

What's inside

Wind havoc

STRONG winds caused disruption across Sittingbourne and Sheppey last week.

The roads were the worst hit as gales brought down trees and power lines.

Turn to page 9.

Pool therapy

DEMELZA House welcomed reporter Suz Elvey who learned more about the hospice's Bricks and Water appeal.

The Bobbing-based charity wants to provide a hydrotherapy pool for the life-limited youngsters, as well as enhanced accommodation.

Turn to page 10.

Boost to talent

A FUND to help youngsters in Swale achieve their ambitions has been set up.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Swale Youth Development Fund, a bursary has been set up to offer £1,000 to a youngster who requires financial help to boost their talent.

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Drunk jailed

A NOTORIOUS drunk has returned to prison after being found guilty of breaking the terms of an Antisocial Behaviour Injunction.

Elizabeth Mackrill is back behind bars after causing trouble in Cavell Way, Sittingbourne and St George's Avenue, Sheerness.

Turn to page 19.



Return plea: Douglas McLaren with some of the equipment they lend out

chpm221010equipment-12

Returns plea

AN APPEAL has been made for the return of a whole host of disability aids which have been loaned out to patients.

A number of pieces of equipment have not been returned to the store that supplies aids to people across Medway and west Swale.

Turn to page 20.

Children's sunny disposition wins day



Looks like fun: Milstead and Frinsted pupils recreate the Caldecott Foundation logo

THIS picture of beaming children scooped first place in a schools competition.

Pupils at Milstead and Frinsted School dressed in yellow and used plastic hockey sticks to recreate the sun logo of the Caldecott Foundation.

The foundation, which cares for vulnerable children, challenged schools across the county to make the logo in the most creative way possible.

Entries were whittled down to the top five and published on its website for people to vote on.

Milstead and Frinsted was declared the winner after polling the most votes "by a long way", a spokesman for the charity said.

He added the photograph was "fun, child-friendly and looked like they were all having fun doing it".

The school wins a wooden bench for its playground, donated by Plane and Simple of Maidstone.

A collage by pupils at Bobbing Village School also made the top five.

'Act now, before there's a death'

Owner of wall often hit by lorries fears worst

Report by Suz Elvey

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A HOMEOWNER whose garden wall has been knocked down ten times by lorries is considering starting a petition after being told safety improvements could take up to two years.

James Hall, who lives on the corner of Tonge Road and Church Road in Murston, has been tormented by enormous vehicles turning around in his narrow road.

He says children, parents and school staff walk along the path in front of his house, crossing at the exact spot where, he says, lorries frequently mount the pavement and have smashed into his wall ten times in four years.

Mr Hall said: "I'm just waiting for it to happen again, it's a nightmare. The lorries are what you get here every five minutes. If someone had been walking in front of my wall when any of the lorries hit it they would have been crushed to death."

"I would rather my wall went down every day than a child got



Damaged: James Hall's wall

SBSE120710Wall-4

killed but that is what I fear might happen. So many residents have told me they are scared to cross the road, and I am too, so we might be getting a petition up."

Mr Hall expressed concerns in the Gazette in July and March about lorries turning around outside his property when drivers

realised they would not fit through width restrictions ahead.

The pavement outside Mr Hall's home forms part of the route to school, playgroup and church for many families and on one occasion he and his family rushed outside after hearing a loud crash

to find a lorry in their front garden.

Kent Highway Services (KHS) told Mr Hall in the summer that it was considering constructing a turning circle to allow vehicles that had missed or ignored width restriction signs to leave Murston safely.

The KHS spokesman said the work could take up to two years but Mr Hall, who has just paid £2,500 for his wall to be repaired again, fears someone will be killed before the work is carried out.

He added: "We have had the police out here, ward councillor Dave Banks and MP Gordon Henderson, and they can all see how dangerous it is. All we need is a raised kerb to stop the lorries going up on them. It will cost about £2,000 to keep the children safe."

Anyone who wishes to support Mr Hall's campaign can send their details to the Gazette via the address on page 2 or by e-mailing suz.elvey@KRNmedia.co.uk and we will pass them on.

Band to play together again for charity

SIXTIES band HiFi is to re-form to play at a charity gig to raise money for Demelza House.

Dave Lee, from Sittingbourne, is a singer and keyboard player who began fundraising for Demelza 11 years ago, and has been playing at least one gig per year ever since. To date Dave has raised £35,000.

HiFi, Dave's original band, were formed in the 1960s. They

were relatively well known but retired and went their separate ways in 1996. Dave said: "We played for several years and loved it but we all felt we were getting too old."

The band were reunited after the death of former band member Michael Gardiner 18 months ago. Dave said: "He was an excellent singer and guitarist. He had a very high voice."

With the exception of the late singer, the band remains unchanged. Michael's nephew Steve Austin will sing in the latest concert.

At 68, Dave is thrilled to be back playing.

He said: "This is a chance for members of different bands to get together and put on a show for the evening. It's good fun for a good cause. I aim to sell 230 tickets per

concert, which makes £2,000 to £3,000."

HiFi also have a fundraising event planned for Cancer Research UK in December.

The Demelza House gig will take place on Sunday, November 28 at the UK Paper Leisure Club, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne. Call 01795 427852 for tickets.

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