

KIDS COMBAT DAY

Cadets invade town for NSPCC fundraiser



Fundraising: Canterbury NSPCC and Folkestone marine cadets with a Ferret armoured car.

CANTERBURY'S branch of the NSPCC teamed up with the Folkestone marine cadets for the Kids' Combat Day-fundraiser in Canterbury High Street on Saturday.

Canterbury NSPCC secretary Katrina Roach said: "The day was a great success for the Canterbury NSPCC and the Folkestone Cadet Unit.

"We were able to provide literature on the work both organisations do within the community for children.

"Not only were we raising money but we were able to raise awareness for the good work we all have achieved.

"We had two military Land Rovers, a Ferret armoured car and a tent.

"Children were able to come along and try on military uniforms and have their photos taken on the vehicles or with the cadets."

A photographer and balloons were provided for free by local photography store owner

Emmanuel Solaru, who runs Snappy Snaps in Rose Lane.

There was also a raffle offering the winner the chance to have their picture printed on canvas.

Andy Bell at Folkestone Hire Centre donated cones and ribbon for the event.

Canterbury NSPCC chairman Max Tillings said: "The Folkestone Cadets unit is fully self-funded so the money raised from events like this make such a difference to the lives of children who participate."

KATRINA ROACH, KEVIN MAHER, MAX
TILLINGS & MARINE CADET FORCE







yourletters



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TALK TIME

MAX TILLINGS

The chairman of the Canterbury branch of the NSPCC, talks about the charity's new drive for volunteers.



What have you got planned next year?

We've got lots of events already planned. We'll be working with a whole list of corporate partners in Canterbury including supermarkets like Tesco and Asda, and shops like Fenwick, B&Q and Debenhams to name but a few.

We really need more volunteers to help us make the most of it next year.

What jobs do you need volunteers to do?

It's mainly bucket collecting outside the stores, but we also need people to help organise future events, maybe do a bit of light admin work, that kind of thing.

And it doesn't have to take up loads of time. Half an hour to an hour is still a lot of help. I think it's important to get this message across to people, because I think many are put off volunteering because they think it represents too much of a time commitment, but it all helps. We also want to put on some events for volunteers themselves, to give something back to them for all the hard work they do. We are really very appreciative of the work people do with us, and we want to make volunteering fun.

We're planning nights out and special events for volunteers. We've got concessions with cinemas and bowling alleys and places like that, so we can organise that sort of thing for our volunteers.

We're trying to appeal to all kinds of people, young and old. For older people especially, volunteering can be a great way to network and socialise.

To get in touch with Max, call 01303 844561 or 07977940648, or email km.nspcc@fiscali.co.uk

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

YOUR LETTERS

Slow roads to put us on safer track

An interesting debate between Clive Wilkins-Oppler and Terry Hudson on road accidents: here are some statistics to help:

- Thailand has 12,000 traffic deaths per year, for a population the same as the UK where there are 3,000 traffic deaths.
- Traffic deaths are the single largest cause of death amongst Thais.
- Cambodia has 1,500 road deaths for a population a little larger than London and Kent. The largest cause of death for Cambodians after AIDS.
- Both countries have good, and improving, roads and developed urban areas.

The problems are clear: speeding, drink-driving, poor road signage (often too much), motorbikes/no crash helmets, no seatbelts and using mobile phones.

Clive is right. Reducing speed limits, with "slow-road" design, is the last hurdle for the UK to reduce road deaths.

Tim Garbutt
By email

Tent will be a big top of family fun

I must say I had originally dismissed the idea of holding next year's pantomime in a circus tent on the grounds that it would be cold, chilly and couldn't create the same atmosphere as a bricks and mortar theatre provides.

However, having visited the Marlowe this week to see Snow White, I read that it will all be

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World Cup 2010 should be a goal for businesses

Businesses in Kent have been urged to look into how they can cash in on the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. In an exclusive interview, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) chairman James Brathwaite said nobody should underestimate the business potential of the nation.

Local News

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fully central heated and 'state-of-the-art'.

Which actually made me think

it will be rather fun.

It won't be the same, as the current Marlowe

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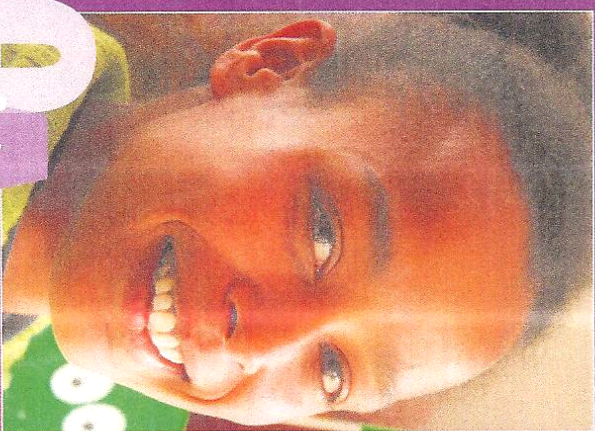
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your local interview

QUESTION & ANSWER

KATE ROACH



Q How has your fundraising drive for the NSPCC been going so far?

A We have only been involved since February this year, but our group has raised £12,500. We got an email from NSPCC head office asking how we'd done it.

We don't want to take all the glory. We have a great team of volunteers who we meet on a regular basis to discuss ideas. We have also had Folkestone marine cadets involved. They use our land in the summer and have helped us out at fundraising events in Folkestone and Canterbury. I think it's important to get younger people involved.

Q What is the secret to your success?

A We run it like a business. We are lucky to have the space to have a dedicated office area for the NSPCC work, so it makes it easier to keep track and organised. People say, "You must be getting paid for this", but we are volunteers.

Q Why do you think people volunteer?

A It's depressing when you turn on the news or read about the latest atrocities being committed somewhere. This is a good antidote. We have people who aren't on the books, but they do a bit here and there because it is uplifting. People find it helps them keep things in perspective.

You read about the breakdown of society and how there's no community spirit any more, but

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

this is proof it still exists. Just in our little village we were asked along to the church fete – which is to raise funds for the church, they are in desperate need of money too – but they said, "Come along and do a bit of fundraising".

It is the same with the village hall fund. There's only a few people living here, but the last raffle we did raised £90. That's community spirit.

Q What are important things to remember with fundraising?

A It's important to build relationships with shops. We've built a good relationship with many local shops now. I've been going in and talking to the managers. Once it's on a personal level it's much easier to pick up the phone.

Q Which shops do you work with?

A We work with a lot of businesses. We've done collections in Debenhams, and we work a lot with the Whitehairs, who let us collect in the square where there are lots of people passing.

A charity car wash we did at B&Q raised nearly £900. It was a really good day, all the staff came out and had their cars washed, and we were helped by the Folkestone cadets.

At Morrisons we did a joint campaign with Age Concern called 'Through and Through Generations'. We wore T-shirts with both Age Concern and Childline (part of the NSPCC) logos on them, which made people look twice. We always write and personally thank managers of shops who help us.

Q How do you approach people when you are out collecting?

A We say hello to people, have a chat and give them a sticker if they want one. Some like to stop and talk to us, others just put money in.

The NSPCC is a very recognisable charity, and it's great the number of people who say they already have a direct debit set up for us.

Q Do you get any bad reactions?

A You get a few, but you have to remember that people are entitled to their opinions. If they don't want to give money, then that is up to them.

Q What are your plans for the future?

A A charity needs a focal point in an area. We would like to make this the NSPCC headquarters for Kent. People ask us where the headquarters are and we have to say Crawley, which is miles away. We are lucky here in that we have the room to offer people a place to meet. It used to be a smallholding, so we have a lot of buildings suitable for meetings, presentations and other things.

As part of our Make the Difference campaign – urging readers to volunteer for charities – Gareth Arnold talks to NSPCC volunteer Kate Roach about the fundraising success enjoyed by her dedicated team