



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY MARCH  
EN-ROUTE FROM ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION TO ST MARY'S CHURCH



## MM OFFICE OPENING !!!

At long last everything is in place and we would like to offer you the opportunity to come along to our

'official' opening ceremony on  
**SATURDAY 17th  
DECEMBER**

**Ribbon Cutting at 10.30am**  
**- Office open until 1.00pm**

Come and have a look and see where it all happens, see our new Braille Embosser in action, have a glass of wine and a nibble with us

Can't make Saturday morning -  
we'll be open again for more of the same on

**Monday 19th from 5.30pm to 8.00pm**  
to give everyone the opportunity

to pay us a visit

Where are we? We're above the library

Saturday - entry via the library

Monday - after 6.00pm entry  
via the side door

Come along and have a  
bit of a chinwag with us

### 'A letter to all of you out there'

All of us in the land of Lapland,  
Are, again, working at high paces,  
Wrapping up presents, to give to you all,

To try and save any sad faces.

Rudolph is again 'reddy',

If you will pardon the pun,

And this year will see a new reindeer,

Which is, of course, Rudolph's son.

My elves, are making all those new toys,

To give to you, and your mum and your dad,

To try and make sure that there aren't any of you,

Left with faces looking all sad.

On Christmas eve I'll set up my sleigh,

So I can deliver to all,

But if, by chance, any of you are awake,

Chances are I might not call.

So I've taken the time to write this note,

With lots of love and kisses,

Just to say 'Merry Christmas to all,

From dear old me and the missus.'

*Father Christmas xxx*



Welcome to the DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012... issue of Minster Matters The Editors accept all advertisements, articles and notices in good faith and actively encourage the support of the local traders and services. However, we cannot be held responsible for the quality of goods or services offered.

Please mention the magazine when replying to advertisers.

The magazine and CD are published eleven times a year, at the beginning of each month, from February to December, inclusive.

Views expressed herein are strictly those of their author and do not necessarily agree with those of the Editor and/or the editorial team.

#### MM Subscriptions

Copies of the Magazine or CD are now available on subscription to all non residents, worldwide.

Payments are in advance

To a UK postal address :-

Single Issue £1.60

Annually (11 issues) £15.00

Costs to an overseas address are available on request, and we will be pleased to quote for this service.

#### MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

This month's meeting: Tuesday 6th December @ 7pm  
Members of the public are welcome to attend and can arrange to speak to the Council through the Clerk or by requesting the Chairman before the start of the meeting. Copies of the Agenda are available from the Clerk and are posted in the Library. Clerk to the Council is Mrs Kyla Lamb and the Council Office is normally open from:- 9.30 am - 12 noon weekdays;

tel: 821 339 fax: 825 269 Email:  
clerk@minsterparishcouncil.org.uk The next meeting will be Tuesday 10TH January at 7pm.

# EDITORIAL

Another year gone ! Mark my words - Valentines cards and Easter eggs will be in the shops very soon. I sit back sometimes and wonder how I ever found time to do anything else when I was in full time employment. I'm sure as old age catches up with you that time goes by so much more quickly.

What can I tell you this month? Well firstly I'd like to say a big thank you to all of our contributors for helping us out last month by getting copy to us earlier than some would normally have done. I'd also like to thank all of my team for producing another great issue in my absence - I always knew I wasn't really needed.

The glaring mistake in the Salvation Army advert showing an event to be in December, when actually it was in November, was their fault not ours, so don't expect to go along to their Christmas Sale on December 19th as it has already taken place!! Apologies go to Cliffe's and The Dragon Inn for having lost words from their adverts, we'll try to get it right this month.

People are always asking me "when is the next copy date" so I've now made that a permanent, double entry addition to the list of Diary Dates on page 2.

Also on page 2 you will notice we've removed the police phone numbers, reason being we no longer have dedicated rural beat officers and all police numbers, except emergencies, have been condensed into a single contact number, that being 101 - use this for all non urgent reporting or for general contact with the local force. There's more about this on

"pull out page 1" of this issue. Policing now will be by either a PCSO or any of the local officers whilst they are out on routine patrols.

As this is the last issue of 2011 I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the production of this magazine, in all its various forms, the „E" team, the two „A"

teams, the „D" team and all of our contributors and advertisers, without all of you this just wouldn't happen. Thank you for all playing your part and making this magazine the success that it is. Thanks also to the Holiday Inn for the continued free use of their conference suite to do our audio recordings and thanks to our Printers for their excellent service.

I receive a lot of praise for the magazine throughout the year, but I'm always quick to point out I don't do it alone, it's a team effort and I'm grateful that I've got such a good team behind me.

I hope you've all read the invite to our Office Opening on December 17th - come along and take a look at what we do and where we do it. See our new Braille Embosser in action, check out the editor's chair!! We're going to have a bit of a party, wine, nibbles, cake, fruit juice, tea and coffee. Can't make it on the 17th then we'll also be there to do it all again on the evening of Monday 19th, so hopefully you can get along to see us on one of those days. It's been 3yrs in the planning and negotiations but we think it can become a central hub for both us and our readers for many years to come. The team look forward to meeting as many of you as can drop in to visit.

Whilst still thinking of those I should thank, I'd like to say a big thank you to all our readers and listeners, without you we wouldn't be needed, and we trust we usually get it right and that you're happy with what we pop through your letterbox each month.

Finally on behalf of the team we hope you all have a Very Happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2012

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## MISS MINSTER

Letter from retiring Miss Minster

One word to describe my year as Miss Minster has got to be, INDESCRIBABLE !!

I have had such an amazing experience representing Minster across the County, meeting new people and best of all, going to new places.

My favourite carnival from my year as Queen has got to have been Faversham Carnival. I suggest that everyone watches it next year.

Throughout our carnival year I have had to do many things. Speech making was one, I remember giving a short speech at Minster Carnival Day, I was so nervous, I'd never seen so many people in one place before then!

I've enjoyed my year on the court so much I would gladly do it all again.

I would like to thank anyone who attended any of Minster's events for doing so and strongly recommend all girls to enter Miss Minster 2012, I can guarantee you will not regret it.

Lots of Love,

Clara Walsh-Keaney (16)

Miss Minster 2011

Thanks from Miss Minster Organisers

Roy and Carol would like to thank the Parish Council, village businesses and village people for all their support during the course of the year, and for making the Court very welcome at the events in the village.

Also a big thank you to Miss Minster and her Court for all they have done this year and the effort they have put into it.

Finally can we take this opportunity to remind people of the dates for the selection dance for 2012 which are:

Minster Carnival Association Selection Dance

Girls - will you be a minimum of 14, or under 20, by the end of June 2012?

Would you like to be a part of the Minster Carnival Court To meet new people and make new friends both in the village and around Kent, as well as representing Minster in our French Twinning Village of Armbouts Cappel You can be assured of some great days out and some really interesting experiences that will see you as ambassadors for Minster. To be in with this chance of a lifetime just turn up on the evening, entry is free to anyone taking part.

Saturday 11th February 7.30pm, Minster Village Hall  
Admission for non-entrants is £3.50

Tea and Coffee available otherwise please bring your own drink 4

**THE QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE** is being celebrated by an extended Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday 2nd - Tuesday 5th June 2012.

The Parish Council are considering how best to celebrate the event.

To help them make a decision it would be helpful to know what events are already being planned by streets / organisations / businesses in the village.

If you are planning an event or if you have particularly strong views on how the occasion should be marked and are willing to help organise an event then please contact:

**Donna Morling-Grove tel: 825 094**

**or email: [donna.mg@btoopenworld.com](mailto:donna.mg@btoopenworld.com)**

## **GIFT SERVICE HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER**

Minster Church and Monkton Church:

Both Minster (10am) & Monkton (10.15am) will be holding a Gift Service this year on 4th December and we invite your participation. This is a change from our recent Toy services.

Give a gift that gives a future ....

There are many schools in Africa and around the world that have little or no reading or writing material. Sometimes the only person with a book or writing material is the teacher.

Tools with a Mission (TWAM) are working with these schools to provide individual

„Scholar Packs" for each child to help with their learning.

Plastic document wallets are supplied by TWAM and you are invited to fill them with the following new items and take them along to the Gift Service on Sunday 4th December. Items to be included are:

- A4 Writing Pad
- Pack of Pencils and Biro Pens
- Pack of Colouring Pencils, not felt tip
- Geometry Set. i.e. ruler, protractor and square.
- Rubber and Pencil Sharpener
- Small Calculator

You may like to make up a wallet with a friend.

The plastic wallets can be collected in advance from the church, or you can place your items in them „on the day".

If you prefer to make a financial contribution to help with packaging, shipping and distribution, special envelopes are available.

Any further information can be obtained from Rev'd Bob

## **GARETH PEPIN / RECORDING STUDIO**

Gareth has played the drums in many local bands, and joined the group "The Spell" in 1995 ([www.myspace.com/thespell](http://www.myspace.com/thespell)).

Their album "Strong-Enough" was released in 2005, and has sold on iTunes ever since; (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/strong-enough/id63013121>). Gareth told us that "The Spell" are actually better known at the moment in the US and Europe, with many songs from "Strong Enough" being played daily on US Internet radio stations such as "Rhapsody".

In 2009, their number "Runaway" was a top ten song in the American Idol Underground charts. The group has just finished recording a new album "Spell 3" which will be released early in 2012, and they are currently arranging gigs to promote the new release, including locally at a venue in Thanet.

In the October issue of Minster Matters, Gareth spoke about his recording studio, and the special rate he was offering to the readers of Minster Matters of £75 for a 2hr session in the studio to record a song with a professional pre-recorded backing track. You get all the assistance you need, including the services of a recording engineer, to obtain the best results. At the end of the session, you get to take away your own cd with the finished produce.

A short while ago, one of our team arranged a session, and found Gareth to be a likeable guy, who is very laid-back and puts you at your ease immediately. The studio is well fitted out with, as he says "Enough gear to get a great sound!". The process of singing and recording in a professionally equipped studio was really quite an experience, and one we would highly recommend to anyone who maybe wants to kick-start a singing career with a demo disc, or who's just wondered what they would sound like with the right backing.

If you'd like to take advantage of Gareth's great offer, please contact him directly at : email: [gareth@pepin.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:gareth@pepin.fsbusiness.co.uk) Telephone 07710 417 672.

# NORAD SANTA

Christmas is coming and once again during the whole of Christmas Eve, if you are lucky enough to own a computer, you and your youngsters will be able to track Santa's progress by logging on to [www.noradsanta.org/](http://www.noradsanta.org/)

Don't forget he won't come if you're not in bed and asleep before he gets to your house, so watch his progress by all means but don't stay up to see if he lands on your roof !!.

Remember to leave out a mince pie for Santa and a carrot or two for his reindeer.

If by some very lucky chance he brings you a new computer, to replace that old one in the corner, don't throw the old one away, contact Minster Matters and we will recycle it for you.

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**CLIFFSEND PRESS RELEASE** - The village of Cliffsend is celebrating.

The Cliffsend Shop Association along with a small army of enthusiastic volunteers has, against the odds, managed to keep the village shop and post office running for 10 years.

Run entirely by volunteers, the shop has had to battle for survival many times over the last decade. The Post Office, run by Postmistress Harsha Zala, has also had to fight to survive. The shop and Post Office's continued existence can only be put down to the loyal support and tenacity of local residents, volunteers, committee members and shareholders. Some of the original founder members still live in the village. The shop really is a lifeline to many elderly residents.

The shop is always looking for new volunteers, please call Jane and Davina on 01843 587185 for more information.

# **UNLAWFUL WASTE DUMPED IN MINSTER**

On Friday 4th November, local resident Mr Roy Grant was walking his dogs in Marsh Farm Road, when he came across some rather suspicious items. There were between thirty and forty 25 litre containers, plus three or four 205 litre oil drums with foreign markings and what appeared to be a cross symbol, which he thought possibly meant the contents could be hazardous. These were partially laying in the dyke and Roy was worried that the contents could possibly harm both the environment and local residents.

He went straight home and phoned the environmental agency. within a few hours the police had taped off the area, a Fire Service Incident Unit and 3 fire engines had arrived and were investigating these items, with crews wearing breathing apparatus and appropriate clothing. It was subsequently found that the containers held rotten eggs and the drums contained cooking oil.

What a waste of these peoples valuable time, just because there are some people who cannot dispose of rubbish responsibly. We should be grateful to Roy, the fire service and the police for their prompt action in what could have been a particularly nasty incident.

Please think about what you are doing and dispose of rubbish responsibly and in the correct places, so we can all continue to enjoy the countryside around us.

Editors note: We understand possible evidence of the origin of these items was found on scene and CCTV footage from the area has maybe helped identify the vehicle involved, in this outrageous fly tip.

We will let you know if we hear of any further proceedings, in a later issue.

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## **LOCAL (CLIFFSEND) BEAUTY BATTLES FOR MISS EUROPEAN**

One of my gorgeous daughters represented England in Miss European recently.

Sadly it should have been in Malta but due to complications was changed to Folkestone during the summer! 73 girls competed, representing 9 European countries. All the England girlies were stunners, as you can imagine.

Over the week they are judged by 27 judges on their personality, presentation, timekeeping etc etc but it culminates in an evening consisting of - White round (not marked), Clubwear, Swimwear (plain black swimsuits) and evening wear. From the 73 girls, they then select the top 3 girls from each country, these then introduce themselves briefly and then the top girl from each country is selected.

Kerry won European Princess for England and was just pipped for Miss European by a stunner from Wales, Rachael.

The countries also competed for a Dance Competition on the Friday night where England came 3rd with only 4 points splitting the top 3.

During the week they visited Dover Castle, Folkestone, Ashford, Dover and Canterbury as well as meals with local dignitaries, dance and show practice.

Proud mother, Wendy Vinson

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A big thank you to all who supported me in sponsorship and cheers as I trained for the Great South Run at the end of October.

The run went great! It was a bit grey and drizzly on the day, but the warmth of 24,000 runners packed together tightly kept us comfortable while we waited for our start gun to fire! I finished the 10 mile run in 1 hour 40 minutes – a 10 minute per mile pace, which I find respectable given my training schedule and was very pleased.

Even more pleasing was that I raised £350 for the NCT (National Childbirth Trust), which will be used to help support new families at what can be a very stressful time. If you didn't get a chance to sponsor me, but wanted to, my donations page is still live for just a little while longer at [www.justgiving.com/crunchymanas](http://www.justgiving.com/crunchymanas).

Thanks again! Nora Aldous

Editor's note: Nora as I'm sure you all know is one of the MM team members and we're all amazed at where she finds all this energy!! Well done Nora.

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**PATIENT LIAISON GROUP (MINSTER)**

**NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012**

# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Although at the time of writing this newsletter we have yet to hold this event, I am very confident, because of the level of support we have had so far, that it will have been very successful and we will have "ACHIEVED OUR TARGET" to purchase

„THE SPIROMETER MICRO LAB" and "ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT" by Christmas. All that remains to say is "ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU" to all our PATIENTS AND FRIENDS who have supported us and donated so generously to our fund raising project over the year. A full list of all prize winners is published on our noticed board in the surgery waiting room. Full details about the presentation of

„THE SPIROMETER MICRO LAB" will also be available on our notice board. It is anticipated that a full report of the event will be published in the first issue of Minster Matters in the New Year.

# **SURGERY CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS**

Please note the revised times on the following days: Friday  
23rd December - Normal Opening Hours Monday 26th  
December - Closed

Tuesday 27th December - Closed

Friday 30th December - Normal Opening Hours Monday  
2nd January - Closed

Tuesday 3rd January - Normal Opening Hours If any patient  
needs to see a Doctor during the closures please contact  
"Doctors On Call" via the normal surgery number - 821333 -  
or you can also call "NHS Direct" on 0845 46 47 for  
confidential health advice for you and your family. Thank  
you for your co-operation.

# REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Please ensure you have sufficient medication for the holiday period and that all

“repeat prescriptions requests” are submitted in good time, allowing for the likely increased demand at both the surgery and the chemists. As a result you may submit your request up to 10 days in advance before its due date, to allow for the increased processing times. Therefore the “cut-off” date for prescriptions required before Christmas is 12th DECEMBER

Please submit your requests BEFORE THAT DATE to ensure your medication is ready in time! Also, if your “Medication Review” is due within this time please ensure you make an appointment to avoid further delays. If you have any concerns please speak to the surgery direct.

AND FINALLY! We would like to wish all our Patients and Friends

\*\*\*\*\* A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* AND A VERY HEALTHY NEW YEAR \*\*\*\*\*

# YOUR LETTERS

## 'A letter to all of you out there'

All of us in the land of Lapland,  
Are, again, working at high paces,  
Wrapping up presents, to give to you all,  
To try and save any sad faces.  
Rudolph is again „reddy”,  
If you will pardon the pun,  
And this year will see a new reindeer,  
Which is, of course, Rudolph"s son.  
My elves, are making all those new toys,  
To give to you, and your mum and your dad,  
To try and make sure that there aren"t any of you, Left with  
faces looking all sad.

On Christmas eve I"ll set up my sleigh,  
So I can deliver to all,  
But if, by chance, any of you are awake,  
Chances are I might not call.

So I"ve taken the time to write this note,  
With lots of love and kisses,  
Just to say „Merry Christmas to all,  
From dear old me and the missus."

Father Christmas xxx

## **Christmas is a-coming,**

parties held everywhere.  
School Nativity plays being performed,  
and there are many Christmas fairs.  
Carol concerts in lovely Churches,

singing songs at which the heart lurches.

Bringing a lump in your throat

and a tear to the eye.

Thinking of the past and loved ones

in times gone by.

Christmas is a time of joy and love.

Christmas is a time of eating too much „grub“.

Christmas is a time for giving and sharing.

Christmas is a time for loving and caring

~~~~~

### **Tiny starry Angels play in the sky at night.**

You may not always see them;

But when the moon is shining bright.

Take a closer look next time,

you will see how the Christmas Angels shine.

~~~~~

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### **Christmas is a time for love and joy.**

Time to remember the precious little boy.

Christmas is a time for love that is for sure.

If those we love, love us in return,

we can never ask for more.

*Happy Christmas to all my readers and friends, Yvonne.*

*Please visit my blog at: <http://yvonne-jottings.blogspot.com/>*

### **VICAR'S LETTER**

The mild weather is unseasonable, but there's no escaping the sign of the darker evenings, telling us that Christmas is near! By the time this magazine comes out we will have the Christmas lights in the village and it will soon be time for our Lychgate Carols. This year it will be held on 13th

December at 7.30pm. We will be collecting for the RNLI - Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

It's such a busy time of year, but I do hope that within the business you will find time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. It's so amazing – that God, out of his love for us entered into our reality, our experience, by becoming a man – the baby Jesus. What a gift! What love! St Paul put it this way: *Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself, and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.*

*(Philippians 2:9-11)*

The realization of the extent of God's love for us is one of the greatest gifts we can possibly have. It's a love we can know and respond to now, and look forward to experiencing in its fullness one day in the company of all the saints.

I do hope that you will be able to join in some of the Christmas celebrations listed elsewhere in Minster Matters, and that this Christmas will prove to be a time of special blessing to you all.

Bob Coles

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## **MESSAGES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **MM OFFICE OPENING !!!**

At long last everything is in place and we would like to offer you the opportunity to come along to our „official“ opening ceremony on SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER

Ribbon Cutting at 10.30am

Office open until 1.00pm

Come and have a look and see where it all happens, see our new Braille Embosser in action, have a glass of wine and a nibble with us Can't make Saturday morning - we'll be open again for more of the same on Monday 19th from 5.30pm to 8.00pm to give everyone the opportunity to pay us a visit. Where are we? We're above the library Saturday - entry via the library

Monday - after 6.00pm entry via the side door

Come along and have a bit of a chinwag with us

## HELP NEEDED!

Dear readers,

Does anyone have any toys and dolls clothes knitting/crochet patterns they don't use anymore as my daughter is learning to knit and crochet and we are finding any of these patterns very difficult to come across.

Many thanks, Mrs J. Fisher, 1 Hillcrest, Pickhill, North Yorkshire, YO7 4JJ

(Editor's note: Mrs Fisher has spent many holidays in our part of the country and in her own words „ found the local people lovely". It would be great if anybody can help and show just how lovely we are)

**MINSTER SCOUT GROUP** are opening a Beaver Colony on the 6th January at Minster School for 6 to 8yr olds from 4.45pm to 6.00pm Any one who would like to help or donate us equipment or a raffle prize we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Liz on 822820.

Editor's note: Don't miss their „Beetle Drive" event on 7th December. For more details listen out elsewhere in this month's edition.

**ALL THE STAFF AT THE LIBRARY WISH THE RESIDENTS OF**

**MINSTER... a Very Merry Christmas**

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year

# RECYCLING

Please note Minster Matters are no longer recycling inkjet cartridges or laser toners. Although it seemed like a good idea to begin with, it has proved to be too much of a hassle, especially with our very limited storage space, before we have enough to make it worthwhile having them collected. We are still recycling batteries though.

# MINSTER PLAYHOUSE

[www.minsterplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.minsterplayhouse.co.uk)

Excellence in Quality of Theatre, for the People of Minster Village.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** - Last Few Tickets Still Available!

Performances, in Minster Village Hall, are Wednesday November 30th through to Saturday December 3rd, with a matinee on the Saturday.

Times are 7.30 for the evening performances, and 2.30 for the matinee.

Tickets prices are £5.00 on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday matinee, and

£7.00 for the Friday and Saturday evening performances.

Box Office— call 01843 220208

# CALENDAR GIRLS

Minster Playhouse is proud to present in May 2013, "Calendar Girls" by Tim Firth.

Based on the true story of eleven WI members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Watch Minster Matters for further press releases throughout 2012

# STEPPING OUT

By Richard Harris Directed by Niki Kelly.

Auditions will be Tuesday 6th December 2011 from 7pm at The Bell Inn Minster.

Stepping out is a good-natured comedy from Richard Harris that chronicles several months in the life of a beginning dance class. Each of the eight students, who come from a variety of backgrounds, has his or her own reason for joining.

No tap dancing experience required for most parts but a commitment to attend tap sessions (provided by Minster Playhouse) will be expected.

Cast consists of 9 women and 1 man, ages 18 – 60.

For more information please and a full character list contact Niki on 01843 863020

or email [minsterplayhouse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:minsterplayhouse@hotmail.co.uk)

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## MINSTER-IN-THANET WI

The November meeting was our Annual General Meeting, a slightly more formal meeting, at which the past year's activities and finances were reviewed.

After a new committee was elected, Joan Backler, President, thanked Maggie Griffith and Joyce Sharp who were retiring from committee work, and Tina Parker who had run a very successful raffle at meetings all year, for their efforts. She also expressed appreciation of the work done by the Village Hall Committee for the excellent maintenance of the hall which makes a pleasant venue for our meetings.

Joan stepped down after three busy and successful years as president, so a new president was elected and new officers appointed. Marion Rose is the new president and Liz Shervington is the new secretary. A bye law was amended, changing the minimum age for membership to 18, in line with National Federation guidelines. Ann Tweedale, on behalf of all the members, thanked Joan and the retiring committee for their hard work during the past year, and Dorothy Butterworth presented Joan with a basket of flowering plants.

Following the business part of the evening, members enjoyed social time with special refreshments, puzzles and

quizzes while the new committee held a brief meeting.

# **MINSTER ARBOUTS CAPPEL TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Our AGM was successful and we have a new committee member with new ideas and this is very refreshing for the Association. Another villager has expressed an interest and this will be followed up. There will now be at least two fluent French speakers – such an asset!

Saturday 3 December at 7.30pm is Quiz Night. Teams should be a minimum of 6

people and tickets can be purchased in advance from the RBL Club, telephone 821471. Tickets are £5.00 per person, which includes food. We shall also be holding a raffle, and prize donations would be appreciated. If you do not have a team, please don't let this stop you attending – alternative arrangements can be made. We look forward to a fun and festive evening.

3 December: - Quiz at RBL club at 7.30pm

27 May 2012:- Anniversary Celebrations at the Village Hall

03 June 2012:- Fun Day with a Royal flavour

The Association wishes the village a Happy Christmas and more contact with our French counterparts next year.

# MINSTER SHOW AGM

A short meeting, with no members of the public present, we therefore take it that what we did this year was ok, and so we hope for your continued support again next year.

The Committee would just like to report that the final figures for this years show have left us with a net profit on the day of just £2.32.

Karen says she promises not to spend it all at once!!

# SCHOOLSCRIPT

School Page Editors this month were **Arianne Daw** and **Danny Spain Prefects**

If you are a Prefect you will get the opportunity to do a lot of things, for an example you can do some shredding and get lots of house points and Minster medals.

When you're in year 6 you should sign up to be a Prefect.

By Jodie Ellis

# OUR PETS

This is a picture of a baby kitten which is very happy It is at least 1 month old.

Did you know that kittens can be very playful?

Pets are very adorable .

Our vets are good to our pets

When your cat gets older they get even cuter.

Cats can make you feel better when you are lonely.

Our vets look after our cats and make them better.

We love our pets .

By Mia Waters

# Head of House

Becoming a Head of House is really fun because you get to do things that I did not know we would do, and there is great opportunity for these people.

We've done the poppies so far but there is so much more to do!!!!!!

We have made these new „House Point Shields", where all the people from Saxons, Romans, Vikings and Normans get their house point charts on the shield of their sports day houses.

By Madeleine Witham

# FOODS

What food do you eat because I eat chocolate, sweets, donuts, pizza, kebab, chippy, kfc, roast dinner, sausages, carrots, ice cream, fruit, vegetables. By Grace McDonald!

# Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying can be very very mean and could hurt people. Cyber bullying is where you send nasty things to people using things like Email, texting and lots more. Please don't cyber bully.

By Daniel Hauptfleisch

**SCHOOLSCRIPT**

# Cycling proficiency

Year 6's have started doing their cycling proficiency so that they can be safe cycling on the roads. You have always got to look before signalling and stop when you think that it is safe to stop. It is very good to wear a helmet for extra protection in case you have an accident. It is also good to wear bright clothing.

Be safe cycling on the roads!

By Jade Hockey

# Stop Look Listen

If you haven't seen the advert of the boy who doesn't stop look and listen you should listen to me, because my sister knew a boy who went to her school that got run over and died. So when you get to the end of the pavement STOP LOOK and LISTEN (by the way the advert is kinda scary)

By Emily Wallis

# Teachers at our school

Yr R - Rainbow - Miss Clark

Yr 4 - Copper - Miss Ramsdon

Yr R - Sunshine - Miss Goodman

Yr 4 - Indigo - Miss Wood

Yr 1 - Red - Mrs Wish

Yr 5 - Purple - Miss Theoff

Yr 1 - White - Miss Culver

Yr 5 - Turquoise - Mrs Hows

Yr 2 - Blue - Mrs Tamsmitt

Yr 6 - Orange - Miss Pout

Yr 2 - Yellow - Mr Curry

Yr 6 - Silver - Mrs Kirke-Laird

Yr 3 - Green - Miss Youlton

Yr 3 - Scarlet - Mrs Hodges

By Mollie Mumby

# CHRISTMAS

Christmas is my favourite season

Happy New Year

Reindeers prancing in the sky

Icing on the chocolate cake

Sleeping children waiting for Santa

Twinkling tinsel on the Christmas tree

Merry Christmas to you

Advent calendars are hanging

Snow falling from the sky

By Emily Kent, Molly Knell and Adam Emerson

# BIKES

Bikes are objects you can play on and do tricks with, they are enormous fun. Bikes are cool.

Bbbbb bikes bikes bbbbbbbb bikes bikes  
bbbbbbbbbbbbbbbb bikes.

Bikes by Annabelle Fleming

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## WHAT'S ON

### ST LUCY'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

At Minster Abbey, in St Benedict's Room

On 11th December 2011 at 11.15am

Proceeds will go to aid „Church in Need“ towards their valuable work in the Middle East

# THE NEW INN

1st Monday of the month is QUIZ NIGHT

Maximum of 6 per team. £2 or £5 with food.

# TRADITIONAL CHRISTINGLE

Celebrating Jesus, the Light of the World.

Will be on Sunday 18th December, 6.30pm at St Mary's,  
Minster

# CRIB SERVICE

"Setting the scene for Christmas"

A short celebration arranged with younger children in mind.

On Christmas Eve from 4.30pm at St Mary's, Minster

## **MINSTER BEAVER SCOUTS**

Will be holding a BEETLE DRIVE on 7th December, from 6.30pm - 8.30pm in the Village Hall

Tickets will be £1 and are available from Attwell's or ring Liz on 822820

Refreshments and Raffle will be available at the event.

**ROTARY CLUB OF RAMSGATE** will be in Minster from 6.00pm onwards on Thursday 15th December helping Santa on his sleigh bring Christmas cheer and collecting for charities and good causes including the Coronary Care Unit and Cancer Care Appeal at the QEQM Hospital.

More information about the club is available at

[www.rotary1120.org/ramsgate](http://www.rotary1120.org/ramsgate)

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## **CLUBS & EVENTS**

### **MINSTER-IN-THANET WI**

Tuesday 13th December in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Christmas Party with "Bring and Share Buffet".

Entertainment with a musician and barn dancing.

Members and invited guests only.

NO COFFEE AND CHAT IN DECEMBER

### **MINSTER & MONKTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION**

NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th December at 7.30pm

"Party Time" Christmas Gift £2 No food please.

Speaker or Quiz. Raffle prizes needed for all meetings.



# **MINSTER AND MONKTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

## **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING**

Wednesday 21st December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall  
Music and Refreshments. Tickets available from committee  
members.

# FIRST MEETING FOR 2012

Wednesday 18th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Mr John Harvey will be talking on the "Woodland Trust".

The points table subject is "Three Cheese Scones".

New members always welcome.

**MINSTER & MONKTON**

# **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CLUB**

Royal British Legion Club, Augustine Road

Come and join us for a game of Bingo every Wednesday  
2.00pm - 4.00pm All Welcome. Phone Pat 822622 or  
Maureen 823434

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## **CLUBS & EVENTS**

### **MOTHERS UNION**

# ADVENT SERVICE

Friday 2nd December at 11am. This will be held in Canterbury Cathedral. Although this is organised by M.U everyone is welcome to come and join us. The Preacher will be the Dean of Canterbury The Rev'd Robert Willis.



# CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday 14th December from 2pm at 92 Monkton  
Road **PRAYER SERVICE** 5th January at 3pm.

Venue to be decided according to the weather conditions.

# NEXT MEETING

11th January – Time and Venue to be notified

# **SATURDAY MARKET**

10th December from 10am „til 12noon, in The Old Schools.

Do come and enjoy a chat and a „cuppa”

# **SOUP ON WEDNESDAY**

12 noon to 1pm in the Old Schools. All welcome

# MINSTER HEALTHY WALK

meets at Minster School on Thursday mornings (term time only) at 9am for a 9.15am start.

The walk is suitable for all ages and is a gentle pace as well as buggy friendly.

It lasts between 45 minutes to an hour, after which we have refreshments at Minster Library.

If you are interested in joining our walk please contact Michelle Mannering 01843 841082

## **SANDWICH FARMERS' MARKET**

Guildhall, Cattle Market

Further information from Melanie Clarkson on 01304 617197

email: [info@sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk)

# **CLIFTONVILLE FARMERS MKT**

## **Last Sunday of each Month**

Oval Lawns, Eastern Esplanade for further information  
please contact June Chadband on 226033 or email:  
[k.chadband@btinternet.com](mailto:k.chadband@btinternet.com) 19

**FUNZONE**

# TOP TEN XMAS QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. In what year was Band-Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas the UK Christmas chart-topping record? *1984*
2. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding-cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847? *Christmas Cracker*
3. The song White Christmas was first performed in which 1942 film? *Holiday Inn*
4. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country? *Norway*
5. In the song The Twelve Days of Christmas, '...my true love brought to me nine...' what? *Ladies Dancing*
6. Name the original eight reindeer from the 'Twas the night Before Christmas' poem? *Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner, Blitzen (or Dunder and Blixen)*
7. What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant? *White*
8. In the inspirational 1946 film, It's a Wonderful Life, what's the name of George Bailey's guardian angel? *Clarence (Oddbody)*
9. What are the names of the three wise men said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus? *Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar (or Gaspar)*
10. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland? *Hogmanay*

# AMBERS ADVICE

The man who is born with a talent finds his greatest happiness in using it.

(Henry von Goethe)

# TIGERS TIP

Peppers with 3 bumps at the bottom are sweeter and better for eating.

Peppers with 4 bumps at bottom are firmer and better for cooking.

## ZAC'S MUSINGS

Well I've been off on my holidays, can't say I was struck on it, until I got my sea-legs, which was on the day before I came home. Still the old man seemed to enjoy himself so at least one of us was happy.

### Church News and Service Times

St. Mary's the Virgin, Minster  
Rev. Bob Coles, 821250

#### Sunday Services In

DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

#### 4th December

9am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: Gift Service

6.30pm: **Advent Service of Light at  
Minster**

#### 11th December

9am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: Family Communion (CW)

#### 18th December

9am: no service this week

10am: 9 Lessons and Carols

6.30pm: **Christingle**

#### 24th December

4.30pm: Nativity Service

11.30pm: **Midnight Mass**

#### Christmas Day

10.00am: **Family Communion (CW)**

#### 1st January

9am: no service

10am: Holy Communion (BCP)

#### 8th January

9am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: Family Communion

#### 15th January

9am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: Morning Worship

#### 22nd January

9am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: Holy Communion (CW)

#### 29th January

9am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10am: Holy Communion (CW)

### Ss. Ethelbert & Gertrude Catholic Parish Ramsgate and Minster Rev Marcus Holden 592071

ramsgateandminster@gmail.com  
www.rc.net/southwark/ramsgate

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Parish Office:

Ss Ethelbert & Gertrude Church  
72 Hereson Road, Ramsgate, CT11 7DS  
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Catholic Mass each Wednesday and Holyday  
of Obligation at 12.00noon in the Church of  
St Mary the Virgin and each Sunday at  
10.00am in Minster Abbey  
*For other services in Minster  
please see Minster Abbey entry.*

### Minster Abbey

[www.minsterabbeynews.org](http://www.minsterabbeynews.org)

The Abbey Chapel is open for  
prayer throughout the day

**Lauds: 8.30am**

**Mass 9.00am, Sunday 10.00am**

**Mid day prayer 12.10pm**

**Vespers 6.00pm**

**Compline 7.50pm**

**(followed by Silent Prayer)**

All our visitors, not only Christians but  
people of all faiths and spiritual tradition, all  
who 'truly seek God' (rule of St. Benedict)  
are warmly welcomed to join us in prayer,  
in our beautiful monastic chapel.

### St Mary Magdalene, Monkton Sunday Services In DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

#### 4th December

10.15am: Gift Service

#### 11th December

10.15am: Holy Communion (BCP)

#### 18th December



**The Salvation Army**  
11 Tothill Street  
Minster

### What's On!

#### Sunday

10.30am Family Worship

6.00pm Evening Worship

#### Monday

Baby Group 9.30am

Friendship Club 2.15pm

#### Tuesday

Parents and Toddlers 9.30am

Messy Church 3.30pm

#### Wednesday

Keep Fit 10.15am

Home League 2.00pm

Other Events as advertised.

For further information  
contact Captains Bryn  
& Lyn Hargreaves  
02030 62072

**St Mary the Virgin: Minster**  
**Christmas Special**

Christmas Eve at 4.30pm

**Baptisms at Minster Parish Church:**

22nd October: Jodie and William Ellis

**Funerals:**

27th October: Douglas Bates (91)

at Thanet Crematorium

28th October: Ronald Hammond (84)

at Minster Church

15th November: Maria Bright (53)

at Thanet Crematorium

**Christmas Day**

10.00am: Holy Communion (CW)

**26th December**

10.15am: Holy Communion (CW)

**1st January**

10.15am: Holy Communion (CW)

**8th January**

10.15am: Holy Communion (BCP)

**15th January**

Holy Communion with the Methodists

**22nd January**

10.15am: Holy Communion (CW)

**29th January**

10.15am: Morning Praise



**Cards with  
The Salvation Army**

Sunday 18th December

6.00pm

Everyone welcome!



**Christingle Service**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

10.30am

Everyone welcome!

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**CHURCH NEWS**

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# THE SALVATION ARMY

**MESSY CHURCH** this month will be on Tuesday  
December 6th 3.30pm – 5.45pm

This is for the whole family! Come along and enjoy crafts,  
fun, celebration and finish with a hot meal together.

For more details and to book contact Captain Lyn on  
825178 or Audrey on 821792

Next Messy Church will be on Tuesday 10th January 2012,  
3.30-5.45pm **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE** will be held at  
10.30am Bring the family to worship Jesus, the reason for  
the season Followed by **CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**,  
Sunday 25th December - 12.30pm For anyone who will be  
alone who would like to share with other people on  
Christmas Day. Come and join with others and enjoy food  
and entertainment.

For more details and to book contact:

Captains Bryn & Lyn Hargreaves on 822308 or 825178  
or ring Audrey on 821792

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

# MARY ELIZABETH COWELL

June 2nd 1920 - November 2nd 2011

It is with much sadness we tell of the passing of our Mum. She will be greatly missed by her daughter Nina and son Richard, daughter-in-law Sandra, Grandchildren; Marie, Richard and Stephen, Great-Grandchildren; Elliott, Olivia, Melody, Tallulah, Sean and Ryan.

She lived in Minster all of her life and so knew a lot of people in the village. If you didn't know her by name you would know her from her love to enter Fancy Dress at the Minster Flower Show every year, including this year when she went dressed as the "Oldest Swinger in Town", not bad for 91!

The amount of people who have stopped me in the street to say what a lovely lady she was just proves how village life and the people are the best. You wouldn't get that in a town.

Thank you to everyone in Minster for your kindness at this sad time.

Nina Cowell

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**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE** – Meeting 1st November 2011

# Policing

PC Kim Burgess advised that from 14th November 2011, the public only need to dial 101\* to report non urgent matters to the police. There have been 13 crimes reported and logged in the village over the last month with 69 calls to the police.

\* See centre page pull-out for information regarding this new number.

## **Queen's Jubilee Celebrations**

Members noted events are being held by W S Cole and the Gossip shop. Cllr Morling Grove was noted as the correct contact for these celebrations.

# Planning

H2B site has been landscaped at Prospect Road,  
replacement Cherry tree to be planted.

# KIACC

The application for night flying is being considered by TDC.

# Flood Committee

In respect of the recent heavy rains the drainage system in Minster had generally coped well except for those in Foxborough Lane and these were in need of urgent attention.

# Highways

1. Alland Grange Lane – KCC to be asked to give consideration for a 30mph speed limit.
2. Tothill Street – resurfacing work to be considered at the next meeting of the Joint Transport Board.
3. Interactive Traffic Signs – there will be a delay in siting of the signs due to the gas works in Tothill Street.

## Other

Late night shopping will take place on 29th November 2011.

## Next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 6th December 2011

# Contacting your District Councillors

## Councillor Bob Grove

Bob is now holding regular monthly surgeries every 1st Wednesday of each month in the Neighbourhood Centre at 1.15pm. All residents are welcome to attend. Residents may at anytime speak to Bob at The Attic.

## Councillor Mike Roberts

Conservative Ward Councillor for Thanet Villages You are most welcome to contact Mike with any issues or problems you may have regarding Council matters

Tel: 01843 595065 email: marlec@onetel.com

Contacting your MP:

## Roger Gale MP

Roger holds regular advice surgeries.

For appointments and advice on urgent problems:

Ring: 01843 848588 (a.m. from 10.00)

Fax: 01843 844856 (24-hour)

Web: [www.rogergale.co.uk](http://www.rogergale.co.uk)

Email: [galerj@parliament.uk](mailto:galerj@parliament.uk)

Write: HOUSE OF COMMONS, London, SW1A 0AA

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## DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

### MINSTER MATTERS INFORMATION PULL-OUT (Centre pages) In this issue:

Digital Switchover information

New Local Police phone number

Kent Fire & Rescue advice on safety this winter Kent Trading Standards important announcements

### ONLY THREE MONTHS UNTIL THE DIGITAL TV SWITCHOVER IN THE

# MERIDIAN REGION

Digital switchover in the Meridian region begins three months today. To find out when your area will switch and what channels you should receive after the switchover visit the Digital UK website at

**[http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/when\\_do\\_i\\_switch/meridian](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/when_do_i_switch/meridian)**

Digital UK will also be visiting the Meridian region to offer advice and information about the switchover. To find out where and when the road shows take place visit their website at

**[http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/when\\_do\\_i\\_switch/meridian/meridian\\_events](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/when_do_i_switch/meridian/meridian_events)**

## **SWITCHOVER HELP SCHEME**

If you are eligible disabled, aged 75 or over, registered blind or partially sighted or have lived in a care home for 6 months or more you will qualify for help from the Switchover Help Scheme. You should receive a letter soon from the scheme explaining what help they can give you but you can also find out by visiting their website at

**[www.helpscheme.co.uk](http://www.helpscheme.co.uk)**

or by contacting them free on

## **NEW NUMBER FOR LESS URGENT POLICE MATTERS**

### **When to call 101?**

You should call 101 to report less urgent crime and disorder or to speak to your local officers. For example, you should call 101 if: Your car has been stolen; your property has been damaged; you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood

Or to: report a minor traffic collision; give the police information about crime in your area; speak to the police about a general enquiry.

101 is being introduced as part of the government's wider work to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999/112, and help to efficiently and effectively tackle crime and disorder.

### **What is the difference between 101 and 999/112?**

You should continue to call 999 or 112 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.

### **What does it cost to call 101?**

Calls to 101 (from both land lines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call, or how long you are on the phone. Everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters will now know exactly how much a call will cost them, and can be assured of equal access whether they are on a pay-as-you-go mobile or a home land line.

### **Who will answer my 101 call?**

Calls to 101 are answered by police call handlers in the control room of the local police force. This ensures that staff with local knowledge can answer and deal with the calls and respond appropriately. You will not be put through to a large national call centre.

When you call 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the police force covering that area. You will hear a recorded message announcing the police force you are being connected to. If you are on a boundary

between two or more forces, the recorded message will give you a choice of which force to be connected to.

### **I am deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, can I call 101?**

Yes, you can textphone 18001 101.

### **What if English is not my first language?**

Your local police have access to professional interpreters so they can quickly translate your call if you have difficulty speaking English.

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### **What about reporting general nuisance or environmental issues?**

You should continue to call your local council for things like: Reporting graffiti; dog fouling; abandoned vehicles; dumping and fly tipping; vandalism.

### **What should I do if the 101 number is currently blocked on the phone at my workplace / college / business premises?**

As 101 is a new number, some business phone systems and switchboards may not yet be programmed to recognise 101. Please contact the person who administers your phone system to request that access is opened to the 101 number.

***Editors Note: 101 replaces the 01622 690 690 number and also the***

***publication of individual officers mobile numbers.***

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## **KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ADVICE**

### **Safeguard your nearest and dearest this winter**

When a fire engine zooms down the road on flashing blue lights with sirens blazing, often the first thing people think is "I hope it's not a fire in my home or that of someone I know".

But how often do you take the time to check that their nearest and dearest are fully equipped with the right advice to protect them from fire?

As the colder weather takes hold, Kent Fire and Rescue

Service (KFRS) is appealing to parishioners to make sure their homes, and those of people close to them, are safeguarded.

Neighbours, friends and loved-ones may need your help to protect themselves from the outbreak of fire. Perhaps you have an elderly parent, or know someone who lives alone, or with young children, who could benefit from safety advice. Maybe your own children are now grown-up, starting a family of their own and need some tips on fire prevention.

KFRS Risk Reduction Manager Mick Smith said: "We can offer people practical help to reduce the risk of fire. Maybe they need a smoke alarm fitted, advice on escape routes and what to do if a fire starts in their home. Or perhaps they need some more extra guidance to keep safe. Our dedicated team can provide a range of specialist equipment, such as fireproof bedding and smoke alarms for the hard of hearing, to help protect more vulnerable residents".

He added: "Just three breaths of toxic smoke from a fire can be life-threatening, but we offer free safety advice and services to help minimise the risk of being harmed.

By encouraging those you care about to get in touch, you will be playing a huge part in preventing a fire and may even save a life".

Tips on staying safe this winter:

Make sure you fit, and regularly test, a smoke alarm. It is the single most important piece of safety equipment in any home.

If you plan on using an open fire, make sure your chimney has been recently swept as build-ups of soot and ash can cause chimney fires.

When going to bed, make absolutely certain that any open fire is either out, or pushed back into the grate and a guard used to prevent sparks setting light to carpets or furniture.

Interior doors should always be closed when going to bed as they can dramatically reduce the spread of fire.

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Portable heaters should be dust-free and kept well away from anything that could catch fire.

Candles should always be placed on a non flammable surface, be away from soft furnishing like curtains and

never be left unattended. It is far safer to consider using torches instead of candles.

Before using an electric blanket, avoid using one that is over 10 years old, check it is in working order and always follow the manufacturers instructions.

**For further information or to learn more about the free advice and services on offer to residents contact KFRS on 0800 923 7000 or visit [www.3breaths.info](http://www.3breaths.info).**

**Children can also learn more about fire safety by visiting KFRS's page for kids at [www.firefighterfred.info](http://www.firefighterfred.info).**

# KENT TRADING STANDARDS ADVICE

## TIMESHARE SCAM

The Timeshare Association (TATOC) have received a significant number of complaints about companies who are cold calling consumers offering to sell their timeshare or holiday clubs for them, suggesting that they can obtain an unexpected or unrealistic price and/or say they have a buyer waiting.

The owners are being asked to pay upfront fees for deposits, "administration fees, insurance or survey charges" and then hear nothing more from the scammers - no sales, no refunds. Others are duped into parting with cash upfront, often hundreds or even thousands of pounds, only to find that the supposed buyer has dropped out of the deal.

TATOC strongly recommends that consumers only deal with resale companies who are affiliated to them and/or are members of the Resort Development Organisation (RDO).

# How to stay safe

Kent Trading Standards and **TATOC recommend that consumers are extremely cautious of resale companies that make** any unsolicited contact.

These people have unlimited imaginations when it comes to stealing your money so don't trust them - no matter how convincing and reassuring they may seem.

TATOC produce a list of companies that have been reported to them which is updated

on

a

monthly

basis.

For more information contact the TATOC Consumer Helpline on 0845 230 2430 or visit their website **[www.tatoc.co.uk](http://www.tatoc.co.uk)**

If you feel that you may have been a victim of this, or any other scam please contact Trading Standards via Consumer Direct on 0808 156 2256 for advice.

## LOTTERY TICKET SCAM

We have been asked to circulate this message on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch.

First man approaches a member of the public in the street, asking directions for an immigration solicitor's office. Once in conversation with the member of the public the man says he has a winning lottery ticket that he can't cash due to his illegal status and not having a bank account. A second man then joins the first man and member of the public and offers to check the ticket. In this case the second man went to a major supermarket and returned with a document claiming the ticket was worth half a million pounds.

The first man asked if both the member of the public and second man would buy into helping him cash the ticket and asked for £5000. The member of the public left and returned with several thousand pounds. He and the second man handed over money to the first man.

The first man said that they would all go by car to the Lottery head office and cash the ticket paying the money into the member of the public's account, and then set off towards

the car. At this point the first man appeared to become ill. The second man offers to help the first to a chemist to get some pills, and this is the last the consumer sees of his money and both males.

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This scam has happened elsewhere in the UK and is well known in the United States.

Kent Trading Standards advise consumers to be wary when stopped in the street and asked to pay money to strangers. Consider carefully whether what you are being told is likely to be true. Do not allow excitement to cloud your judgement.

If you have been approached by some one in a similar situation please contact Kent Police on 101

# LIFELINE SYSTEMS

Trading Standards is aware that businesses may be cold calling Kent residents and offering to sell expensive lifeline systems – these are alarm systems that plug into your telephone line. Residents are provided with pendants or buttons that can be pressed to activate the alarm and send a message to a control centre. An operator will then speak to you through the system to find out what difficulty or problems you are having, and if necessary can arrange for help to come to you from your list of named contacts, or they can call your doctor or an ambulance if necessary.

Whilst these systems can provide a vital service to elderly, disabled and vulnerable people, there have been concerns raised that Kent residents have been pressurised into paying **thousands of pounds** for systems which may be available for **just a few pounds a week** from your local Council provider.

If you are considering installing a lifeline system it is always best to get at least a couple of quotes from businesses. The following providers may be of interest to you. Alternatively, contact your local council to find out about other schemes they support):

## **North & West Kent Lifeline**

– 01732 849403

**Ashford Lifeline** – 01233 642095

**Canterbury Lifeline** – 01227 862108

**Dover & Deal Lifeline** – 01304 872070

**Shepway Lifeline** – 01303 242971

Please be wary when dealing with cold-callers. Consider carefully whether you want the goods or services offered, at the price that is being offered. In most cases if you agree to buy anything costing over £35 from a trader at your door, the law gives you a 7 day "cooling off" period to change your mind. The trader must give you a written cancellation notice if you agree to have any work done. Failure to give this notice is a crime.

**To report any concerns you have call Trading Standards via Consumer Direct on 0808 156 2256.**

## E.MAIL SCAM

Kent Trading Standards have become aware of a scam email that is being sent out.

The email purports to be from Yahoo! informing the recipient that they are the winner of a very large cash prize.

**This is a scam!** Yahoo! has not sent any such email, there is no prize.

Kent Trading Standards advise consumers not to reply to this email or make any contact with the scammers or disclose any personal information to them.

**If you feel that you may have been a victim of this, or any other scam please contact Trading Standards via Consumer Direct on 0808 156 2256 for advice**