



## New stores bringing new hope

JUST a year ago there was great concern for the number shops standing empty on the streets of Deal, not least the landmark buildings that once housed Woolworths and the JobCentre.

However, we have seen that one by one each of these shops have had facelifts and new ownership, bringing new products to the local community as well as much

needed employment. Here are just some of the retailers who have found their way to Deal town centre in the past year: in South Street there is Subway and Hoad's shoe shop, while the Victoria Road end of the precinct can now boast In2play toys, The Milking Room cafe and Poundland.

Broad Street has the Burning Bush art gallery, Millards Insurance and The Ink Spot tattoo parlour.

Queen Street's empty premises have been filled in some style by Beach Furniture and Sampson's Antiques, while Jenkinsons Estate Agents is the newest addition to West Street. Further up the High Street, we have the fascinating Aladdin's cave that is Vintage

By The Sea, a new baby shop and a newsagents, clothing store Gridlock, the Bakehouse selling homemade cakes and savouries, plus in the heart of Deal's independent retailers' zone there are two great retro shops, Kaleidoscope and TLC.

Opening soon in King Street is Life Is Sweet, which will sell BMX bicycles among other items.

### ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



One of the tables at the chamber's summer ball

## Having a ball for good cause

THE summer may have been a long time coming but that didn't stop Deal and Walmer Chamber of Trade having a fantastic time at their annual summer ball.

About 100 chamber members and their families put on their gladrags for the ever-popular event at the Blazing Donkey, Ham, on June 11. Entertainment was provided by live band the Vegas Giants, with the dinner-dance raising almost £850 for the Chamber's Christmas lights fund.

Chamber president Bob Humphreys thanked

everyone for making it such a fun evening and said: "I'd like to give special mention to all those who helped organise the ball, the generosity of all the people who made donations towards the Christmas lights and those who sold tickets for the evening."

Trivia buffs will be delighted to hear that the Chamber is aiming to run two more of its popular Quiz Nights in Deal before the end of the year. Keep an eye on future editions of the Mercury for details.

## Council grant for Christmas lights

THE chamber is thrilled to announce that it has received a £2,000 grant towards the 2010 Christmas Lights fund from Deal Town Council. The chamber thanks the council for its generosity.

## Summer jobs

THE long school holidays are just a couple of weeks away and school-leavers and students will be looking for summer jobs. A good place to see what's on offer workwise in the town and around is the Jobs Exchange Board, in the Landmark Centre in the High Street.

## Obelisk relief

MANY townsfolk and traders will be delighted to see that the obelisk in Deal High Street has finally been pulled down. This concrete carbuncle has become a magnet for anti-social behaviour. It is hoped that many further improvements to the town centre's street environment will follow.

## Supporting campaign for high-speed trains

DEAL and Walmer Chamber of Trade actively supports the benefits that a high-speed train service to Deal would bring to local businesses, as spearheaded by the Trains4Deal campaign. And the huge boost to tourism which the Javelin trains could give to the area if they stopped at Deal has been highlighted by yet another local trader. Ann Cole, proprietor of By The Beach seafront guest house on The Marina, spoke at the recent Deal and Walmer Community Forum, supporting Trains4Deal's call for a "partnership approach" to help bring high-speed trains

to Deal, a campaign backed by the chamber.

Ann said: "You'd be surprised how many visitors from all over the world come to Deal by train – from the USA and Taiwan via the airport, or Belgium, France and Germany by ferry.

"Many 30-something professionals come down to escape from working in London, looking for peaceful walking, cycling, golf, good food and rest.

"They travel on the fast train to Dover, then it goes pear-shaped. We really need a direct high-speed service to boost the local economy."

## Spot the difference in the window

CALLING all traders: for three weeks from July 24 to August 14 shops and businesses in Deal and Walmer are invited to take part in the annual Stranger in the Window competition. This is where traders place mystery objects in their shop windows and eagle-eyed shoppers have to

spot them and tick them off on a list. It's a great bit of fun for all ages and there will be a prize for the winner.

To take part, place one item in your window display that you wouldn't normally sell – the trickier the better!

The entry fee is only £10 and

## Former sports editor joins chamber board

THE chamber is pleased to welcome former East Kent Mercury journalist Andy Stevens as its latest board member.

Andy was sports editor of the Mercury between 1992 and 1996, before embarking on his Fleet Street career with Reuters, becoming editor of Reuters Cityscreen, the UK's first daily entertainment and sports website.

He was also deputy online editor at Express Newspapers and editorial director of digital media agency Editorial & Picture Services, where he managed journalistic and creative teams.

Andy moved back to Deal from London in 2006, and for the past four years has been online editor of Saga Publishing and Saga Magazine in Sandgate.

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