

East February 2011



Borough Update

Your Maidstone Borough Council Newsletter



**Work starts on Mote Park's major
makeover – see page 4**

Free bulky rubbish service

Most weekends Maidstone council refuse lorries collect bulky household rubbish from locations in your area. Take your refuse to the Saturday Freighter Service at the times shown:

February 12

10:25 - 11:15 Buckland Road allotments
12:15 - 13:00 Grove Green. Provender Way
13:10 - 14:00 Grove Green. Shepherds Gate Drive
14:10 - 15:10 Madginford. Merton Road
15:15 - 15:45 Bearsted. Ashford Road/Rosemary Road

March 12

07:45 - 08:30 Frinsted Church
08:40 - 09:20 Wormshill. The Street
09:30 - 10:10 Harrietsham. Church Lane
10:20 - 11:00 Harrietsham Primary School
12:00 - 12:40 Lenham. Douglas Rd
12:50 - 13:30 Lenham. Ham Lane/Cherry Orchard
13:40 - 14:20 Lenham. Honeywood Road
14:30 - 15:10 Platts Heath. Green Lane
15:15 - 15:45 Grafty Green. Church Lane

March 19

07:45 - 08:30 Hollingbourne. Troys Mead
08:45 - 09:15 Lenham. Warren Street
09:25 - 09:55 Ulcombe. Lodge Gardens

March 26

07:45 - 08:30 Otham
08:45 - 09:45 Bearsted Village Green

April 2

07:45 - 08:15 Walderslade. Impton Lane/Spendlow Drive
08:25 - 09:00 Walderslade. Impton Lane/Olivine Rd
14:50 - 15:45 Sandling. Tyland Lane

Please note we no longer accept garden waste or very large bulky items and we cannot collect electrical or hazardous items.

You can dispose of these items through our paid for bulky collection service or at the household waste recycling centre at Burial Ground Lane, Tovil, Maidstone. It is open Monday to Saturday, 8am to 4.30pm, and Sunday and Bank Holidays, 9am to 4pm. For more information about our bulky rubbish services, including paid for doorstep collections, visit maidstone.gov.uk or call the cleansing hotline on 01622 602162.

Half-term crafts

Maidstone Museum has lots of craft activities for the under 12s in February. Drop in anytime between 10.30am to 12.30pm or 1.30 to 3.30pm. All activities cost £2 per child.

- Monday, February 21 - WWII Medals and Nurses Badges.
- Tuesday, February 22 - Dino Hats.
- Wednesday, February 23 - Egyptian Wigs and Eye Make Up.
- Thursday, February 24 - Cracking Dinosaur Eggs.
- Friday, February 25 - Roman Clay Oil Lamps.

Don't miss the Mini exhibition - Inspirations III - until February 27.

East Wing – volunteer, donate, sponsor



Work has started on the new East Wing but we need to raise money to help fit out the galleries and the education facilities.



This is where YOU can help. To volunteer, donate or sponsor, visit www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk or ring 01622 602529.

Borough Update

This is your council newsletter, produced up to six times a year in the Downs Mail newspaper. It is written, edited and designed by the council's communications team, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Email: pr@maidstone.gov.uk. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. It is typeset by DesignZero6 and printed by Uckfield Press.

If you are visually impaired and would like the newsletter text in large print, please call us on 01622 602807, and we will be happy to send you a copy.

Your new food waste collection service

Refuse and recycling services have changed, to recycle more with a new food waste collection, processing the food in the most environmentally acceptable way.

Food waste is now collected every week on the same day as rubbish and recycling collections.

With a weekly food waste collection, there is no need to collect the remainder of your rubbish so often, so the grey wheelie bin for rubbish will be collected every other week.

If you have shared rubbish and recycling bins, your current collection service will not change.



Trying out the new service

Some Maidstone families trialed the new food waste service during December and January. Here's what two had to say:

The Parks family from Grove Green.

"It was so simple to use. Both my children were keen recyclers

already and took to it without any problems.

"The kitchen caddy was the right size and the liners didn't tear and were easy to tie up. There were no smells in the kitchen and apart from Christmas, when we had guests, I have only been using one liner a week. I tend to compost a lot, and put things out for the birds so actually don't throw much away.

"My initial concerns about another bin outside my property were unfounded, as it takes up very little space and the colours look good too."



The Lindsays from Coxheath

"It's gone quite well so far. The kitchen caddy is a good size; not too big to get in the way but big enough to hold a few days waste. We haven't noticed any 'food smells'.

"The outside food waste bin is well-designed. The locking lid is good and will prevent accidental spills and animal interference."

"Most challenging for me is remembering to recycle food waste, and remembering to use the food caddy. We used to wrap food waste in newspaper to put in the refuse bin, which is quite bulky, so we have much less waste going into the grey wheelie bin for rubbish."

Don't forget you can also use your green wheeled bin to recycle many items

YES PLEASE



- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Leaflets/Flyers
- Envelopes
- Catalogues
- Phone Books
- Yellow Pages
- Office Paper
- Paper Bags
- Foil Free Wrapping Paper
- Greetings Cards
- Food Packaging Sleeves
- Cardboard Packaging
- Cardboard Boxes (Broken Down)

- Food Tins
- Drink Cans
- Foil Trays/Containers
- Kitchen Foil
- Empty Aerosol Cans

- All Clear and Coloured Plastic Bottles and Tops
- Yoghurt Pots
- Margarine Tubs
- Ice Cream Tubs

Please do not put any other types of plastics in with your recycling.

IMPORTANT - NO PLASTIC BAGS OR SACKS

Maidstone Borough Council

Your new food waste collection service

Please start using your food waste bins



Recycling food waste into compost
If you have shared rubbish and recycling bins, your current collection will not change

recycle for Maidstone
01622 602600
www.maidstone.gov.uk



A park with a view

Two and half million pounds of conservation and improvement works started with scrub clearance and the planting of 140 new parkland trees at Mote Park.

The scrubland has been removed to recreate historic views which have been lost over time. An example of this is the vista between the historic volunteers pavilion and Mote House. The reinstatement of these views has been carefully coordinated with Kent Wildlife Trust to ensure that the ecology of the park is protected.

The new trees will include: Alder, Birch, Hornbeam, Sweet Chestnut, Indian Bean Tree, Eastern Walnut, Beach, Tulip Tree, Oak, Redwood and Lime.

Maidstone Borough Council was awarded a £1.8 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund and is also investing £700,000 in the project. It is the biggest investment in the park since the council purchased it from Lord Bearsted in 1929 for £50,000.



Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture, Cllr Richard Ash, said: "Mote Park is one of Kent's biggest and best parklands and it has a special place in our lives. We have consulted park users and others. These improvements will conserve the natural habitats of the park, restore many of the features lost over time, and add better facilities for families and disabled people."

The full list of conservation and improvement works includes:

- New landscaping and tree planting, focusing on the reinstatement of the parkland landscape.
- Improved pedestrian access, with new fully accessible footpaths comprising of an inner (around the lake) and outer circuit, enabling safe wheelchair and pushchair access throughout.
- Works to manage the outflow of the lake to reduce lake edge flooding.
- Repair of the lake crossing causeway with a natural reed bed treatment to prevent erosion.
- New bridge construction in order to provide an accessible pedestrian route across the lake.
- Refurbishment of Mote Avenue and School Lane car parks.
- New parking facilities via Willington Street entrance.
- Installation of electronically controlled gates to prevent unauthorised vehicular access in the park.
- Reconstruction of the historic waterfall.
- Construction of a boathouse promenade and the relocation of the model boat club platform.
- Restoration works to the historic pavilion.
- Interpretation points at the entrances and historic park features enhancing user's knowledge and interest of the park.
- New way finding signage throughout.
- New and refurbished park furniture, including litter bins, seating and cycle stands.
- Security improvements including the provision of additional CCTV cameras at key locations agreed with the Police.
- On-site information boards and signage agreed with community groups.
- Fishing areas, including some for anglers with disabilities.
- Two local park centres with play equipment (including facilities for children with disabilities) and potential for catering facilities.
- Improved seating throughout, providing rest points in the park.
- Improvements to park entrances enabling safe access.
- Full Kiosk refurbishment - new disabled and baby change facilities and a Disability Discrimination Act compliant service counter.
- Historic feature information boards throughout.

Volunteering opportunities available

The council is offering volunteers the chance to get involved. "I am sure there won't be any shortage of volunteers, Maidstone people really care about Mote Park. This is a chance to be part of the next chapter in its history, recreating the historic parkland of a bygone age and adding the facilities for more people to enjoy it", says Cllr Ash. If you'd like to volunteer call Alan Frith, Mote Park Audience Development Officer on 01622 602119 or email alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk Information boards will be displayed in the park. Full details can be found online on www.maidstone.gov.uk

The roots of the park

In 1929 Maidstone Borough Council paid £50,000 to purchase Mote Park, including Mote House, from the 2nd Viscount Bearsted. Large areas in the west of the park were cleared for a showground and sports facilities. Current day facilities include a play area; pitch & putt, café, Maidstone Leisure Centre, football and rugby pitches, model boat club, fishing club and model trains. For more information on the Mote Park Improvement Project visit www.maidstone.gov.uk

Maidstone CCTV – the facts!

The current contract for Maidstone's CCTV service is coming to an end, so 'do nothing' is not an option. Here are the facts about the council's decision making process:

- No decision has been taken on the future of the CCTV service.
- The options that will be considered in February are:
 - To enter into partnership with another council as a shared service on a not for profit basis with Maidstone Borough council retaining direct control in running the service; or
 - To advertise for a contractor to run the CCTV service on behalf of the council through a competitive bidding process.

Sweeping clean



Volunteers who have helped keep the borough spic and span over the last year were recognised at a thank you lunch.

The lunch was held at the Town Hall to say thanks to those who have given their time for free to help pick up litter, bag up rubbish and create their own war on waste over the year.

Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr Ben Sherreard, said: "These volunteers are an important part of our community, setting a good example of how our borough should be looked after. This is a way of repaying our gratitude to them."

- An offer of partnership working on a shared service, not for profit basis has been received from Medway Council who already work in partnership with Swale Borough Council.
- No other offers of partnership working have been received.
- If the offer of partnership from Medway Council does not meet the Cabinet Member's criteria of a shared service partnership the council will advertise for a contractor to run the CCTV service.
- If the council advertises for a contractor to run the CCTV services, all offers will be considered through a formal tendering process as long as they meet the service quality and standards the council expects.
- The new CCTV service, whether through a shared service with Medway or through a contract, will be required to deliver the quality of service we currently have alongside financial savings and also identify improvements to the service for the future.
- The quality of service provided through CCTV is paramount to any decision to be taken. Any decision will also have to deliver significant financial savings.
- The council has no plans either through a shared service or a contract to reduce the number of operator hours allocated to monitor CCTV for Maidstone.
- All current CCTV cameras will be required to be operated under the new arrangements.
- The service will have the latest technology with dedicated monitors and CCTV operators for the Maidstone CCTV service.
- Maidstone CCTV will continue to maintain and build on the strong working relationships with the police, Mailsafe and all other partners to provide a safe and secure environment for Maidstone borough.

Do it online - become an "E-Citizen"

Register as an "E-Citizen" now and sign up to receive your council tax or business rate bill by email to help reduce your carbon footprint. You will also gain 24 hour access to your account details for council tax, business rates or housing benefit online.

01622 602003
 counciltax@maidstone.gov.uk
 www.maidstone.gov.uk



Audit committee – appointment of independent member

Maidstone Borough Council's Audit Committee is looking for a new independent member. The committee has five borough councillors, all of whom have full voting rights. The Audit Committee usually meets at 6.30pm on a Monday evening. The role will require a commitment to attend six evening meetings a year. Training and support will be given.

The appointment is for a term of three years. You should live or work in the borough and you cannot be considered for appointment if you:

- Are a councillor or council officer or have been so in the preceding five years prior to appointment;
- Are a relative or close friend of an officer or councillor;
- Are an employee or Member of another local authority;
- Have any criminal convictions;
- Are an undischarged bankrupt;
- Have any significant business dealings with the Council;
- Have any connection with any political group.

Independent Members are entitled to claim a co-opted members' allowance and some travel and subsistence expenses. For an informal discussion about this appointment, please call Paul Riley on 01622 602396. For an information pack and application form, contact Lorraine Underdown on 01622 602477 or e-mail lorraineunderdown@maidstone.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is February 21, 2011.

Scrutiny needs you

Maidstone's overview and scrutiny councillors work hard to examine and improve the way we do things at Maidstone Borough Council. Are there any issues affecting your local community?

If there is an issue email osc@maidstone.gov.uk or log onto www.maidstone.gov.uk to fill out an online form.

Neighbourhood Forum



Have your say at neighbourhood forums

Wherever you live we want you as residents of the borough to have your say. We would like to hear from you about issues that affect your local community.

We will arrange for the right people to attend the meeting to discuss the issues you want to raise.

If you have an issue you'd like to raise email neighbourhoodforums@maidstone.gov.uk or call Janet Barnes (Maidstone Borough Council) on 01622 602242 or Steve Charman (Kent County Council) on 01622 694008.

www.kent.gov.uk
www.maidstone.gov.uk



Future Meetings

Rural West & South – March 24, 2011 at Staplehurst Village Centre

Rural North & East – April 11, 2011 at Madginford Hall, Bearsted

Central & North East – April 14, 2011 – venue to be confirmed



South & South East – 18 April 2011 – venue to be confirmed

To keep up to date with meetings and for more information visit www.maidstone.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums

myguide


myguide is a website designed to help people take their first steps with computers and the internet. Registered users get access to an easy-to-use email system and a wide range of online courses.

Maidstone Gateway is a registered myguide Centre offering pre-bookable sessions to sign up please ask at Meet and Greet or one of our Volunteers for more information or availability.



Maidstone Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ

Call 01622 602750 to sign up
www.maidstone.gov.uk



Maidstone Borough Council and the Police working together to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour

The Police, Maidstone Borough Council and other agencies work to reduce crime and disorder, increase community reassurance and to ensure that Maidstone remains a safe place to live and work in and to visit.

The Safer Maidstone Partnership (SMP) is part of a much larger community partnership – the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and has been co-ordinating multi agency crime and disorder reduction for about ten years.

The SMP produces a three year Partnership Plan to tackle the most pressing areas of local concern and is in the process of developing the 2011 – 2014 version of the plan. An assessment of trends and patterns of community safety issues is undertaken and a range of draft priorities are identified.

The initial discussions have identified the following priorities:

- Domestic Abuse - Building on the recommendations of an LSP and Domestic Violence Forum event held in November 2010 to look at multi agency approaches to tackling domestic abuse.
- Antisocial Behaviour – To further develop multi-agency and community initiatives to tackle a range of anti social activity in the borough
- Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) (Road Traffic Collisions). The social cost in terms personal



injury to individuals and trauma for families is immense. The scale of the problem will be further researched and a range of interventions developed to reduce the incidence of KSI.

- Substance Misuse – To respond to legislative changes and guidance as it emerges in the next few months on alcohol and drugs treatment, enforcement, intervention and education.

Maidstone continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit.

For the period October 2009 to September 2010 (the period covered by the assessment process there was a reduction in the category of 'All Crime' by 5% on the previous year).

The daily business of the Safer Maidstone Partnership and community safety practitioners includes a range of crime and disorder related topics from burglary, the night time economy, violent crime, to neighbour disputes and environmental crime – this work will continue.

Have your say!

The proposed community safety priorities of the SMP - part of the partnership planning process involves consulting with the community and community groups. If you have any comments or suggestions on your local concerns about community safety please contact John Littlemore, Head of Community Safety at Maidstone Borough Council on 01622 602000 or johnlittlemore@maidstone.gov.uk or David Hewetson, Community Safety Co-ordinator on 01622 602000 or davidhewetson@maidstone.gov.uk

Spring clean your way to a safer home

Storing large amounts of flammable material such as newspapers and cardboard can pose a substantial fire risk to your home, warns Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS).

The advice is to keep such items to a minimum to help reduce the chances and effects of fire:

- NEVER allow rubbish/rubbish containers to block escape routes
- Never store or position rubbish/rubbish containers near to doors or windows, this will encourage fire to spread
- Keep rubbish/rubbish containers as far as possible from any building or overhanging structure
- Remember to vacuum your smoke alarm
- Ensure that your smoke alarm is working, test the battery once a week and change it every year
- Keep flammable materials such as newspapers, cardboard and videotapes to a minimum.



Hazlitt Arts Centre

Comedy Club Night

Every first Wednesday of the month at 8pm. Tickets £10.

Rob Deering March 2 – Quick-fire with cheesy singing and plenty of clowning about.

Miles Jupp and Kevin McCarthy April 6 - Miles Jupp has appeared in The thick of It, Have I Got News for You and Never Mind the Buzzcocks.

Valentine's Day Massacre - Mayor's Murder Mystery Friday February 11, 7.30pm, £17.50 inc. buffet. Prepare to be spooked and surprised in this hoot of a murder mystery – all in the name of charity.

Rob Kingsley – A Vision of Elvis Friday February 18, 7.30pm £16.50 concs £15 - The most authentic Elvis tribute show in the World!

T.Rextasy Tribute Show Saturday February 19, 8pm £17 concs £16 - Boggie and bop to the sounds of T.Rex.

'Danny the Champion of the World' by Roald Dahl Half term project Monday February 21 to Saturday February 26 10.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday. 10.30am until finish on Saturday evening. Saturday February 26, 5pm performance. £75 workshop including two free tickets for the performance. £5 for performance tickets.

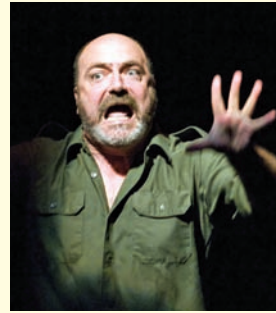
This is an exciting opportunity for anyone aged between 6 and 10 years old to be involved in a production at The Hazlitt Arts Centre, run by the Hazlitt Youth Theatre team.

Barbershopera – Apocalypse Sunday February 27, 7.30pm £14 concs £12 Barbershop's funniest quartet is back, in a double award-winning new show that follows international tours and a BBC Radio 4 broadcast.

California Dreamin' Sunday March 6, 8pm £17 concs £16 California Dreaming – an intimate evening of the American songbook from the golden era of the 1960's/70's.

Let's Hang On Saturday March 12, 7.30pm £16 concs £15 A musical journey through the prolific career of one of the most successful bands of all time" Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons".

Drama Special at the Hazlitt



My Grandfather's Great War Thursday March 17, 7.30pm £12 concs £10

This new solo drama interweaves the First World War diaries of Captain Alexander Stewart with the contemporary perspective of his grandson.

Lockerbie: Unfinished Business Saturday March 19, 7.30pm £12 concs £10

When 270 people were killed in Britain's worst terrorist atrocity, grieving father Jim Swire found his faith in his own country's legal system shattered.



Hazlitt Half Term Fun for Families

Half term fun for families at the Hazlitt Theatre in Earl Street.

Three Billy Goats Gruff Wednesday February 23, 2.30pm £8 concs £5;

Potted Panto Friday

February 25 3pm £9 concs £7 and

How the Koala Learnt to Hug Saturday February 26 2.30pm £8 concs £5

– buy all three and get them at the concessionary price.



Ticket sales rocket for Beauty and Beast production



This year's Hazlitt panto, Beauty and the Beast, has proved a huge hit with audiences.

The Hazlitt Theatre is celebrating its best Christmas season ever after putting on the classic fairytale as its production for 2010.

Theatre Manager, Mandy Hare, said: "Ticket sales went through the roof. We have sold 90 per cent since the panto opened on December 4."

The panto pulled in lead stars - Melissa Suffield from EastEnders who plays teen Lucy Beale, Ben Freeman who is famed for his role as Scott Windsor in Emmerdale and Danielle McCormack from children's show My Parents are Aliens. It also featured a live band and full supporting cast.

The Hazlitt Youth Theatre's Christmas show, The Grinch's Tale, also played to packed audiences with 78% of tickets sold.

What's On!

To find out what's on in Maidstone Borough visit www.tour-maidstone.com

To book tickets go online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or ring the Box Office 01622 758611.