



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

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BIRTHS

HAWORTH DAFFIN

Simon and Jodie celebrate the birth of their daughter Chloe Elizabeth on 23rd February 2010 at home, weighing 7lb 3oz. Sister to Aidan.

ATKINSON

Claire and Sam of Whitstable are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Sophie Olivia, on 3rd February 2010. A new sister for Charlotte.

CRIPPEN

Georgia Lucy born on the 22nd February 2010, weighing 7lbs 11oz. Daughter to James and Lucy Crippen of Hawkinge.

EMMETT

Martin and Karen celebrate the birth of their daughter Frankie Rose Emmett Born on 19th February 2010.

MEAKER

Izabelle Alllear Meaker was born on the 16th February 2010 at 04.23am weighing 6lb 12oz to proud parents Kris and Kelly Meaker. A beautiful baby girl loved by all her family.

MILES

Stuart and Melanie of Faversham are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their little miracle, a beautiful son, Harvey Christopher Alec, who was born on 6th February 2010.

STRINGER

Jack Edward born on 11th February 2010, weighing 7lbs 5.5oz. Son to Gary and Kirsty in St Peters. We would like to welcome a little brother for Thomas.

WEIR

David and Vanessa of Seabrook celebrate the birth of their son Dylan Joseph on 17th February 2010, weighing 6lb 11oz.

DEATHS

CANSDALE

Michael Cansdale (Mike). Passed away on 27th February 2010 aged 64 years after a long illness bravely borne. Dearly loved and sadly missed by wife Janet, daughter Penny and son Andrew. Grandchildren and all the family. Funeral to be arranged.

MARTIN

Pamela Joy Martin of Seal died peacefully on 25th February 2010. Enquiries to Doves Funerals, Sevenoaks, Tel. 01732 740444.

research and investment should be made.

The processing of the universe that keeps the Earth's temperature within the corridor that can sustain life (warming and cooling) has worked mostly but not always (eg, the Ice Age) and may be not in the future.

One important issue that has emerged from the whole subject is the power of propaganda; from the simplicity of rabble-rousing, to that which is government-inspired. People are very vulnerable to it as indicated by current world leaders joining the mad hatters' tea parties that preach drastic reduction in carbon emissions, at any price, under the guise of saving the world.

DR Hedges, Chatham

Blame lies with rapist

It is astounding that, according to the Wake up to Rape survey, 54 per cent of women questioned thought rape victims were in some way responsible for their attack.

How can these females be so stupid to believe that the culpability of any rape lies with anyone other than the offender committing this despicable crime?

A number of these survey participants probably argued that certain women dress so provocatively and consume so many units of alcohol that they only have themselves to blame if they send out confusing messages to the man.

So a forced sexual violation is a woman's deserved comeuppance for wearing a mini-skirt and sinking eight Bacardi Breezers is it? Sex must always be consensual. Under no circumstances does a person have the right to force themselves on another person against their will. Everyone should be mature enough to show restraint and control their impulses whatever temptation they perceive is there.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

Grand opinion welcome

I was touched to read P Campbell's letter regarding his impression of the recent changes at The Grand, Folkestone.

Since assuming the position of manager at The Grand in November, I have been overwhelmed by the kind words and positive feedback that I have received, the people of Folkestone appear to have a genuine affinity for The Grand and I am privileged that many of them are taking the time to put this across to readers.

It is a privilege to be able to lead The Grand through 2010 and beyond.

Robert Richardson, The Grand, Folkestone

A barrage for Farage

This week Nigel Farage sunk to a new low. His personal attack against Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council, was more akin to the schoolyard tyrant than an elected Parliamentarian.

Parliament is a forum for different views and this is its strength. It's through constructive debate and hearing all sides of an argument that we come to decisions. We may disagree but it's important that views are respected.

In attacking Mr van Rompuy, a guest in our Parliament, Mr Farage showed no respect for Parliament. He may claim to speak for the British people, but most of his voters would reprimand their own children were they to speak to a guest in such a way.

Mr Farage's cynical swipe at Belgium, Britain's neighbour, friend and ally, also revealed the sordid underbelly of a party recently described by its leader as only separated by a "thin line" from the BNP.

Criticising a person for their actions is acceptable and necessary in order to invite change. Criticising a person on their nationality and appearance is the act of a bully.

Catherine Bearder MEP, Liberal Democrat, South East England

Climate change is real

It is Phil Grainger who cannot see the elephant in the room in his letter last week, namely his climate scepticism.

He appears halfway there though, as he

Forecast in sorry state

Why can't the Met Office apologise when they get it wrong? On Radio Kent on Sunday, February 21, they said at 7.30am and 9.30am that the maximum temperature on Monday would be 11 degrees.

At 10.30am and 4pm they said it would be nine degrees, yet at 8.30am on Monday morning they said only four or five degrees! So in a day they reduced the temperature by more than half. I phoned Radio Kent at about 8.45am on Monday and asked for an apology on the 11.30am forecast but none was forthcoming. But the Met Office never seem to admit they are wrong, do they?

This happens all the time. For example, on Wednesday, February 17, at 3.30pm they said that the overnight low would be three or four degrees above but at 5.30pm they said only one or zero degrees.

The early morning presenter on Radio Kent said that when he had driven into work the temperature was only minus four degrees. So forecasting a mere 12-hours ahead they were seven degrees out!

But although I listen to several forecasts a day I heard no apology or admission of error. Isn't it time that the Meteorological Office came clean about its inaccuracies? Why can't they compare forecast with actual weather for (say) 30 stations across the UK?

The stations should be chosen by someone outside the Met Office. They could produce an average percentage of actual to forecast, say 60-75 per cent right. Then we would know how much faith to put in the forecasts. Millions of pounds of public money go into the forecasting so the taxpayer is entitled to know what value he is getting for his money.

Marc Hurstfield, Northfleet

Climate 'propaganda'

I thought sanity was returning to the subject of global warming/climate change/carbon in the atmosphere until Ray Duff's letter.

I am sure his array of statistics and quotations contain many elements of fact, but so does the best of propaganda.

The facts are that scientists whose field of activity is in the broader realm of the world within the universe reveal that there is no evidence that carbon in the atmosphere causes global warming.

You have to go to those in a much narrower field of endeavour to find supporters of this supposition. Some very plausible theories have been postulated as to how this might occur but they are theories, and those with that idea do not look too deeply into the verification of their data.

The separate subjects of climate change, global warming and pollution in the atmosphere are each important and research and

points out the ongoing industrial damage and pollution that humanity has, and is, doing to the planet. However, it is this very fossil-fuelled activity that is the root cause of the greenhouse gas emissions that are beginning to change the climate.

On population, etc, it is largely the misuse of land, resources and their distribution that are the problem, and so it has to be by changing these and the social, economic and industrial practices which underpin them, that we can help better sustain the current population and help alleviate climate change as well. Yes, we may also need to reduce our population growth via greater use of contraception and educational methods.

As regards, the so-called Emailgate and Himalayan glaciergate sagas, yes they were embarrassing, but they are just the occasional human errors that can creep in to such research. The IPCC (Intergov Panel) must do better though and they are addressing this now before their next report in 2014. However, none of this goes against the many thousands of reports from across a wide range of scientific disciplines that all concur that man-made climate change is a reality.

Finally, I point out that the low-carbon sector in the UK is already valued at £100 billion by the CBI so further increases in this can help make the changes needed.

The latest news about fuel cell technology from the USA, from a company in California and called the 'Boombbox', could if coupled with renewable energy input, be carbon-neutral, so could potentially provide homes and businesses around the world with green energy.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Letters continued from page 29

My thanks to A&E

May I take this opportunity to thank the staff in the A&E department and the fracture clinic at Margate's QEQM Hospital.

I am pleased to say that my recent visit to A&E lasted exactly one hour from entering the building to leaving it. During that time my wrist and ankle were X-rayed from every conceivable angle, my wrist was given a temporary cast and my ankle bound up.

The fracture clinic was very busy the following week but I was dealt with very efficiently and sympathetically. And my wrist is on the mend.

And may I also take the opportunity to remind your readers that A&E is not the place to go with a snuffle or a tummy upset. A&E is where you go with broken bones or to get a wound stitched.

Cllr Mike Eddy, member for Mill Hill, Dover District Council

Let's give cash back

Kent Police Authority has worked hard to find savings, and policing is probably now delivered more efficiently in Kent than in almost any other area of the country. However, I agree with the two criticisms of Kent Police Authority which Terry Hudson made in your paper two weeks ago.

First, I do not believe that we should have increased our allowances by up to 45 per cent in September, 2008. I voted against that increase. I also refused to accept it.

Second, I do not believe we need to hold so much taxpayers' money, some of which KCC kept invested in Icelandic banks.

I agree that we should maintain a minimum cash reserve of £5m-10m, or at least two per cent of the revenue budget for Kent Police, as a contingency to meet any unexpected costs. However, I oppose our policy of holding additional cash reserves of £25m-plus.

Any organisation will have certain liabilities it is likely to have to meet in the future and, of course, it should record, or 'accrue', those in its accounts. However, we do not need to raise council tax to match these accruals with a permanent cash pile of £25m plus which earns very little interest.

What is this cash pile for? No-one has ever given me a sensible answer. We need to raise money from council tax payers to pay out police wages and supplier invoices, etc, and I am happy for us to hold up to £5m-10m on top of this 'just in case', but we should give the rest back to council tax payers.

Cllr Mark Reckless, member of Kent Police Authority and Conservative parliamentary candidate for Rochester and Strood

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