

News right now

For local news updates visit www.kentishgazette.co.uk



IN BRIEF

Swan's future

A FORMER pub in Faversham may be converted into a cafe/restaurant.

The grade II listed Swan in the town centre was put up for sale with an asking price of £250,000 for the freehold.

The buyer is an experienced businessman who plans to convert the building.

Focus on traffic

TRAFFIC issues in Faversham town centre and plans for the new Bysingwood Community Centre will be on the agenda at the next Faversham Local Engagement Forum in the Gatefield Hall at the Alexander Centre at 7pm on Tuesday, April 21.

The agenda is available to view at www.swale.gov.uk/dso. Anyone wishing to ask a question should send it to Swale Council's Democratic Services team at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Questions may also be phoned through on 01795 417330 or emailed to democratics@swale.gov.uk

Chocolate party

A CHOCOLATE cake was cut to celebrate the first anniversary of Davington Church Mother & Toddler Group, which meets on Mondays between 2pm and 4pm at Davington Cricket Pavilion in Alexander Drive.

■ Contact Sue Wilby on 01795 538131 or the Rev Ali Duguid on 01795 533272.

Office site chosen

FAVERSHAM has been chosen for the new corporate office of KCHT, the South East's leading residential care home and community-based service provider.

De Gelsey House, on the former railway goods yard site off Whitstable Road, has been named after the late Alex de Gelsey, a long serving member of KCHT's board of trustees. It was officially opened by his widow, Romy de Gelsey.

The charity has invested £2m in the building, providing a centre for nearly 40 staff.

Rural issues

EASTLING village hall is the venue for the next Swale Rural Forum, which takes place at 7pm on Tuesday, April 14. Items on the agenda include broadband provision, street lighting and drains.

MEMORIAL DESTROYED: Thieves luck to be alive after smash in stolen car, says judge

Crash burglar is locked up



The crash in Teynham, which destroyed the village's Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee memorial. It will cost more than £25,000 to restore

A TEENAGER who stole a car in a burglary and then demolished a village monument has been sentenced to two years three months youth custody.

Benjamin Pell caused £10,000 worth of damage to the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Memorial in Teynham and a further £50,000 to cars and other buildings.

A judge told Pell and his 16-year-old passenger: "Both of you are lucky to be alive."

Pell, of Cuthbert Road, Westgate, admitted burglary and dangerous driving and asked for seven burglaries to be taken into consideration.

His co-accused, from Camberwell, admitted burglary and aggravated allowing him-

self to be carried in the car. He was sentenced to 18 months detention and training.

Maidstone Crown Court heard the pair broke into a house in Kingsnorth Road, Faversham, on November 18 while it was occupied by owner Paul Wills.

He awoke to find computer equipment and games missing, along with his Ford Focus.

Less than an hour earlier, police officers saw the car heading towards Ospringe and followed at speeds of between 50mph and 90mph.

The car eventually crashed into four vehicles parked in London Road, Teynham, and hurtled into the memorial,

built in 1897. Caroline Knight, prosecuting, said it would cost more than £25,000 to restore. The Focus, worth £10,000, was also destroyed.

Pell had numerous convictions.

In March 2005 he was sentenced to two years detention for robbery. He was released 19 days before committing the latest offences.

The other teenager, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, had served eight months detention and training for robbery. He has also been recalled. Pell was sentenced to 18 months for burglary and nine months consecutive for dangerous driving. He was banned for two years.

SAD HISTORY OF NEGLECT

NERMINE Abdul-Sayed, for Pell, said her client apologised to all victims in the case. Pell, she said, had a sad history of child neglect. His mother, who sat in court, had alcohol and drug problems. There had been little contact over the years.

His father died of a heroin overdose and he was taken into care at an early age.

Pell committed the latest offences after being exposed to heroin. His mental health was affected and he was on suicide watch. He was now on a drug programme and on a detox wing.

Richard Hutchings, for the other teenager, said he expressed regret.



The damaged memorial in Teynham

Why not run your own draught beer at your venue?

Whether you're planning a corporate event, wedding, anniversary, birthday or barbeque this year, we will deliver, setup and demonstrate the equipment on site.

Safety tested (PAT).

All beers, wines, spirits, and soft drinks can be supplied.

- New and unique to this area -

Office/Fax: 01227 371899 Mobile: 07860 534921
Email: info@cellarservicesltd.co.uk

CELLAR SERVICES LIMITED

Early booking is advised. Over 25's only. Deposit required.
If you plan to sell the wines, beers and spirits at your function you must apply for a license.

Council's legal chief bows out



Swale Borough Council solicitor Duncan Milne

THE legal chief at Swale Borough Council retired on Tuesday after 27 years dealing with the authority's small print.

Duncan Milne, 58, has attended more than 200 planning inquiries since he started as assistant solicitor at the council in 1982.

He then became senior solicitor and eventually head of legal services.

Mr Milne, who lives in a Grade II listed property in Canterbury with his wife Wendy, said: "The first chief executive I served under was Air Commodore Harry White, who was an amazing man.

"He was a night fighter pilot in the Second World War."

Said Mr Milne: "A lot of the work has been in the office and a bit dry, but there have been amusing incidents."

He recalled the time he was in court for a dog control order case.

"We were shown pictures of a man in bed with his two huge mastiffs on either side."

He added: "Then there was the time that we were involved in a burial and had to go round to the man's house and a mannequin fell out of a door giving my colleague the shock of his life."

SPECIALIST PRIVATE CLIENT LAWYERS

FREE 30 minute appointments with our matrimonial and family department

Available until 15/05/09 at our Whitstable office.

Call Natalie Stokoe on 01227 276276

12/14 OXFORD STREET, WHITSTABLE, KENT, CT5 1DE
CALL US ON 01227 276276

LLOYDS BANK CHAMBERS, 144/146 HIGH STREET, HERNE BAY, KENT, CT6 5NJ
CALL US ON 01227 361131

WWW.PARRYLAW.CO.UK