

RAW SEWAGE SHAME

Families confronted by floating human waste as beachgoers warned to stay out of the sea



Families flocking to the Kent coast to escape soaring temperatures were instead confronted by one of the most revolting sights imaginable – what witnesses described as floating raw human excrement in the sea.

As temperatures climbed towards 33°C and Kent sweltered under a Met Office Red Heat Health Alert, swimmers, paddleboarders and kayakers were warned to stay out of the water after a burst sewer pipe caused what authorities described as a "potentially dangerous leak" into the sea at Seabrook, near Hythe.

Warning signs were hurriedly erected along Princes Parade, environmental officers rushed to take water samples and emergency

repair crews descended on Seabrook pumping station after the burst main was feared to have discharged polluted water into Seabrook Stream and the adjacent bathing waters.

Yet when The Looker visited the beach on Friday morning, swimmers, kayakers and families were still entering the sea, with council officers approaching people already dressed in swimming costumes to warn them of the health risks.

Several beach users reported seeing what they believed to be floating raw human excrement in the water.

Continued on page 2

SUNSHINE... BUT STILL ON THE BRINK?

Questions raised over Britain's energy strategy as heatwave exposes pressure on the National Grid

Britain has just experienced one of the hottest spells in recent memory, with cloudless skies and temperatures climbing well above 30°C. Many people might reasonably have expected the country to be awash with cheap solar electricity.

Instead, the recent heatwave highlighted just how complex the UK's electricity system has become.

The National Energy System Operator (NESO) issued emergency notices warning of tight electricity margins as soaring temperatures increased demand while other parts of the energy system came under pressure. Extra gas-fired generation was called upon, electricity imports from Europe were secured and reserve generation was brought online to ensure supplies remained stable. Officials stressed that electricity supplies were not at immediate risk, but acknowledged that the system was operating with tighter margins than normal.

Although solar generation was high during daylight hours, experts note that solar panels become less efficient as temperatures rise, while output naturally falls sharply in the evening just as household electricity demand increases. At the same time, the prolonged high-pressure weather system significantly reduced wind generation, increasing reliance on gas-fired power stations and imported electricity to balance the grid.

Continued on page 3

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Among those contacting The Looker was local resident Carole Goodall, who said she was horrified by what she witnessed.

"Our beaches are an absolute mess. Families who came down to the beach and went paddling were swimming amongst what appeared to be raw untreated sewage. It is absolutely inexcusable."

Mrs Goodall questioned whether enough had been done quickly enough to protect members of the public.

"The council appeared to do nothing about it while people were still in the sea. This could have been the start of a major public health outbreak. People had no idea what they were going into."

She added that families should never have to worry about whether the sea is safe to enter.

"People come here to enjoy our wonderful coastline, especially during a heatwave. Instead they are faced with pollution and uncertainty. Somebody needs to be held accountable because this simply cannot keep happening."

The incident comes as Southern Water confirmed a burst sewage pipe at Seabrook pumping station had required emergency repairs. The company initially managed sewage flows using tanker vehicles before diverting sewage through an alternative sewer while repair work continued.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council advised people not to swim at Seabrook Beach as a precaution, while also warning paddlers to avoid the Seabrook end of the Royal Military Canal because of connected water feeds.

The Environment Agency also issued formal advice against bathing through its Swimfo service and confirmed it has launched an investigation into the cause of the burst main.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said it was working alongside Folkestone and Hythe District Council and "will not hesitate to take enforcement action if appropriate."

For many residents, however, this latest incident is simply another example of a coastline being repeatedly let down by ageing infrastructure and sewage pollution.

Regular Hythe sea swimmer Rebecca Owen said the timing could hardly have been worse.

"They'll put signs up at the Seabrook end, but you wouldn't want to swim in Hythe now either."

"We knew it was going to be bad because of the thunderstorms but it's ironic that they're pumping water out while I've just been put on a hosepipe ban."

"I've not been letting my kids go down on the beach. All they have to do is put their hand in and it could cause all sorts of problems."

The incident unfolded on one of the hottest days of the year, when thousands would normally be expected to enjoy Kent's beaches.

Instead of crystal-clear water, visitors found warning signs, pollution concerns and a beach overshadowed by fears over what had entered the sea.

For local businesses that depend on summer tourism, the consequences are significant. Every pollution warning damages confidence in the area's beaches, while local residents are increasingly asking why such incidents continue to happen.

Southern Water has apologised for the disruption and says water quality testing will continue while repairs are completed.

But for many who visited Seabrook on Friday, the image of families being warned away from the water amid reports of floating human waste is one they will not forget in a hurry.

As one beachgoer told The Looker: "This is supposed to be the Garden of England – not Britain's open sewer."



How much more damage can local water authorities do to our tourism?

The events have reignited debate over whether Britain is moving too quickly towards an electricity system heavily dependent on weather-dependent renewable generation without sufficient long-duration storage or firm generating capacity.

Critics argue that while solar has an important role to play, covering thousands of acres of productive farmland with panels does not solve the challenge of providing reliable electricity around the clock.

Among the strongest critics remains Energy Secretary Ed Miliband, whose ambition to rapidly expand solar generation has prompted concern from farming groups and rural communities across the country. Opponents say the policy risks sacrificing productive agricultural land while still leaving Britain reliant on gas-fired power stations whenever renewable output falls or demand surges.

David Wimble, Reform UK Kent County Councillor for Romney Marsh, said: "The recent heatwave has shown that energy policy needs to be based on reality rather than ideology. Despite days of uninterrupted sunshine, the National Grid still

SUNSHINE... BUT STILL ON THE BRINK?
HEATWAVE EXPOSES MADNESS OF BRITAIN'S SOLAR OBSESSION

With temperatures soaring and skies cloudless for days, you'd think Britain would be drowning in cheap, clean solar power.

NOT SO.
In the past two weeks, the National Grid was reportedly just MINUTES away from blackout as the system buckled under extreme strain.

So intense was the heat that solar panels actually **OVERHEATED** and started to shut down – producing less power just when demand was skyrocketing. Meanwhile, wind output plummeted, and the only thing standing between us and chaos was gas-fired power stations and emergency imports.

THIS IS THE MADNESS OF ED MILIBAND'S ENERGY POLICY.

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DAVID WIMBLE, REFORM UK KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR ROMNEY MARSH, SAYS:
"Remember the reason we have all this proposed solar coming to a farm near you is down to the Green Party and the majority of FHDC stating that Romney Marsh was open for renewable energy. As your elected Reform councillor, I will do everything I can to stop this destruction of our countryside."

needed gas-fired power stations and imported electricity to maintain supplies.

"People should remember why so many solar farm applications are now heading towards Romney Marsh. The Green Party administration, supported by the majority at Folkestone and Hythe District Council, to identify Romney Marsh as being suitable for renewable energy has

made our area an attractive target for large-scale solar developers.

"As the elected Reform councillor for Romney Marsh, I will continue to do everything I can to oppose the unnecessary industrialisation of our countryside and to protect our high-quality agricultural land."

While supporters of renewable energy argue that more battery storage and grid investment will reduce dependence on gas over time, recent events have ensured the debate over Britain's energy future—and the future of the Romney Marsh countryside—is far from over.

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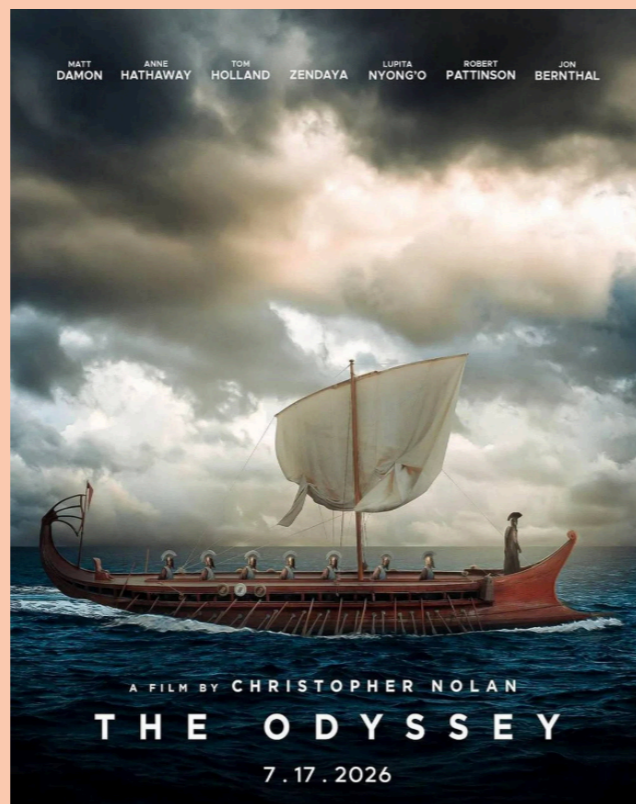
National Theatre Live - Les Liaisons Dangereuses 15

Thursday 9th July 2:30pm

Toy Story 5 PG

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- **Reporting:** Notifying the Parish Clerk of any environmental issues, such as fly-tipping, vandalism, or damaged play equipment and benches etc
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JAM on the Marsh: enjoy 3 free art exhibitions under one roof

JAM on the Marsh opens on 8 July, bringing a feast of music, theatre, film and art to Romney Marsh. Daily throughout JAM on the Marsh, enjoy three free exhibitions at the festival's art hub, the Marsh Academy Leisure Centre.



Micro Macro is a solo exhibition by award-winning visual artist Jillian Bain Christie, exploring the infinite possibilities of linocut printmaking. This series of prints invites you to experience the intricacies and tactile qualities of relief mark making up close. Each finished image represents days, sometimes weeks, of intense work, where the relationship between the negative space and the inked surface is calculated with an almost meditative focus.

Come and meet Jillian at her exhibition on Thursday 9th July at 1pm. She will share the inspiration behind *Micro Macro* and the patient, painstaking craft behind each print. It is a lovely chance to look closely, ask your questions and discover the thinking and the many hours that shape every image. All are warmly welcome.

This year, JAM has continued its free, fun art projects with the Romney Marsh Community Hub, bringing creativity, new skills and friendship to people across the Marsh, and welcoming anyone over 50 (of any ability), to get involved.



Lost and Found is a fascinating exhibition resulting from a series of weekly sessions in mixed media and embroidery led by, inspirational artist Victoria Morris in the spring. Combining threads, yarns, handmade recycled paper, beads, maps and postcards, the local community participants created captivating collages, each one mounted in an embroidery hoop and telling a personal story, written in their own words beside the work.

This summer Jillian Bain Christie introduced participants to linocut and the relief printing process. Inspired by their own images, the participants produced prints that graphic and very detailed. Enjoy **Linocut** and marvel at the intricacy.



From 8-12 July, enjoy all three free exhibitions at The Marsh Academy Leisure Centre. Come and discover the work, and the people and stories behind every piece. Highlights can be found in the carriages of the Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway.

For full details about the music, open-air theatre, film and art at JAM on the Marsh, please go to www.jamconcert.org

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Editor's Word

David Wimble



Well, would you believe it? In the last edition I wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister politely suggesting that, for the good of the country, he might consider resigning.....A few days later... he did.

Now, I'm not claiming any influence whatsoever, but if anyone in Westminster happens to be reading this, perhaps I could have a quiet word about energy bills, potholes and Southern Water while I'm apparently on a winning streak.

As the saying goes though, be careful what you wish for.

We spent years complaining about the European Union's travelling circus, with politicians and civil servants endlessly bouncing between Brussels and Strasbourg. We were told Brexit would put an end to all that. Fast forward to today and it appears we're about to create our own version, with Whitehall preparing to split its time between London and Manchester. Before long, Number 10 will probably have a northern annexe, half the civil service will be commuting up the M6, and Cabinet meetings could start looking suspiciously like an episode of Coronation Street.

At this rate, Jack and Vera Duckworth will be running the Treasury, Ena Sharples will be Chief Whip, and Ken Barlow will be brought in to steady the economy because he's managed to survive absolutely everything else over the past 65 years.

You couldn't make it up.

Still, politics isn't the only place entering the silly season.

Following last weekend's glorious sunshine, Lydd Club Day, Armed Forces Day and a host of other fantastic community events showed our area at its very best. Thousands of people turned out to enjoy themselves, proving once again that when the sun shines, our local communities know exactly how to make the most of it.

With summer now well underway, we are officially into newspaper silly season too. Don't worry—we've still packed this edition with the local news, investigations, community stories and opinions you've come to expect from The Looker.

One story on our front page did make me smile, though. After weeks of glorious sunshine, you would naturally assume Britain's solar panels would be working flat out, producing electricity by the bucketload. Apparently not.

Instead, during one of the hottest spells of the year, parts of the country's solar infrastructure struggled because the panels became too hot, meaning gas-fired power stations had to help keep the National Grid stable.

Who knew?

It does rather raise an eyebrow when we're repeatedly told that carpeting productive farmland with thousands of acres of solar panels is the answer to Britain's energy security, only to discover that too much sunshine can actually reduce their performance. You really couldn't invent it.

As always, whether you agree with me or not, I hope you enjoy this edition. Thank you for continuing to support your independent local newspaper. It is your stories, your photographs, your letters and your support that allow The Looker to keep doing what it has done for almost two decades—reporting the stories that matter to our community.

David

Selling off the Family Silver?



Cash-strapped council accused of flogging historic Hythe landmark instead of saving much-needed council homes

Questions are being asked over just how desperate Folkestone and Hythe District Council's finances have become after the Green-Liberal administration sold off one of the district's most historic buildings for more than £800,000.

The sale of Hay House, the last surviving section of Hythe's Napoleonic Barracks, has sparked criticism from residents who believe the council has sacrificed valuable council housing and an important piece of local history in a bid to boost its finances.

The Grade II-listed building on Sir John Moore Avenue, originally built in 1804, had been converted into six council flats after being acquired by the former Shepway District Council in the 1970s.

For decades it provided homes for local families before the authority encouraged tenants to move elsewhere, arguing that the building had deteriorated to such an extent that repairs could cost in excess of £1.2 million.

Despite many residents having lived there for decades and expressing a wish to remain, every tenant was eventually relocated to alternative social housing within the district, receiving moving expenses and statutory home loss compensation.

After sitting on the open market for almost two years, the council eventually entered the property into auction where it sold for £826,000—well above its guide price of £500,000.

The council says the proceeds will help fund the delivery of new council homes elsewhere in the district.

However, critics say that explanation raises even more questions.

At a time when waiting lists for affordable housing remain high and councils across Kent are warning of an acute shortage of social accommodation, opponents argue it makes little sense to dispose of six existing council homes.

Many are also questioning whether allowing the building to deteriorate over many years ultimately made the refurbishment bill significantly higher than it otherwise

needed to be.

One Hythe resident told the Looker: "This building stood for more than 200 years. Instead of investing in what we already owned, the council has simply cashed it in. Spending a couple of hundred thousand pounds over a period of years to keep it maintained would surely have been better than losing six council homes forever. Once it's gone, it's gone."

Another local resident was equally critical.

"They keep telling us there's a housing crisis and that affordable homes are desperately needed, yet they've sold off six council flats. It feels like they're selling the family silver to balance the books. Future generations will wonder why we gave away part of Hythe's history instead of protecting it."



Hay House occupies a unique place in Hythe's history.

Originally known as Paddock House, it became the residence of Lt Col John Brown, Commandant of the Royal Staff Corps and Director of the Royal Military Canal during the Napoleonic Wars.

Although the surrounding barracks were demolished in 1969, Hay House remained as the final surviving reminder of the military complex which played such an important role in defending Britain's south coast against the threat of French invasion.

The council maintains that selling the building was the most financially responsible option after concluding refurbishment costs were prohibitive.

A spokesperson said the property had been marketed privately for almost two years before being entered into auction and confirmed the proceeds would be used to support the delivery of new council homes across the district.

But the sale is likely to reignite debate over whether public authorities should dispose of historic public assets, particularly at a time when demand for council housing has never been greater.

For many residents, the issue is about more than bricks and mortar.

It is about whether councils should preserve community assets for future generations—or whether financial pressures have become so severe that even centuries of history and much-needed council housing are now considered expendable.

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WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAGIC MEMORIES

Communi-teas: Cake, Conversation and Connection.



In small villages, community life is at the heart of everyday living. However, for many older people, especially those living alone or with limited mobility, opportunities for regular social connection can become fewer over time. A friendly chat over a cup of tea might seem simple—but it can make a profound difference to someone's wellbeing, confidence, and sense of belonging.

That's where volunteering initiatives like Communi-teas by CARM come in. Creating an opportunity for local people, helping to rebuild those vital social ties. Whether you're new to volunteering or simply enjoy good conversation and a slice of cake, hosting a tea party can be a small act that creates a lasting impact.

Communi-teas, a community initiative by the charity CARM, is helping to bring neighbours together through simple, friendly tea gatherings. We spoke to one local volunteer host about their experience and the difference these events are making.

What inspired you to become involved as a tea party host with Communi-teas?

Well, I like making cakes and scones, so it felt like a lovely opportunity to bake for others. But more than that, I really liked the idea behind Communi-teas—bringing together people who live near each other but may not know one another very well. It's about creating that space where people can connect, hopefully form friendships, and then go on to enjoy more social opportunities together.

Can you tell us about your first tea party?

It went really well. There were no awkward silences, which is always a good sign—everyone was chatting and getting involved. A lot of the conversation centred around how long people had lived in the area and where they had moved from. One guest had lived in New Romney for 87 years, which everyone found fascinating. It really sparked some great conversations.

What difference do these tea parties make to the older people who attend?

They give people an extra opportunity to socialise and build new friendships. It can feel quite difficult to ask someone you only see in passing to meet up for a coffee, but once you've met at a tea party and had a proper chat, it



becomes much easier. That first connection is so important, and these gatherings help make it happen naturally.

Have there been any memorable moments that have stayed with you?

At my first tea party, one of the guests said, "Can we all meet up again soon?" That really summed up everything we were hoping to achieve. I'm so pleased to say that since then, they've met up twice in between my tea parties. It's wonderful to see those new friendships forming and continuing beyond the events.

If someone is unsure about volunteering, what would you say to them?

I'd say—go for it. CARM is a fantastic charity to be part of, and you're well supported. A coordinator came along to my first tea party, which really helped. They explained the aims of Communi-teas to everyone and made sure things ran smoothly. For me personally, it's been such a rewarding experience. There's a real sense of achievement in knowing you've helped people connect—and you get to enjoy a lovely afternoon of cake and conversation too.



A Small Act, A Big Difference

In rural communities, where daily interactions are limited, moments of connection matter more than ever. Loneliness among older people is a growing challenge—but it's one that communities themselves are uniquely placed to address.

Volunteering as a Communi-teas host doesn't require anything extraordinary—just a willingness to welcome others and create a relaxed, friendly space. Yet the impact can be truly powerful: new friendships, renewed confidence, and a stronger sense of community for everyone involved.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, this could be your moment. By hosting a simple tea gathering, you could help ensure that no one in your neighbourhood feels forgotten—and that everyone has a sense of belonging.

After all, sometimes the most meaningful connections begin with nothing more than a cup of tea and a warm invitation.

For more information on volunteering contact CARM on 01233 758122

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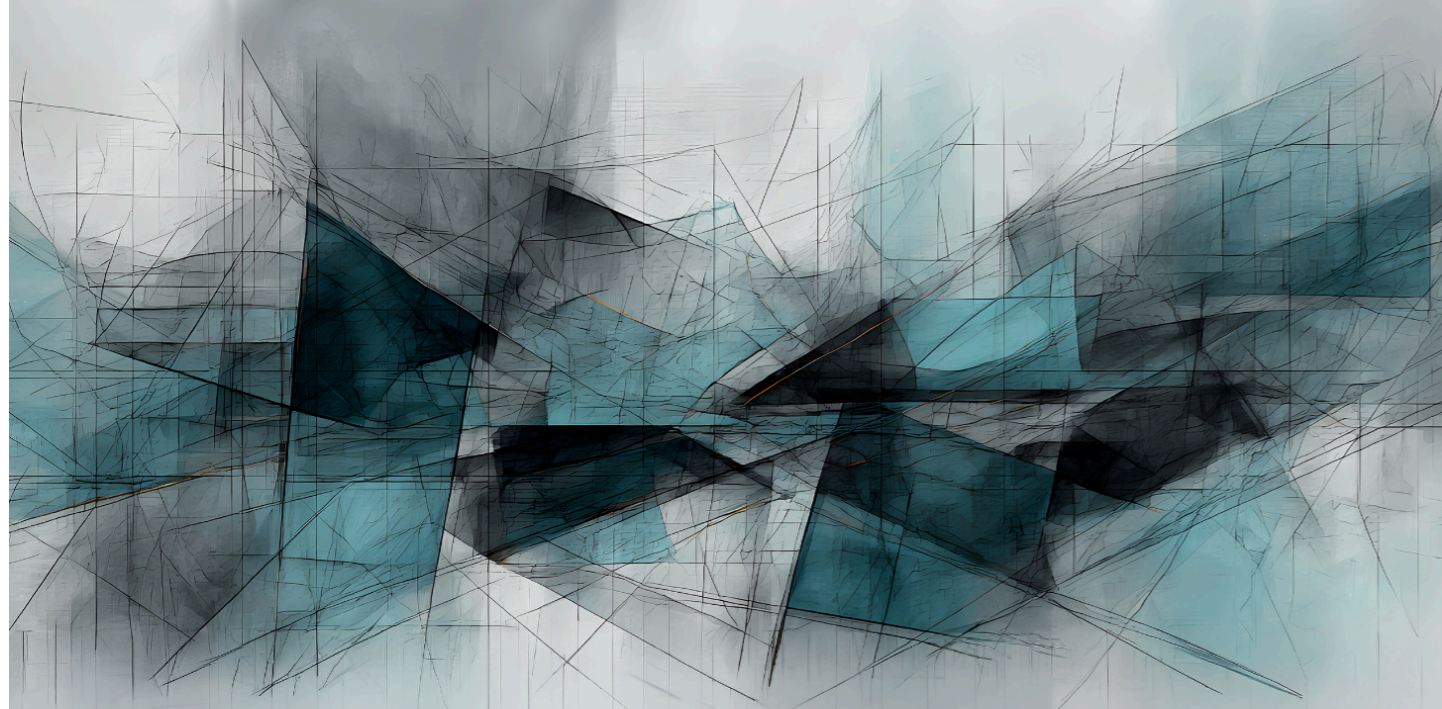




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Looking Back

Take a step back in time with us as we look at a series of past events to have occurred in the month of June



1 year ago

Rap mogul Sean 'Diddy' Combs is denied bail after being found guilty on two prostitution-related charges.

25 years ago

Apple introduces the very first iPod, and will go on to sell 450 million units across its lifespan before being discontinued in 2022.

10 years ago

Andy Murray becomes All England Club champion for the second time with a superb performance against Canadian sixth seed Milos Raonic in the final.

30 years ago

In an iconic month on the UK charts, Wannabe (Spice Girls), Three Lions (Baddiel/Skinner/Lightning Seeds) and Killing Me Softly (The Fugees) all make it to the top spot (as does Forever Love, Gary Barlow's first single since the split of Take That).

15 years ago

South Sudan officially gains independence from Sudan. Meanwhile the News of the World publishes its final edition after 168 years, following a massive phone-hacking scandal in the UK.

100 years ago

The first commercial greyhound racing track in Britain opens in Manchester. Belle Vue will last almost a hundred years, before its closure in 2020 and demolition a year later.

200 years ago

In a tumultuous 24 hours for US politics wrapped in incredible coincidence, the country's second and third presidents (John Adams and Thomas Jefferson respectively) both die on the same day, exactly 50 years after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence (July 4th).



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Dyslexia Rules Ko!?

Council's latest spelling blunder leaves residents asking: if they can't spell the car park, can they park the bigger problems?

Council officials have found themselves in a spot of bother after a newly-installed sign at Folkestone's Coastal Park car park managed to misspell the very name of the location it was supposed to identify.

Instead of welcoming visitors to the Coastal Park, the shiny new sign proudly announces arrival at "The Costal Park" — leaving at least one vital letter stranded somewhere between the design office and installation team.

The typo was spotted by resident Michael Stainer, who questioned how such an obvious error could make it through multiple stages of approval before being bolted into place.



While Folkestone and Hythe District Council has been quick to reassure residents that a sticker will be applied to cover the mistake rather than replacing the entire sign, the incident has prompted a few raised eyebrows and more than a few chuckles.

And, if we're being honest, this isn't exactly the first time official signage, documents or public communications have fallen victim to an unfortunate spelling or grammatical mishap.

Of course, everyone makes mistakes. Typos happen. Most people have sent an email and immediately spotted an error after pressing send. But councils have teams of officers, designers, proof-readers, managers and sign-off procedures precisely to catch these things before they become public.

The issue is less about a missing letter and more about what it represents.

Residents might reasonably ask: if nobody noticed that



"Coastal" had become "Costal" before the sign was manufactured and installed, what does that say about the attention being paid to more complicated matters?

After all, spelling a car park correctly is considerably easier than balancing budgets, managing housing pressures, maintaining roads, protecting services or planning future developments.

Nobody is suggesting a typo means the council cannot do its job. But it does reinforce the old saying that details matter.

In business, aviation, healthcare and local government alike, small mistakes can sometimes be indicators of wider issues. They can create the impression that checks and balances aren't quite as robust as they should be.

Thankfully, in this case, the consequences are little more than a red face and a few jokes at the council's expense.

Perhaps the most charitable conclusion is that the sign writer was simply having an off day.

Still, one question remains.

If the council can't quite get the name of its own car park right, what confidence does that inspire when residents look to them to get the bigger decisions right?

For now, Folkestone's newest attraction may not be the Coastal Park itself, but the missing "a" that briefly turned it into the "Costal" Park.

At least it has given residents something to smile about.

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28 May 2026 - 9 July 2026

We will soon be consulting on our updated plans for South Brooks Solar Farm, a proposed new solar farm with battery storage connecting into the National Grid at Dungeness Substation.

We consulted on our early plans for South Brooks last year. After reading all the feedback we received and carrying out more environmental work, we have updated the plans. We are now asking for your further feedback on these updated plans during our consultation, which begins on Thursday 28 May 2026.

Find out more

Our consultation materials will be available from the start of the consultation. You can find out more at southbrookssolarfarm.co.uk.

Visit a public exhibition

Lydd Community Hall, Manor Rd, Romney Marsh, TN29 9HU	Thursday 11 June (1pm - 5pm)
St Peter's Church, Baldwin Rd, Greatstone, TN28 8RG	Friday 12 June (4:30pm - 8:30pm)
Maude Community Centre, Station Road, New Romney, TN28 8LQ	Saturday 13 June (11am - 3pm)
Camber Memorial Hall, Lydd Rd, TN31 7RJ	Friday 3 July (4pm - 7pm)
Lydd Community Hall, Manor Rd, Romney Marsh, TN29 9HU	Saturday 4 July (11am-3pm)

Technical webinars with topic matter experts are being held via Zoom throughout the consultation period. The topics, dates and times of these webinars, and how you can register to attend them, can be found in the consultation booklet and the project website below.

View printed copies of the Preliminary Environmental Information ("PEI"), or pick up a copy of the consultation booklet and questionnaire from the following locations (please check opening hours):

- Romney Marsh Community Hub, Sunflower House, Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8JR
- Rye Library, 30A High Street, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7JG

Get in touch

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HISTORY OF THE HYTHE VENETIAN FETE

John Schoner MBE JP. President Hythe Venetian Fete Society

PART 8 2007 – 2026 The Last 20 years

The 2007 Fete saw the first attendance of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce KG GCB KCB OBE the newly appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports following the death of the previous Lord Warden HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Lord Boyce became a regular guest at the Venetian Fete until his death in November 2022. The new Lord Warden, appointed just after the 2024 Fete, is Admiral Sir George Zambellas GSB DSC DL and he will be joining us for this year's Venetian Fete accompanied by Lady Zambellas together with the 14 Mayors of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports all robed and chained as they process along the canal on their float following the ancient tradition of the Fete. In 2024, with no Lord Warden, we had the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Brigadier Trevor Minter, as our guest who was on a 1st Hythe Scouts float in the 1960s. Also, for some Fetes we have been joined as our guests the Mayors of our Twin Towns of Berck-sur-Mer and Poperinge who have been invited to join us this year.



The Venetian Fete continued throughout the 2000s and 2010s following the normal pattern with very few incidents of note. 2008 saw the collapse of part of the canal bank between Twiss Road and Stade Street but as it was a non-Fete year it did not affect the Fete as the repairs were completed in time for the 2009 Fete to go ahead. 2011 saw heavy rain just as the Hythe Town Mayor started to process along the canal and arrived rather damp at the Centre Stage despite umbrellas. Also, in 2011 the then Chairman of the District Council suggested we might get financial support for the Fete from the Council if either the District Chairman co-hosted the Fete with the Mayor of Hythe or we provided a separate hospitality area for the Council to entertain its own guests. These suggestions were not taken up as the Venetian Fete committee wished to retain its independence. Not all District Chairmen were difficult as one or two have given generous personal financial support to the Fete appreciating its value to the District. In 2019, after 29 years as Chairman I handed over the chairmanship to Steven Way who has successfully staged the 2019, 2022 and 2024 Fetes. No Fete was held in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic so we have reverted back to the even years. The 2022 Fete was not so well attended due to the after effects of Covid with many people still avoiding crowded events. At the 2019 and 2022 Fetes we enjoyed the company of 12 Chelsea Pensioners from the Royal Hospital as our guests who were greatly welcomed by all the spectators. At the 2024 Fete we hosted the Commanding Officer and 12 soldiers from the Royal Gurkha

Rifles at Shorncliffe and this year will be doing the same for the new Brigade now stationed there.

The Folkestone and Hythe Sea Cadets have for many years provided the boat and crew for towing the Cinque Port Mayors' float and always saluted the Lord Warden when passing the Centre Stage who returned their salute to their delight at being saluted by the Admiral of the Fleet.

The Venetian Fete has always been renowned for its firework displays getting bigger and more ambitious for each Fete. It is interesting to note that the 1890 firework



display was provided by Brocks Fireworks and we have gone full circle as this year's Fete firework display is again to be provided by Brocks Fireworks with the Company sponsoring part of the display so it should prove to be exceptional. During the 1970s we had the firework displays as tableaux on floats processing along the canal but Health and Safety concerns stopped that so now the display is high level and fired from the Cricket Club field adjacent to the canal so all spectators to the Fete can get a good view.

Over the years the Society has built up a collection of valuable silver trophies, donated by local companies, past presidents and past chairmen, awarded to each Class Winner and trophies for Best Daylight, Best Illuminated and Best in Fete floats together with monetary prizes. Up until the early 1980s the trophies were presented to the winners on the evening of the Fete but due to making it so late and to many winners' exuberance of dropping trophies in the canal, we now present the trophies on a separate occasion either by visiting the winning organisation or at a presentation evening.

For many years we had an illuminated moving Gondola on Ladies Walk Bridge but due to changing electrical safe regulations it became unsafe to use but it is the Society's



intention to replace it when funds permit.

In recent years, due to further movement in the Mackeson Tunnel rendering part of it unsafe to use, the Society has been fortunate to obtain a Licence from Hythe Town Council on a small area of land adjacent to Lucy's Walk on the south bank of the canal to store some of the floats and fencing. Although a complaint was made of it making the area unsightly the Society has screened the fencing and with the undergrowth now growing around it, it will soon be unseen.



Over the years many complaints have been received - from fencing off the canal bank for one day every 2 years; closing the public footpaths; noise; fireworks, from a few people who cannot accept the Fete as an enjoyable event. Also, over the years the Fete has had its share of vandalism ranging from - the fire in the warehouse at West Hythe in the early 1970s that destroyed all of the Fete's equipment; vandals tampering with the sluice gates at Seabrook in the 1980s reducing the water level in the canal a couple of weeks before the Fete (rescued by a submersible pump and generator from Dungeness A Power Station and assistance from the Environment agency in pumping water over the dam at West Hythe); We also, have had people opening the fences for free entry or on one occasion opening the fence "as that was his dog's normal walk"; the 2008 incident of the site being wrecked by vandals; the tipping the commentators tower into the canal (now no more commentator's tower); and more recently a break in at our South Bank compound. The culprit was identified on our CCTV but as there was no damage done we took no action on this occasion apart from warning the culprit that any further incursion would result in action being taken.



References: Hythe Herald and Kentish Express. Photos. Chelsea Pensioners Trophies Gondola

The Lorden Warden Lord of The Cinque Ports Lord Boyce KG GCB KCB OBE with the Mayor of Hythe Councillor Alan Ewart-James accompanied by the Hythe Town Sergeant carrying the Hythe Maces and the Admiralty Sergeant carrying the Silver Oar of the Cinque Ports.

The Hythe Venetian Fete takes place this year on Wednesday 19th August. Visit the Venetian Fete website hythevenetianfete.co.uk for tickets and details

Sports and Fitness Festival

Hythe Sports and Fitness week-long festival starts on Saturday July 11 at the South Road playing fields.

"This is a groundbreaking first of its kind — encouraging more people to increase their exercise activities," says Peter Carroll, chair of the organising committee.

'All ages are welcome to come and see the wide range of sports, fitness and leisure groups who will display what they have to offer. We will have a giant marquee, housing information stalls and there will be displays of various sporting and fitness activities.

'A three kilometre Fun Run, open to adults and children, will follow a route around the South Road playing fields and Royal Military Canal.

Hythe Youth Football Club are organising five-a-side soccer. Hythe Tennis Club is holding an open morning while the Cricket and Squash Club are also hosting open events.

'Among other activities on offer or display will be golf, bowling, pétanque, skateboarding, judo, Pilates and Tai Chi.'

Peter Carroll says he is pleased with the response to the Festival. 'We want to encourage more people to get involved in health and wellness activities.

'The local sports and fitness clubs and groups are doing terrific work. Many of them are opening their doors during the Festival and are hoping to welcome new members.

'They are playing a major role in promoting health and fitness. We see the Festival week as an opportunity to show adults and children alike that there is a huge variety of pursuits in the Hythe area.'

The Mayor of Hythe will officially open the Festival at 10am on July 11 at the South Road Pavilion.

Around 25 clubs and groups associated with sports and fitness pursuits have signed up to take part.



Over 25 Sports and Fitness Groups Demonstrations Coaching Including Tennis, Golf, Pétanque, Bowls, Skateboarding, Football, Squash, Running, Keep Fit, Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga and Dance

Saturday 11 July
10-5
South Road Sports Fields and Pavilion



Sponsored by Hythe Town Council Roger De Haan Charitable Trust Folkestone and Hythe Council Ward Grant – Councillor John Wing and Councillor Jeremy Speakman Kent County Council Combined Members Grant – Councillor Peter Osborne Hythe Institute Fund Wave Community Bank The Hope Inn Hythe Festival Funding - Councillor John Chapman

SAY GOODBYE TO AN ICON: EXCLUSIVE 2026 'GRAND TOUR' OFFERS LAST CHANCE TO SAIL ON THE LEGENDARY SCILLONIAN III

OR

One Last Wave: Exclusive 2026 'Grand Tour' Offers Final Chance to Sail on the Legendary Scillonian III

As the Isles of Scilly experience a massive landmark year in the spotlight, a rare 8-day luxury coach tour from Kent offers travellers a hassle-free, bucket-list journey to England's sub-tropical paradise.

Travellers looking to escape airport chaos and experience the absolute best of the British coast are being offered a rare opportunity later this year. Crosskeys have announced their **'Devon, Cornwall & The Isles: The Grand Tour,'** a spectacular 8-day itinerary departing on **Sunday, 6th September 2026.**

While the South West remains Britain's favourite coastal escape, very few mainland tours venture across the Atlantic to the stunning Isles of Scilly. This exclusive itinerary bridges that gap, offering a seamless, door-to-door journey from multiple pick-up points across Kent.

The Ultimate Angle: A Final Piece of Maritime History

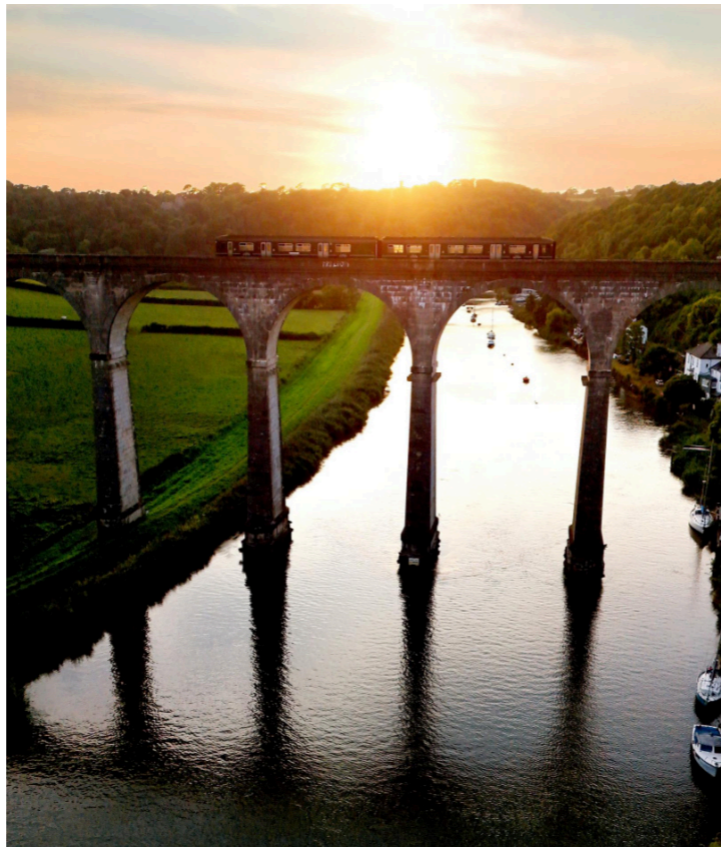
The timing of this tour coincides with a historic milestone for British travel. 2026 marks the final season of the legendary ferry, the **Scillonian III**. After nearly five decades of safely carrying millions of passengers across the turquoise waters to St. Mary's, the iconic vessel will take her final bow at the end of the year to make way for a new ship in 2027. Guests on this September tour will be among the last to ever experience this historic, nostalgic crossing.

The islands are also experiencing a major cultural renaissance this year. From recent royal spotlights—including Prince William opening a new island healthcare facility—to the highly anticipated opening of the brand-new Isles of Scilly Museum and Cultural Centre in St. Mary's, there has never been a more exciting time to visit.

From Wild Wilderness to Sub-Tropical Paradise

Designed as a true "bucket-list" experience, the 8-day tour perfectly balances the rugged beauty of the English mainland with the tranquil, Caribbean-like charm of the islands. The fully escorted itinerary includes:

- **8 Days of Pure Relaxation:** Full luxury coach travel with 7 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast included throughout.
- **The Wild South West:** A journey through the dramatic, untamed landscapes of Dartmoor National Park and



the maritime charm of historic Plymouth.

- **Scenic Rails & Local Flavours:** A spectacularly scenic train ride along the hidden Tamar Valley Line (Plymouth to Gunnislake) and an immersive excursion to Healey's Cornish Cyder Museum.
- **The Isles of Scilly:** A return ferry crossing to explore the white-sand beaches and exotic flora of the UK's own sub-tropical archipelago.

The Perfect, Hassle-Free Alternative to Abroad

With foreign travel costs rising and airport queues remaining a challenge for British holidaymakers, 'The Grand Tour' offers a premium, stress-free alternative. Guests can simply step onto a luxury coach from pick up points in Kent with no luggage restrictions, no passport control, and no airport anxiety—just sit back, relax, and let the professionals drive.

"This is a rare treasure of a trip," says Alan Johnson, Managing Director of Crosskeys "We've combined the ultimate Southwest itinerary with seamless logistics. Because crossing to the Isles of Scilly requires meticulous planning and limited ferry berths, spaces for this exclusive tour are limited. We encourage anyone looking for a truly unforgettable UK holiday to secure their seat on our Grand Tour today."

Booking Information:

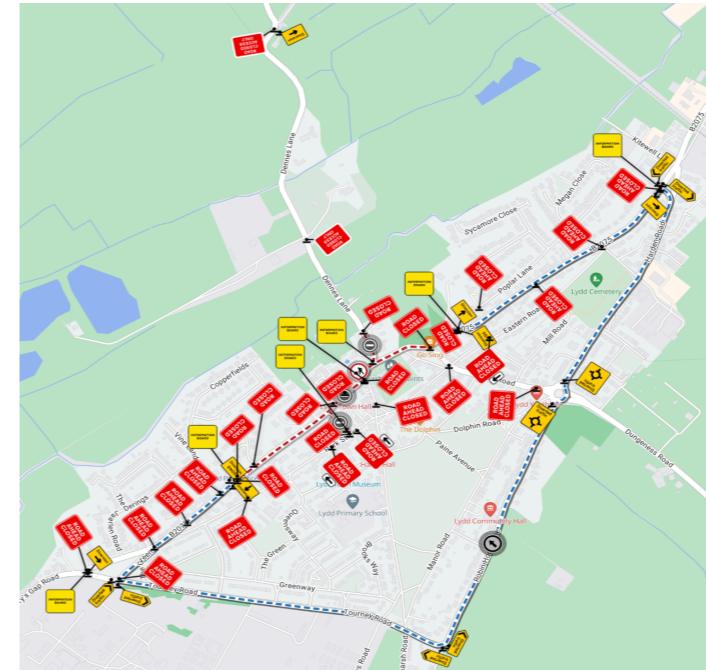
Tour: Devon, Cornwall & The Isles: The Grand Tour

Date: Sunday 6th September 2026 (8 Days)

Pricing: From £1,009 per person (Includes Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, all coach travel, ferry crossings, rail journeys, and museum admissions).

How to Book: To secure your seat, visit www.crosskeys.uk.com drop us a message at info@crosskeys.uk.com, or call the Travel Team directly at **01303 272625.**

Kcc Takes Decisive Action to Transform Lydds Roads



Motorists, residents and businesses in Lydd are set to benefit from major improvements to some of the town's busiest roads after Kent County Council confirmed a significant resurfacing programme will begin at the end of July.

Rather than simply patching individual potholes, the new Reform UK administration at County Hall has committed to carrying out a full resurfacing of key sections of the town's road network, providing what councillors say will be a long-term solution to years of deterioration.

The high-profile scheme will see Kent County Council Highways, working through its contractor CW Surfacing, resurface sections of High Street, Station Road, Dennes Lane and the junction with New Lane.

Works are scheduled to begin on Monday, July 27, and are expected to take up to four days to complete, weather permitting. A further resurfacing scheme on Tournay Road will commence on Thursday, July 30, lasting approximately two days.

The resurfacing programme will cover High Street and Station Road between Lydd Fire Station and the junction with Church Road, together with improvements at the New Lane junction and Dennes Lane.

To allow the work to be completed safely, temporary road closures will be in place between 8am and 5pm, although contractors may work later if necessary to complete individual sections. Access for residents and businesses will generally be maintained wherever possible, while signed diversion routes will guide through traffic around the closures.

A number of bus services, including the 100, 102, 103, 511, 533, 977 and FGS1 routes, will be temporarily diverted, with bus stops at Lydd Church and the Post Office suspended while the works are underway.

Peter Osborne, Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "Now that Reform is working to its own budgets, we are investing more than £60 million every year over the next three years to make a real and lasting difference to the condition of Kent's roads.

"Alongside that investment, we are also committing a further £14.9 million specifically to tackling potholes across the county. That work will be delivered by four local Kent contractors, helping us respond more quickly while also supporting local businesses and jobs.

"For too long, the approach has often been to simply patch up potholes. While emergency repairs will always be necessary, our ambition is to deliver more permanent solutions through full resurfacing programmes wherever possible.

"We are, quite rightly, prioritising the worst-affected main roads first, where the greatest number of people will benefit. As these schemes are completed, we will continue moving through the network and into our towns and villages.

"Road improvements of this scale cannot happen overnight, but over the coming months residents will begin to see a marked improvement in the quality of Kent's highways. We know how important good roads are to local communities, businesses and the economy, and we are committed to delivering the investment that Kent deserves."

Letters explaining the project will be delivered to affected residents and businesses at least two weeks before work begins, while key stakeholders are currently being notified.

Romney Marsh County Councillor David Wimble welcomed the investment, saying residents had waited a long time to see permanent improvements.

He said: "The roads through Lydd really have been in a bad state of repair. Previously the council have just fixed potholes but under the new Reform administration we are not looking at potholes in this instance, but a proper resurfacing of the road.

"This has taken a long time to put forward and, unfortunately, you cannot really do this work during the winter because the road surface does not bond well in cold and wet conditions. We appreciate there will be some short-term disruption while the work is carried out, but the long-term benefits will be well worth it. This investment demonstrates our commitment to improving the condition of Kent's roads and delivering lasting improvements for local communities."

The project forms part of Kent County Council's ongoing highway maintenance programme aimed at improving road safety, reducing future maintenance costs and providing smoother journeys for motorists, cyclists and public transport users alike.

For many residents who have long called for action on Lydd's roads, the resurfacing scheme represents a welcome investment in the town's infrastructure and a clear commitment to tackling one of the community's most frequently raised concerns.



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Dates for your Diary

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Wednesday 8th July

Computer Club, Village Hall, St. Mary's Bay, 9.30 a.m.
 Bridge Meeting Point, New Romney Scouts Hut, 10 a.m. (2nd & 4th Wed)
 Arthritis Support Group, Hub on the Beach, 1 p.m.
 Woman's Wednesday Club, St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone, 2 p.m.
 Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 2 p.m. (2nd Wed)
 Needlecraft Club, Old School, New Romney, 7 p.m.
 Short Mat Bowling, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday 9th July

Lydd Meeting Point, Hardy Hall, 10 a.m.
 Dymchurch WI, Masonic Hall, 10 a.m. (2nd Thurs)
 Dance Moves with Chris, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 10.15 a.m.
 Pebbles Dementia Café, St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone, 10.30 a.m. (2nd & 4th Thurs)
 Craft "N" Laughs, St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone, 2 p.m.
 Dymchurch Short Mat Bowls, Village Hall, 6 p.m.

Friday 10th July

Pilates, Dymchurch Village Hall, 10 a.m.
 Ex-Armed Forces drop in, Romney Marsh Community Hub, 10 a.m.

Friday Art Group, St Mary's Bay Village Hall, 1 p.m.
 Social Ballroom Sequence Dancing, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday 11th July

Coffee Morning & Book Sale, St. Mary-in-the-March Church, 10 a.m. (2nd Sat)

Sunday 12th July

Indoor Boot Fair, Hub on the Beach, 10 a.m.

Monday 13th July

Dymchurch Meeting Point, Village Hall, 10 a.m.
 Sunflower Memory Café, Old School, New Romney, 10 a.m. (2nd & 4th Mon)

Dance Moves, Burton Hall off Stade Street, Hythe, 11 a.m.
 The Games Club, St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone, 2 p.m.
 Greatstone WI, St. Peter's Church Hall, 7.30 p.m. (2nd Mon)

Tuesday 14th July

Pilates, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 10 a.m.
 Dance Moves, Burton Hall off Stade Street, Hythe, 10.30 a.m.
 Dymchurch Art Society, Village Hall, 1 p.m.
 Short Mat Bowling, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 2 p.m.
 Foodbank, New Romney Community Church, 4 p.m.
 Dymchurch Short Mat Bowls, Village Hall, 6 p.m.

Wednesday 15th July

Computer Club, Village Hall, St. Mary's Bay, 9.30 a.m.
 Bereavement Support Group, Hub on the Beach, 1 p.m.
 Woman's Wednesday Club, St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone, 2 p.m.
 Needlecraft Club, Old School, New Romney, 7 p.m.
 Short Mat Bowling, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday 16th July

Lydd Meeting Point, Hardy Hall, 10 a.m.
 Dance Moves with Chris, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 10.15 a.m.
 Craft "N" Laughs, St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone, 2 p.m.
 Dymchurch Gardening Group, Village Hall, 2 p.m. (3rd Thurs)
 Dymchurch Short Mat Bowls, Village Hall, 6 p.m.

Friday 17th July

Pilates, Dymchurch Village Hall, 10 a.m.
 Friday Art Group, St Mary's Bay Village Hall, 1 p.m.
 Social Ballroom Sequence Dancing, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday 18th July

Open Morning, Old School Trust, New Romney, 10 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sat)
 Book Sale, St. Nicholas Church, New Romney, 10 a.m.
 Murder Mystery Night, Hub on the Beach, 7 p.m.
 Ashford Invicta Singers, Ivychurch Church, 7.30 p.m.

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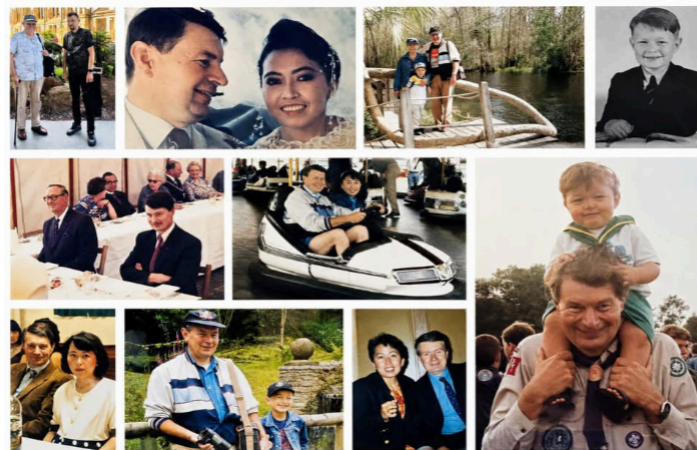
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Cubs, Scouts, Guides & Brownies

2026 - The Scouting Adventure Continues

REMEMBERING ROGER

Romney Marsh Scouters recently paid their respects and remembered Roger, a well known figure in our Lydd community. Always smiling, always kind, always helping and always doing his best - Roger Whiting 1st Lydd Scouts, Skip to many of the Lydd community and a lifelong resident of the town.



Lydd and its community were firmly embedded in Roger's DNA. As a local builder he helped build the Spar in Lydd High St, as well as the Strong Room in Lloyds Bank. He was also part of a team responsible for restoring the pinnacle tower of All Saints Church for the 50th Anniversary – although he never forgave them for flying the Union Flag upside down – such was his attention to detail!!



At Roger's funeral, the church was filled with family, friends, former Scouts, fellow volunteers and members of the community whose lives he had touched. Representatives from 1st Lydd Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, alongside members from neighbouring Groups and Romney Marsh District Explorers, formed an honour guard with their flags to accompany Roger on his final journey — his last great adventure. In Scouting, when a member passes away, we say they have "Gone Home". Roger has completed his journey in this life and joined the hike to the eternal campfire. Though he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in every campfire song, every skill taught, every challenge overcome and every young person inspired to achieve their full potential. Roger's legacy will continue to live on through the countless people he influenced and through the Scouting community he helped build and nurture for nearly six decades. Our thoughts remain with Roger's wife Nelia, son Henry and cousin Sally at this difficult time.



Roger Whiting, a man whose dedication to Scouting, community and friendship touched countless lives. Roger devoted more than 58 years to Scouting, serving in many roles throughout his distinguished career and latterly as President of 1st Lydd Scout Group. As our longest-serving Marsh Scouter, he inspired generations of young people and volunteers through his knowledge, encouragement, humour and unwavering commitment to helping others.



Roger's impact extended far beyond Scouting. He was an integral part of the Lydd community, the Whiting family supported Twinning and Roger dedicated over forty years to the Lydd Twinning Association with Étréchy, France, serving as President for 22 years and helping create lasting friendships across borders. Roger led two very successful Scout Camps to Étréchy in 1968 and 1975, which are still fondly remembered in Lydd today! His greatest talent was his infamous BBQ skills – they were certainly legendary!



Thank you, Roger, for your quiet dignity, your friendship, your service and your dedication.

It is fitting the tribute from 1st Lydd Scout Group featured the following Guiding Campfire song

Bed is too small for my tiredness.
Give me a hilltop with trees.
Tuck a cloud up under my chin.
Lord blow the moon out, please.

Rock me to sleep in a cradle of dreams.
Send me a lullaby of leaves.
Tuck a cloud up under my chin.
Lord blow the moon out, please.

Roger Whiting 14th August 1949 – 13th May 2026 Gone Home. Never Forgotten. ☹

Roger, May you Rest in eternal peace.

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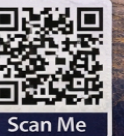
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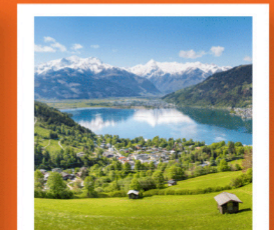
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Times are changing for Romney Marsh Rotary Club

The Rotary year starts on 1st July and, at the end of June, it was with mixed emotions that President Colin Norgate handed over the reins of office to Julie Lawrence who would be Club President for 2026-2027. Colin commented that he had thoroughly enjoyed his year as President and thanked all the Club members for their support during his year. Colin was particularly pleased that the Club had been able to donate over £14,000 to charities and other causes across the Marsh. The picture shows Julie wearing her badge of office which Colin had gratefully passed over as it is quite heavy!

Julie thanked Colin on behalf of the Club for his leadership of the Club during 2025-2026. Julie commented that she was honoured to be chosen as president of the Club and hoped to continue to build on the positive relationship between the Club and the local community. Julie noted that, 'In a world that is often divided, Rotary reminds me that unity is possible and can bring people of different backgrounds closer to one another with a shared purpose, to support communities we care about.'



Following Julie's confirmation as President she introduced her team for the year including Ron Dale, Vice President, who can be seen receiving his badge of office.

The Handover Meeting was held at the Coach House Restaurant, New Romney and all the members would like to extend their thanks to Fredi, Hazel and all the staff who provided an excellent meal in what must have been trying conditions given the heat.

As well as celebrating the installation of a new President the Club was very pleased to have the opportunity to recognise the Club's Treasurer, Trevor Harrison, for his hard work and dedication to the Club, in particular in managing the Club's finances and organising the sleigh runs. Trevor was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship and can be seen receiving his well-deserved award from outgoing President Colin.



The Paul Harris Fellowship (PHF) is the highest honour that Rotary can bestow on an individual. The PHF is named after Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary in 1905 in Chicago and is made to Rotarians who demonstrate the high professional and personal standards exemplified by Paul Harris.

If you are interested in finding out more or joining the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh, please contact Stephen Hagues (07900 736018) for more details.



Mixed Gordon Ritchie Memorial Trophy Keeps Club Legend's Memory Alive

Hythe Golf Club hosted its annual Mixed Gordon Ritchie Memorial Trophy on Sunday, June 14, bringing members together to celebrate the life and legacy of the club's much-loved former professional, Gordon Ritchie.

A strong field competed in the popular event, with Lorraine Matthews, Gary Punton, Kerry King and Stephen Birch emerging victorious by two strokes after a closely fought contest.

The win was particularly special for Gary Punton, a Hythe member for more than 30 years, who lifted the memorial trophy for the first time since its introduction in 2006. Reflecting on the victory, Gary said: "At long last I've won the competition. It was an anxious time waiting in the clubhouse for the last team to finish."

The trophy was presented by Louise, who shared Gordon's life during his final years and has remained a valued supporter of the competition ever since.

With Hythe's notoriously demanding closing holes, 16, 17 and 18, often proving decisive, the winning team held their nerve. Kerry King said: "Gary was striking the ball brilliantly; it was breath taking at times. Steve 'Radar' Birch saved us on the 16th and Lorraine hit the green on the 17th to help us secure a crucial par. As for my own contribution to a successful day, I birdied the first hole using the very same putter I bought from Gordon's pro shop some 30 years ago."

The memorial trophy remains one of the club's most treasured events, keeping Gordon Ritchie's memory alive and celebrating his lasting contribution to Hythe Golf Club.



Picture: from left to right shows: Louise Coombs with the winning team Lorraine Matthews, Gary Punton, Kerry King and Stephen Birch – Credit: Christina Sami.

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Orbit and Chartway welcome MP to fully affordable Kent development delivering 77 new homes



Not-for-profit housing group, Orbit, recently welcomed their local MP, to take a tour of Dawsons Green, where it's delivering 77 new affordable homes to boost the availability of affordable homes in the local area.

In partnership with Chartway, Orbit is bringing new two and three-bedroom homes for social rent and Shared Ownership at Dawsons Green. 35 of the homes are for social rent, with 42 available for purchase with Shared Ownership.

During the visit, the MP was shown how construction is progressing and heard about Orbit Homes' tenure-blind approach to the development. This means that all new homes at Dawsons Green benefit from the same commitment to Orbit's exceptional new-build design, safety and customer service standards, regardless of tenure.

Orbit and Chartway colleagues also shared more about how the homes have been designed to minimise their environmental impact and support customers with energy efficiency. Tony also heard about the development's plans for two dedicated public open spaces, including a play area, to promote wellbeing in the new community.

The MP cut the ribbon to officially open the new three-bedroom show home at Dawsons Green.



Dawsons Green is located off Caesar's Way in Folkestone, at a former brickworks site that had been derelict for decades.



Tony Vaughan KC, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, said: "It was great to see first-hand how Orbit is working in partnership with Chartway to provide much-needed new affordable homes for the local area and it was interesting to hear more about the development's sustainability features. I'm excited to see the site continue to progress."

Brian Nearney, Chief Development Officer at Orbit, commented: "We're delighted to welcome Tony to Dawsons Green to show him how the development is progressing and mark the opening of our new show home here. It was great to share more about how we're working alongside Chartway to bring quality new affordable homes for social rent and Shared Ownership that support the local housing need in the area."

Graham Chivers, CEO at Chartway, added: "We were excited to share our progress alongside Orbit at Dawsons Green with Tony on this tour of the site. Dawsons Green not only supports our commitment to creating sustainable new communities but reinforces our passion for working together with organisations like Orbit to deliver much-needed new affordable homes locally."

For more information about the two and three-bedroom homes available for purchase through Shared Ownership at Dawsons Green, to book a viewing of the show home, and to see opening hours for the sales office, visit: www.orbithomes.org.uk/dawsons-green

NEW ROMNEY BEAVERS GET ALL STEAMED UP!



Around 15 Beavers, leaders, family members and friends from the New Romney Scout Group enjoyed a thoroughly enjoyable summer evening on Tuesday, June 23, during a visit to the Romney Marsh Model Engineering Society in Rolfe Lane, New Romney.

Blessed with glorious warm sunshine, the group was given a warm welcome by members of the society before spending the evening discovering the fascinating world of model engineering. The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the opportunity to enjoy numerous rides behind the club's impressive miniature steam locomotives, with smiles all round as youngsters – and just as importantly, many of the adults – climbed aboard for trip after trip around the beautifully maintained track.

As well as riding the larger locomotives, the Beavers explored the society's delightful garden railway, where smaller-scale trains weaved their way through an attractive landscaped setting. The garden railway proved just as popular as the main track, with the youngsters captivated by the detailed scenery and colourful locomotives.

Of course, no visit to the garden would have been complete without a stop at the pond, where several of the Beavers enthusiastically attempted to count the resident goldfish. One



particularly confident youngster proudly announced that he had counted 67 fish – although the leaders suspect he may actually have meant six or seven!

Club members Andy Nash, Paul Norrington and Brian Remnant spent the evening steaming and operating their locomotives, providing countless train rides for the delighted visitors. Meanwhile, David Mills entertained everyone with his collection of smaller-scale models operating on the garden railway, which attracted plenty of admiration from children and adults alike.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for the Beavers to learn more about engineering, teamwork and the dedication involved in maintaining the railway, while also enjoying an evening packed with fun and laughter. Leaders thanked the members of the Romney Marsh Model Engineering Society for generously giving up their time to host the visit and make everyone feel so welcome.

By the end of the evening, everyone agreed it had been a wonderful experience, with many of the youngsters already asking when they could return for another ride.

For more information about the Romney Marsh Model Engineering Society, visit www.rmms.co.uk, contact secretary Adrian Parker on 07773 427808, or email: adrianparker72@icloud.com.



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Marsh Memories

Compiled by John Wimble

The long hot summer of '76

With the very hot weather that the Marsh has been experiencing recently, a look back to the long hot summer of 50 years ago. This is a personal view and taken from extracts from my diary of the time. I was living and working locally but was fortunate to have flexible working hours. Apart from my family, my main interests were golf, I was a member of the Littlestone Artisans Golf Club and also flying radio-controlled model aircraft with a group of friends from a field in Old Romney and also St. Marys-in-the-Marsh. I was also a member of the Romney Marsh Model Engineering Society that used to go to fetes etc. with a portable track, giving children's rides.

The popular hits of the summer were 'Fernando' – Abba, 'Don't go breaking my heart' – Elton John & Kiki Dee and 'Jolene' – Dolly Parton. The films just released included 'Bugsy Malone', 'Pink Panther strikes again' and 'Jaws'.

First week in June: Starting wet but getting warmer. Played golf with Dave Walker, Eddie Ashdown and John Wilkinson. Boys went to Cubs and Scouts and had their first swimming lesson at Hythe Swimming Pool. Ann went to a Pippa Dee party. Flew to Jersey from Gatwick with British Caledonian for a week's holiday. Took the portable track and went camping at Sellindge Steam Rally for the weekend. Went to Carl Diblicek's photo exhibition at Southlands School. Had an evening Slope-Soaring on the hills above Folkestone. Went to London to get an awning for a Fiat Fargo camping van.

Second week in June: Weather starting to get very hot. Played golf at Ashford with Ron Weaver and Jim Jones. Had my car serviced and a new starter fitted by Rodney Ansell at Lydd (he was sadly killed in a car accident a year later). Went to a traction engine meeting at Acrise. Andrew went camping with the Scouts. Went swimming with the boys in the sea at Littlestone. Went camping at Old Warden, near Bedford for the weekend. Andrew and David went to their cousins at Lydd.

Third Week in June: Very hot week but it rained at the end of the week for Lydd Club Day. Went flying at St. Mary's and Ron Beer crashed his large glider. Took the kids swimming to Hythe Swimming Pool. We took the portable track to Lydd Club Day but came home early because of the weather. Before it rained, Les Winkfield the Town Clerk of Lydd, steamed his loco (see photo) Susan James was Club Day Queen this year.

Fourth week in June: Very hot and sunny for the rest of the week. Played golf with Perry Spanner and Wally Guppy. Andrew off school with Hay Fever. Picked gooseberries in St. Mary's. David fell off the coal bunker and hurt his elbow. Tok him to the William Harvey Hospital for an X-ray. Took the portable track to Etchinghill Hospital Fete. Ann and the boys went to Wingham Wildlife Park near Canterbury with the Cubs.

Fifth week in June: Still extremely hot and windy at times. Huge fire at Lydd Army Camp. We all went for a walk along the seafront in the evening, trying to cool down. We went swimming at Littlestone twice during the week. Also to Hythe Swimming Pool. Flying late into the evening at Old Romney and had a drink in the Rose & Crown afterwards. Took the track to the New Romney Primary School Fete.

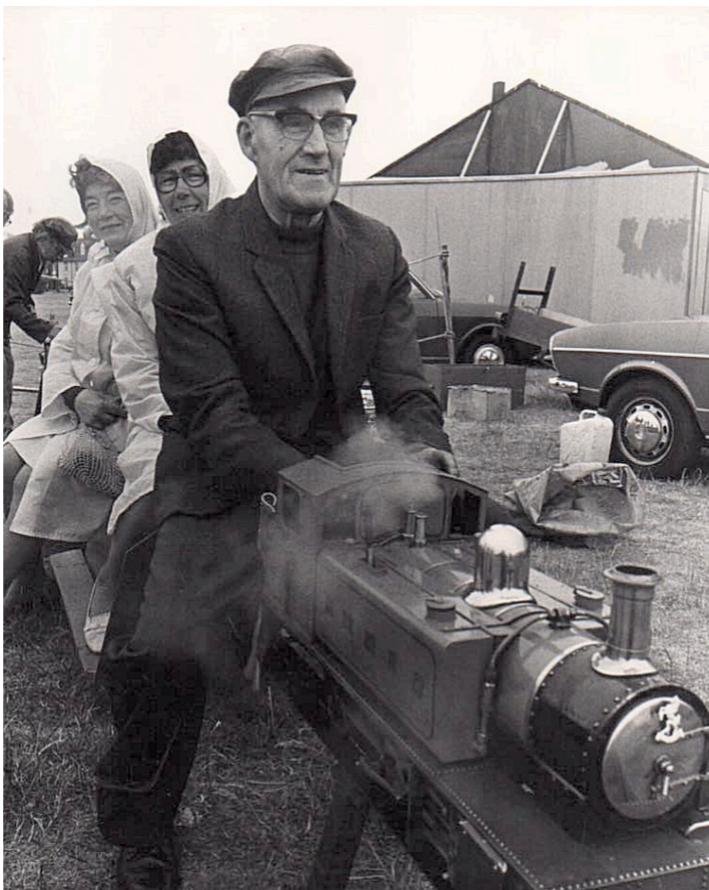
Very busy there. Went to a dance in a country house at Sheldrich, near Faversham and not home until 3 a.m.

First week in July: Very hot every day this week. Ann and David went on a sponsored walk from Dungeness to Littlestone. Kids Sports Day. Andrew won a prize in the Backward Race. Picking strawberries at St. Mary's and then went to the beach at Greatstone and played rounders. Went swimming again at Littlestone. Went picking raspberries at St. Mary's. Went flying at Old Romney and Ted Shirley crashed his plane on the first flight.

Second week in July: According to my diary, only hot this week and not very hot. Ann and the boys went picking raspberries again. Took the portable track to the Scouts Fete at Ivychurch. Rained one evening for the first time in weeks and a storm later in the week. Boys went swimming at Littlestone. David went fishing at Old Romney. Watched the opening of the Montreal Olympics.

Third week in July: Slightly cooler this week. Went to Stelling Minnis Windmill. Had a picnic there and then went on a 3-mile walk to Lypne. An Airship flew low over our house one evening. We all went to Hythe Swimming Pool. Took the portable track to the Ashford Model Aircraft Rally. It come on to rain so came home early.

Fourth week in July: Temperatures back to normal this week. Took the portable track to the Royal Victoria Hospital Fete in Folkestone. David at home with swollen glands. Played golf with Mark Letford. Took the portable track to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Fete in St. Martin's Field, New Romney.



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Then & Now



Skinner Road, Lydd, c.1960s.

Blacklocks Stores at Prospect Corner on the corner of Queens Road, was a favourite shop for the youngsters of the town. Mrs. Blacklocks also sold china, glassware and crockery. When she retired, it became known as the 'Old Prospect Bakery' and was owned by Jim and Valerie Golder. It closed some years ago and is now a private residence.



A Day of Celebration at St George's Church, Ivychurch

History, Heritage, and Choral Magic on the Marsh Saturday 18th July

Step back in time and celebrate a momentous milestone in the heart of Romney Marsh. On Saturday, 18th July, the historic St George's Church in Ivychurch opens its doors for an unforgettable Day of Celebration. Marking both the successful completion of a vital Masonry Restoration Project and the incredible 200th anniversary of the iconic church clock, this full-day event offers an enchanting blend of local history, community spirit, and spectacular musical performance and give thanks to the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust without which many of our marsh churches would be derelict.

The festivities begin at 11:30 AM with an exclusive guided tour of the building's centuries-old secrets, led by local historian Celia Heritage. Following the tour, guests can unwind and socialize with a traditional Ploughman's Lunch at 1:00 PM, complete with a post-lunch cake and plant stall and a treasure-filled bric-a-brac stall. The afternoon promises a rare treat: an opportunity to climb the tower alongside church clock winder Robin Button (Adults and children over 10 years). Visitors will get a fascinating, close-up look at the intricate workings of the newly restored, 200-year-old clock mechanism while taking in breathtaking, panoramic views across the sweeping landscapes of Romney Marsh.

As twilight falls, the celebration moves into the magnificent surroundings of the church nave for an evening of exquisite music. At 7:30 PM, the highly regarded Invicta Singers take the stage to perform an eclectic and uplifting programme of choral music. To complete the perfect summer evening, the concert includes light refreshments and access to a licensed bar, making it a wonderful opportunity to support the preservation

of this historic architectural gem while enjoying world-class harmony.

Book Your Tickets Today With spaces strictly limited for the guided tours, tower climbs, and evening concert, **advance booking is essential to secure your place.**



A range of ticket options are available to suit your day, including individual Historic Tour tickets (£10), a combined Tour, Lunch, and Tower Visit pass (£20), or entry to the Evening Concert £15 in advance (£17 on the door). For the ultimate experience, the **All-Day Event Pass offers exceptional value at just £30**, granting access to all daytime activities and the evening concert.

Don't miss out on this landmark community celebration. To reserve your tickets, contact the organizers today via email at artatthechurch@gmail.com or call **07761 978965**.

State which ticket type you would like:

- **Historic tour only £10**
- **History Tour and Ploughman's Lunch and trip up the tower £20**
- **Evening Concert Only £15**
- **All Day event Pass £30**


Brenzett Club Day, Newsletter 4

<p>10am Brookland Singers 11am Opening, Fagg (e) family 11.15am Man Size in Marble 12 noon Keyboard Comedy, Don 1pm Jacqui Purser, Country 2pm Musica Ficta Recorders 3pm Haywardians Choir 4pm Bab's beauties and Beau</p>	<p>10.45 Poetry 11.45 Poetry 12.45 Poetry 1.45 Poetry 2.45 Poetry 3.45 Poetry 4.45 Poetry</p>	<p>Brenzett Church Sidestalls</p> <p>Crafts, lace making demonstration Nesbitt display Fagg family tree</p> <p>Tasty wholefood snacks by Liz Teas, coffee, cake, ice creams.</p>
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Brenzett Village Hall

KARATE DISPLAY 10.30AM
DOG SHOW 11AM
CHILDREN'S GAMES, STALLS
TEA/COFFEE CAKE FROM HALL KITCHEN
"GRUB HUT" REFRESHMENTS IN CAR PARK
ROMCAG DISPLAY & LOCAL HISTORY DISPLAYS FROM
APPLEDORE, BRENZETT, NEW ROMNEY, OXNEY, WOODCHURCH



Brookland Church

From 10am: Mick's marvels – Tudor buttons galore, Roman coins, tools, jewellery – Mick has found it all! **Brookland History Stories** over the centuries, by Colin Potts, Anne Buxton
6pm **BELL TOWER BAR AND BARBECUE** with music from THE DOFFIN' CODGERS



Air Museum Open from 10am
Museum and Cafe at reduced rates
Cinque Ports Historic Motorbikes Club
Display from 11.00am



We have just come back from 2 weeks in Northern France, and the garden needs so much work, you don't know where to start! (Yes, we did get caught in the overpowering heat wave! France had a very tough time.) Two of our sites had pools, which was great. The last site didn't, and my phone registered 41dC on our last day. So, it was a day of chasing shade and keeping hydrated. The historical visiting will have to wait for another time. And finding excuses to go to reception, which was air-conned! I believe it has been very hot here as well. The heat doesn't seem to deter the weeds! So, the everlasting weeding goes on!

Despite the heat the soft fruit has done well, so we have collected lots of currants of all colours and the summer raspberries are coming through. We got most of the gooseberries before we left, they are just bunged into the freezer in containers. I really must have a tidy up, before we run out of space. If you are freezing soft fruit of any kind, spread them out on flat trays. And put in the freezer. We have purpose-built ones that can be stacked, but any flat tray will do, like baking trays. When frozen take out and leave in the air for a minute or two, to stop them sticking, then lift off, and they can be put into containers. In this way they are frozen individually, and you can take out any number you need.

Roses are enjoying the heat, looking good and need dead heading regularly. Spray if necessary for blackspot, and water occasionally. Other flowers can be dead headed as well to keep them flowering. The seasons are going haywire. We came back to dahlias flowering. Surely, they are due to flower in August/September? In France grain was being harvested, (in June!) at the same time as cutting hay! Maybe we will have to rethink all our gardening norms. It is amusing to think that Church harvest festivals are still held at the end of the end of September! Even in a normal year (is there such a thing anymore?) our grain is harvested in July/August.

Another job is dead heading flowering herbs, to encourage growth to go into the leaves, which is the part you need. There are types of gardens which are created to be drought proof, so maybe we will have to seriously rethink the plants we grow, however much we love them, and have been part of our routine for years. A famous gardening author, Beth Chatto, lived in East Anglia, in the driest part of England, and she had a famous Mantra "Right plant, right place." She didn't water at all, just grew plants that could withstand drought.

Meanwhile, in our traditional English gardens, we do have to water, and we save all our grey water, and use the hose sparingly. We also throw some water at the base of the fruit trees, and when we have the hosepipe out, give the leaves a spray. A lot of fruit is falling from apple trees but this is natural, and in fact, you should do it yourself if you have bunches of more than two or three. It is better to have 2 decent sized apples than 4 or 5 small hard ones.

I read an interesting article. Some farmers are going back to more traditional farming, and using less artificial fertiliser

and pesticides, called regenerative farming. Their crop yield is lower, but then their outlay is reduced so the bottom line balances out. It is also much more beneficial to biodiversity, and the natural cycle of life helps with some of the pests. An interesting result has been that the regenerative farmers have much less loss of yield in drought conditions, because they are not abusing the soil so much.

AND NOW FOR THE VEG

One thing we did notice in France was the great variety of fruit and veg available, including apricots which were relatively cheap so we bought a batch home and turned it into jam! We saw a number of allotments on our travels, which was quite a surprise as we've never thought the French as allotment holders. Otherwise, produce is quite expensive compared to what we pay, even allowing for the exchange rate being in our favour.

Surprisingly, our outdoor tomatoes are doing better than the greenhouse ones, producing more foliage of a lush green colour. There were the inevitable side shoots to deal with and tying the stems up to the supports. If you have tomatoes in pots or tubs, it's a good idea to top up the compost to make sure that the roots are well-covered. A weekly liquid feed once the fruits are appearing will help enhance your crop, adding the feed after you have given the plants a good drink.

Whilst we have been away, the beetroot foliage has about quadrupled in size, yet the beets themselves are still on the small side. We've boiled these and put them in bags in the freezer for later use. We've heard the same about other root crops, particularly carrots- plenty of foliage but not a lot of growth below the surface. Presumably this is due to the heat and lack of rain.

If you have runner beans, and are able to do so, spray the flowers with a mister or fine hose jet in the evening. This helps the flowers to set and should improve your crop. Broad beans not so successful this year, the first time in many years.

Plenty of small white butterflies around, otherwise known as "cabbage whites", so check the underside of your brassica leaves for eggs. If you've netted them over, you should avoid having lace curtains on your foliage later in the year! Lettuces don't like the heat and will bolt more quickly, so keep sowing small quantities in succession.

Onions and shallots are ripening well and will probably be ready for lifting in a couple of weeks. Leeks are beginning to get well-established after a slow start. We emptied out one of bags of first early potatoes at the end of June and they have done well, and also very tasty! Keep potatoes well-watered especially if in bags or pots as this will help swell them out.

As always, happy gardening!

Obesity is NOT a disease.

There is an advert on the go at the present, from Lilly, the drug company stating that 'Obesity is a complicated disease'. I presume they manufacture some of the jabs, or slimming products that they are selling to the public. A disease is something like pneumonia, cancer or kidney failure.

In the same way, **obesity is NOT an epidemic**, as some commentators are fond of saying. Epidemics relate to something you catch unawares, like covid or flu or chicken pox.

When issues are medicalised, it takes from people the responsibility for dealing with the problems in our lives. If a problem is given a medical name, it creates a victim mentality, that there isn't much we can do about it. This is especially true with obesity. Victimhood and powerlessness are two of the biggest problems in our society, the feeling that we are victims of circumstances, and there isn't much we can do about it, except have a big pity party and expect others to sort us out!! If you look at any group photo from 40 years ago, like a class photo, or a social do, most people were slim.

The good news is that there is plenty we can do if we have a weight problem. Lilly are right in saying it is complicated, and all tied up with society and the way we live now. Much of modern food is Ultra processed, and designed to make you want more, and manipulated to be addictive. It is excessively full of all the nutritional baddies, salt, sugar and fat, and infused with many preservatives, flavourings and chemicals to give it longer shelf life. Your body is naturally designed to like sweet, fat and salt tastes for survival, to cope with times of feast and famine. The problem is that nowadays there is no famine!

People often joke that 'they can't have just one'. Which of course is why they are manufactured the way they are!

There is a slimming plan MANTRA. **"Every mouthful I take is a deliberate decision."** I can say NO. There is a line in a hymn that says "Each victory will help you, one other to win." The hymn is talking about moral battles, but it is true for battling unhealthy eating. Every time you say no to a chocolate bar, chips, crisps or a Greggs, you will find it easier the next time.

Alcoholics Anonymous have a truism. **"Stay dry for the next hour.** Do not worry about this afternoon, or evening. Concentrate on the next hour." That is a good advice for any crisis in life. Just concentrate on avoiding unhealthy food for the next hour.

How do we tackle over eating, and eating the wrong things?

1) What is in your larder? Why not try letting all the junk food in there run out? When it has all gone, you can stock up on a few chosen treats for the weekend, as an occasional indulgence. If you haven't got access to rubbish food, you aren't going to be tempted by it. You may have to be firm with your children and partners, and stand up to pester power!

2) You can join a slimming club; it is sometimes easier to lose weight if you are doing it with friends. But be wary of making a target weight the aim of your life. All slimming is a waste of time, if you are not adopting a healthy eating pattern you can keep up for the rest of your life. Even the best slimming plans only have a 3% success rate, after 5 years. Medics are often sceptical of slimming plans, although if it is a multi-billion-pound industry. Often just a money-making racket.

3) Try cooking more at home. Even if you reckon you are a useless cook, whatever you put together will be healthier than a precooked UPF meal. At first you may find you own food rather bland. You can soon build up a stock of herbs, spices and natural flavourings and you'll be able to taste the actual food.

4) Obesity it often blamed on poverty, but it doesn't have to be so. Meat is getting expensive, but the basic meal of civilisation is meat in a big pot with masses of vegetables, stock and sometimes a source of carbohydrate. This is the essential daily meal; whatever people choose to call it. You can make a little meat go a long way, mixing it with lots of vegs, seasoning, mixed herbs. In the basic stew, casserole, cottage pie or bolognese sauce, 8ozs or 250g of mince will make a dinner for 6. If you are going to the trouble of cooking, make as much as you can afford, and save it for the next day, or in appropriate sized containers in the freezer. Tinned and frozen fruit and veg are just as nutritious as fresh.

5) Cut down on snacking. We have become a nation of snackers. Set a good example to your children. It can become a vicious circle. If children are snacking all the time, they haven't an appetite for the proper meal, and then they are hungry again an hour later, and the spiral can't be broken. With children's packed lunches, there are a lot of cheesy options. Strings, slices, baby bels etc. They are all heavily processed, so encourage children to just enjoy cubes of cheese as they are.

6) We are in BBQ season with the hot weather, but again, be careful of all the ready-made treats, there are hundreds of them being advertised. Cook your food from as near to raw state as possible. Sausages and burgers are already processed, so we don't want to add to the processing. Serve a good variation of salads and breads, and fruit and vegetables.

An alarming report came out recently that says our bodies are ageing quicker now, than years ago. When you think of all the advances in nutrition, wellness and medicine, it seems very strange. This applies to people born since the 1990s compared with people born in the 50s. You can do what you like to the outside of your body, but if it ageing prematurely at a cell level, there is a problem. This ties in with the fact that cancer cases are rising rapidly in the under 50s. Experts believe all the rubbish UP food that we eat may be at fault. So worth thinking about our long-term health.

So, obesity is not an insolvable problem. If your weight has crept up, it is possible to deal with the problem, without spending a lot of money. Enjoy your summer.

Who Knew I Had That Much Influence?

Well, in the last edition I wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister.

Now, many of you will know that The Looker appears online every Sunday before the printed edition lands on your doorstep. Apparently the Prime Minister was an avid reader because he seemed to take my advice on board and promptly resigned the very next day!

Who knew I was that influential? Perhaps next week I'll write to Southern Water and ask them to stop pumping sewage into the sea...

With Westminster now moving at breakneck speed and rumours flying around that "Handy Andy" Burnham could be heading for Number 10, it does make you wonder.

Labour currently has more than 400 MPs, yet the conversation seems to have turned to someone who, by the time you read this, will barely have been in his latest role for a fortnight. We keep hearing about how Manchester has been transformed and how Andy has become the self-proclaimed King of the "Norf". Fair enough, but before anyone starts measuring the curtains in Downing Street, surely it's worth asking a few questions.

One issue that has attracted public attention is that his wife, Marie-France Van Heel (yes, that really is her name – not quite what you'd expect from a northern socialist!), is a director of BE EV and Iduna Infrastructure. Those companies have been involved in supplying electric buses as part of Greater Manchester's Bee Network programme. There has been public discussion about whether appropriate safeguards exist around such connections, although there has been no finding of wrongdoing. I'll simply park that one there...

But enough of Westminster. The real story in this edition is something far more important because it affects every single one of us.

It's called Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

A recent survey suggested that around 85% of people know little or nothing about it, and that should concern every taxpayer.

Here's the simple version: At the moment we have three tiers of local government.

Kent County Council looks after the big-ticket services such as education, social care, foster care, highways, waste disposal and Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

District councils like Folkestone and Hythe deal with planning, housing, refuse collection and local services.

Then you have town and parish councils looking after parks, community facilities and acting as consultees on planning applications.

Under the Government's proposals, all of that changes.

The most likely option would see Folkestone and Hythe merged with Ashford, Dover, Canterbury and Thanet into one enormous unitary authority.

Instead of having councillors focused purely on our district, you'll have representatives covering a vast stretch of east Kent. Local knowledge inevitably becomes diluted.

Take controversial planning applications. Imagine another Princes Parade-style development. If councillors from Whitstable, Canterbury or Ramsgate are voting on housing proposals in Hythe or Romney Marsh, will they really understand the local issues? Or will the overriding priority simply be meeting government housing targets?

Current thinking suggests Folkestone and Hythe may have only around ten councillors on the new authority. Even if every one of them opposed a major planning application, they could easily be outvoted by members representing completely different parts of Kent.

Then there's the money.... These new councils won't simply inherit planning departments. They'll also inherit responsibility for services currently delivered efficiently across the whole county, including fire and rescue, waste disposal and social care.

Economies of scale are all very well until you break them apart.

When Reform took control of Kent County Council, it inherited debt of around £730 million. While significant progress has reportedly been made in reducing that burden, debt doesn't simply disappear overnight. If Kent is split into three separate unitary authorities, each could begin life carrying a substantial share of those historic liabilities.

And what about Otterpool Park? Residents were told the development would benefit our district. Under a larger unitary authority, however, the financial benefits could potentially be shared across a much wider area including Ashford, Dover, Canterbury and Thanet, rather than remaining solely within Folkestone and Hythe.

These are the sorts of questions people deserve answers to.

The frustrating part is that Local Government Reorganisation barely featured during the election campaign. It was tucked away in a couple of lines that many people probably skipped over. Yet it has the potential to reshape local democracy for generations.

Whether you support the changes or oppose them, one thing is certain: they're real, they're coming, and every council taxpayer should understand what they could mean.

Perhaps, just perhaps, if "Handy Andy" does end up holding the keys to Number 10, someone might point out that reorganising local government on paper is one thing.

Living with the consequences is quite another.



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By Kerry King

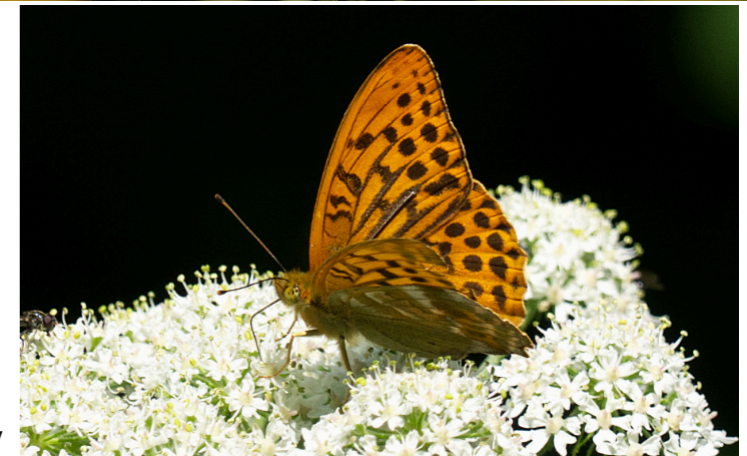
The Emperor Can Wait

Twenty years ago, while working on a BBC story on the South Downs, I spent a memorable day with butterfly expert Matthew Oates searching for one of Britain's most beautiful and elusive species, the Adonis Blue. During our wanderings, Matthew offered a piece of advice that has stayed with me ever since: "Learn more and you'll see more." He was right.

Since then, I have spent countless hours photographing and filming butterflies across the UK. Although I have managed to capture several rare species, the magnificent Purple Emperor continues to elude my camera. Every summer I return to the same woodland in the hope of finally photographing this legendary butterfly.

This year, during the recent spell of intense heat, I thought conditions were perfect. Purple Emperors are at their most active on warm, sunny days, so I waited patiently, scanning the treetops. The emperor never appeared, but nature had another surprise in store. A Silver-washed Fritillary suddenly glided effortlessly along a woodland ride before settling within easy range of my camera.

One of Britain's largest and most elegant woodland butterflies, the Silver-washed Fritillary is instantly recognisable by its rich orange wings, boldly marked with black, while the underside reveals the shimmering silver streaks that give the species its name. Its powerful, graceful flight and preference for sunny woodland rides and clearings make it one of the most spectacular butterflies to encounter in southern England.



Unlike many butterflies, the Silver-washed Fritillary is a true woodland specialist. Males patrol sunlit rides in search of females, pausing occasionally to feed on bramble flowers or thistles. Its caterpillars depend on violets growing on the woodland floor, making healthy, well-managed woodlands essential for its survival.

Thankfully, this beautiful butterfly has made a welcome comeback in many areas in recent years. The Purple Emperor will have to wait for another summer. But thanks to a chance encounter with a Silver-washed Fritillary, this year's woodland visit was every bit as memorable.

Picture 1: Artist's impression of a male Purple Emperor butterfly, produced under licence for Kerry King.

Picture 2: The Silver-washed Fritillary photographed with its wings half closed, revealing the distinctive silver streaks that give this beautiful woodland butterfly its name. Photograph © Kerry King.



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IN THE VILLAGE HALL

St Mary's Bay



Welcome Lookerites to another batch of reviews which I've crammed in amongst the many World Cup matches that are gracing our screens. The last time I had such disturbed sleep was when I went to Las Vegas and was playing the fruit machines and blackjack at 3am in the morning while sipping cocktails. Now when the cats wake me up at stupid o'clock in the morning, I find myself strangely drawn to the remote controls to check in on the Canada vs Qatar game. Daytime naps are now the order of the day as I find myself setting sporadic alarms on my phone to watch late games as we speak a 10:45 alarm is set to watch the Scotland vs Morocco game.

However, fear not Lookerites and non-football fans I have managed to bring you a new batch of reviews, including another Jordan Peele produced 'out there' horror, a based on a true story drama from Sky, a heart-warming tale from Disney+ starring Brendan Fraser and the return of everyone's favourite toys.

Fast forward and Cam is a rising football star who is practicing for the combine, a weeklong training camp that takes place in front of coaches. While practicing Cam is attacked by a figure in a goat costume, leaving Cam with a career endangering head injury.

Cam's agent Tom reveals that Isaiah White is planning to retire and has offered to train Cam in Cam's hope of taking Isaiah's spot on the train. Cam accepts but is perturbed by the crazed Isaiah fans who attempt to put Cam off.

Once the training begins Cam soon learns that Isaiah's methods are quite disturbing leaving Cam confused. With blood transfusions and murder surrounding the bizarre training Cam soon discovers that things are not what they seem.

Him is another thought-provoking horror from Peele but directed by Justin Tipping that doesn't reach the heights of the excellent Get Out or Us. Him is at times confusing but while the performances are good it did divide the critics.

Next up is a crime thriller **Dead Man's Wire - Sky/Now Tv**. **Dead Man's Wire** is inspired by the true story of the 1977 hostage standoff involving Tony Kirtsis (Bill Skarsgard) who took mortgage broker Richard Hall (Dacre Montgomery) hostage. Directed by Gus Van Sant the film uses the same consultants who made the documentary **Dead Man's Line**.



When Tony turns up for an appointment with M.L. Hall (Al Pacino) he is met instead by Richard M.L.'s son. Tony takes Richard hostage at gunpoint by wiring a shotgun to his neck via a dead man's switch, rigged to fire in the event of Richard trying to escape or any other intervention. Tony tells the media that M.L. cheated him and that he is determined to expose him.

Tony takes Richard to his heavily booby-trapped apartment and so begins a standoff. Tony contacts local DJ Fred Temple who airs their conversation as the media are quick to highlight the issue. When M.L.

refuses to apologise to Tony the F.B.I become involved with Tony desperately trying to resolve the matter the authorities grant Tony a press conference also offering him immunity and to wipe his debt.

While a nervous and distraught Tony declares himself a national hero the authorities deliver their plan B.

Dead Man's Wire is a stylish crime thriller shot in a 70's film style. The performances of the two leads Skarsgard and Montgomery are superb and Van Sant successfully captures the 70s. Think **Dog Day Afternoon**, which also starred Pacino, and you will get a feel for **Dead Man's Wire**. Skarsgard manages to capture the desperation of a desperate man whose plan spirals out of control. Pacino, in a cameo, is a heartless mogul putting pride before his son's safety.

Dead Man's Wire is a superb retelling of the story of a little man taking on a huge corporation and winning.



The toys are back in town. Yes, the latest instalment of the Toy Story franchise is back. **Toy Story 5 on general release** sees the return of Woody, Buzz, Bo Peep and Jessie as they face a new danger to their existence.

Bonnie is still happily playing with her toys but struggling to make friends. When she learns that the girls in her dance class all have devices, she is desperate for her parents to get her one so that she can connect with her friends. Her parents reluctantly agree and Bonnie discards her toys in favour of LilyPad. The toys, of course, fight back determined to win Bonnie back but

LilyPad proves a difficult adversary to overcome.

The million-dollar question is, Is Toy Story any good and yes, it is. Although Woody doesn't feature as much with Jessie stepping into the main role supported by her love interest Buzz. Mr Potato Head, Slinky, Next, Ham, Bo Peep are all back but strictly in a supporting role. Toy Story has a contemporary plot as it tackles, modern technology and online bullying but still manages to cram in a running thread of poo, wee and fart jokes. The ending induced shades of Planet of the Apes as toys and technology learn to live in peace.

Toy Story still manages to entertain but I do think it is time to put what remains a cherished franchise to bed. I don't know where the franchise goes from here so why not let Buzz, Woody and the others go to that Toy store in the skies. I know they will say it is a highly rated series but surely art is just as important as money.

Scream, Halloween, Friday the 13th, Nightmare on Elm Street, Jaws were all great films, but all spawned some frankly embarrassing sequels that were not worthy of the originals. I hope Toy Story 5 is the last and we can all cherish those memories that they gave us before wringing every dollar out of the franchise. For every Jaws, Scream and Halloween there is Jaws: The Revenge (You're only supposed to blow the bloody shark up) Scream 3 and Halloween: Resurrection.

Going back to 'the greatest ever World Cup' according to the orange one. Early indications suggest that it may be a classic but aside from hydration breaks and the cacophony of boos that greet a break that allows managers to scream new instructions 22.5 minutes ahead of schedule. The frequent shots of VIPs in the boxes paying closer attention to their phones than the match. The flag waving, face painted, happy clappers that fill the stadiums cheering frantically at their side despite being trounced (I can't believe they are still smiling after the extortionate ticket prices) My son was quoted £6,000 for 6 games which he intended to attend while on holiday with his wife in Toronto. Infantino No! The World Cup has had its moments. That is when the orange one isn't trying to expel, players and referees from the tournament.

But it hasn't all been bad and the best moments have come from unlikely sources. One of my favourite games was the intriguing Brazil vs Morocco game a 1-1 draw which played out like a game of chess. Performance of the tournament minnows Cape Verde holding the mighty Spain to a goalless draw and then taking a point off Uruguay. Also, a mention for Curacao who after being on the end of a 7-1 drubbing by Germany managed to hold Ecuador to a 0-0 draw.

While the minnows have made their mark so have the big guns and the race to the golden boot has a familiar feel to it with Messi leading the race with 5 goals closely followed by Mbappe and Haaland both on 4 goals.

With the last round of group games starting today it's all to play for and the knockout awaits the brave.

Well, that's your lot for this issue and I leave you with a weather warning in place so stay safe and see you next issue



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Email: info@thelooker.co.uk

Dear Looker,

After spending a few months recently digging up the A259 between St Mary's Bay and Jefferstone lane, causing hellish traffic problems whilst most people still have no idea what the roadworks was for, an unknown jobsworth at KCC decided that the A259 in the centre of Dymchurch needed an urgent dig up to create more chaos and misery

Again few people could fathom out what the work was for.

But hey, the unknown KCC jobsworth has really exceeded himself (or herself) by digging up the A259 again at St.Marys Bay. Seems to also involve pavement digging this time

But hey, it is summer and visitors are hoping to have an enjoyable stay in Dymchurch and local areas.

But at least the jobsworth is happy at the continuing chaos and no doubt already has more roadworks arranged.

Welcome to Dymchurch.

Terry Mullard

Dear Looker,
Well, apparently Otterpool has finally started.

At least that's what Jim Martin would have us believe.

This is the same Jim Martin who wasn't that long ago marching up and down Hythe High Street campaigning to "Stop Otterpool". Now, however, he's grinning like he's just discovered sliced bread, proudly proclaiming that this flagship Net Zero development is finally underway.

Politics really is an amazing thing. Yesterday's protest banner becomes today's photo opportunity.

Only one tiny problem...This isn't the Garden Town we were promised, is it?

Whatever happened to the world-class vision? The schools? The shops? The health centre? The employment opportunities? The transport hub? The parks? The community facilities? The much-publicised 50% green space? Weren't we told this would be an exemplar development that would benefit the whole district for generations?

Instead, what have we got?
Three hundred houses dumped in a field.

No school. No doctor's surgery. No shopping centre. No meaningful public transport. No obvious infrastructure. Just bricks, mortar and a conveniently timed press release.

After years of masterplans, artists' impressions, glossy brochures, consultants, public consultations and what has reportedly been close to £100 million spent developing the project, this is the grand opening?

I suppose if you lower the bar enough, anything looks like success.

Let's be honest. This isn't about delivering the Garden Town residents were sold. It's about making sure someone can claim, "It started under our administration," before the next election.

Job done. Tick in the box. Cue the photographs.

Except the people who have followed this project over the years know exactly what was promised, and this isn't it.

If this is the flagship development that is supposed to transform our district, I'd hate to see what Plan B looks like.

After all the fanfare, all the speeches and all the millions spent, this feels less like the birth of a visionary new community and more like the opening act of the world's most expensive housing estate.

Net Zero? Quite possibly.
Net Zero resemblance to what was promised?
Absolutely.

Mark Shidden, Hythe

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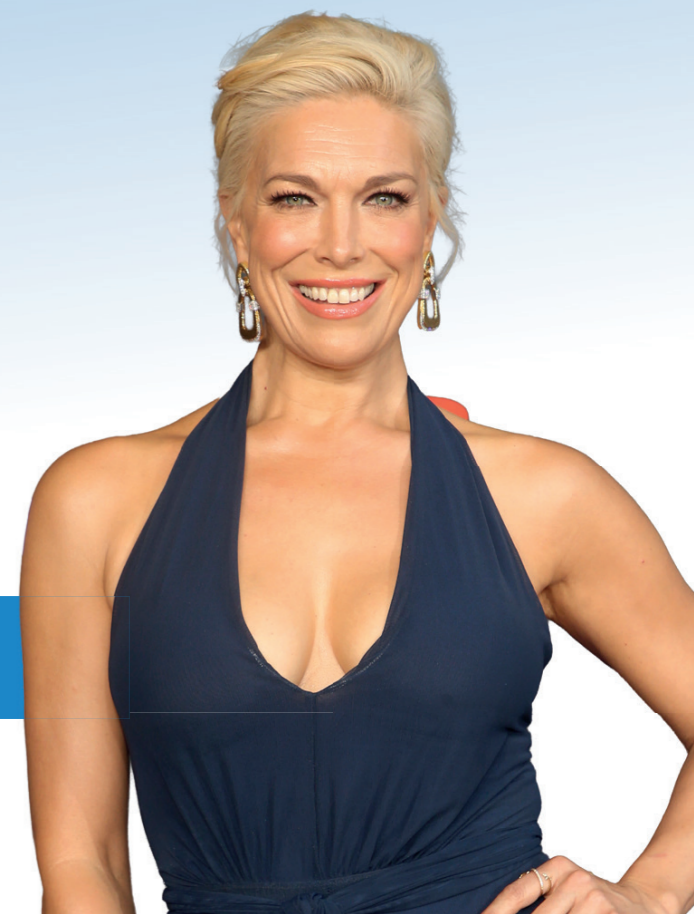
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Better Late Than Never

Actress Hannah Waddingham on resilience, late success and finally finding her moment.



For many actors, success arrives early or not at all. For Hannah Waddingham, it came later... and perhaps more meaningfully because of it.

Best known globally for her Emmy-winning role in *Ted Lasso*, Waddingham has spent years building a career across theatre, television and film. The recognition may feel recent, but the work behind it is anything but.

"I'd been working for such a long time that when things started to change, it didn't feel like this sudden breakthrough," she says. "It felt like a continuation of everything that had come before.

"There's a real gratitude that comes with that, because you know what it's taken, the near-misses, the auditions that didn't go your way, the moments where you wondered if it would ever quite land."

Her roots in musical theatre remain central to her identity, shaping both her discipline and her outlook.

"Theatre teaches you everything about showing up and doing the

work, whether you feel like it or not," she explains. "You learn resilience very quickly, because you're performing night after night, and there's no shortcut. That foundation has stayed with me, and I think it's what allowed me to keep going when things were uncertain."

That uncertainty, she admits, was a constant companion for much of her career. "There were definitely times when I thought, 'Is this actually going to happen in the way I'd hoped?'" she says. "But the thing that kept me going was that I genuinely loved it. It wasn't about chasing fame or recognition; more the work itself, and that has to be enough, otherwise it's very difficult to sustain."

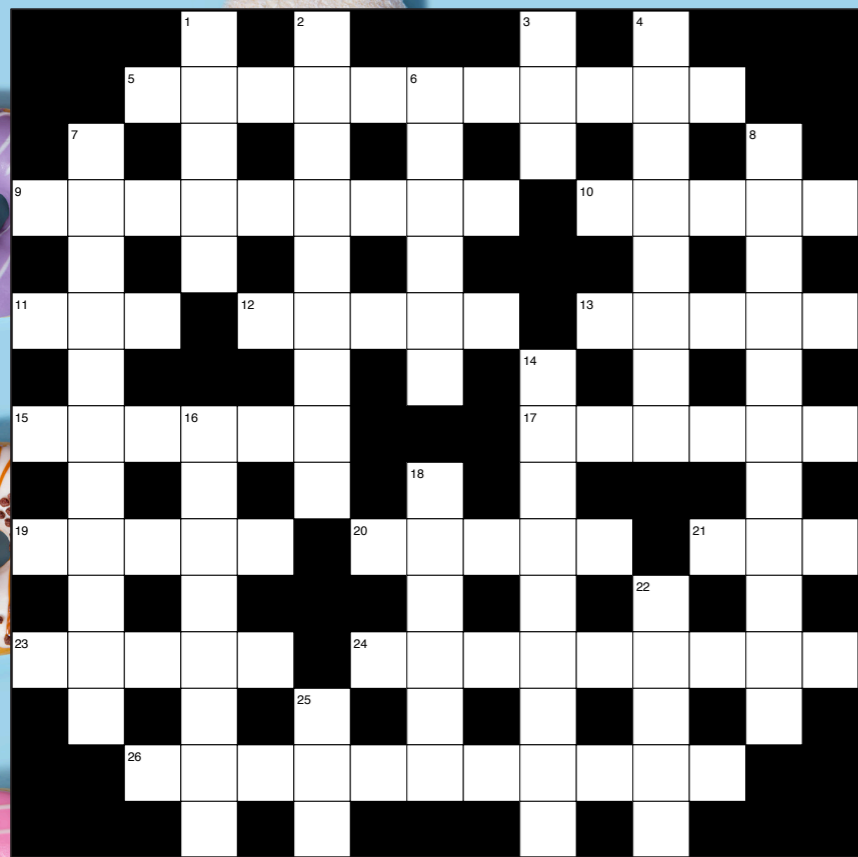
Her eventual rise has also challenged assumptions about timing in the industry, offering a refreshing counterpoint to the idea that success must come early.

"I think there's something incredibly powerful about experience," she reflects. "You understand yourself more, you trust your instincts, and you're less interested in trying to fit into something that doesn't feel right. That gives you a different kind of confidence, one that isn't dependent on external validation."

Now, with a global audience and expanding opportunities, Waddingham – whose biggest hits include *Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning*, *Lilo & Stitch* and the aforementioned *Ted Lasso*, which is tipped for a return – remains focused on substance over momentum.

"I just want to keep doing work that excites me and challenges me," she says. "If I feel something when I read a script, that's usually the sign. And if I can bring something truthful to it, then that's what matters. Everything else is just noise."

General Knowledge Crossword #067



Across Clues:

- 5. Far from straightforward or simple (11)
- 9. Attractive and full of charm (9)
- 10. Offensive remarks or musical ties (5)
- 11. Male cat, or a common first name (3)
- 12. Narrow coastal inlet carved by glaciers (5)
- 13. Wet weather forecast description (5)
- 15. Archaic medical term meaning soothing or pain-relieving (6)
- 17. Ancient Greek concept of vital spirit or breath (6)
- 19. Fossilised resin with a warm golden hue (5)
- 20. Sudden burst of speed or liquid (5)
- 21. Archaic or poetic word meaning 'at' (3)
- 23. Move furtively or tell tales on someone (5)
- 24. One competing seriously for a title (9)
- 26. Stage show or act put on for an audience (11)

Down Clues:

- 1. Leonard known for Hallelujah (5)
- 2. Spirit distilled from fermented fruit cider (9)
- 3. Scottish word meaning to do (3)
- 4. Revealing sign, or one who tattles (8)
- 6. Pay no attention to whatsoever (6)
- 7. Scheduled meeting with a doctor, say (11)
- 8. Mother's mother, for example (11)
- 14. African-American religious folk song (9)
- 16. Young person aged between thirteen and nineteen (8)
- 18. Noisy commotion and disorder (6)
- 22. Natural talent or special skill (5)
- 25. Scottish dialect word for off (3)

Answers: Across: 5: Complicated, 9: Appealing, 10: Surs, 11: Tom, 12: Fjord, 13: Rainy, 15: Anetic, 17: Pneuma, 19: Amber, 20: Spurt, 21: Alt, 23: Sneak, 24: Contender, 26: Performance
Down: 1: Cohen, 2: Applejack, 3: Dae, 4: Telltale, 6: Ignore, 7: Appointment, 8: Grandmother, 14: Spiritual, 16: Teenager, 18: Uproar, 22: Knack, 25: Aff

Hidden Message Wordsearch



Bakery Delights
Once you find all the words, copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message.

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|---------|
| Bagel | Croissant | Knead | Roll |
| Bake | Crumb | Loaf | Salt |
| Batter | Crust | Milk | Scone |
| Bowl | Dough | Mixing | Spatula |
| Bread | Eggs | Muffin | Sugar |
| Bun | Flour | Oven | Tart |
| Butter | Fresh | Pastry | Tin |
| Cake | Frosting | Pie | Tray |
| Cookie | Glaze | Proof | Whisk |
| Cream | Icing | Rise | Yeast |

Write the hidden message here:

2		6		5			4	3
1					6	2	8	5
	5					7		
7								6
6		9	8	3	4			1
	4		2		7	9	3	8
							9	
			4	8	1		5	
	6		5					7

Sudoku Challenge

Spot the Difference!

There are 10 differences between the two images below. How many can you spot?



THE RANT!!!



Flush with Cash... But Out of Ideas!

Why is failure the most profitable career move in Britain?

I have finally worked it out. I've been in the wrong profession all my life.

I should never have become a newspaper editor. I should never have gone into broadcasting. I certainly shouldn't have spent years with the RNLI trying to save lives.

No.

I should have become the chief executive of a utility

company.

Because in absolutely no other profession on Earth can you preside over years of complaints, soaring bills, infrastructure failures, environmental disasters and public outrage... and still walk away earning enough money to buy your own small Caribbean island.

Take football. Now I'm no football expert, but surely the job description is fairly straightforward.

Score more goals than the other lot....That's it.

Lose a handful of matches and Chelsea are already printing your P45 before you've emptied your locker. Tottenham fans have practically got the removal van on standby.

Nobody says: "Never mind, boss. You've lost ten on the bounce. Here's another million pounds because you tried really hard."

Imagine if football copied the utility industry.

Manager: "We've been relegated."

Chairman: "Excellent work. Here's a performance bonus."
 Supporters: "We've conceded 94 goals."
 Board: "Outstanding leadership. Have another pay rise."

Yet somehow, in Utility World, that's almost how it feels.

Take Southern Water. Customers have watched sewage pollution become one of the biggest public issues in the South East for years. Beaches have repeatedly been affected by storm overflows, while regulators have demanded improvements and governments have tightened the rules around executive rewards. This year, new legislation even gave regulators powers to block performance bonuses at companies that fail environmental standards.

Yet somehow executive pay still manages to make headlines.

Southern Water's chief executive received total remuneration of around £1.4 million, largely because of a long-term incentive plan that the company says was funded by shareholders rather than customers. It wasn't technically classed as a bonus under the new rules.

Now forgive me...

...but if someone gives you £691,000 on top of your £687,000 salary because things are supposedly improving.

...most people in the pub would probably still call it "a bonus".

It's a bit like telling your wife: "I haven't bought another classic car, darling."

It's a long-term automotive incentive."

Good luck with that!!

And it's not just Southern Water.

Across the utility sector we keep hearing the same phrases.

"Transformation."
 "Investment."
 "Our journey."
 "Customer commitment."

I don't want a journey....I want a flush that stays in the pipe.

I want a beach where the only thing floating is a lilo.

I want infrastructure that doesn't appear to have been designed by someone using an Etch A Sketch.

The regulator, Ofwat, says billions are now being invested across the industry and companies are expected to deliver major improvements for

customers and the environment over the next five years. Customers, meanwhile, are paying higher bills in anticipation of those improvements.

And that's the bit that really sticks in the throat.

In almost every other profession your reward comes after success.

Builders don't get paid for houses they promise to finish.

Plumbers don't send the invoice before fixing the leak.

Pilots don't announce: "Unfortunately we've landed in Belgium instead of Gatwick..."

...but here's my performance bonus."

Imagine your local restaurant.

You order steak.

Twenty minutes later the waiter returns carrying a bowl of cornflakes.

"Sorry, sir."

"We're working on a five-year improvement strategy."

"That'll be £87 please."

Britain seems to have perfected something remarkable.

We've invented performance-related pay without the awkward inconvenience of performance.

Perhaps we should all adopt the same system.

Traffic warden misses every illegally parked car?

Promotion.

Weather forecaster predicts sunshine during a hurricane?

Executive incentive.

Referee gives three penalties to the wrong team?

Lifetime achievement award.

As for utility companies, perhaps it's time to simplify the targets.

Not pages of performance indicators.

Not spreadsheets.

Just one simple rule.

Keep the water in the pipes...and keep everything else out of the sea.

Now that really would deserve a bonus.



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ROTARIAN BRIAN BARNES (1935– 2026)



Rotarian Brian Barnes, who has died at the age of 91, was a much-loved and long-established figure from Saltwood near Hythe, Kent. Having made the village his home for the latter half of his life, Brian devoted himself to an extraordinary range of local, sporting and charitable endeavours. His legacy is one of steadfast service, quiet leadership and a generosity of spirit that touched countless lives.

Brian and his wife Sylvia moved from Hertford, Hertfordshire, when he accepted a new senior business appointment in Folkestone. From the moment he arrived, he threw himself wholeheartedly into local life. He became an active member when in the early 1970s he transferred from Ware into Folkestone Round Table and, in 1980, was a founder member of the newly formed Channel Rotary Club. His enthusiasm for fellowship and service was matched by his love of sport: he was a keen playing member of Saltwood Cricket Club and a founding member of Etchinghill Golf Club, where he later served with distinction as Captain. His administrative contributions to both clubs were as valued as his sporting prowess.

During his remarkable 46 years with Channel Rotary, Brian served as Secretary on three occasions, became President in 1984, and undertook responsibilities at district level. His commitment to helping others was evident from the very beginning. Among the many community projects he supported were:

- assisting with an international relief mission that purchased and delivered a caravan filled with blankets and essential supplies to victims of the 1980 Italian earthquake
- helping to provide replacement kitchen and cooking equipment for residents affected by the 1996 East Folkestone floods
- supporting numerous local groups and charities, including those assisting young carers, many of whom continue to benefit from his early efforts

Beyond Round Table & Channel Rotary, Brian's other great passion was the Scouting movement. Having been a scout from a young boy, he led the local troop for many years and later became District Commissioner, guiding generations of young people with his characteristic patience, humour and steady, reassuring leadership.

Professionally, Brian moved to the area to take up the role of Production Director at Carter-Wallace (now Church & Dwight), a position he held with distinction until his retirement in 2000. His colleagues remember him as a man of integrity, calm authority and unwavering commitment.

Amid all this, Brian and Sylvia somehow found the time and energy to raise six children, and he took immense pride in being a devoted Grandad to eighteen grandchildren. Family was at the heart of everything he did, and he delighted in their achievements and company.

Brian will be deeply missed by his family, friends, fellow Rotarians, residents of Saltwood and the many people whose lives he enriched. He will be remembered for a life lived fully and generously, a life defined by service, kindness, and an enduring commitment to the wellbeing of others.



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Church Update

By June Gooch

Food Bank. The main food bank for the area, continues in Romney Marsh Community Church on Tuesdays from 4-5.30pm. If you are struggling to feed yourself or your family, ring for a voucher to the Citizens Advice Bureau on 08082 082138. This will enable you to have 3 days' worth of dried and tinned food adapted for the size of your family. Fresh food is also now being made available.

The food bank relies on donations, which can be left in the foyer of the church on North Street during the morning. Most supermarkets have food bank bins.

The demand, unfortunately is not slowing down, and the following items are in short supply. Long life juice, long life milk, cooking oil, washing capsules for clothes, coffee, squash, salad cream, mayonnaise, veggie meals in a tin, and sugar. Fresh food is now being distributed, but depends on availability.

At present they have plenty of tinned goods, (including vegs, beans, tomatoes, potatoes and soup), liquid hand soap, toothpaste and pasta.

The mobile pantry van calls at All Saints Church in Lydd, on Mondays from 10-11am. You can register as a member by calling 07913 573403 (the Rainbow centre) or CAB, number above. After that you can buy a bag of basics for between £5 and £7 depending on the size of your family. Check the venue when you register for your voucher.

The Mobile pantry van is also calling at the Sunflower Community Hub on Rolfe Lane, New Romney, on Fridays between 10.30-11.30am. The conditions are the same, as for the Lydd van.

Village Halls. Many villages and towns on the Marsh have new village halls, which are always available for one off occasions or regular hire. The high costs we are all facing have affected them as well, so they will be very happy to host your event/s. The contact will be on the notice board outside the hall.

Paul Sanderson, former editor of the Marsh Message died in September, 2025. He was a talented artist, and there is an exhibition of his work, at the Nest (formerly the RM Visitor Centre on the A259) from Friday August 14th until Sunday 16th. The proceeds of the exhibition will go to the Canterbury Oast Trust, who look after Nicholas, his son with learning difficulties.

Brenzett village is holding a "Club Day" on August 8th, when all the organisations in the village will be taking part in a large variety of activities and events. A tremendous effort is going into this effort, so they are hoping for good weather, and support. Look out for more details in the church magazines.

Ride and Stride take place on Saturday September 12th. In this event walkers, cyclists and mobility scooters can travel from church to church raising money by sponsorship. If you wish to take part forms will soon be available. The money raised is divided between your own church, and the RM Trust for historic churches. The Historic churches trust has been very generous to many Marsh churches. Volunteers will also be required to staff the churches for the day, to sign form and offer refreshments.

Jam on the Marsh. This interesting and varied series of concerts and exhibitions takes place from July 8th-12th. Leaflets available, and all the details can be found online.

Brenzett, St Eanswith. The village of Brenzett is holding a big Club Day festival on Saturday, August 8th. There are a variety of events being held throughout the day, in several venues, including the church, Brookland church, the Aeronautical Museum, and the Village Hall. Several village organisations are taking part. Look out for notices and posters regarding times and venues. Everyone invited to celebrate the life of the village.

Brookland, St Augustine. Don't forget the pantry table in the church porch, both for donations and those in need.

The next sung evensong will be on July 12th at 6.30pm. The practice for the choir will be on the previous Thursday, at 1.15pm. There were a few new faces in May, so we look forward to seeing them again.

The fortnightly midweek HC services continue on alternative Thursdays at 6.30pm. All welcome. See notices for dates.

Dymchurch, St Peter and Paul. The church is still in need of help with prayers and intercessions, and an organist to play for the Sunday services. A bible Study group meets at the church on Tuesdays at 10.30am for refreshments and the study starts at 11am and finishes about noon.

Sacristan training (helping with communion) is being offered, so anyone who is interested can let Chris Clark know and your name can be added to the list. Recently some good quality long life floral displays have been purchased, which are very realistic, and will be useful for when the "flower rota" is rather thin!

There will be another coffee morning with the Seaside Singers on Saturday, July 11th 10.30-1pm. All welcome to this friendly event.

Day of Syn Weekend. The church will be running a tombola stall on the Recreation Field on Saturday, August 29th. Volunteers and contributions will be very welcome. If you could offer for just an hour it would relieve the main volunteers. If you can help, ring Janet on 07746 590510.

Dymchurch Catholic church, St Monica's on Chapel Road, is open for worship. There will be a regular Sunday mass at 9am.

Dymchurch Methodist church. This is now part of 'Marsh Methodist Church' with a central administration, and services will be on a rotating pattern. See notices for dates.

Greatstone, St Peter. The church hall, attached to the church, is very well used for midweek events. There are clubs and societies of all sorts. Recently the Wednesday morning drop-in has had to be withdrawn, because the numbers were so low, that it wasn't worth continuing.

Craft Fair. After joining with the Lydd club day in June the Craft Fair is back at Greatstone on Saturday July 18th from 10am-2pm. All welcome to this lively craft fair, the stalls spill out into the church, as well as the church hall.

Ivychurch, St George. The March production of "Jane Eyre" was very well received, and enjoyed by the full house audience. It was performed by the "My Theatre" company, and they will be returning on August 30th to perform the "Great Gatsby."

On July 18th, there will be a big day of celebration in Ivychurch, centred around the completion of the clock repairs. The church is forever grateful to the Romney Marsh Historical Churches Trust, for their help with repairs to the clock, and also to the private individuals who contributed.

The day of celebration includes a Historic Church tour at 11.30am, a Ploughman's lunch with bric-a-brac and cake stalls afterwards, and tower visits in the afternoon. The concert in the evening is at 7.30pm. Tickets to all these paying events, can be obtained from 07761978965.

Lydd, All Saints. The church hall for all Saints is the Hardy Hall on the Rype. It is, happily, very much used, with events happening nearly day. See the notice board for details. To hire, for one off events, or regular events, ring Maggie Clifton on 07905 433302.

Known as the Cathedral of the Marsh, the church is a very large building, which needs a lot of looking after. The maintenance team always welcome new helpers, even if it only an hour a month. Even if you don't go to church, but feel for the history of the building, contact warden Pat Carter on 01797 320108.

A group of people in Lydd, collect items to help in Ukraine. They accept practically everything, in good condition, that would be useful to people in need. Big items like bikes and sewing machines, medical supplies, toiletries, household equipment etc. They don't want general clothing, (provided by other charities) but hoodies, jog bottoms, T shirts, thick socks, hats and scarves. They buy and convert 4 * 4s as ambulances. If interested in helping or donating, ring Gina on 07874 399422.

Lydd Methodist Church. This is now part of Marsh Methodist Church flannels under one administration, with rotating services. See notices for dates.

New Romney, St Nicholas. Like Lydd church, St Nicholas' is very large and needs a lot of cleaning and care. If anyone has an hour to spare, the church would be very grateful for any help. Maybe you don't attend regularly, but feel for the history of this ancient church, your help would be much appreciated. Call Ann Rolfe on 362719.

The church is acting as a centre for collecting **Christmas Shoe boxes** for needy children in other places. You can put various things in shoebox for a boy or girl, and in 3 age groups. Under 5s, 5-12s and 12-16. There will be literature in the church later on. Respecting other nation's cultures and laws, there are things that cannot be put in the boxes, like Christian literature, anything warlike, sweets, chocolates and food, medicines, aerosol cans, toothpaste and liquid toiletries. And new this year, we are not allowed to include tablet soap. Hats, scarves, mittens, small toys like balls, and other small toys, flannels, school supplies, are all allowed. If you cannot put a whole box together, any contribution is welcome.

The church's monthly coffee morning and sale is on Saturday, 18th July. from 10am-midday. There will be live music, lots of delicious cakes, and the usual amazing collection of DVDs, CDs, books and records. All warmly invited.

New Romney Methodist Church. The Saturday morning coffee mornings take place from 10am-noon, and the Meeting Point on Thursday mornings from 10-12md is continuing. All warmly welcome to both events.

The church is now part of 'Marsh Methodist Church' and services are on a rotating basis. See notices for details.

Newchurch, St Peter and Paul. The next coffee morning will be on Saturday, August 1st from 10am-midday. All welcome to come along and support the village and meet fellow villagers.

Romney Marsh Community Church. There is a Sunday service every week at 10.30am, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Youth and Children's teaching available during the service. Come and visit this time of vibrant worship and say hello, you will be very welcome. For any help or advice ring the church office on 01797 366855 during the morning. The church is also the local food bank, so see head of column for details

All preschool children, their nans and carers very welcome to the toddler group from 8.45am to 11am on Thursday mornings in term time. Fully equipped, helpers police checked and spaces available. Cost is £3 per family. As the end of term approaches, the sessions may be held on the play park off Ashford Road. If it is raining or cold, they will be back in the church. The sessions

on the park will be informal. Bring a rug/chair, and you own refreshments.

The Youth Space sessions meet on Thursdays at 3.30pm, after school for years 5,6. And 7. All children in those year groups welcome. Children must be dropped off and collected by a parent or known responsible adult.

Snargate, St Dunstons. The Holy Communion services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays continue, so the next one will be on Sunday, July 12th, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

St Mary's Bay, All Saints. The normal fund raisers have resumed, and the Café church, on Mondays and Wednesday morning get together continue to flourish, with increasing number, and a tremendous time of fellowship is enjoyed by all. The next fund raisers will be in July, see notices for times and dates.

The church Summer Fair will take place on Saturday, August 8th from 10am in the church hall. Lots of stalls and delicious refreshments and all are welcome.

A new venture is starting in SMB village hall, called "Renew Wellbeing Café" This is a nationwide effort aimed at those who may just need some friendship, activity, and someone to talk to! There will be space for craft, you can take part, of bring your own, and most importantly, a space where it is "ok to be not ok." It takes place on Wednesdays, from 2-4pm. All activities are free, and there are gentle sessions on wellbeing and health, both physically and mentally. All very welcome. For more information, ring Revd Penny Lowe on 07810 717408.

By the time this article is published, the ordination of the Revd Penny Lowe as Priest will have taken place in Canterbury Cathedral on July 4th. A coach has been booked and a party from the benefice is going along to support Revd Penny. Anglican ordinands are ordained a Deacon for and year, with limited powers, and ordained a full priest a year later, able to lead all the sacraments and having full authority. This will be an inspiring and blessed occasion.

St Mary in the Marsh. The Haywardians Choir practices every Friday evening in the church at 7.30pm. They raise large amounts for Charity and have regular local concerts. The next one will be at St George's Ivychurch, on Saturday, July 4th at 7.30pm. Following that, there will be a concert in All Saints St Mary's Bay on Saturday, July 25th ay 7.30pm.

The committee were very saddened by the death of Martin Rogers, who was one of the inspiration trustees in the Project Fund, pushing for the new village hall, when it seemed an impossible task. He had a lasting impact on the community and will be much missed.

Church Chuckle.

The mother of a small boy, who was used to going to church with his family, was struggling to get him into a rather tight pair of jeans. "Lift you legs up" she ordered. "We lift them up unto the Lord," he replied absently!

Wit and Wisdom.

From a radio presenter on Classic fm. "IKEA are sponsoring the marathon in Crawley. (or Croydon) I wonder if the winner will have to self-assemble their medal?"

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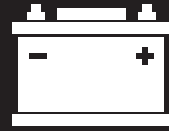
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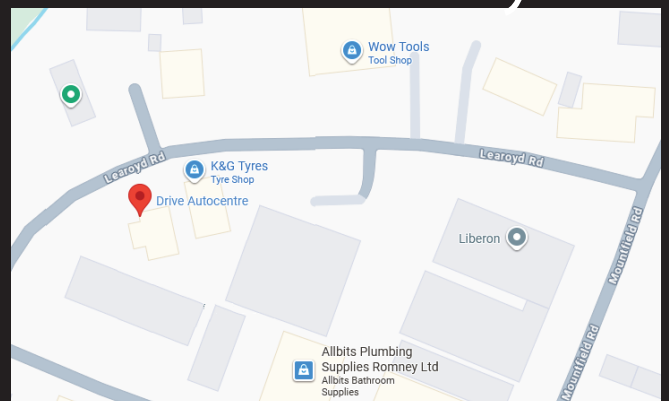
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