In this the year of the Commonwealth Games, the nation celebrated the Commonwealth on 10 March when 500 Commonwealth flags were raised simultaneously across the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to promote understanding and unity of global issues. In Tonbridge and Malling three flags were raised: one at Tonbridge Castle, another near the running airman memorial sculpture in Kings Hill and a third at the Council Offices in Kings Hill.

The flag raising ceremony in Tonbridge was attended by Tonbridge and Malling’s double Olympic gold medallist, Dame Kelly Holmes, who not only played a key role in bringing the Olympics to Britain in 2012 but also arranged a special event featuring the Olympic Torch in Tonbridge as well as the scheduled Olympic Torch Relay through Borough Green.

Dame Kelly, President of the Commonwealth Games England, has once again used her powers of persuasion. This time to bring the Commonwealth Baton to Tonbridge. The Glasgow 2014 Queen’s Baton Relay is the curtain-raiser for the Commonwealth Games and was launched on 9 October 2013 at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace when Her Majesty The Queen placed Her message to the Commonwealth into the baton. Over a period of 288 days the Baton will visit 70 nations and territories, covering 190,000 kilometres as it travels across continents, terrains and time zones. The finishing line is in the host nation Scotland just in time for the Opening Ceremony in Glasgow on 23 July, when The Queen will read aloud Her message to the Commonwealth.

Dame Kelly Holmes said: “The raising of the Commonwealth flag in March was a special moment and I was delighted to be able to be with my own local community as we joined others to commemorate Commonwealth Day and celebrate the diversity and the unity of the Commonwealth. Excitement is really growing for the Commonwealth Games this summer, and I’m looking forward to being at The Queen’s Baton Relay in Tonbridge on 5 June.”

Unlike the Olympic Torch Relay, the Baton will only be making an appearance at selected venues and is not carried in relay between them so we are very fortunate that it will be at Tonbridge Castle, where it will be held aloft by 17 year old Lewis Church, a member of Tonbridge Athletic Club. Lewis took up athletics at the age of 11 and has since won national championships and represented England. A decathlete and 400m hurdler, he has declined to say which is his favourite discipline as he enjoys them all. The events that go to make up a decathlon are: 100m, 400m, 110m hurdles, 1500m, long jump, high jump, shot put, discus, pole vault and javelin. Lewis took up athletics at the age of 11 at the suggestion of his primary school teacher, and has since won medals in various national championship. Coached by David Hull and John Bancroft, Lewis has represented England winning a silver medal in the national combined events championships, with a UK team record for Kent and a bronze medal in the UK school games for 400m hurdles.

Lewis, left, said: “It was a total surprise to find that I had been chosen as a Commonwealth Baton Bearer. It is a great honour and I’m really looking forward to the event on Thursday 5 June.”

Local school children and members of the public will be able to attend the Queen’s Baton Relay event from 8am to 9.30am on Thursday 5 June at Tonbridge Castle. There will be a variety of entertainment at the Castle and a live link to BBC Breakfast. In addition, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is also working in partnership with Kent County Council to provide a programme of have-a-go sports activities for local schools as part of KCC’s Inspire programme.
TM News

Flood support schemes announced

The Government has recently announced a number of schemes to support businesses and homeowners as they recover from the impact of flooding between December 2013 and March 2014. Some of the schemes are being administered by the following local authorities, including Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. 
Lorraine Stratton, the Borough Council’s Finance and Transportation, says: “This winter has been very harsh both for residents and businesses affected by flooding and, although the water has receded, there is still much more to do to support people as they recover from this traumatic disruption to their lives. We are pleased to be able to help by administering some of these support schemes, which will provide much needed financial assistance to those affected.”

At the time of going to print, details of these schemes were still being finalised but a summary of the help available and how to make a claim is set out below.

1. Support for businesses

100% business rate relief for three months
- Eligibility criteria: the property has been flooded in whole or in part, and as a result of the flooding the business activity undertaken at the property was adversely affected, and the relevant value of the day was less than £10 million.
- The monthly rate relief will start on the day the property first met the criteria.
- To claim the relief please e-mail financial.services@tmbc.gov.uk

2. Support for homeowners

A council tax discount for three months
- Eligibility criteria: people whose homes have been flooded.
- Homeowners known to the Council will be entitled to a reduction in council tax for three months.
- For further details please e-mail: financial.services@tmbc.gov.uk

3. Support for businesses and homeowners

Repair and Renew Grant Scheme
- Financial support to businesses and homeowners that have been flooded to pay work that will improve a property’s ability to withstand future flooding and other repairs that would normally be covered by insurance.
- Grants of up to £30,000 are available.
- For further details please e-mail repairandrenew@tmbc.gov.uk

Other Support: A Government Business Support Helpline has been set up to provide advice and support to businesses affected by the floods. The helpline number is 0300 438 3005.

Council services protected

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is protecting services against the government’s deadline to reduce spending through a robust strategy of efficiency savings and careful financial management.

In this year’s budget decisions, the Council has set out its approach to budgeting and funding in light of the continuing difficult economic climate.

The Borough Council reluctantly agreed a 1.59% per cent increase to the council tax bill. That’s an increase of £3.59 per year; or 7p a week for a Band D property. Kent County Council and Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue and the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner for Kent all increased their respective shares of the council tax by 1.59% per cent. Council tax bills for 2015/16 will make a total increase for a Band D property of £28.63 per year. Residents in parished areas will see slight variations to this increase depending upon the council tax bands set by their own parish council.

Details of the budget are available on the Council’s website www.tmbc.gov.uk. Residents on a low income, or who live alone, may be eligible for a reduction in council tax. For information please e-mail financial.services@tmbc.gov.uk or call 01732 876388.

Tonbridge and Malling Citizens Advice Bureau Services

There is a drop-in service at 34 River Walk, Tonbridge. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays
For telephone advice please call 01732 404485 and leave your name and telephone number - a member of staff will call you back.

In other parts of the borough the CAB runs an appointment system, either in person or a helpline. For further details please call 01732 404485 and leave your name and telephone number. A member of staff will call you back.

In the appointment system at Tonbridge Green there is now also a drop-in service at Tonbridge Green Library. Opening times are 1pm - 3pm, 10am - 12 noon.

For further information about services in Tonbridge and Malling please visit the CAB website at www.cab.org.uk or call 01732 407199.

Free money management courses now available

If you are feeling the pinch in these difficult economic times or you have a problem, or carry out business with the Council, then a free money management course now available in West Malling could help you get on top of your finances.

West Malling Baptist Church has teamed up with the charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to offer the courses, which are designed to help people manage their money better and take control of their debt problems. CAP Money can provide free debt advice and support which can help you to get back on track.

All delegates receive a workbook and access to on-line budgeting software.

The courses are free and available to everyone – whether church-going or not. Each course is made up of two three-hour sessions, one and a half-hour sessions, which take place on Monday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at The Open Door, Swain Street, West Malling.

There are three more courses taking place this year:

- Monday 13 and 20 June
- Monday 21 and 28 July
- Monday 25 and 1 November

You can book a place online at www.capmoney.org or by phoning Jane Callard, Secretary of West Malling Baptist Church sec@wmbc.org.uk

1. Managing your money, 7th and 14th June (also out of hours emergency number)
2. Budgeting software, 14th and 21st July
3. Getting to where you need to go, 11th and 18th August
4. Dealing with debt, 15th and 22nd September

Recycle

Here & Now is printed on environmentally-friendly recycled paper.

HRS Eco-Paper is sourced from a sustainable manner using water-based latex and vegetable bases. Please recycle this product once you have finished with it using your green box or one of the green paper collection bins.

You have used the website and found it useful – tell others about it – the more people you tell, the more the community will benefit from the website. Instead of the telephone, the information is fully available 24 hours a day to save money whilst protecting the environment.

If you have difficulty reading this leaflet and would like the information in another format such as Braille, tape, CD or large print please call 01732 876009 or email corporate.communications@tmbc.gov.uk

Buses go greener

Buses are set to go greener across the A22 from Kings Hill to Maidstone on Route 72 thanks to new emission reducing equipment, which will be fitted to ten Antia buses. The aim of this project is to help improve air quality along the A22 corridor through Larkfield, Ditton, Snodland and into Maidstone High Street and it is the result of recently introduced hybrid buses on Route 717Z. As a result of emission reduction from traffic, parts of Maidstone currently exceed the National Air Quality Objectives for annual averages for Particulate matter and Nitrogen dioxide set by the Government.

The project is designed to help improve four of Air Quality Management Areas, an area plan and a broader county-wide effort to improve air quality.

It’s farewell to Here & Now

With rapid advances in technology, the time has come for our online times a more targeted method of communication to this is the last edition of Here & Now. Over the years, Here & Now has been one of the Council’s main ways of communicating with residents of Tonbridge and Malling, but from now on our main focus for communicating key messages is our website www.tmbc.gov.uk, which has become a great new automatic service called My Account (see article below) with online information and options available immediately. If you sign up to My Account you can choose to receive a newsletter and interesting facts and following us on Twitter and Facebook.

You can find us on Twitter at the handle: @TonbridgeBorough

We hope you have enjoyed reading Here & Now over the years; we have certainly enjoyed writing it.

Co-editors, Linda Moore and Janet Saunders

If you’d like to find out more about air quality including tips on how you can help tackle air pollution, visit our ‘Air Quality, be part of the solution pages’ at www.tmbc.gov.uk/westmallingpollution or contact us at environmental.protection@tmbc.gov.uk

www.tmbc.gov.uk

www.tmbc.gov.uk
What’s On

Spring into Sport with free taster sessions
If you’d like to try out a new sport then the Spring into Sport programme is just the ticket! For 6 weeks, three different Sports Leisure Centres across Tonbridge and Malling have joined the programme to offer free taster sessions for children and adults throughout April. Sports on offer include tennis, basketball, netball, non-contact, trampolining, soft ball, badminton, football and dance classes. All sessions will be delivered by qualified coaches on sports club premises giving you the opportunity to try a new activity or get back to something you already enjoy.

To see the complete programme of activities and for booking information, visit www.tmactive.co.uk/campsportgroup or simply search each sport for a complete programme online. For more information, please contact Leisure Services on 01732 719345 or email leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk.

Summer may well be a few weeks away but Tonbridge Lions Club is already planning the 2014 Tonbridge Carnival and inviting local people to get involved. This year’s event will take place on Sunday 22 June and promises to be another great afternoon of fun for all the family.

This popular annual event begins with the usual carnival procession through the High Street. This year’s theme will be ‘The Savoy Dance Band’ and entries including individuals, church groups, clubs, schools and businesses can take part. For most, there is no charge to take part in the Carnival procession and any registered charity entering a float may also have a face donation which will go free of charge at the time after the procession. However, there is a small charge for commercial enterprises.

The carnival procession will include walking groups, floats and majorettes, will leave Avenue Du Puy at 12.30pm and proceed through the town to Tonbridge Castle. The Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling and the President of Tonbridge Lions Club will judge entries in each category. The procession will also be preceded by marching bands competing in the Southern England parade band contest. After the procession, the wine will be held on the Castle Lawn and in River Walk during which the winning procession entries will be announced and trophies awarded.

The carnival day is organised each year by Tonbridge Lions Club with support from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

Stay in touch with tmaxicte
This is the last edition of Here & Now but there are lots of ways that you can stay in touch with what’s happening at the Council’s information centres which are now operated by the new Tonbridge & Malling Leisure Trust.

Join us on Facebook:
Like and share our posts on the Angel Centre, Tonbridge Swimming and Pools, Poult Wood Golf - Each centre, each Suzanne V, have their own dedicated Facebook page, so simply search for each page, like it, and we will provide updates with the latest news, promotions and more.

Online:
Visit www.angelcentres.org.uk or www.tonbridgeartsfestival.co.uk or visit www.tonbridgepools.co.uk or for all the latest news, to book online, ensure about adult and junior courses and to see our enrolling lists. Whether you are interested in the latest membership promotion, healthy activities or the Angel Centre Forthcoming Events, you are guaranteed to be keeping on top of your enrolling lists online anytime. We will then ensure you are kept informed of all the activities that you are most interested in.

By email or telephone:

T & M Leisure
St John the Baptist, High Street, Wateringbury, 2 - 5pm. Tel: 01622 813076
Free event on the Play 2014

Tombs and Malling Local History Society - 'Jane Austen’s Kent
History Society - Wateringbury Local History Society - ‘Jane Austen’s Kent

Poult Wood Golf launches new memberships
Situated just three miles north of Tonbridge, Poult Wood Golf Centre is well known as one of the finest public courses in the South East. With its superb 18 Hole parkland course and a 9 Hole course, Per 3 challenge, driving range, putting green and Pro shop there really is something for all golfers.

That’s not all - the excellent clubhouse facilities overlook the 18th green and provide tasty restaurant and bar food in comfortable, contemporary surroundings.

Now, for the first time, you can enjoy the benefits of all golf membership at the Club with no additional green fees.

For this introductory season, golfers can enjoy greater value, unlimited golf for a single annual or monthly direct debit payment. For a monthly fee, regular golfers will be able to book time in advance and play as often as they like. Members will also have access to other member exclusives, guest rates and social event discounts.

There are three membership categories to choose from:

1. Seven-day membership - 45.50 per month
2. Five-day membership - 42.50 per month
3. June membership (conditions apply) - 40 per month

Customers can also choose to make an annual payment (instead of paying by monthly Direct Debit) and will be entitled to a five per cent discount on the price listed above.

Pay and Play will still be available to casual users.

To find out more, visit www.poultdogwood.co.uk and find the Club on Facebook or email leisure@tmactive.co.uk. Whether you want to book a social lunch or relax on the links with friends, you are guaranteed to be getting the best deal.

More about the Trust
Tonbridge & Malling Leisure Trust is a charitable, not-for-profit organisation, which works in partnership with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. You can find out more about the Trust at www.tmactive.co.uk. If you would like to contact the Trust’s management team please call 01732 867150 or email info@tmactive.co.uk.

Tonbridge Arts Festival is back from 1-6 July
Tonbridge Arts Festival is bringing the traditional weekend of entertainment back to the Castle this year. Focusing on literature, performing and visual arts events there will be a mixture of crowd-pleasers and culture as well as a number of events during the preceding week, including favourites such as the Big Picture and the Open Art Exhibit.

The weekend of 4-6 July will kick-off with a chance to sample live and local talent at our bands’ night on the Friday evening. Saturday sees the superb Magic of Motown voice band take to the Castle Lawn stage with over 35 classics and nearly as many costume changes. On Sunday, jazz takes over, with a range of performers from big band to swing emoting this iconic stage in music.

There will be plenty of opportunities for Tonbridge and Malling residents to get involved! Showcase your talents - whether it’s exhibiting in the Open Art Exhibit, performing at the bands’ night or reciting some of your self-penned poetry. Local schools will have the opportunity to perform dance, sing at the launch of the Big Picture and, for the first time, take part in the tonbridge Art Project exhibition.

Full details of all the events can be found online, visit: www.tonbridgeartsfestival.co.uk. Tickets are now available online or through Tonbridge Gateway at the Castle.

www.tmactive.co.uk
New Local Plan on the way...

The Government has been reforming the planning system over the last few years and published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. The NPPF sets out how local planning authorities and others should prepare new style Local Plans to replace Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). Local Plans look 15 years into the future and include policies for managing future growth and infrastructure. They are important documents for determining planning applications.

Tonbridge and Malling was one of the first local planning authorities to successfully adopt a plan under the new system and, the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMB) is running a series of public meetings to explain the new system and look at the draft Local Plan. It is important that everyone gets involved in the planning process and that TMB is able to gather as much feedback as possible.

The Borough Council is still working on the final Local Plan but meetings will be the first of several opportunities to have your say on the new plan.

There will be more news and information on how to get involved with the new Local Plan throughout this process. For regular updates, please check our Planning Policy pages on the Council’s website at www.tmb.gov.uk or contact the Planning Policy Team by e-mailing planning@tmb.gov.uk.

Calling all Tonbridge and Malling seniorn

If you are aged 55 or over then why not join the Tonbridge and Malling Seniors Forum (TAMS) and have your say on local issues.

TAMS is run by a committee of volunteers. Meetings, which are free to attend, take place regularly at the Borough Council Offices. For more information, please contact the Borough Council’s Planning Policy Team by e-mailing planning@tmb.gov.uk or call 01732 744950.

At each meeting speakers from local agencies come along to answer questions and talk about relevant issues. The meetings are a great way to keep up to date with local services and your local community, health care and local transport organisations.

If you like more information or would like to come along to any of the open meetings, Tonbridge, please email David Metcalfe (TAMS Treasurer and committee member) at david.metcalfe@tmb.gov.uk or call 01732 303776.

Safier, warmer homes

A new range of housing assistance is now available to help improve the health, safety and well being of Tonbridge and Malling residents who are living in private sector housing and who are affected by poor housing standards.

Home Improvements Assistance

If you receive a means tested benefit and either own or rent your home you may be eligible for funding to remove significant health and safety hazards and prevent accidents. A couple of examples of these hazards might be a slant uneven step to your home with no handrail, or danger. This money can be used to fit grab rails, to make devices to help you to walk, or to buy a lift or a lift chair.

Owners of long empty properties (empty longer than six months) may also be eligible for funding to bring their property back up to a decent standard so that it can be re-occupied.

Warm Homes Assistance

If your home has no energy efficient heating system or inadequate insulation then you may be eligible for funding to install a new energy efficient heating system, or repair your existing one, to install loft or cavity wall insulation. Warm Homes Assistance may be available to people who receive a means tested benefit and either own or rent their home or have responsibility for the repairs.

Local charity West Kent Mediation (WKM) has launched a new service in West Kent designed to help resolve playground conflicts for children in years five and six.

The charity, which has been running for 18 years and is part funded by the Borough Council, has traditionally provided volunteer mediators to help resolve disputes between neighbours but, over the years, it has been suggested by users to take these skills in other areas. Its latest venture is to help pro-mote safe playground use to groups in school playground disputes.

Following a successful pilot study with a number of schools in West Kent, the service will be offered to all schools that would like to use the service. The pilot showed that the training not only benefited the children by teaching them to deal with conflicts but also saved teachers and playground supervision time in resolving issues.

The training lasts three days. In day one, a big group of children from years five and six are taught how to resolve basic conflict in the playground. Days two and three are for pupils chosen for more intensive training on how to spot issues and intervene to sort out arguments among friends. The training does not replace adult intervention in significant issues but can help with minor conflicts.

Amanda Bell (right), CEO of WKM said, “We have received great feedback from our new service and we encourage head teachers and governors to get in touch to hear more about the benefits of the service. Full time working parents and family break-ups mean lots of young people lack confidence and the ability to communicate, very often not learning this in the family home. You are never too young to learn life skills. Mediation will equip young people with communication skills that they can take through life, both at school, at home, in the community and later on in the workplace. Pupils will learn an important lesson - that conflict is a normal part of everyday life and, when managed constructively can be a healthy, normal part of relationships.”

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To find out more about the scheme contact Amanda Bell on 01322 815774 or email her at amandabell@wkm.org.uk or check out the website at www.wkm.org.uk.
Spring TV Licensing reminder

Spring is traditionally a time when many people choose to get on top of their finances. TV Licensing is reminding residents of Tonbridge and Malling that there are a number of different ways to pay for the TV Licence. Whether you’d rather pay in one lump sum annually – or spread the cost by paying quarterly, monthly or even on a fortnightly or weekly basis, TV Licensing offers a broad range of payment options to suit different needs and circumstances. The ways to pay are:

Payment Card: Open to everyone, this allows you to spread the cost of the TV Licence over a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. Quarterly payments, weekly instalments will be around £5.50 a week, and this will reduce after six months.

Savings Card: This is ideal for people who want to save in advance for their licence in a secure manner. You can make small payments of your choosing at any time either online, by text, at any PayPoint outlet or over the phone.

A TV Licence is needed if you are watching or recording live television programmes, on any device, including laptop, tablet, smartphone and television sets. A colour licence currently costs £15.70 black and white licence costs £10.60.

To find out more about ways to pay, visit www.tmbc.gov.uk or call 0300 790 6078.

Voter registration is changing!

The way you register to vote is changing. From June this year, you will be able to register to vote online. At the same time, everyone wishing to join the register will have to identify/conformation before their application is approved. On 10 June, we will be updating our website at www.tmbc.gov.uk/ with information about the new system and how you can apply.

Everyone already registered to vote by early June will be sent a letter. For most people, this will say that their details have been confirmed and you need to take no action. For some people, however, it will advise you that we need some proof of your identity and provide a form for you to complete and return to us. These letters will be sent out by mid-August. Keep a look out for them and remember to reply promptly if we send you a form. All the information you need will be in those letters.

Registering to vote is important. Not only does it mean you can vote in elections and referendums, but the register of electors is also used for prize draws. If you are not registered, you cannot vote. If you do not register, you may also find it difficult to get credit (such as a mortgage, loan or mobile phone contract).

Remember that registering to vote is free, easy and straightforward. Please visit our website for further information www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting.

Elections to the European Parliament

On 22 May 2014, there will be elections to the European Parliament. In Kent, we have 71 seats up for grabs. As an elector, everyone registered to vote will receive a postal card around a week before polling day reminding them to vote. If you are not yet registered, please visit www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting where you can register online and complete an application form. You will need to return the completed form to us by 6 May.

If you are not able to vote in a polling station on 22 May, you can apply to vote by post. You can print out an application form at www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting. You will need to return this form to us by 5pm on 7 May.

By-election: Borough Green and Long Mill

Councillor Mike Taylor (Independent) was elected a Borough Green and Long Mill Ward Member of Tonbridge & Malling Council in a by-election on Thursday, 9 January. The by-election took place following the death of Cllr. Mary Cogswell who was elected to the Borough Green Ward in 2013. Borough Green and Long Mill Wards have offices at the Tonbridge Civic Centre. The new Councillor can be contacted by calling 01732 822880 or by emailing relia.taylor@tmbc.gov.uk.

KFRS celebrates ten thousand safety visits to vulnerable residents

Helping those at risk of fire to stay safe in their homes is the focus of Kent Fire and Rescue Service’s (KFRS) specialist Vulnerable People Team, who are celebrating the completion of their 10,000th visit.

Residents and the relatives who have benefited from the service agreed to take part in a series of short films documenting their experiences, which KFRS hopes will encourage more of the community who need the service to access what KFRS can offer. You can see the films at: www.kent-fire- rescue.org.uk/services/fire_and_home_safety.asp.

KFRS has been providing specialist advice and services either Kent and Medway since 2010, with the team providing help to those most likely to be seriously injured or killed as a result of a fire in the home. Just three breaks of the skin can be life-threatening and easily it is often older residents, those with mobility problems, frailty issues or impaired sight or hearing, who are injured by fire. There are added risks for tenants shared homes and the elderly population that causes distress. In addition, residents’ lifestyles such as smoking or drinking alcohol, or their domestic circumstances can make them more vulnerable.

Eldest couple Kathleen and Albert Hayes, of East Peckham took up the offer of a visit from the team, after being made aware of the service by KCC Kent Community Warden Paul Harfleet.

Paul said: “The wardens’ role is all about helping people live safely and comfortably, and a look out for elderly and vulnerable residents is a key priority. Following a KFRS awareness event, I realised that there were several residents who needed specialist fire safety advice and made several referrals.”

During the visit to the couple, who are both in their 80s, several factors were identified, including mobility and sight issues, which made them more at risk of being injured in the event of a fire. As well as fitting new smoke alarms, a heat detector and a carbon monoxide detector, the community safety officer made a referral for the couple to have a Lifeline system installed.

Kathleen said: “During the visit we had a number of alarms fitted. It really makes you feel that it’s all in hand that if there is a fire, you know exactly what to do and that you will sound.”

Albert Hayes added: “It definitely worth it. You have got to do things like that for peace of mind.”

KFRS Vulnerable People Team supervisor, Mick Smith said: “The Vulnerable People Team consists of six officers, supported by a team officer and an administration officer and we deliver an average of 300 to 400 calls per month. We are very pleased to have completed a landmark 10,000 visits, and ultimately played our part in helping to prevent fires and to reduce the risk of death and injury in the home.”

KFRS works closely with other agencies and organisations in the community, who help identify those most in need of these services.

For further information on the free advice and services available visit www.kfrs.kent.pnnl.gov.uk or contact KCC Fire and Rescue Service on 0800 992 7700 (free from UK landlines) or email home@kent-fire.co.uk.
The best way to keep up to date with your refuse and recycling services is to do it online by registering for ‘My Account’ automatic e-upsdates. You can register from the home page at www.tmbc.gov.uk/dot-it-online or contact Waste Services on 01732 876147.

You can also report missed collections online, request extra or replacement bins and boxes, book a bulky goods collection, find out where the nearest ‘bring’ recycling site is located, view the recycling calendar schedule and a range of other leaflets to help with your refuse and recycling.

You can also sign up to receive a variety of information as it is updated including:
- Saturday Household Waste Service dates and times
- Changes to collection schedules
- Severe weather updates
- News about new services
- Programme for regular updates and reminders on refuse and recycling

To get the most out of your refuse and recycling services

1. If you are unable to move your bins or boxes to the boundary due to infirmity or disability, we can arrange a “pull out” service from an agreed collection point on your property. Call Waste Services on 01732 876147.

2. Please don’t put clinical waste or sharps in your bin. We carry out separate collections of this type of waste – please ask your GP or district nurse to contact us to arrange this if needed.

3. Larger black bins may be provided for larger households (six or more residents), households with children in nappies, or residents with medical conditions which generate more waste than normal. If you are having trouble containing your waste in the standard black bin, and you are recycling and composting as much as possible, please apply online at www.tmbc.gov.uk/dot-it-online or contact Waste Services on 01732 876147.

4. Please don’t over-fill your bins – see page 10 for what you can do to deal with rubbish and recycling that won’t fit into the standard bin and box.

5. You can still use the green box service – order online at www.tmbc.gov.uk/dot-it-online or contact Waste Services on 01732 876147.

6. Please put a number on your bins and boxes to ensure that you get your own containers back after collection. This is especially important if you put your containers at a communal collection point.

7. If your collection is unexpectedly missed, please report it to us as soon as possible. Assuming that the bin did not contain the wrong type of recycling or was not overfilled, any missed collections reported to us by midday should be collected later the same day. Any missed collections reported after midday should be collected the following working day.
Party time at Larkabout

It's Larkabout Easter Party time on Friday 11 April at Larkfield Leisure Centre's very own soft play zone – the perfect way for children aged 10 years and under to enjoy some great seasonal party games and activities.

As well as taking part in all the organised activities, party-goers can take their time to adventure through the three floors of interactive play equipment, including the wavy waterfall slide, crawl tubes and ball pools.

The party takes place on Friday 11 April from 1pm to 3pm. Tickets cost £5 per child and are available from the main Reception; numbers are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Holiday fun at your local leisure centres

It's Easter holiday time and there are lots of great activities taking place at our leisure centres to keep children active and entertained. From 7 to 17 April, Larkfield Leisure Centre and the Angel Centre will be running Day and Half Day Camps for eight to twelve year olds. There will also be two-hour drop in sessions for younger children. So sign up now to make the most of the holiday fun available.

Larkfield Leisure Centre is also running new five-day premium Trampolining courses (ratio of one teacher to four pupils) and Gymnastics Rebound trial sessions. These new additions to the programme open up a world of sporting activities for beginners and improvers alike. Swimming crash courses for non swimmers, beginners and improvers will also be on offer at both Larkfield and Tonbridge Swimming Pool for four to eleven year olds.

Tonbridge Swimming Pool’s heated outdoor pool will be open in time for the holiday – it's a great place to meet up with friends and family for some fun and games. The pool runs weekend Splasharound sessions complete with water toys and large pool inflatable.

Larkfield Leisure Centre’s leisure pool will be open throughout the school holiday with slides, space bowl, lazy river rapids, waves, water cannon and spa pool. Splasharound sessions are also available at the weekend. If swimming is not your thing, Larkabout is open for great soft play adventure from 10am to 6pm weekdays and 10am to 5pm at weekends. Larkabout Drop-in sessions provide five to seven year olds with two hours of supervised play while their parents take a fitness class or do the weekly shop.

To receive our Holiday Programmes automatically, simply send us your email/postal address and we will forward you a copy before each holiday.

For more information, please contact Larkfield Leisure Centre on 01622 719345, the Angel Centre on 01732 367449 or visit www.larkfieldleisure.co.uk/hp, www.angelcentre.co.uk/hp, www.tonbridgepool.co.uk/hp.

Easter Activate returns!

If you are aged 8 -16 and wondering what to do over the Easter holidays then why not take part in the Council’s Activate programme? Activate gives young people the chance to try out some more unusual activities. Activities this Easter include windsurfing, kayaking, golf, drama, TV presenting skills, fencing, special effects and character make-up, magic, Chinese circus skills, bike fun day, first aid, trampolining, music technology, jen zone, junior rangers, dodgeball, street art, cookery and outwired bound activities (open canoeing, bushcraft day, geocaching, abseiling, archery, BMXing, climbing, high topeas and pedal-karting).

This year, Activate will run from Monday 7 to Thursday 17 April 2014. Details of all courses and activity sessions can be found in the Easter edition of the Activate brochure, which is available from schools, libraries, leisure centres, parish councils and the Borough Council’s website at www.tmbc.gov.uk.

Book online! You can book online at www.tmbc.gov.uk but places are limited so complete the online booking form as soon as possible or call 01732 876166 or email leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk.

Course costs and times vary depending on the activity. The Council offers financial concessions to Leisure Pass holders to encourage as many young people as possible to take part.