

TODS performing murder mystery

THE Agatha Christie murder mystery *The Unexpected Guest* is being performed by Tenterden Operatic & Dramatic Society (TODS) in the Town Hall from tonight (Thursday) to Saturday at 7.30pm.

For tickets, go to www.tods.me.uk or Travelux in East Cross.

One for the ladies

A LADIES only bike ride leave Tenterden Leisure Centre every Friday until Christmas.

The rides are at a leisurely pace with a coffee stop and are part of British Cycling's Breeze Bike Rides for Women.

For times and more information, email moya.somerscales@gmail.com or go to www.breezebikerides.com

Live pub music

WHERE'S Brian will be playing live at The White Lion, High Street, Tenterden, on Saturday from 9pm.

Sunday cycle rides

THE TN30 cycling club meets on Sundays at The Crown, St Michael's, for easy rides with a lunch stop.

For times and details, email tn30cc@sky.com or go to www.tn30cc.blogspot.co.uk

Villager's fast broadband campaign pays off at last

by Tricia Jamieson
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FROM snail's pace to superspeed, that's the prospect for computer users in Rolvenden who should have a fast broadband service by the end of the year.

It follows three years of hard work by Rolvenden Layne resident Kerrin Malone, who has spearheaded a campaign.

Mr Malone, 65, a retired chartered surveyor who does consultancy work from home, said: "When I moved here six years ago the speed was atrocious. Downloading anything takes a month of Sundays.

"Everyone will be advantaged by this, even those in outlying areas. There are around 100 businesses in the area which will benefit as will households which use computers socially."

New roadside cabinets have been installed, radio aerials put on the tower of St Mary the Virgin Church and a new cable has been laid as far as Home-wood School & Sixth Form Centre, from where a signal will be beamed to the church.

It is hoped the service will start in the next few weeks with the whole area connected by the end of the year.

Mr Malone got involved three years ago after hearing a radio



The Rev Jaques Desrosiers and Kerrin Malone with the new broadband cabinet near the church in Rolvenden

Picture: Gary Browne FM2292819

report about a remote village in Rutland getting broadband.

He got the backing of Rolvenden Parish Council to see what could be done to improve the service, and began researching.

After hearing of possible grants available from Kent County Council, he leafleted villagers asking them to record their internet speeds, filled out an application and was successful in getting £50,000.

Mr Malone then began work-

ing with the selected company, Call Flow Solutions, as to the best way to deliver the service.

"The parish council wanted an improved service not just for Rolvenden and Rolvenden Layne but for the outlying areas," he said. "The best way to get to those furthest from the cabinets was by radio signal.

"We are extremely grateful to the Canterbury Diocese for granting permission for the aerials on the church tower. We are

the first church in the diocese to have this so we are guinea pigs.

"There are a few hiccups still to be resolved, but we should be up and running with broadband in the next few weeks."

Parish council chairman Duncan Murray praised Mr Malone.

"The council has been promoting this for some time, but he did masses of work to make it happen," he said. "This is great for rural businesses as well as meeting domestic expectations."

Learning the history of art at town hotel

NATIONAL Portrait Gallery lecturer Nicholas Shaddick is leading a course on the history of art at the London Beach Hotel.

The 10-week course is on Tuesdays at 6.30pm.

Mr Shaddick studied sculpture and art history at Maidstone College of Art and design history at the Royal College of Art.

He lectured at the Kent Institute of Art and Design, The London Institute, West Kent College and the University of Greenwich and has recently lectured at the National Portrait Gallery.

Mr Shaddick has also worked with several national arts organisations and consulting for the Design Council.

The cost of the course is £45 for non-members, £40 for members. Booking is essential on 01580 767611.

Was there a POW camp in town?

WAS there a prisoner of war camp in the Tenterden area towards the end of the First World War?

If so, the Tenterden & District Local History Society would like to know about it.

Spokesman Eleanor Bliss said the society had had an inquiry from someone doing research into the camps. "They seem to have been set up to use POWs to help farmers, definitely from October, 1917, until March, 1918," she said.

"References to the camp's existence are found in the National Archives, in the Home Office and War Office files.

"We have drawn a blank in helping the researcher find out what he is after. Someone in Tenterden may remember having been told about the camp by relatives, or found reference in old diaries."

Anyone with information should call 01233 770082 or email eleanorbliss@btinternet.com



Woodchurch Morris Men performing at the Six Bells pub, Woodchurch

Picture: Gary Browne

Step out and have a go at morris dancing

IF YOU have ever fancied trying your hand at morris dancing, now is your chance. But you have to be male.

Woodchurch Morris Men are holding a come and have-a-go session on Sunday from 11am. Last year's taster event was popular with three new members joining the side.

Anyone can just turn up, both experienced morris dancers or those who have not done any kind of dancing before.

The session lasts an hour and is in the annexe of the Memorial Hall on Woodchurch Green.

At the side's annual meeting last Sunday, Mike Headling was elected squire for a second year. Dave Comley takes over as bagman and Keith Andrews as deputy squire.

The Six Bells at Woodchurch, The Bell Inn at Ivychurch and The George at Bethersden were thanked for their support.

Woodchurch Morris Men have been going for 22 years and are currently putting together their dance programme for next summer. Anyone interested in booking them should contact Dave Comley on 07900 442440.

Bungalow plan for communal hall

A PLANNING application has been submitted to convert a communal hall in Woodchurch into a two-bedroomed bungalow.

The hall in Plum Tree Gardens was designed for use by residents of the cul-de-sac, who live in Ashford council-owned bungalows and are aged over 50.

But a report submitted with the planning application states it is rarely used. The plan is to convert it into a home for an elderly or disabled person.

A decision will be made by Ashford council. For full details, go to the planning section of www.ashford.gov.uk and search for application number 01160.



Purestar Productions, in association with Stagecoach, presents a fantastic full day workshop with performance event, ending in a showcase for parents and peers.

- ★ MTV music video dance sessions with Kylie Minogue's choreographer, Tim Noble.
- ★ X-Factor style pop choir with music industry vocal expert.
- ★ Scripted television casting session with advice and feedback from casting director.

THE NORTH SCHOOL

Wednesday 31st October 2012 10am - 5pm

Cost: £40 per person Ages: 8 to 18 years

Contact Colleen Foster 07764 828808

email: ashford@stagecoach.co.uk



Theatre Arts Schools
Stagecoach