



Maidstone Town Mail

...another initiative from Town Centre Management



Rising to the challenge

Nine teams are already in training for the 2010 36 Challenge, the annual charity event which raises money for the benevolent fund of 36 Engineer Regiment, based at Invicta Park Barracks, Maidstone.

The event has added poignancy this year following the news that two members of 36 Engineers were killed in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in February.

Warrant Officer Class 2 David Markland, a 36-year-old bomb disposal officer, died clearing an explosive device. He was a married father of two young boys. A week later, Sapper Guy Mellors, 20, was killed by a roadside bomb he was trying to clear.

We hope townspeople will turn out in force to the 36 Challenge and dip deep in their pockets to show their support for our local regiment in these difficult times. The event, which takes place in the Mall Chequers on Saturday, March 13, promises to be a

fun-packed day of tough and demanding sporting challenges.

Among the teams competing will be Bob

Prowse Gym, sponsored by The Mall, who have won the event for the past two years and will be looking to retain their crown for the third year. The other competitors are: Village, sponsored by Village; Bob Prowse Gym, sponsor The Mall; Invicta Green Machine, sponsor Mangravet Gold; Maidstone Leisure Centre, sponsor Maidstone Leisure Centre; Hulmes heroes, sponsor by Britelite windows; Fire Blue Watch, sponsor Stanton; Police,

sponsor Chillmech and Maidstone Rugby Under 17', sponsor Wilkinsons.

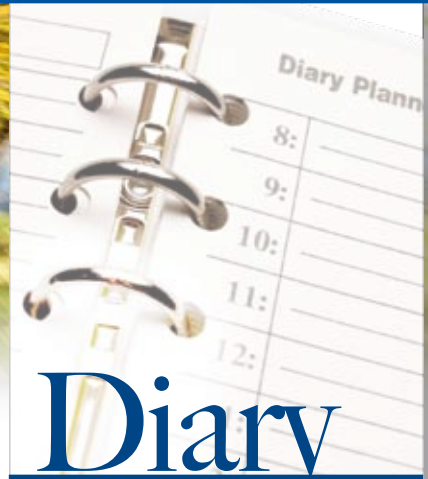
We also need judges from 9.30am to about 3pm on the day to ensure the challenges are completed correctly. We are also appealing for prizes for the tombola, volunteers to help run stalls and to help with other tasks and we need to get the team jokers, pop ups etc, printed. Anyone who can help is asked to contact Lee Bennett at TCM on 01622 678777 or 07960 034068.

Many thanks to Sterling Joy for generously offering a sound system for the event free of charge.

"It promises to be a fun-packed day of tough and demanding sporting challenges."

Town Centre Guide - Don't miss out!

Town Centre Management (TCM) is already preparing the 2010 Maidstone Town Centre Guide. It will include, as always, a business directory. To make sure your business is included please contact Lee Bennett at TCM on 01622 678777. The cost of listing in the business directory remains the same as last year at just £15. To find out the cost of display advertisements in the guide, please contact Lee Bennett.



Diary dates

- The Night Time Economy Business Forum next meets on Tuesday, March 16 at 3pm in the main chamber at the Town Hall.
- The Marketing Group meeting is on Wednesday, March 17 at noon in the main chamber at the Town Hall.

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Welcome to more.

Plaudits for MaidSafe

MaidSafe has earned high praise for its "vigour and enthusiasm" and has been described as a "flagship" for business crime reduction partnerships nationwide.

The scheme has been awarded a Safer Business Award pass with distinction by the national organisation, Action Against Business Crime (AACB).

Sandy Hobbs, who carried out the Maidstone scheme's assessment, said in her report; "MaidSafe has got to be seen as a flagship for partnership working nationally. Their relationships with inter agency staff and statutory partners is second to none. The range of initiatives that the scheme is involved with ranges from youth work and substance misuse to high visibility deterring and handbag clip distribution."

She added; "The vigour and enthusiasm that emanates from the scheme is exemplary. One initiative that needs special mentioning is that the information that was provided by scheme members and funding contributed by the TCM towards the rehabilitation of one of the town's street drinkers has paid off. This offender has successfully come through the programme, is now living in Portsmouth and helping others that suffer from substance misuse."

In her report Ms Hobbs also praised MaidSafe for; Clearing the town centre of street drinkers; Its work towards extending MaidSafe to cover the whole borough; Its "great initiatives" to combat bag thieves; Increasing membership of Safer Socialising Award; Its award evenings. The report said there had been a 12.5 per cent reduction in shop theft in the town, 8 per cent cut in violence and 12 per cent reduction in all crime.

Ms Hobbs said MaidaSafe enjoyed "superb relationships" with the other statutory and key agencies in Maidstone. She was particularly impressed by the fact that the substance misuse rehab use group, Cornerstone, uses the partnership's radios when out on the streets. All large events and festivals in the town also link into the radio network.

Ms Hobbs singled out TCM Intelligence Manager John Drogo for special praise, describing him as "a real credit to the scheme".

Town Centre Manager Bill Moss welcomed the report, saying; "We believe that MaidSafe is doing an excellent job in making Maidstone a safer place for us to live, work and socialise in and it is good to see the hard work recognised in this way."



Maidstone Museum

Coming up at Maidstone Museum this month are two fascinating exhibitions.

Textile Treasures, which opens on March 15, will feature samplers and textiles from the 17th to the 19th centuries from the museum's collection.

News in Pictures, which runs from March 15 to July 4, is a selection of photographs from the KM Group's archives, showing life in Maidstone from the 1930s to the 1950s.



Kall Kwik Maidstone is on the move

The business design and print experts are leaving their current home in Bank Street and moving to new premises at 24-26 Pudding Lane.

To find out more visit www.maidstone.kallkwik.co.uk, call 01622 688966 or email sales@maidstone.kallkwik.co.uk

The new centre opens on Monday, March 1.

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Around Town... with Bill Moss...



High Street Redevelopment...

The first planning applications in connection with the High Street redevelopment project have been lodged with the Borough Council. Permissions are being sought in connection with The Cannon and the Queen Victoria monument, the closure of a subway at the bottom of High Street and associated works at Bishop's Way.

Royal Star Cafe...

We are delighted to report that work has started on a new cafe for the Royal Star Arcade. Due to open in late March, the new venue will have the very best in hot drinks together with sandwiches, pasties, paninis etc.

Tesco for the town centre?...

Rumours are rife that supermarket giant Tesco is looking to come to the town centre. Speculation is that the company is in discussion with the owners of the old Army and Navy store in Week Street to take a sizeable unit in the redeveloped building.

Woolworths...

Poundland will soon be opening in the redundant Woolworth building in Week Street. We understand work begins on the site in April. Shoe retailer Deichmann will be joining the popular retailer in the refurbished building and, although new to the South East, Deichmann currently has more than 2,500 stores across 19 countries and employs more than 28,000 staff.

Summer flowers...

Although it is hard to think about summer flowers during this prolonged cold spell, TCM is working with the Borough Council to ensure the town centre will be a mass of colour during June, July and August.

A recent walkabout pinpointed exactly where the hanging baskets and planters will be positioned, and we are delighted to report there will be even more hanging baskets this year.

TCM Shopping Guide and Map...

The 2010 TCM Shopping Guide is filling rapidly. However, to book your advertising space you can still contact Lee Bennett on 01622 678777, but do it quickly! A new TCM street map is available from our office, as well as from the Town Hall or the TCM display stand in the Mall Chequers opposite Rooks.

2010 Events...

Town Centre Management is working on a full calendar of events for the year, details of which can be found on the TCM website www.maidstonetowncentre.com

TCM Board...

The TCM board of directors are having an away-day at the Village Hotel on March 25 to discuss the future strategy and direction of the company for the coming years.

New members...

We are delighted to welcome new members DMS Graphics of Tovil, and Kent County Agricultural Society (organisers of the Kent County Show) to Town Centre Management. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with them both.

The Salvation Army...

is holding an open air service at the junction of Week Street and Earl Street at 4pm on Sunday, March 28. All are welcome to the service that is expected to last for about 30 minutes.

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 go to the following businesses for their generous support:

GOLD

Boots • Fremlin Walk • Kent Messenger • Maidstone Borough Council • Sainsbury's • The Mall Maidstone • Marks and Spencers

SILVER

Any Waste Solution Ltd • Arriva • Audley Mote House • Bridal Gowns At Jodi • Countrystyle Waste Management • The Great Danes Ramada Jarvis Hotel • Kent Life • Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce • KOS Media • The Federation of Small Businesses • McDonalds • The Royal Star Arcade • Signs & Imaging • Strawberry Moons • The Marriott Tudor Park Hotel and Country Club • Village Hotel and Leisure Complex • Kent County Agricultural Society

BRONZE

The Friars at Aylesford Priory • Britelite Windows • G Cornell & Sons Jewellers • The Downs Mail • Fitness David Lloyd Maidstone • Gullands Solicitors • Laura Ashley • Maidstone Utd Football Club • New Line Learning Academies • Perfection Bridal Wear • RAP Office Contracts • Ronald White Photographic • The Russell Hotel • Wilkinsons • Miller House • Design and Media Solutions • Union Street Traders • Zen Languages • Blue Arrow • Four Jays Group

Maidstone Town Centre Management,

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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)