



Maidstone Town Mail

...another initiative from Town Centre Management



Brenchley Gardens

Work in Brenchley Gardens has started and TCM congratulates the Borough Council on its ambitious plans to further improve one of the town centres loveliest areas.

Located adjacent to Maidstone East railway station, Brenchley Gardens is a fine example of sculpted landscaping and is a relaxing oasis in the heart of the town. The improvements include replacing the long lost railings on the Station Road side of the gardens, renovating the public loos and installing new steps to create a more welcoming entrance.

Sections of the shrubbery have been dramatically thinned – out, the old fish pond will be replaced with planting and new flower beds created.

...and still with Brenchley Gardens, the **Summer Music Season** begins on **28 June** with the **Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra** performing between **3.00-4.30pm** as part of the Ronald White Town Centre Jazz Festival.

Every Sunday until 30 August there is music on the Bandstand and you are invited to just turn up, kick back and enjoy! Deckchair hire is £1.

Further information from www.maidstonearts.com or call 01622 602828.



Make it Maidstone. Make it Jazz...

Once again Town Centre Management (TCM) is proud to welcome residents, businesses and visitors to the **Ronald White Town Centre Jazz Festival**, two great **FREE** days of jazz on the streets of the County Town. Make sure you have Saturdays **27 June and 5 July** in your jazz diary!

The festival will be officially opened on **Saturday 27 June** by world famous local artist Graham Clarke at the Town Hall in High Street at 10 15am, where he will join festival favourite Dr Jazz before touring the many open air venues throughout the town centre.

As well as our usual venues of Earl Street, High Street, Gabriel's Hill, Royal Star Arcade and Fremlin Walk, we welcome back the Stone Street Club in Gabriel's Hill and Stone Court Hotel in Lower Stone Street, as well as new venues at Rose Yard, Ashes Sports Bar in Market Buildings, Pudding Lane and Union Street, and The Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra play at Brenchley Gardens Bandstand from 3.00 - 4.30pm on 27 June.

And a further extension of this hugely successful event sees an evening of live jazz at the Russell Hotel in Boxley Road on 27 June, and again at the Walnut Tree pub in Tonbridge Road and St Nicholas Hall in Poplar Grove on 5 July.

For the 2009 festival we have teamed up with Pudding Lane photographic specialist Ronald White as our main sponsor, and we offer a huge "thank you" to them and to The Golden Boot who are providing the jazz in Gabriel's Hill.

Each year TCM receives partial funding for the festival from the Borough Council, and although the 2009 grant has been severely cut, we also extend a huge "thank you" to them for the continuing support. Following a major injection of sponsorship from the private sector it is our hope that those attending the festival won't notice the join!

Jupiter Workshops have once more proved their expertise is invaluable in helping to organise the festival, which TCM hopes will again prove to be one of the highlights of the town centre in 2009.

Further information from the Jupiter Workshops Festival Office; 01622 751243 or TCM; 01622 678777



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Entrances on the
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Market Buildings

Opening Hours:
Mon - Sat 9am - 5.30pm

Make it Maidstone

At a recent meeting between town centre manager Bill Moss and MBC communications manager Roger Adley, Make it Maidstone was suggested by Roger as a new slogan for the town. This simple, adaptable and easy to use slogan has been embraced by TCM and will shortly be appearing on many of the marketing initiatives undertaken by the company.

The Ronald White Jazz Festival provides a powerful example of the slogan with Make it Maidstone-Make it Jazz. Other examples are Make it Maidstone-Make it Green to support the TCM Green Week in August, and Make it Maidstone-Make it Christmas for the TCM seasonal campaign.

Well done Roger!



www.keepourtrains.com

TCM is supporting the newly formed action group Keep Our Trains who are lobbying for Southeastern trains to retain the fast direct services from Maidstone, Bearsted and West Malling to London Bridge and Cannon Street which it intends stopping in December 2009.

The group say that if these services are cut Maidstone will become a less attractive

place for higher earning commuters

to live, and have an adverse impact on spending in the town centre.

Maidstone and Weald MP Anne Widdicombe is meeting with Transport Minister Lord Adonis to argue the case for the County Town, and TCM is writing to her supporting retention of the services.

More information from www.keepourtrains.com

Rotary leads the Way

A gala concert in aid of Heart of Kent Hospice opens the 17th International Maidstone Music and Dance Festival on **Saturday 13 June at Mote Hall**, Maidstone Leisure Centre.

The concert is presented by the towns four Rotary Clubs, (Maidstone, Riverside, Dann Patrol and Weald) and Jupiter Workshops, and will be conducted by Jeffrey Vaughan Martin. It stars a former pupil of Maidstone Girl's Grammar School

and Roseacre Junior School, Rachel Lloyd. Rachel, a mezzo-soprano has regularly sung at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and on its tours.

Long standing supporter of TCM and President of Maidstone Rotary Club Dennis Fowle promises a memorable night!

Tickets priced at £15, £12, £10 and £8 are available from Sharon Music, lower High Street, 01622 761407

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...another initiative from Town Centre Management



JAZZ GALA DINNER
BEST WESTERN
THE RUSSELL HOTEL
SATURDAY, 27TH JUNE 2009
£29.95 per person for a 3 course gala dinner and entertainment.

Join us in celebrating the Ronald White Maidstone Jazz Festival with entertainment by the Ursula Malewski Quartet, famous for her involvement with Mehr Clef Jazz. Tonight she will take to the stage with award winning pianist Rick Simpson and Kents very own Andee Price on bass and Colin Codd on drums.

With special guest, local artist Graham Clarke opening the evening, this will be a night to remember.

To book your tickets call us now on **01622 692221** to avoid disappointment.

Best Western the Russell Hotel!
136 Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AE
Tel: 01622 692221
E-mail: events@therussellhotel.com
Web: www.therussellhotel.com



Maidstone
Great to visit - Great to shop



Around Town...

...with Bill Moss

Asda update ... The new Asda Living store and 113 room Travelodge hotel currently being built in St Peter's Street are coming along at a rapid rate of knots! It seems that every time we look, it gets a bit bigger and impressions are that it will be opening on time this autumn. If you haven't seen it yet it's well worth a look next time you visit the town.

Last chance ... Your last chance to visit the Nucleus Showcase exhibition in the Graham Clarke Gallery at the Hazlitt Arts Theatre is Saturday 30 May. The exhibition by local artists is a mix of original paintings, textiles, sculpture, jewellery and applied arts all at affordable prices.
www.nucleus-arts.co.uk

Artist studio space ... The Arts Development Team at Maidstone Borough Council has a studio of approx 80sq ft available at the Hazlitt Arts Centre for just £55 per month including utility bills. Contact arts@maidstone.gov or www.maidstonearts.com for further details.

Earl Street ... Gourmet Properties, owners of Flaming Henry's restaurant in lower High Street, have submitted an application for listed building consent for the change of use of 42-44 Earl Street, formally the home of Days Solicitors, from A1 (office) to A3 (food and drink) use. The application also seeks permission for the erection of a conservatory and three story extension at the rear.

Earl Street 2 ... Another planning application has been received from the Secretary of State for Defence for change of use of the former Orma fashion retailer at the bottom of Fremlin Walk steps to accommodate a new Army Careers Information Office. The offices were originally planned for a vacant shop at the top end of Fremlin Walk before a change of heart.

TCM Charity of the Year ... At the April TCM board meeting it was agreed that town centre based Trinity Foyer will become the TCM Charity of the Year. The board was delighted to receive a presentation from Foyer manager Sue Moore, and look forward to working closely with them throughout 2009.

Bin the Bag ... The TCM Bag Lady and exhibition was recently at East Malling School, and will shortly be donated to

Maidstone Museum. TCM cannot overstate the significance of the hugely successful campaign that has raised the profile of our company and our town in national and local media.

It's a Rap ... Congratulations to TCM member RAP Office Contracts who have been accepted as a supplier on the KCC Approved Contractor database. RAP handle contracts ranging in value from £1,000 to £2million and are proud of their blue-chip client base. TCM congratulates RAP on this important recognition of their outstanding work. www.rapofficecontractors.com

ATCM Awards ... In the May newsletter we reported that Maidstone was pipped to the post by Manchester in the recent ATCM Awards, however following the success of being shortlisted for the award, town centre manager Bill Moss has been asked to speak at the ATCM Summer School being held in Belfast.

Town Centre Guide ... The 2009/10 guides are now available and can be collected from the TCM office or the TCM spinner opposite Rooks on level 2 of the Mall Chequers.

New Member ... We welcome Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce as a new member to TCM. We look forward to working closely with them for the benefit of all businesses in the town centre.



High Street Design Competition

Town Mail has carried regular stories about the MBC design competition to **revamp the High Street** area, aimed at bringing new prosperity and a sense of space to a previously tired area.

From an original entry of 76 schemes which had been whittled down to just five, the winner was announced on Friday 22 May. A scheme by Nottingham based Letts Wheeler Architects has been chosen because of its "clutter free, simple and homogenous approach".

Much planning and preparation work will now be undertaken before the bulldozers move in during spring 2010 to begin what will be one of the most exciting town centre developments for many years.

Refurbishment of the High Street forms an important part of the TCM Town Centre Plan which was adopted by the TCM board in March 2008 and submitted as the company's contribution to the Local Development Framework.

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 • Marks and Spencer • Maidstone Borough Council • Sainsbury's • The Mall Maidstone

SILVER

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

BRONZE

The Friars at Aylesford Priory • G Cornell & Sons Jewellers • CJ Joyce Photography • The Courtyard • The Downs Mail • Earl Street Employment Agency • Ethos • Fitness David Lloyd Maidstone • Gullands Solicitors • Laura Ashley • Maidstone Health • New Line Learning Academies • Pronuptia • RAP Office Contracts • RBLI • The Old Rectory, Conference, Health & Fitness Centre • Ronald White Photographic • Royal Bank of Scotland • The Russell Hotel • Victorias Cabaret Club • Wilkinsons



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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)

Mote House

in Mote Park.

You may not know this, but Audley has 25 years experience as one of the UK's leading operators and developers of retirement villages.

We create and restore buildings in beautiful surroundings to an exceptionally high standard where residents own and live in their own homes in a safe and secure environment.

At the heart of our Mote House Retirement Village is the Audley Club with the kind of facilities you would expect to find in a country house hotel, such as



a restaurant, bistro bar, library, health and wellbeing centre and hair salon. And should you ever need some help around the house or personal care, Audley provides that as well.

Tempted by Audley living? In response to prospective customers feeling hampered by the slow moving property market, Audley has recently introduced an innovative solution. Our **'Try Before You Buy'** scheme enables those customers the chance to move in before their

own property is sold. For details, talk to us today on 01622 737279.

At the beginning of June we are launching our new phase 'Gatehouse Lodge' which is located adjacent to Mote House and comprises just eight spacious 2 bedroom apartments and two 3 bedroom individual lodge houses.

We don't do the hard sell - we're simply here to provide the solutions so why not come along and take a tour of our stunning retirement village and all it has to offer?

The new Show Home and Marketing Suite, which is accessed via Willington Street, Maidstone, is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Retirement living for the not so retiring.



There I was driving round and round looking for a parking spot in Maidstone Town Centre when I came across Audley's retirement village at Mote Park.

It's a brilliant mixture of restoration and sensitive new-build. At its heart is Mote House, a beautifully restored Georgian mansion with all the facilities of a country house hotel and stunning views over 450 acres of historic parkland.

From my new home in 'Gatehouse Lodge' I could just wander over for a coffee in the bistro. Everything I need is on the doorstep. Even Maidstone's Park and Ride. So I won't have to drive round and round any more. Unless, of course, I want to.

Gatehouse Lodge consists of 2 and 3 bedroom spacious apartments and lodge houses, available for immediate occupation. Guide price from £299,000.

The Marketing Suite is open daily from 10am to 5pm. The entrance is via Willington Street, Maidstone.

Mote House

For people who want to remain at the controls



Call 01622 737279
audleyretirement.co.uk

