

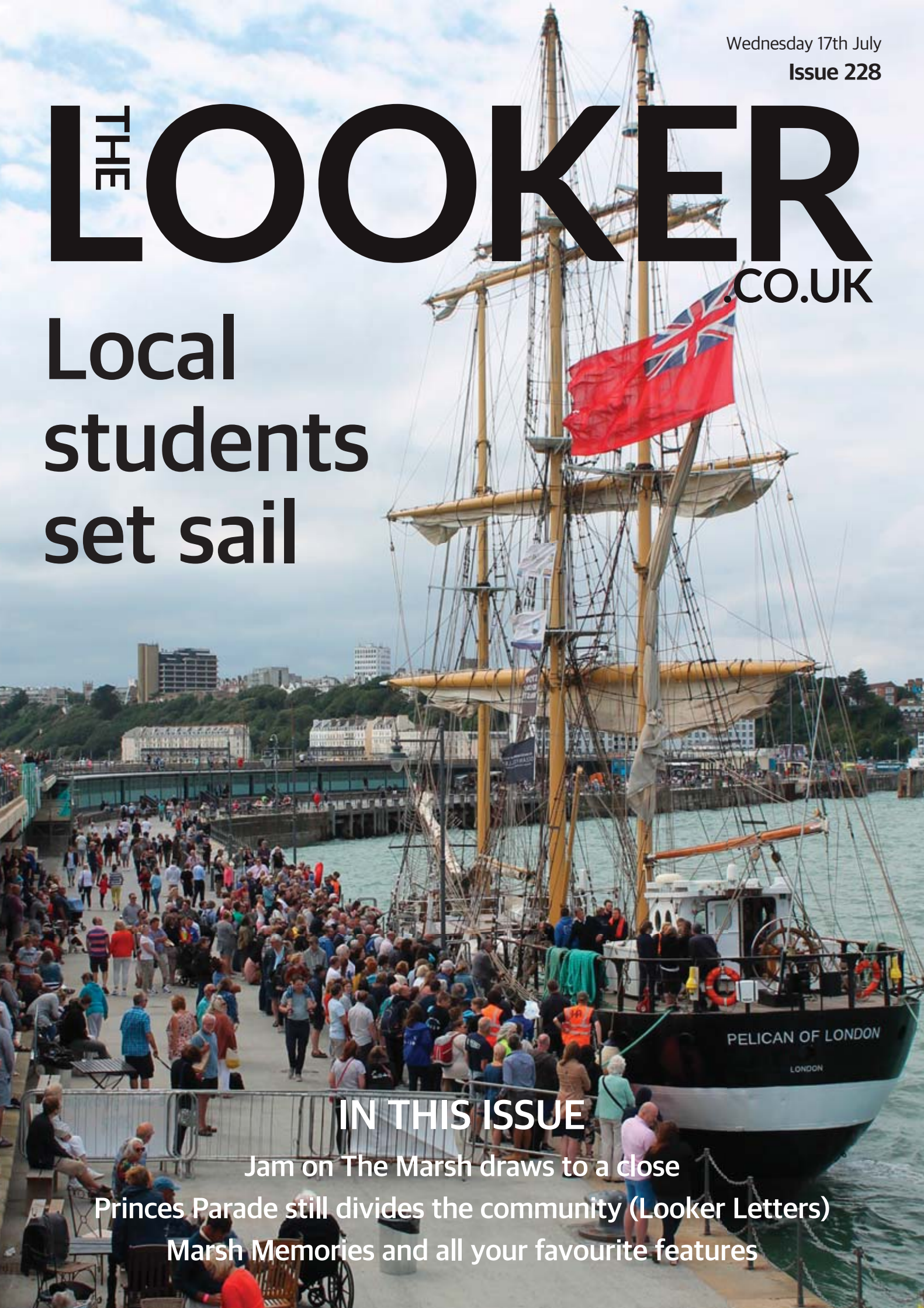
Wednesday 17th July

Issue 228

# THE LOOKER

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## Local students set sail



### IN THIS ISSUE

Jam on The Marsh draws to a close

Princes Parade still divides the community (Looker Letters)

Marsh Memories and all your favourite features



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# EDITOR'S WORD

## Welcome to Issue 228,

You can tell that summer is here as there are more and more things going on around the district. By the time you read this, 'Jam On The Marsh' will be coming to an end and this year it appears to have been the best yet with some great events. One of the most popular seems to have been the 'Sand Art' at Dymchurch, which was absolutely amazing.

You can also read in this edition about the lucky students from local schools who went on a four-day sailing adventure along with their counterparts from French schools. We followed their adventure from leaving the UK right up until the homecoming from Boulogne.

As we went to print, we have just heard of the adventurous dog that chased a rabbit down a rabbit hole near Lydd and got stuck and sparked a major rescue bid. We are very pleased to announce that the dog was eventually dug out by rescue teams after a couple of days and after a number of volunteers gave up their time to help rescue him. A great ending and a really good example of the community coming together.

The next time The Looker comes out we will have just had the New Romney Country Fayre, the largest free event on the

Marsh, which is celebrating its silver anniversary this year. If you have never visited before, then we can really recommend this as a day out, with a grand parade starting the event off through the High Street about 10 a.m. There are also lots of activities on St. Martins Field and the recreation fields next door along with activities all over the town.

If you are holding an event and you would like The Looker to report on it, please get in touch.

We also like to hear your comments on any of our articles. You will see in this edition we have had a lot of correspondence about Princes Parade in Hythe. We could have filled up the whole edition with these as we have had over 40 letters! We have tried to balance them out, but it is apparent that this single topic seems to divide opinion in Hythe, and just like Brexit, I am sure we have not heard the end of this story.

Finally, we are looking at giving local authors the opportunity to publish their work on our website from September onwards, with our Looker Local Book Club page. The website will publish your books online and can cover any subject you want. We will have more information about this in the next edition.

*Happy reading, David & the team.*



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# Buzzlines Travel – company crashed!

**Announced on their website on Monday 1st July was the shocking news that local coach company 'Buzzlines Travel' had gone bankrupt.**



*"It is with deep regret that we must inform you that Buzzlines Travel has ceased trading and is unable to fulfil its commitments whilst entering into a formal insolvency procedure. The difficult decision to cease all trading activities has become necessary to comply fully with the responsibility by law as company directors. Anyone who has booked to travel with Buzzlines Travel from 1st July 2019 will be contacted in due course by the appointed insolvency practitioner".*

Buzzlines coaches are often seen as they stop to pick up passengers from one of the many pick-up points across the district and across Kent. Their travel shops are also a colourful fixture at various locations, so this news has stunned local people. The coach depot itself is based at Lympne, just outside Hythe and situated close to the Channel Tunnel and the Port of Dover but also within easy reach of London. It's ideally placed, one would think, to service the tourism industry with a year round programme of day trips, short trips and coach holidays across UK and across Europe too.

The company, that was established almost 30 years ago, ran a modern fleet of coaches described as superb executive coaches and all with air conditioning and reclining seats. They serviced the holiday and tourist industry, providing UK Day Trips and Tours as well as Day Trips and Tours to European countries right up till the last day of June when the company was suddenly closed down.

The loss of this local business has sent shock-waves around the district with holiday makers fuming about losing their previously booked holidays and local people wondering how can Buzzlines go out of business when they hear that the tourist industry is doing so well! This belief is supported by research recently commissioned by Visit-Kent that found year on year, the county remains one of the top three destinations, including London – and that during 2017 alone almost 65 million visitors came to the county.

According to the travel company website, "Buzzlines Travel Limited provides financial protection in the form of a Trust Account. This ensures that in relation to the coach package holidays described on our website or in our holiday

brochure, the clients' monies are protected by a Trust which may be called upon in the unlikely event of the Insolvency of the Company" – although this will be poor recompense for the disappointment experienced by families who have lost their booked holiday and may find it too late in the year to book again. Meanwhile, employees including drivers, sales team and administration staff are left suddenly without a job and wondering when, or if, they will be paid their full wages – and they are also understandably anxious about where they will find future work.

The Travel Weekly website cites Director Lynn Woods as saying; "There are a lot of reasons for Buzzlines' demise; the owner has invested an enormous amount of money in the last eight years to try to sustain it. But the squeeze on travel businesses has become unsustainable for many smaller operators and for all our efforts we simply can't continue to manage rising costs, currency decline, political mischief and reduced margins." Financial figures revealed that the firm had lost more than £3 million for year ending March 2018.





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## WATER SPECTACULAR

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# 'Bon voyage' a nos enfants pour l'aventur de la vie

by Andrew South (*in Folkestone*) & David Wimble (*in Boulogne*)

**A total of 24 local school children aged from 13-15 departed on the 'trip of a lifetime' from Folkestone Harbour last week at the culmination of a training programme which has brought together 30 young French participants with 30 from our own district.**

Six children were selected from each of the Marsh Academy, Brockhill Park Academy, Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone School for Girls and Folkestone Academy to take part on a life-changing journey of self-discovery and learning.

The 60 had come together on three other occasions – once in Boulogne and twice on our side of the Channel – to develop team-building, self-esteem and leadership skills as well as learning about the respective cultures and languages.

A celebratory event was held at Folkestone's increasingly impressive Harbour Arm to send the youthful crew on their way, on a five-day trip across the Channel, and finishing as the star attraction at the French Festival of the Sea in Boulogne. A smattering of district councillors were in attendance to wish them 'bon voyage' and share the palpable excitement of the young sailors, including Deputy Leader Jenny Hollingsbee, who offered a warm welcome to the parents, crew and students embarking on this adventure.

Not-for-profit sports charity, the Shepway Sports Trust's Aiden Willis has been keenly involved in the project from the start.

"We asked each of the secondary schools in our district to nominate children who they thought might be suitable for this scheme," he told me at the event. "But we weren't looking for those who were already high-achievers, who were self-confident and generally doing well. We wanted those who would most benefit from being part of the project in terms of improving their self-esteem, team-building and leadership skills."

Also on hand was M. Jean-Claude Etienne, representing the Mayor of Boulogne, and who claimed credit for this cross-Channel collaboration eight years ago, although that appeared to be a point of conjecture on the British side! Either way, it is a brilliant example of cross-border collaboration and building confidence and life-skills in youngsters who have yet to fulfil their potential.

"It was my idea!" M. Etienne was keen to tell me through the excellent translator, Lynn. "But it has come about because of the hard work of the respective local authorities – Kent County Council, Folkestone & Hythe District Council and the Nord Pas de Calais – as well as organisations like Naussica, the largest aquarium in Europe.

"It has increased the interest in learning languages, and is a genuine voyage of discovery – metaphorically physically and emotionally. It is great that the ship is heading to Boulogne for the Festival of the Sea, as it is France's largest seafood port, so there is a real synergy with the project here in Folkestone."

In his speech to the assembled students, parents, crew and friends, he re-iterated that it was appropriate that he should be there to represent the town of Boulogne, as his vision had been to provide something that would draw the two areas closer together. "We are so close and yet so far away," he said.

Cllr. Hollingsbee expressed her hope that following the successful launch of this fourth voyage in eight years, this collaborative project would continue, while Tom Miller of the Folkestone Harbour Board

hoped that the facility would be welcoming more tall ships in the future.

And so it was that the students began to take their first steps down the ladder onto the deck of TS Pelican, along with the various dignitaries, and an opportunity to grab a few words with the charismatic Captain, Ben Swain.

"These people are about to embark on the journey of a lifetime, when they will learn about leadership and team work – you really can't be a single person on a ship like this!

"We shall see where the weather takes us – we'll keep it simple but hope we can call in at the D-Day landing beaches. It looks like the weather will be kind to us.

"But most importantly, the students will be learning all the time. Over the next five days, they will be developing skills in maths, geography, history, languages as well as all the teamwork and seamanship skills these subjects cover. We'll be doing plenty of teambuilding exercises such as how to land an egg on the deck from the top of the main mast without breaking it!" [Note: the mast is 30 metres high (97ft 6ins), so this represents quite a challenge – although I gather the teams are provided with a variety of materials to complete the task!]

"I have met people who I wouldn't normally have met," Liliana from Folkestone School for Girls told me just before departure. "We've been talking to them, but we've found that their English is better than our French! Yes, I am a bit nervous about things like climbing the rigging, but it will be a great adventure!"

The ship was built in 1948 and served as an Arctic trawler and then a coastal trading vessel until 1995. In 2007, the ship was rebuilt and refurbished and is now the home of Adventure Under Sail, and used as a sail-training ship. It is 45m long (148ft) and weighs 226 tonnes. The TS Pelican training programme includes instruction on health & safety; teamwork and communications; life skills development; life-saving and fire-fighting; seamanship; safe working practices and even steering the ship itself.

From Folkestone, the TS Pelican sailed westwards along the English coast past Hastings and Eastbourne before heading south to the French coast at Fécamp, in preparation for the north-easterly voyage to Boulogne in time for the Festival of the Sea.

*At this point I can hand over to our correspondent in Boulogne, David Wimble who was also there in his capacity as Cabinet Member for the District Economy which includes regeneration, tourism and heritage briefs...*





# Le Grand Voyage Finale by David Wimble



After the TS Pelican left the Harbour Arm, it set a course due west and sailed past the Romney Marsh coastline before dropping anchor in the bay off Camber sands. It continued its journey past Eastbourne and Beachy Head before crossing the Channel during the night to Fecamp where the young sailors went ashore to take part in a 'selfie' competition, with the aim of having their picture taken with the most influential person in the town. Some students decided to aim high and gate-crashed the Mayor's office to win that challenge.



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*The Sea Festival is opened*

Then it was two days' sailing, with overnight four-hour watch duties. During the trip, the young crew took part in a number of challenges including climbing the rigging to the top of the main mast, and a competition to create a device which would enable an egg to be dropped from the top of the mast (nearly 100 feet) to land on the deck without cracking.

When the ship finally sailed into the Boulogne Harbour right on schedule mid-morning, they were welcomed by family and friends who made the trip over to greet them. With the Pelican heading into the port it was the cue for the French Festival of the Sea to officially begin.

The town and districts' leading political figures arrived on stage to welcome the intrepid sailors, and the rest of the afternoon was taken up with looking around the Festival which boasted more than



*District President with Cllr Hollingsbee and Cllr Wimble*

200 arts, crafts and artisan food vendors, and of course a huge selection of Tall Ships filling the harbour.

Captain Ben Swain pointed out that this is the only such training-sailing scheme that the ship undertakes, and thanked the team at Folkestone & Hythe District Council, as well as acknowledging the support of the Harbour Arm and the Roger De Haan Sporting Trust to organise not just the sailing trip, but also the integration events leading up to the journey - and of course the French authorities for their backing.

District Council Deputy Leader, Jenny Holingsbee who attended the event told *The Looker*: "This really is such a worthwhile event. The children not only worked to gather and gain a lot of fantastic experiences, but sailing with an international crew helped the children understand different cultures."

It is hoped that the event will run again in two years' time when another 60 children from the district will have a chance to gain a place on board.





## Annual Charity Bike Ride

There is no better place to cycle on a Sunday summer morning than the stunning Romney Marsh.



That is what 200 cyclists did on Sunday 7th July. They were participating in the annual Channel Rotary charity bike ride. This event is now in its 10th year and is firmly in the diary of most local cyclists. This year £4000 was raised which gives a 10 year total in excess of £55,000 donated to very deserving charities.

The beneficiary charities this year were Prostate Cancer UK, the Royal British Legion (local branches), The Poppy Appeal and local designated rotary charities.

The fastest team around the 50 mile route was 'The B Team' who completed the course in an astonishing 2 hours 18 minutes. They were presented with the Team Wheel Trophy which will be proudly hung in the Star Inn, St Mary in the Marsh, for the next year.

The event was very kindly sponsored again by KAP and Holidays Extras. The ride was very well supported by The Star Inn, Raynet, Romney Cycles, Aquaid and the local community.

Bill Whitby, the principal organiser said, "This wonderful event is embraced by the local cyclists and receives remarkable support from the community at large. It encompasses all the underpinning elements of Rotary which are the running of a fun day with Rotarian and community input, generating significant monies for charity".

For more information on Prostate Cancer UK and Channel Rotary Club Folkestone please visit the following sites:

[prostatecanceruk.org](http://prostatecanceruk.org) / [channelrotary.wordpress.com](http://channelrotary.wordpress.com)

## The Looker heading into new territory

The Looker has been a way of life for many people over the last nine years and is looking to expand into Folkestone. The paper was originally launched because the editor did not think that the Marsh was well represented by the other two paid for papers. After two years the paper which was originally printed in black and white expanded into Hythe and Sandgate, and occasionally had news from outside the district.

Editor and owner David Wimble said, "We have tried to make the paper as inclusive as possible and over the past nine years have had a large amount of contributors from all walks of life including retired journalists who had worked on national papers, and contributors from all political parties. The paper has been free since day one with advertising covering the cost every two weeks. But with the cost of production going up it was decided to try to counteract this by actually expanding the paper."

He went on, "Yes we did look at charging for each edition, knowing that this would cut our production run, but part of The Looker's charm is that it is free and we wanted to remain like that, but we could not keep going back to our advertisers to cover the costs even though we now cover probably three times the area that we did when we launched."

The paper is also undergoing some changes within the team who put it together, with several new contributors joining the group. These include Jan Holben, who will be the editor for the Hythe and Folkestone part of the paper, along with other regular contributors, Kim Gandy, June Gooch, Mrs P and Bridget Fowkes.

David said, "With so many things going on across the district, it made sense to try our best to cover the whole area. As I am now on the District Council, I just do not have the amount of time to dedicate to putting the paper together so we have had to split the district in two. We also realised that I might be seen to have a conflict of interests reporting on any council decisions, so we have set up a new board of directors who will help the paper go forward."

The paper has won a couple of media awards since its inception and is also available online.

David finished off by saying, "We really do love going out delivering the paper and meeting the readers. It's great when I walk down Hythe High Street and people come up and ask if its The Looker and ask for several copies for themselves and friends."

If you have a story or a comment that you would like to share with our readers, please contact The Looker by email: [info@thelooker.co.uk](mailto:info@thelooker.co.uk) or call 01797-364837..

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# DYMCHURCH NEWS by Bridget Fowkes

**Dymchurch Sub Postmaster, Grant Peakall, is asking the parish council and residents to make their voices heard as he is concerned the Post Office that the Post Office Ltd franchise will run out in October 2020 and Post Office Ltd will not renew it.**

Mr Peakall has written to Damian Collins MP, but did not feel the reply was helpful so will now be writing to Kelly Tolhurst the Government Minister for Post Offices. Mr Peakall and the villagers fought this battle in 2016 when Post Office Ltd wanted Mr Singh to take it into his Spar shop in the village, the owner of the shop withdrew from taking the Post Office into his shop, this would have reduced the amount of space Mr Singh had for his shop goods and he realised the residents wanted to keep the post office. Now the fight is on again.

When Mr Peakall bought the Post Office he thought that on his retirement he would be able sell the business, but now Post Office Ltd have said that will not be allowed, it's the business he bought and believed that when it was time to retire the sale would provide him with his pension. He does not want to sell at this time but if he is not allowed to continue he will not have a salary and the residents may not have a Post Office.

The Parish Council is going to contact the MP and the Post Office Minister. Mr Peakall pointed out that with all the banks closing he has more customers using the post office for banking, paying bills as well as all the other services he provides, the one bank left on Romney Marsh is Lloyd's in New Romney, Hythe now only has

Nationwide Building Society all its banks have closed. Lydd has not had a bank for some years now. Cllrs were told Post Offices were being closed in large numbers throughout the country.

Members of the House of Commons Select Committee when discussing the Post Office Network and questioning Tracy Tollhurst mp were concerned about the loss of their Post Offices and the fact that many sub postmasters are living on or below the minimum wage, that these same postmasters are having to deliver the services provided by the banks. One member of the committee suggested in the same way that banks had been helped by government this should now be given to the postmasters.

There is a review being held by Post Office Ltd of the business, the franchise and the way Post Offices are being run. Tracy Tolhurst mp suggested that they may need to make more services currently provided banks available in our Post Offices, but she couldn't confirm that postmasters would receive a higher income.

Residents of Dymchurch can make a difference as Ms Tolhurst agreed that residents getting behind their post offices and presenting petitions are taken account of. However it is a recognised fact that letters have more effect than petitions.

One of Ms Tolhurst's advisors at the select committee hearing said that the banks are still providing a good service. As many residents in this area will be aware that is no longer the case and sub postmaster's like Grant Peakall are having to provide more services for residents. He has said he is living on less than the minimum wage. He has a fb Page and asked that those residents signed up to fb support Dymchurch Post Office Page.

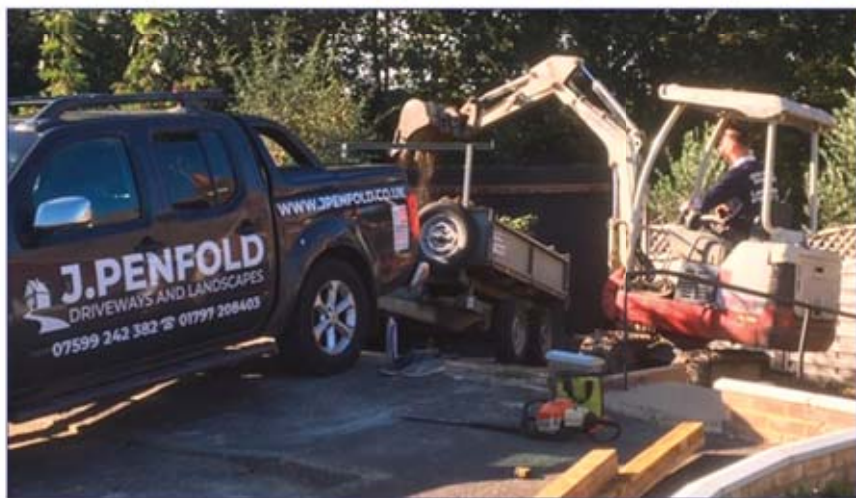
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# Karate Club going from strength to strength



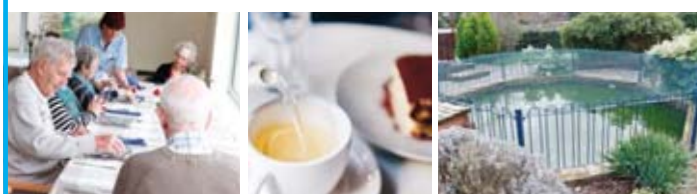
Previously in The Looker, we reported on a new Karate Club called the Dragon Spirit Martial Arts Club from New Romney. Under the instruction of Sensei Mark Warmesley, the first group achieved their well deserved belts. The Club is going from strength to strength and on Friday 28th June, another group of students from the Dragon Spirit Karate Classes took its second wave of students grading to their new ranks and receiving their new belts. A huge congratulation to all the students having worked and trained hard to develop the skills needed to pass.

They really showed off what they've been learning and brought smiles to proud family and friends who came to cheer on and celebrate in their success. Chief instructor Sensei Marc added, "I'm really proud of how far the students have come in a few short months. The effort and dedication they put in is certainly mirrored in their progress."

The club is definitely growing fast now with class numbers having nearly tripled with double the students graduating from last time. To find out more about the group, go to Facebook and search for Dragonspiritworldwide. Book your free trial now and avoid missing out on a space at the next grading.



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# Future King makes flying visit to Gurkha celebrations by Andrew South

Following the recent visit by Princess Alexandra to the Marsh, it seems the district is fast becoming royalty central. Hot on the Princess's sensible heels, Prince Charles dropped in to Shorncliffe Barracks last week as guest of honour at an event to mark the 25th anniversary of the formation of the 1st Royal Gurkhas Rifle Regiment.

Arriving by helicopter, the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment came to the Sir John Moore Barracks to mark the occasion in 1994 when four Gurkha regiments came together to form one, by celebrating with personnel and to award operational service medals.

Many of the Gurkhas at the Barracks had just returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

"It's been fantastic having the Prince of Wales with us, and all the families and also parts of the wider team



who were with us in Kabul," said Lieutenant Colonel Chris Conroy, the Regiment's Commanding Officer. "These included members of 3 Para and medics among others."

Prince Charles awarded 40 medals, with senior officers and the Nepali Ambassador doing the honours for the others. A special presentation then took place of the Prince of Wales' Kukri (the iconic Gurkha knife), to the outstanding non-commissioned officer, Warrant Officer 2 Mukunda Rajali.

It was a genuine community event as friends and families of the soldiers turned out to welcome the Prince, who was presented with a 'Mala', a special Nepalese paper flower garland which must have made him feel right at home. He spent around 40 minutes talking to the families, serving personnel and veterans.

Rifleman Pawnan Bucha captured the spirit of the day. "It was really fantastic because we are the junior

soldiers right now, and we received the medals from the Prince of Wales which was a great moment for us. We are really very thankful to him for coming today."

"It was an absolute privilege for him to stop by today and present the boys with the medals which meant a huge amount to them," said 2nd Lieutenant Tim Parsons. "His contribution to the Regiment over the last 25 years has been absolutely outstanding, which I think has been recognised and it's been a great way to do it today, and celebrate the 25th anniversary alongside of it, so I think it's been fantastic."

An aforementioned fearsome kukri blade was employed for the unlikely and hitherto unknown task of cutting a ceremonial cake, while in return he received a rather attractive comfy cushion, which may well have come in useful during his return helicopter flight.

The Prince also took the opportunity to catch up with a couple of former Royal Orderlies – since 1982, 19 Gurkhas have held this role in the Prince's household. A good day was clearly had by all.



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## Residents doing their bit to protect the District



Neighbourhood watch schemes are nothing new. With concerns about anti-social behaviour spreading around our towns and villages, more and more people are forming new groups.

A proposed new group is being planned on Romney Marsh and an inaugural meeting is being held on September 17th at the Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney starting at 6 p.m. David Evans the Acting Chairman of the group told The Looker; "The purpose of the meeting is to seek to set up a Romney Marsh Neighbourhood Watch Group / Association scheme. Folkestone & Hythe, Ashford & district and Canterbury already have such a group etc. to good effect. We would like to invite any residents to attend and its free to join and does not commit anyone to volunteer to do anything.

We have invited our police and crime commissioner and there will be other guests who will speak as well. Refreshments will be available (free) and car parking is available nearby (free after 6 p.m. I believe). We have sent out notices to all the other villages etc. on the Marsh who we hope will attend. I currently co-ordinate my local NHW in St Mary's Bay and we have over 500 members".

The schemes have proved very successful over different parts of the district and is not all about peeping out of windows as many people think, but is a good forum for passing on advice about keeping your home safe, and what to do if you think something unusual is happening.

If you would like to find out more about the neighbourhood watch schemes and how you might like to get involved, contact David Evans on 01797-361517.

## NEW INITIATIVE TO HELP HOMELESS



A new joint approach between Dover District Council and Folkestone & Hythe District Council is aimed at helping rough sleepers within the districts.

Outreach



The councils have been successful in obtaining government funding for two bids totalling £422,000 to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping. The money will pay for 8 new posts managed by the homelessness charity Porchlight. These posts include 2 specialist 'Navigators', who will support vulnerable female rough sleepers and those suffering from addictions.

There will also be a new specialist Mental Health provision across both council areas, giving vital support to rough sleepers who suffer from mental health issues. Rough Sleeping Coordinator Alan White is managing the bids within the two districts.

Cllr Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Housing at Dover District Council said: "This new funding gives the councils, local homelessness charities and other stakeholders the tools to work in partnership to really tackle rough sleeping. By helping rough sleepers and dealing with the core issues that affect them we hope that we can get people off the streets and into proper supported accommodation."

Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee, Cabinet Member for Communities at Folkestone & Hythe District Council, said: "Rough sleepers are some of the most vulnerable people in our communities so it's vital that we are able to support them. I'm delighted that we have received this funding from government to help meet their complex needs, in partnership with Porchlight."



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# An electric night as the Marsh Choirs triumph in Lydd...

by Andrew South

We came, we saw, they conquered. It was one of those special nights when you simply had to be there to believe it, and I'm not sure that the following will quite do it justice or capture the extraordinary atmosphere generated in the heat of a summer's night on the Marsh. So let's just recap...



The scene was All Saint's Church in Lydd last weekend when Marsh Choirs from Lydd, Appledore, St. Mary's Bay, Dymchurch and Hythe came together for the first time, to perform a rousing selection of contemporary and classic rock, pop and soul songs. The audience began to arrive at 7pm and by 7.15 they were already spilling out onto the Church grounds. It was impossible to gauge how many people eventually enjoyed the evening, as there was standing room only inside the Church, while there were crowds listening through the open side and front doors. Someone told me they reckoned "at least a thousand" while someone else said it could have been 1,200, but either way the venue was absolutely heaving.

Revd. Chris Maclean must surely have wished that he could demand such a turnout on a Sunday morning as he delivered a welcome to his Church, and cheekily suggested that some of the 200 Marsh Choir singers assembled behind him might wish to join his own Church choir!

And then it was down to business for this inaugural outing for the novice band of singers, most of whom had probably not sung anything since their schooldays. The inspirator for the Choirs, international musician and Lydd resident, Carly Bryant has put her teams through immense hard work over the last six months, and they have responded with passion, loyalty and complete respect for their leader – the 'Flock Boss'.

The experience has taken many of them outside their comfort zone, and if you had said to them last Christmas that they would be singing at a major musical event on Romney Marsh in the summer, they simply would not have believed you. But here they were and ready to make sweet sounds in perfect harmony.

As Carly took her place at the keyboards on a small platform in front of her charges, she had a surprise for them. "As part of our warm-ups at our practices we sing the words 'Judi Dench' to the tune of the William Tell Overture," she explained to the crowd [you can try this at home!]. And with a deft flick of a switch, here was the Dame's voice itself coming through the PA system, wishing the Marsh Choirs well at this unique event, and also that she was there herself. A masterstroke to get the vocalists fired up give their all...

Kicking off with a mash-up of Bon Jovi's *Livin' on a Prayer* with White Stripes' *Seven Nation Army* and *Sweet Dreams* by Eurythmics, the standard was set and nerves dispelled. From here on in, it was a bravura performance with Carly raising a home-made banner emoting 'Smile, you're brilliant!' on one side and 'Clap louder' on the reverse.

As the setting sun streamed through the Church's beautiful windows, it was only appropriate that next up was the Beatles' *Here Comes the Sun*.

What made the whole thing extraordinary was that this was not about an audience watching an excellent troupe of singers doing their thing – we were all part of the experience, helping to make it the memorable occasion it turned out to be.

Next up was The Killers' evocative hit song from 2008, *Human*, during which Carly asked everyone to take a 15 second video of some part of the song so that a compilation of its performance can be put together from every angle of the Church.

From there on, we had all been seduced by the excellence of the 'Flock that Rocks', the power of the songs and the work that had been done to take the singers to this place in time. The five individual choirs each had their moments in the spotlight to present a song they had practised. Back Street Boys, Patsy Cline, the Eagles, Cyndi Lauper were all represented among others in this entertaining segment.

Although this was a free event, it was held in aid of fantastic local charity, Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh (CARM), and Ruth from the organisation provided an overview of the work they do on companionship, befriending and reminiscence. An amazing £XXXX was raised on the night for the charity's work.

A spine-tingling version of Blur's *Tender* was followed by a 'feelgood medley' to finish with. Although not quite finished – as the whole party ended with everyone joining in with *Hey Jude*, and there wasn't a soul who didn't go home with a smile on their face. The Choir came, saw and conquered the night and the flock bossed it...

This was a brilliant community event that dripped with emotion in the heat, brought together by a vision of the Marsh that captured the desire for good stuff to happen for a change – and this was a long way beyond good.

So what next for this creative project – well, word has it that a Christmas concert is being talked about, but it is certain that this concert merely marked the end of the beginning for the Marsh Choirs, the first stage in what will no doubt be a long-term, ongoing project that is set to make a genuine, positive impact on the Marsh for some time to come.

Although the serious stuff is on hold for a few weeks, there are opportunities to join the song through this summer, with Marsh Choir Summer Sessions taking place over five weeks from July 22 to August 23rd. These are designed as 'fun, drop-in' sessions at the usual venues and times, when a different song is practised at each gathering, so no-one will need to worry about missing out and having to catch up. Further information about all the Marsh Choir activities, and forthcoming film of the event by Screen South are available at: [www.marshchoir.com](http://www.marshchoir.com) or on the Marsh Choir page of Facebook.



# St Hugh's College, University of Oxford, outreach tour running over 130km in five days to visit Kent schools

A new initiative from St Hugh's College, University of Oxford, has seen their Outreach Officer Lena Sorochina run more than 130km in a week, on a tour of schools along the Kent coast.

Lena has been visiting secondary and primary schools, running from stop to stop and giving talks to pupils about higher education, university life, and applying to Oxford, before racing off to the next school.

St Hugh's College, Oxford was founded in 1886 as a college for women. It has accepted men and women since 1986, and is now one of the largest colleges in the University of Oxford.

Lena said: "I hope that this tour will inspire children and young people to be ambitious and aim high, to realise that anything is within their reach if they put their minds to it. I hope that it will encourage them to consider going to university as not only an achievable, but a fun future destination. This project also highlights the benefits of sport for physical and mental wellbeing."

The Principal of St Hugh's College, the Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC FRSE, said: "We're so pleased that Lena is bringing Oxford to so many school pupils across Kent, and in such a novel way. So many who would thrive at Oxford and other universities don't consider applying. Our message is loud and clear: we want the best students from every background to consider coming to Oxford to study."

Lena ran from Camber Sands to Whitstable between the 8th and 12th July. The St Hugh's Coast Run went through New Romney, Dymchurch, Hythe, Folkestone, Dover, Sandwich, Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate, Westgate-on-Sea, Birchington and Herne Bay.



Lena Sorochina in Marsh Academy

Local schools signed-up included the Marsh Academy, Brockhill Park Performing Arts College and Sandgate Primary School. The distance to be covered in the St Hugh's Coast Run is more than three marathons. Research from the Bridge Group published in February 2019 found a "stark contrast between the widening participation and outreach activities that exist in London" and other parts of the country. They concluded that there was "a backdrop of highly unequal access to cultural enrichment and outreach for students" depending on where they lived. This is why St Hugh's wants to bring Oxford University to the Kent coast.




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9 - 10.30am DEMONSTRATION			STAINED GLASS Learn to cut glass.	MOSAICS CLASS direct/indirect methods	MOSAICS direct/indirect methods	SILVER CLAY JEWELLERY LINO CUT PRINTING	BRUSH-O PAINTING	TEACH ME Showcase See what we do and meet the artists/tutors
11 - 12.30am STAY 'N' MAKE			STAINED GLASS Learn to cut glass.	MOSAICS CLASS	MOSAICS Make a coaster while learning how to cut the tiles	SILVER CLAY JEWELLERY* Make a pendant LINO CUT PRINTING Make a picture	BRUSH-O PAINTING Get the chance to make some stunning Brush-O paintings	
1 - 2.30pm DEMONSTRATION	TEACH ME Showcase See what we do and meet the artists/tutors	CHOCOLATE MAKING	STAINED GLASS	COPPER FOIL	MOSAICS direct/indirect methods	SILVER CLAY JEWELLERY LINO CUT PRINTING	ACRYLIC PAINTING	
3 - 4.30pm STAY 'N' MAKE		CHOCOLATE MAKING Try your hand and make some lovely edible goodies.	STAINED GLASS Join a lesson and learn to cut glass.	COPPER FOIL Join a lesson and learn to cut glass.	MOSAICS Make a coaster while learning how to cut the tiles	SILVER CLAY JEWELLERY* Make a pendant LINO CUT PRINTING Make a picture	ACRYLIC PAINTING Learn how to paint realistic trees and landscapes.	
5 - 6.30pm DEMONSTRATION		SUGAR CRAFT	STAINED GLASS	COPPER FOIL	MOSAICS direct/indirect methods	ACRYLIC PAINTING	LINO CUT PRINTING	
7 - 8.30pm STAY 'N' MAKE		SUGAR CRAFT Stay and make amazingly lifelike sugar roses and other flowers..	STAINED GLASS Join a lesson and learn to cut glass.	COPPER FOIL Have a lesson and learn to cut glass.	MOSAICS Make a coaster while learning how to cut the tiles	ACRYLIC PAINTING Learn how to paint realistic trees and landscapes.	LINO CUT PRINTING Make a picture	

\* Charge applies to cover cost of the silver

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<b>TIMES</b>	<b>Monday 26 Aug</b>	<b>Tuesday 27 Aug</b>	<b>Wednesday 28 Aug</b>	<b>Thursday 29 Aug</b>	<b>Friday 30 Aug</b>	<b>PRICES</b>
<b>10.00 to 13.00</b>	<b>Acrylic Painting Still Life</b> <i>Learn tips then make a drawing before painting a still life.</i>	<b>Leaf and Block Printing</b> <i>Take natural objects, make a design, cut a block and then print</i>	<b>Glass Appliqué</b> <i>Cut some coloured glass and then stick onto a plain glass sheet to make a panel</i>	<b>Silk Painting</b> <i>Make a design, draw it out on the silk and then flow colours to make a painting.</i>	<b>Glass Fusing</b> <i>Put coloured glasses into a microwave kiln and you'll get stunning gemstones</i>	<b>All sessions cost 30 Euros</b> Price includes, equipment, materials, protective clothing and refreshments
<b>14.00 to 17.00</b>	<b>Acrylic Painting Landscape</b> <i>Find an outdoor location, make a drawing before painting a landscape.</i>	<b>Cake Baking and Decorating</b> <i>Make a cake, ice it and decorate it, then enjoy an English afternoon tea</i>	<b>Silk Screen Printing</b> <i>Make a design, make a screen and then print some cards</i>	<b>Lino Cut Printing</b> <i>Make a design, cut a lino block and then print some cards</i>	<b>Silver Clay Jewellery</b> <i>Mould the silver like clay, then fire it...it turns into 99.9% solid silver! Use it with your gemstones</i>	



# Arts and crafts in France

The ethos of New Romney based Teach Me has been to introduce people to arts and crafts that they might subsequently pursue. Its ambition is to convince people who do not think they are creative or able to make beautiful things, which in fact they can. Teach Me also pledges to make its workshops and classes affordable.

Now, Teach Me has unveiled a series of summer workshops that will take place from Monday 26 August to Friday 30 August at Kent County Council's teaching and learning centre at Hardelot, near Boulogne in France. Picture yourself enjoying fresh croissants in the morning followed by a rewarding day making things then sipping fine wine in the early evening sunshine.

There is accommodation on site and Teach Me has negotiated an amazing package that enables visitors to stay, full board, for just 45 Euros a night! Workshop prices have also been kept low at only 35 Euros per session, including all materials, tools, equipment and protective clothing.

Visitor can attend as many or as few workshops as they choose and they can stay from one night to seven, according to what they want to do. The catering is terrific too (well, it is French after all).

This is a holiday for anyone from retired single people to young families. The KCC centre is set in five hectares of woodlands, so is ideal for a stroll or play. There will be arts and crafts activities for children. Teach Me's tutors are all DBS checked and it has £2million of public liability insurance.

There is a packed programme of activities, but also lots of free time for socialising, shopping or exploring this beautiful part of coastal France. The beach is a very short drive away, as is Hardelot town centre with shops and restaurants. Hardelot chateau is a famous visitor attraction with which the KCC Hardelot Centre has strong links.

If you wish to come over for a relaxing, rewarding and, dare we mention it, creative break. Don't worry if you think you aren't creative, won't be able to do things or will look or feel silly – Teach Me will have you relaxed and tackling arts and crafts like a professional in minutes!

## Getting there

Getting to the Hardelot Centre is very easy. Taking the train to Calais or a ferry to Calais or Boulogne is quick and easy these days. Once in France, it's practically one safe road all the way to Hardelot. The car journey from Calais to Hardelot takes 40 minutes (52km), while from Boulogne it's just 20 minutes (21km).

The train direct from Calais to Hardelot takes just over an hour and costs just under 10 Euros; the train from Boulogne takes 40 minutes and costs 2 Euros. A taxi from Hardelot station to the KCC centre takes just a few minutes and costs a few Euros.

## What is in the area?

The most obvious place to visit is the historic Hardelot Chateau, where apart from the castle itself, there are magnificent gardens, a modern theatre and other things to see. This summer there is a Beatles exhibition and a special musical event in the chateau's grounds.

Hardelot plage (beach) is a beautiful place to visit, sun bathe or promenade like a French person, but it's also home to some superb restaurants, shops and bars.

Le Touquet (or Paris sur la plage as the French refer to it) is an upmarket resort a short drive from Hardelot. Here you will find great restaurants, boutiques and shops selling unusual china, jewellery and fashion.

## How to book

If you need more information, visit [www.teachmecourses.co.uk](http://www.teachmecourses.co.uk) or call 01797 364366 or 07770 347616.

If you wish to book, simply write to [hardelotbookings@kent.gov.uk](mailto:hardelotbookings@kent.gov.uk) and say which nights you wish to stay for. KCC and Teach Me will confirm your booking and any other details you need.





# Oral histories to talk about at Lydd Meeting Point

by Andrew South

It was a trip down memory lane for members of Lydd's Meeting Point last week when the Fifth Continent's Oral History guru, Rib Davies, played recordings of several interviews with some of the senior members of the Marsh commun.



As part of the ambitious Fifth Continent programme, the project was set up a year ago to record the voices of those with long memories of growing up, living, loving and working on the Marsh. The resulting interviews will be preserved in perpetuity for future generations to learn about life in the area from the 1930s onwards. As one of the interviewers myself, I have been amazed at the extraordinary stories that members of the community can tell about their lives on the Marsh, including growing up during the War, the development of the power stations, the creation of the Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway and the growth of popular tourism, among many other fascinating recollections.

Rib played extracts from contributions from four interviewees about their experiences of growing up and living on the Marsh, which helped to jog memories among the Meeting Point regulars about their own lives. The target is to collect at least 50 interviews over the lifetime of the Oral History project over the next 18 months to create a living record of life on the Marsh in the 20th century.

Meeting Points are organised by excellent local charity, Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh (CARM) which provides opportunities like this to combat the problem of isolation and loneliness in our rural environment. Weekly gatherings are held at Appledore, Greatstone, Lydd and Dymchurch, while there are monthly get-togethers at Brookland, Woodchurch and Burmarsh.

Local Community Wardens often drop-in, and Rib's visit is just one of a programme of guest speakers who come to talk about their services as well as other interesting topics. Most Meeting Points also enjoy games and quizzes, and also get together for lunches, and outings and it is clear that this has been the starting point for many firm friendships.

Sheila Rabbetts organises the gatherings every Thursday at the Hardy Hall in Lydd from 10am to 12pm. "Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy lively company and chat," she told me. "We've also enjoyed some great trips out to have a fish 'n' chip supper, and visits to the Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway and Bateman's the National Trust



Lydd Meeting Point - July 2019

home of Rudyard Kipling. We also have themed events at the café itself and are planning a 'Bake-off' competition soon!"

But it was also apparent that the star of the Hardy Hall show behind the scenes is stalwart Margaret Phillips who, although approaching her 90th birthday, provides the essential beverages and light refreshments that make the Meeting Points tick. She could easily be the subject of an Oral History interview herself, as she regaled me with stories of growing up on the Marsh in the 1930s, some of which were far too risqué to produce in a family paper...

"We used to watch the courting couples doing what they did in the long grass from a large tree trunk in Dennes Lane," she revealed, which presumably stood her in good stead when the Army Camp was at its busiest. "There used to be eight pubs in Lydd, proper shops and a cinema in the High Street. There were dances, and I used to go to the gym at the Army Camp. We had the Club Days, of course, and the Army Parades, but how the town itself has changed today!"

There's no doubt that these informal and friendly gatherings are vital in helping to make connections, remembering the past and building friendships in an area where people can easily feel cut off. Rib will be returning to the Hardy Hall in September with more of the Oral History Project's recorded interviews.

To find out more about Meeting Points on the Marsh, or for more information about volunteering, ring the office in Appledore on 01233 758122 or check the website: [carmromneymarsh.org.uk](http://carmromneymarsh.org.uk).

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# Community Garden by Jan Holben

I heard the news that Hythe Town Council (with a Green majority) have proposed that the town of Hythe will 'set a target, of carbon neutrality from its activities, of 2025 at the latest using the Carbon Trust framework, with an Action Plan for achieving this, to be drawn up by a sub-committee of full council'. I will watch with interest to see how they move towards this goal, and I do think that we all need to be thinking this way. You do not have to be 'Green' politically to realise that this is the way forward for all towns and villages.

Sandgate isn't too far behind in going 'green' and with huge support from SAGA which is based in the beautiful Enbrook Park in the middle of Sandgate - land has been made available within Enbrook Park to create a Community Garden.

Started in May, it's early days yet - but already local people, with or without green fingers, have started to plant and grow their own fruit and vegetables in the Community Garden. They have had a brilliant start, cleared the ground and marking out the various growing areas. With gardening advice and support from SAGA head gardener, and seed money (hehe) from Sandgate Society and Sandgate Parish Council they have been busy planting fruit trees, herbs and vegetables and there is plenty of space for more.

The gardeners meet up a couple of times each week to decide what they are doing to do in the coming days and are very welcoming to new members. They have already planted; courgettes, strawberries, comfrey, sunflowers and they even have a banana tree. Local business 'Cafe On The Beach' donate coffee grounds which are used to enrich the soil for those acid loving plants so there is often the delicious smell of coffee too - it's a real community effort.

It's not only community groups who are bitten by the 'grow your own' bug - you will see more and more households are creating vegetable plots in their gardens, even in their front gardens. After all it's much better to have a colourful array of fruit and vegetables in your front garden, than a worn and weedy looking lawn - not only do the plants look good, you can eat them too.

My lovely neighbours are doing just that and their front garden looks a treat. There is the big bright yellow trumpet flowers of courgettes, the delicate pinky white flowers of peas, as well as the bright orange and yellow of nasturtiums, and of course tomatoes - little yellow flowers followed by bright orange to red toms. It is probably more colourful than many non vegetable front gardens (I really should tell my other neighbours down the road that their front lawn is full of mares tail).

Finally, if you want to get a little bit fitter, be outdoors more and eat fresh healthier food - then growing your own could be the answer.

And for those of you who already knew this - when you look around your own garden or allotment and find you have a few spare plants - don't throw them away - please do keep in mind that the Sandgate Community Garden group are looking for the following plants, as well as all perennial fruit and vegetables: Asparagus, Rhubarb, Raspberries, Globe artichokes, Ground artichokes, Grape vines, Kiwi vine, Saskatoon, Honeyberry and Chokeberry.



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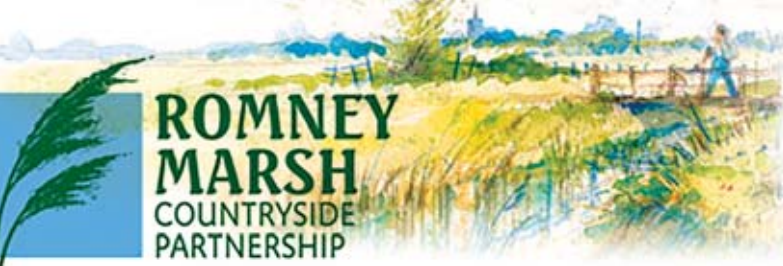


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## Vipers Bugloss

Summer is a lovely time of year and this year is especially nice! With the mixture of hot weather and last month's rain the wildflowers across the marsh are producing some stunning displays.

A commonly asked question is "What is the blue/purple flower?". The flower is known as viper's-bugloss which can dominate landscapes with its deep, rich colour. Viper's-bugloss got its name from two of distinguishing features; "Viper" from its spotted stem, said to resemble a snake's markings: and the flowers which look like a head of a snake. "Bugloss" comes from the Greek meaning "ox's tongue" and refers to the rough tongue-shaped nature of the leaves.



Viper's-bugloss is a hairy plant with dense spikes of bright blue, funnel-shaped flowers. It is a hardy biennial favouring free draining, disturbed ground. The flower has a long tapping root meaning it can reach moisture deep

down in the ground. The leaves are also hairy to help reduce evaporation from exposed sunny conditions and acts as a natural defence from predation from rabbits. With these two features vipers-bugloss is drought/predator resistant resulting it growing in highly exposed areas such as the shingle ridges at Dungeness. With other plants being grazed and unable to survive in the harsh conditions vipers-bugloss is able to establish large stands which produce deep blue landscapes during summer months.

On top of being visually pleasing it is a feed plant for multiple caterpillars and provides plenty of nectar and pollen for our pollinators. If you walk past the flower at this time of year you will often hear it buzzing from bees and may even see several different species of butterflies and moths utilising the flower. If you are interested in learning more about our native flowers and wildlife go to our website [www.rmcp.co.uk](http://www.rmcp.co.uk) where you can find a list of our upcoming guided walks and volunteer tasks where you can learn about local wildlife!



## More time with Princess Alexandra



After visiting several churches at the western end of the Deanery, and driving by St Thomas at Fairfield, the princess arrived for a reception, at Ivychurch church, where many representatives of all the churches were awaiting to be presented. The Romney Marsh churches have all been helped enormously by the RM Historic Churches Trust, (who organised the tour by the Princess), and are grateful for their support.

A spokesperson for each informal group was presented, who subsequently introduced members of their group. The princess showed a lively interest in, and appreciation for the enormous work that goes into maintaining the churches, many of which have small but faithful congregations. The trust covers all churches within the military canal, so the friendly gathering crossed Benefice, Deanery and Diocesan boundaries.

After all had been introduced, and a small girl in her best dress had presented a bouquet, speeches of thanks were given to the princess, at the end of a very special event. The princess did not stay for lunch, so the people tucked into the excellent sandwich lunch, provided by the wardens and officers of Ivychurch Church, and much appreciated cups of tea.

*June Gooch*

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# GARDENERS' CORNER

## Is the grass always greener on the other side?

Gardeners tend to be obsessed with lawns. But are they worth it? Debbie Ward peeks over the fence to ponder the issue.

What is the gardener's favourite plant? It's grass, of course, despite the phrase "low maintenance" being the most used in gardening forums wish lists. Keeping a lawn looking fresh and green all year is the opposite of low maintenance.

As I look out the front windows, the council have scalped the sward over the road and as I look out the back, the Under Gardener has given our modest patch the same treatment. With this gloriously sunny dry weather, both are more brown than green.

My position is that when the temperature drops and we get a drop of rain, normal greenery will be resumed, so worry not. Grass is not easily killed. However, there are many in my family and social circle for whom a lawn is more than just grass. It should be cut at least once a week from the last heavy frost of winter until the thermals are brought out in the run

up to Christmas. And for some, just once a week is considered slacking.

I had reason to visit the lawn care aisle in a DIY shed recently. It was a revelation. The notion that one can feed the grass while at the same time kill the weeds in it is still keeping me awake at night searching for the logic. There was patch repairer, after cut care, fertilisers galore. All of this for a plant that pops up in a pavement crack minutes after weeding it out.

From a design point of view, nothing sets off a border better than a carpet of freshly mown lawn with sharply cut edges. Few gardens open to the public or even on makeover television shows rely on hard landscaping alone. No garden is complete without a lawn of some sort.

I had plans for my inherited lawn even before we moved. It is roughly a semi circle divided by a path. The east side gets lots of sun and has a greenhouse. The grass has largely been removed and the whole patch around the greenhouse is becoming a border.

The west side gets less sun and is largely the territory of the dog. This side will remain a lawn, with steamer chairs in which to admire the border on the other side of the path. But there will be no grass. It will be a clover lawn. It will be fresh and green all year round, with no mowing and flowers for the bees. It won't be ideal for playing croquet (but I understand there is place in Newchurch for that sort of thing) and will need stepping stones from the kitchen door to the shed. Which is where the mower will languish between visits to the front garden.



The garden shortly after moving in



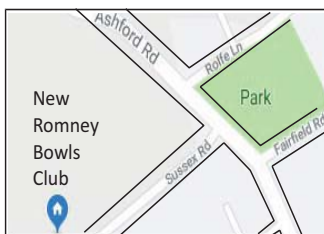
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## Bowl Hub Hosts Music!

Music is in town on July 27th at The New Romney Bowls Club, Sussex Road as they host four bands.

Dennis Connolly and Richard Potts starts the day at 11.15am with their individual style on The Snooker Stage followed by the talented acapella group The Wayward Harmonies on The Hub stage at 12.15am. Returning from last year is the fullsome sound of The Boston Valley Stompers who are not to be missed and after a leisurely lunch you can round off the day in the bar with The Silver Tops Trio on the Snooker Stage at 2.15pm. Great value food is on offer with special childrens menu and of course the bar will be available in the lounge area. Outside you can have a try at bowls on our world standard all weather surface with children only rinks featuring for the first time.

There really is something for everyone at the the Country Fayre and New Romney Bowls Club are proud to contribute and open up the club for this event.

## Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers

Members enjoyed learning a new craft technique glueing circles of ivy leaves onto card to make a Carmen rose.

A central flower can be added or it can be sprayed to make a decorative plaque, this month.

We don't have a meeting in August; our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th September 2.00pm – 4.30pm at St Mary's Bay village Hall. Details of this meeting to follow soon. Visitors all welcome with refreshments available. For more information, contact Gill on 01797 367258. Look forward to seeing you.



## Back in the day...

Former New Romney, Lydd, district and County Councillor, Carole Waters reminisces about the first New Romney Country Fayre in 1995 and how things have changed.

"There had been an event previously in the Assembly Rooms with the theme of Land, Sea & Air, but I was keen to try an outdoor summer event as a one-off and not necessarily run by the Town Council," she told me.

"We initially put together a committee of six with myself as Chair, and settled on the name with 'Fayre' being spelt in the old, traditional way to reflect the atmosphere we wanted to create. This had to be a free and fun family day and I was adamant that there should be no beer tent! We didn't want a funfair either, but it would provide an opportunity for local organisations to raise funds or sell goods and we sold pitches - for £5 I think it was.

"It needed to be the type of event that represented a small rural town and the surrounding area with no engine events, just people.

"Running from 11am to 5pm on the day, we had Punch & Judy and I remember local fireman Tony Smart organised a fire engine [that was obviously only just allowed!]. The Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, Sea Cadets, Bowls Club and Baton Twirlers were there, and there was a penalty shoot-out, the Rotary Club did something and there was a 'Bash the Rat' stall! The essence of it was the coming together of the community, but we wanted to support a new event which would showcase New Romney.

"The Romney Grill provided light refreshments and there was an ice-cream van and candy floss. A tug-of-war ended up as something of a free-for-all, but it was great fun – they were definitely simpler and more care-free days! "About 300 people came to that first event, but we'd got an appetite for it. We were all exhausted but delighted, but everyone who has been involved with the event since 1995 should be justifiably proud – it has been a fantastic community effort, but not least for the relatively small number of people who pull it together each year."

That first event was officially opened by New Romney Mayor, Ted Carey, and so it seems only appropriate that his widow Shirley should be honoured with opening the event in 2019.

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# In its 25th year, the Country Fayre goes from strength to strength *by Andrew South*

So here we are again then, on the cusp of the New Romney Country Fayre for the 25th time in a row, and what a silver celebration this year's event is set to be. It has come a long way from its first incarnation in 1995 when there were straw bales surrounding the single arena, and some stalls taken by local charities and traders around the edge of St. Martin's Field.



But fast forward to 2019, and the event has become the highlight of New Romney's calendar, attracting 7,000 visitors to enjoy a wide range of music and entertainment in two arenas and more than a

hundred stalls manned by local Marsh organisations, a parade of hundreds, as well as extending the event to other venues around the town.

This has been quite some achievement, but a reflection of how important it is for the various elements of the community to come together to co-operate to make it all happen, planning for which begins the day after the previous Fayre finishes.

At next week's event on July 27th, some of the old favourites will be there, not least the Woodchurch Morris Men, the only performers to have appeared at every single New Romney Country Fayre – and this year includes some members who performed in 1995!

Other old favourites will include the ever-popular Emma Lou's Dance Troupe whose brilliant routines and colourful costumes will once again charm us all. The New Romney Sea Cadets Band, Dog & Duck Show and Dorset-based Xtreme Falconry all make welcome return visits to entertain and enthrall.

New in 2016, but back by popular demand are the Southern Golden Retriever Society Display Team, and there is another return for old friends of the Fayre, Bloco Fogo, one of the largest samba bands in the south east with more than 60 rhythm masters. Among first time performers at the Fayre will be Adam's Axemen from Dorset who have been providing highly skilled – and competitive – lumberjack demonstrations since 1966.

So this year's Fayre seems set to reach new standards in free entertainment for the town and surrounding area for residents and visitors alike.

But how has the show evolved since 1994? Carole Waters, who as a town councillor at the time was a key driver of the event as Chairman of the Committee in 1995 and 1996 returned as the town's Mayor in 1999 and 2000, and we capture some of her



memories of that first event opposite. During the late 1990's, the Woodchurch Morris Men established their place as Fayre regulars, while music



was provided by the Ashford Accordion Band and the East Kent Pipers appeared in the parade. The early parades featured Train Gang from Hastings, ably coupling of Popeye and Olive Oil.

Morgan

assisted by the unlikely

Over the first decade of the new millennium, the Fayre continued to grow and began using the Recreation Ground on the other side of Fairfield Road.

Local Aldington celebrity, Paul O'Grady did the opening honours for the tenth Fayre in 2004, while acts included Kent's Strongest Man Competition and the Red Wheelies Mobility Scooter display team. In 2012, the Fayre was brought forward by a week to accommodate the London Olympics demand for porta-loos, but the Olympic theme set a new trend in choosing a theme for every subsequent event. Fantastic imagination and creativity has been on display for themes such as 'Celebration of the Community', 'Children's Books'; China (the 20th anniversary, obviously); 'Key of the Door' (guess when!); 'Musicals' and 'The Seaside'.

The Parade became an integral part of the community effort on the day, with around 30 separate groups and more than 300 people taking part. One of the unexpected benefits of the Fayre has been the recent re-surfacing of



Fairfield Road by the County Council, as Paraders in vehicles and floats complained about the number of pot-holes in the road!

The organisers have consistently strived to find exciting and original entertainment to fill the Arena including the Blue Falcons Gymnastic Team, the Sheep Show, The Essex Dog Display Team and the Olivants.



Whilst there is a select team of organisers responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the Fayre each year, we should acknowledge one family in particular who have been involved since the early days – the Wire family of Frances, Clive and Caroline who work tirelessly throughout the year to make sure that the best available entertainment is offered and that the event continues to showcase all that is great about the town and the Marsh, as was its original aim.

We've only been able to touch on the

history of this fantastic and imaginative community event, and provided a taste of the wide range of entertainment

taking place this year, but all the information you will need is in the Official Programme which is currently on sale for £1 throughout the town. Buy it now and start to plan your great day out! The event could not even get off the ground without the help of sponsors, promotional support and the long list of individuals and organisations who provide logistical support. It is a genuine and unique community event which costs at least £11,000 to put on each year, but it's worth every penny to the town and to the people who come and enjoy its facilities in a fun, relaxed and entertaining atmosphere. Information about the event and opportunities to volunteer – in particular marshalls on the day – is also available at [www.newromneycountryfayre.co.uk](http://www.newromneycountryfayre.co.uk) and on Facebook: [newromneycountryfayre](https://www.facebook.com/newromneycountryfayre)





# Neon lights up school holidays

by Andrew South

If you are starting to dread the impending school summer holiday and what to do with your little ones, then Neon Summer Schools may just have the answer, particularly if your offspring show particular talent for performance such as singing, music and dancing.

Over three weeks, the Summer Schools are inviting youngsters from across the district from the age of five to 16 to have the chance to work with visiting artists and practitioners, exploring everything from dance and performance, to animation and live looping. They will work together, learn new skills, develop in confidence and most importantly have fun!



This summer they are once again working with sound artist Randolph Matthews, alongside Neon regulars Sadie Hurley and James Middleton, at the Quarterhouse in Folkestone.

Nominated for 'Best Life Performance' by

Jazz FM in 2018 when they described him as 'flawless and world class', Randolph has been enthralled international audiences for two decades, mixing original music with surprising reworkings of classic repertoire –



both with his band and solo. He has worked with a whole host of artists from the jazz, blues and contemporary music scenes such as Herbie Hancock, Richard Bona and Mulatu Astatke.



Each Neon Summer School session runs for five days from Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm and costs £60. The sessions are selling fast, but there are still a limited number of spaces available for ages 5-7 (July 29th-August 2nd), 8-11 (August 5th-9th) and 12-16 (August 12th-16th).

For more information and booking please check the website: [www.creativefolkestone.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.creativefolkestone.org.uk/whats-on) or call Quarterhouse Box Office on 01303 760740.

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# Oh My Dog!



**A lot of people think that as you get older into your "senior years" that it's too late to get a dog, not so!**

Owning a dog just gets better with age.

Having a dog at home, or for that matter, any other pet, helps you stick to a routine. You could also see this as having a sense of purpose. After all, no matter what our age, we all want to have a sense of purpose, we all want to have something to do.

Having a dog makes you more sociable, whether it's just with you and your pooch or as you take them outside for their walk, it is inevitable that you will meet other dog owners. I'll tell you one thing you need to know about all dog owners, they all like to talk about their dogs! Feeling isolated is not good for people on many levels health wise, owning a dog will for sure help stave this off.

Dog ownership keeps you active, you have no choice! It is a great motivator when Fido is demanding their morning promenade to get you up, out and walking. It is all too easy to fall into sedentary ways in your later years, having someone to keep you active is a great health benefit. There's an old saying "want to lose weight? Then get a dog"

Dog ownership can help you create and stick to a routine. All through our working lives, or those early family years, the world turns on routines. Like it or not, we are programmed to have a routine from our very earliest moments. Getting older can mean the loss of routines and this can make you unhappy. Having a pet who depends on you for their well being is a mighty good reason to have a routine.

Finally, Pets can ease pain. That might sound strange, but it's a statement backed up by a lot of research over many decades. For someone suffering with chronic pain a pet provides focus to that person and helps take their mind of their discomfort. Stroking a cat or a dog has been proven to calm people, reduce blood pressure and provide feelings of well being.

Owning a pet can help you enjoy life and feel loved. A pet can get you active, make you sociable and reduce stress. If you don't have the ability to own your own pet, all is not lost on the benefits that ownership can bring. There are new services popping up all the time whereby you can borrow someone's pooch to have fun for a few hours or a few days at a time.

*Happy Hounding, Phil*







# Our Man in Westminster

DAMIAN COLLINS



Last Friday I was delighted to be invited to officially open the new Chameleon Bar & Grill restaurant next to Battery Point in Seabrook. The restaurant specialises in Indian street food with a menu designed by its executive chef Satish Nalli and will I'm sure be popular with local residents and visitors alike. It will also be another place where people can enjoy a drink and a meal overlooking the sea, making the most of the beautiful views on Hythe Bay.

The Chameleon Bar and Grill is co-owned by the Kent businessman Kanagaratnam Rajamenon, who is the Managing Director of Leaf Hotels. Leaf Hotels has also been behind the stylish refurbishment of the Clifton Hotel on The Leas in Folkestone, including the opening of the new Marco Pierre White restaurant at the hotel. This is another great example of local businesses backing the potential for future growth in our area. We have seen this both with investment in existing businesses and the creation of new ones. In recent years The Burlington and The View hotels in Folkestone have undergone substantial restoration, and major works have been completed to enhance The Imperial in Hythe. It's great to see local pub chains like Ramblinns, which started in Brabourne nine years ago opening up in new locations, including at the Radnor Arms in Folkestone. The success of many local food and drink businesses have also helped to make the harbour arm in Folkestone a major summer attraction. This recently brought a visit from The Times newspaper food critic Giles Coren to the town and led him to exclaim that 'Folkestone rocks. And will only rock more and more as time goes on.' This is all an excellent endorsement for the future of the economy in our district and its good to see local business people taking the lead.

I was pleased to see the students from the Brockhill School farm amongst the top prizes yet again at the Kent County show last week. Their livestock was magnificently presented and deservedly caught the eye of the judges. The school's Assistant Principal Donna Ashlee also marked her twenty fifth year of leading Brockhill's preparation and exhibition at the Kent Show. For me, to see the pride taken by the young farmers in their work is one of the highlights each year of visiting the Kent Show. The County has one of the strongest young farmers organisations in the UK which is good news for the future of agriculture in our area.

On Monday I attended the funeral at St Leonard's church in Hythe of the former long serving Town Councillor, Reg Belcourt. Reg was a great and popular figure in the community through his work as well with Hythe Rotary, the chamber of commerce and as a former sea captain and master mariner. He will be missed by all of his family and friends, so many of whom were there at the service to bid him farewell on his final voyage.

## LOOKER LETTERS

### Dear Looker,

Issue 227 contained reports on the vote by District Councillors on 26th June which supported the opposition motion to rescind the decision by the previous administration to develop Princes Parade. The motion was carried by 15 votes to 14. Supporting the motion were the six Green Party Cllrs, six Labour Cllrs, the two Lib Dem Cllrs plus one UKIP Cllr, me! Opposing the motion were twelve Conservatives, one UKIP Cllr and the one independent Cllr. After the very close vote, it was announced that the vote was not legally binding as the ultimate decision on the development rests with the executive.

If that is correct, I will respect any legal ruling so will not argue further against the Princes Parade development.

To remind your readers. I elected to join in an alliance with the majority Conservative group In order to ensure a workable administration

That was achieved by the two UKIP Cllrs and the one independent Cllr agreeing to join in the alliance. I made it clear at the time however, that I would stick to my UKIP beliefs and policies and also vote and act, as far as possible, in accordance with the wishes of the electorate. As far as Princes Parade is concerned, Hythe residents are anti, but also those residents in my Romney Marsh ward who I asked about the development, are also anti. Hence my decision to vote as I did. Although I was a Cllr for the 2011-2015 session, I was not a member of the 2015-2019 council, so was not privy to discussion about the Princes Parade development then. Faced now with the legal situation, I shall keep a close eye on the whole matter from now on. As I said during the vote, Cllrs are 'damned if they do, and damned if they don't'.

Cllrs have to look at many aspects on proposals, their own gut instinct, the effect of the proposal on the district, the debates in council, costs, planning, the wishes of the electorate, and lots more I believe that it is perhaps wrong to criticise any Cllr for what he or she decides, often after much thought, provided that his or her stance is well founded. Of course there will be a much bigger debate on the Otterpool garden town proposed development later and I will join in that debate and will vote after I have considered all aspects. Please do accept that most, if not all, Cllrs do think very long and hard about their roles and their responsibilities.

*Cllr Terry Mullard, District Cllr for Romney Marsh Ward*

### Dear Looker,

I would like to thank the editor for actually publishing the account on Princes Parade even though he clearly stated at the meeting that he was for the development (I am against it)

The article points out that objectors are Nimbys. Well yes I am happy to be a Nimby! I moved down to the district to retire. I worked in the City of London for nearly 50 years, so it is my god damn right not to want this intrusion into my life.

What is the point of working hard and saving for a long peaceful retirement by the sea, only to have a bloody swimming pool on my doorstep! The fact is the town already has a pool and I don't think anyone uses it anyway

I don't want it, so why should I be happy to have it! I don't care about the youth of Hythe, all they do is be abusive and cause destruction with graffiti so if they want a pool they can move somewhere else! This is a nice retirement town and we certainly do not want this terrible pool, let alone a bloody cafe or hotel.

I paid nearly £1 million pounds for my house and so NO I DON'T WANT A POOL OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER!

*Mr S Trent, A Hythe Resident*



## Dear Looker,

I don't expect you to print this – but I just have to get it off my chest. I want to speak up for the 'silent majority' – because it seems to me the 'vocal minority' are loudly saying their piece (on this occasion) about Princes Parade<sup>3</sup> – and often they claim to speak for everyone – well I am here to tell you, they don't!

I live in Seabrook, and I can see right over the land that will be developed, it is a lovely view and one I hold dear – but, let's be honest - it is also a mess. I don't even like to take my little doggie there because she will probably get ticks off the bushes. Notwithstanding ticks, the walk alongside the canal is beautiful and if I understand the plans correctly the canal walk will still be there and possibly even more accessible. Furthermore, if the area is landscaped anything as well as the lower leas coastal park, which is a lovely place, then it will be yet another great asset to our district. As for wild life, newts, lizards, leeches (yeuck), slow worms, birds and so on – as they already do in my garden when I recently paved part of it - they move further into the longer grass and bushy areas but they are still there as evidenced by the amount of slow worms and frogs I have seen this year – that is what the wild life will do along the military canal, after all it is 28 miles long.

Not only will the area be more attractive, there will be a lovely new swimming pool and café plus other bits and bobs too which will make this area very special.

So you 'loud minority' people – please do not speak for me, or the other 'silent majority' people – we may be quiet and we certainly don't want to be shouted down, but we do have a mind of our own – and I for one, welcome the proposed development of this scrubby area.

*Best regards Silent Seabrook resident*

## Dear Looker,

I read with interest your report on Princes Parade and included the comment that 'No One In Hythe Wants It'!

Well, I would like to readdress this statement. I own a business in Hythe with 9 staff, all of us are in favour of the new development. Your report states that people are NIMBYs (not in my back yard) well a lot of the people in the High Street are polar opposites of this. Not only do we want the swinging pool, we want the housing. People are either totally delusional to think that this 'hallowed sacred piece of ground' is a beautiful space! Many people who are very vocal I doubt have ever actually been there!!! To state that the place is a dump (\*we have substituted the actual word...ed) is paying it a huge favour.

I also read with interest that David Monk (Not my favourite local politician) pointed out that councillors who live close to the parade should have declared an interest? Well if they did not then surely this either demonstrates and arrogance or ignorance and would question again the legality of their motion.

So to rebalance, Not the whole of Hythe is against the development, a LARGE silent majority either are for it and want the pool and hotel or simply do not care and are scared of making their views that might be different to the small protesting group, because they are scared of possible harassment or having their business's slammed on social media.

Please do not think the green party represent the views of the majority of Hythe Voters THEY DON'T I would even go as far to say if there was not the almighty confusion in Main stream politics they would probably none of them get elected. They appear to have no other policy other than being hell bent on saving some scrubland.

*Yours Mr & Mrs J (Stade Street resident)*

## Dear Councillor Monk,

**Full Council decision to withdraw Princes Parade Planning Application.** I am writing on behalf of the members of Save Princes Parade. We welcome the decision made at the full council meeting on 26 June to withdraw the planning application for Princes Parade and take up the option for a new swimming pool and leisure centre at Martello Lakes. Whether or not you consider this decision is binding on cabinet it was a democratic decision passed by a democratically elected council and we urge that you honour it.

*Jean Baker, Chairman, Save Princes Parade 5 July 2019*

# Mrs P's Diary

As I scurried down the road I was curious as to why 3 policemen were removing a gutter cover and staring intently at the drain. I followed them, Miss Marple like, and saw that they were making house to house enquiries.

"Good Morning officer, can I help with anything?" The rather young man said "yes Madam, there is a smashed window along the high street and the camera shows that the offender came from this direction" Well, he was at the door of a B&B... I deduced that he had already had his full English and left. I think the police man was staggered by my quick thinking as he took his leave quite abruptly.

Continuing on my way I resolved to get a wicker basket and a hat. After all I need to be easily recognisable if there is trouble afoot.

And the next thing I saw was a woman with a shopping trolley bending over Wainwright's letter box and then scrabbling in her trolley. I watched for a while and after she had ambled off, inspected the door for criminal damage. I was surprised to see that she had been shoving quantities of used bubble wrap into the shop. I am sure they will find that mighty useful in an eBay emergency. Or even for the half price closing down sale. Coming soon.

The third incident was a poor woman falling flat on her back outside the Red cross shop. Luckily a uniformed nurse was just passing by so she could help. Recognisable clothing is a public duty although I am not sure if the lighthouse impersonator will be in great demand in Hythe high street.

Astonishingly I then spotted two more men who stood out strolling along the high street. A kilt wearer with a check shirt. Either a Scots man or a cow boy.? Take your pick. Then a shepherd complete with dog, crook and whistle. Obviously he had lost a sheep from Romney marsh. Luckily the Scots /cowboy had neither cow nor horse accompanying him.

All we need now is Little Bo Peep. But I will have a better hat. And a bike.



## Dear Looker,

In Mrs P's Diary in issue 226 she mentions a lady who had a pet seagull, I wonder if that would be in the greatstone area because there was one who was tapping on 3 houses to my knowledge. Unfortunately he is no more with us he was killed early one morning last week by a fox. I did give him a decent burial. I had nickname him Steven (Seagal). *Regards M*



## LOCAL CRICKET

### Folkestone CC 3rd XI 274-6 v New Romney 173-7

*Folkestone won by 101 runs*

The home side won the toss and batted first in this friendly game. They made 274-6 after their 40 overs. For New Romney, Elliot Symonds took 3-35, Rowan Sharkey 2-40 and Shane Lawrence 2-59.

It was a large total for the Marsh side to overhaul and they finished 101 runs short on 173-7. In-form Luke Paton scored 64 and Elliot Symonds finished on 50 not out.

### Lydd 156-4 v Hythe Green 155-6

*Lydd won by six wickets*

The visitors batted first and scored 155-6 off their allotted overs in this friendly game. For the Lydders, Alec Lindsey took 2-12 off eight overs, and Adam Lindsey, Steve Smith and Dan Anderson got one wicket apiece.

Dan Anderson was the mainstay of the Lydd innings, hitting six 4s and four 6s in his 76 not out. Adam Lindsey chipped in with 30 and Darren Wolfe made 28.

### Brookland 120 all out v Mersham-le-Hatch 145-9

*Mersham-le-Hatch won by 25 runs*

Brookland won the toss and decided to field first in this league match. They restricted the visitors to 145-9 off 40 overs with Craig Pierce taking 3-26, Jack Savage 2-24 and Ross Pierce 2-25.

The home side never really got going and Craig Pierce was the top scorer with 25. Only four other batsmen reached double figures.

### New Romney Midweek XI 111 v Three Hills Staff 194-4

*Three Hills won by 83 runs*

In this midweek 20-over match, the visitors batted first and made 194-4. Elliot Symonds taking 3-27.

New Romney were all out for 111 without a significant contribution from their batsmen.

### Burwash 159-8 v Brookland 159-9

*The match was Tied*

A rare result in this friendly match. Burwash won the toss and put Brookland into bat. They managed 159-9 with Craig Pierce making 53 and Ross Pierce 43.

A tense end to the game with the home side finishing on 159-8. For Brookland, Ross Harper and Daxesh Patel both took three wickets and Chris Savage grapped a couple.

### New Romney 50-2 v Lydd 49 all out

*New Romney won by eight wickets*

A very low-scoring friendly game between the Marsh rivals saw New Romney coming out on top. Lydd batted first but were all out for 49 in the 21st over. Only Darren Wolfe, Allan Keeling and Steve Smith reached double figures. For New Romney, Spencer Sharkey was outstanding, taking six wickets for six runs in eight overs. Terry Owen finished with 2-10.

The home side had no trouble knocking off the runs required after 14 overs thanks to 21 from Luke Paton and 15 not out from Elliot Symonds.

## Dear Looker,

Thanks to The Looker a huge crowd of 250/300 speedway fans turned out for the 2019 British Veteran speedway riders open championship at lydd speedway on saturday. In perfect weather 37 riders battled it out over 56 races in four hours. There were three separate events for the championship and an under 15s 'stars of the future'" support event.

The two valve class was won by former Canterbury Crusader Graham Knowler, second was Chris Mackett from Romney Marsh and third Keith Cornell from Ashford.

The four valve class winner was Dean Felton who at the age of 50 duly announced his retirement when receiving his trophy. Second was Darren Phillips from London and third Shaun Bickley from Workington.

The modern laydown bike class was won by Manchesters Barry Ayres, second Mike Osborne from Ipswich and third Darrin Wilson from Napier, north island New Zealand after a race off with Chris Shallcross from Herne Bay after they tied on points.

The under 15s support event was won by Jamie Etherington from Whitstable, second was Will Cairns from Welwyn Garden City and third Vinnie Foord from Eastbourne.

Our next race event is a North v South challenge match on Saturday August 3rd starting at 3pm.

All enquiries to Malcolm Smith on 07870 471770

*Regards, Malcolm*

## Dear Looker,

What a great issue of The Looker (227), Wednesday 3rd July. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Good to see that you are including news from other parts of the district, making The Looker even more interesting to read.

*Congratulations, Mike Worthington*



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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Thursday 18th 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.

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

## Friday 19th 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 20th July

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

Coffee Morning, Newchurch Village Hall, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Romney Marsh Walking Society, Coronation Square, Lydd, 11 a.m. (3.5 miles)

Greatstone WI Annual Craft Show, St. Peter's Hall, 2 p.m.

Lydd Allotments Open Day

## Sunday 21st July

Marsh Exhibition, Old School, New Romney, 2 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Opening of Lydd Town Museum, 2.30 p.m.

## Monday 22nd 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.

## Tuesday 23rd 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 24th July

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

Romney Marsh Walking Society, Tenterden Garden Centre (Reading St), 10 a.m. (4 miles)

Summer Wildlife Walk, RSPB Dungeness, 10.30 a.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.

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

## Thursday 25th July

The Seaside Singers, Romney Marsh Day Centre, 11 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.

## Friday 26th July

Live Music, Shepherd & Crook, Burmarsh, 8.45 p.m.

## Saturday 27th July

### NEW ROMNEY COUNTRY FAYRE

### 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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## Romney Revels in the 1950s

The middle of summer in the 1950s and 1960s, usually saw the residents of New Romney, and indeed the Marsh, looking forward to their annual carnival, Romney Revels. The event was revived after the Second World War and was usually held on a Saturday in July. Romney Revels was always a big day for teenagers to look forward to, especially for the large travelling fair that attended. There would be a large carnival procession through the town culminating with the judging of decorated floats and fancy dress entries on the Sports Field. There were also sporting events and races throughout the afternoon and very often a Goal-Running match in the evening. Weather permitting, it usually enjoyed large crowds and it was always competing with Lydd Club Day as the premier event on the Marsh.

Its heyday was probably during the 1950s. It was estimated that around 1,000 local residents gathered on the Sports Ground each year to watch as the Mayor opened the event. It would have been Councillor Jackie Wiles in the early fifties and thereafter Councillor Norman Grubb.

There were numerous decorated floats that took part in the procession through the town. In 1950, The Cook Family from Sussex Road entered a train named 'Cook's Rocket' and Arthur Ashdown entered most years with his barrel organ. The rest of the Ashdown family entered in the tractor-drawn section with their French flavoured entry 'Can-Can' in 1951. Also in 1951, the Holtum and Rossiter families entered their 'Cycloquadralbedoped', a strange 4-wheel contraption that looked as though it had come from another planet. 'The New Romney 'Over 65 Club' had a float most years and in 1951, celebrated their 100 years. 'Moving Pictures of Still Life' was the entry of local firm Palmers, depicting the local KCC roadmen in 1952 and also that year, Josie Tyrell and Tony Wimble were dressed up as Spivs with their entry, 'Spiving for a Living'. The following year, Ann Apps entered on her motor-cycle dressed as the 'Revels Guard'.

In 1954, Nigel and Alistair Rabson were in the

### 'Miss Romney Revels' 1955

1 Lesley Patterson, 2 Beryl Welsby, 3 Margaret Still, 4 Marianne Polden, 5 June Hyder, 6 Emily Paine, 7 Cynthia Bolton, 8 Shirley Harden, 9 Marina Gillham, 10 Esme Harden, 11 Ann Wimble, 12 Pauline Livingstone, 14 Audrey Shaw, 15 Shirley Gillham, 16 Audrey Hunter.



procession with their Grandfather's large model of a lifeboat. George Baker from Lydd entered his 'Egyptian Turkish Delight' in 1955 which had won a prize at Lydd Club Day a month previously. Miss Modern 1955' was entered by Eileen Bolton which featured all forms of outdoor sports with 'Miss Modern' dressed up for the occasion. The Tramps Skiffle Group featured in 1957 and local schoolteacher Bob Ellender, farmer Bill Furnival and shopkeeper Tony McQueen were on the 'Mayor's Parlour' float in 1959.

There were also lots of entries in the fancy dress classes with many original costumes to be seen. Over the years, the competitors in the children's fancy dress included Sheila Ashdown, Pat Barlow, Anne Beachey, Cynthia & Steve Bolton, Ron Foord, Denise French, David Godfrey, Jill King, Elizabeth Martin, Dianne Savage and Tess & Myna Stone. The adult entrants included Henry Barnes, Jean Bateman, Charlie Blundred, Ted Bolton, Joan Gasson, Mrs. Godfrey, Miss Masters, Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Stevens, Joe Tye, Les Whiting and Tom Wimble.

The 1955 carnival was led by the Tenterden Army Cadet Corps band, followed by the gaily-decorated float with 'Miss Romney Revels', Audrey Shaw and her attendant Lesley Patterson.

After the carnival, a ladies football match took place and Bill Prior's team beat Joe Tye's team by five goals to three. The goal-running match was won by New Romney who beat Stanford by 31 strikes

to 15. The day ended with a grand fireworks display.

However, during the sixties the interest in the Revels started to decline and the event wasn't held any more after the 1970s.



Part of the crowd at Romney Revels in 1955



# CHURCHES CORNER ROUND-UP

**Ride and Stride.** This annual event, which invites people to ride a cycle or walk around our old churches for sponsorship, takes place on Saturday, September 14th. Most churches are taking part, and will be open all day, and forms can be found in all the churches. Sitters are in the churches to sign forms, and many churches provide refreshments, or have mini fairs, with stalls. Sitters can also be sponsored, and you can take your canine friend along, but they must be kept on a lead. Although mechanised transport is forbidden, it is OK to use a mobility scooter. The proceeds are divided between your home church, and the Friends of Kent Churches, who have been very generous with grants for our beautiful historic churches.

**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 custard 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 or soup, teabags, pasta or dried rice.

**Marsh Matters.** The Romney Marsh Benefice magazine will not be published in August. Most details for 2 months should be in the July edition.

## **Brookland, St Augustine.**

Midweek Holy Communion, Wednesdays July 17 and 31st, 6.30pm.

## **Burmarsh, All Saints.**

The Plants, Pimms and Ploughmans in May was a tremendous success, and £1,250 was raised for the church funds. Many came from other areas, thanks to advertising on social media, and the helpers had quite a hard job keeping up with demand! Thanks are given to the many who helped in any way, and to all those who supported the event.

**Church Barbecue.** The annual BBQ will be held on Saturday, July 20st at the home of Mr and Mrs Carmichael, 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 church is currently raising money to renew the heating system, which is very inefficient and unreliable. £4,409 has been raised, and some grant money is promised from the RM Historic Churches Trust, but more needs to be raised. Thanks to all those who have supported the appeal so far.

## **Methodist Church.**

The regular Monday CARM meeting will be meeting throughout the holidays in July and August. They meet from 10am-noon in the church hall, and all are welcome to share company and chat, and if you have any queries, people will be on hand to help you find the right answer.

## **Dymchurch RC church, St Monica.**

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

## **Greatstone, St Peters.**

Greatstone WI will be holding their craft fair on Saturday, July 20th. Viewing by public from 2pm.

Prayer for the persecuted church. A group of Christians meets in the church hall at 10am every Wednesday morning to pray for Christians all over the world who are having a hard time. Many are being tortured and killed, living in fear, having the livelihoods taken away, and sometimes their children.

## **Ivychurch, St George.**

The church recently hosted a reception for the visit of HRH Princess Alexandra, cousin of the queen, and all concerned were very honoured to have her finish a visit to the Marsh in Ivychurch historic church. The Fifth Continent project has helped the church with maintaining the churchyard for biodiversity, and it looks magnificent at the moment, with wild flower areas, and a recent survey, found 76 different insects.

**Batty about Bats.** This event takes place on Tuesday, July 30th from 11am -3pm, and is aimed at families. There will be bat based crafts and activities about the wonderful world of bats. For further information ring Stan Smith on 01797 369487, the event is jointly organised by Kent Wildlife Trust and The Fifth Continent.

## **Lydd All Saints.**

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

The monthly Sunday lunch will take place after the morning service on Sunday, July 21st. If you would like to book a place, ring Pat on 01797 320108. This is open to all, not just regular church goers. So if you would like some company, or are new to the area, feel free to book a place and come along.

**Friends of Lydd Church.** This group, independent of the church, has been running for many years, to support and fund necessary items and works. Members have served faithfully, and worked tirelessly, and several are now getting older, and less able. New blood would always be welcome, so if interested ring Nigel on 01797 321684 or email claret1912nigel@aol.com

## **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 30th 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.**

The next monthly coffee morning is on Saturday, August 17th, from 10am-noon. All welcome, live music will be available. Because of a wedding there will be no coffee morning in July.

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 in August. The success

of this group means that more helpers are always needed. Ring Penny on 01797 362560 if you are interested.

After much hard work, the local primary school, St Nicholas, has had a good Ofsted. Thanks are given to all who worked hard to achieve this.

## **Romney Marsh Community Church.**

All the midweek groups for all ages are running down now, as the school holidays approach, to give the leaders a well-earned break. Children are enjoying treats, days on the park, and some are saying goodbye, as they leave to go up to other groups. All recommence in September.

The Sunday services continue as normal at 10.30am every Sunday, and the Sunday club continues. If you have any queries ring, 01797 366855. They see many visitors at this time of year, and are delighted to see holiday makers worshipping with the church, as members worship on their holidays in other places!

**Food Bank.** The church operates a food bank, 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 note at head of column for further detail, and details for donations, which are always warmly welcomed.

## **Snargate, St Dunstons.**

Next service on Sunday, July 28, at 9am, and will be Holy Communion.

## **St Mary's Bay, All Saints.**

**Tea and Bingo.** Monday, July 22nd 2.30pm in the church hall.

**Big Summer Fair.** Saturday, August 3rd, from 10am. Lots of stalls, activities, raffles and delicious refreshments.

## **St Mary in the Marsh.**

**Last Night of the Proms** by Haywardians choir, on Saturday, August 3rd at 7.30pm. This is always a popular concert, and tickets, at £12.50, can be obtained from Andrew Sinden on 01797 362097 or 07814 292027. Ticket includes wine and canapes in the interval.

**Songs of Praise.** There will be a songs of praise type service on Sunday, September 8th. If you would like to nominate a favourite hymn or Christian song, for choir and congregation to sing, send your nominations to Andrew Sinden, details above.

## Church Chuckle

Sister Dominique was sitting by her desk in her convent when she opened a letter from home. Inside was a £10 note, a gift from a well-wisher. Being of a charitable disposition, she saw a sad looking tramp outside her window. She wrapped up the £10 note, and threw it down to him, with a note, "Don't despair, Sister Dominique". The following day, the tramp called at the house, and asked for Sister Dominique, and handed her some money. "What's this", she asked puzzled. The man replied, "your winnings, sister, Don't Despair came in at 5 to 1!!"

## Wit and Wisdom

There is definitely no life on Mars. It is not listed on my daughter's phone bill. Larry Matthews.

## Contact The Looker:

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Cinque Ports Arms - New Romney

AUGUST 2019

# LIVE MUSIC

FRIDAY 2ND - BEER FEST

4PM - OLAS BOSS • 6.30PM - LEFT OF THE DIAL • 8PM - CONTRABAND

SATURDAY 3RD - BEER FEST

12.30PM - GEORGIE TAYLOR • 2.30PM - JASON LEIGH  
4.30PM - BRAD PITTANCE • 6.30PM - GUMBOOTS • 8PM - ONE LOVE

SUNDAY 4TH - BEER FEST

1PM - MIXED EMOTION • 3.30PM - FREAK90  
6PM - DAVID SHEPHERD

SATURDAY 10TH - THE BLOK

FRIDAY 16TH - CAN'T TOUCH THIS

SATURDAY 17TH - HAPPY DAZE

SATURDAY 24TH - THE TALISMAN

SATURDAY 31ST - JIMMY & THE RIDDLES

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