

PARENTS NEWS

April 2012 No.167

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What's On April and Easter Bumper Spring Calendar

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KENT

PARENTS NEWS

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Out and About

Family Discounts on Advance Kent County Show Tickets

2012 Kent County Show, July 13, 14 and 15, has free children entry for early bookings. Pre booked tickets also have the advantage of allowing visitors to decide at the last minute which day they attend. And new for this year is a student ticket priced only £11. From April 1, tickets only £11. can be bought online 24/7 at www.kentshowground.co.uk and via a booking hotline 01622 633060 during office hours. Prices are £17.50 for adults, a saving of £2.50 compared with tickets bought at the gate. For families, the saving is even more significant as every advance adult ticket bought includes two free children's tickets. An additional children's ticket (aged 5 to 15 years) is £5, and under five's are free. Pre-booked seniors and student tickets are £11.

Organised by the **Kent County Agricultural Society**, the show attracts more than 80,000 visitors keen to enjoy one of the UK's best countryside, farming and produce events. The range of animals is a major draw and its equine and livestock judging attracts entrants and spectators from far and wide.

The show, now in its 83rd year, features an extensive food hall showcasing the county's varied produce. There will be an **EcoVillage**, historic vehicles and the chance to meet 7ft 6in robot **Titan** who returns by popular demand. There will also be a variety of interesting trade stands, refreshments and entertainment. **Boldog Lings** motorcycle display team, which will be amazing crowds with its gravity-defying acrobatics.

Access to the showground is easy as it's positioned between the M20 and M20 motorways on the A24. There is plenty of free parking and a dedicated area for disabled motorists. A shuttle bus operates from Maidstone East railway station every half hour. A new traffic management system, implemented for the first time last year, will quickly and efficiently improve movement to and from the showground.

Roger Moore, executive manager at *Kent Showground*, said: "The **Kent County Show** is a wonderful showcase for Kent's farmers, Kent producers and Kent businesses. We hope everyone planning to attend will take advantage of the savings on the pre-book any-day tickets introduced this year."

Ducklings bring the full Easter eggsperience to WWT London Wetland Centre

Saturday 31 March – Sunday 15 April

Meet the new family of fluffy ducklings as they paddle and waddle around their new home.

Easter is traditionally a time of renewal, with eggs, springtime flowers, baby birds and animals to look out for. **WWT London Wetland Centre** has all of these and more but at this time of the year the springtime sights everyone wants to see are the cute new broods of ducklings.

There are two, free interactive duckling shows every day where you can find out more about these fluffy characters – how they grow and what they like to eat. During each show you can join in with some special duckling games. Watch the newly-hatched ducklings taking their first swims in their very own pool. The friendly team will be on hand to explain how the ducklings have developed and about their behaviour and habits.

Shayna Barby, Learning Manager at **WWT London Wetland Centre**, said "Easter is a wonderful time for families to visit **WWT London**

Wetland Centre, and the interactive duckling shows are a real highlight. They're organised and run by the Centre's learning team so you can be sure that while the children are having fun, they're also finding out more about ducks and their habits."

But it's not just the ducklings that get the chance to take to the water. Join in one of the fun pond dipping sessions: see what you can find swimming around under the surface of the water. Or, continuing the egg theme, complete the special Easter trail (£1) and receive a small prize.

April is the time when wild ducklings start to hatch. Fat, fluffy mallard ducklings chase after their mother across the ponds in the sunshine and stripy Great Crested Grebe chicks hitch a ride on their parents' backs.



While you're there, enjoy a springtime walk around **WWT London Wetland Centre**. Listen out for singing birds and see how many spring flowers you can spot.

As warm sunny days become more frequent primroses poke their noses above ground, willow branches are decked in their soft, shiny catkin bangles and the first newts will be making their way to the ponds to spawn.

Other spring highlights at **WWT London Wetland Centre** are daffodils, marsh marigold, blackthorn, colt's foot, blue anemones, sweet violets and common field-speedwell.

020 8409 4400
www.wwt.org.uk/london

April 2012

It's time to get outside for some on the farm fun!

Farming World, Boughton, Near Faversham, offers a great mix of indoor and outdoor activities and a wide variety of entertainments for all ages.

There is also a fun packed list of Easter entertainments planned for the school holidays, including:
4th, 11th April – Creepie Crawlle Days – Ever fancied stroking a snake, getting close to a lizard or conquering a fear of spiders, now is your chance!
5th April – Animal Day – A fantastic opportunity to get close to some of the animals on the farm and learn more about them.

6th April – Easter Crafts – Get messy in the indoor craft and activity room making a variety of Easter themed crafts to take home.
7th April – Mrs Back to Front – A regular visitor at the farm, come and join in the fun, magic and mayhem!

8th, 9th April – Easter Hunt – Scour the farm looking for clues to complete the Easter hunt. Can you find all the missing letters to collect your Easter egg!
9th April – Easter Bonnet Competition (pm) – There have been some spectacular entries in the Easter bonnet competition over the years. Don't forget to bring your beautiful bonnet if you're visiting the farm on bank holiday Monday.

12th April – Princess and Pirates Party – Come and join in the fun, children dressed as a Princess or Pirate gain free entry (conditions apply).
13th April – 'Have a Go' Falconry Day – Visitors will have the chance to try their hand at flying birds of prey and talk to **Sharon Hollens Farming World's** resident falconer. This is a rare opportunity to get close to birds of prey and find out more about how they live. If the weather is kind you can also visit the animals, including heavy horses Shetland ponies, pigs, sheep, pygmy goats, llamas and rabbits. You may also be lucky enough to see some lambs, calves and kids (of the goat variety!) which are due to arrive at the farm around Easter time.

There are also two large adventure play areas, a climbing area for older children and special toddler area with sandpit for the smaller members of the family. There are also two large inflatable pools for hours of bouncing fun (open weather permitting).
Hawklands Birds of Prey Centre, based at **Farming World** also provides some interesting sights with a wide collection of birds including: owls, eagles, hawks and a vulture named Rodney! The

centre also has an extensive breeding programme and a dedicated **Conservation and Rearing Room** which implemented a successful breeding programme with owls and eagles last year, resulting in some extremely cute babies!

Visitors may be lucky enough to see eggs hatching and watch a pair of eagles in their nesting box via CCTV. If the weather is inclement the indoor soft play area provides shelter and entertainment (admission to the indoor soft play is included in the original entry price).

There is a craft and activity room bursting with 'make and do' projects and seasonal themed activities. You can also visit **Bee World**. If you require refreshments to warm you up there is a cafe on hand specialising in home cooked meals from locally sourced produce. For further details visit the centre's award winning website www.farming-world.co.uk

Farming World
 01227 751144
 is open seven days a week, 9.30am to 5.30pm until the end of October, and is just off Junction 7 of the M2. Normal admission prices are £6.50 adults, £5.50 for children (3 - 15 years), concessions £5.50. Guide dogs only.

Out and About

The Historic Dockyard

Visitors to **The Historic Dockyard Chatham** during the Easter holidays may participate in new print-making workshops, collage making and a close up look at the dockyard's own locomotives in a new series of family activities running **1 April – 15 April**. **Pam Wood**, *Historic Services Manager* said, "We are really looking forward to putting on these new activities this Easter. Drawing inspiration from the works of art in the eagerly anticipated exhibition 'Rail Art', families will be able to use a variety of print-making techniques including polystyrene tile printing, mono printing and potato printing for the younger ones. They will be able to create individual designs, and then make colourful prints. It is a chance for all the family to be creative together and they will be able to take home all the prints they make in the session!"

A new 'Hidden Dockyard Railway Tour' will be running during the holidays from **2nd – 6th April** and **9th – 13th April**, giving visitors an introduction to the diverse collection of steam and diesel locomotives which 'live' at **The Historic Dockyard**. Starting in the expansive No. 3 Covered Slip, families will discover what part 'Overlord' played



in the D-Day Landings, learn about 'Achilles' and find out what a 'donkey boiler' is used for! Visitors will need to remember their cameras as they have a unique opportunity to stand on a locomotive footplate! They will then follow the old dockyard railway line through the site into the Railway Workshop to see what goes on behind the scenes and see how a steam engine works. Entry to the Rail Art exhibition is valid with a 12 month ticket and a small charge applies to some of the family activities. The Historic Dockyard Chatham Kent, ME4 4TZ. **01634 823813** www.thedockyard.co.uk www.facebook.com/historic_chatham

Blowing the Whistle on the General Dental Council.

Traditional train tracks create flat faces, big noses and tired looking eyes: if you doubt this, just look at those who have been treated in the past. They also routinely damage the enamel and roots of the teeth and worse still the teeth go crooked again unless the patient wears a brace for the rest of their life. Extractions of sound teeth are almost always required although patients may not be told about this until near the end of treatment. Newer treatments can achieve better and more permanent results without extractions but orthodontists avoid comparative research as they don't want the damage they do to faces to be exposed.

Worst of all the General Dental Council allows orthodontists to withhold information about some newer methods. This leaves many patients accepting extractions and even major surgery unaware that improved techniques can render them unnecessary. If you have suffered you are entitled to compensation.

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Watch our ducklings take their first swim
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 Easter egg trail • Pond dipping

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London Wetland Centre
 For full details see www.wwt.org.uk/London or call 020 8409 4400
 Queen Elizabeth's Walk, Barnes, London SW13 9WT
WWT registered charity in England & Wales, no. 1028846 and Scotland, no. SC020193

Easter Eggstravaganza!

Visit www.farming-world.co.uk for special event details including:

- Creepy Crawlly Days,
- Animal Day,
- Easter Crafts,
- Egg Hunts,
- Fun with Mrs Back 2 Front,
- Easter Bonnet Parade,
- Princess & Pirates Party,
- 'Have a Go' Falconry,
- Birds of prey & flying demonstrations,
- Large adventure play,
- Rare breeds & farm animals,
- Heavy horses,
- Indoor soft play,
- Craft room,
- Mini golf course,
- Tractor and Trailer Rides,
- Hot & cold refreshments, (Some activities weather permitting)

Show this advert to receive 50p off entry per person in your party. (PN Apr. Valid 26/3 - 29/4/12)

Open everyday until 4th Nov.
Farming World, Boughton, Faversham, ME13 9HY
 Tel: 01227 751144
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FARMING WORLD

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Butler & Wilson Pave Crystal Ring QVC Price £34.02 Item Number 339693



www.qvcuk.com
Direct 0800 50 40 30

Easter Holiday Entertainment for Little Ones

The Easter holidays are approaching and with many families taking the opportunity to visit friends and family around the country, parents are looking for ways to keep the kids entertained, at home and away. This year, visit www.Toyella.com to find innovative, entertaining and fun games and toys for children.

The **Kid-o Magnatab** range is



Numbers Numeracy game allows them to learn and practice their ability to write numbers. Absorbing and entertaining, **Magnatab Numbers** will ensure children are kept entertained while on the move as well as reinforcing numeracy skills. If you're looking for an easily transportable, quiet toy to hold your child's attention when visiting friends, or even in the small space of a hotel room,

the **Tegu Magnetic Wooden Building Blocks** offer a new slant on this much loved game. **Tegu's** building blocks include magnets embedded inside the hardwood blocks, which make a satisfying 'click clack' sound when put together. The magnets mean

available exclusively in the UK from **Toyella** and encourages children to learn while having fun. **Magnatab** works on a board filled with tiny magnetic beads. Drawing on the board using a magnetic pen causes the beads to appear on the surface of the board making patterns, shapes and numbers. Patterns are removed by simply running a finger over the surface of the board, pushing the beads back down.

The **A-Z Magnatab Letters** games are stylish handwriting games for children of three and over. Children can learn and practise handwriting using the tablet and magnet pen, which also encourages concentration skills. The **A-Z Magnatab** games (available in Uppercase and Lowercase) retail at £26.99.

If your little one is learning numbers, the **Magnatab**

that children can use their imaginations to create almost anything without their creations collapsing – ideal for situations where quiet play in a confined space is needed.

The bricks are made from responsibly sourced Honduran hardwoods and the coatings are water based and non-toxic. The **Tegu** range starts from £19.99 for a durable felt pouch and eight blocks.

The felt pouch is perfect for keeping the blocks tidied away and enables easy transportation when out and about. Additional sets of 22 or 40 pieces are also available.



Easter Fun and Crafts at Larkabout

The **Larkabout Easter Parties** at **Larkfield Leisure Centre's** very own soft play zone on **Wednesday 4** and **Thursday 5 April**, seasonal fun and games for children aged 10 and under. These supervised sessions provide the opportunity to get creative with a spot of cake decorating and Easter card making, to join in the **Bunny Hunt**, plus all those attending will get a delicious chocolate Easter egg to take home and enjoy!

As well as taking part in all the organised activities, children can take their own time to adventure through the three floors of interactive play equipment, including the wavy waterfall slide, crawl tubes and ball pools.

There are two parties to choose

from: **Wednesday 4 April** from 1pm to 3pm for those 3 years and under, £4.40 per child; **Thursday 5 April** from 4pm to 6pm for 4-10 years old, £5.60 per child. Tickets are available from the main Reception; numbers are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Whilst the children have a good time, mum and dad can sit back with a drink and a snack in the relaxing café area.

Larkabout offers an adventurous time for children 10 years and under and is open daily from 10am to 6pm throughout the school holidays. **Larkabout Crèche Care** is now available weekdays from 9am to 3.30pm for those aged 3 months to 4 years of age. www.larkfieldleisure.co.uk

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Bristol Old Vic Swallows and Amazons comes to The Marlowe Theatre

Based on much-loved book by **Arthur Ransome, Swallows and Amazons** has music and lyrics by Neil Hannon of The Divine Comedy and is written by Helen Edmundson. All about **The Swallow!** Follow Captain John and his able crew as they set sail to Wildcat Island on an exotic adventure to encounter savages, capture dastardly pirates and defeat mortal enemies.

An action-packed musical adventure for the whole family (ages six and over), **Swallows and Amazons** is a story of an idyllic era, of endless summer evenings and the beauty of youthful imagination. Published in 1930, **Swallows and Amazons** was the first in a series of 12 books by Arthur Ransome (1884-1967). Set in 1929 in the Lake District, it tells of the school holiday exploits of the Walker and Blackett children and their sailing dinghies – the Swallow and the Amazon. **Swallows and Amazons** opened at Bristol Old Vic in December 2010 for a sell-out run and was a critical and popular hit; it was originally developed at the **National Theatre Studio**.

The show was recently nominated in the TMA's **Theatre Awards UK 2011** in the category **Best Show for Children and Young People**. **Swallows and Amazons** is at **The Marlowe Theatre** in the Easter holidays, from **Tuesday 3 April to Saturday 7 April**, with performances at 7pm (except Friday) and 2pm (except Tuesday). Tickets are priced from £10 to £21 (concessions available). To book, call the Box Office **01227 787787**

www.marlowetheatre.com
There is a British Sign Language-interpreted performance at 2pm on Tuesday, and it will be audio described at 2pm on Saturday.



Get your Feet Tapping

A new dance is developing in West Kent – get your feet tapping and your heart jumping the traditional way!

The West Kent Arts Partnership is inviting local people to become part of a new dance project called **Traditions** that is happening across West Kent.

It's simple, **Traditions** will get people dancing far and wide. **'Reel to Reel'** is a brand new dance that fuses traditional dance with a contemporary dance twist and it's all happening in West Kent!

Accomplished Kent based Traditional Dancer **Kerry Fletcher** and Contemporary Dancer **Nina Atkinson** have been working together to devise a fun new dance and they have been busy teaching the dance to children in schools in West Kent. The dance **'Reel to Reel'** will be shared and performed within local communities in the coming months.

There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved over the next few months so why not get in touch and see

how you can un-lock your traditional dance desires! If you want to perform to meet the traditional way!

Michelle Chorley Traditions Project Manager says: "This a fantastic opportunity for everyone to get involved and have a go and learn a new dance that is very much rooted in traditional step dancing but brought bang up to date with a contemporary dance flavour. We want to get as many people involved as possible, everyone is having so much fun, rehearsals are full of laughter!"

To get in touch email traditions@btinternet.com follow them on **Twitter @traditions3** or like them on Facebook.

West Kent Arts Partnership has funded and is leading on the delivery of **'Traditions'**. The Partnership is an action led network of **Arts Development** personnel from the local authorities that cover **West Kent: Maidstone Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council**.

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Daily Harry Potter London Locations Tour 020 7222 1224 Meet at Temple Station, 2 1/2 hr bus tour of London locations featured in the Harry Potter films. Learn more about the wizard & the Hogwarts gang with facts, discussions & an insight into how the films were made.

Daily Tower of London Tour 0844 482 7799 Fit for a King exhibition learn about the personalities, power & physical state of England's kings, from the Tudors, & the notorious Henry VIII to today's royal family.

Daily London Zoo Regent's Park London 020 7222 3333 Rainforest Life Exhibit, experience the sights sounds, smells of the rainforest & come face to face with amazing rainforest species including monkeys sloth, armadillo, tamandua plus there's a special Night Life area, where you'll discover bats, rars & other nocturnal creatures that dwell in the dark.

Daily Tate Modern Bankside London SE1 020 7887 8008 Family resources with paper based activities for families all ages. **FREE.** Daily Children's Multimedia Guide keeps children entertained & animates art works through music, video clips & entertaining games, 5+ yrs. **Every weekend** Start Sessions with games, map making & clue matching, 5+ yrs. **FREE.**

Daily National Army Museum 020 7720 0717 www.national-army-museum.gov.uk Victorian Soldier Action Zone with quizzes, games & hands on activities to help your learn about life as a Victorian soldier. **FREE.** Daily The World's Army, Empire, Commonwealth & Dominion Soldiers 1914-45 Action Zone. Family interactive zone, **FREE.** Daily Kids Zone, interactive

learning & play space for under 10's plus a soft play area for babies.

Just opened London Dungeon London 020 7403 7221 Vengeance: The UK's first 5D laser ride

Ongoing HMS Belfast Tooley Street London 020 7940 6320 020 7407 0790 Gun Turret Experience: A Sailor's Story. **Ongoing Private Tours** discover some of the quirky sailor's stories of living & working on board including the time a reinder joined the crew. **Every final weekend of the month** A Sailor's Life for Me family activities.

Ongoing Royal Mews Buckingham Palace 020 7766 7302 Family groups may explore a range of self directed activities from the art trolley, 5-11 yrs.

Ongoing Churchill War Rooms Cine Steps King Charles Street 020 7930 6961 **Ongoing Undercover Life** in Churchill's bunker learn what life & conditions were like underground.

Every Sun National Gallery www.nationalgallery.org.uk 020 7747 2885 Family workshops for families bringing paintings alive & listening to a themed story on the magic carpet, plus **FREE** family trail.

Every Sun Hildreth Street Market Balham SW12 Street Market with fresh food traders sourced from all over London.

Every Sun South London Gallery 65 Peckham Road 020 7703 6120 Hands on workshops for families led by gallery artists. **FREE.**

Every Mon Turnbridge Wells Library 01892 522352 Storytime, 11-11.30am, **FREE.**

Every Wed Heaven at Nutfield 19 Hands on workshops for families. **Mon.** Smiley Faces music group for babies & toddlers for up to 2yrs & **2-4yrs.** There is also a playroom for

under 5's, a café & a crèche. **Every Thurs White Oak Leisure Centre Swanley** 01322 662188 Under 16's Roller Disco.

Every 2nd Sat of month National Geographic Store 83-97 Regent Street 020 7025 6960 Animal Man comes face to face with slithering snakes, slymy insects & smelly skunks. Meet a wide variety of animals to include owls, lizards, tortoises, armadillos, meerkats & lots more, hands on activities are led by AnimalMan Nick Spellman for all ages.

Every Sat Blue Elephant Theatre Cambwell 020 7701 0100 Young People's Theatre workshops, various age groups 7-18yrs. **FREE** to join.

Every weekend Rich Mix Bethnal Green 020 7613 7498 Kids' Cine Time a collection of films suitable for all the family

Every weekend Temple Station 020 7222 1234 Harry Potter Locations Tour, 2 1/2 hrs.

Every weekend Greenwich Clocktower Market Greenwich High Road Quirky weekend market has 50 stalls specialising in vintage, retro & antiques with a few contemporary craft stalls. **FREE** entry. www.clocktowermarket.co.uk

Every Sat Medway Little Theatre Rochester 07939 921041 Youth Company for 12-18yrs & children's workshop, 7-12yrs.

Until 31 Mar The Brook Theatre Old Town Hall Chatham 01634 338319 Annie the musical for all ages.

Until 1 Apr Broadway Theatre Barking 020 8507 5607 Bram Stoker's Dracula, 14+ yrs, 3 Apr Bab the Butler Live, 30 Apr Stars of Strictly Come Dancing an evening of exhibition dance routines. 21-22 Apr You Haven't Seen Nothing Yet

family friendly musical comedy. **Until 1 Apr Earls Court Exhibition Centre** Warwick Road 0870 122 1313 Ideal Home Show

Until 9 Apr Science Museum Exhibition Rd London 0870 870 4868 Stephen Hawking: A 70th birthday celebration exhibition, **FREE.** Until 10 Apr Me in 3D visitors can have their photograph taken in 3D & explore what they look like in another dimension.

Every weekend Up, Up and Away interactive storytelling for under 7's. **FREE.** Daily Launchpad Science Shows interactive gallery which will allow visitors to launch a rocket, turn their head into a sound box & control a magnetic cloud for families. **FREE.** Daily Gallery Tours, families, 13+ yrs, **FREE.** **Ongoing** Flyzone take flight in 360 degrees flight simulators or fly with the Red Arrows in their sensational 3D motion effects theatre. **Every weekend** Icy Cool Adventure families, under 7's. **FREE.** **Every Weekend** Spaced Out, families, 5+ yrs. **FREE.** **Every Weekend** A Cockroach Tour, **FREE.**

Until 15 Apr Sea Life London Aquarium 0871 663 1678 www.sealife.co.uk/london Special celebrations of all things shark featuring real shark & ray egg casings, sea shark & ray eggs with real embryos, touch & feel used egg cases at the touch pool & hear all about shark babies. There will also be special talks & feeds held regularly, interactive family fun plus get up close to a family of Gentoo Penguins in Penguin Ice Adventure & lots more amazing marine creatures.

Until 15 Apr Hop Farm Paddock Wood 01622 878021 Easter Eggstravaganza with the chance to see cute spring animals & daily

Easter Egg hunts. There will also be regular encounters with new spring animals including lambs & bunnies & you can visit the fluffy chicks in the Animal Farm. Entertainment to include sing-alongs, live puppet shows & farmyard party dances.

Until 15 Apr May Heron Bay Museum & Gallery 01227 367 088 Create your own greetings cards, stamp, rub or print your own greetings card to take home inspired by the collecting prints exhibition, children **FREE.** **Until 15 July Tate Britain** Millbank London 020 7887 8888 Picasso & Modern British Art Exhibition. **Every weekend** Art Trolley sessions welcome. **4.5 Apr** Easy Holidays Aniwake. **15 Apr** Easy Sundays, Natural Wonders.

31 Mar Canterbury Heritage Museum Stour Street 01227 475202 Easter Fun Day, decorate eggs & take part in fun & unusual customs from Britain, Poland & around the world, complete a treasure hunt around the galleries to win a small prize. **5 Apr** Easter Egg Hunt. **31 Mar** Thanet Coast Plumponding Beach Clean 0143 577672 Beach Clean, starts at the very western end of Minnis Bay going along the 'northern sea wall' beaches. Come & help maintain the beautiful coastline, gloves, sticks & bags provided, 2pm.

31 Mar Pegwell Bay 01843 577672 Beach Clean, meet on beach below hoverport access road near the Viking Ship Centre. Bring gloves, sticks & bags provided, 10-12.30pm.

31 Mar Wilderness Woods Hadow Wood 01825 830509 Fairy Gardens, find the enchanted fairy glade & listen to a story about woodland elves plus make a woodland wand to take home, 3-6yrs.

31 Mar 1-3 Apr Museum of London 150 London Wall London 020 7001 9844 Precious animals exhibition. **Every weekend** school hols Hands on Nature Dinosaurs, using the handling station & explore interesting specimens with the help of the museums science educators, **FREE** & Up, Up and Away interactive storytelling for under 7's. **FREE.** Daily Family Earth Life, explore the wonder of fossils, rocks & minerals, families, 6+ yrs, **FREE.** Explorer backpacks, families under 7's. Dippy Floor puzzle under 7's. **FREE.** Booksaarums, families under 5's. Jurassic Ark family activity includes code breaking activities. Daily Learning Activators encourage visitors of all ages to discover more about the natural world. **FREE.** Daily Focus Points handling trolleys explore real specimens with the help of volunteers, using different natural history themed activities, all ages. **FREE.**

31 Mar National Maritime Museum Greenwich 020 7312 6555 Explore Saturdays meet a character from he part & take part in an exciting performance that will bring maritime history to life, 6+ yrs, **FREE.** 1.8.15.22.29 Apr Discover Sundays activities for all ages. **FREE.** 2-13 Apr The Remembered: Stories from the Sea, **FREE.** 2-13 Apr For someone special drop in workshop, all ages. **FREE.** 4.11 Apr Titanic journey box archive session, 7+ yrs. **FREE.** 2.6.9.13 Apr In the picture role play line on board the great ship, all ages. **FREE.** 3.5.7.10.12 Apr Creative cargo: ideas trolley, write, draw & talk about what you discover, drop in workshop, all ages. **FREE.** 3.10 Apr Play Tuesdays: creating in style activities for little ones, drop in workshop, under 5's. **FREE.** 17.24 Apr Play Tuesdays, under 5's. **FREE.** Daily Ship Simulator

discover the art of navigation & communication at sea, become the captain of a ship & try your hand at manoeuvring into port using the state of the art, **FREE** simulator, for young visitors. **1 Apr White Chiffs, Country Trail** 15 Apr 0888 Country Walk London 01227 367 088 Create your own greetings cards, stamp, rub or print your own greetings card to take home inspired by the collecting prints exhibition, children **FREE.** **Until 15 July Tate Britain** Millbank London 020 7887 8888 Picasso & Modern British Art Exhibition. **Every weekend** Art Trolley sessions welcome. **4.5 Apr** Easy Holidays Aniwake. **15 Apr** Easy Sundays, Natural Wonders.

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longbow & have a go sessions. **6 Apr** Collectible Fair doors open 10am. **6 Apr** War Horse. **21 Apr** The Queen's Birthday Celebration with an indoor street party & film show about her life.

1 Apr The Old Operating Theatre 9 St Thomas Street Southwark London 7188 2679 Bodymachers & Resurrectionists, 12+ yrs. **2 Apr** 'Break Your Leg & Die' a demonstration of Georgian & Victorian surgery for families. **3.5.10.12 Apr** A Plague on your House a workshop exploring one of the most fearsome infections in history, a tale of rats, fleas, Buboes & quacks, suitable families. **4.11 Apr** The Surgeon's Apprentice, make your own cut out kit suitable families. **6 Apr** Victorian Health Walk for all ages. **8 Apr** Spring Tonics & Traditional Easter herbs a lecture for families on herbal remedies plus a demonstration. **13 Apr** Surgery & the Victorian Hospital her tales of what happened behind hospital walls & see a demonstration of Victorian surgery suitable families.

1 Apr Spottles Kings Theatre 338 High Street Chatham 01634 829468 Peter Pan on Dinosaur Island, 5-12yrs. **2-11 Apr** Drama workshops for 5-12yrs, **2 Apr** Lego Star Wars, **3 Apr** Harry Potter Wizard school - Quidditch, Defence against the Dark Arts, Potions & Duelling, **3 Apr** Got to Dance, Live Diversity, **7 Apr** Easter Egg Hunt & Games, **10 Apr** Tangled, Join Rapunzel, **11 Apr** Narnia Voyage of the Dawn Treader, Battle with Aslan & King Caspian to save Narnia. **4.12.15 Apr** Merlin's Dragon, 5-12yrs. **5.22 Apr** Treasure Island, 5-12yrs. **13 Apr** The Enormous Turnip, 2-5yrs. **26 Apr** Magic Porridge Pot, 2-5yrs. **1 Apr** **Blue Town Heritage Centre** 69 High Street Sheerness 01795

662981 Indoor Boot Fair an antiques & collectable fair doors open 10am. **6 Apr** War Horse. **21 Apr** The Queen's Birthday Celebration with an indoor street party & film show about her life.

1 Apr Godmersham Park 01227 730923 Open Garden. **1 Apr Dane Court Grammar School** Craft Art & Gift Fair with over 60 stalls plus refreshments available on site, to book a stall, **Tel: 07935 123101.**

1 Apr Quex Park Birchington Kent 01843 595143 Antiques & Boot Fair sellers admission from 6am, public admission 8am.

1 Apr Dodington Place 01795 886385 Open Garden.

1 Apr Godinton House Ashford 01223 820461 Open Garden, entrance **FREE** for children.

1 Apr Meehan Farmers Market 07775 736116 Selling a variety of produce including meat, bread, seasonal fruit & vegetables, fish, game, wines & much more, 9-12pm.

1 Apr Orchard Theatre Dartford 01322 220000 Oliver the musical performed by local young people aged 8-19yrs. **2-7 Apr** Dancing in the Streets. **28 Apr** Boogie Night.

Easter hols **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre** New Globe Walk Bankside 020 7401 9919 Families can explore the magic & mystery of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream by visiting Globe Education's DreamSpace which will be hosting 1hr storytelling sessions, 11am & 2pm when families will be invited to experience a world of fairies, puppetry & mime & more. **5+ yrs.** Plus launch of a competition for Easter where visitors are asked to decorate an egg in the style of a Shakespearean character to create a new temporary display for the

holidays. Each participant will then be entered into a prize draw to win a family ticket to a Globe to Globe production, also throughout the hols print press & Elizabethan dress demonstrations will be taking place. **1.6-7.8.14.14.15.21.22 & 28.39 Apr** The Royal Observatory Greenwich 020 8888 4422 Daytime Sky Watch: Venus take a look through the Observatory's enormous 28 inch telescope as the planet Venus as it approaches its greatest apparent distance from the Sun on 30 March. **7yrs.** **31 Mar** 28 Apr Saturday Space Explorers drop in family workshops offering something new to make & take away each month to help you learn more about astronomy including star charts, planet finders & much more, 3-4yrs. **FREE.** **24 Apr** Captain Cook & the Cosmic Yardstick. **1-13 Apr** Chatham Historic Dockyard Chatham 01634 823845 Rail Art a temporary exhibition by the Guild of Railway Artists. **8-9 Apr** Medway Festival of Steam & Transport with an assortment of specialist vehicles, a new Steampunk village, a folk & blues music stage & an Airfix Make & Take activity session where visitors young & old will be able to make a model to take home.

2 Apr Museum of Childhood Bethnal Green 020 8983 5200 World Autism Awareness Day a day fun & informative workshops for children with autism & their families, need to book. **6-9 Apr** A weekend of Easter themed stories & games, activities will include an Easter egg hunt, storytelling & a chance to make a pop up Easter egg card. **FREE.** **21 Apr** St George's Day event to include a Morris dancing display for the

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THE PERFECT EASTER TREAT!

Continued on page 11

kmfm Easter SUPERHERO FAMILY DAY

MEET HUMUNCOUSAUR FROM BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE!

THURSDAY 5TH APRIL 2012

Gates open 12.10pm, first race 2.10pm, last race 4.40pm

BEN 10's HUMUNCOUSAUR is joining us at the racecourse on Thursday 5th April for our kmfm Easter Superheroes Race Day.

Not only do the kids have the chance to meet **HUMUNCOUSAUR** at intervals throughout the afternoon, but we have lots of FREE children's entertainment such as face painting, balloon modelling and superheroes running race for all the dads who come dressed as their favourite superheroes character. There will also be a superheroes fancy dress competition for the kids and a FREE Wii Entertainment tent for kids and adults alike.

PLUS Family Day on Thursday 12th April with a treasure hunt, face painting, balloon modelling, gladiator jousting and lots more... gates open 12.10 pm, first race is 2.10pm

For further information call: **01303 266 407**

info@folkestone-racecourse.co.uk www.folkestone-racecourse.co.uk



GO CANOEING

Thousands of people across England are being encouraged to get out on the water this April with the launch of *Go Canoeing*, an initiative organised by **Canoe England** and part funded by **Sport England**, which aims to demonstrate to the nation how fun, social and accessible canoeing can be.

Go Canoeing offers a range of exciting activities to get people enjoying the inland waterways. **Sue Hornby**, Director of Development at *Canoe England*, comments: "Canoeing is one of the UK's most popular watersports and we want to open up this activity to a wider audience. There is little that can beat a leisurely paddle down a river on a beautiful sunny day and we want as many people as possible to experience this."

"There are currently about 1.2 million adults in the UK canoeing every year and just over 1% of households own a canoe or kayak. We hope that those raising the profile of the sport and enabling more people to try it will increase these figures and also encourage people to participate on a more regular basis." The starter sessions, many offered free of charge by clubs and centres around the

country, provide the perfect introduction to canoeing for adults and children. Many clubs and centres can provide the necessary equipment and sessions are supervised by a fully qualified canoe instructor. Those interested in taking up canoeing as a new hobby can book a follow up session and have the option of signing up for a course at a local club.

Brand new for 2012 are guided tours which are taking place at 14 locations around the country; they are aimed at adults and families who have already done some canoeing to help them discover new places to paddle with help from *Go Canoeing* guides. A half day tour includes supervision from a fully qualified *Go Canoeing* Leader and costs start from £20 per person.

"Two types of guided tour are on offer", adds **Howard Blackman**, Head of Participation at *Go Canoeing*. "Firstly there is the 'Explore' tour. This is perfect for those who want to discover the waterways and enjoy the scenery and countryside from a tranquil perspective. Secondly there is the 'Escape' tour, aimed at those who are looking for a steady-paced paddle and a little more adventure."

National Go Canoeing Week takes place from 6 – 15 April 2012. It features 10 days of canoeing activities across the country and is open to people of all abilities. The week also marks the launch of the new website

www.gocanoeing.org.uk which provides a one-stop-shop for those looking to get into the sport. Find out where to go and how to get started, hints and tips for taking to the water, recommendations for canoeing routes and details of local activities and events.

Howard Blackman continues: "Canoeing has something for everyone; all ages and abilities can experience the adventure and excitement of the water sport. Many people would have taken to the water on holiday during an activity day; through the *Go Canoeing* starter sessions and tours we hope to attract these people back to the water, more frequently. As the excitement builds for this summer's Games, we're confident that Britain's success at canoeing will also encourage the nation to give the sport a try."

For more information or to book a local canoeing session visit

www.gocanoeing.org.uk

Arm & Hammer launches My Way!™ Spinbrush™

Unsurprisingly, children are very rarely excited by the prospect of brushing their teeth, and parents can often share their children's anxiety by having to make sure the task is performed properly each morning and evening! The effects of bad oral hygiene can set in at any age, so getting your children into a good toothbrushing routine will give them a great chance at maintaining beautiful, healthy teeth as they grow up. Designed to appeal to children's love of toys and gadgets, the *Arm & Hammer® My Way! Spinbrush* allows kids to put the fun back into toothbrushing. Both boys and girls will love the colourful design of this battery powered toothbrush, which comes complete with customising features such as a removable head and battery cap, a unique 'Gem' on-off button, and over 141 decorative stickers. Studies have shown that kids brush up to 38 percent longer with the *Arm & Hammer® My Way! Spinbrush*. So, while your children look forward to brushing with their *My Way! toothbrush™* you can rest assured their teeth are in good hands. £6.99 at *Boots & Tesco*.

April 2012

Situation Vacant Board Trustee – Kent Enterprise Trust

Kent Enterprise Trust was established in 1983 to support people in the community with challenges in gain training, employment or to become more active in their community. They run several successful charity projects and social enterprises, including *Hambrook Marshes* in Canterbury, *Stream Walk Community Garden* in Whitstable, *Kent Enterprise House Community Conference Centre* in Herne Bay and *Applesed Landscapes*, that operates all over East Kent. The projects support a large number of people to gain work experience and qualifications

KET is looking to increase the size of its **Board of Trustees** to support the delivery of the charity objectives and take the charity forward into new areas of project work and social

enterprise development. Trustees would be expected to be committed to attending an evening meeting in Herne Bay at least 6 times a year and to develop their knowledge and understanding of the charity's activities. There will also be an expectation of further involvement with the charity's activities.

Trustees would be expected to be committed to attending an evening meeting in Herne Bay at least 6 times a year and to develop their knowledge and understanding of the charity's activities. There will also be an expectation of further involvement with the charity's activities.

Contact: **Arthur Pybus** on a.pybus@enterprisetrust.org or

01227 844500

www.sekgroup.org.uk/ket

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April 2012

Much-loved characters *Biff, Chip and Kipper* offer helping hand

As six-year-olds prepare for the first ever phonics check at school this summer, *Biff, Chip and Kipper* will be giving a reassuring helping hand to parents and children who want to practise together at home.

'*My Phonics Kit*' includes a CD-ROM with eBooks and phonics support; reward chart; sticker sheet; tips for parents; and 3 phonics workbooks. It has been created by educational



experts, to be totally in line with how children learn to read in school. The Kit combines decoding practice with engaging stories and interactive features – making learning to read a fun and exciting journey. Independent literary consultant, **Laura Sharp**, who led the development of the Kit, said: "The *Oxford Reading Tree* is

a well-established programme and a trusted resource used by teachers across the UK. We have developed '*My Phonics Kit*' to give parents this same level of support....."

'*My Phonics Kit*' is widely available to purchase at an RRP of £9.99. It is the latest addition to the wide range of *Oxford University Press* phonics resources for parents, which

includes the free eBooks and advice on www.oxfordowl.co.uk.

The 'Read with *Biff, Chip and Kipper*' books available on the high-street and the 'Songbirds Phonics' series by the Children's Laureate, **Julia Donaldson**.

RHS Reacts to DEFRA-backed Report into Growing in Schools

The *Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)* welcomes a Government-backed report launched by Secretary of State **Caroline Spelman**. *RHS* is part of the Taskforce that compiled the report, which looks at schools in England, to explore and set out the huge benefits to children who are taught how to grow food.

Clare Custance, *RHS Strategic Development Manager*, said: "This is a very exciting report that expands on the research we carried out two years ago into the benefits of growing plants and food at school to a child's educational experience. We hope that the recommendations of the report are recognized and that food growing becomes part of the activities in which all schoolchildren get involved. Growing and gardening teaches skills that are transferable to a child's academic needs and I hope all the schools take on board the findings of this report - we'd be thrilled to work with them."

Builds life and employability skills. Aside from the emphasis on improving learning, the Taskforce found that the activity of growing food in schools also supported the acquisition of life skills, including financial

literacy and enterprise skills. Communication and employment skills were also enhanced. Signs for improved motivation and behaviour, for example arriving early to school and leaving later, were found, as was increased attendance and completion of homework, and less disruptive classroom behaviour.

Improves health and wellbeing. 73% of schools cited teaching children about nutrition as a motivation for food growing, 68% for giving them skills for a healthy adult life and 33% for encouraging exercise. Evidence showed improved understanding of food and nutrition, increased willingness to try fruit and vegetables and increased consumption of fruit and vegetables.

The report is being released just a week after the *RHS* announced that the 15,000th school had signed up to the charity's *Campaign for School Gardening*, backed by **Alan Titchmarsh**, meaning that nearly half of all UK schools are now part of the campaign.

To find out more about the campaign and to read *RHS* research that looks at the benefits of growing in schools, visit www.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening

Spangles Spanish Courses are opening new classes at Sandling and Tonbridge wells from April 2012.

Running since 2005 *Spangles* offer well-structured interactive courses taught by a native speaking qualified teacher with years of experience at all levels. Courses are fully supported by a numerous learning resources developed specifically to target the learning of the Spanish language.

Spangles activities contribute to helping children, teenagers and adults receive a well-rounded knowledge and understanding in Spanish. The variety of activities will provide a richer and broader skills that will increase opportunities later on in life; academically, work and socially. Whether you are looking for an introduction of the language, improve your knowledge or gain more

experience at a conversational level *Spangles* can help you.

For further details contact *Spangles*: Visit their website at www.spangles.co.uk or call **01622 735292**

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Spangles Working in partnership with *Kent Extended Services*

Learn Spanish and gain skills for life by joining our interactive Spanish courses focused on conversation and culture. For children 3 to 16 and adults. Starts **April 2012**.

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Fuse Medway Festival awarded Grant for the Arts from Arts Council England

FUSE Medway Festival, the free outdoor arts festival for the people of Medway, Kent and beyond, has just received an Arts Council Grant for the Arts award of £100,000.

Medway Council's Portfolio Holder for Community Services **Clr Howard Doe** said of the announcement: 'Arts Council England has once again shown a real vote of confidence in Medway and all we are doing to involve the whole community in creating and experiencing high quality arts activities. Thanks to this generous grant, the Fuse Festival will be a fantastic addition to the events on offer as part of Medway's Year of Celebration'.

Jon Linstrum, Combined Arts Festival Manager, South East, Arts Council England says: 'This year's programme for FUSE Medway Festival, embraces the local, regional and international in a cohesive way, introducing some exciting new strands at all levels and featuring some high quality work from a wide range of artists. We're particularly excited to see some of the

international expertise that the new Director is bringing to the Festival, as well as seeing some high quality local artists featured so strongly.

He continues; 'The Festival is growing in significance, regionally and nationally, and Arts Council England is delighted to be partners with Medway Council in supporting it. We endorse the Council's championing the event as a key element in their wide-ranging support for culture and the creative industries.'

FUSE 2012 will take place from 15th to 17th June, preceded by a week of Lighting the Fuse. Fuse will include a range of exciting performances from local, UK-wide and international performance artists, including No Fit State Circus' open air show *Barricade* - a

maelstrom of high skill aerial and acrobatic acts, powerful images, comedy chases and a breath-taking fire show finale. For more information about Fuse Medway Festival visit the website at www.fusefestival.org.uk, or join them on Facebook or Twitter.

Visit Greenfields Day & Boarding School ...

- any Wednesday during term time - just contact them and arrange a personal tour of the school. Telephone 01342 822189

info@greenfieldschool.co.uk
www.greenfieldschool.co.uk

Greenfields is a co-educational, 154 approved independent school for girls and boys ages 3 to 18 located in the heart of the *Ashdown Forest*, East Sussex. It offers education up to and including A Levels, with special programmes in English-as-a-Second-Language and a Summer School for junior and senior students. Greenfields currently has around 1000 students and 23 staff. There are 30 boarders from around the world. Greenfields uses study methods called "Study Technology" which first isolates the barriers preventing a child from learning, and then provides precise tools to deal with them.

There is a high level of open communication between students and staff that helps to prevent failure, bullying or drugs. The classes are small and a full curriculum, provides core subjects and peripheral studies up available up to GCSE and Advanced Levels.

Parents struggling with their children's behaviour will be pleased to learn about the launch of a new free iPhone app which helps children to combat negative thinking.

With the app, children learn to overcome anxiety, shyness and a lack of confidence - problems which cause their performance at school to suffer and hold back the development of vital life skills. Parents are included in the experience, with a tips section and a report on their child's responses.

Children take an interactive journey through the story "Mikey Helps Toot-Toot", from child confidence specialist **KidzAMation**, with Mikey the monkey and his friends, answering questions about their well-being and hunting for hidden bananas on the way.

The Good Childhood Report 2012 reveals that half a million children across the UK are unhappy with their lives. The study, by the *Children's Society's*, found that while most children are happy with their lives as a whole, around one in 11 (9%) is not.

Developed as a joint venture with *Turned On Digital*, the app has an added twist to give

Combat Negative Thinking

children a laugh - literally. Each time the child finds a banana, their laugh, which they record the first time they use the app, is played back to them.

Family Coach **Alan Wilson**, founder of *Every Family Matters* welcomed the launch of the app: "I love this app because it addresses the core issue of emotional wellbeing. How we feel is directly related to what we think. Children's well-being is a core factor for their success at school and in later life.

I am glad *KidzAMation* has come up with this app to help children deal with their negative emotions."

Seema Thobhani, Director and Co-Founder of *KidzAMation*, said: "We are on a mission to

improve parenting and child well-being in Britain. Our app takes the secrets from our books and workshops, giving children the best start in life in a way they find fun.

I have a joy wrestling my iPhone out of my daughters' hands, so an app seemed the perfect way to help busy parents teach their children valuable life skills."

KidzAMation, the company behind the app, specialises in boosting children's school performance and improving their behaviour by raising their confidence.

Parents can download the app, called *KidzAMation*, free from the App Store now.

Children's Party Tips by Mr. Mysto Time Your Party Like A Pro

Time your party so that food break is in middle of your party and at a time your children normally have their food. Children are only interested in food when they are hungry the rest of the time it is pretty boring. If you feed them too late they will be distracted away from anything you are doing and too early they will not be interested. 11.30 am. to 1.30 p.m. with lunch at 12.30 p.m. or 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. with tea at 4.30 p.m. works well avoid 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. like the plague. Have fun, Best Mr. Mysto www.StressFreeChildrenParties.co.uk



Parents can download the app, called *KidzAMation*, free from the App Store now.

Calendar continued from Centre Pages

5 Apr **Folkstone Racecourse** www.folkstone-racecourse.co.uk. Easter Family Superheroes Race Day, meet Humungous lots of FREE children's entertainment such as face painting & balloon modelling as well as a superheroes running race for the dads who come dressed as their favourite superheroes character. There will also be a superheroes fancy dress competition for the kids. 12 Apr Flat Racing Family Day.

6-9 Apr **Imperial War Museum** Lambeth Road 020 7416 5439 A Family in Wartime new exhibition. 6-15 Apr Meet the Family a new exhibition with hands-on activities to discover how the family coped with the difficulties of living on the home front during the 2nd World War. FREE, drop in activities for all ages. Ongoing The Holocaust Exhibition, children 14-yrs. Ongoing Extramarital Heroes exhibition. Ongoing Undercover - Life in Churchill's Bomber. Classic 30 Once Upon A Winkie: Unlucky Star Stories for Children.

6 Apr **Southbank Centre** 0844 847 9910 Strictly Easter Ballroom hosted by Nicky Miles with demonstrations, lessons & live music from the Ross Mitchell Combo. FREE. 6-9 Apr Real Food Market's delicious treats. Easter gift ideas & fresh seasonal produce. From 6 Apr **Peter Harrison Planetarium** 020 8858 4422 Across the Universe: the story of the Voyager. 5-yrs. Sky Tonight Live. Space Safari join Ted, teddy bear for live music & rhyme as he journeys throughout the solar system looking for the Great Bear in the sky, under 7yrs. From 16 Apr **Mon/Wed** during 7yrs. First performance of The Vocal Orchestra a spine tingling hour of incredible musical entertainment.

6 Apr **Wister Gardens Strand** 01842 296111 CAMRA Beer Festival 200 real ales, 60 ciders & perries hot & cold food. 6,7,12,21-22 Apr **Open Seal & Wildlife Watching Trips** 07837 562036 A one & a half hour trip to a local seal colony in a National Nature Reserve. 6-9 Apr **Rare Breeds Centre** Woodchurch 01233 861493 Easter Lambing, visitors will have the chance to see newly born lambs, piglets, chicks, goats & calves as well as enjoy the centre's many attractions. 22-25 Apr Easter-themed activities including a 'Meet the Animals' session, falconry displays, mysterious quiz trails through the woods where the bluebells will be blossoming & an Easter Bunny hunt searching for a choicy treat. Also funfair rides, a circus workshop & pig racing fun for all the family. 6-9 Apr **South Bank Centre** 0844 847 9910 Martha show about friendship, trust & a goose from the award winning Catherine Wheels, 4+yrs. 6-9 Apr **Leeds Castle** 01622 765400 Easter Family Fun, children can follow a trail through the grounds to a chocolate Easter egg from the Bunny Burrows plus other themed activities including animal fun & crafts, Easter egg archery & face painting. 6-9 Apr **Wildwood Trust** Herne Bay 01227 712111 Easter Hares trail, complete the trail & claim your FREE special prize with every completed trail. 6-9 Apr **Hever Castle** Kent 01732 865224 The Annual Easter Egg Hunt, hunt for chocolate eggs in a garden & claim your chocolate egg plus brass bands playing throughout the weekend & see rare breed hens

& their chicks. 10-15 Apr Step into Easter drop in brass rubbing workshop. Until 18 Nov 'A Royal Romance' new exhibition of Anne Boleyn includes a replica of her coronation gown. 6-9 Apr **East Kent Railway** Shepherdswell Dover 0122772063 Easter Bunny train fun for all the family enjoy a picturesque 2 mile ride on a heritage train along the Kent countryside between Shepherdswell & Eythorne. 8,22 Apr **Elham Farmers Market** Rose & Crown Courtyard Rose & Crown Courtyard Easter activities for children including dressing up as a Medieval knight or Victorian lady, writing & sealing a medieval script. 7 Apr play with Victorian toys, 8-9 Apr Easter Egg Hunt. 6-9 Apr **Dover Castle & The Secret Waverley Tunnels** 01304 211067 Children's Festival a chance for youngsters to travel back in time to discover the skills & tricks of the trade of characters from the past. Take part in children's plays, learn circus skills, juggling & have a go at junior jousting. 6-9 Apr **Stoutney Castle** Lamberhurst 01892 893819 Cadbury Easter Egg Trails plus lots of family friendly activities including face painting, egg & spoon races, drawing competitions, space hoppers & much more.

6 Apr **Ms Betty's Factory** from Arlington East Sussex 01323 485151 Bluebell Walk & farm trail plus RSPB stand, farmers mini market, secondhand book room & plant stall, dogs are welcome but must remain on lead. 6-8 Apr **8 July Jubilee Gardens** 0871 663 2501 EA Udderley. 9 Apr First performance of The Vocal Orchestra a spine tingling hour of incredible musical entertainment.

7 Apr **Assembly Hall Theatre** Underneath the Floorboards ballet production for under 5's. 9-13 Apr **Victoria & Albert Museum** Cromwell Road London 020 7942 2000 Make It: Print event. 12 Apr **Wye Valley** Create Workshops: Graphic Design, 13-15yrs & 13 Apr for 16-19yrs. 20-22 Apr Designing for Shakespeare Weekend - drop in event. FREE. 21 Apr Create Workshops: Architectural Drawing, 16-19yrs. Daily Back Packs families can pick up an activity back pack filled with jigsaws, stories & games to explore the collection, 4-11yrs. Activity Cart hands on art fun for children to create a Samurai helmet, a silver goblet or an elephant mask to take home. FREE, drop in plus Agent Animal bag a sensory activity bag that has been developed for under 5's containing an audio map & fabric cubes. FREE. 10 Apr **Canterbury Christ University** Egg Heads Plasticine Animals workshop all run by professional animators who will guide you step by step through the process of creating your own animated short. 8-12yrs. www.animatedchrist.com. 11-14 Apr **Harold Theatre** Maidstone 01622 726155 Buddy the rock & roll musical. 12-15 Apr **Bluewater Shopping Centre** 0844 847 1744 BBC Good Food Show, taste & shop for seasonal produce, feast on fresh ideas from James Martin & see TV shows from MasterChef to Saturday Kitchen live on stage. 12-22 Apr **Alechemy Festival** of South Asian Culture SouthBank Centre. Visit, taste & shop for a range of FREE activities throughout the festival from daily yoga in the Core Ballroom to workshops in

hills, non members are welcome to join as guests on 2 or 3 walks. 10m. 15 Apr **Ramblers group** walk a 11.5 mile walk from Shoreham through fields & woodland. 10m. 15 Apr **A circular walk** from Meopham Green to a family flat walk via Hoozell St & Happy Valley. 15 Apr **Belmont House** Throwley, Faversham www.belmont-house.org. Easter Egg hunt enjoy the gardens whilst searching for chocolate. 14-15 Apr **Museum of Kent Life** Lock Lane Maidstone 01622 763936 Peppa Pig & George will be appearing at various intervals throughout the day, visit the baby lambs and piglets plus young calves & Easter chicks. Have a go at bottle feeding the new born lambs plus tractor rides & donkey rides around the orchard & face painting. Children can also win a treat if they find all of the wooden pigs hidden within the 28 acre farm, fun day out for all the family. 14-15 Apr **Brogdale** Brogdale Road 01795 535286 Blossom Walk plus activities, stalls & demonstrations for all ages. 15 Apr **London Imax Cinema** South Bank Waterloo 020 7928 3535 Family Funday Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory film & workshop. Families will have the chance to design a chocolate factory & the opportunity to bring your factory designs to life at their regular animation workshop plus Willy Wonka themed arts & crafts for all ages. 29 Apr **Sci Fi** London Parade dress up as your favourite movie character & parade around the Southbank. Throughout Apr S.O.S. The Titanic: Centenary, season of films to mark the occasion. 15 Apr **Cobham Hall** Cobham Kent 01474 823371 Open Garden, children FREE.

16 Apr **Assembly Hall Theatre** Tunbridge Wells 01204 334400 Chinese State Circus a fusion of precision acrobatics, martial arts & dazzling circus skills, entertainment for all the family. 16-21 Apr **Spinnakers** Market Brighthelm Road 020 7247 8556 Alternative Fashion Week. FREE entrance. 16 Apr-4 June **Royal National Theatre** South Bank 020-7452 3234 Festival exhibition. FREE. 18 Apr **Hole Park** Nr Rolvenden 01580 241344 Open Garden. 19 Apr **Salvation Army** Maidstone 01622 681808 Messy Church a time for primary school aged children & their family to enjoy fun messy activities & share a meal together. 20 Apr **Dartford Farmers Market** 07775 736116 Offering a variety of local produce. 10-2pm. 20-21 Apr **The Tower Theatre** Shorehamville Folkestone 01303 823935 Great Expectations 20-22 Apr **Burton Road, Spire** Level Royal Festival Hall 0870 380 400 When Spring Comes a play about loss & rebirth as part of Alechemy Festival, 2+yrs. 21 Apr **All Hallows by the Tower** Bywater 020 7481 9298 Concert for Children of West Kenya a series of Saturday afternoon concerts. 21 Apr **Queens Road Baptist Church** Victoria Gardens Stamps Coins Postcards & Medal's Fair with over 40 dealers expected. For more info Or to book a place Tel: 07935 123101, entrance FREE. 22 Apr **Clare Ballroom** Royal Festival Hall 0844 847 9910 Bollywood Blockbuster. FREE. 22 Apr **Mount Ephraim** Home Hill 01227 754796 Open Garden. 22 Apr **West Mall** Farmers Market High Street Wide variety

of local produce from the area including fish, cakes, bread & lots more. 9.30-1.30pm. 22 Apr **West Mall** 60's Weekend A nostalgic weekend for all 60's fans, a replica of the Beatles Magical Mystery tour bus will arrive in West Mall along with the farmers market plus Beatles collectable stalls, loud music & lots more. www.vintage-vevev.com. 22 Apr **St John's Methodist Church** Argle Road Whitstable Past & Present Vintage & Arts Spring Fair 22 stalls selling hand crafted gifts, collectables, curios & vintage home & wear. 10-4pm. FREE entry. Tel: 07986 773020. 23 Apr **Ellenor Hospice at Home** Dartford 01322 221315 Coffee Morning with stalls, bring a brace, books, jewellery, cakes, crafts & much more. 10.30-12.30pm. 27-29 Apr **Swimathon** www.swimathon.org Fundraising swim for Marie Curie Cancer Care 5K, 2.5K or team 5K challenges. 'Big Splash Mile for Sport Relief' can take part individually or as part of a team to complete the mile to register Tel: 0845 3670036. 28 Apr **Northeast Village Hall** Maidstone 07780 613763 Spring Plant Sale plus candles, produce, homebaking gluten FREE cakes etc, jams, chutney, jelly refreshments 28-29 Apr **Memorial Theatre** Hilderstone 0845 2626623 Great Expectations. 29 Apr **The Wisdom Hospice** Rochester 01634 831163 Cycling, a choice of 3 routes, 10.25 or 45 miles, in aid of the local Hospice, to register www.foxing.org.uk. 29 Apr **West Mall** High Street Italian market & St George's Parade plus an antique market.

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29 Apr **Sellindge Sports & Social Club** 01303 812437 Sponsored Swim, don't need to be a good swimmer, all help appreciated, just pop into the club & collect a sponsor form. FREE entry, 2-4pm.
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