

# Maidstone Town Mail

...another initiative from Town Centre Management



## Spring News

### A-boards

At a Borough Council meeting the Street Scene group had the opportunity to air their opinions about KCC Highways' proposed regulatory measures surrounding A-boards. While TCM are on the whole supportive of these measures, concerns were raised as to how restrictive they were and costs involved. The original proposal has since been withdrawn and a revised version drawn up which TCM has again been invited to comment on. We will keep members updated on progress.

### Market Buildings

TCM has worked with the borough council and KCC Highways to close market buildings to traffic between 10.30am – 5.30pm. TCM has also encouraged businesses to put tables and chairs out to give Market Buildings a cosmopolitan feel. With spring and summer just round the corner we anticipate this becoming a rather select café area and would encourage people to make a visit.

### TCM Returns To The County Show

Following the success of last year's marquee at The County Show, TCM is returning to this popular family event on 15, 16 and 17 July. This time round TCM has secured a bigger corner plot which will take on a street theme.

Please contact **Lee Bennett** to register an interest on **01622 678777** or email **lbennett@maidstontowncentre.com**

### Business Forum

Business Forum meetings are open to all TCM businesses. The next meeting is booked for Thursday 7 April at the Town Hall and starts at 9.30am. John Foster, Economic Development Manager for Maidstone Borough Council has been invited to speak about the High Street regeneration.

Members can also find out all about what is happening in the town centre, can raise any queries and learn about new developments. This really is a 'must attend' meeting.



### Friday People

Julie Anderson from TCM member RAP Office Contracts is pleased to be appointed trustee of Friday People, headed up by Nick Ward.

RAP have a very strong commitment to corporate social responsibility since saving the Christmas Park and Sail scheme in December 2010 and raising over £30k in the last three years for Heart of Kent Hospice.

Julie said: "Businesses need to understand that to get the skills from young people – the next generation to take business forward – that we have to reinstate regular work experience."

Friday People's operating approach involves recruiting young unemployed job seekers (18-24) to upskill them via hands on experience and mentoring so they can be usefully employed to fundraise for other charities, or companies with a fundraising cause, and earn the national minimum wage whilst doing so.

Nick was introduced to Julie Anderson via Maidstone Town Centre Management. Friday People has gone from strength to strength in six weeks, now already employing 12 people, and growing fast! For more details contact Nick Ward on [fridaypeople@btinternet.com](mailto:fridaypeople@btinternet.com)



Scan the QRcode to the left to watch our new video

Come see us at stand EE4 in the Kent pavillion at Kent 2020



# Maidstone Fringe Music Festival

Maidstone's first five-day music festival takes place from **Thursday 28 April - Monday 2 May** and is set to showcase over 60 live bands from across the county with a few surprises in store!

A diverse wealth of musical talent will be seen across 10 of the best venues in town including: Earls; The Music Room – Pizza Express; The Old House At Home; The Style & Winch; Drakes; The Breeze Bar; The Druids Arms; The Albion; Bar Chocolate and the R-Bar. Musical genres on offer include Rock / Indie, Alternative, Acoustic / Folk, Funk, Swing / Jazz, Blues and Dance with the majority of events free to attend.



Fall of the Forest

On top of the musical performances there will be street entertainers, guitar competitions, a late night unplugged VIP lounge and stand up comedy. In addition to the abundance of live music we are also celebrating the great places

to eat, shop and socialise in the County Town, which has more successful independent businesses than anywhere else in Kent. For more information about the bands that are playing visit [www.sparklenoise.com](http://www.sparklenoise.com)

## 36 Challenge 2011

The 36 Challenge will be taking place on 28 May 2011 in The Mall Chequers. This is the annual fitness challenge to raise money for the 36 Engineers Welfare fund.



If you are interested in participating in the event, either by entering or sponsoring a team please call Lee Bennett on **01622 678777** or email on [lbennett@maidstonetowncentre.com](mailto:lbennett@maidstonetowncentre.com). For more details go to [www.thethreesixchallenge.co.uk](http://www.thethreesixchallenge.co.uk).

## Events Calendar 2011

• April 28th - 2nd May .....	Maidstone Fringe Music Festival .....	Maidstone Town Centre .....
• May 7th - 2nd July .....	Maidstone Arts & Film Festival .....	Maidstone Town Centre .....
• May 28th .....	36 Challenge .....	The Mall Chequers .....
• May 28th .....	Proms In The Park .....	Whatman Park 7.30pm .....
• July 3rd .....	Jazz Festival .....	Maidstone Town Centre .....
• July 12th .....	Business Challenge .....	Maplesden Noakes School .....
• July 15-17th .....	County Show .....	County Showground (Detling) .....
• July 30th .....	River Festival .....	(tbc) .....
• August 6th .....	Jam In The Park .....	Brenchley gardens .....
• August 15-19th .....	Green Week .....	The Mall Chequers .....
• August 19th .....	Cycle To Work Day .....	Maidstone Town Centre .....
• October 16th .....	Volunteers Week .....	The Mall Chequers .....
• October 25th .....	MaidSafe Awards Evening .....	The Mall Chequers .....
• November 11th .....	Remembrance Day .....	The Mall Chequers .....

### Our Members...

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 goes to the following businesses for their generous support:

- Any Waste • Arriva
  - Audley Mote House
  - Aylesford Priory • Blue Arrow
  - Boots King Street
- Boots Fremlin Walk
  - Bridal Gowns At Jodi • CAB
  - Concept Training • Cornell & Sons
  - Countrystyle • David Lloyd
  - Demelza House • DMS Graphics
  - Downs Mail
  - European Schools of Osteopathy
  - Fremlin Walk • FSB
  - Future Schools Trust
  - Gullands Solicitors • Head & Hart
  - Heart Of Kent Hospice
  - Heritage Special Events
  - Kent Apprenticeships • Kent Ideas
  - Kentish Lady • Kent Messenger
- Laura Ashley
  - Maidstone Borough Council
  - Maidstone Estates
  - Maidstone Prison • Maidstone United
  - McDonalds
  - Perfection Bridal Wear
  - Ramada Hotel
  - RAP Office Contracts • Ronald White
  - Royal Star Arcade • Russell Hotel
  - Sainsburys • Signs and Imaging
  - Strawberry Moons • The Mall
  - Tudor Park • Union Street Traders
  - The Village • Wilkinsons
  - Zen Languages

# Around Town... ..with Bill Moss

## High Street...

TCM was delighted to hear that the High Street redevelopment was given the go ahead at a full council meeting on Wednesday 9 March. We anticipate work beginning during the summer months and TCM will be keeping people updated during the development period.

## New Stores...



We would like to welcome eatery 'Pret A Manger' and shoe shop 'Office' to Fremlin Walk. Kent Reliance Building Society will be opening shortly within the Royal Star Arcade. The British Heart Foundation is soon to be opening a

furniture shop in the old QS building in the High Street.

## All Change...

The former Laura Ashley store in King Street is to become a Costa Coffee and shop fitting commencing imminently. In addition, Flaming Henry's has been renamed Preedy's and is now being run by Margaret Preedy of dance school fame.

## Museum...

The museum extension is moving on rapidly and is due to open in September. While we understand that the appearance is not quite to everyone's taste it receives a very firm thumbs up from TCM.

## Prison Visit...

The February marketing group meeting was held at TCM member Maidstone Prison. This very well attended meeting saw visitors enjoying an informative tour of the prison. Thanks to Maidstone Prison for their hospitality.

## Jam In The Park...

This popular free music festival for young people is set to return once again to Brenchley Gardens, Maidstone on Saturday 6 August. Youth bands interested in auditioning for this event should contact [jaminthepark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jaminthepark@hotmail.co.uk)

## New Centre...



Work is well underway on the new Kent Library and History Centre which is due to open in the early spring of 2012. The centre will be an amalgamation of the libraries at Springfield, Saint Faith's Street and the Centre of Kentish Studies at County Hall.

**LEEDS CASTLE  
OPEN AIR  
CLASSICAL CONCERT**

*Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

*With the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*

LEEDS CASTLE  
KENT, ENGLAND

Supported by...  
RADIO KENT  
KENT ON SUNDAY

Conducted by *John Rigby*  
& Narrated by *Robert Powell*

Guest appearances from...  
*Wynn Evans, Patricia Orr, Rebecca Bottone*  
& *The Royal Marines Band*

Book online at [www.heritageevents.co.uk](http://www.heritageevents.co.uk)  
or call **0845 652 62 62**

## WIN TICKETS to Leeds Castle open air Classical

**Saturday 16th July** is the return of the open-air concerts at Leeds Castle, with an unbelievable line up of world-class performers, we as a Town are very proud to have such calibre of performers attending this event narrated by Robert Powell.

Once again the fly over will be taking place, not only two Spitfires celebrating their 75th birthday, but also a P51 Mustang.

As we all aware this is a very busy weekend, County Show, golf open, but to ease the financial implications of this weekend, Leeds Castle and County Show are working together to offer a package, where you can buy tickets for both events, please see web site for further details. [www.heritage-events.co.uk](http://www.heritage-events.co.uk)

Here at Town centre Management we are able to offer a competition for two tickets to this event, just by answering a very simple question:

**The concert will be narrated by a very talented actor, who has a rich mellow voice.**

## NAME THE ACTOR

Please send answers to [info@maidstonetowncentre.com](mailto:info@maidstonetowncentre.com)

Normal terms and conditions apply;  
winners will be notified by TCM on May 1st 2011.

# MaidSafe Matters



## CCTV Update

The borough council is considering a proposal to move the monitoring of CCTV cameras to Medway. TCM is opposed to this move and has conducted a high profile media campaign to ensure this message is brought home to the borough council

and in particular the cabinet member that will make the decision – Cllr John A Wilson. Cllr Wilson will announce his decision on Friday 25 March.

## MaidSafe

MaidSafe is the trading name of the town centre crime reduction partnership and now has a record membership of 162. The main benefit to members is having access to a personal MaidSafe radio which enables them to communicate in real time with the police and the CCTV Control Centre.

MaidSafe is recognised nationally as one of the most effective crime reduction partnerships and any business that would like to know more about this operation should email Intelligence Manager John Drogo on [jdrogo@mtcml.co.uk](mailto:jdrogo@mtcml.co.uk) or call him on 07908 719153.

## Next Meeting

A meeting for all MaidSafe members is held at Trinity Foyer at 8.30am on the first Thursday of every month where important information and details of active criminals are exchanged. All members are welcome to the next meeting on 7 April.

## Purple Flag Application

Independent assessors visited the town overnight on Saturday 5 March from 5pm – 4am and will be making their recommendation to the Purple Flag committee who are convening on Friday 8 April. After this date we will know whether we have been successful or not.

## Exclusion Notices

The management team of MaidSafe has recommended an extension to the exclusion notice scheme that we have in operation whereby first time offenders will automatically receive a three-month exclusion notice from member premises. This extends through the daytime and night-time economy and effectively excludes banned people from entering any of our member premises. Banned people are notified by post together with a list of premises that they are unable to visit.

All details of banned people can be found on the MaidSafe secure members website and if any member is unsure of how to access this please contact the Intelligence Manager John Drogo.

### Sunday Lunch

#### Every Sunday

12.30 - 3.00pm

3 Course Carvery Lunch

**£11.95pp - 2 Courses**

**£14.45pp - 3 Courses**



### Tribute Evening

#### Take That Tribute

3 course meal with singing and dancing

**£29.95 per person**

Friday 27th May



## NEED A VENUE FOR YOUR EVENT?

Have you considered the Ramada Maidstone? You may think our 4 star hotel is too expensive, but think again! As your local hotel we want to host your local function.

We have a selection of packages that offer incredible value and flexibility ensuring your event is a success. Just give us a call or pop in and see us - *you'll be surprised and you won't be disappointed.*

At the Ramada Maidstone Hotel you're guaranteed to have a good time

**0844 815 9045**



**R A M A D A**  
MAIDSTONE

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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)