



LIVE & LOCAL

Earn chance to perform

AUDITIONS are being held for a free performing arts workshop.

It will take place in Dover in April and there are 25 places up for grabs for hopefuls aged 10 to 26.

Auditions take place at Salem Baptist Church Hall at 4.30pm.

To register call 01304 202544 or email doveryouththeatre@hotmail.com.

All that jazz at the Grand

WEEKLY live jazz concerts can be enjoyed at The Grand in Folkestone every Thursday.

The Pete Abbott Group, featuring Mike Austin, Andy Wall, Roger Jeffery and Claire Harris will play tomorrow.

The music starts in Keppels Music Room at 8.30pm and tickets cost £5. For details call 01303 277175.

Opera youth to compete

THE Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society Youth Section present four plays this week.

They will take part in the Brigadier Thomas Competition at Folkestone's Tower Theatre on Friday and Saturday.

Performances start at 7.30pm. To book tickets call 01303 223925 or visit www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.

Walk beach with artist

ORDINARY people take part in a new piece of work by internationally renowned artist Hamish Fulton today.

The group will walk around the Marine Bathing Pool on Margate Sands from 9am to noon and the walk will feature Fulton's work at the new Turner Contemporary gallery in 2012.

Visit www.turnercontemporary.org.

Music and drama festival

THANET Music and Drama Festival is now under way with a busy programme of events across several venues.

It takes place at Christ Church University, Broadstairs during March.

Entry costs £3 per event or £15 for every session. Programmes £3 on the door.

Find out more at www.thanetfestival.org.uk or email ljmyhill@live.co.uk.

Library for the dyslexic

DYSLEXIA East Kent Support is holding a drop-in centre and library in Canterbury from 10am to noon on Saturday.

The event will be held at Kingsmead Leisure Centre on the first Saturday of the month during term-time and membership costs £15.

To find out more call 0845 003 8979 or visit www.dyslexia-east-kent.org.uk.

Kreme of Kent's crop

CANTERBURY'S Gulbenkian Theatre hosts a celebration of local talent with the return of Kentish Kreme on Saturday.

Eight acts will be on show including Nic Bennett, Five Floors Up, the Overdrafts, Alex Hills, Spygenius and the Flack.

The show starts at 7.45pm, tickets cost £10. Book at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call 01227 769075.



BIG SKY BEACH CROSS

Saturday, March 6 and Sunday, March 7
Margate Main Sands

A WEEKEND of thrilling action is in store for east Kent as the Quad Racing Association's Big Sky Beach Cross event returns to Margate.

Now in its fourth year in Thanet, the weekend has become a highlight of the town's calendar and is sure to provide lots of exhilarating entertainment for all the family. Daredevil riders will be sending the sand flying during this full throttle weekend that will delight both petrol heads and people who are just looking for some gripping entertainment.

More than 15,000 people watched the free two-day spectacle from the promenade last year and this year's event looks set to be even more exciting. There will be plenty of thrilling race action and breathtaking dune jumps on Margate's main beach, where national and European entrants will battle for first place.

This year, the UK Beach Cross Championship will be launched and riders include ten-times British Quad Champion, Paul Winrow. French rider Jérôme Bricheux will make the trip across the Channel to compete in this fantastic event that will captivate spectators of all ages.

The fun starts with a parade both days, followed by practice laps. On Saturday morning, qualifying heats will be held for the Adult Quads and Solos to determine the group in which each rider will compete. Then the action really gets going as the racing begins at 10.30am, starting with the 250cc Youth

Thousands expected to watch some of Europe's finest quad-bike riders battle it out as championship returns for a weekend of mayhem on Margate's golden sands

Quads, with each class or group getting a minimum of three races per day.

Another parade opens Sunday's event before the racing starts, with the top riders from each class going forward to take part in the Grand Final on Sunday afternoon. This exciting finale will see competitors really motoring as they battle to be crowned the QRA Margate Big Sky Beach Cross Champion.

Away from the sand, there is lots more for spectators to enjoy, including traditional seaside entertainment and fairground rides.

There will also be opportunities to meet the riders and admire the powerful machines that have been making the sand fly. Trade stands and manufacturer displays will also be on offer and there are plenty of restaurants, shops, cafes and pubs close to the beach.

The event is organised by the Quad Racing Association with support from Thanet District Council. The QRA Big Sky Beach Cross Weekend first came to Margate in 2007, when Margate Town Partnership offered QRA the use of the beach. Since then, the relationship between the Association and the town has gone from strength to strength, as organiser Tony Nash mentions on the event's website.

"The way in which the town has been so accommodating has been incredible for our sport," he said. "I am so thrilled at the way the first event went and the relationship now formed between the council, town partnership and myself – it can only grow."

As the promenade sweeps above the beach, spectators have an excellent vantage point and this means that the entire beach is given over to the racing. The compact course means that the crowds have a great view of the action and the racing appears even more spectacular.

• More information about the event, including timetables and entry details, can be found online at www.visitthanet.co.uk and www.margatebeachcross.com.

