The Looker Newspaper
Community newspaper for Romney Marsh | Hythe & Folkestone District
Established 2009
FREE
Please Pick Up A Copy
25th November Issue 416

HMO HOUSING FEARS GROW AS DISTRICT OF SANCTUARY ROW DEEPENS



Growing concerns over family homes being converted into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) have sparked fresh debate about housing shortages and Folkestone & Hythe District Council's controversial District of Sanctuary declaration.

The issue resurfaced following consideration of another proposed 16-bedroom HMO at Folkestone Town Council, with residents questioning whether communities are being properly informed about developments in their neighbourhoods.

One resident claimed the proposal appeared to have been "swept under the carpet", adding: "I'm sure the vast majority of local residents have absolutely no idea what is being agreed on their behalf."

Following the meeting, another councillor reportedly welcomed greater diversity, saying: "As we welcome more people into our town to make it a diverse multicultural district, I welcome these people."

However, social media reaction suggested not everyone agreed.

Claire Broomfield, from Cheriton, said: "If I'm honest, I get that people all need somewhere to live, but this is not what I voted for.

"We should be looking after our own people first. I have two teenage daughters and do not relish having a large group of migrants living less than 100 yards from our house."

There is currently no confirmed connection between the proposed

Continued on page 2

WHEN THE WORLD WENT OFFLINE – HAVE WE BECOME TOO DEPENDENT ON TECHNOLOGY?

By David Wimble



Last Friday's worldwide Microsoft outage brought disruption to councils, hospitals, businesses and public services. But as systems return to normal, a far more worrying question remains: have we placed too much of our lives in the hands of technology that can fail without warning?

For much of Friday, November 13, the digital world experienced something of a reality check.

A major Microsoft outage left millions of people struggling to access emails, online meetings and essential computer systems. Microsoft Outlook, Teams and other cloud-based services were affected, disrupting organisations across the world.

Here in Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh, the consequences were felt in the everyday running of public services, with council communications disrupted and meetings dependent on Microsoft Teams having to be abandoned or rearranged.

Across Britain, the impact was even more

Continued on page 3

Drive Motor Spares
Mon-Fri 9am to 5.30pm
Saturday 9am to 3.30pm
Car, LCV & Motorcycle Parts & Accessories
Bicycle Parts, Accessories & Servicing
Leisure, Camping & Gas Stockists


NOW AT; 77 High Street, New Romney, TN28 8AZ
Tel: 01797 338600

Continued from Page 1

HMO and the District of Sanctuary declaration, nor evidence that its occupants would be migrants.

"WE NEED PROPER HOMES, NOT A RETURN TO THE 1970s"

Reform UK group leader Cllr David Wimble criticised the growing reliance on HMOs, arguing that the district should concentrate on delivering proper family housing.

"HMOs are not the answer to our housing problems," he said.

"We are constantly told our district must accommodate more than 1,000 new homes annually to meet Government targets.

"But surely the answer is to build real homes where people can raise families and become part of a community.

"How can converting a family property into accommodation for 16 unrelated people, sharing kitchens and potentially one toilet and bathroom for every five residents, represent the future of housing?

"It's like going back to the 1970s. We should be moving forward with decent housing standards, not backwards towards overcrowded properties."

Cllr Wimble also questioned the implications of the District of Sanctuary declaration.

"Residents deserve to know what this actually means. Will there be additional housing demands? Who pays? And what safeguards exist for established communities?"

REFORM UK PLEDGES TO CHALLENGE HMOs AND REMOVE SANCTUARY STATUS

Cllr Wimble outlined what would change should Reform UK gain control of Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

"Let me make our position absolutely clear. If Reform UK takes control, we will take a much tougher stance on converting family homes into large HMOs and put forward planning objections wherever legitimate grounds exist.

"HMOs are becoming the easy option, a quick fix for a housing problem successive administrations have failed to address.

"Instead of tackling housing supply, infrastructure and affordability, the answer increasingly seems to be squeezing more people into existing properties.

"That is not a housing strategy. It is an admission of failure.

"Reform UK wants proper homes in the right locations, supported by roads, schools, healthcare and infrastructure.

"And I can make another commitment. Should Reform UK gain control, we will seek to remove the District of Sanctuary designation.

"In my opinion, this was an unnecessary political gesture that does nothing to address residents' everyday problems.

"Council officers have enough to do without spending valuable time and public resources on political initiatives offering no obvious practical benefit to council taxpayers.

"Residents deserve a council that puts practical solutions before political gestures."

FIRE SAFETY AND LANDLORD CONCERNS

HMOs can provide affordable accommodation, but poorly managed properties may create additional fire risks, overcrowding, parking problems and neighbour disputes.

Larger HMOs require mandatory licensing and must meet safety standards. Risks depend on property conditions and management, not the nationality of occupants.

There are also concerns that landlords can earn considerably more by renting individual rooms rather than entire family homes, while councils seeking temporary accommodation may create further demand.

Critics fear that converting existing homes is becoming an easy alternative to tackling the district's long-term housing shortage.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are HMOs a sensible answer to the housing crisis, or are we sacrificing family homes for short-term solutions?

Should councils restrict large HMO conversions? And should Folkestone & Hythe reconsider its District of Sanctuary designation?

The Looker wants to hear your views. Is this the future of housing in our district, or are we storing up bigger problems for generations to come?



Continued from Page 1

serious. Hospitals struggled to access information, court proceedings were delayed and police forces experienced problems with online reporting systems. Some NHS staff were forced to return to paper records.

Microsoft has since confirmed that the outage resulted from a technical problem associated with an earlier network upgrade, rather than a cyberattack. Services were restored by Saturday.

But perhaps the most alarming aspect of the incident was not what caused it, but just how dependent we have become on systems operated by a relatively small number of global technology companies.

Have We Put All Our Eggs in One Digital Basket? Over the past two decades, councils, businesses, banks and government departments have steadily moved away from maintaining their own computer servers and physical records.

Instead, increasing amounts of information are stored in enormous data centres, often referred to as the cloud.

We are told this is more efficient, secure and cost-effective. And in many respects, it is.



But what happens when the cloud stops working? Last Friday demonstrated that a technical failure thousands of miles away can leave organisations in Kent unable to carry out basic everyday tasks. An office can have working computers, electricity and internet access, yet still be unable to send an email or hold a meeting because a remote service has failed.

And if something as relatively straightforward as a software or server problem can cause this level of disruption, what might happen in the event of a deliberate, coordinated cyberattack?

What If the Banking System Was Next?
Imagine waking up tomorrow morning to discover that your online banking application no longer works. You cannot transfer money, pay a supplier or access your business account. The local supermarket cannot process electronic payments. A small business cannot pay its staff. A house purchase is delayed because funds cannot be transferred.

For many people, cash is now something they rarely carry, while increasing numbers of businesses operate almost entirely through electronic transactions.

Banks do maintain separate payment infrastructure, security systems and contingency arrangements, so Friday's Microsoft failure did not mean the banking system itself had collapsed. Nevertheless, the question is worth asking. If a major cyberattack disabled electronic banking and payment networks, how long could Britain continue functioning normally?

Could the Next Target Be Our Aircraft?
Perhaps even more concerning is our growing reliance on sophisticated computer technology in aviation.

Modern aircraft use complex electronic flight controls, automated systems, navigation software and interconnected operational technology. Fly-by-wire aircraft rely on computers to interpret pilots' control inputs, although they are designed with multiple independent systems and safeguards to prevent a single failure from causing catastrophe.

There is no suggestion that Friday's Microsoft outage endangered aircraft flight-control systems. But could future terrorists or hostile states seek to attack critical aviation technology rather than conventional physical targets? What would happen if several independent safeguards were compromised, or if vital airport, navigation and communications systems were disabled simultaneously. The aviation industry has invested heavily in cybersecurity, redundancy and backup systems. Nevertheless, the consequences of a successful attack on critical infrastructure could be enormous.

Have We Gone Too Far to Turn Back?
There was a time when council officers could pick up a telephone, retrieve a paper file or hold a meeting without relying on a computer system.

Businesses kept physical records, banks had more face-to-face services and organisations maintained alternative ways of communicating. Of course, technology has transformed our lives for the better. Few would seriously suggest abandoning the extraordinary advances of the digital age.

But perhaps we have become so obsessed with making everything digital that we have forgotten the importance of maintaining an old-fashioned failsafe. Should councils retain independent communications systems? Should essential documents be accessible offline? Should banks guarantee alternative methods of making payments during major outages?

And should every organisation providing an essential public service be required to demonstrate that it can continue operating when its main technology supplier goes down?\

These are not unreasonable questions. They are questions about national resilience. Friday's outage was not a terrorist attack. It was a technical failure, and Microsoft eventually restored its services.

Yet it offered a glimpse of how quickly everyday life can be disrupted when the technology we take for granted suddenly becomes unavailable. Perhaps the greatest lesson is that being technologically advanced does not automatically mean being better prepared.

We have spent decades building a world in which almost everything is connected. Maybe it is time to ask whether we have also created a world in which too much can fail at once.

And, more importantly, if the systems fail again tomorrow, do we actually have a Plan B? The Looker would welcome readers' experiences of Friday's outage, particularly from local businesses and organisations affected by the disruption.

Fresh Parking Proposal at Lympne Castle



A revised parking proposal at historic Lympne Castle, near Hythe, could provide a practical solution for visitors, staff and local residents while protecting the rural character of the picturesque village.

The owners of the 13th-century castle, Dr Ann Kaplan Mulholland and her husband, Dr Stephen Mulholland, have submitted a new planning application to Folkestone and Hythe District Council seeking permission to increase the number of days an existing grass field can be used for parking.

The latest proposal would allow the field, situated close to Lympne Village Hall, to be used for up to 90 days each year, compared with the current allowance of 28 days.

Importantly, the revised plans would see the land remain as a grass field, with no permanent hardstanding, lighting or other infrastructure proposed.

The application represents a significantly less intrusive approach than an earlier proposal for a permanent 280-space car park, which was refused following concerns about its potential impact on the village's rural setting.

A Major Investment in Local Heritage

Since purchasing Lympne Castle for £5.5 million in 2023, the Mulhollands say they have invested approximately £25 million in restoring and revitalising the historic estate.

The substantial investment has helped transform the castle into a luxury wedding, hospitality and events destination, complete with restaurant facilities, while giving the Grade I-listed landmark a new commercial future.

The restoration has also brought renewed attention to Lympne and the surrounding area, attracting visitors and supporting the wider local hospitality and tourism economy.

However, with the castle's growing popularity comes the practical challenge of accommodating visitors and staff without placing unnecessary pressure on the village's narrow roads.

The new application seeks to address precisely that issue.

Rather than constructing a permanent car park, the owners are proposing to make better use of land already available to them. Planning documents prepared by Daniel Watney Partnership explain that the application would simply extend the number of days the field can lawfully be used for parking.

No permanent development is proposed, allowing the land to retain its open, green appearance throughout the year. The planning statement argues that the arrangement would complement the castle's role as an events venue while helping to minimise disruption to nearby residents.

Cinemarsh

Ebenezer 12A

Tuesday 24th November 11:00am 2:30pm 7:15pm
Wednesday 25th November 11:00am 2:30pm 7:15pm
Thursday 26th November 11:00am 2:30pm 7:15pm

The Hunger Games- Sunrise on the Reaping 12A

Friday 27th November 11:00am 2:30pm 7:00pm
Saturday 28th November 11:00am 2:30pm 7:00pm
Sunday 29th November 11:00am 2:30pm
Monday 30th November 11:00am 2:30pm
Tuesday 1st December 11:00am 2:30pm 7:00pm
Wednesday 2nd December 11:00am 2:30pm 7:15pm
Thursday 3rd December 11:00am 2:30pm 7:00pm
Friday 4th December 2:30pm
Saturday 5th December 11:00am 7:00pm
Sunday 6th December 2:30pm
Monday 7th December 11:00am
Tuesday 8th December 2:30pm
Wednesday 9th December 11:00am
Thursday 10th December 2:30pm 7:00pm

Disney's Hexed PG

Friday 11th December 4:15pm
Saturday 12th December 9:45am 1:00pm 4:00pm
Sunday 13th December 11:00am
Tuesday 15th December 11:00am
Wednesday 16th December 2:30pm
Thursday 17th December 2:30pm







It also highlights the importance of providing safe, convenient off-street parking during weddings and larger events. Under the proposed arrangements, vehicle movements would be directed towards Aldington Road rather than the narrower sections of The Street and Castle Close, helping to reduce congestion in sensitive parts of the village.

The applicants believe this offers a sensible balance between supporting the castle's continued success and respecting the character of the surrounding community.

One particularly positive aspect of the revised proposal is that the parking area would not be reserved exclusively for castle visitors. The field could also provide valuable overflow parking for people attending events at Lympne Village Hall.

The village hall's existing paved car park is available throughout the year but can become full during busy periods.

The castle already makes its field available to villagers when additional spaces are required, although this currently counts towards the permitted 28 days of annual use. Increasing that allowance to 90 days would provide greater flexibility for community activities and events, potentially making the village hall an even more attractive venue.

A spokesperson for Lympne Castle explained that the owners remain committed to managing parking responsibly and working to accommodate the needs of the wider community.The castle also provides parking elsewhere within its grounds, including areas used by churchgoers and members of the public.

The revised application follows feedback on the earlier, more extensive parking scheme. That proposal included permanent surfacing and lighting, prompting concerns about the visual impact on the historic village.

The latest plans take a different approach, focusing on occasional use of the existing field rather than permanent construction.

By retaining the grassed surface and avoiding additional infrastructure, the applicants hope to demonstrate that practical parking arrangements can be achieved without compromising the area's attractive rural surroundings.

The planning documents also maintain that previous use of the field for parking has not resulted in any unacceptable impacts being reported to the applicants.

Although an objection has been submitted to the new application, the revised approach gives councillors an opportunity to consider a less intensive solution to the parking challenges associated with a successful heritage attraction.

Lympne Castle's transformation has attracted considerable attention, including through the reality television series Queen of the Castle, which follows the Mulhollands' ambitious restoration project.

Their investment has helped breathe new life into one of the district's most distinctive historic buildings, demonstrating how privately funded restoration can help safeguard important heritage assets for future generations.The challenge now is to ensure that the castle can continue to operate successfully while maintaining a positive relationship with the village around it.

With tourism, weddings and hospitality contributing to the local economy, suitable parking provision is an important part of ensuring that visitors can enjoy the area without creating unnecessary inconvenience for residents.

The latest proposal offers a potentially straightforward compromise: additional parking when it is needed, continued community access and no permanent alteration to the field. Folkestone and Hythe District Council will consider the application through the normal planning process, with a decision expected later this year.

For Lympne Castle and the surrounding community, the hope is that this revised scheme will provide a practical way forward, supporting both the continued revival of a historic landmark and the everyday needs of the village.





T SMITH
ROOFING & BUILDING
ALL ASPECTS OF ROOFING RENEWALS & REPAIRS
Slate & Tile Roofs Flat Roofing Systems
Lead Work Chimney Repointing Moss Removal
Guttering Fascias & Soffits uPVC Cladding
PLUS ALL ASPECTS OF BUILDING WORK
Free Quotations Reliable Local Service Fully Insured
Tel: 07512 697872 or 01303 684121
Email: tommy_smith73@yahoo.com

Editor's Word



David Wimble

Well, as you read this latest edition of The Looker, Sarah and I will hopefully be somewhere at sea aboard Saga's lovely Spirit of Adventure, enjoying a two-week cruise to celebrate our first wedding anniversary!

Yes, one whole year of married life! They said it wouldn't last, but here we are, still going strong. Personally, I think Sarah deserves a medal, although she might argue that a year with me deserves considerably more!

Of course, anyone thinking I have finally learnt the art of switching off will be disappointed. I can assure you I'm already working on the next edition, desperately trying to get ahead so I might actually enjoy a proper holiday without worrying about deadlines.

I did have a slight panic last week when the Microsoft outage left me staring at a blank screen, wondering where all my work had gone! It inspired our front-page article asking whether we have become far too reliant on the internet and cloud-based technology.

When computers go down, businesses stop, council meetings are cancelled and even banking becomes a problem. Perhaps we really should think about having some good old-fashioned backup systems!

And that brings me neatly back to The Looker. There's something reassuring about a proper newspaper you can pick up and read without Wi-Fi, passwords, batteries or being told you need another software update!

After 18 years of publishing, I still love hearing people say they have kept every single edition. That's 18 years of local history, photographs and memories. Try doing that with Facebook!

Anyway, when we return, Christmas will be just around the corner. Where on earth has this year gone?

You'll already notice plenty of festive adverts and some wonderful local places to eat, drink and celebrate. Please do support our local businesses whenever you can. They are what keep our towns and villages alive, and they need our support more than ever.

So enjoy this edition, and I really must go. There's a suitcase to pack, a wife to spoil and some suntan cream to find!

And if anyone from the office is reading this, please remember one thing I am supposed to be on holiday!

See you next time!

David

MARSH ALLOYS
Unit 12 Adams Court Mountfield Road, New Romney, Kent. TN28 8LH
'The One Stop Wheel Shop'
Wheel Straightening
Wheel Spraying
Wheel Welding
Any Style Any Colour
07581 169516

ELECTRICIAN
SMALL WORKS TO COMPLETE REWIRING
HOUSES • FLATS • SHOPS • ETC.
CERTIFICATES ISSUED
FREE ADVICE
CALL 07961 337 310

Sympathy Tributes
Corporate Arrangements
Events
MATTERS 2 YOU
Making every occasion truly special
01797 367252 07908 467443
Email: info@matters2you.co.uk
24 High St, New Romney, Kent. TN28 8BY

MATTERS 2 YOU
CARDS - BANNERS
BALLOONS - CANDLES
CAKE TOPPERS
PARTY POPPERS
BALLOON ARCHES
TABLE DECOR
24 HIGH ST, NEW ROMNEY
KENT. TN28 8BY
tel. 01797 367252
07908 467443
Email: info@matters2you.co.uk
WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAGIC MEMORIES

ABACUS WINDOWS UPVC LTD

With over 20 years' experience

- WINDOWS
- COLOURED DOORS
- BIFOLD DOORS
- CONSERVATORIES
- FASCIAS &SOFFITS
- COLOURED CLADDING
- SKY PODS





MISTED &BROKEN SEALED UNITS
REPLACEMENT SERVICE

Contact Neil
Tel:07900 958130

FENSA
Registered Company
10 YEAR INSURANCE BACKED GUARANTEE



Professional Garden Services

For Residential and Commercial Property's

BUSYBEE LANDSCAPES

Complete Garden Care & Maintenance

- Grass Cutting & Lawn Care
- Hedge Cutting & Shaping
- Weeding & Garden Tidy-Ups
- One-Off Cutbacks
- Pruning & Plant Care
- Leaf Clearance & Seasonal Work
- Regular Maintenance Plans (Weekly, Fortnightly or Monthly)

Bee Happy-Give Busybees a Buzz! T: 07932 564062

email: busybeelandscapes@yahoo.com
www.busybeelandscapes.co.uk



Robson & Co Solicitors

Legal Expertise
In Hythe & Ashford

Conveyancing | Wills & Probate | Family Law
Commercial | Criminal Advice | Mediation

Get legal Advice from a team you can trust

Get in touch with Robson & Co Solicitors of Hythe and Ashford today.

Call: 01233 228800 | 01303 264581

Robson & Co Solicitors, 147 High Street, Hythe, CT21 5J
e: post@robson-co.co.uk | www.robson-co.co.uk

Firmager Funeral Service Ltd.

A friendly voice at a difficult time



24 hour service	Eco funerals available
Prepaid funeral plans	Private Chapel of Rest
Home Visits	Monumental Mason

OWEN HOUSE, Fairfield Road,
New Romney, Kent TN28 8HS
Plenty of off road parking available

To Speak to Helen or Ashley
Telephone: 01797 369277
Email:firmager@funeralpartners.co.uk

www.firmagerfuneralservice.co.uk

National Association of Funeral Directors



Spotlight on Beaver Scouts

TRIPLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS + 44 years of Awesome Adventure in New Romney!



You may be aware Scouting has been celebrating some special birthdays this year – Cubs are 110, Beavers officially 40 and Squirrels 5. The finale to our Celebration Year is THE BIGGEST BIRTHDAY PARTY at the end of November . . . it promises to be ONE BIG BLAST!! Every Squirrel, Beaver and Cub on Romney Marsh will be there, all our current Leaders and some of our former Leaders. . . This article focuses on Then and Now – our Beaver memories – Why Spotlight Beavers? Romney Marsh had the first Beaver Colony in Kent in 1982 @ New Romney – at the time they were Beavers – it wasn't until 1986 they became Beaver Scouts!!



The original idea for the New Romney Colony in 1982 was down to 2 people: Group Scout Leader, Eddie Holtum, and Cub Scout Leader, Kathy Blanc. Beaver Leader Kathy, aka Willow, recalls:



I was a Cub Leader and Alec, my husband, was Scout Leader. Eddie, our Group Scout Leader, had come to the house and one of us mentioned that Scouting was thinking of starting Beavers. I said I would love to have them in the group, so we started to get organised. As I taught that age it was easy to discuss it with the boys – no girls then!! – at school. We had everything organised and ready to go the minute Scout HQ gave the go ahead for Beavers to begin. Kathy was joined by Leaders, June Trengove; Maureen Hutchens and Joyce Brown. Looking at the photos I now think it was about the 21st October 1982. Leaders names – I thought about being names that helped Mowgli so chose trees that helped Beavers exist – therefore Willow, Birch, Poplar, Ash, Aspen – always called Aspirin!!



From 1982, Beavers were gradually introduced throughout the rest of the UK with a uniform of grey jumper, turquoise necker, maroon woggle and optional grey tracksuit bottoms. The Section officially became part of The Scout Association and the World Scout Organisation on 1st April 1986. By the time Beavers was officially launched in 1986, there were over 60,000 Beaver Scouts in the UK.



Fun facts about Beavers in the early days:-

Can you believe it's been 40 years since Beaver Scouts officially became part of The Scout Association in the UK? In 1986, Beavers were made a full Scout section — and the adventure began for thousands of busy, bright little explorers!

Uniform throwback time! Did you know? Beaver Scouts Didn't Always Wear Blue!

When Beaver Scouts first spread across the UK in the early 80s, their uniform was a cosy grey jumper with a turquoise necker and a maroon woggle — very stylish.



Over the years, there have been fun updates: In 1990, Beavers were finally allowed to rock their group's own neckerchief colour instead of the standard turquoise - that's team pride!

In 1991, girls were welcomed into the section for the first time making Beavers even more amazing!

Today our awesome adventurers proudly wear their light blue sweatshirts with their proudly earned badges and colourful scarves ready for every challenge and good turn!

Here's to 40 years of fun, friendship, and fantastic beaver-powered memories!

Janet Thomas, current Romney Marsh District Lead stated we are extremely proud of our Squirrels, Beaver and Cubs. Over the years, thousands of Romney Marsh youngsters have been involved in the Scouting Adventure, it has been an honour and privilege to work with them and our marvellous team of adult volunteers and supporters -

Happy Triple Birthday Romney Marsh Squirrels, Beavers & Cubs







Dungeness RNLI Heroes Honour the Fallen at National Cenotaph Service



Two dedicated lifeboat volunteers proudly represented Dungeness RNLI at the National Service of Remembrance in London, marking an especially poignant moment in the station’s 200-year history of saving lives at sea

Mark Richardson and Terry Ashford alongside fellow RNLI volunteers at the Cenotaph in London. Picture: RNLI/Terry Ashford.Two long-serving volunteers from Dungeness RNLI were given the honour of representing the lifeboat charity at one of the country's most significant national ceremonies on Sunday, 8 November, as Britain came together to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

Volunteer Coxswain Mark Richardson and Navigator Terry Ashford travelled to London to take part in the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, joining representatives of the Armed Forces, emergency services, veterans' organisations and voluntary groups from across the United Kingdom.

For the two Dungeness volunteers, the occasion carried particular significance, coming during the station's remarkable 200th anniversary year.

Founded in 1826, Dungeness Lifeboat Station has witnessed two centuries of extraordinary maritime history, from the days of sail-powered rescue boats to today's modern, highly sophisticated all-weather lifeboats.

Throughout those 200 years, one thing has remained unchanged: the determination of ordinary men and women to put their own lives at risk to save others.

And on Remembrance Sunday, that tradition of courage and selfless service was recognised on the national stage.

During the solemn ceremony, Mark Richardson laid a wreath on behalf of the RNLI, paying tribute to those who lost their lives in conflict and reflecting on the sacrifices made by generations of servicemen and women.

But while Mark was representing the charity in the capital, another member of the Richardson family was carrying out an equally important duty closer to home.

His brother, fellow volunteer Coxswain Stuart Richardson, was laying a wreath at the Remembrance Service in Lydd, continuing the family's longstanding involvement in both the lifeboat station and the local community.

The Richardson name has been closely associated with Dungeness RNLI for many years, with generations of the family helping to maintain the station's proud lifesaving traditions.

For Mark, knowing that his brother was simultaneously honouring the fallen back on Romney Marsh made the national occasion even more special.

Speaking after the ceremony, Mark said:"It was a great privilege to represent the RNLI and Dungeness RNLI at such an important national event. Remembrance is an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many, and I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the charity during our station's 200th anniversary year.

"Knowing that my brother Stuart was representing our local community in Lydd at the same time made the occasion especially meaningful for our family."

Fellow volunteer Terry Ashford described the service as a moving experience and an opportunity to reflect on the values shared by those who serve their country and those who volunteer to protect lives at sea.

"Dungeness RNLI has a long and proud history stretching back two centuries, and it was an honour to represent the station at the Cenotaph.

"The service was a poignant reminder of the importance of service and dedication, values that continue to be reflected by RNLI volunteers today."

From Dungeness to Dunkirk a remarkable wartime story
The connection between Dungeness RNLI and Britain's wartime history runs far deeper than ceremonial remembrance.

In fact, one of the most remarkable chapters in the station's 200-year history took place during the darkest days of the Second World War.

In May 1940, as German forces advanced across Europe, hundreds of thousands of Allied servicemen found themselves trapped on the beaches and harbour at Dunkirk.

Operation Dynamo, which took place between 26 May and 4 June 1940, saw a vast flotilla of naval vessels, merchant ships, fishing boats and smaller civilian craft mobilised to bring stranded troops home across the English Channel.

Among those answering the call were 19 RNLI lifeboats.One of them was Dungeness's own Charles Cooper Henderson. The lifeboat had been stationed at Dungeness since 1933 and was requisitioned to take part in the evacuation.

Leaving the familiar waters off Romney Marsh behind, she crossed the Channel to assist in the enormous rescue effort. It was a dangerous undertaking. The waters around Dunkirk were threatened by enemy aircraft, artillery and naval attack, while overcrowded beaches, smoke and confusion made the evacuation exceptionally hazardous.

Yet the lifeboat crews, accustomed to launching into treacherous seas to rescue those in distress, were uniquely suited to the challenge.

By the time Operation Dynamo ended, more than 338,000 Allied troops had been evacuated from Dunkirk. The involvement of Charles Cooper Henderson ensured that Dungeness Lifeboat Station would forever have its own place in this extraordinary chapter of British history.

For the people of Romney Marsh, it remains a powerful reminder that their local lifeboat station played a part in an operation that helped shape the outcome of the war.

Dungeness RNLI's bicentenary celebrations throughout 2026

have provided an opportunity to reflect on the extraordinary changes witnessed by the station since its foundation.

In the early nineteenth century, the waters surrounding Dungeness were among the busiest and most hazardous shipping routes in the world. The exposed coastline, shifting banks and unpredictable weather presented constant dangers to vessels navigating the English Channel.

Lifeboat crews relied on physical strength, seamanship and considerable bravery, often launching boats through heavy surf in conditions that would challenge even today's experienced mariners.

Over the decades, lifeboat technology has changed beyond recognition. Modern rescue craft benefit from powerful engines, advanced navigation equipment, sophisticated communications and extensive crew training. But the fundamental principle remains the same.

When the call for help comes, volunteer crews leave their families, their workplaces and the safety of dry land to assist people they have often never met.

They do so without knowing who needs rescuing, what circumstances they will encounter or what dangers may lie ahead.

It is a tradition of service that has been passed down through generations of Dungeness families, including the Richardsons, and remains at the heart of the station today. Remembering those who served and those who continue to serve

Remembrance Sunday is, above all, an occasion to honour the men and women who lost their lives in war and conflict.



However, it is also a moment to reflect on the wider meaning of service, sacrifice and duty. For coastal communities such as Dungeness, Lydd and the wider Romney Marsh, those values are particularly familiar.

The area's close association with the sea, its wartime history and its generations of lifeboat volunteers have helped create a strong tradition of public service.

From the crews who answered the call during the Dunkirk evacuation to the volunteers who continue to respond to maritime emergencies today, the willingness to help others remains a defining characteristic of the RNLI.

As Dungeness Lifeboat Station celebrates its 200th anniversary, the presence of Mark Richardson and Terry Ashford at the Cenotaph was therefore about more than representing a local lifeboat station.

It was an opportunity to honour two centuries of courage, remember those who gave their lives in the service of their country and recognise the generations of lifeboat volunteers who have served the communities of Romney Marsh and beyond.

And while the national ceremony took place beneath the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the simultaneous laying of a wreath by Stuart Richardson in Lydd provided a fitting reminder of the enduring connection between national remembrance and local community service.

Two brothers, two wreaths, two ceremonies united by remembrance, family tradition and a shared commitment to serving others.

For Dungeness RNLI, in its historic bicentenary year, it was a proud and deeply moving occasion.

MARSH
INSURANCE SERVICES
Station Road, New Romney, Kent TN28 8LG
Your local insurance specialists
HOME
MOTOR
BUSINESS
Insurance with a Personal Touch
Your local, independent insurance broker, providing friendly, professional advice and insurance solutions tailored to your needs.
Local people.
Local knowledge.
Personal service.
01797 362007
Pop in and speak to our friendly team.
Station Road, New Romney
www.marshinsuranceservices.co.uk
We are Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under firm reference 474741 to arrange general insurance contracts. Marsh Insurance Services is a trading name of Marsh Insurance Services (Kent) Ltd. Company Registration No. 6317784. Marsh Insurance Services (Kent) Ltd is a **credit broker, not a lender**, and may introduce customers to a limited number of finance providers to arrange premium finance. We do not charge a fee for credit broking services unless otherwise disclosed.

Bringing Empty Buildings Back to Life Across Kent

Kent County Council’s successful No Use Empty scheme has invested more than £50 million in bringing redundant and derelict buildings back into productive use, helping to regenerate town centres, create new homes and provide much-needed commercial and retail space.

The long-running initiative has played an important role in transforming neglected properties across Kent, supporting developers and property owners to breathe new life into buildings that might otherwise remain empty for years.

Through financial assistance and partnership working, the scheme has helped unlock redevelopment opportunities, converting former commercial premises, redundant offices and other disused buildings into residential accommodation, business units and retail facilities.

Unlike schemes that concentrate solely on housing, No Use Empty recognises the importance of creating a balanced mix of residential, commercial and employment opportunities to support the long-term future of Kent's towns and communities.

In Folkestone and Hythe, the programme has supported a number of regeneration projects, including the redevelopment of the former Royal Victoria Hospital and the conversion of a substantial building close to Lidl in Folkestone into smaller residential flats.

Meanwhile, on Romney Marsh, investment in new commercial premises is helping to provide opportunities for local businesses to establish themselves and expand.

Following the development of new industrial units at Mountfield Road in New Romney, plans for a second phase involving a further 16 units demonstrate the continuing demand for modern, affordable business accommodation in the area.

Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Special Projects, Cllr David Wimble, said: "One of the greatest challenges facing our high streets and town centres is the number of buildings that have been left empty, sometimes for decades, while there is an increasing demand for homes, shops, workshops and business premises. Kent County Council's No Use Empty scheme has demonstrated what can be achieved when local government works with the private sector to unlock the potential of existing buildings. With more than £50 million invested through the programme, we have seen former hospitals, redundant commercial premises and neglected properties transformed into places where people can live, work and establish businesses. At a time when many councils have reduced or withdrawn funding from similar regeneration initiatives, Kent County Council, under Reform UK, remains committed to making the most of the buildings and infrastructure we already have. "Why should we allow perfectly good buildings to deteriorate while developers are encouraged to build on more greenfield land?"Surely it makes far more sense to bring existing buildings back into use, regenerate our town centres and protect our countryside wherever possible.



"In Folkestone, we have seen the transformation of the former Royal Victoria Hospital and other redundant properties into much-needed accommodation.

"On Romney Marsh, we are also seeing the benefits of investment in modern industrial and commercial premises, including the development at Mountfield Road, with a further 16 units planned for the next phase.

"These are exactly the sorts of projects we should be encouraging. They support local employment, attract investment, help smaller businesses grow and make better use of land that has already been developed.

"Regeneration is not simply about building more houses. It is about creating sustainable communities where people have somewhere to live, somewhere to work and access to thriving local shops and services.

"That is why I believe the No Use Empty programme is such an important part of Kent County Council's economic development strategy."

The council's approach also supports wider efforts to revitalise Kent's high streets by encouraging investment in underused properties and helping to restore confidence in town centres.

With continued pressure on housing supply, growing demand for smaller commercial premises and concerns about the loss of agricultural land to development, the reuse of existing buildings offers an increasingly attractive alternative.

Cllr Wimble added: "Under Reform UK, our message is straightforward. Before we start building on more of Kent's countryside, we should be looking at what we already have.an empty building is a wasted opportunity. It could become someone's home, a new business, a workshop employing local people or a shop bringing customers back to the high street. That is what sensible economic development should be about investment, regeneration, jobs and making the most of Kent's existing assets.No Use Empty is not just the name of a scheme. It is a common-sense approach to regeneration that delivers real results for Kent."

Police issue urgent Dashcam appeal following collision involving emergency vehicle on A259 in Hythe



Police are urging motorists to check their dashcam footage following a collision involving an unmarked police vehicle responding to an emergency and a van on the A259 Dymchurch Road in Hythe.

The incident happened at approximately 8am on Friday, November 13, near the Aldi supermarket.

A white Toyota Corolla estate, being driven by police officers responding to an emergency call with its blue lights activated, was involved in a collision with a grey Peugeot Partner van.

Kent Police confirmed that two officers travelling in the police vehicle and the driver of the van sustained minor injuries.One police constable and the van driver were taken to a local hospital for further medical assessment.

Officers from Kent Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit (SCIU) are investigating the circumstances surrounding the collision and are appealing for witnesses and dashcam footage.

Motorists urged to check dashcam recordings. Anyone who was driving along the A259 Dymchurch Road, particularly near the Aldi supermarket, at around 8am on Friday is being urged to check their dashcam recordings, even if they did not witness the collision itself. Footage captured in the moments leading up to or immediately after the crash could provide investigators with important information about the movements of the vehicles involved and help establish exactly what happened.

Police are keen to hear from anyone who may have recorded either vehicle approaching the scene, as well as motorists travelling in either direction along the A259 at the time.

Drivers are encouraged not to assume their footage is irrelevant simply because they did not see the actual impact. Recordings showing traffic conditions, vehicle movements or the immediate aftermath could potentially assist the investigation.

Anyone with relevant footage is asked to preserve the original recording and contact officers rather than deleting or overwriting it.

Anyone who witnessed the collision, has dashcam footage or holds information that could assist the investigation should contact Kent Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 01622 798538.

Alternatively, information can be emailed to sciu.td@kent.police.uk. Please quote reference XX/HG/092/26 when contacting police.

Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers

November meeting 2026



Our November Meeting was introduced by Sharon our Chairman Our Demonstrator was called Helen Hare. The title of her Demonstration was Christmas Celebrations. Helen has many floral talents and is well known for her glamorous designs and strong choice of colour in her floral arts and we were not disappointed. Helen had put a lot of work into the preparation in the structure and shape of the designs. There was colour red in the shape of a sleigh, Christmas baubles filled with exotic flowers traditional green and red design and a wonderful tropical design. Helen takes workshops, and was able to talk to members and show her skills and passion for floral art. How fortunate we were to learn information from her in readiness for making our own floral designs for Christmas.

A Diary Date for 2027.

Members and visitors are welcome to join us on 13th January to see a Demonstration, by Pauline Pearce entitled *"A colour Wheel of Memory"*. For further information please contact Sally on 01797 366735

Our meetings are held at St. Mary's Village Hall, Jefferstone Lane.

TN29 0SW on the second Wednesday of each month. Doors open 1.30 for 2pm start.







Has the Green–Liberal Democrat Coalition Left Folkestone & Hythe District Council Facing a Financial Crisis?

Dear Editor,
I believe the residents of Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh deserve some very straight answers about the way their district council has been run under the Green–Liberal Democrat coalition.

Recent reports published on a local website have raised some extremely worrying questions about the financial management of Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC).

According to those reports, the council has spent millions of pounds from its financial reserves, allegedly in the belief that, with Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon, the money would not have to be replaced.

If that is indeed the case, I find it absolutely astonishing. Council reserves are not some bottomless pot of money to be spent simply because those responsible believe the council might eventually cease to exist in its present form. They are public funds, built up to protect essential services, manage unexpected expenditure and safeguard the financial future of the district.

Even more alarming are reported comments attributed to a member of the council's own Cabinet, suggesting they would not be standing for re-election because the authority was on the verge of bankruptcy and would face such severe financial cuts that they wanted no part of what was coming.

If those comments have been accurately reported, surely the public deserves to know precisely what is going on.

Are we seriously being told that members of the administration responsible for managing the council's finances are now contemplating walking away because of the financial consequences of decisions taken under their own leadership?

What an extraordinary position to find ourselves in. For years, residents have been told about the importance of financial responsibility, difficult decisions and the need to balance the books. Yet we now have reports suggesting that millions in reserves may have been used while senior political figures allegedly fear the council is approaching a financial cliff edge.

So I have some very simple questions for the Green–Liberal Democrat administration.

How much money was held in council reserves when this coalition took control, and how much remains today?

How much has been spent, what has it been spent on, and what plans are in place to replenish those reserves? Was any spending authorised on the assumption that Local Government Reorganisation would remove the need to restore the council's financial position?

And perhaps most importantly, are residents facing significant cuts to services, increased charges or other financial consequences because of decisions made by the current administration? These are not unreasonable questions. They are questions that every council taxpayer in this district has a right to ask.

If the reports are inaccurate, the council should come forward immediately with the figures and demonstrate that its finances are sound.

If they are accurate, then those responsible need to explain how the authority reached this position and what they intend to do about it.

There is also a wider issue of political accountability. It is all very well for politicians to enjoy the privilege of holding office, making decisions and announcing spending commitments. But leadership also means taking responsibility when the financial outlook becomes difficult.

You cannot simply spend the money, blame circumstances and then decide not to stand again when the consequences arrive. With district council elections approaching in May 2027, I believe residents should be given a full, transparent and independently verifiable account of the council's financial position well before they go to the ballot box.

We need facts, not political spin. We need published figures, not reassurances. And above all, we need to know whether the services upon which our communities depend are financially secure.

The people of Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh deserve to know whether their council has been responsibly managed or whether they are about to inherit the bill for years of political mismanagement.

The Green–Liberal Democrat administration has an opportunity to put these concerns to rest.

I suggest it starts by opening the books and answering the questions.

Yours faithfully,
Daniel Preston
A Concerned Council Taxpayer

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICE



Bathroom Suites
Blockages & Burst Pipes
Taps
Ball Valves
Hot & Cold Tanks
Installations

Repairs
Pumps & Radiators
Specialist Power Flushing & De- Scaling Service

NO CALL OUT CHARGES FREE ESTIMATES
O.A.P DISCOUNTS ALL WORK GUARANTEED

NO JOB TOO SMALL
Call Noel: 07711 66 66 56

Dear Looker,

I am planning to publish a booklet on Old Romney where I used to live and have interviewed a local resident who gave me many stories about the village, many of which I never knew about. My aim is to ask readers of The Looker for any further information, and I am particularly interested in photographs of the old Post Office, the garage, the bunker, 'Rose & Crown' or the village hall. I have photos of the 1962 film 'Captain Clegg', starring Peter Cushing, which was filmed in and around the village.

Perhaps someone has such photos or old documents that I could borrow. Old Romney, being so small, seems to have been overlooked. My phone number is 01797-320206.

Thank-you,

Mark Newson,

Lydd-on-Sea.

Hi The Looker,
I just love The Rant each fortnight.

I am old and on my own and read the articles appearing in The Rant and laugh out loud. You really must have an outlandish sense of humour.

Please keep up the good work, we all need a giggle a day.
Best Wishes

Christine
OAP New Romney

Dear Editor,
I know that you have previously raised questions about the Green Party's position on Israel, but I believe there is a question that the leader of Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Councillor Jim Martin, needs to answer publicly.

As a Jewish resident of Hythe, I voted Green at the last district council elections. I did so because I genuinely care about the environment, protecting our countryside and preserving the area for future generations.

However, I have become increasingly concerned about the direction of the Green Party nationally, particularly its position on Israel and Palestine.

Does Councillor Martin support his party's national policies concerning Israel, and does he believe Israel should continue to exist as a Jewish state?

I fully recognise the rights of Palestinians and the importance of finding a peaceful solution to this terrible conflict. But I also believe that the Jewish people have a right to self-determination and security in their historic homeland.

As a Jewish voter, I find some of the rhetoric surrounding this debate deeply troubling. I would particularly welcome clarification about how the Green Party distinguishes legitimate criticism of the Israeli government from antisemitism.

Closer to home, I was also disappointed to see Councillor Martin supporting the proposal for Folkestone and Hythe to become a District of Sanctuary.

While compassion towards those fleeing persecution is important, I would like to know how the council intends to balance such commitments with its responsibilities towards existing residents, particularly when local services and council finances are under pressure.

I voted Green because I wanted a council focused on environmental protection, our coastline, countryside, local services and the future of our district.

Before the next district council elections, I believe Councillor Martin should make his position absolutely clear.

Does he personally support the Green Party's national stance on Israel? Does he believe Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish state? And where does he draw the line between supporting Palestinian rights and tolerating antisemitism?

These are reasonable questions for an elected political leader, and I hope he will answer them openly.

Yours faithfully,

Eitan Friedman
A Jewish Resident of Hythe

Dear Eitan,
I have personally asked Councillor Jim Martin on a number of occasions over the past few months to clarify his position on the Green Party's national policies concerning Israel and whether he supports them.

Interestingly, Councillor Martin is quite happy to send me messages when I question his attendance at meetings or raise other matters concerning his role as a councillor.

However, when I ask him directly about the Green Party's position on Israel, the concerns about antisemitism and whether he personally supports those policies, the response appears to be silence.

I find that disappointing, particularly given the genuine concerns being expressed by members of our local Jewish community.

There is an important distinction between legitimate criticism of the Israeli government, support for Palestinian statehood and antisemitism. That is precisely why I believe Councillor Martin should explain where he and his party stand.

As the Green Party leader of Folkestone & Hythe District Council, surely it is not unreasonable to expect him to answer a straightforward question about his political beliefs and whether they align with his party's national policies.

I have asked the question repeatedly. I am still waiting for a clear answer.

Perhaps Councillor Martin will now take this opportunity to put his position on the public record?

David Wimble

Hythe High Street blooms with winter colour!

Hythe in Bloom volunteers bring a splash of colour to the High Street as the town prepares for winter

Hythe in Bloom operates under the auspices of Hythe Civic Society and is supported by a group of volunteers who plant the High Street troughs in summer and winter and who water them throughout the summer months.With the summer's colourful floral displays now behind us, Hythe in Bloom is delighted to be bringing a fresh burst of colour to Hythe High Street, ensuring that the town continues to look bright and welcoming throughout the winter months.

Thanks to the generous support of Hythe Town Council and local sponsors – Lawrence Estate Agent, H V Wooding Ltd and Charlier Construction and The Chocolate Deli and Beck Mobiles for contributions in kind – all the High Street planters have been refreshed and replanted with an attractive selection of winter bedding. Pansies and polyanthus – and, later, crocuses - have been carefully chosen to provide a mixture of colour, texture and interest, helping to brighten the streetscape during the colder months and giving residents and visitors something cheerful to enjoy throughout the winter.

The planting was carried out by a dedicated team of local volunteers, whose enthusiasm and commitment are at the heart of the Hythe in Bloom initiative. Their efforts demonstrate the wonderful community spirit that continues to make Hythe such a special place and reflect the group's ongoing commitment to keeping the town attractive and welcoming all year round.

Sally Chesters, organiser of Hythe in Bloom, said: "We have received so many compliments on the High Street troughs this summer, and we really want to keep that colour going throughout the winter months. The new planting will provide a lovely splash of colour and interest when the days are shorter and the weather is colder. We are so grateful to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy to help with the planting, and, of course, to our generous sponsors. Their support makes all this possible, and we simply could not do it without them. It is wonderful to see everyone working together to make Hythe look its very best."

The winter planting is another example of Hythe in Bloom's continuing efforts to enhance the town's environment and encourage pride in the local community. By working together with businesses, the Town Council and volunteers, Hythe in Bloom aims to ensure that Hythe remains a colourful and attractive destination in every season.



Photograph: Tony and Daria Keeler planting up outside St Michael's Church Centre





Stanley Tucci's Brodo Di Gallina Con Polpettine Di Pollo

An easy winter warmer from the heart of Italy.



Ingredients

Serves 4

- 1 garlic clove
- 8oz (230g) minced chicken
- 30g breadcrumbs
- 60g Pecorino Romano, grated
- 110g dry stelline pasta
- 1.9 litres organic chicken stock
- 6oz (170g) chicken breasts, poached and shredded
- 55g carrots, blanched and finely diced
- 30g celery, blanched and finely diced
- 80g onion, blanched and finely diced
- 100g Parmigiano Reggiano, grated
- Parsley
- 1 egg
- Fine sea salt, pepper

Method

Step One
Remove the grated cheeses from the fridge 30 minutes before cooking. In a large pasta pot, add 2l of water and 3g of salt and bring to a boil. While water comes to a boil, mince the garlic.

Step Two
In a mixing bowl, add ground chicken, egg, breadcrumbs, grated pecorino Romano cheese, and garlic; then add salt and pepper to taste. Using your hands, gently mix the ingredients until thoroughly combined.

Step Three
Now cook the pasta: measure 110g of dry pasta and add to boiling water. Turn the heat down to a low boil and cook for 6 minutes, then drain. While this is cooking, dampen your hands and begin to roll the meat mixture into 1-2-inch balls and place on a tray.

Step Four
Pour the chicken stock into the soup pot, cover and bring to a simmer. Using a slotted spoon, poach the meatballs in the stock until they float to the surface and are cooked through; approximately 5 to 6 minutes.

Step Five
Bring the broth back to a simmer, add the shredded chicken breast, diced carrots, celery and onion so that they warm through for about 45 seconds.

Step Six
Divide the pasta among four warmed bowls. To warm, heat oven to 200°F/100°C and place oven-safe bowls inside for 10 minutes.

Step Seven
Finally, ladle soup over the pasta and garnish with grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese and parsley. Pass the remaining grated Parmigiano Reggiano around the table so guests can help themselves.

Dates for your Diary

Email your Dates for your Diary to: john@thelooker.co.uk

Wednesday 25th November
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)
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 26th November
Lydd Meeting Point, Hardy Hall, 10 a.m.
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 27th November
Friday Art Group, St Mary's Bay Village Hall, 1 p.m.
Brookland Meeting Point, Village Hall, 1.30 p.m. (4th Fri)
Social Ballroom Sequence Dancing, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday 28th November
Christmas Fayre, All Saints Church, Lydd, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Christmas Bazaar, St. Mary's Bay Church, 10 a.m.
Christmas Fayre, Romney Marsh Community Hub, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Monday 30th November
Dymchurch Meeting Point, Village Hall, 10 a.m.
Dance Moves, Burton Hall off Stade Street, Hythe, 11 a.m.
The Games Club, St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone, 2 p.m.

Tuesday 1st December
Pilates, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 10 a.m.
Greatstone Meeting Point, St. Peter's Hall, 10 a.m. (1st & 3rd Tue)
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 2nd December
Computer Club, Village Hall, St. Mary's Bay, 9.30 a.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 3rd December
Middlemarsh WI, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 9.45 a.m. (1st Thurs)
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 Short Mat Bowls, Village Hall, 6 p.m.

Friday 4th December
Friday Art Group, St Mary's Bay Village Hall, 1 p.m.
Christmas Quiz, Romney Marsh Community Hub, 6.30 p.m. (01797-363888)
Social Ballroom Sequence Dancing, St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday 5th December
Open Morning, Old School Trust, New Romney, 10 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sat)
Coffee Morning, Newchurch Church, 10.30 a.m. (1st Sat)
Christmas Concert, St. Mary's Bay Church, 4.30 p.m.

Sunday 6th December
Toy Service, St. Nicholas Church, New Romney, 11 a.m.

J Penfold-Driveways & Landscapes Ltd
Commercial & Domestic



Fast, friendly, and fully functional, our professional landscaping company is well renowned throughout the Romney Marsh area. We only use the highest quality materials, guaranteeing a first-class job!

Driveways | Paths | Patios | Artificial Grass | Turfing
Fencing | Brickwork | All Work Guaranteed

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

T: 01797 208403/07599 242382
www.jpenfold.co.uk

Striving to deliver an efficient, reliable and prompt service to my customers. We always stand behind our work, with customer satisfaction being our number one priority!





Festive Reasons to Dine

Celebrate the season with family and friends



Festive Dining

2 courses £34.95 | 3 courses £39.95

From Monday 23 November. Available all day, except 25 & 26 December and dinner on 31 December. Sun-Thu 12pm-9pm; Fri-Sat 12pm-9.30pm. T&Cs apply.



Festive Seniors' Lunch

2 courses £25.95 | 3 courses £29.95

Monday 23 November to Thursday 24 December. Monday-Friday, 12pm-3pm.



Boxing Day

3 courses £59.95 per person

Available 12pm-4pm and 5.30pm-9pm.



Traditional Afternoon Tea

£24.95 per person

Monday-Saturday, 12pm-4pm.
Sunday, 3pm-5pm.
Spoil yourself, your family and friends.



New Year's Eve Dinner

£114.95 per person

Dinner available from 6pm.
Disco from 9.30pm.



January 2027 Offer

50% OFF MAINS

2-29 January 2027.
Available on all main courses, excluding sharing and signature steaks. T&Cs apply.

The good neighbour.

By Dianne

Sylvie and I got on so well. We'd been good neighbours for about 10 years although she'd lived here long before me. I smile when I think of it now. Her little dog appeared in my garden regularly squeezing through a gap in the fence and introducing himself with a soft yap by the back door. She'd apologised profusely and we'd tried to block the gap - although really without too much conviction as I had grown fond of his presence. We began walking 'Dougie' together and the little dog cemented our happy friendship. When Dougie died, at a grand age I might add, Sylvie said she was getting too old for another dog so our walks turned into shopping trips and days out.

The cat adopted Sylvie really. Animals knew she was a soft touch. Bedraggled and skinny, begging for scraps - it didn't take long before she became part of Sylvie's home. We called her Bluebell as, in those early days, she'd lay in the bluebells waiting, and hoping, for food. Now she was plump, affectionate and content. When Sylvie was in hospital (just routine tests they said, some sort of heart flutter) I took on the feeding role and all was well. That's why it was such a tremendous shock when Sylvie never actually came home. She passed peacefully- a worn out heart that had spent a lifetime being kind. Sylvie's son and his wife cleared the house. I worried for Bluebell. This was her patch and I was used to her popping through 'Dougies hole'.

Bluebell's new home was about an hour away by car and in a much busier area but Sylvia's daughter in law assured me, in no uncertain terms, that she was a 'cat person' and Bluebell would be fine.

Several weeks passed and my new routine gradually took over. I missed Sylvies sharp wit, her humour and healthy debate on news issues and I didn't feel like going out so much. I even mastered the laptop and ordered my shopping online. Life wasn't so rich. It was okay, but I sometimes felt as though I were shrinking. On the morning it happened I was just staring out in to the garden thinking what to have for lunch…. I thought I was seeing things when a very dirty black and white cat came through 'Dougies hole'. It was Bluebell. Thin and shaky she curled into my arms. Of course I had no cat food but I did have ham and cheese which she ate with relish. I'd have to get her to the vet as her feet were sore and I'd have to contact Sylvie's son surely? When the vet scanned her microchip I was astonished to find that Sylvie had given my details as an alternative contact. The details hadn't been updated since she'd died so the vet was happy to send Bluebell back home with me. I didn't bother to try and trace Sylvie's family and no one



contacted me. It seemed I now owned a cat!

When the large brown envelope arrived I was rather worried! I didn't get much post and it looked very official. The solicitors letter inside asked that I contact them urgently. Dear, dear Sylvie had apparently left a very detailed will and a personal letter to me. Bluebell was gifted to me - along with £10,000 for 'our' upkeep. She also asked if I could try and keep ' Dougies hole' in fond memory of both the little dog, the cat and our friendship. Her words bought a lump to my throat.

She'd have been amazed to hear how Bluebell had made her way back - even now I don't know how she managed it.

Bluebell and I are still going strong. Most days she goes for a little wander through 'Dougies hole' and I pop to the local shops - I've ditched the online groceries. She knows the sound of my car and comes rushing back to greet me. My new neighbour likes cats too, and we sometimes have a coffee together. He liked the story of 'Dougie's hole' and has even strengthened it with a bit of wood. The other day he winked at me and called it The Tunnel of Love! He had a twinkle in his eye and I know I blushed! A little dog, a cat and now even a new friend- although he uses the front door! Funnily enough his name is Douglas. I bet that's made Sylvie smile…

Festive Coach Breaks...

CATHEDRAL LIGHTS & FESTIVE SIGHTS
Bath, Bristol & Gloucester Markets
FRI 11TH DECEMBER | 3 NIGHTS HALF-BOARD
FROM £355pp

FESTIVE LANCASHIRE - DINING WITH DISTINCTION
A stunning yuletide journey
TUE 24TH NOVEMBER | 3 NIGHTS HALF-BOARD
FROM £440pp


Roman Baths after dark


Bath Christmas Market


Gift Stalls at Bath Christmas Market


Christmas Lunch on the Railway


Excursion to Leighton Hall Estate

Celebrate the season with two wonderful festive coach breaks. Enjoy Lancashire's winter landscapes, historic Lancaster and a three-course Christmas lunch aboard the East Lancashire Railway, or discover the magical Christmas markets, cathedral lights and festive sights of Bath, Bristol and Gloucester.

CROSSKEYS

See the full programme of day trips and short breaks at:
01303 27 26 25 crosskeys.uk.com
Crosskeys Business Park, Caesars Way, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4AL

KENT MODEL EXCHANGE
Your one-stop model shop



WINTER OPENING
OPEN Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
10am - 4pm
CLOSED Sunday & Tuesday

Specialising in model railways
Also stocking Scalextric, model cars, boats & planes

We buy & sell pre-loved models
A huge collection of major brands including
Hornby • Bachmann • Airfix

10% OFF
your purchase with this advert
when you spend more than £50

Christmas Gift Vouchers
Available in £5, £10, £20 & £50

12 Brocade Court, Howey Road, New Romney TN28 8GN
Telephone 01303 762456

THE SALVATION ARMY HYTHE CORPS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Be a Star… Help Shine Hope in Our Community

This Christmas, one extra gift in your shopping basket could bring joy and hope to a local child. Hythe Salvation Army is inviting our community from Seabrook to Brenzett to donate new, unwrapped toys and gifts to its "***Be a Star" Christmas Present Appeal***.

The Appeal provides supplementary Christmas gifts for children whose families are experiencing severe financial hardship or a crisis.

Volunteer Christmas Present Appeal Coordinator Wendy Margott said: *"Christmas can bring added worry for families facing difficult times. By choosing just one extra gift, we can help shine hope in our community, bringing joy to a child and reminding their family that they are not forgotten. It's a simple act of kindness, but together we can make a real difference this Christmas."*

Bring a brand-new, unwrapped toy or gift to one of the following collection points by **Saturday 12 December 2026**:

Collection point **Opening times**

Age UK, Stade Street, Hythe

Monday–Friday, 10am–3pm

Hythe Bay Financial Ltd, 88 High Street, Hythe
Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm

Hythe Library, Stade Street, Hythe
Tuesday–Saturday, 9.30am–4.30pm

Hythe Salvation Army, Portland Road, Hythe
Wednesday, 10am–12 noon

Romney Marsh Community Hub, Rolfe Lane, New Romney
Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm

If you are short on time, you can still join in by making a financial donation through JustGiving or choosing a gift from the Amazon Wishlist. Both are available at https://linktr.ee/hythesa or by scanning the QR code on the appeal poster.

Local shops and businesses can help spread the word by displaying a poster, organising a workplace collection and encouraging colleagues, customers and visitors to get involved. The team can provide posters and help arrange collections.

Wendy added: "Our message this year is simple: **Be a Star – Help Shine Hope in Our Community.** The Christmas star led the way to Bethlehem and the hope of Jesus' birth. By sharing that hope, each donated gift can bring a little light to a child's Christmas and offer hope to a family facing difficult times."

Behind every gift is a community effort. Working with local schools, nurseries and organisations that refer families for support, Hythe Salvation Army volunteers will carefully sort donations and choose suitable gifts for the children.

Suggested gifts

- **0–3 years:** board books, stacking cups, shape sorters, age-labelled soft toys and chunky puzzles.
- **3–5 years:** dolls, toy vehicles, pretend-play sets, colouring sets, picture books and simple games.
- **5–9 years:** building sets, craft kits, board games, books, puzzles and drawing materials.
- **9–12 years:** creative kits, construction sets, card games, books, journals and sports gifts.
- **13–16 years:** art materials, journals, card games, books, clothing accessories and high-street gift cards.

The Christmas Present Appeal is part of Hythe Salvation Army's wider community support. Its food bank provides food and household essentials for people facing hardship, while the Community Hub opens every Wednesday morning for friendship, cake, games, practical support and a listening ear. Visitors can also be helped to connect with other services. Support for the wider Christmas Community Appeal stays local, helping sustain these services at Christmas and throughout the year.

The Salvation Army is a Christian church and charity that puts faith into action by offering friendship, practical help and support without discrimination.



DIAMOND
Est 2022
KÖZ

Diamond BBQ
TURKISH RESTAURANT

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

WITH THE DIAMOND RESTAURANTS

Two great venues • One festive experience

DIAMOND KÖZ

25 Wish Street, Rye

A large, stylish venue with over 100 seats plus a bar. Perfect for Christmas parties, work dos, family get-togethers and groups of all sizes.

DIAMOND BBQ

New Romney

Also taking Christmas bookings for parties and large groups.



FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU

FRESH BREAD BAKED DAILY BY OUR IN-HOUSE BAKER

BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY TODAY | GROUPS WELCOME | IDEAL FOR WORK PARTIES & FAMILY EVENTS

DIAMOND KÖZ – Open 11am to 11pm, seven days a week

TO BOOK

Diamond Köz: 01797 222205
Diamond BBQ: 01797 458130

Rotary in Review

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...SANTA SLEIGH ROUTES 2026

It's almost that time of year when the Rotary Club joins up with Santa to bring some festive cheer to the people of Romney Marsh. Listed below are our planned Santa sleigh routes for 2026.

Mon 30th November - LYDD ON SEA (Lade Car Pk, Williamson Rd, Toby Rd, Leonard Rd)

Tue 1st December - NEW ROMNEY (The Plough, Broadlands, Richmond Dr, new estate, Rolfe La)

Wed 2nd December - LITTLESTONE (Capt Howey, Queens Rd, St. Andrews Rd, St. Nicholas Rd)

Thu 3rd December - GREATSTONE (Coast Drive, Meehan, Adie, Hardy & Alfred Rds, Dunes Rd)

Fri 4th December - LYDD 1 (Poplar Lane, Harden Rd, Eastern Rd, Coronation Square)

Sat 5th December - N ROMNEY HIGH ST (Outside Rolfe's Hardware Shop 9.00am – 1.00pm)

Mon 7th December - DYMCHURCH (Wraightsfield Ave, Tudor Ave, Burmarsh Rd, Green Meadows)

Tue 8th December - ST. MARY'S BAY (Trees Estate, Laurel Ave, Jefferstone Lane, Village Hall)

Wed 9th December - VILLAGES (Old Romney, Brenzett, Brookland, St. Mary In The Marsh at 'The Star')

Thu 10th December- GREATSTONE (Jolly Fisherman, Merritt Rd, Roberts Rd, Seaview Rd)

Fri 11th December - LANTERN PARADE (High St (Cappelli's) approx 4.30pm, Parade from 6.30pm)

Mon 14th December - DYMCHURCH (Fire Station, Seabourne Way, Orgarswick Ave, Lyndhurst Rd)

Tue 15th December - VILLAGES (Ivychurch, Newchurch, Burmarsh)

Wed 16th December - ST. MARY'S BAY (Fairways Estate, Grassmere Estate, Taylors Lane)

Thu 17th December - No run – Rotary Club Christmas event

Fri 18th December - CHURCHLANDS (Churchland's Estate, Church Rd)

Sat 19th December - NEW ROMNEY SAINSBURY'S (In the car park 8.30am – 4.30pm)

Mon 21st December - LYDD (Morrisons, Vinelands, Derings, Green Way, Skinner Rd, Park St)

Please note that these are the intended routes but they may change without notice due to circumstances on the night such as bad weather or non-availability of drivers.

Café Plan for Folkestone's Former Bus Station



A planning application has been put forward to create a flexible retail or hospitality space on part of the ground floor of Folkestone's former Bouverie Square bus station building.

The application, to be considered by Folkestone & Hythe District Council as the local planning authority, details a "flexible mixed use" with the potential of being a café, restaurant and/or bar depending on the incoming operator.

The change of use is part of the wider Levelling Up Fund (LUF) regeneration work in Folkestone town centre. As well as improving the town centre road layout, this scheme includes returning Bouverie Square to its former life as a park and building a new children's play area.

Proposals for alterations to the red brick building include new doors and windows on the front of the building facing the park with a kitchen and storage on the other side.

The application states: "The proposal brings a vacant, partly boarded 1950s building back to life as the active edge of the new Bouverie Square. It keeps and reveals the building's mid-century character, supports the town centre, and protects neighbours' amenity."

The bus company Stagecoach would continue to use some of the ground floor and the first floor of the building.



Selected dates available in November & December for....

RH&DR

SANTA SPECIALS 2026

A CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE THE **WHOLE FAMILY** WILL TREASURE!







Travel behind a **historic miniature steam engine** from New Romney Station & journey to **meet Santa in his enchanting grotto**!

Children (aged 17 & under*) will receive a **quality, age-appropriate present** from Santa himself!

Enjoy **seasonal refreshments**, a **festive magician** & even the chance to **ride on Santa's sleigh**!

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

QUIET TRAIN
Saturday 28th November @ 14:20

*Under 1's go free without a gift



SCAN ME

RH&DR
ROMNEY, HYTHE & DYMCHURCH RAILWAY

Pre-book online now: www.rhdr.org.uk
call 01797 362353 or email info@rhdr.org



Marsh Memories

Compiled by John Wimble

The Avenue Garage, Littlestone

The Avenue Garage was on the corner of Littlestone Road and St. Andrew's Road and was built in the early 1930s. The first proprietor was Ray Carey and around 1945, it was acquired by Detective Inspector Walter Henry Thompson BEM of the Metropolitan Police. He had been Winston Churchill's bodyguard during the Second World War. During his time with Churchill, Walter Thompson had travelled over 200,000 miles and is reported to have saved Churchill's life on some 20 occasions, including times when Churchill's own foolhardiness exposed him to danger from shrapnel during the Blitz, plots by the IRA, Indian nationalists, Arab nationalists, Nazi agents, Greek Communists and the deranged. For his service in protection of Winston Churchill and to his country, Walter Thompson was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1945. Walter and his son ran the garage at Littlestone for some years and were Standard and Triumph agents, sold and repaired Fordson tractors and were also AA and RAC appointed. They advertised panel beating and painting done on the premises and also a full car service, day and night.

After a number of years, Walter and his son retired and they sold the business to David Coull in the mid-1950s. David soon obtained a Ford dealership, extended the side of the building and installed a modern workshop. As well as a busy car repairs and service garage, it was time of increasing car ownership, and they sold numerous new and used cars. A Fiat agency soon followed and together with Greatstone Garage, they were probably the largest and busiest garage in the area.

Through the years, members of the workshop staff included Joe Cooke, Pat O'Keefe, George Masey, John Harmer, Rodney Ansell, Bill Webb, Tim Clark, Paul & Roger



Hiscock, John Garske, Steve Aldridge, Jim Buck, Trevor Hicks and Ivan Holmes. In the front office at various times could be seen Judy Paterson, June Foord, Hilda Campbell, Peggy Dinsmore, Linda Hiscock and her twin sister Sue. Peter O'Neill was the salesman for many years. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, part of the side building on St. Andrew's Road was used by The Competition Car Development Company, which was owned by Mr. Thompson for overhauls, modifications and tuning.

David Coull died in 1968, and his wife Christiane ran the garage for a couple of years before it was taken over by another company run by Ian Woolley, a family friend from London who used to play golf with David Coull. This arrangement continued for a number of years with Peter O'Neill and John Harmer in charge until the garage was eventually purchased in the early 1980s by a company that had previously taken over Messrs. Checksfields of Dymchurch, and it was renamed Checksfields (New Romney) Ltd. Andrew Checksfield was in charge of the workshop during this time and they continued trading until around 1987 when the premises were demolished for redevelopment. A newcomer to the area travelling down Littlestone Road to the sea today would have no idea that a garage once existed half-way along the left-hand side of the road.

The photographs show the front of the garage and inside the workshops in the 1960s.



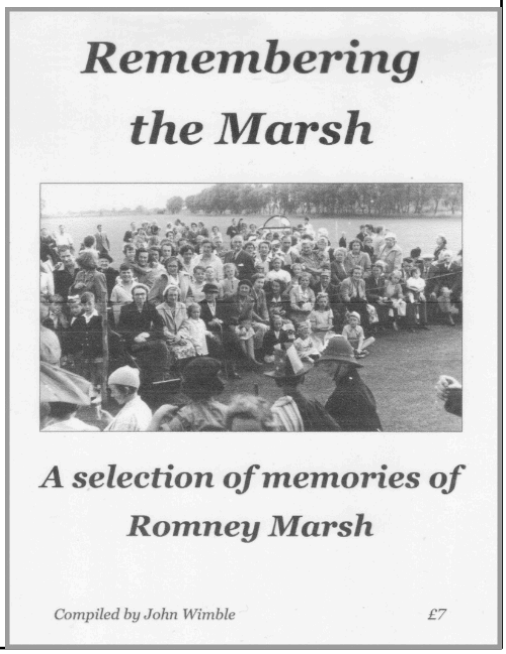
Just published

"Remembering the Marsh"

A selection of memories of Romney Marsh

A nostalgic look back on life on Romney Marsh over the past 100 years.

Contributions from over 90 local people. 180 pages - £7. An ideal Christmas present. Get your copy now from Foords, St. Mary's Bay, Premier High Street, New Romney, Romney Marsh Community Hub, New Romney, Sally Lyons, Lydd, Richardson's Fish Shop, Dungeness, Hub on the Beach, Greatstone or direct from John Wimble.



Police Update



Hello all

Just a quick message to say that we have been and will continue to disrupt the scourge that is Drug Supply across The Marsh.

This has been and will continue to be a team effort by us and our colleagues in the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

It is important to us that you the residents continue to give us information in relation to drug activity which is invaluable and we are extremely grateful for the information we receive. Please be reassured that you will be treated in the strictest confidence, you can email me or PC James Hockless or report via Crimestoppers.

We have been seizing drugs, cash and vehicles as a result and the offenders will be put through the Criminal Justice system.

13183@kent.police.uk (me)
13421@kent.police.uk (PC Hockless)

Thank you
Steve.

Derek Linch (Mot & Service) Ltd

Sycamore Farm, Old Romney, Kent. TN29 9SY

SERVICING - REPAIRS - WELDING

MOT'S on class I, II, IV and VII

All makes of NEW TYRES:

free fitting and balancing



Call:01797 367717 or 364466

www.romneymarshtyres.co.uk

Postcards From The Past



Two old photos of the Fleur de Lis, Brenzett.



Cinque Ports Arms
New Romney

Christmas Menu

Available 16th November to 22nd December

2 Courses £29 or 3 Courses £32

Children under 12 half price

Available Lunchtime and Evenings

STARTERS

Traditional Prawn Cocktail – Served with Fresh Lemon and Brown Bread & Butter (GF Available)

Chicken Goujons – Served with Sweet Chilli Sauce

Homemade Tomato & Basil Soup – Served with ½ a Crusty Baguette (GF Available)

Creamy Chicken & Liver Pate with Cognac – Served with Salad & Melba Toast

MAINS

Traditional Roast Turkey Crown or Roast Beef – Served with Home Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Winter Vegetables, Pigs in Blankets, Homemade Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing and Gravy (GF Available)

Homemade Vegetable En Croute – Served with Home Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Winter Vegetables & Redcurrant & Port Sauce

Chargrilled Steak – Served with Onion Rings, Mushrooms, Grilled Tomato, French Fries & Garlic Butter Side (GF Available) (£3 Supplement for this dish)

Homemade Salmon En Croute – Served with Home Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Winter Vegetables and a Hollandaise Sauce

DESSERTS

Strawberry & Raspberry Trifle

Homemade Apple & Cinnamon Crumble – Served with Fresh Double Cream or Custard

Traditional Christmas Pudding – Served with Fresh Double Cream or Custard

Mince Pies and Christmas Crackers included for the Table



Party Bookings Available

Contact us for Bookings

Telephone: 01797 361894

Email: info@cinqueportsarms.co.uk



Gardening

By Michael Gooch

The winter has really set in now, and opportunities for getting into the garden are getting rarer, so, when ever you can, make good use of your time. I still have a few bulbs to plant. I once heard Monty say that so long as you have a bit of winter left, bulbs can be planted any time. We have twice had an extension in various houses, that finished on Christmas eve. On both occasions I was desperate to plant some bulbs, after the builder's tosh had been removed. They came up late, but were fine! On one occasion, we had faithfully promised one son he would be in for Christmas, and he was. Bare plaster, woodwork and boards; but a bed in the room, and a mat to step out on. He put a note on the stairs, so Santa would know where he was!

Now that most of the leaves have fallen, you could start pruning fruit trees. It is a careful process, so you have to find out exactly what you are doing, so if you haven't got a little book, look up some knowhow on the internet. Even apple trees can be different, depending on their type. They are divided into A, B, and C. The popular cordons and step-overs trees are different again, so you expert advice.

Now that most of the leaves have fallen, you could start pruning fruit trees. It is a careful process, so you have to find out exactly what you are doing. If you haven't got a little book, look up some knowhow on the internet. Even apple trees can be different, depending on their type. They are divided into A, B, and C. The popular cordons and step-overs trees are different again, so you need expert advice. Soft fruit bushes are the same. Some like Gooseberries fruit on old wood, some on last year's wood and some on new wood.

Now we have had the first frost, the dahlias have collapsed. Clear the dead stuff away, but leave some mulch over the tubers to protect them, if you are leaving them in the ground. We always do, in this part of the country it is not necessary to lift and store them. If you need to divide or move them, it can be done soon.

There are still a few roses valiantly flowering, but you can prune them now. Cut back to a healthy leaf bud. Never cut in the middle of a stem, it will die, and is a vector for disease. Step back a little and check the overall shape. You can be quite ruthless, and cut out any dead, crossing or downward branches.

NOW FOR THE VEGETABLE GARDE

As we mentioned in the last edition, it's a static time for growth in the veg garden, so this is a good time to review what we might want to grow next year. If the predictions are any where near correct, we could be in for milder, wetter winters and warmer, drier summers, which will impact on how we manage our gardens and allotments. For some of us, space is at a premium so growing veg on a large scale is not possible. There seems to be more and more focus on growing produce in containers and bags, which means you will get less quantity but perhaps the chance to try out something new on a smaller scale. Even a small patio can be productive, especially if it faces the sun. A south facing wall or solid fence can, for example, be a good spot for a modest lean-to greenhouse where you can raise those heat-loving crops such as peppers and chillies. We've come to the conclusion that you don't necessarily need a greenhouse or conservatory to successfully grow tomatoes. This year, our outdoor -grown tomatoes did just as well as those raised in the greenhouse and didn't need quite so much watering as they were planted in soil. Those that were still green at the end of September were brought indoors to ripen in a sunny position.

Weeds continue to thrive, as always! We came across one idea the other day which recommended using cardboard to cover the soil once it has been cleared of weeds. The idea is to remove any plastic labelling or parcel tape, open the box or package out as flat as possible and spread out across the growing area. You need to anchor it down with a covering of compost so that by next spring it will largely have rotted down and your soil will not only be relatively weed-free but also enriched in the process. Worth a try.

If space comes at a premium, why not look back and see which veg were not very successful and concentrate on what did well. Also, is it worth growing crops which take up a lot of space, such as brussels, when faster growing produce such as salad crops take up less room. We've started growing potatoes in plastic sacks, such as those containing compost. This method is a good space-saver and providing you keep them well-watered with plenty of drainage holes you can get a very satisfactory crop.

Finally, returning to the theme of hot summers, are you collecting as much rainwater as possible? Even a modest garden shed can collect a surprisingly large amount of water. If you put guttering underneath each of the eaves, connect to a downpipe and insert into a water butt with tap, you'll save on your water bill and have a ready supply of water on hand. Most of our guttering and pipework came years ago from skips! But do ask permission first!

As always, happy gardening!



Budgeting Tips

By June Gooch

Waste

Food. Despite all the publicity, and government campaigns, as a nation, we are still wasting a vast amount of food. Supermarkets are trying hard to cut down on their waste, selling it cheaply on yellow labels, or joining Fareshare and other schemes to use up unwanted and out of date food for food banks and pantries. But as a nation, research says we still waste about 30% of the food we buy!

Why do we do it?? We wouldn't sit on the kerb, like an East End kid, and feed £1 coins down the storm drain. But that is what we are doing if we waste food. If the culprits had to analyse their actions, what excuses would they give? A biggie might be lack of organization. Think about your mealtimes and food shopping, and even if you don't put it down on paper or phone. Organize a food plan in your head, a few days ahead. Many women go out to work and share preparing food, but one person in the household has to be the 'quartermaster', checking supplies in the fridge and pantry, and making an appropriate shopping list. Having 2 or 3 people shopping at random is a recipe for disaster, debt and food waste.

Don't get hung up about expiry dates. Many are 'best before' which means they are not at their best, but perfectly edible. Greengrocery you can always judge by using common sense. Some supermarkets said they were going to abandon expiry dates on GG, which was a great idea, encouraging people to use their own judgement. Perhaps a not good idea to be too blasé about meat or dairy products, but I have used yoghurts and eggs past their expiry dates, (accidentally) and never came to any harm. Nothing suddenly becomes toxic at midnight on a certain date!!

Perhaps as a nation we have become too neurotic and fussy about the appearance of our food. Looking perfect in a plastic packet has become more important than taste, or nutrition or quality. Ignoring the fact that that perfection is totally unnatural, and achieved by multiple chemicals and insecticides. Growing your own is a great eye opener, especially if you do it organically. You are sharing your produce with all the creatures that share your garden. I used an apple from our garden as a visual aid at Sunday School a few weeks ago, and one child was disgusted by it, because it was bobbly and not perfect and out of packet!

I know friends and family who have kept or worked in small shops, and the stories they tell are incredible, of people that can't seem to think more than an hour ahead. They were in and out of the shop half a dozen times a day. Decades ago, when corner shops sold things in small quantities, my mother-in-law worked in one. Customers would buy 3 eggs, 2 ozs of sugar, and 4 ozs of tea. An hour later, they would be in for another group of small things. Then about 4.30pm, they came in for a few sausages and potatoes, to make the 'old man' a bit of tea. My mother-in- law wanted to give them a shake and tell them to get organized!

We don't think like that nowadays with all the credit available, but we are often still as disorganized with shopping. Lots of people wander into a convenience store after work, ready to grab some convenience food. Shopping while hungry or tired is always a disaster. You will be tempted by instant gratification foods which are not healthy, or satisfying in the longer term.

Many of us are guilty of over catering, but if you do cook/prepare more than you need, don't throw it out, it can be saved for the following day, or turned into something else, or frozen. Restaurants can be a source of waste, but often the worst culprits are the customers. When dining out, you see so many people leave half of their meal or drink. If you aren't going to eat it, or aren't really hungry, why order a big meal? With small children we always asked for an extra plate, and shared some of our own meal, until they were old enough to finish a child's meal. We certainly aren't spending hard earned money on food to leave it on the plate! Just last week, we were in a café in town and 2 young ladies came in and ordered baguettes. They left over half of them. Why not share one, if you aren't really hungry? We often do!

I have a sister in Calgary in Canada, and over there it is perfectly acceptable to ask for a doggy bag to take the rest of your meal home. She has Type 1 diabetes, so has to eat little and often, so she has a doggy bag before she starts, and the bagged half isn't 'messed up'.

Waste can extend into others areas of your life. Some people function on an 'easy come, easy go' mentality. I have met people who are always changing things, buying and selling, never really happy with what they have. We had 5 children, with a variety of prams and pushchairs over the years, but I could name and account for them all on my fingers. Only one of which was new, all the others were donated or bought 2nd hand. I've known people with 2 children, who got through more prams and pushchairs than I ever did.

The same with appliances. What do people do with washing machines, hoovers and cookers? In 5 decades of owning an automatic, I bought my 5th one last year. The wisdom applies to clothes and furniture. All our boys were in the scouts, and one of their promises or laws said simply. 'A Scout looks after property' or words to that effect. It doesn't say whose property. Their own, other peoples, or public property- they were to be careful and look after property. An excellent motif for life.

So, if you are struggling with money, try hard not to waste anything. Look after your resources, whether they are food, appliances, nursery furniture and everything else. Especially coming up to Christmas, with the shops full of Christmas tatt, shop carefully and wisely, and ignore the rest!

POLITICAL GAMES, DIRTY TRICKS AND DOUBLE STANDARDS IS THIS REALLY WHAT POLITICS HAS BECOME?

There was a time when I genuinely believed people entered politics to make a difference. To improve communities, stand up for residents, challenge injustice and occasionally put aside party differences to achieve something worthwhile.

Perhaps I was being naive.
Because after more than two decades in local politics, I am increasingly convinced that some politicians spend considerably more time trying to discredit their opponents than doing the jobs they were elected to do.

And since Reform UK started winning elections, I have witnessed what I believe is a growing determination among opposition politicians to undermine the party at almost any opportunity.

Don't misunderstand me. Reform UK should be scrutinised. Our councillors challenged, our decisions questioned and our policies debated. That is democracy.

But there is a considerable difference between legitimate opposition and political gamesmanship, double standards and, occasionally, downright dirty tricks.

Let me give you a few examples….One rule for them, another for Reform?

The other day, somebody asked me whether Labour MP Tony Vaughan should resign following findings of bullying and improper conduct involving a member of his private office team.

My response was simple….That was a decision for him!

He had delivered a scripted apology in the House of Commons, but whether that was sufficient to put matters right was something only he, those affected and ultimately his constituents could judge.

I also understand that the former member of staff has pursued an employment tribunal claim, although that process must take its course.

I merely observed the irony that someone whose professional career involves practising as a human rights lawyer should find himself facing such questions about his own conduct.

But I didn't demand his resignation. I didn't organise a petition or call for his political career to be destroyed. I left that decision where I believe it belongs.

Now compare that with something else that happened during the same week.

A Reform UK councillor faced demands to resign after receiving a speeding penalty for travelling at 82mph on the M40 at approximately four o'clock in the morning.

Was he wrong? Absolutely….Should he have been punished? Of course…..And he was.

He received a £740 fine and three penalty points, with the likelihood of increased insurance premiums for the next few years.

Yet a Labour group decided that wasn't enough. Apparently, this offence demonstrated that he did not have a sufficiently positive attitude towards the law to remain a councillor.

A petition demanding his resignation attracted more than 300 signatures.

Really?

Are we seriously suggesting that every elected representative receiving a speeding penalty should immediately resign? If that's the new standard, we might find ourselves holding an extraordinary number of by-elections.

I'm not defending speeding. I'm questioning proportionality. Because if a speeding conviction warrants resignation, what standard should apply when an elected representative is found to have bullied someone working for them?

Surely accountability should apply regardless of the colour of someone's rosette.

When even the RNLI becomes a political football

Then came last week's extraordinary episode at Kent County Council. The Liberal Democrat group brought forward a motion calling on the council to publicly support the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

On the face of it, what could possibly be wrong with that?
The RNLI is one of Britain's most respected charities. Its crews risk their lives to save others, often in appalling conditions.

But before the meeting, a newspaper reporter contacted Reform UK suggesting the motion was intended to put our councillors in a difficult position, potentially allowing opponents to portray us as being against the RNLI.

If that was the intention, it was a spectacular misjudgement. I spent more than 30 years serving the RNLI, both as a volunteer crewman and helmsman at Littlestone and as a full-time member of the lifeboat service on the River Thames.

I have attended rescues, witnessed tragedies and worked alongside some of the bravest people you could ever meet. So the suggestion that I, or my colleagues, would somehow oppose the RNLI was frankly ridiculous.

My question was not whether Kent County Council should support the RNLI. Of course it should.

My question was why single out one organisation when so many others provide equally vital emergency services? What about volunteer coastguard rescue teams? Retained firefighters? St John Ambulance volunteers? Why not recognise them all?

More importantly, why drag an organisation that has proudly remained politically neutral into a party-political argument?

I pleaded with colleagues to leave the RNLI out of political point-scoring and made it clear Reform UK supported its lifesaving work.

The motion was defeated. Not because we opposed the RNLI, but because we opposed what we regarded as an attempt to turn a respected charity into a political weapon.

Those volunteers deserve better.

The Greens and the never-ending football match
Then we have the Green Party.

A few months ago, Kent County Council considered a procedural matter relating to a controversial minerals planning proposal.

The council followed the established democratic process and reached a decision. The Greens didn't like the outcome.

Fair enough. That's politics.

But rather than accepting the decision and continuing their case through proper planning channels, they decided to bring the matter back for another debate.

The potential consequences were significant, particularly given the timescales surrounding the application.

My concern was that reopening the same procedural question could interfere with a process properly considered by professional planning inspectors and ultimately the Secretary of State.

I compared it in the council chamber to a football team losing a match and demanding a replay. And if they lost the replay? Presumably another replay. And another. Until eventually they got the result they wanted.

Imagine Manchester United losing 3–0 and announcing the result didn't count because they disagreed with the referee. We would laugh them out of the stadium. Yet some politicians apparently believe that if they dislike a democratic decision, the answer is to keep bringing it back until enough people change their minds.

Of course, councils must reconsider decisions when circumstances genuinely change or new evidence emerges. But disagreement alone should not justify repeatedly reopening the same argument.

Democracy cannot operate on the principle that decisions are only legitimate when your side wins. The public deserve better than this

What frustrates me most is the sheer amount of time wasted on these political manoeuvres.

Kent faces enormous challenges.
Our roads need investment. Businesses are struggling. Young people need opportunities. Communities want better public services and a council that spends their money wisely.

Those are the issues I want to address. Not manufactured resignation campaigns over speeding offences.

Not whether a respected lifesaving charity can be used to embarrass political opponents. And certainly not whether we can replay council decisions simply because one party dislikes the result.

I didn't enter politics to play these games.

And I don't believe the public elect us to behave like children arguing over who gets the last biscuit.

I'm perfectly happy to work with Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Greens or independents when sensible proposals benefit Kent.

Good ideas don't suddenly become bad because they come from another party. Equally, bad ideas don't become good simply because they carry your party's name.

Reform UK is not above criticism. Nor should it be. Where our councillors make mistakes, they should be accountable. Where our policies can improve, we should listen. And where another party has a better solution, we should acknowledge it.

But that standard must work both ways. Because if politics becomes nothing more than manufactured outrage, embarrassing headlines and resignation demands, the only losers will be the people we represent.

And perhaps that's the greatest irony. The more time some politicians spend trying to bring Reform UK down, the less time they have to demonstrate why the public should vote for them instead.

My message to the opposition parties is simple: stop looking for political traps and start looking for solutions. Challenge us on policy. Debate us on spending. Question our decisions. Hold us to account. But please, spare us the manufactured outrage and political theatre.

Because the people of Kent deserve grown-up politics.

And frankly, after some of the nonsense I've witnessed recently, so do I.



Running Waters Retirement Park

Lydd Road, New Romney



Last Two Units Now Available

We currently have two of the LATEST Luxury Lodges available on our new development

Situated on a quiet retirement park to suit elderly buyers. No Children and No Pets

With painstaking detailing throughout our homes screams quality, sophistication and luxury. The acclaimed layout remains the same with a side entrance to the lounge.

These homes have a beautiful panoramic view over the Romney Marsh and are all ready for you to move in. They feature Warm, sumptuous curtains and blinds with the rich colours and textures of the kitchen units and worktop brought together with rustic beams and stunning fitted carpets.

But don't take our word for it Book an appointment and view for yourself



Please call for appointments : 01797 458 355 or 07555 274862

Sterry Funeral Service



Proudly serving your local community since 2003

Sterry Funeral Service are here to support and guide you. We offer a friendly, professional service to families.

Contact Nicky

Folkestone

01303 272 525

93 Cheriton High Street, CT19 4HE

- 24-hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Transparent pricing
- Private chapel of rest

Contact Heidi & Jen

Hythe

01303 264 400

41 High Street, CT21 5AD

- Floral tributes
- Memorial masonry
- Home visits
- Prepaid funeral plans

Call us for immediate support, advice or to arrange a home visit. We are here to help 24 hours a day.

www.sterryfuneral.co.uk

eco heat

New Boiler & Bathroom installation specialist

12 YEAR Guarantee

New Boiler Installation | General Plumbing | New Bathroom Installation | Air Conditioning

New Worcester boiler
From £12.99 per month
0% finance available

* T & C's apply • Your quotation will be personalised • finance acceptance required

Scan to get your free boiler quotation

- 12 year no quibble guarantee.
- Fully fixed quotations
- Highly trained engineers
- NO CALL OUT FEES

T: 01797 369250 (New Romney)
01303 232813 (Folkestone)
e: support@ecoheatph.co.uk

Gas Safe

Proud members of Checkatrade.com 10/10 Where reputation matters

Trust us to look after your family & home!
www.ecoheatph.co.uk

WORCESTER Accredited Partner

Romney Marsh Morris

Preparing for 2027!



With the 2026 Summer Programme wrapped up, Romney Marsh Morris will be spending the winter months practicing ready for the new 2027 season. Their Tenterden Day of Dance in October was a splendid finale to their 10th Anniversary Year celebrations, with many other guest sides descending on the town to create a marvellous spectacle. Next year's programme is now being planned and looks set to be another exciting and diverse range of locations and events. Watch their website and Facebook page for more information.

You may spot them at the occasional event in the next few months (they will be at the Light Up New Romney Lantern Parade in December), but they will primarily be focussed on practicing.

Are you interested in trying something that little bit different? New musicians and dancers are always welcome. It's great fun in a friendly atmosphere, a good opportunity to keep fit and keeps alive a tradition that has been around for hundreds of years. Why not come along to one of their practice sessions for a chat and see first-hand what is involved – they would love to meet you! Practice sessions are held at the Romney Marsh Community Hub on Sundays from 10.30am to 12.30pm, but please email them at RMMorrisSec@gmail.com to let them know you are coming.

For further details or to contact them:
Facebook: Romney Marsh Morris
Website: romneymarshmorris.com
Email: RMMorrisSec@gmail.com

NEW LOOK
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
ROOFING • DRIVEWAYS • PATIOS
DECKING • FENCING
EXTERIOR PAINTING
ALL ROOFING REPAIRS
TURFING • HEDGES • TREE WORK
FOR A FREE QUOTATION OR ADVICE CALL TODAY
07751 089837

The Looker
Your FREE Local Newspaper
Put Your Business in the Picture!
Advertise in The Looker and reach around 22,000 local readers across Romney Marsh, Folkestone and Hythe.
Promote your business locally
Cost-effective advertising that works
Support your award-winning local newspaper
To advertise, contact Louise today:
07423 562696
louise@thelooker.co.uk

We Make You Look And Feel Great!
CAPELLI
Hairdressers
Air Conditioned Salon
High Street
Next to Carpark
Wella Products
Cut/blow dry
Keratin Treatment
Hair Botox
Vibrant fashion colours
Perms/Colours
♡ Men/women/children - all ages ♡
♡ Non-judgemental ♡
♡ Free Consultation ♡
Call our Friendly Team And Book your New Look Today
12 High Street, New Romney, Kent TN28 8DD
01797 362990



Vinny's Media

Welcome Lookerites to another set of reviews from the small and big screens. In this issue we have the return of the Beebs own gangster drama set in Liverpool. Three films from three of the best 'hardmen' actions stars in the game and the return of the comedy genius that is Sacha Baron Cohen.

Set in Liverpool The City is Ours - BBC Iplayer returns for the second series. When Banksey (Mike Noble) killed rival drug lord Riccardo in a hit and run he set off a deadly chain of events. Michael (James Joyce-Nelson) has announced his decision to walk away from the Phelans who are desperately trying to keep their empire together after the death of head of the family Bobby (Sean Bean) who Michael killed. Bobby was planning to retire which in turn caused a major rift between Michael and Bobby's impulsive son Jamie (Jack Phelan) Michael is on holiday with girlfriend Diane and the couple are trying for a baby via IVF. However the peace and tranqility is shattered when Felipe the bother of murdered Riccardo kidnaps Michael and Diane and holds them in his villa. Felipe sends Michael back to Liverpool on a mission to find out who killed Riccardo, while Diane remains with Felipe.

Michael soon realises that he is back in the gang and is soon on the Phelan's radar. The Phelan's meanwhile are desperately trying to arrange a new partnership with another dealer with Jamie and Rachel taking the lead on matters and leaving Bobby on the fence. There is also a new character on the scene Ozzie Thompson who tells Elaine Phelan that he was a friend of Bobby's Ozzie also questions Elaine about the fact that Bobby was a rat and police informant. Michael learns that it was his friend Banksey who murdered Riccardo but despite Diane being held by Felipe refuses to give him up and instead names Jamie as the murderer which puts a strain on Michael and Dianes relationship. Felipe however finds out that Michael has lied and demands that Michael kills Banksey and films the killing. Michael with little choice executes Banksey on film and Felipe releases Diane.

With Banksey gone his son Freddie (Adam Abbou) is taken in by Ozzie but Freddie wants revenge for his father's murder and blames the Phelans. Freddie takes a gun and goes to the engagement party of Jamie and his fiancee. Michael meanwhile has arranged a meeting with Elaine, Rachel and Bobby via Bobby, but when Freddie fatally wounds a member of the Phelans all hell breaks loose especially when Felipe learns the truth about Banksey's murder when Banksey accepts responsibility for the shooting. With the Phelans out to get Freddie and Michael determined to keep Freddie safe and Ozzie trying to stir the pot it makes for an explosive conclusion.

The City is Ours is another excellent drama from the Beeb it's not maybe as explosive in action as say Blue Lights or Time or Line of Duty, but it ticks along with enough double crosses and murders to grip the audience. I managed to watch all eight episodes in two sittings and one day so it's fair to say that it is a captivating drama. The characters provide a blend of impulsiveness and stability and there is always an uneasy tension due to the fact that Michael killed Bobby Phelan. Jamie despite an uneasy alliance refuses to accept Michael back into the fold and in series 2 it's left for Bobby (Kevin Harvey) to be the peacemaker and negotiator for the Phelan's which cause a rift between him and wife Rachel.

Michael and the Phelan's are reunited in the end bringing the firm back together although Jamie and Elaine will never forgive Michael for Bobby's death and the ending sets it up nicely for series 3.

The Hollywood hard men fill cinemas with their all action movies in which they take on the baddies and inevitably win the day after kicking bad guy ass. Three of the best in the game are Jason Statham, Leslie Nielsen and Scott Adkins and all three have movies on streaming platforms available to watch.

First up is Jason Statham in action movie Shelter - Amazon Prime Statham plays retired MI6 assassin Michael Mason. Mason lives alone on a remote island in the Hebrides. Mason receives supplies from a former Royal Marine colleague who lives with his niece Jessie. When Jessie's uncle is killed in a storm and Jessie thrown overboard Mason rescues Jessie and takes her into his care.

Meanwhile at MI6 chief Stephen Manafort (Bill Nighy) and Mason's previous handler is facing a public enquiry regarding THEA (Total Human Engagement Analytics) a surveillance programme which is accused of illegally monitoring British citizens. The Prime Minister replaces Manafort with his assistant Robert Frost (Naomi Ackie) and Manafort is tasked with conducting black-ops outside of MI6 remit. When Mason is captured buying supplies THEA identifies him as a terrorist Timur Tchermoev who is subject to a kill order. Frost sends a team to kill Mason but Mason outwits and kills the team. When Frost learns Mason's true identity and that Mason went into hiding for refusing to carry out Manafort's instructions to kill an Iranian nuclear programme defector. Frost learns that Manafort lied to her and Mason was in reality trying to protect the Iranian. Manafort changed Mason's identity to Tchermoev in order to flush him out and Manafort sends an assassin Workman to kill Mason and Jessie.

With Workman hot on their tails Mason turns to his friend and THEA creator Arthur Booth (Daniel Mayes) Mason asks Booth to take care of Jessie but Booth reveals he is dying of cancer and when Workman attacks Booth's house the three are forced to escape. Mason turns to MI6 informant and human trafficker Kamal Shah. With Jessie safe Mason prepares for the final showdown with Workman.

Shelter isn't the best Statham film (Watch the upcoming Mutiny on Sky/Now TV) but you know what to expect and Statham doesn't disappoint in the action stakes.

Liam Neeson has made his fair share of action movies, notably the Taken trilogy in which he played a retired CIA operative whose daughter is kidnapped by human traffickers. He has made several other action movies in which he delivers justice to the bad guys with hushed tones.

His latest is The Fix - Sky/Now TV in which he plays Larry an ex-CIA mentor which cognitive decline and memory loss. When he disclosures to disgraced CIA man Tucker that he was part of a team that hid £25 million in a hotel wall in Tehran during an embassy crisis. Tucker decides to put his squad back together for one last payday. The highly illegal rogue mission to hit the hotel and recover the £25 million takes a turn when they discover that getting the money out Tehran is going to prove difficult especially when they discover a group of women suffering under the brutal regime. The mission becomes even trickier when they decide to extract the women from Tehran which causes rifts amongst the team.

The Fix is ok as films go and features some decent action scenes and the inevitable double-crosses where money is concerned. Liam Neeson takes a back seat in The Fix and leaves the violence to Tucker (Zachery Levi) and his team.

The last action hero is Scott Adkins in One Last Shot - Sky/Now TV. When a group of mercenaries capture a group of influential high ranking military staff with the intention of gaining access to US missile defence system. A special ops team is sent in along with Navy Seal Jake Harris (Adkins) Harris has been chosen for the mission by Admiral Mulholland (Dolph Lundgren) because the mercenaries are led by Elliott Carter Harris' former comrade turned terrorist. The special ops team are initially dismissive of Harris but when the entire team is wiped out in an ambush it is left to Harris to save the day.

Adkins is definitely the new kid on the block and while he may not get the coverage or scripts that Statham and Neeson get he is very good at what he does. The fight scenes in One Last Shot seem to be longer than most fight scenes and there are lots of fight scenes as Adkins seems to fight all the bad guys (why use a gun when you can have a fight scene) The story line isn't anything new terrorists taking over the White House and threatening mankind and if you dispel the belief that Adkins vs an heavily armed and well-trained military outfit is an unfair fight (In Adkins favour) then One Last Shot is a decent action movie and is probably the best of the three.

Scott Cree is a suitable terrorist/disillusioned bad guy with a evil heart and one liners. Dolph Lundgren is wheeled out to play the army hotshot but this is Adkins film and it would be good to see him get a chance with a Hollywood script.

Sacha Baron Cohen is famous for his portrayal of highly offensive characters Admiral General Haffax Aladeen, Bruno, Borat and his most famous character Ali G. Ali G is famous for his deadpan interviews in which he has sent up some big names with his absurd and offensive questions. The tracksuit wearing leader of The Staines Massive is back on the big screen after 24 years and he is bringing 'Me Julie' with him.

Ali G: Who Iz I - On general release and Amazon Prime sees Ali G back in Staines with 'Me Julie' after HBO pulled his tv show Da Ali G show. When Ali finds out Me Julie is pregnant he decides to find employment pawning his items he discovers on his old fax machine a message from HBO offering him $3.2 million for a third series of Da Ali G show and so Ali and Me Julie are off to the states where Ali quickly assembles a team for the show and treats them to a lavish lunch. During the lunch Ali learns that the HBO offer is 22 years old and has expired and does a runner from the restaurant.

Penniless Ali decides to become a Tik Tok sensation and finds a nutritional company to sponsor him before conducting a number of interviews which make him a Tik Tok sensation. Meanwhile Ali has attracted the attention of lecturer Dr Nira Cain-N'Degeocello (also played by Cohen) who declares Ali a cultural appropriator. Nira holds a lecture in Oakland asking the participants to take a stand against Ali, the audience turns against Nira. Nira then challenges Ali in a livestream telling Ali he plans to bring him down due to his political incorrectness. Ali then believes that ASAP Rocky is his father after receiving a message from 'Rocky'

Nira recruits a team of justice warriors to wage war on Ali and Nira concocts a plan to pose as Me Julie to obtain Ali's DNA and prove that Ali is not black. Nira goes to Ali's hotel room and what follows is a typical Ali G scene not for the faint-hearted. When one of Nira's justice warriors discover that Ali is 100% Scottish Ali receives numerous criticisms which lead to Ali releasing a video in which he portrays himself as Jesus. Before Ali and Me Julie can head off home Ali receives an offer to front a free speech show. The show contains nazi salutes and a show in which dummies are thrown into showers.

Nira meanwhile recruits martial artist Erran Morad (Cohen again) and plans to kidnap Me Julie. The remainder of the film reaches new heights of depravity as Nira's justice warriors try to prevents Me Julie's baby being born on American soil. The weaponry they use has to be seen to be believed and it is concerning that people can be used to show the bigotry and stupidity that exists in the world. Ali G is the hero the world needs and regarding ground breaking film work Cohen puts his art and at times his life on the line.

Make your own mind up is Ali G juvenile cinema or is it political satire. It is equally funny and highly inappropriate in equal measures whatever you think Ali G is innovative.

Ashley Walters is a rapper turned actor from a member of So Solid Crew to the lead in the TV series Top Boy he has established himself as one of the countries most dependable actors. Walters has now turned his attentions to behind the camera and teamed up with Nick Love (Football Factory, The Firm) to direct Animol - On general release.

Animol is set in a young offenders unit and focuses on Troy (Tut Nyuot) although we never see Troy's crime we hear it and it does appear that Troy is innocent. The first we see of Troy on screen is when he is being checked into the young offenders unit along with Krystian (Vladyslav Baliuk) and Dion (Sekou Diaby) pecking order is quickly established when Dion demands Troy conceals a phone until they get on the wing.

Once on the wing Troy is placed with the highly volatile and dangerous Mason (Ryan Dean) who again establishes the pecking order and steals the phone that Troy hid leaving Troy to take a beating from Dion and become indebted to him. Troy knows that Mason sees him as a weak target and that Dion is going to get him 'on the books' Meanwhile Troy and Krystian develop a genuine friendship that helps the pair through their time.

Animol is a decent first time directorial debut from Walters. There are several solid performances including Stephen Graham as Claypole an educational welfare officer. While not as hard-hitting as the excellent Wasteman Animol captures the brutal conditions that exist in a young offenders unit. Animol explores the relationships that exist be it genuine (Troy/Krystian) or a means to survive. Animol also captures the monotony of incarceration as the inmates do what they have to do to survive.

There was a criticism that Animol didn't offer anything different but the subject matter suggests that there isn't anything else to offer.

That's your lot for this issue happy viewing people.



Iconic QUAD-MOTOR RISER RECLINER

Lasting relaxation, feel the difference

Call today 01303 274574



Other designs, upholstery & colourways to suit all tastes are available on request.

Safe Hands is a leading supplier of Mobility Aids & Mobility Scooters.

The Iconic is a Premium Riser Recliner designed by CosiChair which has a unique Tilt-in-Space (TIS) Quad-Motor function featuring the Zero Gravity position which evenly distributes the force & stress across the body, giving supported comfort from head to toe throughout movement offering greater relaxation.

- **Fully adjustable powered head & lumbar support**
- **True footrest extension**
- **Longest hip to heel seat**
- **Fitted USB & C charging ports**



Adjustable powered head & lumbar positioning which offers personalised support for the head, neck & lower back



7 Year Guarantee Riser Recliners

BRITISH MADE Quality Craftsmanship

3 Sizes Available

Home Demonstration
Let us come to you

AVAILABLE TO COMPLEMENT YOUR HOME IN SIX MODERN, STYLISH & SOFT FABRICS



SAFE HANDS Mobility Centres

Cheriton Store

01303 274574

347-349 Cheriton Road,
CT19 4BP.
Also at Birchington.

folkestone@shmobility.co.uk **www.safehandsmobility.co.uk**

By Kerry King

The robin's winter feeding problem



A robin may be the star of the Christmas card, but put it in front of a frost-covered tube feeder and it faces a very different picture. While blue tits and goldfinches can cling to narrow perches and reach the seed ports, robins are not built for that style of dining.

It is a simple detail that many of us never notice: different birds feed in different ways. Robins usually search for food on or close to the ground, watching for movement among leaves, soil and low plants. Their natural menu includes worms, beetles, insects and spiders. They will also take suitable supplementary foods offered in gardens, but a smooth, upright feeder can be difficult for them to use.

That does not mean robins cannot visit feeders. They may use a suitable platform or perch, and they readily take food placed where they can reach it safely. The key is to think about the bird, not just the feeder.

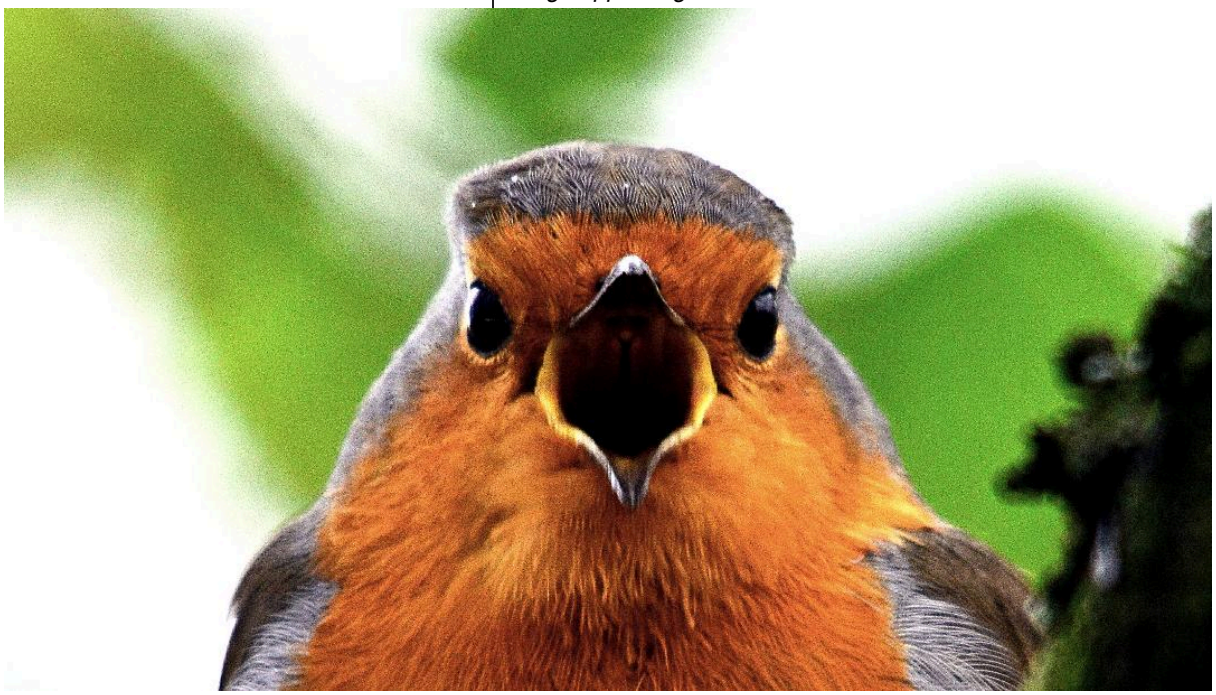
As temperatures fall, natural food can become harder to find, making a little extra help welcome. Offer small amounts of appropriate food in a sheltered spot, ideally close to cover but where cats cannot lie in wait. Remove uneaten food, keep feeding equipment clean and move feeding places regularly to reduce the build-up of droppings and disease.

A wildlife-friendly garden should cater for more than the birds confident enough to hang upside down from a feeder. Leave some leaf litter, plant shrubs for shelter and remember the ground-feeders.

The robin's red breast may brighten a frosty morning, but the best way to help it is to understand how it feeds. Sometimes, making a garden friendlier to wildlife starts with looking at things from a bird's-eye view or, in the robin's case, from ground level.

Picture 1 – Artist's impression licensed to Kerry, shows a *robin struggles to find its footing on a frost-covered metal tube feeder. Unlike tits and finches, robins are not naturally adapted to cling to narrow feeders.*

Picture 2 – *With its unmistakable red breast, the robin is one of Britain's most recognisable and beloved garden birds, its familiar image appearing on countless Christmas cards.*




MARTELLO MANOR
BY BOUTIQUE CARE HOMES
Not just care. Life, Thriving
Discover more at martellomanor.care

Lydd and Brookland Poppy Appeal Raises More than £2,600



Generous residents, schoolchildren and volunteers across Lydd and Brookland have helped raise an impressive £2,660.68 for the Royal British Legion's 2026 Poppy Appeal.

Around 30 collection tins were distributed throughout the community, including local shops, pubs and primary schools, with residents once again showing their support for the annual fundraising campaign.

Poppy Appeal organiser for Lydd and Brookland, Cllr Clive Goddard, praised the generosity of local people and thanked everyone who contributed.

"The community, young and old, always give so generously to this excellent cause, and they all deserve a massive thank you," he said. "What a fantastic way to celebrate the 105th anniversary of the Royal British Legion with such a great total raised."

Local schools played an important part in the appeal, with Lydd Primary School raising an impressive £215 and Greatstone Primary School contributing a further £72.

The town's Scouts also deserve special recognition after collecting a remarkable £187 through street collections in Lydd over just two weekends.

Cllr Goddard added: "A special mention must go to the pupils, staff and parents at both Lydd and Greatstone schools, along with the Scouts, who have done a brilliant job supporting the appeal."

He also paid tribute to the volunteers who helped distribute and collect the tins before undertaking the painstaking task of counting the donations.

"I must thank all our wonderful volunteers, Angela, the clerk at Lydd Town Council, for her assistance with counting the money, and everyone who provided hospitality and support. A particularly big thank you goes to Rita, my mum, for all her help."

The final total reflects the continuing generosity and community spirit of Lydd and Brookland, ensuring the Royal British Legion can continue its vital work supporting serving personnel, veterans and their families.

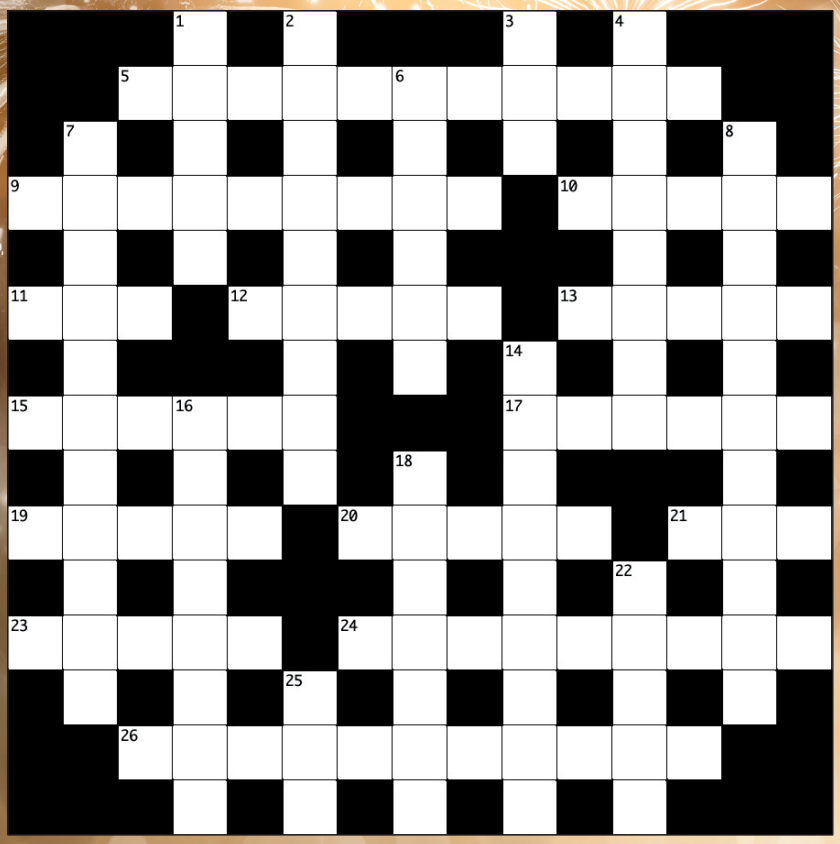
Picture caption: Volunteers helping to count the donations collected during the Lydd and Brookland Poppy Appeal, which raised an impressive £2,660.68.

HYTHE HIGH STREET
SHOP TO RENT
PRIME POSITION WITH PARKING
P
DRY CELLAR
COMPETITIVE RENTAL
SHORT-TERM 18-MONTH LEASE
WITH THE OPTION TO ENTER INTO A LONGER LEASE
IDEAL FOR A NEW BUSINESS START-UP
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT DAVID
07423 562696

COOLWORX
Your Local, Air Conditioning, Heating, Ventilation & Refrigeration Specialist for your Home & Business
f-gas register
Certified F-Gas engineer
City & Guilds Qualified
We cover:- Ashford | Canterbury | Dover
Folkestone | Hythe | Tenderden & sourrounding areas
Call: 01797 214 032 | 07855 033877
email: contact.coolworx@gmail.com

Ken Smith
PAINTER & DECORATOR
INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PAINTER & DECORATOR
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP OVER 20 YRS EXPERIENCE
FULLY INSURED AND DBS CHECKED
* Free Quotations And Advice *
* smithydecorating69@gmail.com *
PLEASE CALL KEN
YOUR LOCAL ROMNEY MARSH DECORATOR
TEL: 07767 337844

General Knowledge Crossword #021



Across Clues:

5. Teaching authority of the Catholic church (11)
9. Fiend (9)
10. Anatomy, throat (5)
11. Obtains secrets (3)
12. Crooked (5)
13. Moorland (5)
15. Pay attention (6)
17. Copy distinguished from prototype (6)
19. Upper arm (5)
20. Rhyme (5)
21. Constrictor (3)
23. Scottish dialect: screen from views (5)
24. Sluggish (9)
26. One's deepest feelings of compassion (11)

Down Clues:

1. Triangular end of building (5)
2. Luxurious travel (9)
3. Contorted (3)
4. Easily understood (8)
6. Long passage (6)
7. Postive about the benefits of media (11)
8. Fear of everything (11)
14. Rocks and Minerals on earth (9)
16. Truce (8)
18. Death (7)
22. Inclination (5)
25. Irritate (3)

Answers: Across: 5. Magisterium, 9. Hellhound, 10. Gular, 11. Spy, 12. Askew, 13. Heath, 15. Listen, 17. Ectype, 19. Bicep, 20. Verse, 21. Boa, 23. Scugs, 24. Lethargic, 26. Heartstring. Down: 1. Gable, 2. Limousine, 3. Wry, 4. Luculent, 6. Tunnel, 7. Neophiliacs, 8. Pantophobia, 14. Geosphere, 16. Treagues, 18. Decease, 22. Trend, 25. Irk.

Sudoku Challenge

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

Hidden Message Wordsearch

I M R A S R A T A V A C A R S
T N A A L R E S A E R G C U T
S H I L T L E O N L Y A N M N
F I G D E A E G J A W S A P O
T J E I D F T R N R W E L E I
S N E I L A I O E E V E B L T
E A H V R I L C U D V L A S P
L M O O A O W A E I N A S T E
O U S T O R T T E N L I A I C
H J V E N K B A R Y T L C L N
P O L T E R G E I S T T E T I
H I N G Z T H A T D W E R S E
F R E E O T N A M T A B O K D
D I V E R G E N T O A L N I Y
T H I N F D R A C U L A G N G

One Word Movie Titles

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

Aladdin
Aliens
Avatar
Avengers
Batman
Brave
Cars
Casablanca
Cinderella
Divergent
Dracula
Frozen
Gladiator
Grease
Holes
Hook
Inception
Jaws
Jumaji
Maleficent
Poltergeist
Ratatouille
Rumpelstiltskin
Twilight

Write the hidden message here:

Spot the Difference!

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







RUBBISH PEOPLE, RUBBISH HABITS AND THE GREAT ROMNEY MARSH ROADSIDE BUFFET!

There are many things in life I simply cannot understand.

Why do people put empty milk cartons back in the fridge? Why does the person in front of you at the supermarket wait until everything has been scanned before remembering they've left their purse in the car? And why does every supermarket trolley have one wheel determined to head towards France?

But there is one mystery that really gets my blood boiling.

WHAT SORT OF COMPLETE AND UTTER NUMPTY THROWS THEIR RUBBISH OUT OF A CAR WINDOW?

Seriously. I want to know.
Having spent more hours than I care to remember driving along the A2070, the A259 and just about every road across Romney Marsh, I've concluded that we are living amongst a strange subspecies of human being.

A creature capable of operating a motor vehicle, passing a driving test and understanding traffic lights, yet apparently incapable of keeping an empty crisp packet inside a car for another five minutes.

These people walk among us…They vote. They reproduce. Some probably hold positions of responsibility.

And somewhere out there is a person who genuinely believes the correct way to dispose of a half-eaten sausage roll is to launch it through the driver's window at 50mph.

What on earth goes through their heads?
"Well, that's lunch finished. Better redecorate the Kent countryside with my packaging."

Honestly, I've seen more intelligent behaviour from the seagulls at Dungeness, and some of those birds have attempted to eat discarded flip-flops.

THE A2070 … KENT'S LONGEST RUBBISH BIN
Take the A2070.

A perfectly decent road connecting Romney Marsh with Ashford, surrounded by wonderful countryside. Or it would be wonderful countryside if it weren't occasionally decorated like the aftermath of an unsuccessful children's birthday party.

There are coffee cups, burger wrappers, energy drink cans, plastic bottles, crisp packets and enough takeaway packaging to suggest half the population of Kent is permanently eating lunch at 60mph.

You can almost reconstruct someone's journey from the rubbish they've thrown out.

Mile one: Coffee cup….Mile three: Breakfast wrapper….Mile five: Empty energy drink…Mile seven: Cigarette packet….Mile nine: Something unidentifiable that probably requires a laboratory and protective clothing.

Future historians won't need to excavate Roman settlements. They'll simply dig up the A2070 verges and conclude that 21st-century Kent survived entirely on caffeine, fried chicken and cheese-flavoured crisps.

And don't get me started on the A259.
That road seems to attract individuals who believe the countryside is one enormous open-air dustbin, thoughtfully provided by Mother Nature.

I wonder whether they've confused the Highway Code with the rules of basketball.

Window down….Three-point shot….Coffee cup into the hedge….Lovely…..Ten points for hitting a road sign.

DO YOU DO THIS AT HOME?
This is the question I'd love to ask everyone who throws litter from their car.

DO YOU DO THE SAME THING IN YOUR OWN HOUSE?You've just finished a packet of crisps while watching television.

Do you walk into the kitchen and put the packet in the bin?Or open the living room window and throw it into next door's garden? Perhaps you've finished your Sunday roast. Do you scrape the leftovers into the food waste bin, or stand at the front door and launch a Yorkshire pudding across the driveway?

Maybe after drinking a can of cola you hurl it behind the sofa and shout, "Somebody from the council will pick that up!"

Of course you don't….Well, I sincerely hope you don't.Because if you do, I'd love to see your house.

Presumably the hallway is ankle-deep in McDonald's wrappers and the family dog has been missing beneath discarded pizza boxes since Easter.

nd here's the extraordinary thing….Modern cars have cup holders, door pockets, glove compartments, centre consoles and boots large enough to accommodate a small orchestra.

Yet apparently none can cope with an empty chocolate bar wrapper. We manufacture cars that park themselves, recognise road signs and warn drivers when they're getting sleepy.

But we haven't developed technology advanced enough to persuade an idiot to keep a sandwich packet in the passenger footwell until they get home.

Perhaps manufacturers should introduce a new dashboard warning light.

WARNING: DRIVER IS ABOUT TO BE A FILTHY PIG.Followed by automatic locking windows.

THE MYSTERY OF THE FLYING FAST FOOD
There is something fascinating about fast-food litter. You rarely see an abandoned takeaway bag neatly placed at the roadside….Oh no.

It looks as though the contents have been distributed by a small explosive device.

The burger box is in one hedge.The chips are scattered across the verge.The drink cup is lying in a ditch. And the paper bag is wrapped around a fence post half a mile away.

What happened? Did the driver finish their meal and shout, "RIGHT, EVERYBODY,

EVACUATE THE VEHICLE!"

I can imagine the conversation…."Have you finished your chips, Sharon?"…."Yes, Dave."…"Excellent. Deploy the rubbish!" And out it all goes.

Meanwhile, a confused sheep is wondering why its field has suddenly become a branch of a fast-food restaurant.

We live in one of the most beautiful parts of Kent, with extraordinary landscapes, historic churches, wildlife, farmland and coastal views.

People travel from all over the country to enjoy Romney Marsh. They do not come to admire a discarded chicken bucket in a drainage ditch.

I've never heard a tourist say, "Darling, forget the lighthouse. Come and look at this magnificent collection of energy drink cans near Brenzett!"

THE UNSUNG HEROES WITH BIN BAGS
And this brings me to people who deserve enormous recognition.

The Romney Marsh Litter Pickers.
Along with other community volunteers, these wonderful people give up their own time to clear up the mess left behind by individuals with the manners of a drunken warthog.

Think about that….One person is too lazy to keep an empty coffee cup in their car for ten minutes. So somebody else spends their precious free time walking along a roadside collecting it.

How utterly ridiculous is that?
These volunteers could be at home enjoying a cup of tea, gardening or spending time with their families.

Instead, they're out in all weathers wearing high-visibility jackets, carrying litter pickers and filling bags with other people's rubbish.

And they do it because they care about Romney Marsh, our environment, wildlife and countryside.

Frankly, they deserve medals.Or at the very least, free tea and cake for life.

I have enormous admiration for them, although I wonder whether they ever feel like standing beside the road with a giant sign saying:

"WE ARE VOLUNTEERS, NOT YOUR PERSONAL CLEANING STAFF!"
Because that's effectively what they've become.An unpaid clean-up operation for people who cannot exercise the most basic personal responsibility.

And let's not forget council workers and highways teams who also deal with roadside litter, sometimes in dangerous conditions.All because somebody couldn't be bothered to take their rubbish home.

IT'S NOT JUST UGLY, IT'S DANGEROUS!
Beneath the humour, there's a serious point.

Plastic packaging harms wildlife. Discarded food attracts animals towards busy roads. Bottles and cans create hazards, and rubbish finds its way into ditches, drains and waterways.

On Romney Marsh, where drainage is so important, the last thing we need is more rubbish clogging our watercourses.And cigarette ends?Don't even get me started.

What sort of genius thinks it's acceptable to throw a lit cigarette out of a moving vehicle? We have dry grass, farmland and sensitive habitats.Yet someone apparently believes the countryside is one enormous ashtray.

Perhaps we should introduce a new driving test question.
"You have finished smoking a cigarette while driving. Do you:A. Extinguish it safely, B. Keep it until you can dispose of it properly…..C. Launch it into dry grass and hope for the best."

Anyone selecting C should spend a weekend cleaning the A2070 with a toothbrush.

A SIMPLE SOLUTION FOR SIMPLE MINDS```The solution is embarrassingly straightforward.

KEEP YOUR RUBBISH IN YOUR BLOODY CAR UNTIL YOU FIND A BIN! That's it….No government consultation….No expensive feasibility study….No 200-page strategy document. No working group involving seventeen organisations and a PowerPoint presentation.

If you can transport a full takeaway meal from a drive-through to your stomach, you can surely transport the empty packaging another few miles.

It isn't rocket science….I'd also like stronger enforcement against people caught deliberately littering from vehicles.

If the evidence is there, they should face the appropriate penalty, personally, I rather like the idea of offenders taking part in supervised community clean-ups where legally possible.

Not to humiliate anyone, but because spending several hours picking soggy burger wrappers out of a thorn bush might provide a valuable educational experience. They might even discover what a bin looks like.

A MESSAGE TO THE WINDOW-CHUCKERS
So, to the person throwing coffee cups out on the A259, the driver launching lunch packaging along the A2070, and the individual treating Romney Marsh lanes as their personal rubbish disposal facility, I have a simple message.
Grow up.
You are not being clever….You are not being rebellious…You're not making some grand statement about personal freedom.

To the Romney Marsh Litter Pickers and everyone else giving their time to keeping our area clean, thank you.

You represent the very best of community spirit.

It's just a shame your dedication is necessary in the first place. I would love the day when your litter-picking equipment can be retired because people have finally learnt how to behave.

Although, judging by some roadsides, that might happen around the same time pigs learn to fly and politicians stop arguing. Until then, here's a final thought….Next time you're driving across our beautiful Romney Marsh and finish a packet of crisps, a coffee or a takeaway, put the rubbish in a bag and take it home.

Your car won't explode. Your passengers won't faint.And the world won't end because there's an empty sandwich wrapper in your door pocket for fifteen minutes.

But our countryside will be cleaner, wildlife safer, and those wonderful volunteers might finally enjoy a Sunday morning doing something other than collecting your disgusting leftovers.

Remember, the window is for fresh air, the road is for driving, and the bin is for rubbish.

And if you genuinely cannot understand the difference, perhaps you shouldn't be trusted with a car.

Because Romney Marsh is our home… not your flipping dustbin!



Church Update By June Gooch

Food Bank. The main food bank for the area, continues in Romney Marsh Community Church in North Street, New Romney 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 food bank has a long list of needs. This includes Chocolate spread, gluten free, large tinned ham, washing up liquid, men's deodorant, sanitary pads, shampoo, slower gel, salad cream, pasta in sauce packets, white cook in sauce, mayonnaise, tinned fish, vege meals in a tin, noodles, and corned beef.

At present they have plenty of tinned vegs, (including beans, tomatoes, potatoes), soup, 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 con's ditions 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.

Brenzett, St Eanswith.

There will be a Holy Communion on Sunday, December 27th at 9am. The Christmas morning communion will be at Snargate Church at 9am.

Brookland, St Augustine.

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

The Sung Evensongs have finished for this year, but some members of the choir are singing Carols at the Woolpack on Friday evening 11th December.

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. Please do consider the reading rota, the church is really short of volunteers. It isn't onerous at all, and you have the reading beforehand, so you can practice. Don't worry about strange names. Your version is as good as anyone else's!

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

Dymchurch Catholic church, St Monica's on Chapel Road. 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. All welcome at any of these events.

Craft Fair. The next Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, December 19th from 10am-2pm, and everyone is invited to this large and diverse craft fair. Several stalls sell edibles of various kinds, and cater for those with restricted diets.

Ivychurch, St George.

The 'This is my theatre' group will be performing a Christmas Carol on Thursday December 10th at 7pm. So far, the tickets seem to be sold out. But if you are interested contact www.thisismytheatre, or Margaret Waite on 01797 344283. There may be last minute cancelations.

On Sunday, December 13th at 3.30pm, there is a Christingle and Carol service, with the City of Canterbury Brass Band providing the music. Sounds like a great and rousing time, all welcome.

On Monday, December 21st, there will be carol singing around the village. Meet at the village hall at 6.30pm. Wear warm clothes and bring a torch, and the proceeds will be for 'Crisis at Christmas'. The session will finish at the Bell Inn, with warm drinks provided by the landlady Sarah and her team.

Lydd Methodist Church. This is now part of Marsh Methodist Church, 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 01797 362719.

Anna Chaplaincy. This organisation ministers to older people, mainly in care homes. It was named after the godly and very old prophetess who recognised the infant Jesus as the Messiah. On St Luke's day, October 18th, 6 new "Anna friends" were commissioned at the church to help in the wo of ministering to the older people. St Luke was a doctor and is often associated with healing and care.

Christmas Concert in St Nicholas' church. Presented by New Romney Town Council, featuring the Kent Police Band. This will take place on Saturday, December 12th, at

7pm. Entry is free, but donation are invited for the Mayor's charity fund. All are welcome to this rousing concert.

There are no more Coffee mornings this year, with all the Christmas events planned locally.

New Romney Methodist Church.

The Saturday morning coffee morning continues from 10am -noon. The worship services are on a rolling rota with the other methodist churches on the Marsh, so see notices for details.

The Meeting Point on Thursday mornings continues from 10am-noon, and is much appreciate by the those who attend. All welcome to this chance to chat and share a coffee.

Newchurch. St Peter and Paul

The next fund raiser will be the Coffee morning and Christmas Fair on December 5th from 10.30am-12.30pm. The Christmas tree festival is being revived this year, and will be decorating the church until the New Year.

Several members of the church have been investigating the history of local families, and there are posters and information around the church, if anyone would like to see the results.

Romney Marsh Community Church.

Worship takes place on Sundays at 10.30am, with the music being a combination of old and new songs and hymns. There is time in the service for youngsters of all ages, to leave for teaching appropriate to the age.

The Toddler group is finishing this week, and will recommence after Christmas.

The food bank continues to operate from the church on Tuesdays, from 4.30-6pm. See notes at top of column for necessary contributions.

The very popular Christmas restaurant will be running on December 1st, 2nd and 3rd, Tuesday to Thursday from midday – 2pm. All sorts of soups and desserts are available, and the church is decorated for Christmas and the atmosphere is very happy and pleasant. There is a suggested donation for each item, and the proceeds are divided between a local and an international charity. The international effort this year is for AMOR, that works with the poor in many countries, improving lives and building simple homes for people, and providing water filters for families with no access to clean water. During a talk in church, the speaker had one of these filtering devices going and drank out of the lower bucket, after dirty water had been filtered. Apparently, they produce water to a higher standard than our regular drinking water!

Snargate, St Dunstans.

The next Holy Communion will be on Sunday, December 13th, followed by refreshments and fellowship. On that evening there will be the traditional candlelit carol service at 6pm with readings and carols. All welcome to this moving and evocative service.

There will be Christmas Communion at 9am on Christmas Day, to which all are invited. With being early, you have plenty of time to get home and look after the turkey!

St Mary's Bay, All Saints.

The Café church on Mondays from 10-11.30am, and Wednesday morning get togethers continue to flourish, with increasing numbers, and a tremendous time of fellowship is enjoyed by all. Café church is now staying open until 11.30am. The next Bingo session is on Monday November 23rd at 2pm.

The big Christmas Fair is on Saturday, November 28th. All donations for the raffle, tombola, home-made cake stall etc will be gladly received by Jeanette.

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, or 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 717408.7pm. he Bingo

Thanks were given in the magazine, to all those who work to keep the church, hall and grounds tidy and spotless. If anyone would like to help, even just for a hour here and there, contact Len on 01303 873451 or Phil on 07413 967934. Pauline is still collecting used postage stamps, so a reminder coming up to Christmas.

St Mary in the Marsh

The Haywardians choir, based at the church is a vibrant choir that raises large amounts of money for Charity. The next event is a Christmas concert on December 5th at 4.30pm in All Saints Church in St Mary's Bay. The proceeds are for the Mt Kenya tree nursery. Refreshments and a raffle. The choir meets in St Mary's each Friday evening at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. For more information ring Andrew on 07814 292027.

Church Chuckle

From a humorous Christmas card, showing a Group of Wise Men, outside a Newmarket type of modern stable, clutching a phone.

"*****#### sat nav!!"

Wit and Wisdom

Researchers have found that a strong pointer to happiness, is people who can enjoy the present moment, without always looking for a better one.

Contact :THE LOOKER

No12 Brocade Court, Howey Road, New Romney, Kent. TN28 8GN

Telephone: 01797-331935 • email:info@thelooker.co.uk

NEWS or STORY? Contact David Wimble, 07423-562696

TO ADVERTISE call Louise 01797 331935 Email: louise@thelooker.co.uk

Every effort is made by The LOOKER newspaper to ensure that the information is correct.

THE LOOKER Newspaper Ltd. reserves the right not to publish unsolicited material being sent through to the publication. Personal views expressed in this publication are solely those of the respective contributors and do not reflect those of the publishers or its agents. The LOOKER Newspaper Ltd. is not responsible for services provided by the advertisers. All material supplied to this publication is at the owner's risk. Reproduction in whole or in part of this publication is strictly prohibited a without prior consent. Photographic rights remain the property of THE LOOKER Newspaper Ltd.

Drive Autocentre

- MOTs
- Suspension
- Servicing
- Batteries
- Brakes
- Exhausts
- Clutches
- Diagnostics

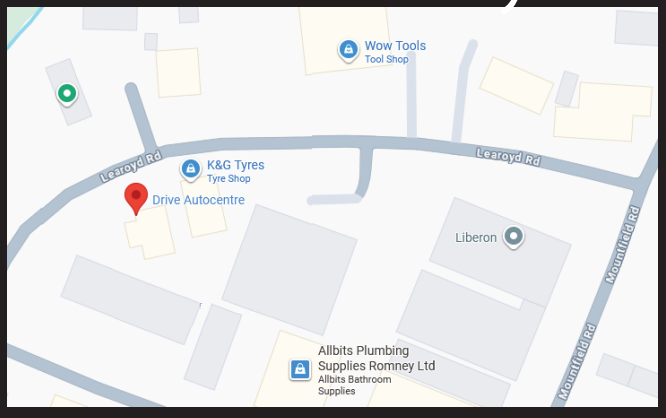
DVSA Approved MOT Testing Station for Class 4 Vehicles

Call Us To Book Now;

01797 331999

Learoyd Road,
Mountfield Ind Est,
New Romney,
TN28 8XU

Next to K & G Tyres



/// What3Words Location ///flanks.noise.overture