



Maidstone Town Mail

Best Steak in Maidstone



01622 669333

...another initiative from Town Centre Management



Santa comes to Town

Just a few years ago there was no Santa paying an annual visit to the town centre, then there was one and now there are two! Santa is really back in town.

Fremelin Walk welcomed their Santa to his grotto on the bandstand on Thursday 15 November, and the Mall Chequers welcomed their Santa to his grotto in the centre on Saturday 17 November.....but only one of them is the real Santa. (and we're not saying!!)

More Apartments planned for Town Centre

Maidstone Borough Council has received a planning application for one of the few remaining riverside town centre development sites.

J S Bloor (Newbury) Ltd is seeking planning permission for a five story residential development on the Laguna Motorcycles site in Hart Street, adjacent to the Lockmeadow Entertainment Centre.

The application is for 52 studio apartments, 24 one-bedroom flats and 60 parking spaces.

Proof that Maidstone is NOT a Clone Town



A report claiming that Maidstone simply mimics other town centres has been refuted by extensive research carried out by TCM director Ivan White, proprietor of Ronald White Photographic in Pudding Lane.

The research lists all the retail premises in the town by both street and type and shows conclusively that the County Town has an extremely strong mix of independent and multiple businesses. Accompanying Mr White's report to the November meeting of the TCM Business Forum was a display of photographs highlighting the wide variety of retailer in the town.

While conceding that Fremelin Walk, parts of Week Street and some of the Mall Chequers do indeed favour multiple retailers it is the areas immediately adjacent to them that house the independent shops, and the Forum was advised that it is this mix of big and small retailers that the shopping public want to see.

Only a few seconds walk from the multiples' stronghold takes the Maidstone shopper to Market Buildings,

Gabriel's Hill, Bank Street, Union Street, Pudding Lane, Lower High Street and King Street, all packed with independent retailers some of whom have traded in the town centre for generations.

Among the findings of the report is that Maidstone has approximately 600 retail businesses of which 50% are independent. Although TCM is unaware of any other town in the south east that has produced such a comprehensive report on its retail offer, it believes few other towns in the area offer shoppers such a strong mix of independent shops and high street multiples.

The report also shows that the town centre has 21 hairdressers, 41 cafes and restaurants, 14 recruitment companies and 5 betting shop!

Copies of the report are available from the TCM office.

kmfm:
it's all about
the music



kmfm for Maidstone 105.6



Under the Hammer right here in the town centre

Maidstone town centre's very own auctioneer J Stuart Watson has been a regular in the town for the past 25 years and has featured several times on the hit TV show *Cash in the Attic*.

Every Tuesday he will be found in the Market Hall at Lockmeadow selling local produce and plants from **7am to 2pm** allowing local growers the opportunity to sell direct to the public and businesses.

The week before Christmas is an extremely busy one for Stuart when the hall is filled with fresh turkeys, Christmas trees and mistletoe... everything you need for the festive season.

Aside from Christmas the fortnightly general auction takes place on Thursdays when a wide selection of goods including antique and modern furniture, metalwares, ceramics, ornamental items and collectables are on offer.

Forthcoming auctions are on **29 November** and **13 December**.

Fabulous Finds at the 2nd Annual Christmas Bizarre Bazaar

Art at the Centre's Christmas art and craft fair, Bizarre Bazaar, will once again play host to a diverse mix of the best local artists and designers. Two Christmas Bizarre Bazaar events will be taking place this year as a result of previous successes, at The Exchange on **Saturday 8 December 2007** from 10.30am to 4.30pm and in The Royal Star Arcade on **Sunday 16 December** from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Both town centre venues are based in Market Buildings, just off Earl Street.

Bizarre Bazaar will feature a selection of stalls offering affordable handmade arts and craft products – a great one stop shop for those hard to find Christmas gifts. Street entertainment will be provided by stilt walkers, with Jack Frost and the Ice Queen making an appearance, and by brass band 'Premier Brass'. Seasonal refreshments will also be available.

For details visit www.maidstonearts.com

New Weekend Parking for the Town Centre

An existing town centre private car park is now available to the general public at the weekend.

The 250 space KCC Invicta House car park (opposite the Royal Mail sorting office near Maidstone East railway station) is open to the public every weekend from 7pm Friday to 7am Monday.

Regular security patrols police the car park and the parking rates are among the cheapest in the town centre.

Up to one hour parking costs 70p, while a 3 to 4 hour stay is £2 70. The night-time rate, between 7pm and 7am is just £2.

Further information from UKPC 0870 228 3344



Park & Ride



Park & Sail



Make your Christmas shopping easier

Park & Ride car parks are conveniently located on the major approach roads around Maidstone, and close enough to give a quick journey into the centre. They also offer quick and easy access from the M20, with **FREE PARKING** for the users of the bus service. For further information call: 01622 602479 or visit www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk



Maidstone's Park & Sail service operates every Saturday from 17 November to 22 December; and on two Sundays 16 and 23 December. **FREE** parking at the Museum of Kent Life off junction 6, M20 (gates are locked at 6.15pm). For further information call: 01622 753740 or visit www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk

Around Town... ...with Bill Moss

Liquid and Envy ●●● TCM was represented at the recent opening of the new Luminar Leisure clubs Liquid and Envy (formerly ikon) at the Lockmeadow Entertainment Centre.

Maidstone Market ●●● Consideration is being given to extending the opening hours of Maidstone Market until 4pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Army and Navy Store ●●● Plans to demolish the old Army and Navy department store in Week Street and replace it with a mix of retail and housing are expected to be given to MBC by the end of the year.

Gullands & Days merge ●●● Gullands Solicitors of Mill Street and Days Solicitors of Earl Street have merged and will operate from enlarged premises in Mill Street.

Park & Sail ●●● This unique service to the town centre operates every Saturday until 22 December and on 16 and 23 December. There is free parking at the Museum of Kent Life off junction 6 of the M20, and the fare is £3.00 return per adult £1.00 per child.

Park & Ride ●●● Park and Ride services operate Monday to Saturday with extra buses running each Saturday up to 29 December ensuring nobody should wait for more than 10 minutes for their trip in to the town centre. Park and Ride

buses run to the town centre from sites at Willington Street (just off Ashford Road), London Road (behind DFS) and Sittingbourne Road (close to the Chiltern Hundreds).

Light up a Life ●●● The Heart of Kent Hospice Light up a Life memorial and remembrance service takes place on Sunday 9 December at the Archbishop's Palace at 4.30pm.

Lush for you ●●● TCM has been given five sets of the Tree Amigos bath ballistic gift set, designed to make bath time a whole new experience. The first five people to e-mail the TCM office stating the name of the hill where Lush is to be found in the town centre will receive a set through the post! E-mail Lee on lbennett@mtcml.co.uk

New Sponsor for TCM ● Town Centre Management extends a very warm welcome and thanks to new sponsors **AnyWaste Solution** of Snodland. They specialise in waste disposal and offer a full waste management consultancy where they guarantee to reduce your waste disposal costs and improve your service requirements. **AnyWaste Solution** offer attractive discounts to other TCM sponsors. www.anywastesolution.co.uk

Contact Us

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Town Centre Manager	Bill Moss
PA	Ilsa Butler
Intelligence Manager	John Drogomirecki
Sales and Marketing	Lee Bennett
MaidSafe	01622 758938
Shopmobility Registration for new members	01622 678777
Booking a scooter	01622 691130 (Mall Chequers) 01622 356588 (Fremlin Walk)

Our Sponsors...

Town Centre Management is a non profit making, private limited company, and relies on sponsorship from local businesses to continue making our town an even better place. Our grateful thanks therefore to the following businesses for their generous support.

AnyWaste Solution Ltd, Arriva Buses, Bridal Gowns by Jodi, Boots, Clothesline, Cornell and Sons, kmfm, Downs Mail, Earl Street Employment, Fremlin Walk, Federation of Small Businesses, Gullands Solicitors, Kent Messenger, Laura Ashley, Marks and Spencer, Maidstone Borough Council, McDonalds, ME1, Pronuptia, Ronald White, Royal Bank of Scotland, Royal Star Arcade, Russell Hotel, Sainsbury's, Strawberry Moons, The Mall, W H Smith, Wilkinsons

O Yez, O Yez, O Yez!

In what is believed to be a first for the town centre, TCM and MBC have combined to bring a Town Crier to Maidstone on Saturday 1 December.

Among the many bits of information the Town Crier will be bringing to the good folk of Maidstone will be information about the exciting range of independent shops in Bank Street, Market Buildings, King Street, Union Street, Pudding Lane and Gabriel's Hill, details of Thursday late night shopping in the town centre, the Hazlitt Theatre pantomime Sleeping Beauty, the Charter Marked Park and Ride and the unique Park and Sail service as well as the fabulous shops the town has to offer in Fremlin Walk, the Mall Chequers, the Royal Star Arcade and all points east...!

Battle of Maidstone

The proposed re-enactment of the Battle of Maidstone is now a step closer following a financial sponsorship commitment from town centre business Gullands Solicitors.

They join previously announced sponsors Maidstone property developer Palace Estates and the Mall Chequers shopping centre who are backing plans to stage the event over the weekend of 31 May/1 June.

Several MBC councillors have also promised funding from their devolved budget however further finance for this ambitious project is still needed. If you or your company would like to become involved please contact the TCM office.

BARMING
signs.com

T. 01622
677056

I found it in Maidstone

Oh... and there's easy parking and late night shopping every Thursday too!

...another initiative from Town Centre Management



over **70**
shops
to choose from

maidstone



6 The Corn Exchange, Market Buildings • 01622 692322

eden
Christmas
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Maidstone is

the ideal place for all your Christmas shopping with a fabulous range of independent shops and high-street names.

There's easy parking, regular Thursday late-night shopping and plenty of restaurants and bars to enjoy when you've shopped till you dropped!

Come to Maidstone and experience the true pleasure of shopping.

Christmas Trading Hours December 2007

Thursday 13th 9.00pm
Friday 14th Normal trading
Saturday 15th 7.00pm
Sunday 16th 10.30am 4.30pm
Monday 17th 8.00pm
Tuesday 18th 8.00pm
Wednesday 19th 8.00pm
Thursday 20th 9.00pm
Friday 21st 8.00pm
Saturday 22nd 7.00pm
Sunday 23rd 10.30am – 4.30pm
Monday 24th Normal trading
Christmas Day Closed
Boxing Day 10.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday 27th 8.00pm
Friday 28th Normal trading
Saturday 29th Normal trading
Sunday 30th 10.30am – 4.30pm
Monday 31st Normal trading
Tuesday 1st January 10.30am – 4.30pm

Please note that these are preferred opening hours and some retailers may vary them to suit their individual needs.

fremlin walk
MAIDSTONE

50 stylish shops in
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Gifts for Christmas



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bizarre
bazaar
Maidstone '07



The affordable arts and crafts market

Saturday 8th December

The Exchange, Market Buildings 10.30am to 4.30pm

Sunday 16th December

The Royal Star Arcade, Market Buildings 10.30am to 3.30pm

Entrance is free

• Browse the stalls • Meet the artists and makers • Be entertained by our brass band • Enjoy a glass of mulled wine

