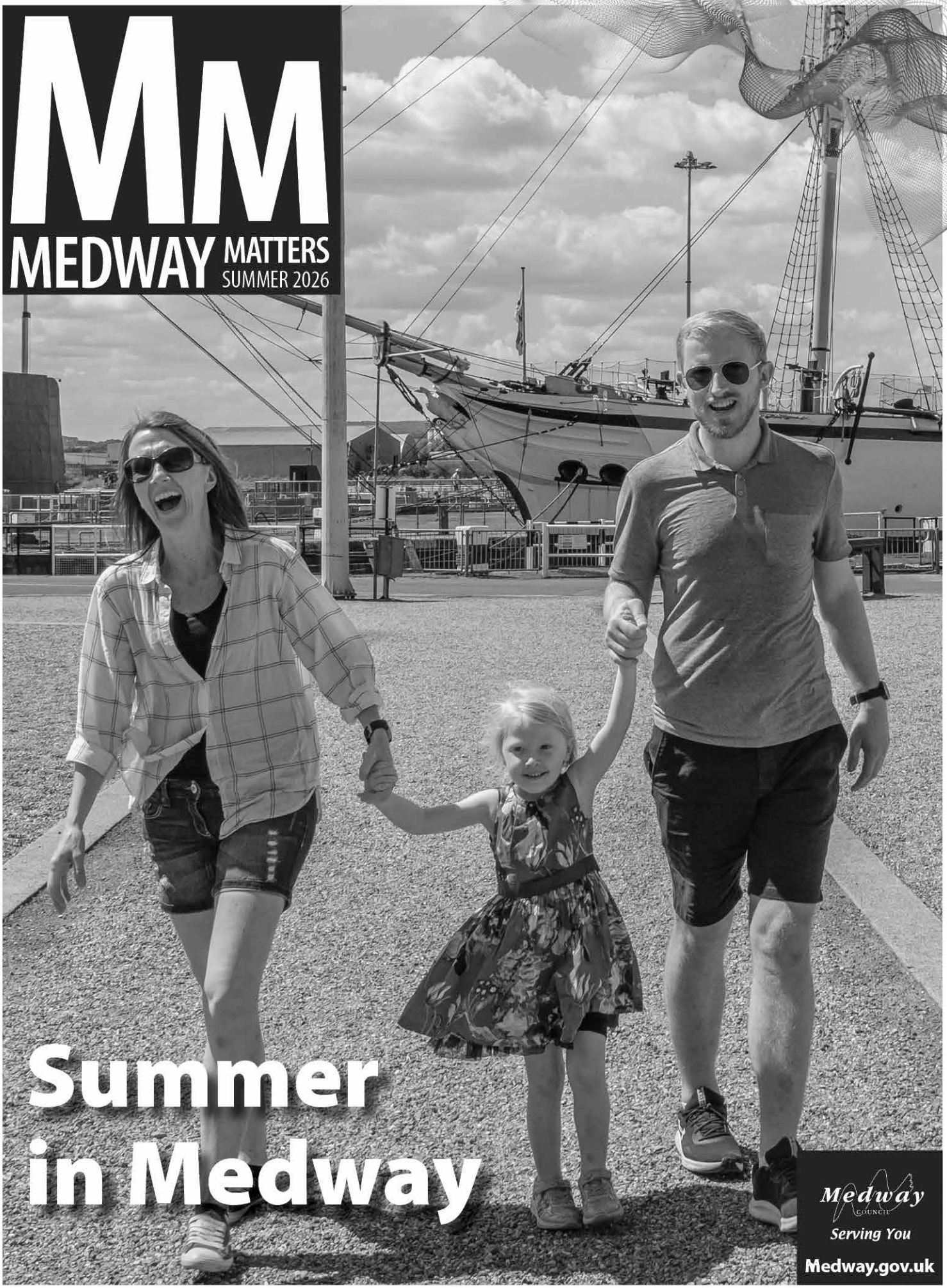
MM MEDWAY MATTERS

SUMMER 2026



Summer in Medway

Medway Council

Serving You

Medway.gov.uk

Advertisement



MY PLAYTIME

Sign-up to a Junior or Family Membership this summer and enjoy:

- Unlimited access to all Medway sports centre swimming pools
- Unlimted access to The Strand Lido throughout the summer
- Racquet sports
- Gym sessions
- Our Youth Gym at Medway Park
- Hyrox facility at Medway Park (opening this summer)
- Plus much more

Medway.gov.uk/ItsTime

@MedwaySport

MEDWAY SPORT

Medway Council
Serving You

Welcome to the summer edition of Medway Matters.

One of the hidden gems of Medway is our fantastic offer when it comes to Adult Education. At a time when many councils across the country are cutting back courses, Medway's offer goes from strength to strength – and we have been doing it for 120 years so have a long, historic track record.

The arrival of summer brings a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the brilliant offer across Medway, from our unique lido at The Strand to our new externally funded PlayZones, festivals or simply a walk in one of our amazing eight green flag parks.

And we have the Love Gillingham weekend coming up too – including the Medway Mile, Market Day and the Big Day Out – taking place over Friday, 17 to Sunday, 19 July. I'm incredibly proud of the offer to individuals and families, with many of those opportunities free of charge.

Of course, I can't guarantee summer sun every single day so, come rain or shine, a visit to one of our libraries is always a great opportunity – especially during the National Year of Reading. Our libraries received an incredible 100 per cent satisfaction rating from users, thanks to everyone who took time to share their positive feedback. We also have our brilliant new 16th library – the pop-up mobile library which has already been seen at community events across Medway.

Finally, as we go to print we are awaiting the final outcome of Local Government Reorganisation. Look out for the latest news on our Medway Council social media pages and we will, of course, have a detailed update in the next edition of Medway Matters.



Cllr Vince Maple
Leader of Medway Council



06 Summer in Medway

08 Maintaining Medway roads

14 Investing in the community

27 A greener Medway

Contact details and advertising

Email: **Medway.Matters@Medway.gov.uk**
or visit: **Medway.gov.uk/MedwayMatters**
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This information can be made available in other formats, email: Medway.Matters@Medway.gov.uk

Sign-up to the Medway Matters enewsletter for the latest news. To subscribe to this and other council enewsletters, visit: **Medway.gov.uk/SignUp**

Details and information within this magazine correct at time of print – 18 June 2026

MIX
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry
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News in brief



Our headquarters is temporarily closed

Gun Wharf, in Dock Road, Chatham, is temporarily closed to the public while essential maintenance and improvement works are carried out.

There are still plenty of ways to access the services you need.

At our community hubs you can get face-to-face support and information - including making payments and collecting parking vouchers.

For more details on how to contact us, see page 38.

Visit: Medway.gov.uk/GunWharfClosure



Young Mayor

Earlier this year we started the search for Medway's very first Young Mayor.

Applications poured in, and children and young people in Medway are now casting their votes.

Voting will be open until Monday, 31 August and can be done on our website, at Child-Friendly Medway events or in schools which sign-up to take part in voting.

Medway's Young Mayor and their deputies will be announced at the end of September.

Visit: Medway.gov.uk/YoungMayor



Lottery helps good causes

The Medway Lottery draw takes pace every week – supporting local good causes while giving you the chance to bag a prize.

Tickets cost just £1 each and there's a jackpot prize of £25,000 up for grabs.

From every ticket sold, 60p goes directly to one of the local good causes – and you can choose which cause you want to support.

Visit: MedwayLottery.co.uk



Supporting higher education in Medway

Earlier this month, the council, universities in Medway and MidKent College came together to announce a joint vision to support higher education in Medway.

Higher education plays a vital role in the local economy, and this collaboration aims to highlight the wide range of fantastic courses and career prospects available locally.

All partners committed to working together to ensure Medway's students are supported and have what they need to thrive in Medway.

Medway.gov.uk/News

News in pictures





Sweeps May 2026

Another successful festival saw more than 82,000 celebrating in Rochester.



Medway Matters Live

Rochester Corn Exchange played host to our fifth Medway Matters Live event.



Olympian Duncan Scott

Olympic royalty visited Medway Park to lead a swimming session for Medway's young people.

The Strand Lido open for summer 2026

Check out The Strand this summer – see more on page 6.



Medway's new mayor

Cllr Douglas Hamandishe and Cllr Sharon Jackson were appointed Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Medway for 2026/27.



Child-Friendly Medway

Baby & Toddler week was another fun-filled event, with plenty more planned – visit: **Medway.gov.uk/ChildFriendly** for more.



Summer on your doorstep – who knew?

Summer is finally here, and you don't need to travel abroad to make it extra special. All over Medway there are hidden gems and unexpected delights to make it a fun-filled summer of discovery.

The Strand Lido

Celebrating its 130th anniversary this year, The Strand Lido is a piece of living history – the only remaining riverside tidal saltwater pool in the country, and a hub of summer fun since the days of Queen Victoria. Outside the lido is a free splash pad for the little ones to enjoy, as well as a play park, train ride and tennis courts. New attractions at The Strand this year include the PlayZone – the first of three new multi-sport pitches to be opened around Medway thanks to £700,000 from the Football Foundation.
Medway.gov.uk/TheStrand





Love Gillingham weekend

The Love Gillingham weekend is back for 2026, with a packed schedule of entertainment starting with the Medway Mile on Friday, 17 July (register at Medway.gov.uk/MedwayMile), followed by an extra special Gillingham Market on Saturday, 18 July, and the Big Day Out on Sunday, 19 July.
VisitMedway.org/BigDayOut

St Andrews Lakes

Discover the stunning blue lake at St Andrews Lakes in Halling this summer. A 70-acre family playground with sandy beaches, turquoise waters and endless outdoor fun. From inflatable aqua park adventures to paddle boarding, zip-wires and multi-activity days, it's the perfect place to make unforgettable memories together.
StAndrewsLakes.co.uk





Ramble around historic Medway

A walk around Rochester can span thousands of years of history, from Eastgate House to the ancient stone walls of Rochester Castle. If you're in Chatham, a short (but steep!) climb to the Great Lines war memorial offers an enjoyable workout leading to a great view, before a more relaxing stroll to the nearby, free-to-enter grounds of Fort Amherst. To make your walk even more exciting, turn it into a treasure hunt with geocaching. The purpose is to hunt down small boxes, or caches, hidden away on walks using a GPS enabled device. Get started by downloading the official geocaching app on your phone. Visit **EverydayActiveKent.org.uk** and search for geocaching.

Holiday fun with history

Medway's heritage sites are a great place to learn about history but they also offer fantastic entertainment too. At Rochester Castle, Page to Knight events offer the chance to get hands-on with medieval weaponry and armour, and the castle plays host to many more events throughout the summer – from lessons on courtly behaviour and medieval coin striking to music from medieval musicians. Meanwhile our museums are also great hubs of learning and fun. Try the *Teddy Bear's Picnic Theatre Show* at Eastgate House, Rochester, on Sunday, 26 July; and the National Year of Reading makes it the perfect moment for Summer Holiday Storytelling and Dickens Animal Trail at the nearby Guildhall Museum. **VisitMedway.org**

A ride to remember

Did you know Chatham is home to the UK's longest toboggan run? The 750m track is among the highlights at Chatham Snowsports Centre, located near Capstone Farm Country Park.
JNLChatham.co.uk



Dive into a world of discovery at The Historic Dockyard Chatham



Ocean Photographer of the Year
This exhibition is one of the summer's highlights, showcasing 116 award-winning and inspiring photographs. The rest of the dockyard remains one of Chatham's most popular destinations – a national treasure and a portal into the Age of Sail.



Steve Backshall's Awesome Oceans Family Trail
11 July - 31 August
This summer holiday, kids can explore six exciting ocean zones, discover incredible marine creatures and take on interactive challenges as they journey around the dockyard. Along the way, they'll collect exclusive cards, learn how to protect our seas and complete their mission to become official 'Ocean Guardians'.
TheDockyard.co.uk

Medway Pride

Medway Pride is a fantastic LGBTQIA+ community event and takes place on Saturday, 22 August. Starting with a pride parade, the celebration continues with an eight-hour stage show at Rochester Castle Gardens, along with a market, food and bar facilities. Medway Pride Fringe also takes place at various locations from Saturday, 15 to Sunday, 23 August.
MedwayPride.co.uk





Diggerland

Is there a better way to spend a summer's afternoon than driving a real-life JCB? Diggerland in Strood offers the chance to ride, drive and operate real diggers, dumpers and other full-size construction machinery. What's not to love?
Diggerland.com

Save the date

Heritage Open Days

Every September, thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.
HeritageOpenDays.org.uk

This includes behind-the-scene tours at The Brook Theatre in Chatham, while work continues to transform the Grade II listed theatre. For dates, times and to book your tour, visit:
MedwayTicketsLive.co.uk

Rochester Christmas Market 2026

- Friday, 27 November, 12noon-9pm
- Saturday, 28 November, 10am-9pm
- Sunday, 29 November, 10am-6pm
- Friday, 4 December, 12noon-9pm
- Saturday, 5 December, 10am-9pm (Dickensian Christmas Festival)
- Sunday, 6 December, 10am-6pm (Dickensian Christmas Festival)
- Friday, 11 December, 12noon-9pm
- Saturday, 12 December, 10am-9pm
- Sunday, 13 December, 10am-6pm

VisitMedway.org

For lots more ideas of things to do in Medway this summer, visit: VisitMedway.org



The road ahead for highway repairs



Maintaining more than 500miles of Medway roads – along with bridges, street lighting, drainage, and the Medway Tunnel – is no mean feat.

A combination of wear and tear from traffic, classic British weather, and occasional prolonged bursts of even more British weather, means it's a job that's never finished, but it's a task we remain committed to.

Over the last financial year we undertook 16 major resurfacing projects and more than 100 smaller patching projects, with more due to take place this year – and a new improved approach is helping our repairs last longer.

Repairs lasting longer

The key to this lies in micro-surfacing technology to create longer lasting 'patching' repairs, rather than temporary fixes, so instead of filling in potholes individually our teams aim to put larger patches over clusters of potholes.

It's a more effective way to slow road deterioration and extend the life of our roads, although we still use temporary individual fixes when we have to maintain safety – such as when extreme weather worsens the deterioration of road surfaces.

Extensive rainfall over the winter was an example of this, and during February and March, our teams carried out thousands of temporary repairs, although these will be followed by a permanent patch when possible.

Prioritising road repairs

Of course, tackling potholes remains an ongoing challenge, and our resources are limited by government funding. Over this financial year we have a total budget of £5.72million for highway repairs, which looks like a lot on paper but has to cover the maintenance of 3,500 roads and 112,000 other highways assets.

When compared to the £1.35million we spend each day on adult social care, children's services and strategic housing, the roads budget is relatively limited for a service which also demands significant and ongoing investment.

That's why we have to prioritise which roads we repair – while making sure road safety for all road users in Medway is always the number one priority.

We understand that roadworks can cause inconvenience, and we thank residents and road users for their patience. Every scheme we deliver is carefully planned to balance disruption with the need to carry out vital repairs.



For a full list of planned highways projects, visit: Medway.gov.uk/Resurfacing

Get inspired this summer

Longer days and summer evenings bring us the energy and time to learn something new, and Medway is full of exciting opportunities to kickstart a new hobby or career.

Medway Adult Education offers a fantastic array of courses, from creative courses in music, art and cookery to career-based skills and GCSEs in maths and English, to name just a few.

Find out more about the classes on offer in our insert in the centre of this magazine.



Summer sessions with Medway Sport

Summer brings extra excitement at Medway's sports centres, with a range of free or reduced-cost sport sessions for young people, families and adults to encourage active and healthy lifestyles.

All sessions are led by qualified coaches, leaders or activators, plus all equipment is provided so you don't need to worry about buying anything!

Sessions include: multi-sport club, calm football, back to netball, family-friendly circuits, teen girl yoga, chair yoga, walking cricket, hoop into basketball, tennis – The Strand's courts opened last year – and much more.

Find a session near you, visit:
Medway.gov.uk/SummerOfSport



Advertisement



A new start at Medway Park



Medway's sports centres are packed with opportunities to discover new hobbies and kickstart a healthier lifestyle.

Among a wealth of classes and fitness sessions, is the new Hyrox Centre, due to open this summer.
The exciting new addition is part of improvements at Medway Park Sports Centre, in Gillingham.

The Hyrox facility, on the first floor will include new workout stations, allowing you to alternate between running and functional exercises.

The improvements have also increased the size and capacity of the gym areas.

Learn more and enjoy Hyrox at Medway Park this summer, visit: **Medway.gov.uk/MedwayPark**

Why not give Nordic walking a go this summer?

**Capstone Farm Country Park is fast becoming the home of Nordic walking in Medway - a simple, low-impact activity that transforms an everyday walk into a full-body workout.
Using specially designed poles, Nordic walking boosts fitness, improves posture and supports overall wellbeing.**

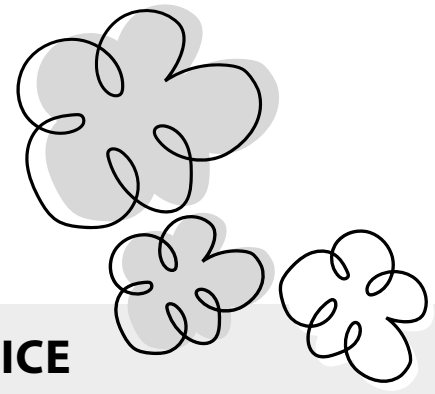
It's easy to get started, learn the technique and feel the benefits in a friendly setting – with up to six weeks of tailored training (and poles provided!) there's everything you need to take your first steps.



Visit: ExploreKent.org/Nordic-Walking-in-Medway

Be kind to your mind this summer

Summer encourages us to slow down, step outside and take notice of what's around us. Here are some free, easy boosts for mental health.



Research from the New Economics Foundation shows that five simple daily actions - known as the Five Ways to Wellbeing - can help us feel calmer, more connected and happier, much like a mental health version of your five fruit and vegetables a day.

1 CONNECT



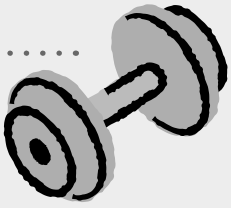
Human connection sits at the heart of wellbeing, whether it's a quick chat with a neighbour or catching up with a friend.

Across Medway, local libraries host reading groups and community activities, while neighbourhood cafés, parks and family hubs offer chances to spend time together.

If face-to-face feels difficult, phone calls or online catchups can also help us connect and improve our mental wellbeing.

Visit: **Medway.gov.uk/LonelinessHub**

2 BE ACTIVE



Being active doesn't need to be about fitness goals or pushing yourself to exhaustion.

A gentle walk or swim, playing in the park with the family, gardening, dancing in your kitchen or cycling can all help lift your mood - improving sleep, energy and confidence.

Medway offers plenty of opportunities, from health walks and leisure centres to green spaces.

Explore: **Medway.gov.uk/SummerOfSport**

3 TAKE NOTICE

In the rush of modern life, taking notice invites us to pay attention to the present moment - our thoughts, feelings and surroundings - to help us feel calmer and more grounded.

Whether you call it mindfulness, or just taking a moment to slow down, a few minutes each day can help.

Get your free Mind Plan at:
NHS.uk/Every-Mind-Matters



4 KEEP LEARNING

Learning doesn't stop when school ends. Trying new things, developing skills or rediscovering interests can boost confidence and help us connect.

Here in Medway, adult education providers and community organisations offer a wide range of of free and affordable courses and workshops - such as Medway Adult Education, which runs dozens of free courses for eligible residents.

Visit: **MedwayAdultEducation.co.uk**

5 GIVE

Acts of kindness help us feel useful, connected and positive, whether it's helping a neighbour, listening to a friend or volunteering locally.



Medway has many volunteering opportunities, from environmental projects and community groups to supporting local charities.

Visit: **Medway.gov.uk/Volunteer**

To find more support available for you, a friend or neighbour, visit: **Medway.gov.uk/HealthyMind**

Behind the goals: protecting families in Medway



As World Cup fever sweeps across the country, homes, pubs and living rooms fill with anticipation and excitement. Football has the power to unite us, but behind the celebrations, a more troubling trend can emerge during major sporting tournaments - a rise in domestic abuse.

That's why during this World Cup, organisations across Medway want residents to know help is available.

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence. It includes controlling behaviour, emotional abuse, coercion, financial control, threats and intimidation. It can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, background or postcode.

Across Kent and Medway, one in five adults will experience domestic abuse in their life, and on average people live with abuse for more than two years before seeking help.

Abuse is about power and control, and it is never justified by being drunk or the result of a match.

Support for victims in Medway

If you or someone you know feels unsafe at home, support in Medway is free, confidential and local.

Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership works to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support services available. Services can:

- Advocate on your behalf.
- Help you get safe and find appropriate accommodation.
- Explain civil and legal options.
- Support emotional recovery.

For anyone in **immediate danger, please phone 999.**

For free confidential advice at any time, there is the 24/7 National Domestic Abuse helpline: 0808 2000 247.

To access Medway's domestic abuse support service, delivered by Oasis, you can phone: 0800 917 9948.

Oasis helps adults, young people and families - regardless of background, gender or circumstance - and offers free, confidential, one-to-one support, tailored for each person, keeping people safe at home, in their community and online.

A message to those causing harm

If you recognise yourself in moments of aggression, jealousy, control or fear-driven behaviour, there are services to help you address these behaviours.

For more information and support, visit: **DomesticAbuseServices.org.uk**

Investing in the community

We are delighted to have secured millions of pounds of external funding to benefit Medway's residents and businesses. Communities across Medway have been busy bidding for a share of the funding to support local projects.



£60million boost for Medway

This year saw three areas in Medway selected as part of the government's Pride in Place programme – Twydall in Gillingham, Rede Common in Strood and Luton in Chatham.

Each place will receive £20million invested over the next 10 years and, what's more, the money will be spent on what the local community decides matters most.

Pride in Place funding will be delivered through something called a Neighbourhood Board – a partnership between local community groups, businesses, residents, MPs and the council. Each board will decide how this investment should be used to make the biggest difference for local people.

To find out more, visit: **Medway.gov.uk/PrideInPlace**







Above: The official launch of the centre.

Left: James Williams

The James Williams Healthy Living Centre

Chatham town centre now has its own healthy living centre, providing more opportunities for Medway residents to access healthcare.

We worked with NHS partners to construct and open the £15million centre, named in honour of our late Director of Public Health, James Williams.

It was an honour to be joined by James' family and friends at an official launch of the centre in June. James was an inspirational figure and huge driving force behind improving health outcomes across Medway, as well as addressing health inequalities across the South East.

Chatham's healthy living centre brings together general practice and community services under one roof, supporting early intervention, prevention and more coordinated care across the neighbourhood.

Medway Together Fund

Earlier this year, more than £400,000 was made available to organisations across Medway through the new Medway Together Fund.

The fund was created to replace – and build on the success of – the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which supported more than 140 projects in Medway during its three-year programme.

Launched in April, the Medway Together Fund received more than 150 applications before the deadline in May.

This funding will be used to support events, activities and community projects which will help bring people together and strengthen local neighbourhoods.

All successful applicants will be announced later this year – and you can keep up-to-date by visiting: **Medway.gov.uk/MedwayTogetherFund**

Brownfield Release Fund

Medway received £1.5million from the Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF2) to support enabling works at The Brook multi-storey car park, preparing the site for the development of around 100 homes. Work is due to start later in 2026.

This project builds on the ongoing regeneration work in the heart of Chatham, which includes Chatham Waterfront, Garrison Point, Mountbatten House, The Paddock, St John's Chatham, Ascend and the James Williams Healthy Living Centre.

DFT funding for Medway Tunnel lighting

We secured £1million in investment from the Department for Transport which will be used to upgrade the lighting in the Medway Tunnel to energy-efficient LED technology.

The upgrade will improve reliability, reduce maintenance and running costs, and is estimated to save an astounding 735,000kWh in electricity every year!

Improving electric charging in Medway

Thanks to £2million from the government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund – we are currently appointing a contractor to supply, install and maintain a new on-street electric vehicle charging network, with around 140 chargers across Medway.

With more residents choosing electric or hybrid vehicles, this investment will make charging more accessible, and help support a cleaner and greener Medway.



The big plan for Medway's future

Our new Medway Local Plan is a step closer to completion, outlining the blueprint for how Medway will grow over the next 15 years.

Two planning inspectors were appointed earlier this year to carry out an independent examination of the draft plan.

They have raised some initial queries with the council, before they issue formal questions in early August. These 'Matters, Issues and Questions' will be discussed in hearing sessions, where the inspectors will invite the views of the council, and other parties wanting to comment on the plan.

The first of the hearing sessions will start in mid-September. Following these sessions, the inspectors will report their findings back to the council.

Following feedback from the planning inspectors, we recently ran a consultation (until 6 July) on some of the supporting Local Plan documents, while we also ran a call-for-sites exercise to increase the supply of suitable sites for Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople.

Medway's Local Plan covers all aspects of growth up to the year 2041, from housing and businesses to transport and infrastructure, as well as how we will protect our environment and heritage.

To find out more about the work to-date and next steps, visit: **Medway.gov.uk/LocalPlanExamination**





Communities benefit from developer funding

A new 43-hectare community parkland, full of wildlife for residents to enjoy and explore.



When big development projects go ahead, our planning team secures funding that's ploughed into improving community facilities and helping mitigate the impact of the development.

The funding, known as Section 106 (S106) agreements, is making a huge difference all over Medway and creating a better and more sustainable future for our residents.

Among the most significant projects underway this summer is the first phase of works to create a new parkland, next to Deangate Ridge Bowls Club.

Our appointed contractor, Ground Control, has been busy developing the new accessible green space, improving existing access and creating footpaths. Future improvements will include new picnic areas and access to amazing viewpoints across the grasslands as well as information boards on the local wildlife that can be found at the site throughout the year.

The £1.1million project is being delivered largely thanks to S106 funding, with approximately £1million contributions from Bellway, Taylor Wimpey and Jones Homes. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has also contributed more than £100,000 towards the new community parkland.

For the latest news on the construction of the parkland, visit: **Medway.gov.uk/Deangate.**

It's just one example of how S106 projects are transforming Medway for the better, with libraries, schools and open spaces all benefitting from new improvements in the past two years. Other projects benefiting from developer funding:

Cliffe – bus route improvements: More journeys on the 133 bus route.

Sun Pier, Chatham: Supporting the Lift Off project to improve accessibility.

Great Lines Heritage Park, Gillingham: Improving connectivity from Brompton and Fort Amherst to the green flag site.

Rainham town centre: Improvement projects are being considered as part of the town's vision and action plan.

For more information on Section 106 funding, visit: Medway.gov.uk/S106

What's on in Medway







CENTRAL THEATRE CHATHAM

MedwayTicketsLive.co.uk

A Night of Madness with Gladness
Fri, 3 Jul, 7.30pm

Remember When
Tue, 7 Jul, 2pm

Tom Gates EPIC Stage Show
Sun, 19 Jul, 12.30pm & 3.30pm

The Princess Proms
Thu, 23 Jul, 2pm & 5.30pm

Professor Brian Cox: Emergence World Tour
Fri, 28 – Sat, 29 Aug, 7.30pm

Stewart Lee vs The Man-Wulf
Sat, 19 Sep, 7.30pm

Jason Manford: A Manford All Seasons
Fri, 25 Sep, 7.30pm

Fireman Sam: The Lost Pirate Treasure
Sat, 26 Sep, 12noon

Fin Taylor
Wed, 30 Sep, 8pm

Forever Jackson
Thu, 1 Oct, 7.30pm

Thank You For The Music
Fri, 2 Oct, 7.30pm

T. Rextasy - I Love to Boogie
Sat, 3 Oct, 7.30pm

The Nutcracker
Sun, 11 Oct, 2pm

Swan Lake
Sun, 11 Oct, 7pm

The Spice Girls Theatre Show
Wed, 14 Oct, 7.30pm

The Carpenters Songbook
Thu, 15 Oct, 7.30pm

KPOP Fantasy
Fri, 16 Oct, 7.30pm

UK Pink Floyd Experience
Sat, 17 Oct, 7.30pm

The Illegal Eagles: Hotel California
Sun, 18 Oct, 7.30pm

Kevin Bloody Wilson: Fair Dinkum Funny
Tue, 20 Oct, 7.30pm

The Makings of a Murderer
Wed, 21 Oct, 7.30pm

The Bon Jovi Experience
Thu, 22 Oct, 7.30pm

Fastlove
Fri, 23 Oct, 7.30pm

Country Hits Live
Sat, 24 Oct, 7.30pm

Emerald Storm
Sun, 25 Oct, 7.30pm

Sensational 60s
Sun, 1 Nov, 7pm

Tubular Bells Live
Thu, 5 Nov, 7.30pm

Sing the Greatest hits
Fri, 6 Nov, 7.30pm

The Magic of Motown
Sun, 8 Nov, 7.30pm

The Stylistics
Tue, 10 Nov, 7.30pm

Christmas in Ireland
Wed, 11 Nov, 7.30pm

That'll Be Christmas
Thu, 12 Nov, 7pm

Ben Portsmouth: This is Elvis
Fri, 13 Nov, 7.30pm

Step Into Christmas
Tue, 17 Nov, 7.30pm

ELO Again: Back to the Blue
Wed, 18 Nov, 7.30pm

The Rolling Stones Story
Thu, 19 Nov, 7.30pm

The Yacht Rock Experience
Fri, 20 Nov, 7.30pm

A James Bond Concert Spectacular
Sat, 21 Nov, 7.30pm

Cinderella
Fri, 11 Dec 2026 – Sun, 3 Jan 2027

Queen of the Night: A Tribute to Whitney Houston
Thu, 28 Jan 2027 7.30pm

Best of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons with Matt Terry
Sat, 30 Jan 2027, 7.30pm

The Celine Experience
Thu, 4 Feb 2027, 7.30pm

Go Your Own Way: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac
Fri, 5 Feb 2027, 7.30pm

Teddy Sings
Thu, 11 Feb 2027, 7.30pm

Hits Out of Hell - The Legend of Meat Loaf
Fri, 12 Feb 2027, 7.30pm

80s Live
Thu, 25 Feb 2027, 7.30pm

Luther Live & Velvet Voices
Fri, 26 Feb 2027, 7.30pm

Legend – The Music of Bob Marley
Sat, 27 Feb 2027, 7.30pm

Guilty or Not Guilty – Jeremy Bamber
Thu, 4 Mar 2027, 7.30pm

Tommy Cooper – Have I Got Time For More?
Fri, 5 Mar 2027, 7.30pm

The Night Sky Show
Sat, 6 Mar 2027, 7.30pm

Phantoms of the Popera – Starring G4
Sun, 7 Mar 2027, 7.30pm

The Amy Winehouse Band
Sat, 13 Mar 2027, 7.30pm

Ghost House
Sun, 14 Mar 2027, 7.30pm

LIBRARIES

Medway.gov.uk/LibraryEvents

Events for children

Summer Reading Challenge craft activities
Sat, 11 Jul, 10.30am
Twydall Library

Wed, 22 Jul, 2.15pm
Rochester Library

Wed, 22 Jul, 2.30pm
Hempstead Library

Sat, 25 Jul, 10.30am
Twydall Library

Mon, 27 Jul, 2.30pm
Chatham Library

Tue, 28 Jul, 2.30pm
Hoo Library and Luton Library

Wed, 29 Jul, 2pm
Wigmore Library

Wed, 29 Jul, 2.15pm
Rochester Library

Thu, 30 Jul, 2pm
Twydall Library

Wed, 5 Aug, 2.15pm
Rochester Library

Thu, 6 Aug, 2.15pm
Gillingham Library

Tue, 11 Aug, 11am
Grain Library

Tue, 11 Aug, 2.30pm
Hoo Library

Wed, 12 Aug, 2.30pm
Rochester Library

Thu, 13 Aug, 2.30pm
Chatham Library (requires booking)

Thu, 13 Aug, 2.15pm
Gillingham Library

Sat, 15 Aug, 10.30am
Walderslade Hook meadow Library (requires booking)

Musical Instruments
Thu, 30 Jul, 2pm
Gillingham Library

Summer Reading Challenge story & craft
Thu, 23 Jul, 2pm
Lordswood Library

Tue, 28 Jul, 3.45pm
Strood Library

Wed, 29 Jul, 11.15am
Walderslade Hook Meadow

Thu, 30 Jul, 11am
Lordswood Library

Summer reading challenge events
Thu, 23 Jul, 2pm
Twydall Library

Thu, 23 Jul, 3.45pm
Strood Library

Sat, 25 Jul, 2pm
Rochester Library

Fri, 31 Jul, 2pm
Walderslade Hook Meadow Library - booking

Sat, 1 Aug, 10am
Walderslade Village Library

Tue, 4 Aug, 2pm
Walderslade Hook Meadow

Thu, 6 Aug, 2.30pm
Walderslade Village Library (requires booking)

Sat, 8 Aug, 10am
Walderslade Village Library, 10.30am Twydall Library

Tue, 11 Aug, 2pm
Walderslade Hook Meadow Library (requires booking)

Sat, 15 Aug, 10am
Walderslade Village Library

The Musical Book show
Sat, 1 Aug, 2pm
Cuxton Library (Age 7+)

Summer Reading Challenge craft activities Painting to Music
Tue, 18 Aug, 10am
Cuxton Library (requires booking, age 10+)

Marvellous maracas
Fri, 21 Aug, 2.15pm
Rainham Library (requires booking)

Summer Reading Challenge story and craft
Tue, 4 Aug, 3.45pm
Strood Library

Thu, 6 Aug, 2pm
Lordswood Library

Thu, 13 Aug, 2pm
Lordswood Library

Thu, 20 Aug, 11am
Lordswood Library

Thu, 27 Aug, 2pm
Lordswood Library

Summer Reading Challenge celebration party
Thu, 27 Aug, 2.15pm
Strood Library

Halloween / autumn craft
Thu, 29 Oct, 2.15pm
Gillingham Library

ARCHIVES

Medway.gov.uk/Archives

Free Saturday drop-ins:

Medway's hospitals
Sat, 1 Aug, 10am-12noon

Medway's marshes
Sat, 5 Sep, 10am-12noon

HERITAGE

VisitMedway.org

Eastgate House

The Teddy Bears Picnic Theatre Show
Sun, 26 Jul, 11am & 2pm

The History of Toys trail
Sat, 25, Sun, 26 Jul, Sat, 1, Sun, 2, Sun, 9, Sat, 15, Sun, 16, Sat, 22, Sun, 23, Sat, 29, Sun, 30, Mon, 31 Aug, 10am-5pm, last admissions 4.15pm

Play On! The Music of Shakespeare's Time
Sun, 6 Sep, 1.30pm, 3pm and 4.30pm

Secrets of the Tudor household
Sat, 12, Sun, 13, Sat, 19, Sun, 20, Sat, 26, Sun, 27 Sep, 10am-5pm

Halloween scavenger hunt
Sun, 18, Sat, 24, Sun, 25, Tue, 27, Wed, 28 & Thu, 29 Oct, 10am-5pm

The unexplained at Eastgate House: Self-guided tours
Fri, 30 Oct, Sat, 31 and Sun, 1 Nov, 11am-4pm

An evening of classic ghost stories
Fri, 30 Oct, Sat, 31 and Sun, 1 Nov, 5.30pm & 7pm

Guildhall Museum

Summer trail: Dickens animals trail
Sat, 18 Jul to Sat, 29 Aug, 10am-5pm

Summer holiday heritage stories and object handling - Polly and the escaped chick
Wed, 22, Thu, 23, Wed, 29, Thu, 30 Jul, Tue, 4, Wed, 5 Aug, at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm, 3.30pm

Summer holiday family crafts Victorian houses and chicks
Tue-Fri, from Wed, 22 Jul to Fri, 28 Aug, 10am-4pm

Halloween family crafts spiders and ghosts
Tue, 27 to Fri, 30 Oct, 10am-4pm

Halloween Trail Spooky Museum objects
Sat, 24 to Sat, 31 Oct, 10am-4pm

Rochester Castle

Summer trail: Knight training trail
Sat, 18 Jul to Sun, 30 Aug
10am-4pm

Frodi the moneyer returns! Coin striking*
Sat, 20, Sun, 21 Jun, Sat, 18, and Sun, 19 Jul, 10am-5pm
*Event has an additional £3 charge on top of admission

Medieval musicians
Sat, 27 & Sun, 28 Jun**,**
10am-5pm
Sat, 19 & Sun, 20 Sep,
10am-5pm

Living history: From page to knight
Tue, 28, Wed, 29 & Thu, 30 Jul, Wed, 5, Thu, 6, Wed, 12 & Thu,13 Aug, 10am -5pm

Medieval Storyteller
Tue, 4, Fri, 7, Tue, 11, Fri, 14, Tue, 18, Fri, 21, Tue, 25 & Fri, 28 Aug

Summer Medieval reenactors: Courtly Graces: Chivalrous knights and ladies
Wed, 19, Thu, 20, Wed, 26 & Thu, 27 Aug, 10am-5pm

Halloween trails: Rats and Medieval food trail
Sat, 24 Oct to Sat, 31 Oct, 10am-4pm

CULTURE
Medway.gov.uk/Arts

Creative Youth Club
Thu, 4.30-6.30pm, drop-in
The Salvation Army, Chatham

Icon Youth Theatre
Mon, 4.30-6pm, 7-12yrs
Icon Young Company
Mon, 6-7.30pm, 13-18yrs
The Academy of Woodlands

MedFringe
Sat, 4 to Sun, 19 Jul
Across Medway

Big Day Out
Sun, 19 Jul, 11am-4pm
Gillingham High Street

Kent Arts Conference
Tue, 14 to Fri, 17 Jul
Medway School of Arts

Medway Open Studios
Sat, 4 to Sun, 19 Jul
Across Medway

Medway Culture Club Carnival
Sat, 8 Aug, 12noon-5pm
Royal Engineers Museum

Medway Pride
Sat, 22 Aug
Rochester Castle Gardens

Medway Pride Fringe
Sat, 15 to Sun, 23 Aug
Across Medway

Sticks 'n' Stones Festival
Sat, 22 Aug
University of Greenwich Campus

Fun Palace
Sat, 3 & Sun, 4 Oct
Pentagon Shopping Centre

Electric Medway
Fri, 23 to Sun, 25 Oct
Across Medway

OUTDOORS
VisitMedway.org

Riverside Country Park

Riverside Country Park Volunteers
Every Thu, 10am-2pm or Sun, 12 Jul, Sun, 9 Aug, Sun, 6 Sep, 10am-2pm
Meet at Riverside Country Park visitor centre

Mud kitchen
Wed, 1 Jul, Wed, 22 Jul, Wed, 5 Aug, Wed, 19 Aug, 10am-12noon

Nature trek
Tue, 28 Jul, 10am-12noon or 1-3pm, 8+yrs

Mud larking
Tue, 4 Aug, 10am-12noon or 1-3pm, 5+yrs

Pond dipping
Tue, 11 Aug & Wed, 12 Aug, from 10am-12noon, 5+yrs

Bug hunt
Tue, 18 Aug, 10am-12noon or 1-3pm, 5+yrs

Den building
Tue, 25 Aug, 10am-12noon or 1-3pm, 5+yrs

Riverside Quest!
20 Jul to 31 Aug

Capstone Farm Country Park

Volunteer conservation task days
Every Tue, 10am-2pm or Sun, 27 Jul, Sun, 23 Aug, 10am-2pm
Meet at the Visitor Centre

Wooden pencil holder
Wed, 22 Jul, 10am-12noon and 1-3pm

Mini beast hunt
Thu, 23 Jul, 10am-12noon and 1-3pm

Toadstool house lights
Wed, 29 Jul, 10am-12noon and 1-3pm

Reptile and amphibian walk
Thu, 30 Jul & Thu, 20 Aug, 9-11am

Plant pot windchimes
Wed, 5 Aug, 10am-12noon and 1-3pm

Kite making
Thu, 6 Aug, 10am-12noon and 1-3pm

Butterfly and flower walk
Wed, 12 Aug, 12.30-2pm

Cardboard zoo
Thu, 13 Aug, 10am-12noon and 1-3pm

Fairy gardens
Wed, 19 Aug, 10am-12noon and 1-3pm

Capstone Trail
Wed, 26 & Thu, 27 Aug, drop-in between 10am-2pm

Berengrave Nature Reserve

Volunteer conservation task days
Sun, 30 Aug, Sun, 25 Oct, 10am-2pm
Meet at Berengrave Lower Rainham Road entrance

SPORT
Medway.gov.uk/Sport

Summer of Sport
June, July and August
Medway.gov.uk/SummerOfSport
Various locations

Soundbath
Fri, 10 Jul, 6.30-8.30pm
Strood Sports Centre

The Medway Mile
Fri, 17 Jul, 5-8.30pm
Medway Park, Gillingham

Tae Bo Fitness Class
Every Mon, 7.30-8.15pm
Strood Sports Centre

The Strand Lido
Open every day Mon, 20 Jul to Sun, 30 Aug, 10.30am-1.30pm and 2.30-5.30pm
The Strand, Gillingham

Crash Course Swimming lessons
Mon to Fri, 20 Jul to Fri, 28 Aug
All centres

Mini Youth Sports Camps
Mon to Fri, 27 Jul to Fri, 28 Aug
Strood Sports Centre & Medway Park

EVENTS
VisitMedway.org

Rochester Dickensian Festival
Sat, 5 to Sun, 6 Dec

Rochester Christmas Market
Fri, 27 Nov to Sun, 13 Dec

MEDWAY ADULT EDUCATION
MedwayAdultEducation.co.uk

MAE Rochester Community Hub

Art - Traditional Signwriting
Mon, 29 Sep, 1-3pm

Sewing: Dressmaking & machine skills for beginners & improvers
Wed, 16 Sep, 6.30-9pm

Art: Life Drawing
Wed, 23 Sep, 10am-12noon

Jewellery Design & Making
Thu, 10 Sep, 10am-12.30pm or 2-4.30pm or 6.30-9pm

Metalsmithing, forming & shaping
Mon, 28 Sep, 10am-1pm or 1.30-3.30pm

Woodwork - Introduction to Woodcarving
Wed, 23 Sep, 6.30-8.30pm

Baby Massage FREE
Mon, 14 Sep, 10-11.30am

Dementia Friendly Gardening
Fri, 11 Sep, 10am-12noon

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth events
Medway.gov.uk/Youth

Lordswood Youth Centre
Mon, 6.30-8.30pm, 11+yrs
Lordswood Library

Girls Only Session
Thu, 6.30-8.30pm, 11+yrs
Lordswood Youth Centre

Junior Youth Club
Wed, 4.30-6pm (term time only) 8-11yrs
Parkwood Youth Centre

Wednesday Squad
Wed, 6.30-8.30pm, 16-25yrs with SEND
Parkwood Youth Centre

Youth Space
Fri, 6.30-8.30pm, 11+yrs
Parkwood Youth Centre

That's My Jam supported by Kent Music
Mon, 5.30-8pm, 12-18yrs
Woodlands Youth Centre

Chill Spot & Duke of Edinburgh Award
Tue, 6-8pm, 13-19yrs
Woodlands Youth Centre

SHINE
Wed, 6-8pm, 10-18yrs with SEND
Woodlands Youth Centre

Junior Hangout
Thu, 3.30-5.30pm
Ages 8-12
Woodlands Youth Centre

Creative Arts & Hangout
Thu, 6-8pm, 13-18yrs
Woodlands Youth Centre

Motiv8
Wed, 6-8pm, 11+yrs
Strood Youth Centre

Duke of Edinburgh Award
Thu, 7-9pm, 13-19yrs
Strood Youth Centre

Archery and climbing
Thu, 7-9pm, 13-19yrs
Strood Youth Centre

Junior Youth Club
Fri, 5-7pm, 8-13yrs
Strood Youth Centre

Family climbing
Sat, 2-3.30pm & 3.30-5pm
All ages £4 per climber (cash only)
Strood Youth Centre

Grain Youth Club
Tue, 6-8pm, 8+yrs
Grain Youth Club

Rochester Youth Club
Thu, 6.30-8.30pm, 8-12yrs
St Luke's Methodist Church

Chatham Youth Club
Thu, 4.30-6.30pm, 13-19yrs
Salvation Army, Chatham

Walderslade Youth Club
Fri, 3.30-5.30pm & 6.30-8.30pm, 11-18yrs
Hook Meadow Community Centre

Medway Youth Council
Fri, 5.30-7.30pm, 11-18yrs
Chatham Library

Child-Friendly Medway
Medway.gov.uk/ChildFriendly

Dino Day
Wed, 12 Aug, 10am-3.30pm
Chatham High Street & Pentagon Shopping Centre

Inflatable Fun Day
Tue, 18 Aug, 10-11.30am & 12.30-2pm
Medway Park

Super Saturday
Sat, 29 Aug, 10am-4pm
Chatham High Street & Pentagon Shopping Centre

MEDWAY MARKETS
Medway.gov.uk/Markets

Rochester Farmers' Market
Third Sun every month, 9am-1pm,
Rochester Blue Boar Lane Car Park

Gillingham Market
Every Mon & Sat, 9am-4pm
Gillingham High Street



Medway Adult Education

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

Celebrating 120 years of arts and learning at Eastgate Rochester

A triumph of beautiful Edwardian architecture, the adult education building at Eastgate has inspired creativity in Rochester since 1906. For 120 years, the site has helped generations of Medway residents explore their talents, with some, like Tracey Emin and Zandra Rhodes, going on to become household names. Long home to MAE, this remarkable space continues to nurture growth and imagination, as if creativity itself is woven into every brick.



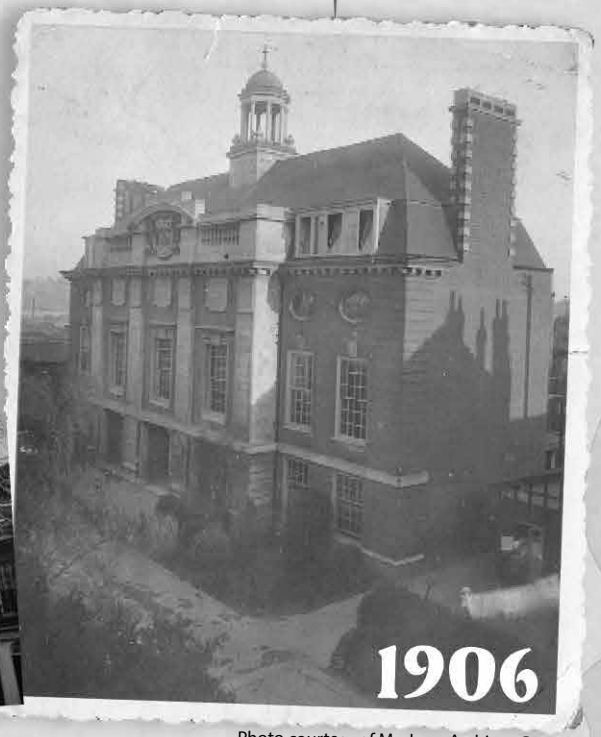


Photo courtesy of Medway Archives Centre

Creative arts and design



Oil painting
A wonderful friendly introduction to oil painting, ideal for beginners and painters wanting to build their confidence.

Dive into a hands-on creative journey where you'll experiment with a variety of tools, materials, and essential techniques, all with the support of an experienced tutor guiding you every step of the way. You'll discover how to mix vibrant colours, master brushwork, and bring your ideas to life through simple yet effective compositions.

Mixed media
The mixed media course develops creativity and confidence by exploring a range of themes using varied art materials and three dimensional techniques, inspired by the work of artists and makers.

Drawing and painting
Courses are offered from beginner to advanced levels, including mixed ability classes that support skill development through work from still life, landscapes and natural forms.

Abstract art
This course introduces students to abstract art through exploration and experimentation, to help develop a personal style and creative expression.

Traditional signwriting
Learn the art of signwriting hands-on with guidance from an expert tutor. You'll start with the basics - sketching out letterforms by hand, then level up your skills as you experiment with brush techniques to create bold, eye-catching designs.

Drawing and painting watercolour
In this course students can explore the expressive qualities of watercolour. They will focus on colour, tone and composition, while developing techniques for confident, controlled and sensitive use of light and flow.

Life drawing
This course develops strong observational drawing skills, through focused study of the human figure, improving accuracy, proportions and understanding of form.

BTEC level two art and design skills
In this qualification learners can develop their technical art and design skills through practical studio work, self-evaluation, and quality review. The course supports progression to further or higher education and employment and is also suitable for adult learners looking to formalise their practice and build a professional portfolio.





Crafts and making



Jewellery making
Our Jewellery courses offer hands-on experience in metalworking for all levels, from beginners to those wanting to develop their skills further. Students will learn core jewellery making techniques through guided projects in a creative studio environment, progressing towards shaping and personalising their own distinctive designs.

Stained glass
This course introduces the traditional craft of stained glass, offering expert guidance for all skill levels. Students learn core techniques while working with colourful glass to create detailed, individual designs.

Glass art
Explore glass through hands-on making, using smaller glass shapes to produce unique personal artworks. With expert guidance, students learn the process from initial design to finished piece while developing practical glass working techniques.

Woodworking
Introduces learners to designing and creating items using carpentry and wood carving techniques. Suitable for beginners and those wishing to refine their skills, students learn to plan projects, use tools confidently and complete at least one finished piece, with an emphasis on sustainable materials and methods.

Pottery
Build creative skills with a short pottery course. Students will be guided through projects to introduce essential techniques while encouraging personal expression, making this heritage craft accessible and rewarding for learners of all skill levels.

Sculpture for beginners
Explore the world of sculpture in this three-hour introductory workshop through hands on clay work, guiding participants to create a unique decorative piece using simple and practical techniques.

Ceramics mixed ability
Develop confidence and creativity through working on a broad variety of ceramics skills and techniques, incorporating both fine art approaches and the making and decoration of pots.

Ceramics and sculpture mixed ability
Develop skills and creativity while working on personal projects using a range of clays, surface decoration techniques and colour. Suitable for all skill levels.

For anyone who wants to take this art form further we offer an intensive throwing workshop. The workshop aims to help develop knowledge and understanding and progress skills in throwing. Take your personal projects to the next level whilst working with different clays and types of finishes.







Fashion and textiles



Dressmaking and machine skills for beginners

A supportive course for those new to sewing, focusing on learning core machine skills, understanding the dressmaking process and building practical confidence while enjoying the creative experience.

Dressmaking and machine skills for improvers

Designed for learners with basic sewing experience, this course helps you refine machine techniques, understand commercial patterns, and build confidence to achieve faster, more professional finishes.

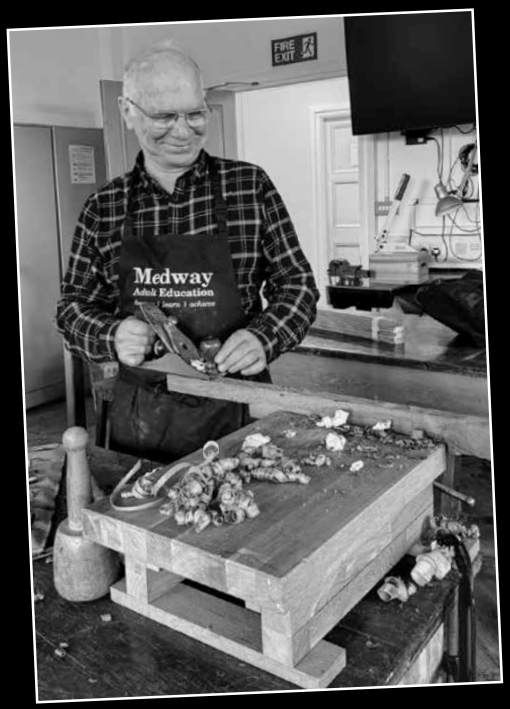
Dressmaking

Learn to create clothes you'll love to wear in a professional studio environment. This course builds confidence in using patterns, understanding garment construction and making fitting adjustments to achieve high quality, professional results.

Dressmaking summer school

A three day intensive course designed for sewing creatives of all abilities. Learners will refine their skills to produce beautifully constructed garments with professional quality finishes.





Stephen Watson

Tutor for woodworking, woodcarving, and traditional signwriting

Steve's lifelong passion for woodwork started early. His woodwork teacher let him take home a set of carving chisels for the holidays to carve his initials onto the lid of an oak jewellery box and he has been carving ever since. An interest in lettering led Steve to undertake City and Guilds training to be a signwriter and after qualifying, Steve specialised in handmaking carved wooden signs.

Steve's classes are a gentle introduction to heritage craft skills, whether that be hand tool woodworking, woodcarving, or traditional signwriting.

Creative skills



Dementia-friendly gardening
A long-standing part of our gardening programme. This course is led by our professional gardening tutor and delivered at Eastgate gardens. Learners take part in gentle, supported gardening activities, including caring for a sensory bed and contributing to the wider maintenance of the garden space.

Digital photography
Classes explore digital camera functions and creative techniques through projects including still life, studio portraits and location photography.

Electric guitar
Plug in, turn it up, and start making noise with our electric guitar course, led by a pro who knows how to bring out the best in every player. Whether you're picking up a guitar for the first time or already know a few riffs, you'll jump straight into the fundamentals and quickly start playing real music.

You'll explore chords, rhythms, and techniques that bring your sound to life, building the skills you need to play your favourite songs or even start creating your own. Along the way, you'll boost your confidence, sharpen your focus, and experience the feel-good buzz that comes from making music.

Creative writing
Courses designed to help learners develop confidence, imagination and writing craft. With expert tutor support, students explore techniques for creating compelling characters, settings and narratives, progressing from initial ideas to finished work. Three course levels support skill development at every stage of the creative journey.

Singing
Friendly singing sessions for adults, open to everyone. No audition or music reading needed. Learners sing a mix of songs from classical to pop, learn simple breathing techniques, and enjoy the wellbeing and mood boosting benefits of singing together.

Cookery
Join informative and inspiring cooking classes in our professional training kitchen at the Medway Skills and Learning Hub in Gillingham.



Stay cool, save money, and help to support a greener Medway!

We all know greens are good for you, but it's not just about getting your five-a-day.

When the temperatures start rising this summer, creating a leafy space with plants at home – whether it's on your kitchen windowsill, balcony, or in the garden – can provide shade and natural cooling.

Not only that, research suggests that indoor plants can have multiple benefits for wellbeing; improving mood, reducing stress levels, and in some cases even improving air quality.

Outdoors, mixing different plant types helps to create a biodiverse, climate-resilient space. And, if you haven't got a garden, remember Medway has great choice of green spaces with parks and woodlands. What can be better on a hot day than an hour or two relaxing in the shade of a tree, after a morning's walk?



The Vines, Rochester

Medway.gov.uk/Greenspaces

Grow your own dinner



Growing your own vegetables is a great way to save cash and help the environment through reduced carbon emissions.

In fact, with some vegetables like spring onions, lettuce and celery you can even regrow them from scraps in your own kitchen – which is surely the ultimate way to cut down on food miles.



Cozenton Park Community Tree Nursery

In the spring we celebrated the opening of Medway's first community tree nursery in Cozenton Park, Rainham, thanks to funding from developer contributions (known as Section 106) and community support.

Local volunteer group, Friends of Cozenton Park Community Tree Nursery, is growing and nurturing trees on site to be planted across Medway, including in parks, woodlands, schools and housing estates, for future generations to enjoy and benefit from.

- Around 35 per cent of the average Medway household's rubbish is food waste, and recycling it is easy.
- Simply pop your food waste in your kitchen caddy, and empty into your brown bin, helping us create nutrient rich compost to help grow new food.
- Keeping food waste out of your black sacks also stops wild animals tearing sacks open and causing mess.

Do you need a new kitchen caddy? Pick one up from any local library.



Why it matters

From keeping your home cooler, saving money on water and food, to recycling food waste and helping the local wildlife, all these actions help build a greener, more resilient Medway.

Read the latest *Climate Change Action Plan, visit:*

Medway.gov.uk/ClimateChange

Top tips:

- Reuse containers, like yoghurt pots or mushroom tubs, as plant pots.
- Start composting with vegetable scraps to create nutrient-rich soil for future plants.
- Collect rainwater for watering plants.
- Consider installing a water-saving shower or tap head.
- Help garden birds through dry spells with a simple bird bath, using a bowl or container.
- Use collected water to water a young tree in your neighbourhood, and help your community stay green.

Medway.gov.uk/WaterATree

Health and wellbeing



Yoga
A gentle, non competitive practice supporting both physical and mental wellbeing. Rooted in an ancient tradition, yoga allows learners to progress at their own pace while developing strength, flexibility and relaxation.

Yoga (all abilities)
An inclusive class designed for learners of all ages, experience levels and abilities. Sessions offer flexible options to support comfortable movement, with Gentle Yoga available for those with mobility or health considerations. Learners with medical conditions are advised to seek appropriate guidance before joining.

Baby yoga and parent relaxation
A gentle class supporting bonding through movement, helping babies' development while offering parents simple relaxation techniques to support wellbeing.

Gentle yoga
Ideal for learners looking to reduce stress and introduce yoga, often for the first time, as part of a holistic approach to improving overall physical and mental wellbeing.

Qi Gong
A gentle, uplifting movement practice rooted in traditional Chinese wellbeing. Using flowing, low impact movements, Qi Gong is suitable for learners of all ages, abilities and bodies, offering an accessible way to support balance and wellbeing.

Mindfulness
This 12-week mindfulness and meditation course offers a gentle and supportive introduction to mindful living and meditation practices. Each week you will explore practical ways to bring more calm, balance, and awareness into everyday life through guided meditations, breath awareness, relaxation techniques, and simple mindfulness practices.

Baby massage – parent club
A supportive programme for parents and carers to learn safe, gentle baby massage while encouraging relaxation and bonding. Sessions build understanding of babies' non verbal cues, stress and self calming, along with guidance on timing, suitable oils and creating a calm routine.

Baby yoga and relaxation
A gentle class for parents who are new to yoga or returning to practice after having a baby. Suitable for babies from six weeks up to crawling, sessions include guided relaxation to support parental wellbeing and provide techniques that can be practised at home.







Learning support and essential skills



Supported learning
Practical courses for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, delivered in small, supportive classes. Teaching focuses on building independence, with supported cookery courses promoting healthy living and confidence in the kitchen.

English and Maths
Programmes designed to help learners improve essential skills, gain recognised qualifications and progress into further study or employment, including GCSE resits. Courses offer clear, supportive pathways that build confidence in reading, writing and numeracy for everyday life, work and learning.

Functional skills (English and Maths)
Practical qualifications for learners of all ages, focused on building real world skills for everyday life, work and further learning. Examples include writing emails or formal letters and understanding payslips and household bills. Flexible assessments throughout the year allow learners to progress at a pace that suits their circumstances.

English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
Courses designed for learners who are settled in the UK and want to improve their English skills for everyday life, work or further study. Courses are available from beginner to advanced levels and support progress towards nationally recognised qualifications. Learners develop confidence in speaking and listening, reading and writing, and grammar and punctuation.

Careers and work skills
Practical courses designed to support adults looking to change career, return to work or build confidence for new opportunities. Learners can develop IT and digital skills, work towards recognised qualifications, and access support with CV writing, job applications and job searching. Courses are taught at a supportive pace, with flexible online options available, and many may be free for jobseekers and eligible residents.







Look out for the new
Medway Adult Education prospectus
publishing later this year

WHY TRYING *Something* NEW IS A WORKOUT FOR YOUR BRAIN

Ever wondered why experts keep telling us to learn new things? It's not just about picking up a hobby or adding a skill to your CV, doing something unfamiliar is one of the best ways to keep your brain healthy and sharp.

YOUR BRAIN LOVES A CHALLENGE

When you learn a new skill, it could be anything from speaking a different language, playing an instrument, or experimenting with painting it's like taking your brain to the gym for a workout. These activities stimulate areas of the brain responsible for memory, problem-solving, and creativity. In simple terms, you're helping your brain stay flexible and adaptable.



Benefits you can feel

Trying new things isn't just good for your brain it's good for your mood and overall wellbeing. Here's what happens when you take on a new challenge:

STRESS REDUCTION: Focusing on a new activity can put you in a "flow" state, where you're fully absorbed and relaxed.

HAPPINESS BOOST: Learning triggers the release of dopamine, the feel-good chemical.

SHARPER THINKING: New skills improve your ability to juggle tasks and solve problems.

RESILIENCE: You become better at coping with life's ups and downs.

THE SCIENCE PART (MADE SIMPLE)

Our brains have an amazing ability called **neuroplasticity.** This means they can form new connections and pathways when we challenge them with something new. Think of it like getting a six-pack every time you step out of your comfort zone, your brain gets stronger.

mind & BODY GYM

COOKING WOODWORK PUZZLES PAINTING COOKING LANGUAGE



School's out!

'School's out for summer, school's out forever', as the old song goes, and while the second half of that lyric might not be strictly accurate, it can sometimes feel like it.

Without proper planning, the middle of August can begin to morph into a strange lost world where the laws of time no longer apply, and parents are haunted by the daily cry of *'What are we doing today?'.*

Thankfully, help is at hand, with enough activities to keep even the most energetic kids on the go throughout the summer. Here are a few ideas to help you through.

Summer sorted with Everyday Active

If you're looking for free and affordable ways to keep the family moving this summer, Everyday Active has you covered, with a huge range of free and low cost activities in Medway, from local walks and community fitness sessions to family friendly sports.

Head to: **EverydayActiveKent.org.uk/Communities/Medway**

Screens off, summer's on with MedwayGo!

MedwayGo is back, offering low cost and free holiday activities for families in Medway. With sports, drama, coding, music and more, children can stay active, try new things and make friends.

This summer's sessions bring spaces for siblings and options for children with SEND, making it easier than ever for families to take part.

Sessions run between 27 July and 21 August. Visit: **Go.Medway.gov.uk**









Explore nature at Medway's country parks

The summer holidays don't have to be all about planned activities – Medway's country parks offer acres of countryside where children can play and discover a fascination with nature.

See how many bird species you can spot at Riverside Country Park, climb a hill at Ranscombe Farm Nature Reserve, or explore the ancient woodland and meadows of Capstone Country Park.

Who knew eight of our parks were recognised as some of the best in the world, with Green Flag status?

Visit: **Medway.gov.uk/Parks**

Take advantage of our Mini Youth Sports Camps

Need childcare cover during the school holidays? Starting from as little as £13, you can choose from morning, afternoon, full day or a whole week of sessions. The camps are available to children aged seven to 11 and will take place at Medway Park and Strood Sports Centre throughout the summer holidays, offering a range of activities.

Don't forget: Medway Sport Premier Members get **20% off** all Sports Camp sessions

Visit: **Medway.gov.uk/SportsCamps**



Cozenton Park swimming: Flume fun this summer

Why not visit our family indoor leisure pool with wave ball and flume ride, a shallow 'beach style' toddler pool with interactive play and accessible pool lifts.

There's plenty of inflatable sessions, too, across all four swimming pools at Cozenton, Medway Park, Hoo and Strood Sports Centres. Children can also swim for £1, with a paying adult, during family sessions in the school holidays.

For swimming lessons, the Medway Sport Swim Academy follows the Swim England Learn to Swim programme and delivers high quality lessons in a relaxed, fun and safe environment. Join us in the summer for a crash course or sign-up for lessons in the autumn term.

Visit: **Medway.gov.uk/Swimming**

And finally… good luck!

Before you head out to enjoy the holidays around Medway, good luck to everyone expecting exam results this summer.

If you are not sure what to do after your exams, or are disappointed with your results, we recommend you speak to your school in the first instance. However, there is lots of advice out there to help support you, from emotional wellbeing support through Kooth to our Information, Advice and Guidance service for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Visit: **Medway.gov.uk/IAG** or **Kooth.com**

Go All In for National Year of Reading!

We're right in the thick of this year's National Year of Reading and so far it's been a thrilling page-turner of a year. We've loved seeing and hearing about what you're doing to 'Go All In' to read about anything and everything that inspires you.



Anything goes, and the campaign's 'Go All In' approach aims to bring reading into everyday life through people's passions; from your love of sport to music or gaming, film and fashion, or of course our own personal favourite - local council news.

Whatever your interest and whatever your preferred way of reading about it, Medway's libraries have it – audio books, eBooks, a full digital library, eMagazines, picture books, graphic novels – we've got them all.

It's all about making reading fun, but there's a serious point behind the campaign; because while there are multiple benefits from reading for pleasure, fewer people are doing it.

Nevertheless, literature of all kinds is more accessible than ever before, and with access to top digital library apps Libby and BorrowBox, our libraries are a great place to start exploring what's on offer.

Improving literacy can help build confidence, concentration, knowledge and inspire curiosity in other subjects, and once you've begun the journey it can lead to a new dimension of creativity and inspiration.

So remember, reading doesn't have to be Crime and Punishment, but it might just lead to a Brave New World…or even Medway Matters.

Book clubs

Reading is also brilliant way to connect with others, and Medway's libraries play host to a wealth of different book clubs where you can find like-minded readers.

For more information on book clubs, visit: Medway.gov.uk/BookClubs



Summer Reading Challenge

With the National Year of Reading in full swing, this year's Summer Reading Challenge in Medway's libraries is bigger than ever.

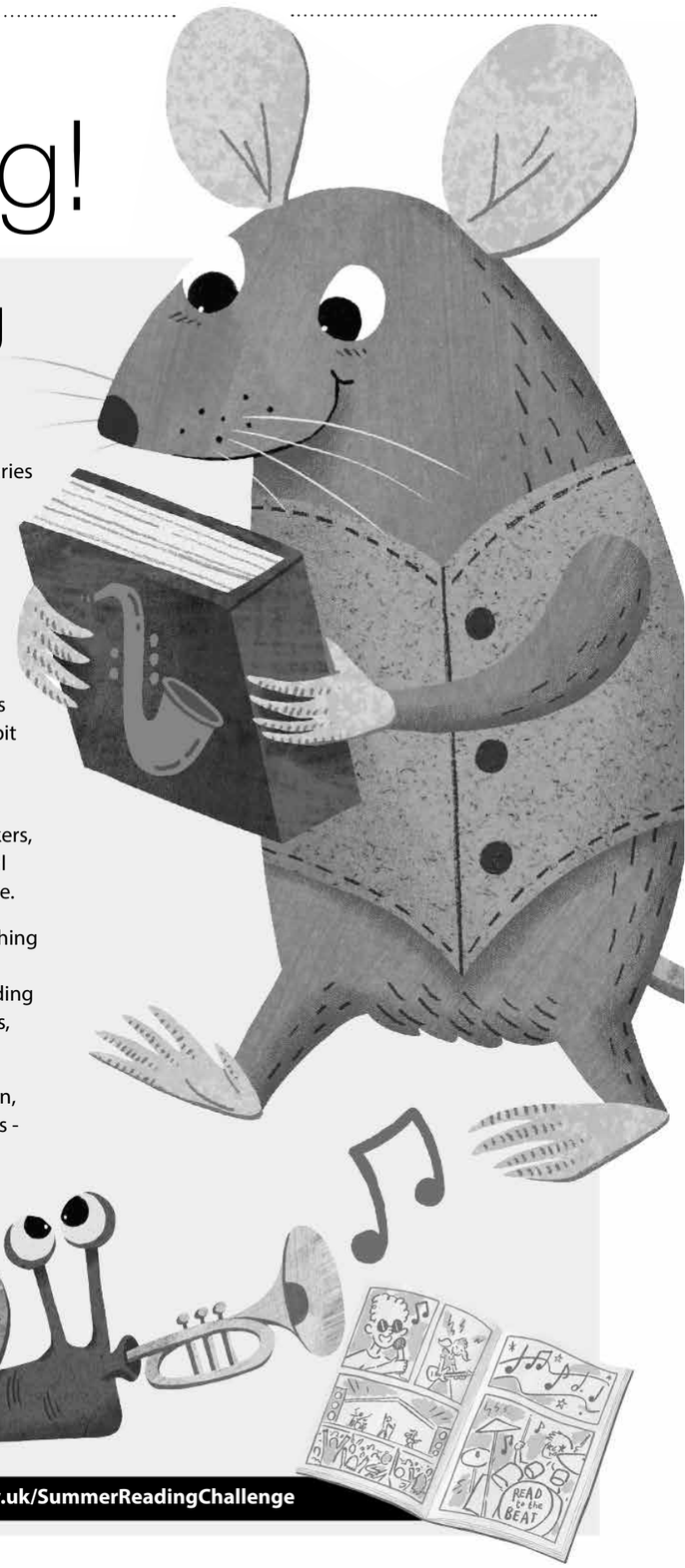
This year's theme is Read to the Beat, inspiring children to explore connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music can ignite imagination and creativity.

Aimed at four to 11-year-olds the challenge runs across our libraries throughout the summer holidays and is a great way to kickstart a positive reading habit at a young age.

Every year the challenge invites children to read six books over the summer, with special prizes like stickers, bookmarks, and badges on offer, along with a medal and certificate for those who complete the challenge.

Three other exciting challenges mean there's something for all age groups to join in the fun, from the Mini Challenge for 0-3 year-olds, to the Young Adult Reading Challenge for 12 to 17-year-olds, and Medway Reads, for everyone aged over 18.

Every book counts - whether it's fiction or non-fiction, graphic novels, picture books, audiobooks or eBooks - you read what you love, your way.



For more information, visit: Medway.gov.uk/SummerReadingChallenge

Caring for Medway's carers



All over Medway people are supporting young people in need, and now they have increased support themselves thanks to kinship care.

Throughout history, friends and extended families have stepped in to take care of young people in difficult circumstances, more often without extra support from wider society.

Now Medway's involvement in a government pilot scheme is enabling us to provide allowances to such carers – known as kinship carers – offering them help towards the costs of raising a child, along with advice, guidance and a listening ear.

Participants in the Kinship Zones pilot will receive payments exempt from tax, not means tested, matched to the national minimum fostering rates, and can claim child benefits.

Among those supported by the Kinship Zones pilot in Medway is Aishat, who stepped in to look after her nieces after a sad bereavement.

Aishat explained: "I applied because I wanted to keep my nieces who are siblings together, so that their sisterly bond can be preserved, and for them to have that needed stability without losing their confidence and identity by providing them with the unconditional love every member of a family needs. It also gives me that sense of duty as their aunty and avoid putting them in the foster care system."

Aishat said Medway Council's Kinship team had been 'very informative, educative, and encouraging', and recommended the scheme for others thinking about stepping in to care for a close relative or friend.

"It is very good, rewarding, satisfactory to the children, helpful and needed as a matter of stability for the children," she added.

"The best thing about being a kinship carer is the ability to maintain a child's sense of belonging, and security during their difficult time. And because a relationship already exists between us, the children don't have to face the added trauma of living with strangers."

To find out if you are eligible to join the pilot, and to apply, visit: Medway.gov.uk/KinshipCare



Expecting or new parent?

Join free BumpClub Walks across Medway – meet other new parents for gentle walks, a chit-chat and the opportunity to speak to one of our team for advice.

Sign-up: Medway.gov.uk/BumpClub

Occupational therapy

Our occupational therapists are helping to make a huge difference to lives all over Medway, supporting adults who find everyday tasks difficult because of illness, disability, or getting older.

Whether it's advice to help you stay independent or further support if things become more challenging, our goal is to help you do the activities that matter to you and support your health and wellbeing.

An occupational therapist can help with:

- **Getting in and out of your home.**
- **Using your bed, chair, toilet, or bath.**
- **Preparing food and doing kitchen tasks.**
- **Moving safely around your home, including stairs.**
- **Deciding on major adaptations.**
- **Manual handling, and care and support needs.**
- **Connecting you with services.**

To find out more, visit:

Medway.gov.uk/OccupationalTherapy



New community supermarket launching in the heart of Chatham

A new community supermarket offering affordable and healthy food is set to support residents when it opens in The Pentagon Shopping Centre later this year.

Part-funded through the Crisis and Resilience Fund, it is designed to help local people shop smarter, spend less and waste less. Offering affordable food, everyday essentials and fresh produce at lower prices.

The shop will offer more than just low-cost food; visitors will also be able to choose to access a range of wrap-around support, including community information pop-ups, budgeting advice, employment support, digital skills training and more.

To find out about other help and support on offer, visit:

Medway.gov.uk/HouseholdHelp



BesideYou every step of the way

World Breastfeeding Week (1–7 August) is a chance to celebrate and support families on their feeding journeys.

BesideYou Medway offers trusted, friendly guidance to help families prepare for breastfeeding, recognise good attachment, ease discomfort and understand what's normal.

Families can also book free peer support sessions with trained supporters who can check positioning, answer questions and provide practical help at any stage. Sessions run weekly across Medway's family hubs. For support or to book a session, visit:

BesideYouMedway.co.uk

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Your bespoke Medway home help service now delivers delicious, freshly prepared hot meals - seven days a week!

Take Care is a reliable, trustworthy home care provider delivering personalised and compassionate support. Its bespoke approach, experienced and dedicated carers, and commitment to transparency and accountability make **Take Care** the number one choice for those looking for high-quality home and respite care services. It also provides a **hot meal delivery service 7 days a week**. Visit **www.takecareltd.co.uk** for the full range of services.



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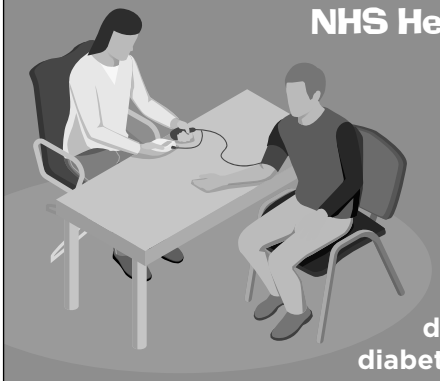

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At Amherst Court, we provide 24-hour residential, nursing, dementia, and respite care and support.

Our care home community features a modern design and layout, with well-equipped, spacious en-suite bedrooms and an extensive range of amenities.

Our approach is to think about care differently, we believe *"Everyone Matters"* and is unique. We support our residents wellbeing through activities, to maintain the aspects of life that are most important to them.



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Get in touch 01634 624 253

avantecare.org.uk Palmerston Road, Chatham, ME4 6LU

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Supporting businesses of all sizes

Businesses around Medway can now get a free new makeover through the Medway Shopfront Improvement Scheme.

Thanks to funding we were awarded through Medway's Pride in Place Impact Fund (PIPIF), £300,000 is being provided to businesses across Medway to improve the external appearance of retail and hospitality properties.

This funding is free to apply for, and the grant can help towards making your business entrance look more inviting and welcoming to potential customers.

Available funding includes:

- Grants of up to £2,500 (per business) for cosmetic improvements such as repairs, repainting, signage and lighting.
- For bigger changes, grants of up to £5,000 (per business) are available for structural works, including accessibility enhancements, window display improvements, brickwork and stonework repairs.

Grants must be awarded to businesses by 31 March 2027. Proposals must be finalised and grant offer letters signed by this date.

For details on the full eligibility criteria, visit: **Medway.gov.uk/ShopfrontGrant**

Business for Medway provide a range of funding schemes available for local businesses.



Pureplanet Cafe

Pureplanet Cafe is the first Medway business to use funding from the Medway Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme to transform their business. They were awarded a total of £3,150 to carry out works on their windows across their shopfront to enhance insulation and increase security.



Funding the sweetest dreams

We want to see Medway's businesses thrive - whether you're based on our high streets, in town centres, shopping parades, business parks or villages.

In May, we visited Cocoba, Medway's only chocolate factory, located on Knights Road in Rochester, which has successfully secured funding through our Business for Medway initiative. Cocoba is the second business in Medway to be awarded both Partners for Growth and Partners for Green Growth grants. They have been awarded £7,000 in total, which has recently been used to make improvements, such as installing environmentally sound LED lighting for increased safety and sustainability.

Expanding our housing stock for Medway residents

Our ever-growing supply of council housing is set to be boosted once again by the purchase of another 791 properties.

The planned acquisition was approved by Cabinet in April, supporting our housing team's efforts to meet demand for homes, and was hailed as a 'significant opportunity to secure a large volume of affordable housing in a single transaction'.

Once completed the purchase would be a significant addition to the council's stock of social housing, which currently stands at approximately 3,057 properties.

It will not only enhance our ability to provide social housing, but also reduces costs to the council and saves taxpayers' money in the long run, as the cost per property is less than buying from the secondary market or building new properties.

Growing our own stock of council housing provides residents with secure tenancies, and ensures they have an accessible landlord.

The purchase is now set to go ahead subject to financial and regulatory due diligence, and will benefit future generations of Medway.

Additional and selective licensing

Consultation has now completed on proposals to launch additional and selective licensing schemes, to help improve standards in accommodation for renters in Medway.

Launched in March, the consultation ran for 10 weeks, closing early June.

An additional licensing scheme is a local scheme which would require licenses for houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) that fall outside of the mandatory national scheme; while a selective licensing scheme would require private landlords to license all rental properties.



Both schemes aim to improve housing standards, tackle anti-social behaviour, protect tenants and support good landlords by creating a fairer rental market.

For more information about housing support in Medway, visit:

Medway.gov.uk/Housing



Housing estate undergoes improvements

We take our responsibilities as a social housing landlord seriously, and nowhere is that more evident than the refurbishment programme at St Albans Close, Gillingham.

The development is one of our largest housing estates and the new works are a significant undertaking, bringing a number of improvements including full balcony replacements, fire door upgrades, improved insulation and thermal efficiency.

It will also see further improvements to communal areas, including decorations, flooring improvements, fencing works and more to help modernise the building.

A budget of £2.5million was approved for the refurbishment, which is expected to complete in December 2026.

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Shining a light on Medway's history

An exciting new project has seen young people use digital technology to shine a light on some fascinating Medway history.

Intra Stories is a collection of 13 new digital heritage stories collected by young people along the old High Street (Intra area) – the historic and upcoming vibrant area between Chatham and Rochester.

The project focused on local entertainment history; the exciting theatres and DIY punk scene through to its LGBTQIA+ social history.

You can now scan art murals as you walk along the old high street and pick up a free zine to access 3D interactive content on your mobile phone, making use of audio and augmented reality.

The project has been supported with funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and by creative tech organisation Electric Medway.

> "Digital technology now offers new ways to engage young people with their local history. Music and theatre have been great ways to draw younger generations into exploring further back.
>
> Through the Intra Stories project we have looked at recent moments, as well as hundreds of years ago. I'm excited to see so many new and diverse stories coming out of this process for the young people involved, adding a new take on the existing body of knowledge in Medway."
>
> *Electric Medway CEO, Janet Moore*











Photo ©: Tyler Austin and Electric Medway.

Visit: ElectricMedway.org

Get ready for a fresh start



Without wishing the summer away… after a long summer of fun, it'll be time to polish the shoes and set the alarm – for a school term of even more fun.

Let's be honest, whether you're preparing to begin primary school, starting secondary school or heading into sixth form or college, the first week back can be a time of readjustment, change and challenges – but the right preparation will help children and young people embrace an exciting fresh start to the academic year.

For younger children, the **School Readiness Questionnaire** offers parents and carers of children due to start reception a simple way to check how prepared their child feels for the year ahead.

Available from September, the questionnaire covers everyday skills like independent dressing and using the toilet. The optional questionnaire helps families reflect on their child's confidence and routines, while offering the chance to request support from the health visiting team, if needed. It's a reassuring tool designed to help every child start school feeling ready, supported, and set up to thrive.
Find out more at: Medway.gov.uk/SchoolReady



Medway Youth Pass

Young people who live in Medway can apply for a Medway Youth Pass.

The pass allows them to travel at a discounted rate on any local bus service, which starts in Medway.

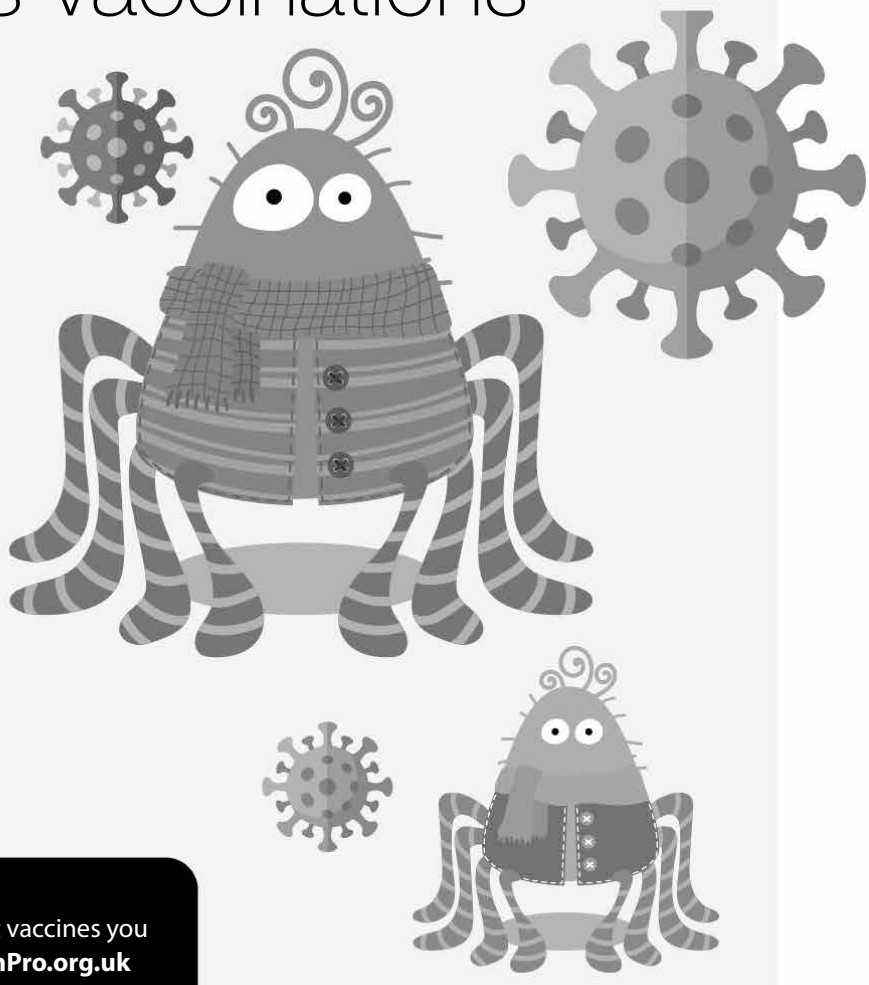
For single journeys before 9am, show the Medway Youth Pass to the bus driver to get the child fare. Child fares are available in the afternoon automatically.

There are two types of youth pass – one for people aged under 16 and another for 16 to 18-year-olds.

For more details on Medway Youth Pass, visit:
Medway.gov.uk/MedwayYouthPass



Are your child's vaccinations up-to-date?



As children and young people across Medway get ready for a new school year, or go off to university or college, it's the perfect time to check that their vaccinations are fully up-to-date.

Vaccines remain the best defence against serious illnesses such as measles, mumps and meningitis, all of which can lead to severe complications.

As your child returns to school, they'll also be offered the **free flu nasal spray ahead of winter bug season.**

Giving consent for this is an easy, but important, step in protecting them, reducing their risk of becoming seriously unwell and helping them stay healthy and learning throughout the school year.

You can find out more on the NHS website or contact your GP to check your child's vaccinations are up to date. **Visit: NHS.uk/Vaccinations**

If you are heading abroad this summer, check what vaccines you and your family may need by visiting: **TravelHealthPro.org.uk**

School Streets

We're continuing our commitment to making school journeys safer and more sustainable across Medway. Following the initial launch of seven sites in March 2024, and five further sites in 2025, we introduced two additional School Streets on 8 June 2026 at Horsted Primary School, Crest Infant School and Delce Adademy, bringing our total to 14 locations.

A School Street restricts vehicle access outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times in term time – creating safer, cleaner spaces for walking and cycling. The benefits include reduced traffic and congestion, safer routes for children and cleaner air. Restrictions apply only during term-time during drop-off and pick-up hours. Weekends and school holidays are unaffected.



To find out more and apply for an exemption, visit: Medway.gov.uk/SchoolStreets

Contact Medway Council

Visit: **Medway.gov.uk**

It's easier and faster to pay bills and parking fines, apply for a school place, find out bin collection times, renew library books, report fly-tipping or road damage, claim housing benefit or council tax reduction and much more online.

•Phone: **01634 333333,**
Mon to Fri: 9am-5pm

• Phone: **01634 332222,**
for council tax and benefit enquiries.
Mon to Fri: 9am-5pm

Write to:
Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR

You can also contact us through a live British Sign Language interpreter: **Medway.gov.uk/BSL**
Mon to Fri: 9am – 5pm

Local access to council services:

- **Chatham Community Hub**, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TX. *Mon to Fri: 9am-6pm, Sat: 9am-5pm.*
- **Gillingham Community Hub**, High Street, Gillingham, ME7 1BG. *Mon to Fri: 9am-6pm, Sat: 9am-5pm.*
- **Lordswood Community Hub**, Kestrel Road, Lordswood, Chatham, ME5 8TH. *Mon, Thu, Fri: 9am-5pm, Tue: 2-5pm, Sat: 10am-4pm.*
- **Rochester Community Hub**, Eastgate, Rochester, ME1 1EW. *Mon to Fri: 9am-6pm, Sat: 10am-4pm.*
- **Strood Community Hub**, 133 High Street, Strood, ME2 4TJ. *Mon to Fri: 9am-6pm, Sat: 9am-5pm.*
- **Twydall Community Hub,** 13-15 Twydall Green, ME8 6JY. *Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 9am-5pm, Wed: 9am-1pm, Sat: 10am-4pm. Housing – Tue: 1-4pm*
- **Wigmore Community Hub**, 208 Fairview Ave, Gillingham, ME8 0PX. *Tue, Wed, Fri: 9am-6pm, Thu 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm*

Concerned about a child or adult?

If you are concerned about a child or adult, please report via: **Medway.gov.uk/SafeguardingChildren** or **Medway.gov.uk/SafeguardingAdults**
Phone: **01634 334466** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or **03000 419 191** (emergency out-of-hours)

Council meeting calendar

Audit Committee
30 July, 10 Sept, 29 Oct (6.30pm)

Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee
20 Aug, 22 Oct, 26 Nov (All 6.30pm)

Cabinet
4 & 25 Aug, 22 Sept, 20 Oct, 17 Nov (All 7pm)

Cabinet Sub-Committee
(Norse) 24 Sept (6pm), 24 Nov (7pm)
(Kyndi) 17 Sept (6pm), 17 Nov (5pm)
(Medway Development Company)
8 Sept, 12 Nov (6pm)

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
12 Aug, 1 Oct (All 6.30pm)

Council
16 July, 15 Oct (All 7pm)

Councillor Conduct Committee
8 July, 5 Aug, 9 Sept, 7 Oct, 4 Nov (All 6pm)

Employment Matters Committee
1 Sept (7pm)

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
19 Aug, 13 Oct (6.30pm)

Health and Wellbeing Board
3 Sept, 19 Nov (All 2pm)

Licensing and Safety Committee
6 Aug, 28 Oct (All 6pm)

Licensing Hearing Panel
21 July, 4 & 18 Aug, 1, 15 & 29 Sept, 13 & 27 Oct, 10 & 24 Nov (All 9.30am)

Licensing Sub-Committee
21 Aug, 9 Oct (All 1pm)

Planning committee
29 July, 26 Aug, 23 Sept, 21 Oct, 18 Nov (All 6.30pm)

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
13 Aug, 8 Oct (All 6.30pm)

There will be no meetings at Gun Wharf while improvement work takes place.

Dates and venues could change. For up-to-date information, visit: **Medway.gov.uk/CouncilMeetings**

Contact a councillor

(L) Labour and Co-operative Group
(C) Conservative Group
(R) Reform UK Group
(IG) Independent Group
(I) Independent Member

All Saints

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Vacancy
Cllr Phil Filmer died on 5 May 2026.
Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and friends.

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Phone: 07806 823296

To contact a councillor in writing, please address correspondence to:
Medway Council
Member Services,
Gun Wharf, Dock Road,
Chatham, ME4 4TR

Councillor social network details can be found at: Medway.gov.uk/Councillor

Give a child a happy home and gain love in return



We are looking for new foster carers to provide homes for children in care.

- **develop skills and learn new things**
- **receive payments, allowances and a discount on your council tax**
- **meet other foster carers in our supportive community**

FOSTER for Medway

Could you foster?

Visit: **Medway.gov.uk/Fostering**

or phone: **01634 335726**

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