extras • The Holistic Home

Programmes will be on sale from 27th June in local shops throughout New Romney and the surrounding area. They only cost £1 each and are a guide to all the arena activities and also contain a special feature on the past 25 years of the Fayre. Each programme is also a ticket into a Lucky Prize Draw for a chance to win a host of exciting prizes, including Airport Lounge Tickets, tickets to the Romney Marsh Maize Maze and on the RHDR.

The Country Fayre costs around £11,000 to stage annually. All of this money is raised every year by the team of less than 20 volunteers. Programme advertising and sales account for around 20% of the total income. As the Fayre is free to enter and also with free parking, please show your support for your community event and buy one of the programmes. The organising committee has been working extremely hard for the past 12 months to ensure that this year's anniversary fayre is truly an event to remember.

It's still not too late to be involved, either to take part in the parade or to be a volunteer helper on the day. Please check out our Facebook page - newromneycountryfayre for more information if you would like to take part.

www.newromneycountryfayre.co.uk / Facebook: newromneycountryfayre



LOOKER SPORT

LOCAL CRICKET

**Folkestone Sunday XI
224-4 v Lydd 63 all out**

*Folkestone Sunday XI
won by 161 runs*

A heavy defeat for the Marsh side in this friendly match. The Folkestone Sunday XI batted first and made 224-4 off their 40 overs. Alec Lindsey was the most successful of the Lydd bowlers taking two wickets for 33 runs.

The visitors collapsed from the first over and were 23-7 at one stage. The first seven batsmen couldn't even reach double figures. Only a stand of 39 from Steve Smith and Lawrence Addy saved the inevitable for Lydd and they were all out for 63 in the 25th over. Steve Smith made 19 and Lawrence Addy finished on 12 not out.

New Romney 248-6 v Davington Priory 141-8

New Romney won by 107 runs

New Romney won the toss and batted first in this friendly match and made 248-6 off 40 overs. The highlight was another century from Luke Payton, his third of the season so far. He made 120 with Elliot Symonds the next highest scorer with 38. Luke is having a tremendous season for the Marsh side and has scored nearly 700 runs with an average of over 77.

Troy Harding and R. Starkley soon got among the wickets when the visitors batted and Davington finished on 141-8 after 40 overs. Troy Harding took 3-14 and R. Starkley 2-11.

Lydd 147 all out v Winchelsea 183 all out

Winchelsea won by 36 runs

After a good start to the season, Lydd suffered another defeat in this friendly game. They won the toss and put the visitors in to bat. A fine 109 from Pat Wood helped Winchelsea to 183 after 39 overs. For the Lydders, Lewis Unwin took 4-21 and Martin Ham 3-10.

Only Lewis Unwin with 44 made a respectable score when the home side went in and they were all out for 147 after 38 overs.

Selstead 168-8 v Brookland 169-5

Brookland won by five wickets

Brookland won the toss and decided to field first in this league match. Selstead could only manage 168-8 after their 40 overs with Craig Pearce the best of the visitor's bowlers taking 4-9 off nine overs. Daxesh Patel chipped in with 2-36.

Captain Scott Balcomb was the star of Brookland's innings scoring half of the runs needed making 85. He was ably supported by Joe Bryley who finished on 31 not out.

After five games, Brookland are top of the Kent Village Cricket Division Three table with 51 points.

Wye 114 all out v New Romney 130 all out

New Romney won by 16 runs

New Romney won the toss and batted first in this low scoring friendly game. They were all out for 130 after 30 overs with the main contribution coming from R. Starkley who made 64 not out.

The home side just failed to reach the New Romney total with Shane Lawrence taking three wickets for nine runs. R. Starkley took 2-9 and Luke Payton 2-21.

PADDLEBOARD ADVENTURE RAISES THOUSANDS FOR CANCER CHARITY

An assistant director at Folkestone & Hythe District Council has raised thousands of pounds for a cancer charity by paddle-boarding 23 miles along the Royal Military Canal.

Andy Blaszkowicz, assistant director for Environment and Corporate Assets, undertook the challenge on Tuesday, 25 June and paddled from Rye in Sussex to Seabrook in Hythe. He was inspired to raise money after losing his mum to cancer, and after his friend and colleague at the council was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Councillor David Monk, Leader of Folkestone & Hythe District Council, said it was an impressive achievement. He said: "Everyone has lost friends and family to cancer, and with a colleague undergoing treatment at the moment it is particularly close to home. "Andy was motivated to act and set a great example to us all and it's no wonder he received so much support from across the council. "Our staff and councillors do some amazing work to support charities, both locally and nationally, and I'm always in awe of their creativity and determination to raise money for good causes."

Andy was joined by members of his colleague's family for the last leg of his paddleboard adventure and another colleague cycled alongside him to provide encouragement. He was welcomed back to dry land by other colleagues and friends – and the news that he had reached his £3,000 target for Cancer Research UK. The trip took six hours, and the furthest Andy had previously paddled was four miles. To add to Andy's sponsorship, visit <https://tinyurl.com/andybpaddleboard>



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4th July

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.

Friday 5th July

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 6th July

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

Coffee Morning, Newchurch Church, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Indoor Craft Fair, St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Romney Marsh Walking Society, Woodchurch Car Park, 11 a.m. (3.5 miles)

Monday 8th July

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.

Searchlight Theatre Company, Dymchurch Church, 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 9th July

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 10th July

St. Mary's Bay Computer Club, Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. - 1 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, RH&DR station, Hythe, 2 p.m. (3.5 miles)

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

Saturday 13th July

Summer Fayre & Teddy Bear Jump, All Saints Church, Lydd, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

NEW ROMNEY DAY CENTRE, ROLFE LANE

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. 1st 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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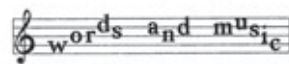
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CHURCHES CORNER ROUND-UP

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. If you are able to donate any food, however little, it would be very much appreciated. Many churches have collection points. The need is rising and the warehouse at Hythe is emptier than it ever has been, despite record inflows. They have a list of immediate necessities including LL milk, tinned meals, coffee, tinned cold meat, tinned Rice pudding, and instant mash. 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 Festival

The annual festival of arts is taking place on the Marsh from July 4-14th, with concerts, exhibitions, poetry and drama taking place in many venues. The information leaflet is available in many outlets, do pick one up, there is bound to be an event of interest to you. Many of the events are held in our local churches, which have amazing acoustics. The events help to raise the finances and profiles of the churches.

Romney Benefice Magazine. There will be no Romney Benefice magazine in August. If you need any details that aren't in July magazine, contact your local warden or PCC members.

Brookland, St Augustine

Next service on July 14th at 6.30pm, Evensong.

Pop up pub in the tower. The last pop up pub was successful, so the next one will be on Saturday, July 6th in the evening. For those who don't know Brookland, the tower is on the ground! Several apocryphal stories abound, including one that reminds people that the marsh was an unhealthy and dangerous place to live, centuries ago, so only the commonest, rather rough people lived down there. Formal marriage was a rarity, and the tower was supposed to have fallen off in surprise when a young couple actually asked to be married, before living together!

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.

Village Hall Market. The next one will be held on Saturday, July 6th, 10am-noon. Usual wide variety of stalls, with delicious refreshment. Help is needed to put the tables away afterwards, if anyone is willing to help. It is only half hour. The village hall is also in need of a treasurer. This job is not onerous, and only meets a few times a year. If you would like to help the community in this way, please ring Diane 07941 617310.

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.

The Searchlight Theatre Company is returning to the church, on Monday, July 8th at 7.30pm, with their performance of "Send in the Clowns" to celebrate their 30th anniversary. Tickets at £10 can be bought from the Vicarage, 01303 980027 or on the door on the night.

Dymchurch, RC Catholic church. St Monica.

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

Fairfield St Thomas

Sunday, July 7th. 10am Holy Communion.

Greatstone, St Peters

Jackie Darling, the new curate for the Western Marsh churches (Lydd, Greatstone, Brookland, Brenzett, Snargate and Fairfield) was ordained on June 29th, and her first service was the patronal service at Greatstone on June 30th. Everyone in the benefice is looking forward to Jackie's ministry, and welcome her warmly.

Pebbles Dementia Café. St Peter's Hall. On 2nd Thursday of each month a dementia café will take place from 10.30am-noon, so the next one will be on July 11th. Anyone interested may come along, carers and those with dementia and memory problems, or anyone with queries on the subject.

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.

Ivychurch, St George

The village hall can be hired for any purpose, either a one off occasion, or regular bookings. Ring 01797 344121 or 01797 508221 for details.

There are also 2 performances of "We are not Shellfish" by the Sabotage Theatre, on Saturday July 13th at 7.30pm & Sunday, July 14th at 4pm. Using puppets, comedy, masks and live music, it is a magical coming of age story narrated by a goldfish, octopus and a travelling rucksack! This is part of the Jam Festival.

Lydd, All Saints

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. Last teddy jump at 1pm.

The church is open most of the time, and volunteers are always needed to "church sit". You do not need any special knowledge or be a "history buff" just a willingness to be there. Even a promised hour a month would be much appreciated.

Food Bank. There is a Lydd food bank with operates from the Hardy Hall on Fridays, between, 6.30-7.30pm. If you are struggling to feed you family, vouchers can be obtained from Rev Chris on 01797 320345. See note at top of column for more details about needs and donations.

Kings Singers concert. July 5th, 7.30pm. The concert, by renowned choral group, is part of the Jam festival. Tickets are £18 and children under 18 free, and can be obtained from the Jam box office on 0800 988 7984, or visit the website www.jamconcert.org. The Kings Singers celebrate their 50th anniversary this year, and have been acclaimed all over the world and undertaken many recordings.

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 16nd 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.

A Toddler group, Little Chicks, takes place in the church hall on Wednesdays in term time from 10am -noon. Fully registered with qualified and police checked staff, and wide range of age appropriate place equipment. Just drop in if interested.

New Romney, St Nicholas.

Two concerts are taking place at St Nicholas, as part of the Jam Festival. These are The Symphonic Brass of London on Saturday, July 6, at 7.30pm, and a Piano recital on Friday, July 12 by Yuanfan Yang, finalist in the prestigious Hastings Piano Festival 2019. For tickets and more details, visit the website www.jamconcert.org. There will be no coffee morning in July, because of a wedding on the third Saturday.

Messy church. July 19 3.15-4.30pm This activity for all primary

aged children is full of fun, stories, music, worship, and learning about the Christian Faith. There will be no messy church is August. The success of this group means that more helpers are always needed. Ring Penny on 01797 362560 if you are interested.

Romney Marsh Community Church

The local food bank, operates from this church on Tuesday evenings from 5.30- 7pm. If you, or anyone you know, is in a crisis, and unable to feed themselves or their family, vouchers can be obtained from the local clergy and ministers. See details at head of column for needs and donations.

The church meets for worship every Sunday morning at 10.30am. The worship is a mixture of modern and traditional, and part of the service, youngsters can leave for specific age related groups. All helpers are police checked, and well equipped to serve the needs of the age group concerned. The church is grateful for recent increases in numbers adding to the vibrancy of the church. The church belongs to a grouping of like-minded churches called Salt and Light, and a group from the HQ of the body visited on June 23rd, and a very inspiring and blessed morning was experienced by the people there, which was very encouraging.

The midweek youngster's activities, which mostly function in term time, are winding down ready for the school holidays. The Friday club, which caters for primary school aged children, will be losing several members as they approach Secondary school age, so in September there will be empty places. If interested in any of the groups, or other queries, ring church office on 01797 366855.

Snargate, St Dunstons.

The next service will be on July 14th, a Holy Communion at 9am.

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 4.30pm 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. This is part of the Jam Festival and tickets can be obtained from the box office on 0800 988 7984 or visit the website www.jamfestival.org. After the concert, many retire to the traditional local pub, the Red Lion, which is famed for real ale, and traditional atmosphere.

Jam Festival. Further events takes place on Friday, July 12, Bach on Synths, and "Come and sing" with Rebecca Lodge on Saturday, July 3th from 10am-1pm. Rebecca is a well renowned singer, and very passionate about encoring everyone to be involved with singing. See Jam leaflets and website for more details.

St Mary in the Marsh.

Jam Festival. Two poetry events take place on Saturday, July 13th at 4pm and Sunday, July 14th at 3pm. The poets are Jonty Driver and Graham Davies, and full details can be found on the Jam website, or on the Jam leaflets. These are free events. At the Saturday one, voluntary donations will be collected for the Hantam Education Trust in the Karoo, South Africa.

Church Chuckle

Two nuns were out shopping for their community. Finding it impossible to find a parking space, the passenger said to the driver, you drive around for a bit, and I'll jump out and do the shopping. When she finished her shopping, she couldn't see her friend at all, and after looking up and down the road anxiously, she asked a man "have you seen a nun in a red mini" "No," the man replied, "not since I went on the wagon!"

Wit and Wisdom

Any child who is anxious to mow the lawn, is definitely too young to do so!

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SATURDAY 10TH - THE BLOK

FRIDAY 16TH - CAN'T TOUCH THIS

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