

# Maidstone Town Mail

...another initiative from Town Centre Management



## High Street Regeneration Scheme Gets Underway...

Work has started on Phase 1 of the High Street regeneration scheme

The project, costing £2m, is expected to take 34 weeks to complete with a two-week break at Christmas from 22 December. New features will include:

- A new public space created in front of the Town Hall.
- New trees planted and new street furniture installed, including granite benches within the Town Hall Square.
- The whole street will be designated a 'Pedestrian Zone' with wider pavements and new crossing points, making the street more people-friendly.
- The road will be made into a single two-way carriageway, there will be changes to bus stop locations and loading bays and the taxi rank will be relocated to King Street.

The scheme will be carried out by Eurovia, formerly Ringway. The TCM High Street Regeneration Group is holding its next meeting on **22 September at 3pm** in the Town Hall.

Any businesses concerned about the disruption while works are carried out should contact Eurovia's Public Liaison Officer, Charmane Waggett on **0845 408 2987**.

In addition, the site office can be visited at 40 King Street.

For further information log onto the project website: <http://highstreet.maidstone.gov.uk>



### Regeneration Timetable

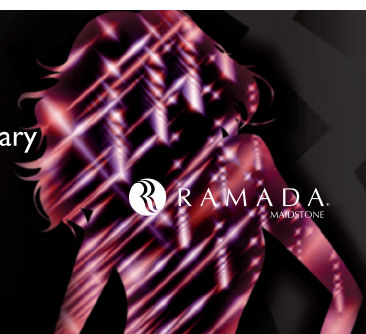
- **5 September:** Work commences on lower High Street, planters outside Argos are to be moved and the road is to become a single carriageway.
- **18 September - 19 October:** Temporary closure to lower High Street.
- **Mid September - early November:** Work commences on Middle Row, High Street side.
- **All November:** Work carried out on High Street entrance to Pudding Lane.
- **Mid October to late November:** Work carried out on High Street, Pudding Lane side.
- **Late November - January 2012:** Work conducted at top end of High Street, Week Street side.
- **Early January - March 2012:** Work carried out in King Street, Week Street side.
- **April - May 2012:** Town Square created at top of the High Street.

**LIVE AND LET'S PARTY**

### Ramada Maidstone

Various Dates throughout November, December & January  
from £25.95 per person

For further information or to book call 0844 815 9045  
or email us at [csales.maidstone@ramadajarvis.co.uk](mailto:csales.maidstone@ramadajarvis.co.uk)  
[ramadajarvis.co.uk/maidstone/festivefun](http://ramadajarvis.co.uk/maidstone/festivefun)



## Maidstone a model of best practice

Maidstone featured in a recent article in Retail Week magazine and was praised for being a 'model of town centre management'.

The feature commented on the May visit to Maidstone by Business in the Community which saw Alex Gourlay, the chief executive of Alliance Boots, retailers, town centre managers and government ministers on a study tour of the town.

Maidstone was chosen as the destination for the tour for being 'one of the better examples of how business forms links with the community' according to Mr Gourlay.

It was also noted that unlike many other town centres across the UK, few units in Maidstone were lying empty, that town centre leadership in the form of Bill Moss was strong and business was buoyant.

High levels of security and lower incidents of anti social behaviour were also acknowledged as was the 'sense of civic pride' that prevails within the town.

## East Wing handover is imminent

Maidstone Museum's new East Wing is due to be handed over any day now and visitors will be able to see exciting new exhibits.

The new wing will provide much needed display space and storage areas for the collections as well as a new reception, visitor information service, shop, classroom, conferencing and meeting rooms, a passenger lift and improved toilet facilities, including two wheelchair accessible toilets. The museum's statue of Lady Godiva has also been moved to centre stage in the Godiva Hall.



## Crowds rock out at youth music festival

This year's Jam in the Park 2011 saw nine talented youth acts from across Kent performing at Brenchley Gardens in Maidstone on the first Saturday in August.

Acts that took to the stage included: Pedalo Fred, Fred Clark, Dirty Vibes, The Kicks, White Bone Rattle, On The Spot, Jamie Johnson, As Worlds Collide and Kaleidophone.



Jam in the Park 2011 is a Maidstone Town Centre Management initiative that is organised through Mitchell Media UK Ltd with the help of a team of students from Cornwallis and New Line Learning Academies.

## Green Week attracts crowds at The Mall

Maidstone Town Centre Management held its fourth annual Green Week event at The Mall Chequers from 15-19 August 2011.



This popular event was supported by: South East Water featuring Sally Shower; KCC with Kentjourneyshare and the Streetcar scheme; Mobility Management and Maidstone Borough Council showcasing the Love Food Hate Waste and composting schemes. The borough council also ran a public consultation exercise to assist with the development of a cycle strategy for Maidstone.

Fun activities for children were available from the Monday through to the Wednesday and during the Thursday and Friday members of the public were invited to learn how to make their own plant pot from jam and tea!

## Book your place now for gala boxing event

A black tie gala boxing evening is set to take place at the Ramada Jarvis in Maidstone on 6 December 2011. This event is to raise money for the 36 Engineers and will include a fabulously tasty Gurkha curry. Call the TCM office for more details and to purchase tickets.



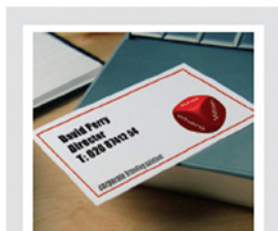
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01622 600080

# £2,000 for Urban Blue

The government's communities advisor Baroness Newlove has presented TCM with a cheque for £2,000 towards Urban Blue.

Urban Blue is a double-decker bus kitted out with first-aid equipment and staffed by volunteers who are trained to deal with certain incidents and can offer advice to people on a variety of issues such as drinking, drugs and sexual health.

The bus is managed by TCM and supported by local businesses, the police and the borough council.



# Around Town... ...with Bill Moss

## New Restaurant

Work is expected to start soon on converting the ground floor of the old Walmsley's furniture store at the junction of the High Street and Pudding Lane into a new restaurant called Buddha Belly. See [www.buddhabelly.co.uk](http://www.buddhabelly.co.uk)

## Travel Shop Move

Baldwins Travel has recently moved office from Mill Street to the more central position of Earl Street, Maidstone, just off Fremlin Walk.

## Trading Well

Superdry, the men's and ladies fashion store, opened at Fremlin Walk recently and trading is apparently very brisk. [www.superdry.com](http://www.superdry.com)

## Remembrance Day

Town Centre Management, in association with TCM member Audley Mote House, will host a Remembrance Day event at the Mall Chequers on 11 November at 11am. Everybody is welcome to attend to show their respects.

## Eye Clinic

Optimax Laser Eye Clinic has taken up residence at 24-25 High Street.

## River Eatery

Negotiations continue between a new operator and the existing leaseholder of the River Bar. The new restaurant, provisionally to be called The Pavilion, will be a welcome addition to the town centre's thriving food offer, which already boasts more than 35 places to eat.

## Café Rouge Moving Into Town

Shopfitters for Café Rouge will shortly be taking over the old Day's Solicitors building in Earl Street prior to a complete internal re-fit.

## Home Office Visit

TCM will host a visit from members of the Home Office on 5 October. The visitors are particularly interested in seeing the Urban Blue bus in operation and the workings of the Switch Youth Café in Lower High Street.

## Volunteers Week

Plans are taking shape for the TCM Volunteers Week being held at the Mall Chequers in October. Our grateful thanks to Voluntary Action Maidstone (VAM) for their valued support.

## Diary Dates

### Maidstone Business Forum Meetings

Open to all interested parties and held on Thursdays at 9.30am in the Town Hall

**6 October,**  
**3 November,**  
**1 December**

### Night Time Business Forum Meetings

Held on Tuesdays at 3pm in Room B at the Town Hall (members only)

**20 September,**  
**1 November**

### Marketing Group Meetings

Held at midday unless otherwise notified (members only) in the Town Hall, Room B

**28 September,**  
**18 October,**  
**23 November**

## 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 go 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
- DMS Graphics • Downs Mail
- European Schools of Osteopathy
- Fremlin Walk • Friday People • FSB
- Future Schools Trust
- Gullands Solicitors
- Heart Of Kent Hospice
- Heritage Special Events • Kent Ideas
- Kentish Lady • Kent Life
- Kent Messenger • Laura Ashley
- Maidstone Borough Council
- Maidstone Estates
- Maidstone Prison • Maidstone United
- McDonalds • Mid Kent College
- Perfection Bridal Wear
- Ramada Hotel
- RAP Office Contracts • Ronald White
- Royal Star Arcade • Russell Hotel
- Sainsburys • Signs and Imaging
- Snappy Snaps • Strawberry Moons
- The Mall • Tudor Park • The Village
- Wilkinsons • Zen Languages

# Maidstone launches 'Core Strategy' for future Planning and Development

Maidstone Borough Council is holding an informal round of consultation on the Core Strategy from **2 September 2011 to 14 October 2011** inclusive. The Core Strategy sets out the vision for the borough until 2026, including the construction of 10,080 homes for the period 2006-2026.

The homes will be distributed between Maidstone, Harrietsham, Lenham, Marden, Staplehurst and Headcorn. A new strategic employment location is proposed in the vicinity of M20 junction 8 and a medical hub is proposed around the approved clinic scheme near to M20 junction 7. The Core Strategy proposes to regenerate older buildings within a newly defined town centre. The Core Strategy proposes a green and blue infrastructure network that links open spaces with rivers and streams; and introduces protected green wedges that bring the countryside into the heart of Maidstone.

The approved consultation document is available at: [www.maidstone.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/planning/local\\_development\\_framework/core\\_strategy.aspx](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/planning/local_development_framework/core_strategy.aspx)

Representations can be made online at: <http://maidstone-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal> by filling in the Core Strategy questionnaire, and by sending letters or emails to the Spatial Policy team at Maidstone Borough Council.

Throughout the consultation, the council will be holding meetings and consultation events throughout the borough, details of which will be made available on the LDF webpage.

For further information about the Core Strategy please contact **Flo Churchill, Head of Spatial Policy Tel: 01622 602762 or Email: flochurchill@maidstone.gov.uk**

## Successful riverside Arts Fair

The riverside Arts Fair, which is held each Sunday from 11am – 4pm, is growing week on week. Anyone interested in exhibiting at the fair should email James Bailey of The Barge Riverside Restaurant on [arts@the-barge.co.uk](mailto:arts@the-barge.co.uk)

## Village events

On 23 September The Village in Sandling is holding a Shirley Bassey Tribute Night. All proceeds to the 36 Engineer Memorial. The hotel is also hosting a gala dinner to celebrate 90 years of the Royal British Legion on 11 November.

## Calling all charities

Small charities in need of PR assistance are invited to get in touch with Lee at TCM. An opportunity has arisen for free promotion during Volunteers Week.

## Book your space

Work has started on production of the Maidstone Town Guide. Please contact Lee if interested in advertising.

# MaidSafe Matters



Members of the Mailsafe partnership can now apply for a Safer Socialising Award. To be eligible for an award businesses must meet certain criteria during an inspection by the following bodies: police; the borough council's licensing department; the fire brigade and trading standards. Awards will be issued in the New Year. Companies interested in

applying should get in touch with John at TCM.

## MaidSafe Awards Night

The MaidSafe Awards Night is scheduled to take place at Bar Chocolate on 26 October 2011 from 7pm.

This annual event recognises those who have done outstanding work for the MaidSafe partnership day and night.



Awards will be presented by Manager of The Mall Chequers, Paul Alcock. There will also be a raffle and all proceeds raised will go to the Royal British Legion's Christmas Party, which is held at Aylesford.

Anyone interested in donating prizes for the raffle should get in touch with John at TCM.

## Exclusion orders

To date 47 people have received three-month exclusion orders from all member premises, which is 90% of the town's shops.

## Membership

MaidSafe now has 150 members. Results continue to be good and radios are used with great effect. Figures show that shop thefts were down in August 2011 with 145 arrests made. In August 2010, 161 were made.

## CCTV

MTCM has been shortlisted to run the monitoring of CCTV in Maidstone. A decision is expected to be made in October/November.

Maidstone Town Centre Management, Mall Management Suite, Pads Hill, Maidstone

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[www.maidstonetowncentre.com](http://www.maidstonetowncentre.com)

Follow us on Twitter @marketingtcm and @maidstoneTCM

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)