

South June 2011



Borough Update

Your Maidstone Borough Council Newsletter



**Maidstone chosen for 2012
Olympic Torch Relay**

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:

July 16

07.45am - 08.30am. Staplehurst. Poyntell Road

08.40am - 09.25am. Staplehurst. Church Green

09.35am - 10.15am. Staplehurst.

Northdown/Marden Road

10.30am - 11.00am. Marden. Stilebridge Lane

12.00pm - 12.40pm. Marden. Stanley Road

12.50pm - 1.30pm. Marden. Chantry Road

1.40pm - 2.20pm. Linton. Wheelers Lane

July 23

07.45am - 08.30am. Teston. By the green

08.40am - 09.30am. Nettlestead. Bishops Close

09.45am - 10.25am. Yalding. Village Green

10.35am - 11.15am. Yalding. Lyngs Close

12.15pm - 12.45pm. Laddingford.

Cleavesland

12.55pm - 13.30pm. Collier Street.

Church Farm

1.40pm - 2.10pm. Hunton Village Hall

2.20pm - 3.05pm. East Farleigh. Gallants Lane

3.15pm - 3.45pm. Coxheath Village Hall

August 6

10.05am - 11.00am. Headcorn. Thatch Barn Road

12.00pm - 12.30pm. Headcorn. Oak Lane

12.40pm - 1.30pm. Sutton Valence. South lane

1.40pm - 2.30pm. Kingswood Village Hall

2.45pm - 3.45pm. Langley. Shepherds Drive

Please note we no longer accept garden waste, very large bulky items and 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.

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 aw design and printed by Newbury News.

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.

Front page, some of Maidstone's Olympic hopefuls, from left to right Ed Harrison, Kelsie Gibson, Ian Payne, Martin Brockman and Luke Smallwood.

Snap Club Nights

SNAP discos are a great night out for young people aged 11 to 17. They are staged in partnership with Kent Police and Crimestoppers as part of a 'say no to drugs' campaign. At SNAP dance nights, security is a top priority, so you and all your friends can listen to live music and meet new people in a very safe environment. Maidstone Leisure Centre, 7pm - 11pm, June 24 and September 23. Tickets are £5 and can be bought on the night.



Hotfoot's Bower Grove play scheme has received a 'good' rating from Ofsted inspectors for the second time. Particularly good features included - inclusion, the strong relationship between staff and children, children's behaviour and safety, health and wellbeing including healthy eating, and active learning and enjoyment. This year's summer play schemes will be:

- Eastborough Primary School. Monday, July 25 - Friday, August 12..
- Bower Grove School. Monday, August 1 - Friday, August 19.
- Oaktrees Primary School. Monday, July 25 - Friday, August 12.
- Sandling Primary School. Monday, August 1 - Friday, August 19.

Apply online at www.maidstone.gov.uk/sports or call 01622 602222.

Carriage Museum reopens for summer

The Carriage Museum is now open for the summer. The museum, in Mill Street, Maidstone, is open until Sunday, September 4 - Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 4pm and on bank holiday Monday, August 29. Entry to the museum is free.



Maidstone's New Cabinet

Chris Garland (Conservative) is the Leader of Maidstone Borough Council. Fran Wilson (Liberal Democrat) is the Leader of the Opposition. Following the borough council elections, last month, the council now has 30 Conservative, 21 Liberal Democrat and 4 independent councillors.

As the Leader of the Council, Chris Garland's role includes strategic planning and policy development, performance management and external affairs and partnerships. His cabinet is:



**Cllr Malcolm Greer
Cabinet Member for
Economic Development
and Transport (Deputy
Leader)**

Responsible for economic development, visitor economy, development management, building control, Park & Ride and local (district) highways functions.



**Cllr Eric Hotson
Cabinet Member for
Corporate Services**

Responsible for people strategy, customer service, corporate finance, legal advice, information technology, council tax and housing benefit, and democratic services.



**Cllr Marion Ring
Cabinet Member for the
Environment**

Responsible for waste and recycling management, air quality management, climate change and carbon management, cleansing services, environmental health, licensing, bereavement services and parking management.



**Cllr John A. Wilson
Cabinet Member for Community
and Leisure Services**

Responsible for strategic housing management, community safety, community development, parks, open spaces and allotments, leisure activities, community engagement and allocation and monitoring of grants.

New Mayor

Brian Mortimer is the new Mayor of Maidstone. The Liberal Democrat councillor for Coxheath & Hunton ward was elected by the council at its annual meeting. The Mayor is looking forward to supporting as many people as possible during his year in office. The Mayor's escort for the year is his wife Dianne. The Deputy Mayor is Conservative councillor Rodd Nelson-Gracie.



Maidstone honours its troops

Maidstone residents and visitors came out in force to support their troops and welcome the new Mayor, Brian Mortimer, at this year's Civic and Freedom Parade.

Many of the Sappers of Maidstone's 36 Engineer Regiment had seen action in Afghanistan and the parade was led by the Regiment of Gurkhas band.

The regiment exercised their right as Freemen of the Borough to march with bayonets fixed, flags flying and drums beating.

Play your part in issues that matter to you

Residents can play a role in suggesting issues in the borough they think councillors should take a closer look at.

Over the last few years a number of well-researched and actioned Overview and Scrutiny reviews have led to significant improvements to services and action on some of the issues that matter to researched people.

If you have an idea or suggestion for the Overview and Scrutiny committees to discuss then get in touch. You can call Orla Sweeney on 01622 602524 or Christina Chemsy on 01622 602463. Alternatively you can email osc@maidstone.gov.uk or submit a suggestion online at www.maidstone.gov.uk/scrutiny

Councillors representing your area

Maidstone has 55 councillors, elected by local people to represent their community on the council.

Councillors make decisions about the council services that we rely on and those that improve our lives such as refuse and recycling collections, street cleaning, leisure facilities, parks and open spaces, parking and

planning. They also work with public sector partners as well as the private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together. Councillors are there to represent you and to help you.

A ALLINGTON			B EAST			C FANT			
Dan Daley Lib Dem 01622 672459	Cynthia Robertson Lib Dem 01622 753517	Malcolm Robertson Lib Dem 01622 753517	David Naghi Lib Dem 01622 678410	Jane Griffin Lib Dem 07725 977841	Martin Cox Lib Dem 01622 202869	Stephen Paine Con 07906 271325	Alistair Black Con 01622 728481	Stephen Beerling Lib Dem 01622 600495	
D HIGH STREET			E NORTH			F SHEPWAY NORTH			
Clive English Lib Dem 07806 360476	Denise Joy Lib Dem 01622 674063	Fran Wilson Lib Dem 01622 673349	Jenni Paterson Lib Dem 01622 679630	Mervyn Warner Lib Dem 01622 753220	Tony Harwood Lib Dem 01622 677578	Chris Garland Con 07766 343024	Marion Ring Con 01622 686492	Michael Yates Con 01622 675188	
G BRIDGE		H SHEPWAY SOUTH		Town Wards			I SOUTH		
David Pickett Lib Dem 01622 681889	James Ross Con 07966 377292	Adrian Brindle Con 01622 745704	Bob Hinder Con 01634 861579	Derek Mortimer Lib Dem 07825 916930	Ian Chittenden Lib Dem 01622 630867	Mike Hogg Con 07964 160282			
J HEATH		K PARKWOOD							
Jenni Sharp Lib Dem 01622 682041	Bryan Vizzard Lib Dem 07957 442994	David Burton Con 01622 862595	Robert Field Lib Dem 01622 200773						

1 BARMING



Fay Gooch
Ind
01622
726608

2 BEARSTED



Richard Ash
Con
01622
730151



Val Springett
Con
01622
737702



Mike Cuming
Con
01622
738825

**3 BOUGHTON
MONCHELSEA
& CHART SUTTON**



Mike FitzGerald
Ind
01622
743270

4 BOXLEY



Derek Butler
Con
01634
684854



Malcolm Greer
Con
01634
862876



Wendy Hinder
Con
01634
861579

5 COXHEATH & HUNTON



John A Wilson
Con
01622
720989



Brian Mortimer
Lib Dem
01622
746046



Dennis Collins
Con
01622
820468

**6 DETLING &
THURNHAM**



Nick de Wiggondene
Con
01622
208721

**7 DOWNSWOOD
& OTHAM**



Gordon Newton
Ind
01622
862330

**8 HARRIETSHAM
& LENHAM**



Tom Sams
Ind
01622
859412



John Barned
Con
01622
851142

9 HEADCORN



Richard Thick
Con
01622
891224



Jenefer Gibson
Con
01622
890200

10 LEEDS



Peter Parvin
Con
01622
673209

11 LOOSE



Susan Grigg
Lib Dem
07706
052495

12 MARDEN & YALDING



Annabelle Blackmore
Con
01622
833299



John Verrall
Con
01622
820638



Rodd Nelson-Gracie
Con
01622
814263

**13 NORTH
DOWNS**



Daphne Parvin
Con
01622
673209

14 STAPLEHURST



Eric Hotson
Con
01580
892312



Richard Lusty
Con
01580
891353

**15 SUTTON
VALENCE &
LANGLEY**

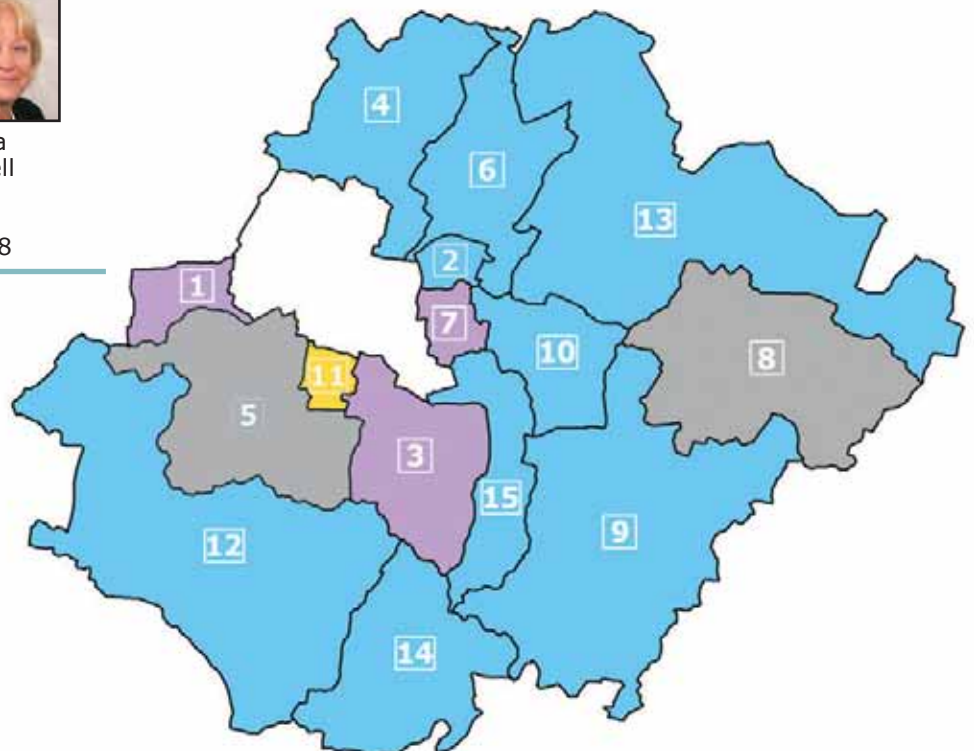


Paulina Stockell
Con
01622
842508

**Rural
Wards**

KEY

- Conservative
- Independent
- Liberal Democrat
- No overall control



Community Watch

In each issue of Borough Update we will be profiling local voluntary and community groups.

Here's the first in our series:

Name of organisation:

Zeroth Active Zone

Area of activity

Zeroth specialise in fitness, exercise rehabilitation and weight management for all ages. It works in partnership with West Kent PCT, Maidstone council and the MS society.



Services for Maidstone residents

- Tailor made gym programmes for people with medical conditions in a safe and friendly environment.
- Phase 4 Cardiac rehabilitation classes.
- Circuit classes for those with multiple sclerosis, to help them maintain or where possible improve their quality of life.
- Weight for Life - a holistic weight management programme for adults, including gym sessions and seminars on nutrition and lifestyle behaviours. From £1 per session.
- GO FOR IT, a free weight management family intervention, including gym sessions and healthy lifestyle seminars for children aged 5-17 years and their families.
- One to One exercise rehabilitation sessions for those who need extra help and support, including people with disabilities and those recovering from a stroke or operation.
- Tone and stretch classes; to improve strength and flexibility, suitable for people with back problems.

Based at

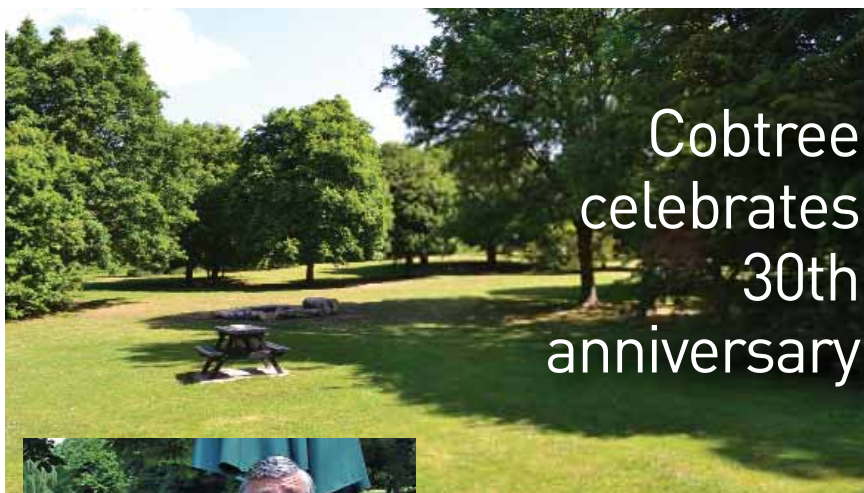
Zeroth Active Zone, Boughton Lane, Maidstone.

Long term aims/goals/ambitions

To reach more people and help improve their quality of life through exercise.

Contact details

Telephone: 01622 749564 or email zeroth@sky.com



Cobtree celebrates 30th anniversary



Bob Corner revisiting Cobtree Park

This year sees the 30th anniversary of Cobtree Park and what a 30 years it's been!

The park has seen some substantial changes over the years, and one person has seen most of them first hand.

Bob Corner, 80, was employed for 10 years as a groundsman at the park and many of the saplings he planted are now fully fledged trees.

"The park is home to some beautiful scenery and some special trees, it's as good as any park you have to pay to walk around," he explains.

Bob, now from Rainham, was born on the Cobtree estate in Keeper's Cottage, a house on the grounds until it was demolished in 1995 at the time the golf course was constructed.

The estate needs a lot of work. Bob says: "Only mowing the grass just

doesn't cut it when it comes to a great resource like Cobtree; it can't just be left to pine away."

The Cobtree Manor Estate has a number of areas including the park, the golf course and Kent Life.

The estate can be found off the Forstal and Sandling Roads, and was originally owned by the late Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake who had the rare distinction of being the Mayor of Maidstone 12 times!

He was also a generous benefactor to the town and its people and following his death on October 24, 1964, the estate was given to the Cobtree Charity Trust Limited.

The Trust leases the estate to Maidstone Borough Council to manage and administer the Estate in accordance with the requirements set out in the lease.

Over the coming months Cobtree will host a series of different guided walks, from identification of birdsongs with a local bird enthusiast, to a mini beast safari, a guided walk with an ecologist looking for butterflies, beetles and other invertebrates.

For more information on the walks please visit www.cobtreepark.co.uk/events

The mystery of history

The Hazlitt Youth Theatre has devised a programme to bring history to life for school children. Project 10 at the Hazlitt Arts Centre revolves around the Mystery of History and is linked to the current Key Stage 2 history syllabus.

Now in its second year, the project helps each participating class to create their own show.

If your school is interested in taking part contact Martin Cleverley, Youth Theatre & Education Manager on 01622 686958, 07860 273280 or email martincleverley@maidstone.gov.uk



Have fun in Maidstone's parks

There are lots of things to do in Maidstone's parks and open spaces this year. Here is a sample of some of the events and attractions on offer:

Mote Park image courtesy of Howard Marsh

Picnics and bat walks in Mote Park

- Saturday, June 18
Habitat Survey Training 10am - 1pm. Free
- Saturday, June 25
Habitat Survey Training Time TBA. Free
- Saturday, July 2
Teens Activities Day 12 noon - 4pm. Free
- Wednesday, July 6
Habitat Survey Training 10am - 1pm. Free
- Saturday and Sunday, July 9 & 10
Race for Life for Cancer Research UK. 10.30am
- Monday, July 25
Bat Evening Walk. From 8.45pm. Free
- Wednesday, July 27
Walking with Giants. 10am - 1pm. Free
- Saturday, July 30
Dog Walk 10am - 1pm Free
- Sunday, August 7
Beginners Reptile Identification Workshop 10am - 12 noon. Free
- Tuesday, August 16
Bat Walk 8.30am - 10.30pm. Free
- Wednesday, August 17.
Habitat Survey Training. 10am - 1pm. Free.
- Wednesday, August 24
Teddy Bears Picnic. 12 noon - 4pm. Free.
- Tuesday, August 30
Bat Walk. 8.30am - 10.30pm. Free.
- Wednesday, September 7
Wildlife Study Day. Contact for details. £25.
Batwalk. 7pm - 9.30pm. Free.
- Saturday and Sunday, September 10 & 11
Maidstone Mela. 12 noon - 6pm. Free.
- Wednesday, September 14
Bat Walk. From 7pm. Free.
- Wednesday, September 21
Wild Food Foraging. 10.30am - 12.30pm. Free.
- Saturday, November 26
Tree Dressing. 10.30 am- 12.30 pm. Free.

Visitor Information Centre has moved

Maidstone's Visitor Information Centre, which was previously based at the Town Hall, has a new home at Maidstone Museum. The centre has a temporary home in the Brenchley Gallery, near the cafe, before it makes its permanent residence in the new East Wing later in the year. The Information Centre at the museum will be open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sunday 12pm to 4pm.

For more information about events in Maidstone's parks and open spaces contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119 or email alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk

Free fun activities for children

Maidstone council provides weekly sports, games, arts and crafts activities:

- Mangravet Recreation Ground, Mangravet Avenue, Maidstone - Tuesdays, 3.45 - 5.45pm
- Park Wood Park, Longshaw Road, Park Wood, Maidstone - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 - 6pm
Saturdays 12 - 4pm
- Clare Park, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone
Tuesdays 6.15 - 8.15pm from June 14



Image courtesy of Jacob Niblett

Brenchley bands

Every Sunday from June 19 to July 10 and Saturday, July 2 (Jazz Weekend).
Maidstone Wind Symphony (June 19),
Maidstone Youth Music Society (June 26),
Jazz Saturday BAE Systems Brass Band (July 2)
Kids Corner Band and Breeze from Netherlands (July 3)
Invicta Jazz Orchestra (July 10)
3p-4.30 pm. Free. Organised by Maidstone Area Arts Council, supported by Maidstone Council.

Skateboarding and BMX Competitions at Skates and Bruises, South Park, Maidstone.
Saturday, June 25, 12 - 6pm. Free.
And at Staplehurst Skate Park, Headcorn Road, Staplehurst. July 16. 11am-5pm. Free.

Also in Brenchley Gardens

Jam in the Park music event for young people organised by New Line Learning students. Saturday, August 6. Free.

Maidstone chosen for 2012 Olympic Torch Relay

Maidstone has been chosen to host an Evening Celebration as part of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay.

The Olympic Flame will be visiting the borough on its journey around the UK with a cauldron lighting celebration showcasing the County Town's culture and heritage at Leeds Castle, Maidstone at the end of the day on Thursday, July 19, 2012.

Maidstone will be one of 66 Evening Celebration locations across the UK, which the London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) say will offer thousands of people the opportunity to come together and get involved in celebrations and share in the Olympic spirit. As part of the events LOCOG

and the Presenting Partners, Coca-Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung, will stage exciting entertainment shows where a cauldron will be lit from the Olympic Flame, marking the end of the day's proceedings.

The Olympic Flame will arrive in the UK

from Greece on Friday, May 18, 2012 and the 70-day Torch Relay will start at Land's End, Cornwall on the morning of the May 19, 2012. On leaving Land's End, the Olympic Flame is expected to travel an estimated 8,000 miles across the UK, giving thousands of communities and individuals their moment to shine as the Olympic Flame comes to their



doorstep. The Olympic Flame will arrive at the Olympic Stadium on July 27, 2012 for the lighting of the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony, signifying the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Olympics. I am hoping that some of our Maidstone's Dream athletes will not only take part but maybe bring home a medal to Maidstone.

Maidstone people will give the Flame a tremendous welcome;" he said.

Torchbearers needed!

The Olympic Flame will be carried across the UK by inspirational Torchbearers. Together with the three Presenting Partners – Coca-Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung, LOCOG is seeking 8,000 of the most inspirational people to have their moment to shine next summer by carrying the Olympic Flame.

The LOCOG Torchbearer programme to find 2,012 inspirational people who have gone beyond their personal best will run until June 29. The nomination portal at www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelay asks nominators for up to 150 words on why their nominee should carry the Olympic Flame. Judging panels will be set up in each region of the UK to select the Torchbearers for their area.

90% of the 8,000 Torchbearer places will be made available to the public through the four nomination campaigns being run by LOCOG, Coca-Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung. The Presenting Partner campaigns will run across a variety of channels including online, advertising, retail and customer programmes.

Maidstone Borough Council supports its local athletes through its Maidstone Dream initiative. Leader of the Council, Chris Garland is looking forward to welcoming the Olympic Flame to Maidstone. "This is great news for the borough and well deserved. The Olympic Games are all about taking part and this is a chance for us to celebrate and be part of the

Sebastian Coe, Chair of LOCOG said: "We are thrilled that Maidstone Borough Council has agreed to host the Olympic Flame on its journey right across the UK. The Olympic Flame will shine a light right across Maidstone, celebrating the culture and heritage of the area and showcasing the very best of this town."

Leeds Castle Chief Executive, Victoria Wallace, said: "The Leeds Castle Foundation are delighted that the Olympic torch is coming to the loveliest

castle in the world, continuing our proud support for young athletes working with Maidstone's Dream. We will make it an event for the whole community to remember."

Once the detailed daily route is confirmed later this year, the aim is for 95% of the UK population to be within a one hour journey time, of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay.

Signed, sealed and delivered

Contracts are due to be signed this month for Maidstone's High Street Regeneration Project. Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transport, Cllr Malcolm Greer, said: "Eurovia, formerly Ringway, were the contractors for the first phase of the work. This second phase, costing £2.2m, will refurbish King Street and the High Street as far as Pudding Lane and Bank Street."

Work is set to start in the autumn. When it does start there will be a Eurovia public liaison officer on site to answer questions from businesses and shoppers.

Cllr Greer added: "I cannot wait for the first sod to be dug. Our town is going to see such a transformation but disruption will be kept to an absolute minimum for both shoppers and retailers." For further details visit <http://highstreet.maidstone.gov.uk>



From a tiny acorn, the mighty oak will grow

Many people have already played a part in shaping the latest chapter in Mote Park's history and it's not too late for others to join in.

Mote Park is currently undergoing a conservation and improvement makeover with volunteers lending a hand to plant trees.

Visitors to the park will have noticed the vast improvements that have taken place over the last few months and it's all thanks to the development project which has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG). The council was awarded the funding of just over £1.8m under their Parks for People scheme. The total cost of the improvement project is £2.5m.

Historic vistas are being recreated during the work and the reinstatement of these views are being carefully coordinated with Kent Wildlife Trust to ensure that the ecology of the park is protected.

The full list of conservation and improvements 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 swims, 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



Image courtesy of Howard Marsh

Mote Park in numbers

- 82** the number of years owned by Maidstone Borough Council (then Maidstone Corporation).
- £50,000** the amount paid to 2nd Viscount Bearsted for Mote Park by Maidstone Corp.
- 1929** the year the park was bought.
- £1.8m** the amount awarded by The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG).
- 70** the number of volunteers who've helped with the development so far.
- 27** free events so far this year.
- 450** the size of the park in acres.
- 30** size of lake in acres.
- 160** the number of new trees being planted during the improvement works.
- 120** species of bird recorded in the park.

compliant service counter.

- Historic feature information boards throughout.

If you'd like to volunteer as part of the project there's something available for everyone. Call Alan Frith, Mote Park Audience Development Officer on 01622 602119 or email alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk

Coming to an area near you

A three-year programme of refurbishment and repair of Maidstone's bus shelters has begun.

Smart new metal mesh is replacing tired old perspex panels. The new panels not only look better they are easier to

maintain and should be longer lasting.

Maidstone council welcomes reports from the public about damage to its bus shelters – visit www.maidstone.gov.uk or email facilitiesmanagement@maidstone.gov.uk.

The shelters at Claremont Road, Vinters Park and Madginford Road, Madginford are among the next to be improved.





Museum's East Wing work is heating up

They have been digging deep beneath Maidstone Museum; not to unearth a glimpse of history but to tap into an underground energy source.

Fifteen boreholes, 120mm deep have been drilled into the ground which will be linked to the three new ground source heat pumps in the East Wing Extension. The project will allow the museum to generate its own low carbon energy. It will reduce the museum's reliance on fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions.

The work, part of the new East Wing extension, is being carried out by construction company Morgan Sindall with the help of a £30,000 grant from EDF Energy's Green Fund.

As well as the ground source heat pump, solar photovoltaic panels will also be installed at the Museum. These panels convert energy from the sun into electricity which can then be used by the Museum.

Of course, these renewable energy technologies are not the whole solution. The refurbishment and extension of the East Wing has been designed to be as energy efficient as possible within the restrictions imposed by the Grade II* listed status of the Museum. For example the glass being used has been designed to minimise heat loss to an extremely low level, energy efficient lighting will be installed and wherever possible, additional insulation will be added.

How do ground source heat pumps work?

Ground source heat pumps work by transferring heat from the ground into a building to provide a clean way of meeting the heating and cooling demand.

Pipes are buried in boreholes to pull heat from the ground in the winter to heat the building. In cooling mode in the summer the system works in reverse by removing heat from the building and depositing it into the ground.

The only energy used by the ground source heat pumps is the electricity required to power them. They will deliver approximately three or four times as much energy as is required in electrical energy to drive them. They will be installed instead of a gas fired boiler, so reducing the carbon footprint of the Maidstone Museum's East Wing extension.

What you can do!

There are a number of things you can do to save energy and money at home. Some of the top tips are below:

- Turn your thermostat down – reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bill by 10%
- Make sure your water isn't too hot – your cylinder thermostat should be set at 60°C / 140°F
- Turn the lights off when you leave a room
- Don't leave your appliances on standby or on charge unnecessarily
- Fill up your washing machine, dishwasher and

tumble dryer – one full load uses less electricity than two half loads

- Only boil as much water as you need
- Fix all leaking taps and make sure they are turned off
- Use energy saving lightbulbs – they last up to 10 times as long as ordinary bulbs
- Call the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012 for free advice and information on a home energy check



Help for local charities

Three charities have received a welcome boost from the Mayor's Charity Fund.

The former Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Eric and Mrs Janet Hotson hosted many events throughout their year in office to raise funds for their charities. The events included a garden party, the

Mayoress' Ladies Lunch, a Murder Mystery Evening, a fashion show, Spring Ball and the annual quiz night.

Sobell Lodge, based in Staplehurst received £4,000; Crossroads, a young carers project, £6,000 and the Heart of Kent Hospice, £4,000.

Electric and Gas suppliers - ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR GAS AND ELECTRICITY?

If you have never changed energy supplier or not compared prices recently, you could make huge savings by switching to a more competitive company. The difference between the cheapest and most expensive gas and electricity supplier can be as much as £100 per year.



Hazlitt Arts Centre

StARTle 11 Art & Film Festival

Just a taste of what the festival has to offer. For full details visit:

www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or pick up a brochure at the Hazlitt Arts Centre.

FREE Family Art Workshops

Saturdays 11, 18, 25 June.
Drop in from 10.30am-12.30pm

Maidstone Visual Artists Network (MVAN) is staging workshops for all ages. Try your hand at casualty art, bookbinding, textile art and lots more!

Maidstone Museum, St Faith's St, Maidstone ME14 1LH

Comedy

**Reginald D Hunter-
Thursday 16 June 8pm**

Hazlitt Theatre £15

One of the UK Comedy industry's best known and most distinctive performers.

Brutally honest, frequently controversial but always meticulously measured and thought out.

WEST END • WEST END

Wizard of Oz – London Theatre Trip - London Palladium

**Tuesday 19 July
(Coach leaves 4.30pm)**

**Wed 20 July
(Coach leaves at 5.00pm)**

**Tickets including coach
travel £65**

Follow the yellow brick road to Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest production.. Starring Michael Crawford as the Wizard and Danielle Hope (winner of BBC's smash hit Over the Rainbow) as Dorothy.

THE CHANGELING AND HAZLITT ARTS CENTRE PRESENT
AN OPEN-AIR SHAKESPEARE PRODUCTION OF THE

COMEDY OF ERRORS

Directed by
Robert Forknall

Supported by

Photo: Nicholas Davies Photography
Design: Nicola Roberts Design

**At venues across Kent
30th June - 7th August 2011**

BOX-OFFICE 01622 758611

The smell of cut grass, strawberries, champagne, Wimbledon and ...open air Shakespeare - summer is finally here!

Why not relax in some of the most beautiful venues in the south east and sample the delights of the tale of two identical twins separated at birth and reunited amongst mayhem, mistaken identity, fezzes, crazy capers and wonderful verse. Confused? You won't be as this classic story unfolds

before you, accompanied by brand new music by Dougal Irvine and stylishly directed by Rob Forknall.

Starring Jake Hendriks (Father Kieran Hobbs in Hollyoaks)

'The perfect 'fez-tabulous' summer treat for all the family!

For further details visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

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.

MAKE IT MAIDSTONE

MAKE IT PROSPEROUS

www.maidstone.gov.uk



Maidstone Borough Council is working to fight the effects of the recession and bring prosperity to the borough. We help residents with housing and council tax benefits, heating and insulation grants, home improvement grants, free bus travel and by support for organisations which offer money advice.

Useful numbers

Citizens Advice Bureau –
01622 752420 or 01622 757882

Council tax – 01622 602003

Housing benefit – 01622 602557

Housing advice – 01622 602440

National debtline –
freephone 0808 808 4000

Heating and insulation grants –
01622 602470

First time buyers' grants –
01622 602470

Energy Saving Trust –
0800 512 012

Concessionary Travel –
08458 247802

Jobcentre Plus – 01622 702700

Business Profile K&G Maintenance Services Limited

K & G provide a complete service, with facilities for turning, milling and sheet metal work specialising in stainless steel fabrication and precision welding.

A family run business established in 1994, Kevin Waugh and Graham Redman started their business with four other colleagues and are now running a successful Engineering and Maintenance Business employing more than 40 people from the local area.

K&G carries out fabrication of mild and stainless steel from their fully equipped workshop along with all aspects of welding. Their Stainless Division carries out fabrication for the catering industry which produces bespoke stainless steel equipment that is welded and polished to an extremely high standard. K&G's Engineering abilities include two new CNC machines that enable the company to produce precision machined component parts quickly and efficiently.

High Speed Maidstone

The first high speed train from Maidstone to London left the Maidstone West Station on May 23. It sped off from the Maidstone West at 6.56am and arrived in St Pancras less than 50 minutes later.

On board the first train was Maidstone MP Helen Grant. Leader of Maidstone Borough Council, Cllr Chris Garland said: "We are very pleased that commuters will benefit from new High Speed services to St Pancras and have actively supported South Eastern's six-month trial by introducing discounted commuter parking opposite the Law Courts at Barker Road car park.

"While we recognise this initiative will not replace lost city services, it is a meaningful step in the right direction and reflects Maidstone's continued success



as an economic hub and desirable place to live, as well as the successful campaign led by local MP Helen Grant, Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council."

Three trains will run each weekday morning at 6.56am, 7.26am and 7.56am and once in the evening at 7.13pm. Return services will leave St Pancras at 6.25am, 5.14pm, 5.44pm and 6.14pm.

The trains will not run at off-peak times or weekends. The high-speed 396 Hitachi bullet train will make stops at Strood, Gravesend and Stratford International. An open return ticket costs £37.40.

Parking discounts

Maidstone Borough Council is providing discounted all day parking for high speed train commuters at its Barker Road car park opposite the law courts.

To qualify:

1. Park and pay £2.70 for up to 4 hours parking.
2. Display the parking ticket in the front windscreen of your vehicle.
3. Purchase your rail ticket from the Southeastern Rail ticket office.
4. Register for all day parking by TEXTING your vehicle registration number and your rail ticket [or Season Ticket] number to 07717 665627 anytime before the expiry of your purchased time.

Breaking down the stigmas surrounding mental health

One in five people who suffer mental health problems struggle to find employment.

This was the theme explored at a special meeting organised by overview and scrutiny.

The event was organised jointly by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils. It was held at the Blackthorn Trust Barming.

This event, like two previously held in Tunbridge Wells, offered an excellent opportunity for people with an interest in mental health to come together to discuss their work. It also gave agencies the chance to consider new ways of working in these challenging times.

Charities, health organisations and borough and county councillors came along to the event, which addressed the gaps associated with mental health employment issues.

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