

Deal & Walmer Chamber of Trade

Serving Traders & The Community



We're proud of town – but we could do better

DEAL Regatta Week again proved successful in drawing crowds from far and wide.

At this time of year Deal and Walmer can proudly show visitors and residents everything that is great about the towns. Our unspoilt seafront, from Sandown to Kingsdown, is a magnet for walkers, runners and cyclists, while our unique pier and Beach Street piazza are focal points for tourists and locals alike.

But there is much room for improvement, from brightening up the pedestrian precinct to make it a more attractive thoroughfare to stop, browse and shop, to enticing new businesses to boost Deal's day and night-time economy and enhancing the town centre.

With this in mind, Deal and Walmer Chamber of Trade is focusing on potential



Hanging baskets in full flower adorn Beach Street in Deal

improvements to South Street, which is in need of a major spruce-up and rethink.

Enlightened planning for this transport hub could harness much of the "piazza potential" of Beach Street; the seafront from the top of Broad Street to King Street would also benefit from similar thinking.

The chamber will be working closely with the Deal Society and other key players, with the aim of smartening up South Street and other parts of town.

■ **Let us have your ideas and input. Email chamber member and architect Peter Bernamont at peter.bernamont@btconnect.com**

Spot out of place items in shop windows

THIS summer's Stranger in the Window competition has received an excellent response from traders in Deal and Walmer – and we hope that the public are getting involved in large numbers, too.

So far, 34 businesses and rising are taking part in this fun, annual competition, where traders place a mystery object in their windows for eagle-eyed shoppers to spot. There is a prize for the winner.

However, the competition it is not as easy as it sounds with some traders going to great lengths to ensure the item lurking among their wares is as off-the-wall as possible.

Organiser Sue Bennett is delighted with the response and said: "It's great to see so many traders joining in. It's this kind of active involvement that makes Deal so special."

Although the competition started last week and runs until August 14, the chamber would love even more shops, businesses and individuals to join in. The entry fee is only £10 and money raised goes to the town's Christmas fund.

For an entry form email suebenn@googlemail.com or pop into Woods' Newsagents or Zoom Photos in Deal High Street or Bank House at 68-69 The Strand, Walmer.

Bid to restore Regent to former glory

WE ARE pleased to hear that moves are in place to return the iconic Regent building on Deal seafront to its original use as a cinema.

Deal has been without a proper cinema since the demise of Flicks, in Queen Street, three years ago and it is hoped the town will soon see progress in restoring the Regent to its

former glory.

It is hoped that an imaginative and sympathetic revival of the building will further revitalise the seafront, which still has a number of empty premises.

Chamber president Bob Humphreys said: "It was a real blow when we lost our cinema, and then a double-whammy

when the Regent closed as a bingo hall.

"To bring the cinema experience back to Deal, especially in a building as loved as the Regent, should be a real boost to the town's day and night-time economy. It's a wonderful building in a fabulous setting and we're very keen to see the plans come to fruition."

Full steam ahead to brighten up High Street

MORE activity aimed at improving the environment of Deal's town centre is on its way.

The pavements in the shopping precinct, recently enhanced by the demolition of the brick

obelisk, are due to be steam cleaned in September as part of the scheme to brighten up and improve the look and feel of the High Street.

History boards around the town, explaining the significance of

Deal and Walmer landmarks past and present, are also undergoing renovation at Dover Museum.

These should be back in prominent places around the town in early autumn.

New faces on the block

IT IS always uplifting to see new businesses emerging from the long economic downturn.

This month the chamber welcomes Boots Opticians, on the corner of Broad Street and Queen Street, in the building formerly occupied by Martins Newsagents, the Clockhouse cafe in South Court and Mario's Fish Bar on The Strand.

The Loon Hin Chinese restaurant in Broad Street is undergoing refurbishment.

Breakfasts back at The Alma

THIS week saw the return of the chamber's regular Business Breakfasts at The Alma, West Street, where anti-social behaviour in the town centre was among the issues discussed.

These breakfasts are an excellent forum for town businesses and traders. To get involved in future meetings email bob.humphreys1@btinternet.com or call 07810 557621.

Share ideas for towns online

THE chamber wants to hear your ideas for improving Deal and Walmer – and now you can share your news and views on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Search for "Deal and Walmer Chamber of Trade" on Facebook and "DealTrade" on Twitter. And check out the chamber's website at www.dealandwalmerchamber.co.uk

Team up and pit your wits

TRIVIA buffs had better start swotting up now for the chamber's next quiz night. The popular event will be held Thursday, September 2 at the RMA Club on The Strand, Walmer, from 7.30pm.

Lots of teams are expected to enter, so it is best to be quick off the mark and get your brightest brains together to mount a challenge. The cost is £5 per person for teams of four to six people, to include nibbles.

To enter a team quiz, contact Bob Humphreys on 07810 557621 or email bob.humphreys1@btinternet.com

The chamber is also planning a further quiz night before Christmas.


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