

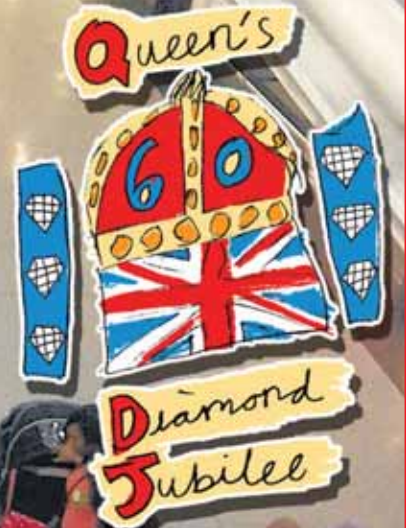
PARENTS NEWS

May 2012 No. 209 The First & Foremost Local Monthly Newspaper for Families

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FREE

What's On May Bumper Calendar of Events



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Invesec Derby Festival

1-2 June 2012
www.epsomdowns.co.uk

www.centrale.co.uk

The Big Jubilee Lunch
www.madametussauds.com/london

St Lawrence College
www.slcluk.com

www.farming-world.co.uk

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PARENTS NEWS believes that society's best asset is its young people! We shall accept no advertising in the opinion of the Publisher, is considered demeaning to children. We intend to encourage environmental, health, and non-violent issues, but not to preach or claim to always be right. Different opinions published are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of **PARENTS NEWS**. We hope mums and dads enjoy the articles, be interested by Calendar (finding it useful), and use the advertisers. Any endorsement by **PARENTS NEWS** is explicitly stated.

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What's On

Camping for Beginners

Whether you're a first time festival goer or have decided to camp out during the Olympics to cut costs, **Vango's Adventure Tents** ensure that your event with no experience can pitch up like a pro. Ideal for first timers and people on the move due to the pack weight and versatility of the space, the **Adventure tents** range from **Jango** have plenty of features to keep you dry and comfortable. With hotly anticipated UK festival line ups being announced and Summer holidays not too far off, there's really no better time to get out into the great outdoors with your family and friends.

A new style for 2012, the **Ark DS** has full length front windows to let in plenty of light as well as an added inner tent. The front door of the tent can also be turned into a sun porch to create even more much needed relaxation space. Sleeping 2,3 or 4 people and available in bright yellow, green or classic

black, the **Ark DS** also features colour coded poles and a handy loop to hang your lantern.

Vango Sigma 300 £100, **Sigma 300+** £120.
An ideal option for the more technical camper due to its dome-style structure adding flexible stability. Updated for 2012, the **Sigma** features cleaner aesthetics and higher porch poles for additional height. Large windows will allow plenty of light into the tent and the breathable polyester inert tent and new linked in groundsheet will stay comfortable while keeping your possessions dry.

Vango Dart DS 200: £85, **Dart DS 300**: £100
Ideal for new campers and updated for 2012, the **Dart DS** offers separate sleeping porch areas thanks to its pre-attached inner whilst still providing the simplicity of a pop up tent. Light can pour in thanks to the

new, large front windows but a good night's sleep can still be had by all due to the built in privacy curtains. Great internal space and a small pack size make the **Dart DS** easy to carry and great to use.

Vango Tigris 400 XL.
The new **Tigris XL** is a major update of the well loved **Tigris**. The added front pole doubles as a living space and creates an area ideal for storage and relaxing, perfect for a holiday. Pitching time 20 mins.

All in one or Flysheet First pitching Easy pitch tunnel style. Tension Band System. Lightweight inner groundsheet. Colour coded poles. New larger windows New privacy curtain New low level vents. Easy find inner clips. Pelmet with pockets 3 mesh doors. Handled carry bag



Little Paddock becomes Bigger Paddock!

Little Paddock, a collection of Scandinavian-style lodges located on the borders of the New Forest and Avon Heath Country Park has just added 'Snowdrop Cottage' to the collection, taking the total to nine.

As with all the lodges, **Snowdrop Cottage** is individually decorated, and features include a bathroom with a hand-made rubber bath – complete with barber duck and rain shower! – lounge/diner with a 32" TV/DVD, bedroom with king-sized white faux leather bed, a fully-fitted kitchen and a large decking area.

The lodges are all designed for just two people and the complex is 'adult only' ensuring a peaceful and relaxing break, even during the summer school holidays.

There are also three delightful B&B rooms available in owners **Brett & Sue Jones's** main house, within the site, each of which can be accessed privately through French doors.

The complex has a resident's alcohol licence and Sue and Brett can provide meals



May 2012

May 2012

Enjoy the sunshine and all the fun of the farm!

Children love to explore and as summer arrives there are more opportunities to get out and do just that. Sometimes it is difficult to find places or activities that can entertain all members of the family but **Farming World** has a wide range of activities to suit all age groups. There is plenty to keep the family occupied for a whole day and the cost of entrance won't break the bank! **Farming World** is conveniently situated just off the M2 between Faversham and Boughton. It is a family run open farm with the emphasis firmly placed on fun in a safe environment. There are plenty of attractions for everyone to enjoy and the farm also has a wide variety of special events planned throughout the year. The half term activities and bank holiday fun begin with **Picnic in the Park** taking place on the 4th June.

Farming World encourage people to come to the farm with a picnic and enjoy the outdoors and get involved in the celebrations going on at the farm. Children will also gain free entry to the farm when dressed as a King or Queen (conditions apply). Further activities that are planned for the half term include **Sheep Shearing & Wool Week (4th June - 8th June)** when you can follow the progress of wool

from fleece to woolly jumper! Watch the farm's sheep being sheared (1-4pm daily), see and do just that. Sometimes it is difficult to find places or activities that can entertain all members of the family but **Farming World** has a wide range of activities to suit all age groups. There is plenty to keep the family occupied for a whole day and the cost of entrance won't break the bank! **Farming World** is conveniently situated just off the M2 between Faversham and Boughton. It is a family run open farm with the emphasis firmly placed on fun in a safe environment. There are plenty of attractions for everyone to enjoy and the farm also has a wide variety of special events planned throughout the year. The half term activities and bank holiday fun begin with **Picnic in the Park** taking place on the 4th June. **Farming World** encourage people to come to the farm with a picnic and enjoy the outdoors and get involved in the celebrations going on at the farm. Children will also gain free entry to the farm when dressed as a King or Queen (conditions apply). Further activities that are planned for the half term include **Sheep Shearing & Wool Week (4th June - 8th June)** when you can follow the progress of wool

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Tin Bath Theatre presents: Bee Detective

Part of the **Unlimited Cultural Olympiad** programme and the **London 2012 Festival** An outdoor theatre show for deaf and hearing children Created by **Sophie Woolley** NATIONAL TOUR: **SAT 5 MAY - SUN 2 SEP** In parks and squares across the UK this summer, children will be invited to step into the inner sanctum of a bee hive to help solve a honey bee murder mystery as **Sophie Bee**, champion forger, turns detective to track down the honey bees when they go missing from the Queen Bee's birthday party.

Bee Detective is an interactive, multisensory adventure. The action is both spoken and signed, with projected animation and creative captioning making the show both accessible and dynamic. Through vibration effects children will be able to feel the buzzing of the bees, and will be invited to join in the "waggle dance" that is used by bees to explain where pollen and nectar

can be found in the outside world. The project is one of the twelve new commissions for **Unlimited**, the ground-breaking **London 2012 Cultural Olympiad** programme that celebrates art and culture by disabled and deaf artists on an unprecedented scale. The only children's show of all the **Unlimited** commissions, **Bee Detective** is created by Sophie Woolley, who is deaf, and is designed for both deaf and hearing children aged six upwards. **Bee Detective** is also part of the **London 2012 Festival**, the spectacular 12-week nationwide celebration running from 21 June until 9 September 2012 bringing together leading artists from across the world with the very best from the UK. Sophie Woolley is a writer and actor from London. As well as her stage plays, she is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 3 and 4 (notably afternoon plays *When to Run* and *Carbon Cleansing*). A recent graduate of Channel 4's screenwriting

course, she also starred as a deaf mum-to-be in Channel 4's award winning *Cast Offs* series. Her first play, *When to Run* toured the UK 2006 - 2008, with sell out runs at the *Royal Festival Hall*, *Soho Theatre* and *Manchester's Royal Exchange* studio. She followed this up with *Fight Face* at *Hammersmith Lyric*. She was an attached writer at *Soho Theatre* from 2005 - 2006. **Tin Bath** is a theatre company formed by **Sophie Woolley** and director **Gemma Fairlie**. The company produces exciting interactive theatre that is accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people. They have created a unique way of captioning theatre that uses animation, graphics, text and visual jokes. The result is part video game, part cartoon and entertaining to all. This is the company's first show for children.

www.beedetective.biz
Running Time: 45 minutes | Suitable for ages 6+



Blowing the Whistle on the General Dental Council.

Traditional train tracks create flat faces, big noses and tired looking eyes: if you doubt this, just look at those who have been treated in the past. They also routinely damage the enamel and roots of the teeth and worse still the teeth go crooked again unless the patient wears a brace for the rest of their life. Extractions of sound teeth are almost always required although patients may not be told about this until near the end of treatment. Newer treatments can achieve better and more permanent results without extractions but orthodontists avoid comparative research as they don't want the damage they do to faces to be exposed.

Worst of all the General Dental Council allows orthodontists to withhold information about some newer methods. This leaves many patients accepting extractions and even major surgery unaware that improved techniques can render them unnecessary. If you have suffered you are entitled to compensation.

There is another way.

Take a second opinion now. Nine years old may be too late.

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Have you considered using an Ofsted Registered Childminder?

- Childminders offer a safe, homely environment. Children are cared for in small numbers allowing for individual needs to be planned for and met.
- Registered Childminders hold Paediatric First Aid certificates, Public Liability Insurance, and Criminal Records Bureau checks for anyone in their household 16 or over. They are inspected by Ofsted and deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged from birth to five.
- Childminders offer a flexible service, accommodating unsociable working hours, before and after school care, school holidays and siblings of different ages from birth onwards.
- Childminders are part of the local community, regularly taking children out and about to local parks, libraries, Childrens centres and Childminder stay and play sessions. Many also visit farms, soft-play areas and museums.
- Ofsted Registered Childminders are valued members of the Royal Borough of Kingston childcare workforce and are supported by the Local Authority Childcare Support Team to provide high quality childcare within the borough.

Want to know more about Kingston's registered childminders? Please contact the Families Information Service (FIS) on 020 8547 6582 or email FIS@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

FARM FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Visit www.farming-world.co.uk for special event details including:

- Picnic in the Park,
- Sheep Shearing and Wool Week,
- Creepy Crawly Days,
- SpongeBob Square Pants,
- Have a Go Falconry,
- Birds of prey & flying demonstrations,
- Large adventure play,
- Rare breeds & farm animals,
- Heavy horses,
- Indoor soft play,
- Craft room,
- Mini golf course,
- Tractor and Trailer Rides,
- Hot & cold refreshments, (Some activities weather permitting)

Show this advert to receive 50p off entry per person in your party. (PN May, Valid 28/4 - 31/5/12)

Open everyday until 4th Nov.
Farming World, Boughton, Faversham, ME13 9HY
Tel: 01227 751144
M2 junc 7 follow brown signs, sorry no dogs.

Springwatch Saturday 12 May 11am to 4pm
Lakehurst Road KT19 0EB

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What's On

What is Foster Care Fortnight?

Foster Care Fortnight is an annual awareness campaign run by the **Fostering Network**. The aim is to raise the profile of fostering and highlight the urgent need for more foster carers across the UK.

This year's campaign runs from **Monday 14 to Sunday 27 May**. Under the theme of *fostering: time to care*, it will encourage more people to come forward and consider becoming a foster carer.

Fostering services – local authorities and independent agencies – throughout the UK join in the campaign to run local activity promoting the specific needs they have for foster carers in their area. For more information about becoming a foster carer please should contact their local fostering service, visit www.couldyoufoster.org.uk or call Fosterline on **0800 040 7675**.

Why do we need more foster carers? Since the tragic death of baby Peter Connelly in August 2007, more and more children have been coming into care. As the vast majority of children in care live with foster families, thousands of new foster carers are needed now. Children should live with a foster carer whose skills and experience meet the child's individual needs. The shortage of foster carers means fostering services often struggle to find the right home for a child, first time.

As a result, children often have to live with a foster family a long way from their home, are split up from their brothers and sisters, and have to move from Monday to family and school to school.

Frequent moves result in children missing out on the stability they need to help them make friends and build other relationships, and to be in one place long enough to receive the support they need to succeed in education.

A wider pool of foster carers with the right skills and qualities would make it more likely that the right homes can be found for children first time, giving them the best chance of a happy childhood and a successful future.

"I am a qualified solicitor. After working at a specialist young people's law centre I decided to leave my job and become a full-time foster carer for two teenage asylum seekers. They are great lads and my family life is much improved."

Rosella Potts, foster carer

Fostering FAQs
What is fostering?
Fostering is a way of offering children and young people who need to be in care a stable family environment while their own parents are unable to look after them. On any one day,

around 59,000 children live with 45,000 foster families across the UK.

Why do children need fostering?
Foster carers look after children so families have the chance to sort out their problems. These problems can range from a family member's short-term illness to a parents depression or drug or alcohol abuse. Many children have been abused or neglected.

Some children will need to be looked after for only a short time until they can return home, while others will stay with foster carers for the longer term or move elsewhere.

What is the difference between fostering and adoption?
Fostering is usually a temporary way of offering children a home until they can return to their family, although many live with foster carers for years, some for their whole childhoods. Fostered children continue to be legally part of their own family, even if there is limited contact with them.

Adoption provides a new family for a child and their legal relationship with their birth family ends. About 4,000 out of the 75,000 children in care away from home in the UK are awaiting adoptive families. See www.nationaladoptionweek.org.uk

May/ June Events at Battersea Park Children's Zoo

Usual entrance fees apply to all activities (with the exception of the **Friends of Battersea Park BBQ** where entry is included in the ticket price)

Children must always be accompanied by an adult.

26th May - 10th June - Battersea Park Children's Zoo are taking part in the **BLAZA "Love your Zoo"** campaign by holding an **"Animal Portrait Drawing competition"**, children can pick up a drawing pack upon entry and create a portrait of their favourite animal!

The top 3 win an adoption of the animal in their portrait and a **Family Day Ticket** to the zoo.

Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th June Children wearing a Crown or Tiara visiting the zoo can claim a Free biscuit, from our **Lemon Tree Cafe**.

Hedgehog Day Thurs 7th June **The People's Trust for Endangered Species PTES** are visiting the zoo for some hedgehog focussed fun... Story time, meet a real hedgehog & hedgehog themed arts & crafts! 4 x 45min sessions, starting at 11.00...

1st am & 1st pm sessions **ONLY** are bookable in advance through the PTES.

www.ptes.org/events
The 2 other sessions are on a first come first served basis. Max no 30 per session. Usual entrance fees apply. The activity is free.

Father's Day Treat Sunday 17th June Kids treat dad to a free slice of cake!
1 free slice of cake for dad per family

Friends of Battersea Park Barbecue at Children's Zoo Tuesday 19 June 6 - 9pm

Live Music Bar Tombola
Children's Activities Silent Auction
Advance Tickets only
Adults: £15 (£20 after 14th June) Children: £6 Under 6s: Free

Tickets from www.batterseapark.org/bbq
020-7622 5199

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Open 7 days: 10am-5.30pm (last entry 5pm)
Entrance near Chelsea Bridge Gate on Queenstown Road. Closest railway station Battersea Park.

May 2012

May 2012

Enjoy A Taste Of The Great Outdoors in Rye Bay

On land and on water, lovers of the great outdoors can enjoy a huge number of thrilling, healthy and fun activities in **Rye Bay** in 2012.

With the medieval East Sussex town of Rye at its hub, **Rye Bay** is developing a reputation as one of the South East's hottest destinations for outdoor sports and activities. Away from the hilltop town's cobbled streets and old world charms, you can spend your days kitesurfing, sailing, canoeing, horse riding, golfing, fishing, rambling, cycling and even powerboating.

Rye Bay offers excellent sailing throughout the year and the rivers Rother and Tillingham are both popular with canoeists. The Royal Military Canal passes through Rye offering visitors opportunities for boating and fishing. Ramblers are spoilt for choice when it comes to exploring the region on foot – away from the coast there are glorious woodlands and forests and wide open spaces to enjoy.

Across the River Rother estuary lies the 805-acre **Rye Harbour Nature Reserve** that stretches along the shoreline. There are many walking paths,

including one that loops the entire reserve. Local audio walking tours are also offered.

Visitors can also enjoy cycling tours and horse riding breaks. Go hacking in lovely countryside from several riding stables across **Rye Bay**. Cycles can be hired in the town and cyclists have a wide choice when it comes to routes along the leafy lanes and tranquil hamlets.

Cheer on the participants in the 1066 Relay race in May, a five stage off-road team relay race. Back on the water the annual Rye raft race draws large crowds to the town every August. The River Rother flows peacefully through the High Weald to the 14th century Bodiham Castle.

And for the ultimate spectator 'sport' visitors can get a taste of Olympic glory by joining in the fun when Rye welcomes the Olympic torch relay on 18 July.

For more information about holidays and short breaks in **Rye Bay** – including details on where to stay and the outstanding shopping facilities on offer – check out www.visitryebay.com enquiries@visitryebay.com

BBQ Anyone?

We all love BBQing but we are often concerned about how well the meat is cooked. **Superfast Thermapen** digital thermometer will help make sure all's cooked well!

The thermometer incorporates a large digital display with a precise read out of temperature. The true temperature of a product can be tested in under four seconds. The thermapen incorporates a reduced tip, stainless steel, food penetration probe that conveniently folds back through 180 degrees into the side of the instrument when not in use. The thermometer will power off automatically after ten minutes, maximising battery life. The casing is washable & includes 'Biomaster' additive that reduces bacterial growth & the ergonomic rubber seal minimises the risk of the ingress of water, dust or food. The **Thermapen** is available in thirteen colours ideal for many different applications. For more information

01903 202151, www.eitltd.com

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Call fergus **020 8337 6337**
fergus@parents-news.co.uk

Venn Street Food Market

Venn Street Market is a local community food market taking place on Saturdays. The Sunday market will be reintroduced later this year providing food, crafts and plants.

From April onwards many small independent producers takepart at **Venn Street** each week.

Wild Country Organic wide variety of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, aubergines and leaf. It has over 5 acres of glasshouses and grow organic salads and oriental vegetables year round and without heating improving the flavours and making the crops the tastiest available. **Banham II** makes French toasted French floured demiguettes with a choice of freshly cooked meat, fish or tofu fillings with carrot and daikon pickle, cucumber and coriander...

The Culinary Herb Company bringing the freshest edible herbs for any recipe.

The Garlic Farm – All things garlic: fresh and smoked.. Hardcore Prawn – Asian influenced cooking of skewered meats (chicken, pork and steak) and prawns! There are also noodles and soups like Tom Yum and Tom Kha to look out for. www.vennstreetmarket.co.uk 10am – 4pm

What's On

A Norfolk Treat for all the Family

Norfolk Hideaways specialise in high quality coastal cottages along the beautiful north Norfolk coastline.

Jasmine Cottage at **South Creake** is beautifully presented with a contemporary style in a village location, just three miles from Burnham Market.

The dog friendly cottage is spacious with a good sized room on the first floor for children to play in and the house is opposite tennis courts and playing fields.

Two minutes' walk you can find a local pub with a good reputation for food at *The Ostrich*. Cottage features include Limestone flooring with under floor heating, an open fire and stylish kitchen. A lovely bonus to renting this cottage is that exclusive beach huts are available to rent out too at *Wells-next-the-Sea* at just £125 per week.

www.norfolkhideaways.co.uk/smartweb/our-cottages/our-cottages/216-jasmine-cottage

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The Jubilee Family Enclosure on Investec Derby Day

The Jubilee Family Enclosure on **Investec Derby Day** **Epsom Downs Racecourse** have launched the brand new **Jubilee Family Enclosure** on **Investec Derby Day**. This will be a secure area on **The Hill** where families can relax in a safe and friendly environment with entertainment for all to enjoy. Admission is: £5 per adult in advance (17's and under free of charge); £10 per adult on the day.

For more information or to book your tickets in advance, visit www.epsondowns.co.uk

Celebrate with the nation at the **Investec Derby Festival 1-2 June**. **Epsom Downs Racecourse** will be hosting the first engagement of *The Queen's Diamond Jubilee* on **Investec Derby Day** on **June 2nd**. www.epsondowns.co.uk



Photo: David Davies PA Wire

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Education

Helping Children Get Safe 4 Summer

Remember the important messages of staying safe in and around the water, including the 'SAFE' code:

S: Spot the dangers. Whenever children are near water they should take extra care. They should look to see if the water is affected by currents or tides or if there are rocks, piers, groynes or breakwaters that may affect swimming. Children should also learn to look at what the general conditions are like in and out of the water.

A: Advise. Children should always try and choose a place to swim where there are lifeguards and always take notice of safety information that may include warning or safety signs.

F: Friends. If children are going near water they should always go with a friend if they cannot be accompanied an

adult. If your child is with a friend one of them may be able to get help if the other gets into trouble in the water.

E: Emergency. Children should never jump into water to rescue someone. A drowning person may be very strong and pull them under the water as well. Instead they should ring 999 or 112 and shout for help.

For more information on the **Get Safe 4 Summer** campaign visit www.getsafe4summer.org Check out website for programmes at your local pool for instance Tonbridge Swimming Pool and Larkfield Leisure Centre are running a **Get Safe 4 Summer** one day course. Tonbridge Swimming Pool **01732 367449** Larkfield Leisure Centre on **01622 719345**

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The Very Helpful Hedgehog by Rosie Wellesley

Isaac is a solitary hedgehog. He never speaks to anyone and he likes it that way. He eats alone, sleeps alone, lives quietly alone and goes about his life perfectly content with having no friends to talk to. One day, an apple falls from a tree and lands on his back. Isaac tries to shake it off, but the apple has stuck fast to his spines.

Poor Isaac panics – what will he do? He has no friends to help him and he starts to cry. He is crying hard when suddenly a donkey plucks the apple from Isaac's back. The donkey is overjoyed that at last he has an apple to eat, the tree is too far from his paddock for him to ever reach his favourite fruit.

The donkey tries to talk to the little hedgehog and make friends, but Isaac has never had any and doesn't know what to do. So he stays quiet. But returning to his field of leaves, Isaac spots another apple, and an idea forms in his head. This touching story is all about Isaac learning that it's better to have friends and help others, than to be alone.

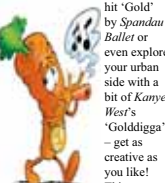
Beautifully illustrated throughout, this timeless tale is perfect for children 3+ yrs. **£5.99**

Go for Gold with the Great British Carrot Whistle Olympics to win a £1,200 Prize!

Carrots are one of the nation's favourite vegetables and it's easy to see why. Not only can you roast them for Sunday lunch, grate them into a sandwich or salad, bake them in a wonderful carrot cake or blend them into a warming soup, but did you know that carrots also make great musical instruments?!

Once a few holes have been made, a carrot is transformed into a recorder you use to play at school. Just type the words 'carrot whistle' into Google and you'll see there's already over sixty million people interested in turning the humble carrot into something you blow!

And now it's your chance to get your hands on a free carrot whistle, courtesy of *The British Carrot Growers' Association*, and get involved with - the **Great British Carrot Whistle Olympics!** Top prize is a limited edition London 2012 set of two gold coins made of 22 carat gold and worth a whopping £1,200! All you have to do to enter is video yourself playing a 'gold' themed song on your carrot whistle and post it on www.facebook.com/greatbritishcarrots Try a rendition of the classic Bond theme 'Goldfinger, belt you there'.



is open to everyone including all amateurs, musicians, schools and music groups etc www.facebook.com/greatbritishcarrots

Young Scientists' Challenging Day

Year 5 pupils from 24 different East Kent primary schools enjoyed an exciting and thought-provoking day at **St Lawrence College Science Department's** explosive 'Chemical Magic Show' on **Thursday 15th March**. The event was sponsored by **EDF Energy** as part of *National Science and Engineering Week*. The teams all participated in a series of challenges during the morning, which included a colourful pH Chemistry task, a Biology enzyme race and a Design Technology competition to build and fire the best rocket. There was

fierece competition in the hi-tech Science quiz after lunch and then pupils and guests were treated to the **St Lawrence College Science Department's** explosive 'Chemical Magic Show'.

The day's events were part of **St Lawrence College's** celebrations for **National Science and Engineering Week** which also included a 'Cool Physics' show, a web-chat with a **NASA** astronaut, a debate on genetic engineering and a Science Fair.

The Headmaster of **St Lawrence College**, Reverend **Mark Aitken**, said: "It was so exciting to see so many budding young scientists from schools in Thanet enjoying a day's exploration using the great facilities at the College."

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www.slukc.com

Bingo with a Zingo!

game whilst the other is all about words and pictures. Described as *Bingo with a Zingo* these games are super speedy and totally addictive! Players compete to match up numbers, or words and pictures to fill their score card as quickly as they can.

Apart from being a lot of fun, a

game of *Zingo* not only builds number and word recognition, it also develops concentration and memory. Suitable for children aged four and up, this is a perfect game to play to boost confidence and support learning. Children will love pressing the red 'Zinger' to release images, this really is interactive bingo!

Even better each *Zingo* game has two levels of play. Younger players will enjoy the 'beginner' games but once they've mastered the basics they'll be clamouring to move onto the advanced level, meaning your set of *Zingo* will last for years and years!

Parents can play *Zingo* too and there is even a handy guide included with every game that offers hints and tips on how to encourage healthy competition, support early readers and build logic so that everyone gets the most out of their game of *Zingo!*

Roger Martin owner of *Coiledspring Games* commented 'We are very excited to have brought *Zingo* to the UK. We want to make sure kids have the opportunity to play and enjoy traditional games, and *Zingo* is a game the whole family can get excited about, enjoy and learn from.'

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May 2012

Nearly half of UK parents keep tabs on teens via Facebook

Is this a new kind of parental relationship, or is it spying?

Parents are keeping tabs on their teens by accessing their **Facebook** accounts without their consent. *AVG Technologies'* latest **Digital Diaries** study reveals.

Digital Coming of Age the fifth instalment of *AVG's Digital Diaries* study, features responses to questions to 4,400 parents with 14-17 year olds in 11 countries. It found that only 30 per cent of UK parents are likely to be concerned about how their teen's interaction with social media sites could affect their future job prospects. This was the lowest figure (excluding the Czech Republic) of all the countries surveyed.

Other key findings from Digital Coming of Age include:

• UK parents are most likely to suspect teens of 'sexting' - nearly one quarter (23 per cent) of UK parents suspect their kids of sexting, compared with their European counterparts in Germany (9 per cent), France (10 per cent), Italy (11 per cent) and Czech Republic (13 per cent)

• 28 per cent of UK parents suspect their teens are illegally downloading music - compared with Spain (45 per cent), Czech Republic (35 per cent), France (30 per cent), Australia and New Zealand (27 per cent), United States (19 per cent).

• UK teens could face up to ten years in jail for illegal downloading as a result of Britain signing the disputed Anti-Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA) bill

• One-fifth of UK parents suspect their teens of accessing pornography on their PC - in comparison to over a quarter of Spanish parents

• Parents 'friending' teens on Facebook - over half of UK parents are connected with their teens on Facebook, compared with United States (72 per cent), Canada (66 per cent), Italy (66 per cent), Spain (64 per cent), New Zealand (60 per cent), Australia (57 per cent), Germany (51 per cent), Czech Republic (50 per cent) and Japan (10 per cent)

• Nearly half of UK parents are worried that their teen's mobile phones are geo-tagged

Only 30% of UK parents concerned about how their teen's interaction with social media sites could affect their future job prospects, compared with Spain (65 per cent), Italy (57 per cent), Germany (47 per cent), France (45 per cent), Australia (42 per cent), Canada (38 per cent), New Zealand (37 per cent), Japan (33 per cent) and Czech Republic (29 per cent).

UK parents most satisfied (59%) with how schools are teaching their teens to responsibly navigate the internet, compared with Spain (54 per cent), United States (49 per cent), Australia (53 per cent), New Zealand (47 per cent), Germany (44 per cent), France (43 per cent), Canada (43 per cent), Japan (42 per cent), Italy (35 per cent) and Czech Republic (31 per cent).

Advertise in **PARENTS NEWS** Call fergus **020 8337 6337** fergus@parents-news.co.uk

BBC Learning & the RSC Unveil Shakespeare Unlocked

A new online learning resource for schools Young people can 'unlock' Shakespeare via new online resources as part of their studies thanks to a new series of short films created by **BBC Learning** and the **Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)**.

These films, produced as part of the **BBC's Shakespeare** season and the **World Shakespeare Festival** bring Shakespeare to life for a secondary school audience. They provide students and teachers with a unique insight into Shakespeare's work through world-class theatre productions and workshops with actors and directors.

Students will be able to "unlock" key scenes from RSC theatre productions of three of Shakespeare's most widely studied and performed plays - *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. By visiting the portal at: www.bbc.co.uk/shakespeare they will be able to click through to explore three pivotal scenes from each play, each containing significant moments for character and plot development.

The series of 12 short films for each play are designed to

help students develop their understanding of language, character development and dramatic devices which are all at the core of the *GCSE English Shakespeare curriculum*. The website will explore the interpretative choices that lie at the heart of all Shakespeare's plays and also provide ideas for activities and discussion in the classroom.

Rebecca Simor, Executive Producer **BBC Learning**, said: "Shakespeare Unlocked has enabled us to create fantastically rich content and resources for both students and teachers who want to delve deeper into these famous plays. By working with the RSC, we've been able to provide a fascinating insight into how actors and directors interpret material and bring it to life for audiences in ways that make

the texts feel as relevant today as they were when they were written."

The online resources became accessible from April 1st 2012 and are available via the website portal at www.bbc.co.uk/shakespeare

Teachers packs, with ideas for using the films in class, are published at the end of April 2012.

Shakespeare Unlocked was created by **BBC Learning** in partnership with **RSC Education**. It is part of the **BBC Shakespeare** season and the **World Shakespeare Festival**.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00qg1kg

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Education

Education

Olympic Park gets gold for ethical wood sourcing

Soil Association Woodmark announced certification for ethical wood sourcing at 19 different sites around the **Olympic Park** following a ground breaking, collaborative project. Sites include the iconic *Idolodrome* and track, the *Aquatics Centre* and all the bridges, fences and benches. The project involved over 12,500 cubic metres of timber – from European construction timber to Tropical hardwoods – and is a world first that involved adapting existing standards to suit a demanding and complex site.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) worked with **Soil Association Woodmark** to achieve certification to **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** and **Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)** standards.

Noah Bold, ODA Park Operations Environment & Sustainability Manager, said:

"A huge thanks to **Soil Association Woodmark** for guiding us through the certification process. Right from the start we knew we wanted our construction work to have the smallest possible

environmental footprint and supporting sustainable forest management around the world was a big part of that. We hope that other large scale developments can be inspired by the scale of what we have achieved and that ethical wood sourcing will become the norm for future Olympic sites and construction projects globally."

Beck Woodrow, Woodmark project manager, said:

"Managing the certification process for such an iconic site was a positive and fulfilling experience. It's great to know that after The Games take place these buildings, and all the supporting infrastructure, will be enjoyed and appreciated by **Olympic Park** visitors and the local community for years to come.

10 – Minute Bedtime Stories

Classic Nursery Tales, Tales from Around the World by Graham Percy, pb £3.99 each. A wonderful series of classic tales retold especially to be read aloud to a younger audience. The **10-minute Bedtime Stories** series make it simple and fun to choose stories to read aloud to children at night, and as each book is divided up into 10-minute bite-sized chapters, the books are ideal for parents and children to enjoy reading together. Reading aloud to children before bed has endless benefits for future development. Recent studies have shown that bedtime stories can help promote healthy sleep patterns, improve motor skills and memory, and increase closeness with parents. Catching your children early with bedtime stories also helps to reinforce reading as a pleasurable activity, and gives them a head start at school.

Each book in the **10-minute Bedtime Stories** collection retells much loved classics that are brimming with magic and adventure, with enchanting characters from some of the most popular children's tales of all time. Beautiful, action packed illustrations by popular children's artists **Graham Percy** and **Graham Philpot**

The ability to speak another language is one of those skills that is as useful in the world of work as it is for getting the most out of life.

Research is vast, and shows again and again that exposure to second language learning before the age of 11 is the most significant factor in developing the ability to learn languages. One of several language organisations for Primary aged children, **Le Club Français** stands out with its experience in teaching. Established for over 15 years in **Ashford, Canterbury, Herne Bay, Faversham, Tenterden** and the surrounding villages it only uses teachers who are qualified, experienced and bi-lingual and able to devise curriculum specific for each group of primary school students. It doesn't use a format or a course that everyone has to follow, because that can seem uninspiring for children, and what really counts is to start at school.

For any further details contact **leclubfrancais@gmail.com**
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Susan Lewis said, "Our sanctuary for retired working horses, ponies and donkeys in Speen is a wonderful setting for such an event and the surroundings stunning." She continued, "We hope to welcome lots of visitors and to raise much needed funds for both *The Horse Trust* and *Hounds for Heroes*."

Calendar London

The Horse Trust

Something special to do on the **May Bank Holiday weekend** is the **Horses, Heroes and Hounds Family Fun Day** which will be held at **The Horse Trust's Home of Rest for Horses** in Speen, Buckinghamshire on **Sunday 6th May** from 11.00 am to 17.00 pm.

The Horse Trust, the oldest horse charity in the UK, opens its doors for this countryside themed, family fun day. Entry to the event is only £1 per adult or £2 for the event programme which permits entry for the whole family.

This inaugural event is a joint fundraiser with **Hounds for Heroes**, who provide specially trained assistance dogs for disabled military and emergency service men and women. The event will have a strong military focus with a *Spiffier* flyover and support from the *RAF, Army, Navy* and the *Marines*.

There will be a licensed bar, food, activities for the whole family, shopping opportunities and of course lots of animals! **Susan Lewis**, Marketing Manager of **The Horse Trust** explains, "It is a huge community event, the first that has ever been held at our magnificent horse sanctuary, and we would be delighted to welcome you and your family." To celebrate this amazing event we have a spectacular *Spiffier Fly Past* at 15.10 pm and special appearances by *Thames Valley Police Mounted Section, The Light Cavalry, Stokenchurch Dog Rescue*, who will be running a **Fun Dog Show** with entries in categories such as Best Fancy Dress, Best Rescued and Waggiest Tail and a visit from *Wycombe Wanderers FC* mascot, *Bodger*. Other activities include Ferret Racing, Pony Rides, Falconry Display, Army Assault Course, Farm Animals, Farrier demonstrations, Face Painting and much, much more.

To enter the dog show, which starts at 11.30 am, turn up at 11.00 and make your way to the sign-up station and enter your pooch into the classes of your choice. Award presentations for the championship dogs will be in the main arena at 15.30 pm so make the most of your day and join in the other activities we have on offer.

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www.horstrust.org.uk

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May 2012

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Daily Tower of London Tour Hill London 0844 482 7799 **Daily London Zoo Regent's Park London** 020 7222 3333 **Rainforest Film Exhibit**,
Daily National Army Museum 020 7730 0717 **www.national-army-museum.co.uk** **Victorian Soldier Action Zone FREE**,
Daily The World's Army, Empire, Commonwealth & Dominion Soldiers 1914-45 Action Zone family interactive zone, **FREE**,
Daily Kids Zone, interactive learning & play space for under 10's plus a soft play area for babies.
Daily The Queen's Gallery Buckingham Palace London 020 7766 7301
Daily Victoria & Albert Museum Cromwell Road London 020 7942 2000 **Daily Back Packs families** **Ongoing Royal Mews Buckingham Palace** 020 7766 7302 Family groups may explore a range of self directed activities from the art trolley, 5-11yrs.
Ongoing Churchill War Rooms 1 020 7930 6961 Undercover, Life in Churchill's bunker.
Every Sun National Gallery **www.nationalgallery.org.uk** 020 7747 2885 Family workshops plus **FREE** family trail.
Every 2nd Sat of month Regent Street 020 7025 6960 **Animal Man** comes face to face with slithering snakes, slimy insects & smelly skunks, for all ages.
Every Sat Blue Elephant Theatre **South Bank Waterloo** 020 7928 3535 **Sci-Fi London festival** with costume parade 147 **May Tales of the Night** **Funday workshop** silhouette animation plus the usual arts & crafts tables, competitions & prizes, **FREE** to ticket holders for the **Funday screening**, 21 **May Senior's FREE** matinee: A Private Function.
22-23 May Quostors Theatre **Mattock Lane London** 020 8567 0011 **Backstage Tours, FREE**,
5 May Geffrye Museum

contemporary craft stalls, **FREE** **www.clocktowermarket.co.uk**
Kingsland Rd London 020 7739 9893 **Family Day, Thrifty Work**, taste, drinking chocolate & paint a mug with 17th century style patterns, 5-11yrs, **FREE**, 5 **May Blue & White Beauties** creative workshop, take inspiration from Chinese, Dutch & English ceramics & decorate a plate to take home & use, 11-10yrs, **FREE**,
5 May Sunset House Strand 020 7845 4600 **Spring Away** drop in workshop for families **FREE**,
12 May Kokoro Dragons family workshop experiment with brush & ink & scrolls & take home your own dragons of mythic creatures, 6-12yrs, **FREE**, 18 **May Museums at Night** with live music, creative learning workshops & guided tours for all ages, 19 **May River Poes**, create workshop families all ages, create very short 3 line poems originally from Japan, **FREE**,
26 May Dazzle the eye family workshop create sizzling optical art & patterns inspired by abstract paintings in The Courtyard Gallery, 5-12yrs, **FREE**,
5-12 May Davenport's Magic Theatre Strand 020 7836 0408 **Magie Symphony** all the family,
6 May Royal Albert Hall 020 7589 8212 **The Night of 1000 Voices** raising funds for the benefit of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research,
7 May-9 Sept Exchange Shopping Centre Putney High Street Crown Jewels competition, a chance to win a diamond worth £3,000,
12-13 May Wembley Exhibition Centre 0844 873 7332 **Pet Show** under 5's **FREE**,
13 May Regent Park 0845 673 2154 **Superhero 5K** run for Cancer Recovery Foundation, costume **FREE**, **www.cancerrecovery.org.uk/events**,
19 May-8 July Little Angel Theatre Cross Street 020 7226 1787 **The Ugly Duckling**, 3+ yrs,
23 May-8 July Science Museum 0870 870 4868 **Universe of Sound** exhibition, **Daily Launchpad Science Shows** interactive gallery for families, **FREE**, **Daily Gallery Tours**, families 13+yrs, **FREE**, **Ongoing Flyzone** take control in

360 degree flight simulators or fly with the **Red Arrows** in their sensational 3D motion effects theatre. **Every weekend** **Key Col Adventure** families, under 7s, **FREE**, **Every Weekend Spaced Out**, families, 5+yrs, **FREE**, **Every Weekend A Cockroach Tour** of the museum visitors take on the form of cockroaches dressing up in realistic costumes, **FREE**,
26-27 May Imperial War Museum 020 7416 5439 **Build the Trace**, family discussion, art & writing activities looking at why wars happen & end, drop in activities for all ages, **FREE**, **Ongoing Extraordinary Heroes** exhibition, **Ongoing Undercover – Life in Churchill's Bunker**, **Until 30 Oct** **Once Upon A Wartime: Classic War Stories** for Children.
26-27 May HMS Belfast **Tooley Street London** 020 7940 6320 **Summer jamboos** of **FREE** activities, **Every final weekend of the month A Sailor's Life** for Me family activities,
27 May Natural History Museum 020 7942 5000 **Big Nature Day**, museum educators will be running family activities, such as exploring pond life, bug hunting & tree trails plus lots more, **Until 31 July** **Images of Nature Dinosaur Way** exhibition, all ages, **Until 2 Sept** **Scott's Last Expedition**, **Until 16 Sept** **Animal Inside Out** exhibition, under 4's **FREE**, **Every weekend & school** **Hands on Nature** Dinosaur, visit the handling station & explore interesting specimens with the help of the museums science educators, **FREE** & **Up, Up and Away** interactive storytelling for under 7's, **FREE**, **Daily Family Earth Lab** explore the wonder of fossils, rocks & minerals, families, 6+yrs, **FREE**, **Explorer backpacks**, families under 7's, **Dippy Floor** puzzle under 7's, **FREE**, **Bookasaurus**, families under 5's, **Jurassic Ark** family activity pack includes code breaking activities, **Daily Learning Activators** encourage visitors of all ages to discover more about the natural world, **FREE**, **Daily Focus** points handling trophies explore real specimens with the help of volunteers, using different natural history themed activities, all ages, **FREE**, **www.parents-news.co.uk**

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