

PARENTS NEWS

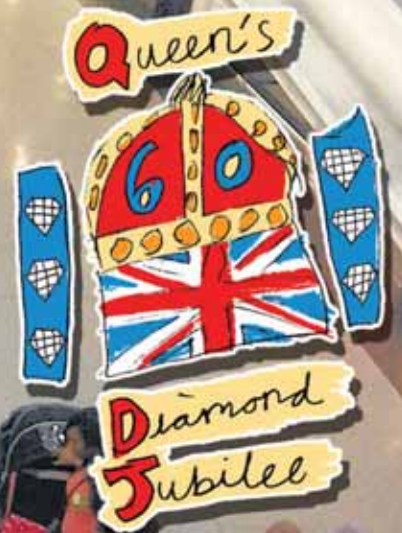
May 2012 No. 168

The First & Foremost Local Monthly Newspaper for Families

1993 - 2012
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FREE

What's On May Bumper Calendar of Events



Celebrate with the Nation
Invesec Derby Festival

1-2 June 2012

www.epsomdowns.co.uk

www.centrale.co.uk

The Big Jubilee Lunch
www.madametussauds.com/london

St Lawrence College
www.slccuk.com

www.farming-world.co.uk

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Three Editions in South-East England



KENT

PARENTS NEWS

Next Issue June 2012:
Editorial Deadline: 11 May
Advertiser Deadline: 17 May
Distributed 28 May
Publishers & Editors:
Fergus & Penny McCarthy
Distribution 60,000 South
West London & Surrey, 78,000
Kent, 54,000 London South
East-Surrey & West Kent.
Distributed through schools,
nurseries, libraries, leisure
centres, restaurants, advertisers,
play schemes and events.

Subscription by post £15 year.
020 8337 6337
fergus@parents-news.co.uk

PARENTS NEWS UK
ISSN 1362-5551

10 The Manor Drive,
Worcester Park, Surrey,
KT14 7LG.

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What's On

Camping for Beginners

Whether you're a first time festival goer or have decided to camp out during the Olympics to cut costs, **Vango's Adventure Tents** ensure that your event with no experience can pitch up like a pro. Ideal for first timers and people on the move due to the pack weight and versatility of the space, the **Adventure tents** range from **Jango** have plenty of features to keep you dry and comfortable. With hotly anticipated UK festival line ups being announced and Summer holidays not too far off, there's really no better time to get out into the great outdoors with your family and friends.

A new style for 2012, the **Ark DS** has full length front windows to let in plenty of light as well as an added inner tent. The front door of the tent can also be turned into a sun porch to create even more much needed relaxation space. Sleeping 2,3 or 4 people and available in bright yellow, green or classic

black, the **Ark DS** also features colour coded poles and a handy loop to hang your lantern.

Vango Sigma 300 £100, **Sigma 300+** £120.

An ideal option for the more technical camper due to its dome-style structure adding flexible stability. Updated for 2012, the **Sigma** features cleaner aesthetics and higher porch poles for additional height. Large windows will allow plenty of light into the tent and the breathable polyester inert tent and new linked in groundsheet will stay comfortable while keeping your possessions dry.

Vango Dart DS 200: £85, **Dart DS 300**: £100

Ideal for new campers and updated for 2012, the **Dart DS** offers separate sleeping porch areas thanks to its pre-attached inner whilst still providing the simplicity of a pop up tent. Light can pour in thanks to the

new, large front windows but a good night's sleep can still be had by all due to the built in privacy curtains. Great internal space and a small pack size make the **Dart DS** easy to carry and great to use.

Vango Tigris 400 XL

The new **Tigris XL** is a major update of the well loved **Tigris**. The added front pole doubles as a living space and creates an area ideal for storage and relaxing, perfect for a holiday. Pitching time 20 mins.

All in one or Flysheet First pitching Easy pitch tunnel style. Tension Band System. Lightweight inner groundsheet. Colour coded poles.

Ideal for just two people and the complex is 'adult only' ensuring a peaceful and relaxing break, even during the summer school holidays.

There are also three delightful B&B rooms available in owners **Brett & Sue Jones's** main house, within the site, each of which can be accessed privately through French doors.

As with all the lodges, **Snowdrop Cottage** is individually decorated, and features include a bathroom with a hand-made rubber bath – complete with barber duck and rain shower! – lounge/diner with a 32" TV/DVD, bedroom with king-sized white faux leather bed, a fully-fitted kitchen and a large decking area.

The lodges are all designed for just two people and the complex is 'adult only' ensuring a peaceful and relaxing break, even during the summer school holidays.

There are also three delightful B&B rooms available in owners **Brett & Sue Jones's** main house, within the site, each of which can be accessed privately through French doors.

The complex has a resident's alcohol licence and Sue and Brett can provide meals

Little Paddock becomes Bigger Paddock!

Little Paddock, a collection of Scandinavian-style lodges located on the borders of the New Forest and Avon Heath Country Park has just added 'Snowdrop Cottage' to the collection, taking the total to nine.

Little Paddock also has 2 hot tubs swimming pool and a tennis court, and complex is right on the border of **Avon Heath Country Park**, so it is possible to enjoy walks direct from the back gate, leaving the car behind.

The lodges are ideally located with the **New Forest** villages just a short drive away, and with Ringwood, Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch, Southampton, Salisbury and Portsmouth all within easy reach

During the month of May, **Little Paddock** is offering 5 nights for the price of 4, from just £170 pp (two sharing). Five night breaks in the B&B also cost from £170 pp during the same period.

To book: 01425 470 889 www.little-paddock.com



May 2012

May 2012

Enjoy the sunshine and all the fun of the farm!

Children love to explore and as summer arrives there are more opportunities to get out and do just that. Sometimes it is difficult to find places or activities that can entertain all members of the family but **Farming World** has a wide range of activities to suit all age groups. There is plenty to keep the family occupied for a whole day and the cost of entrance won't break the bank! **Farming World** is conveniently situated just off the M2 between Faversham and Boughton. It is a family run open farm with the emphasis firmly placed on fun in a safe environment. There are plenty of attractions for everyone to enjoy and the farm also has a wide variety of special events planned throughout the year. The half term activities and bank holiday fun begin with **Picnic in the Park** taking place on the 4th June. **Farming World** encourage people to come to the farm with a picnic and enjoy the outdoors and get involved in the celebrations going on at the farm. Children will also gain free entry to the farm when dressed as a King or Queen (conditions apply). Further activities that are planned for the half term include **Sheep Shearing & Wool Week (4th June - 8th June)** when you can follow the progress of wool

from fleece to woolly jumper! Watch the farm's sheep being sheared (1-4pm daily), see and do just that. Sometimes it is difficult to find places or activities that can entertain all members of the family but **Farming World** has a wide range of activities to suit all age groups. There is plenty to keep the family occupied for a whole day and the cost of entrance won't break the bank! **Farming World** is conveniently situated just off the M2 between Faversham and Boughton. It is a family run open farm with the emphasis firmly placed on fun in a safe environment. There are plenty of attractions for everyone to enjoy and the farm also has a wide variety of special events planned throughout the year. The half term activities and bank holiday fun begin with **Picnic in the Park** taking place on the 4th June. **Farming World** encourage people to come to the farm with a picnic and enjoy the outdoors and get involved in the celebrations going on at the farm. Children will also gain free entry to the farm when dressed as a King or Queen (conditions apply). Further activities that are planned for the half term include **Sheep Shearing & Wool Week (4th June - 8th June)** when you can follow the progress of wool

visit Rodney the vulture meet the centre's eagles, owls and falcons. There is also a spinning, knitting and weaving demonstrations (2-4pm). **Creepy Crawly Day** will be taking place on the 6th June when the farm's animals will be joined by a variety of snakes, spiders and reptiles. A visit by **Sponge Bob Squarepants** is planned for the 7th June which is sure to cause much mayhem and merriment! 'Have a Go **Falconry Day**' will take place on the 8th June when you can meet **Sharon Hollens** the farm's resident falconer and try your hand at tying a bird of prey. To celebrate **Father's Day** dads will gain free entry to the farm on the 17th June (conditions apply). As well as a whole host of special events the open farm also has a wide variety of other attractions, here are just a few: A host of rare breeds & friendly animals - including: sheep, pigmy goats (and their kids), pigs and mini pigs, chickens, peacocks, llamas, alpacas, rabbits and Shetland ponies. A visit to the farm's new calves is also a must! **Heavy Horses** - visit the farm's team of gentle giants, have a cart ride and learn more about the role of heavy horses in the past. **Hawklands Birds of Prey Centre** - Watch a birds of prey flying demonstration (most days, except Monday),

Part of the **Unlimited Cultural Olympiad** programme and the **London 2012 Festival** An outdoor theatre show for deaf and hearing children Created by **Sophie Woolley** NATIONAL TOUR: **SAT 5 MAY - SUN 2 SEP** In parks and squares across the UK this summer, children will be invited to step into the inner sanctum of a bee hive to help solve a honey bee murder mystery as **Sophie Bee**, champion forger, turns detective to track down the honey bees when they go missing from the Queen Bee's birthday party.

Bee Detective is an interactive, multisensory adventure. The action is both spoken and signed, with projected animation and creative captioning making the show both accessible and dynamic. Through vibration effects children will be able to feel the buzzing of the bees, and will be invited to join in the "waggle dance" that is used by bees to explain where pollen and nectar

can be found in the outside world. The project is one of the twelve new commissions for **Unlimited**, the ground-breaking **London 2012 Cultural Olympiad** programme that celebrates art and culture by disabled and deaf artists on an unprecedented scale. The only children's show of all the **Unlimited** commissions, **Bee Detective** is created by Sophie Woolley, who is deaf, and is designed for both deaf and hearing children aged six upwards. **Bee Detective** is also part of the **London 2012 Festival**, the spectacular 12-week nationwide celebration running from 21 June until 9 September 2012 bringing together leading artists from across the world with the very best from the UK. Sophie Woolley is a writer and actor from London. As well as her stage plays, she is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 3 and 4 (notably afternoon plays *When to Run* and *Carbon Cleansing*). A recent graduate of Channel 4's screenwriting

course, she also starred as a deaf mum-to-be in Channel 4's award winning *Cast Offs* series. Her first play, *When to Run* toured the UK 2006 - 2008, with sell out runs at the *Royal Festival Hall*, *Soho Theatre* and *Manchester's Royal Exchange* studio. She followed this up with *Fight Face at Hammersmith Lyric*. She was an attached writer at *Soho Theatre* from 2005 - 2006.

Tin Bath is a theatre company formed by **Sophie Woolley** and director **Gemma Fairlie**. The company produces exciting interactive theatre that is accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people. They have created a unique way of captioning theatre that uses animation, graphics, text and visual jokes. The result is part video game, part cartoon and entertaining to all. This is the company's first show for children.

www.beedetective.biz
Running Time: 45 minutes | Suitable for ages 6+

What's On

Tin Bath Theatre presents: Bee Detective



Springwatch Saturday 12 May 11am to 4pm
Lakehurst Road KT19 0EB

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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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Looking for Childcare?

Have you considered using an Ofsted Registered Childminder?

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- Registered Childminders hold Paediatric First Aid certificates, Public Liability Insurance, and Criminal Records Bureau checks for anyone in their household 16 or over. They are inspected by Ofsted and deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged from birth to five.
- Childminders offer a flexible service, accommodating unsociable working hours, before and after school care, school holidays and siblings of different ages from birth onwards.
- Childminders are part of the local community, regularly taking children out and about to local parks, libraries, Childrens centres and Childminder stay and play sessions. Many also visit farms, soft-play areas and museums.
- Ofsted Registered Childminders are valued members of the Royal Borough of Kingston childcare workforce and are supported by the Local Authority Childcare Support Team to provide high quality childcare within the borough.

Want to know more about Kingston's registered childminders? Please contact the Families Information Service (FIS) on 020 8547 6582 or email FIS@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

What's On

What is Foster Care Fortnight?

Foster Care Fortnight is an annual awareness campaign run by the **Fostering Network**. The aim is to raise the profile of fostering and highlight the urgent need for more foster carers across the UK. This year's campaign runs from **Monday 14 to Sunday 27 May**. Under the theme of *fostering: time to care*, it will encourage more people to come forward and consider becoming a foster carer.

Fostering services – local authorities and independent agencies – throughout the UK join in the campaign to run local activity promoting the specific needs they have for foster carers in their area. For more information about becoming a foster carer please should contact their local fostering service, visit www.couldyoufoster.org.uk or call **Fosterline on 0800 040 7675**.

Why do we need more foster carers?

Since the tragic death of baby Peter Connelly in August 2007, more and more children have been coming into care. As the vast majority of children in care live with foster families, thousands of new foster carers are needed now.

Children should live with a foster carer whose skills and experience meet the child's individual needs. The shortage of foster carers means fostering

services often struggle to find the right home for a child, first time.

As a result, children often have to live with a foster family a long way from their home, are split up from their brothers and sisters, and have to move from Monday to family and school to school.

Frequent moves result in children missing out on the stability they need to help them make friends and build other relationships, and to be in one place long enough to receive the support they need to succeed in education.

A wider pool of foster carers with the right skills and qualities would make it more likely that the right homes can be found for children first time, giving them the best chance of a happy childhood and a successful future.

"I am a qualified solicitor. After working at a specialist young people's law centre I decided to leave my job and become a full-time foster carer for two teenage asylum seekers. They are great lads and my family life is much improved."

Rosella Potts, foster carer

Fostering FAQs

What is fostering?
Fostering is a way of offering children and young people who need to be in care a stable family environment while their own parents are unable to look after them. On any one day,

around 59,000 children live with 45,000 foster families across the UK.

Why do children need fostering?
Foster carers look after children so families have the chance to sort out their problems. These problems can range from a family member's short-term illness to a parents depression or drug or alcohol abuse. Many children have been abused or neglected.

Some children will need to be looked after for only a short time until they can return home, while others will stay with foster carers for the longer term or move elsewhere.

What is the difference between fostering and adoption?
Fostering is usually a temporary way of offering children a home until they can return to their family, although many live with foster carers for years, some for their whole childhoods. Fostered children continue to be legally part of their own family, even if there is limited contact with them.

Adoption provides a new family for a child and their legal relationship with their birth family ends. About 4,000 out of the 75,000 children in care away from home in the UK are awaiting adoptive families. See www.nationaladoptionweek.org.uk

May/ June Events at Battersea Park Children's Zoo

Usual entrance fees apply to all activities (with the exception of the **Friends of Battersea Park BBQ** where entry is included in the ticket price)

Children must always be accompanied by an adult.
26th May - 10th June - Battersea Park Children's Zoo are taking part in the **BLAZA "Love your Zoo"** campaign by holding an **"Animal Portrait Drawing competition"**, children can pick up a drawing pack upon entry and create a portrait of their favourite animal!

The top 3 win an adoption of the animal in their portrait and a **Family Day Ticket** to the zoo.
Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th June Children wearing a Crown or Tiara visiting the zoo can claim a Free biscuit, from our **Lemon Tree Cafe**.

Hedgehog Day Thurs 7th June **The People's Trust for Endangered Species PTES** are visiting the zoo for some hedgehog focussed fun... Story time, meet a real hedgehog & hedgehog themed arts & crafts! 4 x 45min sessions, starting at 11.00...

1st am & 1st pm sessions **ONLY** are bookable in advance through the PTES.

www.ptes.org/events
The 2 other sessions are on a first come first served basis. Max no 30 per session. Usual entrance fees apply. The activity is free.

Father's Day Treat Sunday 17th June Kids treat dad to a free slice of cake!
1 free slice of cake for dad per family

Friends of Battersea Park Barbecue at Children's Zoo Tuesday 19 June 6 - 9pm
Live Music Bar Tombola Children's Activities Silent Auction
Advance Tickets only
Adults: £15 (£20 after 14th June) Children: £6 Under 6s: Free
Tickets from www.batterseapark.org/bbq **020-7622 5199**.
Free parking in Chelsea Bridge Car Park No Dogs

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Emperor Tamarin

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Enquiries: 020 7924 5826 www.batterseaparkzoo.co.uk
Open 7 days: 10am-5.30pm (last entry 5pm)
Entrance near Chelsea Bridge Gate on Queenstown Road. Closest railway station Battersea Park.

May 2012

May 2012

Enjoy A Taste Of The Great Outdoors in Rye Bay

On land and on water, lovers of the great outdoors can enjoy a huge number of thrilling, healthy and fun activities in **Rye Bay** in 2012.

With the medieval East Sussex town of Rye at its hub, **Rye Bay** is developing a reputation as one of the South East's hottest destinations for outdoor sports and activities. Away from the hilltop town's cobbled streets and old world charms, you can spend your days kitesurfing, sailing, canoeing, horse riding, golfing, fishing, rambling, cycling and even powerboating.

Rye Bay offers excellent sailing throughout the year and the rivers Rother and Tillingham are both popular with canoeists. The Royal Military Canal passes through Rye offering visitors opportunities for boating and fishing. Ramblers are spoilt for choice when it comes to exploring the region on foot – away from the coast there are glorious woodlands and forests and wide open spaces to enjoy.

Across the River Rother estuary lies the 805-acre **Rye Harbour Nature Reserve** that stretches along the shoreline. There are many walking paths,

including one that loops the entire reserve. Local audio walking tours are also offered.

Visitors can also enjoy cycling tours and horse riding breaks. Go hacking in lovely countryside from several riding stables across **Rye Bay**. Cycles can be hired in the town and cyclists have a wide choice when it comes to routes along the leafy lanes and tranquil hamlets.

Cheer on the participants in the 1066 Relay race in May, a five stage off-road team relay race. Back on the water the annual Rye raft race draws large crowds to the town every August. The River Rother flows peacefully through the High Weald to the 14th century Bodiham Castle.

And for the ultimate spectator 'sport' visitors can get a taste of Olympic glory by joining in the fun when Rye welcomes the Olympic torch relay on 18 July.

For more information about holidays and short breaks in **Rye Bay** – including details on where to stay and the outstanding shopping facilities on offer – check out www.visitryebay.com enquiries@visitryebay.com

BBQ Anyone?

We all love BBQing but we are often concerned about how well the meat is cooked. **Superfast Thermapen** digital thermometer will help make sure alls cooked well!

The thermometer incorporates a large digital display with a precise read out of temperature. The true temperature of a product can be tested in under four seconds. The thermapen incorporates a reduced tip, stainless steel, food penetration probe that conveniently folds back through 180 degrees into the side of the instrument when not in use. The thermometer will power off automatically after ten minutes, maximising battery life. The casing is washable & includes **"Biomaster"** additive that reduces bacterial growth & the ergonomic rubber seal minimises the risk of the ingress of water, dust or food. The **Thermapen** is available in thirteen colours ideal for many different applications. For more information

01903 202151, www.eitltd.com.

Advertise in **PARENTS NEWS**
Call fergus **020 8337 6337**
fergus@parents-news.co.uk

Venn Street Food Market

Venn Street Market is a local community food market taking place on Saturdays. The Sunday market will be reintroduced later this year providing food, crafts and plants.

From April onwards many small independent producers takepart at **Venn Street** each week. **Wild Country Organic** wide variety of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, aubergines and leaf. It has over 5 acres of glasshouses and grow organic salads and oriental vegetables year round and without heating improving the flavours and making the crops the tastiest available. **Banham II** makes French toasted French floured demi-baguettes with a choice of freshly cooked meat, fish or tofu fillings with carrot and daikon pickle, cucumber and coriander...

The Culinary Herb Company bringing the freshest edible herbs for any recipe.

The Garlic Farm – All things garlic: fresh and smoked.. **Hardcore Prawn** – Asian influenced cooking of skewered meats (chicken, pork and steak) and prawns! There are also noodles and soups like Tom Yum and Tom Kha to look out for. www.vennstreetmarket.co.uk 10am – 4pm

What's On

A Norfolk Treat for all the Family

Norfolk Hideaways specialise in high quality coastal cottages along the beautiful north Norfolk coastline.

Jasmine Cottage at **South Creake** is beautifully presented with a contemporary style in a village location, just three miles from Burnham Market. The dog friendly cottage is spacious with a good sized room on the first floor for children to play in and the house is opposite tennis courts and playing fields.

Two minutes' walk you can find a local pub with a good reputation for food at **The Ostrich**. Cottage features include Limestone flooring with under floor heating, an open fire and stylish kitchen. A lovely bonus to renting this cottage is that exclusive beach huts are available to rent out too at **Wells-next-the-Sea** at just £125 per week.

www.norfolkhideaways.co.uk/smartweb/our-cottages/our-cottages/216-jasmine-cottage

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The Jubilee Family Enclosure on Investec Derby Day

The Jubilee Family Enclosure on **Investec Derby Day** **Epsom Downs Racecourse** have launched the brand new **Jubilee Family Enclosure** on **Investec Derby Day**. This will be a secure area on **The Hill** where families can relax in a safe and friendly environment with entertainment for all to enjoy. Admission is: £5 per adult in advance (£17's and under free of charge); £10 per adult on the day.

For more information or to book your tickets in advance, visit www.epsondowns.co.uk

Celebrate with the nation at the **Investec Derby Festival 1-2 June**. **Epsom Downs Racecourse** will be hosting the first engagement of **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Investec Derby Day on June 2nd**. www.epsondowns.co.uk



Photo: David Davies PA Wire

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Calendar

Daily Larkfield Leisure Centre Aylesford 01622 713225 Soft play zone 10% New Kickstart unlimited access under 10's Saturday Fun Club plus pre-school bounce & adventure time sessions for 0-5yrs.

Every Tues Hundred of Hoos Swimming Pool Rochester 01634 401989 Beaver Swimming Club.
Every Wed Heaven at Nutfield 19 High Street www.heavenatnutfield.co.uk. Sunday 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.

Daily Express Interactive Art Studio & Cafe Canterbury 01227 765665 ceramics & mosaic all ages.
Daily Maidstone Leisure Centre 0845 1552277 Youth Fitness, 12-15yrs Selected Sats Wave Rave Pool Party Available Birthdays Parties for children leave all the planning & tidying up to the Centre.

Every Thurs White Oak Leisure Centre Swanley 01222 662188 Under 16's Roller Disco.
Last Fri morn of each month Bedgebury National Pinetum & Forest Goudhurst 01580 879820 Beginners Health Walk, lasting approx 30mins-1hr & will cover between 1-4km. **Every Fri morn** Moderate Health Walks, 1-1 1/2 hrs between 4 & 6km. **Every Fri morn** Green Gym session, volunteers can spend a satisfying session working in the National Pinetum helping to improve the world's best conifer collection. **FREE. Tel: 01424 446395.** Daily Go Ape take to the trees & experience a course of rope bridges, tarzan swings & zip slides up to 35 feet above the forest floor, 10-yrs, minimum height 1.4m.

Every Wed Danurian Park 07990 973313 **Every Wed Buggy Workout**, exercise for mother & baby, power walking 10.30-11.30am.
Every weekend Broadstairs Harbour 07847 473615 Market, weather permitting.
27 May East Lenham Farm 01233 756266 Country fayre with trade stands & craft stalls.
Until 27 May Herne Bay Museum & Gallery 01227 367 368 Create your own greetings cards, stamp, rub or print your own greetings card to take home inspired by the collecting prints exhibition, children FREE.

27 May Marlowe Theatre Centre 01227 787877 Guys and Dolls, musical comedy.

Every Sat Medway Hill Theatre Rochester 07939 921041 Youth Company for 12-18yrs & children's workshop, 7-12yrs.
Every Sun Edenbridge Leisure Centre 01732 865665 Under 16's & families roller disco.

17 May Mini Mini beast hunt see how many bugs & creepy crawlies you can find. **FREE** activity, need to book. **13 May** The Stroke Association, Step out for a stroke walk. **19 May** Wild Food Foraging guided walk, find out what is good & safe to eat. **FREE** activity, need to book. **20 May** It's a Knockout Tournament, raising funds for Children Today, teams of 7-10 people are needed to participate in this event & pay a registration fee per team. **26-27 May** Town & Country Fair, all day entertainment which may include birds of prey, working dogs, children's entertainment as well as arts, crafts, gifts & food markets.

Until 3 June Spottles Kings Theatre 338 High Street Chatham 01634 829468 Magic Porridge Pot play for 2-5yrs.

1 May Capel-Le-Ferne Village Hall Folkstone 07809 082356 Farmers Market. Russian specialities.
1 May Knole Park House & Gardens Sevenoaks 01732 462100 Open Garden weekends, 11-4pm.
1 May-21 Oct Leeds Castle 01622 765400 'What the Butler Saw' stories from above & below stars in the 1930's.

6 May Charles Dickens School 01843 280734 Boot Fair, entrance **FREE**, for children, 7-12pm.

6 May Stonewall Park Chiddington - Hoath Open Garden, featuring species rhododendrons, magnolias, azaleas, a range of interesting trees & shrubs, wandering paths & lakes, 1.30-5pm, www.ngs.org.uk.

6-7 May Turner Contemporary The Rendezvous, Margate 01843 233000 Sonic Play, 15 May Easy Sundays, Natural Wonders. 16 May Bookworms Story Time, 23 May Artists Salon activity.

6-12 May Thane Walking Festival Enjoy springtime around the coastal resorts of Margate, Broadstairs & Ramsgate, experienced walk leaders guide you around 'tried & tested' & new routes & special interest town walks provided by local civic & historical societies, www.thanewalkingfestival.co.uk.

7 May Museum of Kent Life Lock Lane Maidstone 01622 763936 May Day celebrations, watch the traditional Morris & maypole dancers plus lots of family fun, under 3's **FREE**. 13 May Food Bazaar with a wide range of foods, entrance under 3's **FREE**.

7 May Walmer Green 01304 381506 Beachside bank holiday bromiate with huge selection of antiques, collectables & crafts, with a fun novelty chocolate treat, local arts & crafts plus lots of fun.

7 May Whitstable Castle 01227 263595 May Day celebration with Morris dancing, maypole dancing, stalls & food, punch, jury & circus skills, candy floss, coconut shy & lots more. **FREE**.

9 May Trinity Theatre Tunbridge Wells 01892 678678 Sense & Sensibility.
10 May Hazlett Theatre Maidstone 01622 726155 New Line Learning - Oliver! The Musical. 11 May Maidstone's Got Talent auditions, the winner & runners up will be invited to take part in the Olympic event in the Motc Park on 19th July when the torch reaches the town. **31 May** The Sleeping Beauty ballet.

31 May A Right Royal Kneep Up packed with sing-along memories spanning four weddings & a coronation, from the 40's to the new millennium.
12-13 May Sandwich Celebration 01304 611619 A two day celebration of the sandwich, the festival commemorates the 250th anniversary of the 4th Earl of Sandwich inventing the sandwich, highlights include a 2 day food fayre, a street lunch & street music.
13 May & every 2nd Sun of the month Tunbridge Farmers Market Sovereign Way 07876 685853 Normally with more than 50 stalls, 9.30-1pm.
13 May Salvation Army Maidstone 01622 681808 Community Gospel Choir rehearsal & every fortnight throughout the year for anyone 8-yrs+. Opportunity for whole families to come & enjoy singing together & to meet new people.
13 May Yalding Gardens Yalding 01622 814650 Honey Bee Fayre & Auction for families & for anyone else who would like to come along & learn more about these insects. There will be live bee demonstrations where real hives are opened up to show you their inner workings plus lots of information & lots more. Plus there will be food & drink available throughout the day, ice cream van, face painting, a raffle, lots of stalls, books on bees for all ages, also opportunity to make your very own soybean bee house.
13 May Beech Court Gardens Challock nr Ashford 01233 740735 Open Garden, informal woodland garden surrounding medieval farm with picnic area, entrance **FREE**, children.
Until 13 May Bates Green Farnham 01232 485151 Bluebell Walk & farm trail

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St Lawrence College exists to provide education for children. Charity No 307921

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There are a lot of other and supporting features on the website.
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Bexleyheath 020 8303 2821	Maidstone West 01622 209 730	Sevenoaks 01342 851 221

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Fees vary. Please refer to your local study centre.

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Education

Helping Children Get Safe 4 Summer

Remember the important messages of staying safe in and around the water, including the 'SAFE' code:

S: Spot the dangers. Whenever children are near water they should take extra care. They should look to see if the water is affected by currents or tides or if there are rocks, piers, groynes or breakwaters that may affect swimming. Children should also learn to look at what the general conditions are like in and out of the water.

A: Advise. Children should always try and choose a place to swim where there are lifeguards and always take notice of safety information that may include warning or safety signs.

F: Friends. If children are going near water they should always go with a friend if they cannot be accompanied an

adult. If your child is with a friend one of them may be able to get help if the other gets into trouble in the water.

E: Emergency. Children should never jump into water to rescue someone. A drowning person may be very strong and pull them under the water as well. Instead they should ring 999 or 112 and shout for help.

For more information on the **Get Safe 4 Summer** campaign visit www.getsafe4summer.org Check out website for programmes at your local pool for instance Tonbridge Swimming Pool and Larkfield Leisure Centre are running a **Get Safe 4 Summer** one day course.

Tonbridge Swimming Pool
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The Very Helpful Hedgehog by Rosie Wellesley

Isaac is a solitary hedgehog. He never speaks to anyone and he likes it that way. He eats alone, sleeps alone, lives quietly alone and goes about his life perfectly content with having no friends to talk to. One day, an apple falls from a tree and lands on his back. Isaac tries to shake it off, but the apple has stuck fast to his spines.

Poor Isaac panics – what will he do? He has no friends to help him and he starts to cry. He is crying hard when suddenly a donkey plucks the apple from Isaac's back. The donkey is overjoyed that at last he has an apple to eat, the tree is too far from his paddock for him to ever reach his favourite fruit.

The donkey tries to talk to the little hedgehog and make friends, but Isaac has never had any and doesn't know what to do. So he stays quiet. But returning to his pile of leaves, Isaac spots another apple, and an idea forms in his head. This touching story is all about Isaac learning that it's better to have friends and help others, than to be alone.

Beautifully illustrated throughout, this timeless tale is perfect for children 3+ yrs. £5.99

Go for Gold with the Great British Carrot Whistle Olympics to win a £1,200 Prize!

Carrots are one of the nation's favourite vegetables and it's easy to see why. Not only can you roast them for Sunday lunch, grate them into a sandwich or salad, bake them in a wonderful carrot cake or blend them into a warming soup, but did you know that carrots also make great musical instruments?!

Once a few holes have been made, a carrot is transformed into a carrot whistle, much like the recorder you used to play at school. Just type the words 'carrot whistle' into Google and you'll see there's already over sixty million people interested in turning the humble carrot into something you blow!

And now it's your chance to get your hands on a free carrot whistle, courtesy of *The British Carrot Growers' Association*, and get involved with - the **Great British Carrot Whistle Olympics!** Top prize is a limited edition London 2012 set of two gold coins made of 22 carat gold and worth a whopping £1,200! All you have to do to enter is video yourself playing a 'gold' themed song on your carrot whistle and post it on

www.facebook.com/greatbritishcarrots
Try a rendition of the classic Bond theme 'Goldfinger, belt one theme 'Goldfinger, belt



is open to everyone including all amateurs, musicians, schools and music groups etc

www.facebook.com/greatbritishcarrots

May 2012

May 2012

Nearly half of UK parents keep tabs on teens via Facebook

Is this a new kind of parental relationship, or is it spying?

Parents are keeping tabs on their teens by accessing their **Facebook** accounts without their consent. *AVG Technologies'* latest **Digital Diaries** study reveals.

Digital Coming of Age the fifth instalment of *AVG's Digital Diaries* study, features responses to questions to 4,400 parents with 14-17 year olds in 11 countries. It found that only 30 per cent of UK parents are likely to be concerned about how their teen's interaction with social media sites could affect their future job prospects. This was the lowest figure (excluding the Czech Republic) of all the countries surveyed.

Other key findings from Digital Coming of Age include:

• UK parents are most likely to suspect teens of 'sexting' - nearly one quarter (23 per cent) of UK parents suspect their kids of sexting, compared with their European counterparts in Germany (9 per cent), France (10 per cent), Italy (11 per cent) and Czech Republic (13 per cent)

• 28 per cent of UK parents suspect their teens are illegally downloading music - compared with Spain (45 per cent), Czech Republic (35 per cent), France (30 per cent), Australia and New Zealand (27 per cent), United States (19 per cent).

UK teens could face up to ten years in jail for illegal downloads as a result of Britain signing the disputed *Anti-Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA)* bill

• One fifth of UK parents suspect their teens of accessing pornography on their PC - in comparison to over a quarter of Spanish parents

• One fifth of UK parents have seen explicit or abusive messages on their offspring's social networks - compared with over one quarter of Australian and New Zealand parents

• Parents 'friending' teens on **Facebook** - over half of UK parents are connected with their teens on Facebook, compared with United States (72 per cent), Canada (66 per cent), Italy (66 per cent), Spain (64 per cent), New Zealand (60 per cent), Australia (57 per cent), Germany (51 per cent), Czech Republic (50 per cent), France (32 per cent) and Japan (10 per cent)

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BBC Learning & the RSC Unveil Shakespeare Unlocked

A new online learning resource for schools Young people can 'unlock' Shakespeare via new online resources as part of their studies thanks to a new series of short films created by **BBC Learning** and the **Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)**.

These films, produced as part of the **BBC's Shakespeare** season and the **World Shakespeare Festival** bring Shakespeare to life for a secondary school audience. They provide students and teachers with a unique insight into Shakespeare's work through world-class theatre productions and workshops with actors and directors.

Students will be able to 'unlock' key scenes from RSC theatre productions of three of Shakespeare's most widely studied and performed plays - *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. By visiting the portal at: www.bbc.co.uk/shakespeare they will be able to click through to explore three pivotal scenes from each play, each containing significant moments for character and plot development.

The series of 12 short films for each play are designed to

help students develop their understanding of language, character development and dramatic devices which are all at the core of the *GCSE English Shakespeare curriculum*. The website will explore the interpretative choices that lie at the heart of all Shakespeare's plays and also provide ideas for activities and discussion in the classroom.

Rebecca Simor, Executive Producer **BBC Learning**, said: "Shakespeare Unlocked has enabled us to create fantastically rich content and resources for both students and teachers who want to delve deeper into these famous plays. By working with the RSC, we've been able to provide a fascinating insight into how actors and directors interpret material and bring it to life for audiences in ways that make

the texts feel as relevant today as they were when they were written."

The online resources became accessible from April 1st 2012 and are available via the website portal at www.bbc.co.uk/shakespeare

Teachers packs, with ideas for using the films in class, are published at the end of April 2012.

Shakespeare Unlocked was created by **BBC Learning** in partnership with **RSC Education**. It is part of the **BBC Shakespeare** season and the **World Shakespeare Festival**.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00g1kg

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Oxbridge Centre is a well-established tuition centre based in New Malden. Currently there are around 500 students from year 1-A-Level studying at the centre. Why don't you join us too?

Coiledspring Games announce the UK exclusive launch of **Zingo** the award-winning fast-paced, fun educational game for kids! **Zingo** has already taken America by storm and is set to be a big hit with families all over the country! There are two fabulous editions of **Zingo**; one is a numbers

Bingo with a Zingo!

game whilst the other is all about words and pictures. Described as **Bingo with a Zingo** these games are super speedy and totally addictive! Players compete to match up numbers, or words and pictures to fill their score card as quickly as they can.

Apart from being a lot of fun, a

game of **Zingo** not only builds number and word recognition, it also develops concentration and memory. Suitable for children aged four and up, this is a perfect game to play to boost confidence and support learning. Children will love pressing the red 'Zinger' to release images, this really is interactive bingo!

Even better each **Zingo** game has two levels of play. Younger players will enjoy the 'beginner' games but once they've mastered the basics they'll be clamouring to move onto the advanced level, meaning your set of **Zingo** will last for years and years!

Parents can play **Zingo** too and there is even a handy guide included with every game that offers hints and tips on how to encourage healthy competition, support early readers and build logic so that everyone gets the most out of their game of **Zingo!**

Roger Martin owner of **Coiledspring Games** commented 'We are very excited to have brought **Zingo** to the UK. We want to make sure kids have the opportunity to play and enjoy traditional games, and **Zingo** is a game the whole family can get excited about, enjoy and learn from.'

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- Senior School Open Evening - 17th May, 6-8.30pm

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