Thousands get their skates on!
New park is a stunning success

Inside
- Film shows how young people are getting it right
- Students at work in the community
- Could you be a children's champion?
Young people tend to get a bad press. They are stereotyped as, at best, interested only in computer games and mobile phones, and at worst one step away from an ASBO.

But these impressions represent only a fraction of the reality. Most young people are just having fun and not disturbing anyone – just like most of us did when we were young. And, in fact, a lot of the time they are involved in amazing activities, helping in their communities, and growing into valued and responsible members of society.

A film has been made by young people aimed at showing the positive contribution they make, and dispelling myths associated with youth. One young person involved in the project explains more on page 16 of the magazine.

On the same page two other youngsters report on the successful Hot Topix conference and we also find out how young people will soon be quizzing councillors as part of Local Democracy Week.
Work is nearing completion on a scheme to improve three of Canterbury’s historic streets, Palace Street, Guildhall Street and Sun Yard. The King’s Mile enhancement project was devised by Canterbury City Council to upgrade the appearance and atmosphere of the streets. The council wants to revitalise this important retail and residential area, and hopes the improvements will help attract pedestrians, as well as reduce the impact of traffic.

In Palace Street the road has been narrowed, allowing only single way traffic, with passing points and loading bays. The pavement has been widened and areas created for tables and chairs. There is also better lighting, new trees and plants and the area has been repaved. A year’s trial of the new layout proved to be successful.

No one is quite sure how the King’s Mile got its name. Some believe it is named after Henry II who travelled in penance to Canterbury after the murder of Thomas Becket.

The new skate park at Swalecliffe is proving even more popular than anticipated with more than 1,000 young people using the facilities every day during the summer. The £274,000 city council project, part funded with a £65,000 grant from the Big Lottery, features the latest in skate facilities and has been designed following consultation with local skaters.

It’s the biggest and best skate park in the county, and the opening brings to an end the search to provide young people from Herne Bay and Whitstable with skate facilities. Originally, sites for both towns were considered, but after public consultation it was decided to build one larger skate park.

To report any damage or accidents, call Serco on 0800 031 9091 or email environmental helpdesk@canterbury.serco.com.

Sense of adventure!

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First animation festival celebrates growing success

Entries are rolling in for the Canterbury Anifest 2007, the first festival in Kent to celebrate the county’s growing animation community.

This year the city will be alive with animation workshops and exhibitions, building up to the climax of the festival on Saturday 3 November at the Gulbenkian Theatre. Visitors from across Britain will be there for a day of talks, networking and film screenings.

Animators can submit their work by visiting www.canterburyanifest.com and downloading an entry form. Animators will have the opportunity to meet some of the leading professionals working in the animation industry in Britain and could win a prize of £1,000 in the competitive short film screening.

Canterbury Anifest will also host a tribute to Kent-based animators Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin – an invitation to the whole community to relive the adventures of The Clangers and Bagpuss.

The festival is organised by Canterbury City Council in partnership with the University College of Creative Arts, Canterbury Christ Church University, the University of Kent, Canterbury Festival Fringe, Kent County Council and Screen South.

Look out for those Scores on the Doors

From 1 October it will be easy to find out how well cafés, restaurants, clubs, shops and other food businesses in the district are complying with food law.

Canterbury City Council is taking part in a national pilot – Scores on the Doors – which will see businesses given star ratings. The ratings range from five stars for excellent to no stars for very poor. They will be publicly available on www.canterbury.gov.uk/scoresonthedoors.

Businesses will be able to display certificates and stickers showing their food hygiene rating to help people decide where to eat.

Premises will be rated following routine visits by food safety officers, working with a national scoring system. Inspections will be programmed by the council, and will also take place when someone new takes over a food business.

Could you be a champion?

Are you pregnant or caring for a child under five? Do you live in the Sure Start area*? If so, why not consider becoming a Children’s Centre Champion in Canterbury. You could:

- Have a real say in how services are run
- Get involved in exciting activities
- Meet new people
- Discover hidden skills and talents
- Get the best start for your child.

For more information on this important new role contact the Children’s Centre Parent Participation Officer, Jo Treharne, on 01227 475 550 or email jo.treharne@canterbury.gov.uk. Alternatively you can fill out the form on the right and send it to Parent’s Forum, Children’s Centre, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury CT2 7PH.

For more details, visit the website or contact the council’s Creative Development Officer Michelle Moubarak on 01227 862 267.
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Marlowe fund off to a flying start

The initial fundraising campaign for the redevelopment of Canterbury’s Marlowe Theatre is underway. The first significant lead gift – an impressive £250,000 – came from Herne Bay company Crown Products.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart, former Leader of Kent County Council and the recently-appointed Chair of English Heritage, was recently named President of the fundraising campaign with Sir Graeme Odgers, Chairman of the Kent Economic Board, as Chairman and Peter Williams, the President of the Canterbury Festival, acting as Vice Chair.

The campaign’s leadership is joined by a growing number of prominent and influential local people who will take responsibility for the ambitious private fundraising target of £6 million over the next three years and also help the theatre plan the official public launch of the fundraising campaign.

Sir Graeme Odgers said: “I am delighted to be leading this important initiative. The redevelopment of the Marlowe Theatre is an inspirational project and will create a centre of excellence for the performing arts for the whole region. The generous support of Crown Products is wonderful and encouraging news and we hope this gift will inspire others to become further involved.”

The company’s Managing Director Michael Head, said: ‘As a local company that has been in the district for nearly 50 years, we are very pleased to provide substantial support for a project which will benefit the whole community for generations to come.

“This really is a time for those who care about the future of Canterbury to ‘dig deep’ and do their very best to support this fantastic project.”

The ambitious plans for the new Marlowe Theatre will see the theatre enlarged and adapted to incorporate an extended and modernised main auditorium, a second ‘performing and creative’ space, and improved audience and educational facilities.

New approach to Big Issue sales

A new code of conduct has been introduced to control the sale of The Big Issue magazine in Canterbury.

Canterbury City Council has been working with the The Big Issue Company, Kent Police, Kent Highway Services, East Kent Cyrenians and The Scrine Foundation to agree a protocol that will improve the service offered by The Big Issue in the city centre.

There are now three official locations in the city where The Big Issue can be sold from – next to the Cricketers pub in St Peter’s Street, outside WH Smith and adjacent to the bus station in Whitefriars.

These pitches are allocated to vendors who have been selected by The Big Issue and approved by an officer from Kent Police’s Neighbourhood Team. Only the chosen vendors can sell the magazines from these locations.

Sellers must clearly show their identification and may be asked to stop selling if they are in breach of The Big Issue’s code of conduct. The pitch locations are being trialled for six months.
Students arriving in Canterbury this month to start their university courses are being told about living in the area through a city council leaflet and dedicated website. The ‘Student’s Guide’ contains details of rubbish and recycling collections, parking, voting and financial issues such as council tax and housing benefit, as well as museums and theatre information.

There is also a section on the student protocol set up by the city council, Kent Police and the local universities and colleges. The protocol aims to solve problems between residents and students and urges people to follow straightforward advice such as leaving and returning home quietly, containing noise by keeping doors and windows shut and not playing amplified music in the garden.

In addition, there are telephone numbers for reporting racist or homophobic abuse, or anti-social behaviour.

The guide, which is distributed through the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University College, University College of the Creative Arts and Canterbury College, offers the opportunity for students to win a prize if they log onto the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/students. The guide is aimed at first year students who are new to university life and often new to Canterbury, and at second years moving out of halls of residence and into the community.

Many students from Canterbury’s universities and colleges get involved in voluntary work during their stay in the city, using their skills, energy and enthusiasm to help local causes.

A number from Canterbury Christ Church University were presented with certificates for their volunteering work by the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Cllr Cyril Windsor, during National Volunteers’ Week.

The special awards ceremony was held in conjunction with Canterbury Volunteering Centre. It was part of the city’s ‘Tune into Volunteering’ day and took place at the Student Union building.

Representatives from a wide range of local organisations that had benefited from the work of the university’s student volunteers were invited to the presentations.

Students who were presented with awards included: Claire Callinan for her work with Canterbury Umbrella Centre; Charlotte Butcher for her work with Kingsmead School; Mablaza Garcia Ramos, Monica Kimeu and Eri Kurosu who all worked at Canterbury Day Nursery; Penny King and Dom Whitting for their time at Canterbury Prison Tea Bar; Thu Ha Tran and Huijin Han for their work at Northgate Early Years Project; Kathryn Lake at Scrine, a charity for the homeless; and Katie Poole for helping at Kingsmead School.

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End of term waste sorted

The Student Union at Canterbury Christ Church University joined forces with Canterbury City Council to tackle the end of year clear out as students returned home for the summer.

The students began picking up litter from the clock tower towards the Aldi store in St George’s Place and the surrounding area. Rubbish was separated into recycling sacks and standard waste.

“There was a real feeling from students that they wanted to take some positive action with environmental issues and show residents of Canterbury that they really cared about the city and wanted to help protect it,” said Rob Thorburn, former president of the Student Union.

They were encouraged to fill charity sacks with unwanted items and also recycle as much as possible in clear sacks. Any surplus waste was then put into purple sacks purchased from the Student Union office. The office also had a supply of the charity and clear sacks.

Posters were displayed on campus promoting the initiative and there was information on the students’ website. The idea is likely to be repeated each term.

Rob Thorburn prepares for the clean up.
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The ‘cycle zebra’ scheme in Chaucer Road has been funded by the city council to improve the network of safer walking and cycling routes. This innovative crossing is the first of its kind in the south east and there are only a few in the country. It has the appearance and legal standing of a normal zebra crossing but cyclists are permitted to cross, without dismounting, to one side of the striped markings.

This is intended to provide a safer and convenient crossing facility at a location that is frequently used by local people, commuters, school children and students, as well as staff and visitors to the council offices. It will also make it easier for disabled people to cross the road. Local residents have been campaigning for several years for a controlled crossing at this location.

The crossing has been designed with cyclists in mind as it is on existing National Cycle Route 1. The scheme replaces the white ‘elephant’s footprint’ road markings which sometimes caused confusion as to who had right of way. Approval was required by Kent County Council, the highway authority, before the new crossing could be constructed.

Sustrans (the UK’s sustainable transport charity responsible for introducing the National Cycle Route Network) and Cycling England are very interested to see how well it works. The scheme will be monitored and, if successful, may be used in other areas. A National Cycle Network way marker will be placed near to the crossing, in due course, to highlight the route.
An unforgettable day
Le Tour in pictures

On the sunniest day in July thousands of people lined the streets of Canterbury to experience the thrill of the Tour de France.

The arrival of the race in the city exceeded all expectations, as local residents joined tourists and dedicated cycling fans to greet the riders.

A study is going on to find out how much the city benefited from hosting the end of the first stage of the Tour, but it is thought businesses including pubs and restaurants had an excellent day.

From early morning to late at night on 8 July there was a party atmosphere. Canterbury City Council had organised a host of events under the Tour de Fun banner culminating in a colourful parade through the city centre just before the riders arrived.

The French race organisers and riders themselves praised the arrangements in Canterbury, saying it was one of the best-attended race finishes ever.

These photos capture some of the fun of the day. There are many more on the website.

www.tourdefrancecanterbury.com
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The Westgate Hall, Westgate Hall Road, Canterbury CT1 2B7
Since her husband Cyril became Lord Mayor of Canterbury in May, Leslie Windsor has been enjoying a packed schedule.

“It’s a great honour to be Lady Mayoress, and I’m very pleased to be supporting Cyril in his civic engagements,” she said.

“Together, we’ve met so many lovely people and this has given us so much inspiration.”

Leslie – who originally hails from Beckenham – married Cyril in 1958 and they moved to Whitstable in 1964. They have two daughters and one grandson. In 1984, following her husband’s election to Mayor, Leslie became Mayoress of Canterbury for the first time. And last year she was escort to the former Sheriff of Canterbury, Cllr Jeanne Harrison.

“After spending so many years in Whitstable I’ve grown to love the town and the surrounding district,” said Leslie.

“We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful area of the country. Apart from our magnificent coastline, we have charming rural locations and the splendour of Canterbury.

“When the Tour de France came to Canterbury in July, it gave me such pride to know the eyes of the world were focussed on our part of east Kent.”

She added: “Because I have so much affection for the district, I consider it a great privilege to be able to serve the community. And the Lady Mayoress’ Charity Appeal means that I can translate this affection into tangible results.”

There are so many deserving causes within the district, and for her civic year, Leslie has selected two for charitable support.

She explained: “Christ Church Cathedral is the centre of our district, geographically, historically and spiritually. The cathedral holds a special place in all our hearts, and it seems a natural choice to support the ‘Save the Cathedral’ appeal.

“Despite its beautiful and captivating presence, the cathedral needs our help and we cannot afford for such a landmark to suffer physical decline.”

“Since her husband Cyril became Lord Mayor of Canterbury in May, Leslie Windsor has been enjoying a packed schedule.”

“The Lady Mayoress’ Charity Appeal means I can translate my affection for the district into tangible results.”

She added: “There are so many people who are dedicated to preserving and enriching its magnificence. The work of the stonemasons is vast, and this year the local young men and women apprentices are carving the pinnacles on the cathedral’s corona, which when finished, will look splendid. Some of the money raised will be used to help this important work.

“My second chosen charity,” she said, “is the Paula Carr Diabetes Trust.

“This is a Kent-based charity that helps to raise awareness of diabetes, which is too often a ‘hidden’ disease with truly devastating effects.

“Many do not realise that diabetes, if undetected, can cause blindness. The Paula Carr Trust is dedicated to preventing this tragic but avoidable consequence.

“To this end the Trust has a mobile eye-screening service, and I would like, with everyone’s help, to provide a fully equipped mobile unit.”

**Such a busy year for Lady Mayoress**

**Forthcoming events**

**American Supper - 14 October**
Tickets £7.50 from Cllr Jeanne Harrison on 01227 273 570

**Coffee Morning, Archbishop’s Palace - 17 November**
By kind permission of the Archbishop and Mrs Williams

For more details check out the website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/ladymayoress

You can make a secure online donation to the Lady Mayoress’ Charity by visiting www.justgiving.com/ladymayorressofcanterbury
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Coldbusters is funded by Canterbury City Council and managed by the Kent Energy Centre.

Coldbusters is available to residents who are owner-occupiers or private tenants (excluding Housing Association tenants). Applicants must be the person named on the title deeds or tenancy agreement and in receipt of a suitable benefit. Energy saving information is at www.kentenergycentre.org
Dunkerley’s has continued to boast 2AA Rosettes for food and the hotel has 3 star rating and recommended by AA, Michelin and Hardens amongst others. Recently refurbishment to the hotel rooms, reception-lounge and the main bar has transformed into a comfortable Bistro for enjoying the many delights on offer from the kitchen and extensive wine cellar.

Ian Dunkerley and his staff are very pleased with the introduction of Al fresco dining which is available on the new terrace overlooking Deal Pier.

Of course the heart of Dunkerley’s lies in the kitchen but the friendly welcome from the staff along with the warmth and comfort of the surroundings will make.

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Dunkerley’s of Deal Beach Street, Deal. www.dunkerleys.co.uk
Young people’s film has hard-hitting message

A film has been produced by young people in Canterbury to challenge the view that most anti-social behaviour is committed by their age group.

It also encourages young people themselves to report anti-social behaviour if they witness it.

Young people in the district’s Positive Image Action Group worked together for many months to produce the DVD, with funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund.

Here, action group member Chenice Sparkes reports on the exciting launch of the film, “Don’t Support It, Report It”, at Herne Bay High School.

“For some of the members it was the first time they had seen the DVD, so they were particularly nervous about the outcome of the launch. The group got a massive cheer afterwards.

“Next came the bit I was particularly nervous of – the group’s presentation. It went well apart from the fact that one of our speakers had unfortunately not turned up. Georgina filled in her place and all went according to plan. “Then Clr Mrs Jean Law [the city council’s Deputy Leader] presented us with certificates. Then Anton (our film producer who put the DVD together with our help) got one too! He didn’t expect it either. He was wearing bright red shoes that reminded me of the shoes you get handed at bowling.

“So overall the launch went really well. The DVD was a complete success and the presentation went well with no mess-ups. Questions were few, which I hope meant that we got our message across. The food was a hit, especially the fruit kebabs.

“The Positive Image Action Group all got a copy of the DVD along with the certificate! How cool is that? We have our own copy to show off to our friends showing all the hard work we have done over the many months.”

The group hopes the DVD will give a clear message, explaining that anti-social behaviour is not always committed by young people, and encouraging young people to report anti-social behaviour.

Hot Topix is a hit

by Jenny Ruffle (12) Martyn Stampe (13) and Charlotte Ruffle (14)

This year we were part of the action group that organised the Hot Topix Youth Conference. Hot Topix is an event that takes place once a year for 100 young people between the ages of 11 and 16. This year it was held at Chicago Rock Café in Canterbury.

We took part in four workshops – water safety, a game about equalities, volunteering and the Positive Image of Young People campaign, in which we cut out headlines from good news stories about young people.

For the workshops we were split into groups with names from the Harry Potter books, because it was the day the final book came out.

There was a disco with pizza and drinks for everyone and at the end of the event we were given a goody bag.

While the disco was on there was a graffiti wall for people to write what they thought. Here are a few comments from people who went:

* It’s free and you meet new people
* Free food
* People very friendly
* Brilliant
* Banging music.

Fun and funky food

Local families enjoyed a fun-filled day at the new Riverside Children’s Centre, when the local Sure Start team organised an open day as part of the Get Active: Feel Alive event at Kingsmead.

Sure Start Centre Manager, Janine Hodges, said: “The families enjoyed making funky food placemats together and listening to stories in our garden. It really was an excellent day – luckily not spoiled by the weather!”

For more information on Canterbury Sure Start and the Riverside Children’s Centre, visit the new website at www.riverside.childrencentre.org or call 01227 475 550.
Is festival set to be another record-breaker?

The Canterbury Festival, Kent’s biggest international arts festival, takes place from 13 to 27 October.

More than 200 events featuring various art forms will draw audiences from across the southeast. Last year the festival attracted a record-breaking 70,000 visitors.

This year’s programme includes some of the top names in classical and world music, dance, literature, comedy and drama including Alfie Boe, Seth Lakeman, John Sergeant, The Tiger Lillies, Courtney Pine, Nicola Benedetti and Alan Carr.

Brochures are available from the festival office in The Precincts or by calling 01227 452853, and tickets can be booked at the ticket office in the Visitor Information Centre in Sun Street on 01227 378 188, or through www.canterburyfestival.co.uk

If you need help getting out and about, hop on the bus!

Do you know someone who has trouble getting around on public transport? If so, they could benefit from the Kent Karrier Dial-a-Ride service.

The bus collects residents who have signed up to the scheme from their homes and takes them to shops, supermarkets, the hospital or certain other useful places.

The scheme is free to join and passengers pay a flat fare of either £1.50 or £2.70 depending on where they live and where they are travelling to. The experienced drivers give passengers any help they need.

The buses are fully accessible for wheelchairs, and the services are funded by Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council.

On Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, people living in the Whitstable and Herne Bay areas can travel to destinations in Herne Bay, Chestfield, Whitstable and Tankerton.

A new service on Thursdays means that people living in the Whitstable and Herne Bay areas can travel into Canterbury.

Other areas and villages across the district will also enjoy an enhanced service giving people additional options to travel into Canterbury as follows:

- Areas and villages north and west of Canterbury on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Areas and villages south of Canterbury on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Areas and villages east of Canterbury on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To find out more about Dial-a-Ride or to join the scheme call Jan Uden at Canterbury City Council on 01227 862 436, email jan.uden@canterbury.gov.uk or visit www.canterbury.gov.uk/transportation
New studios have opened in Whitstable to give artists space to develop their creative businesses. Canterbury City Council has set up the Blue Turtle Creative Studios at the Whitstable Enterprise Centre, following the success of studios in Canterbury. Creative Arts build on the success of Red Dog and Green Gecko Studios and will provide artists with much needed space to develop their creative businesses.

To find out more contact Paul Spree on 01227 862 532 or email paul.spree@canterbury.gov.uk

A new school, Spires Academy, opens this September in Sturry. It’s welcome news for parents, employers and the rest of the community. But will it appeal to students themselves?

For an expert opinion, we asked Faith, 14 and currently attending another local school. First of all, Spires is small, we told her; only 350 students, growing to 600, maximum, to ensure that everyone feels part of the Academy ‘family’, and staff and students can build a close working relationship.

“That’s good”, said Faith, but she thinks having the right resources is also important. “You can’t do your best work if you have old, horrible equipment, for sports and art and everything.” We agree it comes down to respect – if adults don’t think you’re worth providing with a good environment, you won’t feel like giving it your best shot.

Plans for new facilities at Spires, currently using the Montgomery school buildings, are being developed, but it will also share resources and some aspects of teaching with its partner school, The Marlowe Academy. Faith was impressed by the look of the Marlowe’s brand-new, purpose-designed buildings in Ramsgate: “Cool!”

We could only agree; the Marlowe has a 200-seat theatre, dance, drama, music and recording studios, plus excellent resources for sports and games. The two schools have similar specialisms, in Spires’ case Business & Enterprise, and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts.

At Spires, students experience these themes throughout their school activities, to develop confidence as well as skills. Other innovations include learning from real-life situations, making the curriculum more effective and exciting. Along with the formal examinations taken by all students, work is assessed through spoken, visual and media presentations. And every student has the loan of a laptop computer, with further new technology to be introduced in the next couple of years.

Spires Academy has two sponsors, Michael Head, of Herne Bay company Crown Products, and Gerry Pack of Holiday Extras, near Folkestone. They aim to create the best possible opportunities for students, to equip them for success in the business world or further study.

Canterbury City Council is helping the Academy develop closer links with the community, along with Kent Police, the county council and the local Primary Care Trust. Lynn Ibeji, Head of School, welcomes this support. With its commitment to 11 to 16-year-olds, who, just like Faith, want to achieve their dreams, Spires Academy is a positive choice for students and parents, and very good news for the rest of us.

Students reach for success at Spires

For more information, please contact Geraldine Tveit on 01227 710 392 or email info@spiresacademy.co.uk
Spires Academy, Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, CT2 OHD.
What’s on
Your guide to what’s on in the district

September
Saturday 8 September
Canterbury emergency services open day
Canterbury
11am to 4.30pm
Canterbury emergency services open day covering Canterbury police station, fire station, the Kent and Canterbury Club. Lots of activities!
The lower section of Old Dover Road will be closed for the day.

Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 September
Heritage Open Days
Various premises open around the district.
● Pick up a programme from council offices or visit www.canterbury.gov.uk/heritage

October
Saturday 6 October
Street party
Palace Street, Canterbury
Celebration of work to improve the King’s Mile

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October
Kent Food and Drink Festival
Dane John Gardens, Canterbury
Local produce, tastings and talks
● For details see www.producedinkent.co.uk

Saturday 13 to Saturday 27
Canterbury Festival
See page 17 for more information.
● Full details from 01227 378 188 or www.canterburyfestival.co.uk

November
Saturday 3 November
Anifest
Cinema 3, Gulbenkian Theatre, University of Kent, Canterbury.
Canterbury Animation Festival
● See page 5 for more information. Call 01227 862 267 for details.

December
Saturday 1 December
Aladdin
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Pantomime opens for season
● Call the box office on 01227 787787.

Sunday 2 December
Tankerton Christmas market
Tankerton
Indoor and outdoor stalls, fairground, opening by Lord Mayor of Canterbury Cllr Cyril Windsor, and visit by Father Christmas.
● For more information call 01227 263 595.

Magnificent museums!
In addition to the above events, the district’s museums are hosting lots of fun activities this autumn. See page 23 for details.
Meanwhile, answer the following questions and you could win a family ticket to one of the council’s fascinating museums in Canterbury.

Send your answers to:
District Life, Communications Unit,
Canterbury City Council, Military Road,
Canterbury CT1 1YW, to arrive by 28 September 2007.

1 When is Rupert Bear Day at the Museum of Canterbury?
2 What kind of flag can you make at Whitstable Museum?
3 At which museum could you create a strip cartoon of the Battle of Hastings?

* The winners of tickets to see outdoor shows at St Augustine’s Abbey, Canterbury, featured in the last issue of District Life, were: Sarah McLanaghan of Canterbury; Louise Round of Beltinge; Irene Bogard of Chestfield; R. Robbins of Canterbury; and Gina Potter of Swalecliffe.
Christmas Party Nights 2007

Friday 14th December
Saturday 15th December
7.00pm till 12.30am

Five Course Evening Meal
Dancing to Live Music

INCLUDES A FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Ideal for Christmas Party Groups

Tables available for eight or more

£35.00 per person
Table numbers will be limited

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL
01227 37 33 22
The Kent Goes Wild photo competition publicised in the last issue of District Life attracted well over 100 entries. Judges were impressed with the quality of images and found it difficult to pick the winners.

The winner of the adult section was Brett Lewis for his Mute Swan Bath. Andrew Stirrups won the teenage category with Life on the Lake and Deklan Morgan won the children’s section with his photo of Spiders in the Garden.

Can you help the Wraik Hill and Foxes Cross ponies? Scrub is threatening to take over their land and the city council is looking for people to help tackle it. Volunteers are needed on eight consecutive Mondays from the first week in October. For more information, contact Anna Palmer on 01227 862 187.

A packed programme of events celebrating Kent’s coastline will keep the kids busy during autumn half term (20 to 28 October).

Seaside towns around the county will have plenty of activities taking place. In Whitstable, there will be Second World War heritage discovery tours with Timescapes and Canterbury City Council. Boat trips with Bayblast will offer the opportunity to see the imposing Maunsell sea forts from the water and local seal colonies.

At Reculver, the Kent Wildlife Trust’s visitor centre will host a number of events looking at both the built and natural heritage of the shoreline, including seashore safaris on the beach.

Seal colony trips take place on 20, 21 and 22 October, with sea fort trips on 27 and 28 October.

For more details on Kent’s Coastal Week, contact Liz Holliday on 01622 221 487 or elizabeth.holliday@kent.gov.uk.

The Blean Heritage Community Group is holding a woodland festival in October to celebrate both the rich legacy and a healthy future for the district’s ancient woodland.

Events including woodland crafts, live music, walks and history displays and have-a-go activities such as bodging, trug-making and coppicing take place at the University of Kent Business School on 20 and 21 October 2007.

For more details, contact the Blean Heritage Community Group on 01227 862 015 or visit www.theblean.co.uk.

In addition, the group is working with the Canterbury Festival on a series of walks, a cycle ride and a ceilidh for this year’s festival.

Find out more by ringing the box office on 01227 378 188 or going to www.canterburyfestival.co.uk.
Pirates, witches and even the Canterbayeux Tapestry!

Events at the district’s museums over the coming months promise fun, whatever your age.

There are numerous activities on offer, from getting crafty, to handling amazing artefacts, and being scared by witches.

**Museum of Canterbury**

**The Canterbayeux Tapestry!**
**Saturday 6 October, 10.30am to 4pm**
Explore the Bayeux Tapestry’s Canterbury connections. Find about how it was embroidered and discover why some experts think it was made at St Augustine’s Abbey. See amazing Norman artefacts and a copy of William the Conqueror’s signature. Create a strip cartoon of the Battle of Hastings.

**Antiques Roadshow**
**Saturday 20 October, 10.30am to 4pm**
Visit the Museum of Canterbury to hear local experts talking about favourite items from the museum collection, and bring in your own finds to be identified. (Please note valuations not included.)

**Rupert Bear Day**
**Saturday 10 November, 10.30am to 4pm**
Celebrate Rupert’s birthday at the Rupert Bear Museum with lots of fun activities for all the family.

**West Gate Towers**

**Witches at the West Gate**
**Saturday 27 October, 11am to 3pm**
Drop in to the medieval West Gate for some spooky Halloween fun. Listen to scary stories, find out about Canterbury witches and ghosts, make a Halloween mask to take home, and find out the truth about bats.

**Wild About Our Woodlands**
**Saturday 29 September, 10am to 12.30pm**
Fun family activities to celebrate our local woodland heritage at Blean and the community who live and work there. Admission free. A Blean Initiative partnership event.

**A Victorian Christmas**
**Saturday 8 December, 10.30am to 4pm**
Help the Victorian lady decorate her parlour, take part in fun Yuletide games and discover some fascinating facts about Christmas past. Including a special visit by St Nicholas.

**Herne Bay Museum**

**Wish You were Here!**
**Saturday 1 September, 10am to 12.30pm**
Explore the history of the seaside postcard and create a colourful design to send to a friend. Admission free.

**Pillaging Pirates!**
**Saturday 22 September, 10am to 12.30pm**
Uncover the bloodthirsty history of piracy and discover some local links. Learn to speak like a pirate and make a skull and crossbones flag to take home! Admission free.

**Wishing Open Days:**
**Whitstable Museum – the story of a building**
**Saturday 8 September, 2.30pm**
Discover the fascinating history of the building from Forster's Hall and amateur boxing venue to seaside museum. Limited to 30 places on a first-come, first served basis. Admission free. **Sponsored by the Friends of Whitstable Museum**

The above museums are all wheelchair accessible, with the exception of the historic West Gate Towers. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Information correct at time of printing but may change.

**Museum of Canterbury,**
Stour Street.
Tel: 01227 475 202
www.canterbury-museums.co.uk

**West Gate Towers,**
St Peter’s Street.
Tel: 01227 789 576
www.canterbury-museums.co.uk

**Herne Bay Museum & Gallery,**
12, William Street.
Tel: 01227 367 368
www.hernebay-museum.co.uk

**Whitstable Museum & Gallery,**
5 Oxford Street.
Tel: 01227 276 998
www.whitstable-museum.co.uk
How we balanced the books

Canterbury City Council’s accounts are an important way of showing how we look after public money. They show the resources available to the council and how they are used to deliver services to the local district.

This is a summary of the full Statement of Accounts, showing the financial position for the year ending 31 March 2007.

Where does your Council Tax go?
The council collects Council Tax from Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and the rural areas. This is held in a separate fund and then distributed as shown in the pie chart below.

As you can see below, only 12% of your Council Tax goes towards services provided by Canterbury City Council.

Income and Expenditure Account and Movement in General Fund Balance

The income and expenditure account shows the money paid and money received for the council’s day to day services throughout the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>-11,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add back notional surplus on disposal of assets</td>
<td>10,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other net statutory &amp; non-statutory amounts debited from the General Fund</td>
<td>1,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in General Fund Balance for the year</td>
<td>-153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General fund balance as at 31 March 2006</td>
<td>-2,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General fund balance as at 31 March 2007</td>
<td>-2,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in General Fund Balance for the year</td>
<td>-153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The surplus for the year of £153,000 equates to only 0.8% of net expenditure.

Finance Income

The pie chart below shows the total of income of £21,431,000 from various sources.

The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is paid directly from central government.
Non Domestic Rates (NDR) are the rates paid by businesses in the Canterbury district, which are all paid to a central government pool. The 46% represents our share of the pool.
Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) is a grant paid by the government to encourage economic growth by allowing local authorities to keep a share of increased NDR revenue.

The Council Tax income is the proportion paid to Canterbury City Council for our services.
How we balanced the books

Summary of Accounts

Capital spending

Unlike the revenue account, capital spending is incurred on either acquiring new assets or enhancing existing assets. The council receives the benefit from capital expenditure over a long period of time.

Cost of Housing Services

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a separately maintained account showing the costs of running the Council's housing stock used to accommodate council tenants (5,319 properties as at 31 March 2007). The HRA expenditure is financed by rents and service charges.

Cash flow

The cash flow summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from dealings with third parties.

Financial Position

At the end of each year, we draw up a balance sheet that represents how much Canterbury City Council's land and buildings are worth, how much is owed to others, how much others owe us and the amount of cash we have.

Audit approval

The council's accounts are audited each year by the Audit Commission. This is to ensure the financial statements show fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure for the year. At the time of going to print, the draft 2006/2007 accounts are unaudited. Audited Statement of Accounts will be available from www.canterbury.gov.uk/finance from 1 October 2007.

Further information

We compiled the figures in this summary using proper accounting practice, with some modifications to provide meaningful information. Please call 01227 862 000 if you would like this document in another format, including Braille, large print, audio tape or other languages.

For a full copy of the accounts go to www.canterbury.gov.uk/finance or call 01227 862 000.
Space to grow

at one of the district’s premier business parks

Available from late autumn 2007

Lakesview International Business Park, Westbere

- Joint funded by Canterbury City Council and SEEDA
- Aimed at the Knowledge Economy and graduate start ups
- Brand new 14 high quality office incubator units
- Easy in/out flexible terms
- Rental is inclusive of utilities and below commercial serviced office rents
- Free on site business support
- The units range from 18.5 sq m to 22.5 sq m

If you are interested in learning more, contact: Chris Inwood on 01227 862 053 or e-mail christopher.inwood@canterbury.gov.uk

www.business.canterbury.gov.uk

Help us to help you

Working with Serco, our contract partner, we have people available from 8.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday (except bank holidays) to answer your calls on issues from:

- bins to cleaning, litter to refuse collections
- bus shelters to car park maintenance.

Call us freephone on 0800 031 9091 or email your comments to: environmentalhelpdesk@canterbury.serco.com

For other council services enquiries call the Contact Centre on 01227 862 211

Taking action for a cleaner district

KENT VOLUNTEERS 2007 AWARDS FOR VOLUNTEERING EXCELLENCE

The V Factor

There are 8 categories to capture the widest range of volunteering activities:

- The Marlowe Theatre Awards - For the Arts
- Environment Agency Awards - For the Protection and Enjoyment of the Wild, Semi-Natural and Built Environment
- Kent County Council Awards - For Welfare and Disability
- Pfizer Awards - For Community Support and Development
- Kent County Council Awards - For Voluntary Work in Education and Schools
- Volunteer England Awards - For Voluntary Committee Support and for Counselling and Advice
- Kent Sports Development Awards - For Sport and the Support of Sport
- The Children’s Mutual Awards - For Mentoring

Mini Nomination Form

Your Details as Nominator: 

Nominee Details Individual / Group Name:

Address ......................................................... Address .........................................................

Postcode ....................................................... Postcode .......................................................

Tel. No. Day / Evening ................................... Tel. No. Day / Evening ...................................

Email Address .............................................. Email Address .............................................

Category ..................................................... Last date for entries Friday 21st September 2007

Please attach a separate sheet of paper to tell us more about the person or group you are nominating.

Please send your nomination to: Kent Volunteers, 3rd Floor Communities, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

Tel: 01622 694844

or nominate on line: www.kent.gov.uk/volunteerawards
Operation Hound

Operation Hound has been developed in order to combat underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour along the coastline of the Canterbury district.

Operation Hound started on 20 April and will conclude on 6 October.

Since it began in April there have been substantial seizures of alcohol on every Friday and Saturday night. To date 245 letters have been sent to households within the area indicating that young people have been found causing anti-social behaviour and/or in possession of alcohol.

The response from parents has been mainly positive, most of them relieved to find out what their children are actually up to. There are some who adopt the attitude that their child simply would not act in this manner.

It seems that in general terms Operation Hound continues to be a great success.

CCTV

Canterbury City Council maintains and operates more than 250 CCTV cameras within the Canterbury district and works in partnership with Kent Police and other local authorities to prevent, detect and deter incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour.

From April to June 2007 the council team working on the camera system has been very busy and successful at doing this. They have been involved with 1,475 incidents that have led to 162 arrests by Kent Police. This shows a commitment from the team to be proactively involved in monitoring the cameras for residents' safety and well being.

The cameras are monitored 24 hours a day seven days a week and cover public areas within Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable. For more information on CCTV please contact the team manager, Michelle Sammut on 01227 862 276.

Sat navs

The increase in theft from motor vehicles can be attributed to the popularity and desirability of satellite navigation systems. These expensive items can be identified either from carrying cases positioned on the dashboard, on display in the car or due to the suction pads attached to the interior of the windscreen.

The partnership is urging residents who own these systems to be particularly vigilant and ensure they are locked away, or not left in the vehicle. Owners are also advised to remove evidence of the suction pads from their windscreen.

Contact details
- To report a crime in progress or an emergency, call 999
- To report a crime that has already occurred, call 01227 762 055
- To register your bike or satellite navigation system equipment go to www.immobilise.com
- For more advice on vehicle security go to www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk
Welcome to our new world!

Nineteen newly-elected councillors got their first taste of life in the council chamber following the elections in May. They joined 31 members who had already served on Canterbury City Council and knew what being an elected councillor entailed. But for the newcomers, there was plenty to learn, and debating in the chamber, as they quickly discovered, is just one small part of the job.

Here five new councillors tell how their first few months have turned out. And from training sessions to committee meetings and advice surgeries for residents, it has certainly proved to be a baptism of fire...

Cllr Jo Calvert-Mindell
Liberal Democrat
St Stephen’s ward

I felt very privileged to have been elected and the actual day of the count was an emotional rollercoaster! Then it dawned on me just what a responsibility being a councillor was going to be and I hoped I was up to the task and didn’t let my electorate down!

Suddenly I was in a whirlwind of public formality, representation and accountability wondering which way to turn and was feeling like a lab rat in the maze of corridors at the Military Road council offices! I’m thankful for the patience, understanding and helpfulness of council officers whose job it has been to help us in our new role.

I decided to stand for election after working voluntarily in my community representing residents in my capacity as chair of a residents’ association and, after attending the Guildhall to address councillors on various community issues, residents and councilors suggested I stand for the elections to represent the community.

We have had lots of training, which, I might add, is much needed because local government is a very complex machine and to be effective one needs to fully understand how all the cogs in the mechanism interconnect and work productively.

I have a bag of casework about planning issues, neighbour disputes, traffic problems, trees that have been either cut down, pruned too much or not pruned at all, homelessness, licensing, students, anti-social behaviour, roads and pavements.

I had no idea being on the council was so involved and I wonder whether the old style council was more democratic than the new Cabinet system – but all things being equal I am confident I will learn how to use my position as councillor for St Stephen’s ward to represent the interests and needs of my residents to the best of my ability.

Above all I believe one must genuinely care, keep a sense of perspective and balance, not take things personally, and have a sense of humour, which means having the wisdom of Solomon, patience of Job, and humour of Groucho Marx!

Cllr Evelyn Bissett
Conservative
Herne and Broomfield ward

My first impression is that being a councillor is much more work than I envisaged!

I decided to stand for election as I have always been motivated by politics and a challenge. So far I have been involved in matters including licensing, housing, health, climate change, and the Single Grant Gateway scheme.

I absolutely enjoy what I do and hope to work with my village and help where I can.
The first things that strike me are: the huge volume of information that comes with the job, the many diverse areas of life that the city council is responsible for, and that they are kept informed.

I stood for election as I felt that in Herne and Broomfield we were not being robustly represented on the city council. I thought if I could get elected I could work to change that from within.

The kind of subjects I have been involved with so far include the concerns of residents that double yellow lines were proposed outside their houses, which we were able to stop by working together.

A public call box is the focus of some problems for residents, with youths gathering there and causing damage. We are working to resolve that.

I have also been involved with new Marlowe Theatre, a truly fascinating project, and since I have been appointed to the Executive I have been involved in issues and decisions which have long-term implications and opportunities for all our district.

As I am a working man, I have found it much harder work and more demanding on my time than I ever expected, perhaps because I am a member of the Executive.

But I am aware of how hard other councillors work – for instance I know one planning committee meeting started at 7pm and went on until 1am.

Top of the list, though, must be trying to get a grasp of the enormous number of committees and different work they do, and the procedures that I have no doubt I will stumble over. However, I am blessed with the ability to learn quickly, which I guess is an indication of the great interest I have in being a good, hard-working and supportive councillor for at least for the next four years, and I hope, even after that.

Cllr Peter Vickery-Jones
Conservative
Herne and Broomfield ward

Every effort was made by officers and other councillors to help new councillors. The training offered covers a wide range of subjects, and obviously there is a lot of reading material, so I am never short of bedtime reading!

I worked for the Canterbury Conservative Association for many years and helped organise elections for the Conservative Party. I have knocked on countless doors and delivered thousands of leaflets during the general, European and council elections, and really enjoyed my job. When I retired I had more time to commit and wanted to carry on with my involvement in politics and in the community, so put my name forward as a prospective candidate.

I am on the Licensing Committee, which is extremely interesting in view of the changes connected with the smoking ban. Another subject I have dealt with is the siting of a telephone mast.

I must admit that on the day I was elected I thought ‘what have I done and will I cope?’ I, like other councillors, am kept busy with committee meetings, but I am enjoying every moment of it, meeting people, and the challenge.

Cllr Ann Taylor
Conservative
Reculver ward

Since being elected it has been a bit of a hard learning curve, getting to grips with all the departments and who is who, but it is good to see how people can be helped.

While studying at Kent University I became increasingly aware of the problems facing the city and how dismayed I was at the way some councillors acted, so I decided to ‘put my money where my mouth is’ and stand for local election and see if I could in some way make a difference.

I have mainly been involved in individual issues raised by residents within Barton ward, such as rubbish, dangerous structures and misuse of roads.

I feel that these are some of the most important issues, because these are day-to-day matters people have to live with and without this working how can we hope for greater success elsewhere?

The reality of being a councillor is not so different to how I imagined it, although, perhaps naively, I believed there would be less time involved.

I, like other councillors, am kept busy with committee meetings, but I am enjoying every moment of it, meeting people, and the challenge.

Cllr Adam Parsons
Liberal Democrat
Barton ward
Active Canterbury is the new website for physical activities within the Canterbury District.

Research suggests that the average adult needs at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise, three times a week to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Getting regular exercise does not necessarily mean going to the gym – you could take the dog for a walk, mow the lawn or go for a bike ride. Even leaving the car behind and walking to work could be a good option for some.

But if you find the prospect of joining a club or society off-putting there is now a new way to get information about sports and activities in your area in comfort. Visit the online sports directory at www.activecanterbury.org to find out more.

It’s well known that an active lifestyle is beneficial for good health, but sometimes we simply cannot find many reasons not to get up and get active. The new Active Canterbury directory is a good place to start – just log on to the site and find an activity that suits you. There are a wide range of activities in your area, ranging from archery to yoga. There is something for all tastes and ages!

The website is simple to use. On the home page you have the option to either click on the interactive map of the district, to find your nearest activity, or use the pull down search menu to select your desired activity.

The directory will be regularly updated with new information and new activities with the second phase of the website to include details of local cycle routes and organised health walks.

If you don’t have access to the internet pop into your local library in Canterbury, Whitstable or Herne Bay.

For more details about the directory and other opportunities, please contact Giles Seaford, Community Sports Officer on 01227 862 524 or e-mail giles.seaford@canterbury.gov.uk

Improvements to Lower William Street in Herne Bay have made it easier for pedestrians to move between the town centre and the seafront. Pavement widening, kerb lowering, seating, lighting and planting all contribute to the transformation of what was an untidy part of the town.

The £120,000 city council project is the second regeneration scheme to be completed in Herne Bay, following work in Beach Alley last year. The East Kent Partnership part-funded the scheme and support also came from Kent County Council.

Houses that are old are often cold and in need of repair.

Of course, most people try to keep their home wind and weather proof, safe, warm and comfortable but if your income is low it may be very difficult to save enough money to pay for repairs or improvements.

That’s why Canterbury City Council offers help towards central heating, re-wiring, dampness, re-roofing, dealing with dry rot and many other repairs.

When you need to improve or repair your home you might qualify for a grant or an interest-free loan, if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit (not single occupier discount)
- Income-based Job Seeker’s Allowance
- Working Tax Credit (with income below £13,400)
- Child Tax Credit (with income below £13,400)
- Pension Credit Guarantee (with savings below £16,000)

If you don’t receive any of these benefits, but your income is only slightly above the qualifying level, the council might still be able to help.

You’ll need to fill in a financial assessment form to find out, or speak to a member of staff for advice.

Council offers help for making your home more comfortable…

To find out more contact Carol Gillatt on 01227 264 444.

Help at hand for overweight children

An innovative new programme starts in Canterbury next month (October) to help overweight children.

The MEND programme, introduced by Active Life in partnership with Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust, works with children aged seven to 13 and their families.

MEND starts at Kingsmead Leisure Centre, Canterbury on 1 October and if you would like to be part of this exciting new programme you need to register your interest as soon as possible.

Only 15 families will be able to take part in each programme, but don’t worry if you miss the first one – there will be another starting in January.

Lower William Street after the improvements

Contact the council’s Home Improvement Agency, Homestay on 01227 862 580 for more information.
Satisfaction levels are best in Kent

Canterbury district residents are more satisfied with local council services than anywhere else in Kent according to government figures.

The city council received an overall satisfaction score of 66 per cent from the 3,200 local residents that completed the government’s national user satisfaction survey last year.

This figure is up seven per cent on the last survey three years ago and is the highest score out of the county’s 12 district councils, Kent County Council and Medway Council. It is also the 10th highest out of the 238 district councils in England, and Canterbury was in the top 25 per cent for six of the 10 service areas highlighted in the survey.

People were asked several questions about how happy they were with council services generally and with specific services including street cleaning, recycling and waste collection, sports provision, theatres and museums.

Further confirmation of the city council’s strong performance comes in the shape of the Audit Commission’s Use of Resources assessment, which judges how well councils manage their money, demonstrate good value and run efficient services.

Canterbury achieved a score of three out of four in all elements – financial reporting, financial management, financial standing, internal control and value for money.

Neighbourhood Watch still going strong

Neighbourhood Watch is celebrating 10 years in Canterbury this year, and 25 years since its launch in the UK.

Now one of the biggest voluntary organisations in the country, it has gone from strength to strength since being adopted from the USA.

There are 180 schemes in the Canterbury district alone, varying in size from 15 houses to 570. In total around 20,000 householders belong to Neighbourhood Watch.

It was originally set up in Canterbury to build stronger relationships with the police. The schemes cut crime, reassure people who live in fear of crime, encourage closer communities, and act as the eyes and ears of the police who cannot patrol all areas at all times.

Far from their reputation as ‘curtain twitchers’, Neighbourhood Watch members take pride in their area and are invaluable for their awareness of strangers in their community and people acting suspiciously, as well as showing concern for their neighbours.

If you would like to get involved, contact the Neighbourhood Watch office on 01227 744 756 or email committee-cdnhwa@fsmail.net

Letter to the editor

‘The Changing Face of Our Coastline’, which appeared in the most recent issue of District Life states, quite correctly, that for most residents affected the Shoreline Management Plan is good news.

Unfortunately, for those of us adversely affected this news is catastrophic – the current medium-term prospect is that our homes and community are flooded without compensation, and that with immediate effect we can expect the slow erosion of investment and interest in our area, and the grim prospect of our homes being unsellable.

On behalf of the those affected, I would urge local political leaders and the executive to use District Life to acknowledge the scope and extent of this threat to our community, and bring some vision to bear in shaping potential solutions.

Chris Blunkell on behalf of Faversham Road Residents Association

The council replies...

The council recognises the concerns of seafront property owners in Faversham Road with regard to medium / long-term coastal management issues.

The Shoreline Management Plan has been prepared by a specialist consultant working to strict Government guidelines which take account of long term predictions of sea level rise, the economic justification for new defences and social and environmental impacts.

Through its seat on the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group the council is lobbying National Government to recognise the social justice issues surrounding those areas where Government may no longer support coastal defences. We will also continue to press the Environment Agency to undertake routine maintenance and improvements to prolong the period for which the existing beach will provide the current level of protection against the sea.

Ted Edwards
Engineering Manager
Canterbury City Council
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