

MAKE IT MAIDSTONE

FIGHT THE CREDIT CRUNCH

www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk



Maidstone Borough Council is working to fight the effects of the credit crunch. In this issue of Make it Maidstone we highlight some of the things we are doing to help residents weather the storm.

Post redundancy training - Rescue Remedy



West Kent College offers free post redundancy training to help people start a new career. Tim Nicholls, qualified chartered surveyor, was made redundant at the end of January but he is now on his way to becoming an electrician. Tim has just completed a six-day Part P Electrical course, covering a range of domestic appliances and wiring circuits.

Pictured left: Tim Nicholls

Useful numbers

Citizens Advice Bureau –
01622 752420 or 01622 757882
Council tax – 01622 602003
Housing benefit and general
housing advice – 01622 602557
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 -
01622 602334
Jobcentre Plus – 01622 702700

New Depot

Work to Maidstone Borough Council's new depot, in Park Wood, is almost complete and it is due to open in December.

Business Profile -



Towergate is a Maidstone success story. It is Europe's largest independently owned insurance intermediary and recently opened a new major office on Eclipse Park, in addition to an existing office in County Gate, Maidstone.

Why Maidstone? The company says it moved to Maidstone in 1998 and has remained in the county town to take advantage of its strategic location including rail links to the City of London and easy access to the M20 and M25.

What do Towergate do? Towergate is an entrepreneurial company, which provides insurance in niche markets - ranging from holiday homes to cherished cars, for businesses and individuals. As the most significant provider of insurance to the small and medium enterprises market it partners with the Federation of Small Businesses.

What does the future hold for Towergate? Towergate support the Backing Kent Business initiative and have recently sponsored future local Olympians Courtney Tulloch and Louise Ramsey under the Maidstone's Dream project.

Backing Kent people

Council leader Chris Garland is backing a KCC initiative to help Kent people during tough times. The Backing Kent People project provides support, help and tips to survive the credit crunch. For more information or to pick up a Money Box guide call into the Maidstone Gateway, King Street, or visit www.kent.gov.uk/people.

Pictured right: Chris Garland and CAB advisor Rita Thompson check out the Money Box guide to money support services.



Council tax help for single parents

Single parents with adult children at home may not have to pay full council tax if their child is on a low income. If you share your home with someone who is not your partner, who does not pay you rent, is not liable to pay council tax in their own right, and is on a low income – you could be missing out. **Visit digitalmaidstone.co.uk to check how much you could be claiming.**

Help set the budget

Council leader, Cllr Chris Garland wants views about next year's budget. Maidstone council has to make savings of more than £1 million to safeguard frontline services. Visit digitalmaidstone.co.uk and suggest savings and comment on the budget.

Gardening and decorating help

Maidstone council's handy person service provides gardening and decorating help to the borough's over 55's, who need help around their homes. The In Touch Home Improvement Agency service costs £5 an hour for those on benefits and £10 an hour for those who are not. Call 01732 525520 for more details.

Tel: 01622 602000 email: customer care@maidstone.gov.uk www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk

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