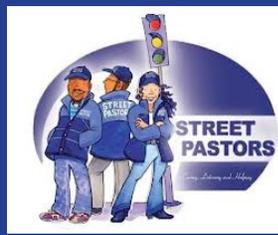


MSP News

Your News, Thoughts and Prayers

July 2022



Don't forget to send me your news, thoughts prayers, notices and pictures!

maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk

If you would like to help us, please text your donation as below

To donate £5 text BECZ01 to 70970

To donate £10 text BECZ01 to 70191



community groups and funders the opportunity to look at the county's needs and discuss how collaborative action might affect change.

On 15 June, two hundred delegates met at the Village Hotel in Maidstone to attend the first Kent Community Foundation Needs in Kent Conference. The Conference gave community groups, charities, and funders the opportunity to review a comprehensive Needs in Kent analysis commissioned by Kent Community Foundation which set out the priority areas of need by district.

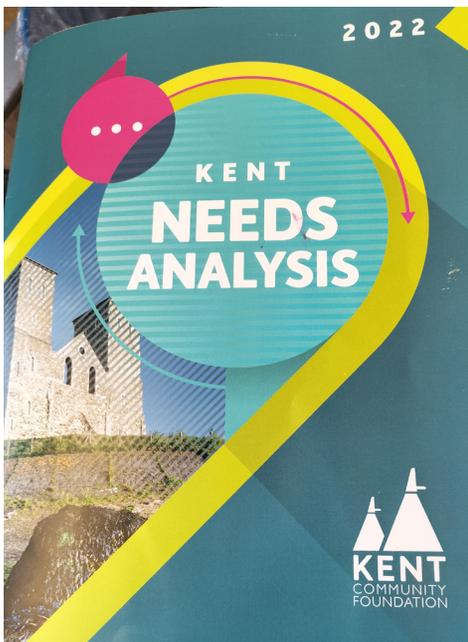
Maidstone Street Pastors work on a national street pastor model to help keep vulnerable people safe between 10pm - 3am over the weekend. Maidstone is the clubbing capital of Kent with up to 10,000 party-goers on a Saturday night. Street Pastors work closely alongside the police, paramedics and the "Urban Blue" bus project to provide emotional, spiritual and practical support to those in need.

CASE STUDY

"I would just like to thank the six members for their support, compassion, and professionalism in looking after my son on Saturday night. The two members from Street Pastors, found him and helped support him while he was waiting for medical help. All did their utmost to keep him safe and conscious and keep me positive.

"Thank you so much. He stayed in hospital for ten hours, with hyperthermia and sickness and is now back home. He has slept for the last three days but looks like he has escaped serious damage. It is believed his drink was spiked."

Unfortunately I was unable to attend but in their programme brochure, they featured a 'case study' highlighting our work. **Well done to you all at Kent Community Foundation and thanks for the help you afford us.**



Our thanks, as always, goes to Kent Community Foundation. Through their partners, they help fund our work in Maidstone.

The Kent Community Foundation Needs in Kent Conference gave charities,



We were very privileged to receive a grant from Maidstone Borough Council's Community Resilience Fund.

The fund is to support local community groups to tackle the impacts of Covid-19. The impacts have been felt deeply in our communities particularly for people experiencing loneliness, social isolation or mental health issues.

This in turn effected funds we used to receive via Church gifts and those from other sources.

Cllr Simon Webb, Vice Chair of the MBC Communities, Housing and Environment Committee said: *"Maidstone Borough Council introduced the Community Resilience Fund to support organisations across the borough that have been helping others".*

Thank you so much MBC

What a man!

Mark is not only a Street Pastor, or a major player in Maidstone Evangelism Team (MET), or an evangelist with Counties at Maidstone Family Church, he is also a volunteer Chaplain at Kenward Trust!



Mark says "From June this year I became one of Kenward's Trust Volunteers and part of the Chaplaincy team, I will be available to be a support to all.

I am married to Amanda, and we have 5 children, I am from Northern Ireland, I have been a Christian from 2001 and after being a Christian for a while, I felt that God was calling me to train as an Evangelist with the Church Army, I studied for four years, to complete my foundation degree in Evangelism.

I worked with Church Army for four years in Ellesmere Port, working with the Bus project. We went into the town centres across North West of England with a double-decker bus and reached out to young people on the streets in the evening time and shared God's love with them

My work within the church consists of helping to run a lunch Club (meet to eat) which meets the last Friday of each month. We welcome people from the church and the wider community and we get 40-50 people most months.

I setup a coffee morning (Cornerstone Cafe) which we ran once a month where the community came together for tea, coffee, cake and chat. I helped as part of a team to run 2 children's clubs Friday Club 5-8 years old and High Fives 9 years and up.

From last October I have connected with and co-ordinated a group of people who are interested in going out onto the streets to share the gospel. We have a team of over ten people from different churches across the town. We call ourselves "Maidstone Evangelism Team". We go out once a month on the streets of Maidstone and preach the gospel and engage with people".

We are blessed to have you with us Mark.

WE LOVE HAPPY NEWS (or should that be 'Nappy News')

Our wonderful friend Mig who retired from Street Pastors a while ago, has something else to fulfil his time!

It is fantastic to say **congratulations** to Mig, Hilda and Annilove on the arrival of Lovella, Shirley, Maureen, Howard, who was born on 26th May 2022 @ 09:01, weighting in at 3.5kg (7.7lbs)

Mig says; "Shirley is my mum's name and Maureen is Hilda's sister who died a couple of years ago".

This is them at Mote Park, having family time in the sun.

Gentlemen Street Pastors, again Mig offers a word of caution; "See what happens when you retire from being a Street Pastor!"

Bless you Mig and your lovely family



WEEKLY REPORT UPDATES

Saturday 5th June 2022

SP Team: Emma-Jane, Sue, Mark and Robert

PP Team: Steph, Ian and Nigel

Mary couldn't be with the prayer team tonight as she had some family matters to attend to.

Grenville arrived at Switch but was unwell so EJ took him home. Thankfully, Ian had a night off from SP and with Steph, they joined me in the prayer team.

Sue led a couple of worship songs, and we prayed for our members who were not able to join us, along with other prayers.

10.12pm: Herbalist radioed to Bierkeller to make them aware of a group of men reported to having fake ID.

10.20pm: McDonalds asked control to keep cameras on their door. At the same time, Druids Arms reported three elderly males as no-no's

10.25pm: Market House radioed to control and Fremlin Walk, to make them aware of three males (description given) described as no-no's.

10.23pm: Old House at Home (OHaH) radioed the Stag to again say this group of three males are definitely no-no's. Muggleton Inn asked for the description again of these males.

10.37pm: Team rang in to say they had met, chatted to and given 'P' and 'W' their usual hot drinks. The town was really quite empty, and the Police were (we think) at Moat Park for the beginning of the night. They were around later.

10.58pm: Maidstone East station radioed for Police assistance, as a male was behaving badly and was seen urinating on the station. At that time Police were not available.

11.03pm: Market House radioed to Ashes to say three males and 1 female (descriptions given) should be searched for having drugs on them. The group were followed by CCTV going towards Zoo Bar, then up the High Street to Muggleton Inn then over to The Brenchley. Described as no-no's.

11.10pm: This group were now observed trying to get into Kala Red.

11.21pm: Muggleton Inn radioed control to say two females outside their venue were heavily intoxicated, and may have been using drugs.

11.30pm: Team rang in to say they had met two females from out of town, who were a bit distressed as they couldn't find their Air-B&B! The team walked them to College Road to find their B&B. The two had been having conversations with door-staff and the public to help them, and they were keen to find out about Street Pastors :).

Continued.....



What a nice message I had from our friends at Urban Blue Bus.

"Good afternoon SP team, I just need to say thank you for your support and care last night.

We appreciate each and every unique SP/PP team.

As bus managers, to know you all stand by physically, and in prayer whilst some of our volunteers assist the sometimes volatile public, is reassuring and makes our endeavours and charitable aim so much more reassuringly effective and safer.

GB as always".

Thanks to all of you at UBB for you kind words and thoughts.

It is a great privilege to know and work alongside you, helping to keep Maidstone safe and looked after.

The late Paul Alcock would be pleased how this has all evolved over time.



.....Continued

11.35pm: UBB radioed for SP team as they wanted some assistance from them, team headed there soon afterwards.

11.47pm: OHaH radioed Muggleton's for a description of two females at 11.21pm. as they thought they were at their door.

00.05am: Team called in to base to collect a sleeping bag for 'J' (female) as she was now back in Maidstone.

00.25am: Society Rooms radioed control to say a drunk male was seen getting into a car, at the car park by St. Francis Church in Week Street. The car was a white Vauxhall reg no: FE10 MWO.

00.33am: OHaH radioed Muggleton's and control to say two males now heading up the High Street were definite no-no's. Descriptions were given.

00.35am: OHaH radioed Market House to say three people heading their way were no-no's.

00.43am: Bierkeller radioed control to say a group of males and one female heading up Bank Street were recommended no-no's.

This next section was a cause for concern as it was thought the girls may have been underage. 00.52am - 00.58am: OHaH radioed for Police as there were two females at their premises they thought may have been underage. OHaH radioed Market House to say they were now heading towards Week Street. Market House then radioed Ashes and Zoo to say they were now going towards them. (see below at 01.05am).

00.55am (app): Bierkeller asked for cameras to be kept on them and requested Police. No response at that moment from the Police who we think may have gone to do a shift change?

00.57am: (app): Kala Red radioed to say a person who had been barred previously, was observed outside and was thought to have a weapon on him. We thought we heard this person had threatened a member of UBB? Police replied to check location.

01.03am: Control radioed to UBB but no answer at that moment (this was a worry at first!)

01.05am: Control and Market House both radioed UBB, thankfully UBB replied that all was okay with them and they were doing a welfare check on the male. Our team were also close by in case they were needed, and they met the two young girls above at 00.52am. We thought an older male was pestering these girls, but it seemed as though they were not drunk. Door staff were aware of the two girls and were looking out for them. The girls couldn't prove ID to anyone so the team spoke to them where they said they were now heading home. The girls met two lads on Jubilee Square and all seemed okay.

01.22am: Police had taken UBB staff involved in above in to The Brenchley for a de-brief.

01.37am: OHaH radioed to control to say a fight / agro was taking place at the Polish bar/ restaurant in Pudding Lane. We heard Police were on the scene.

Team returned to base for a debrief;
They had brought some chips for W.

J had requested the sleeping bag earlier in the night and now was asking if we had a coat. When the team took this to her she had gone from her spot.

This was a strange night; after all the celebrations over the weekend, we thought the town was going to be heaving. By comparison to some Saturday nights, this one was quite peaceful. Maybe something to do with the event at Mote Park and the weather turning awful with the team getting quite soaked.

Once again, great team-work between the various door staff.

Continued.....

Saturday 11th June 2022

SP Team: Gwyn, Derek, Mary and Robert

PP Team: Sheila, Tim and Nigel

We thanked Robert for coming in to do an extra shift, and to Gwyn who had only just returned from Eastbourne - practically come straight in!

Prayer, worship, tea and coffee before the team headed just after 10.00pm.

Prior to the team going out, Nigel radioed to see if Police were in town tonight. Jay from Market House replied to say they had just gone to the station to get some radios.

Not sure who made the call but there was a report of a fight happening out outside Homeland near McDonalds in Week Street.

10.21pm: The Phoenix requested UBB to attend to a very drunk female.

10.29pm: Gwyn rang in to say they had met a couple who had just 'trashed' their car in Fremlin Walk car park.. They didn't appear drunk in anyway but were upset and worried. Prayers were said for them.

10.30pm: Control radioed for Police but no answer at that moment, they reported the fight that was still going on at Homeland and a male had just assaulted a black male.

10.42pm: Muggleton Inn radioed to control to ask for cameras to be kept on their door. 3 males and been asked to leave but were being very aggressive. The males said they would come back later to 'put a chair through the window', they were described as no-no's.

10.45pm: Market House radioed to say 3 males in a white BMW outside Richer Sounds were seen doing a drug deal, reg of car was GH05 TDD (spaced to read GHOST DD!)

10.47pm: Market House radioed to say 4 males (description given - one male in a red jacket who will be spotted more) were definite no-no's. They were followed heading towards Fremlin Walk, Social Chill Bar and Society Rooms.

10.50pm: Maddisons radioed to say a male was harassing a woman at the top of Gabriels Hill, and they were on their way to see if they could assist. They continued to report on the situation saying the male was constantly pushing her and pulling her hair. Police responded to say they were on their way and shortly arrived at the scene.

11.00pm: UBB rang Nigel to say they had two Thai ladies worse for wear who may need walking home!

Nigel was taking a spare radio to Social Chill Bar, and on leaving Switch, he noticed the white BMW from above was parked on the High Street by the chippy next door. This was radioed through to control.

11.05pm: The Brenchley recommended a group of no-no's for throwing glasses about.

Gwyn rang in to say they had met a male 'G' who was homeless but was hoping to get a boat (for a home) on Monday. Prayers were said for him.

11.15pm: Not sure who made the call but there was a report of a large crowd around a car on Station Road?

11.15pm: Market House said they had a crowd trying to get in but they were refused, they were then seen heading towards Source Bar.

11.15pm: Ashes radioed to say two females were not allowed access and they were now heading to Zoo Bar.

Continued.....

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11.15pm: Report of a large group heading along Pudding Lane and some of the women were concealing drugs in their underwear!

11.25pm: Market House radioed for Police as they had observed packets of 'coke' being passed around. Market House radioed to Ashes to say this group had just turned left at the Herbalist and maybe heading their way.

Nigel was on his way back from Social Chill Bar who observed and confirmed this group were heading up the High Street.

11.30pm: Control radioed to Ashes to say a couple had cocktails and drugs in their handbags were at their premises. Ashes didn't respond at that time, Nigel was still mobile so he went to Ashes to check they had their radio on, they did.

11.45pm: Muggleton Inn radioed to Ashes to say the male in red jacket (from above at 10.47pm) was carrying drugs and was heading their way. Venues 'followed' this male heading towards Kala Red, then Bierkeller. Control reported he has now taken off this red jacket and is wearing a white T/Shirt.

Team came in for a break and said they took one of the ladies from 11.00pm to Sapphire cabs in Pudding Lane.

They relayed a humorous story; while at Mumu's they were talking to a very drunk lady of around 50, who had been quite sick and lost her teeth! The staff at Mumu said they had put them in her red handbag. When the ladies husband came to pick her up, he asked 'have you got your teeth' (must be a regular occurrence).

The staff said they had put in them her red handbag to which she said she hasn't got a red handbag!!!! They had to go and find out from their patrons who did have a red handbag with her teeth in (you couldn't make this sort of thing up!).

They had met with 'W' and 'C' at their usual haunts and gave them hot drinks etc.

Gwyn recognised a lady 'D' while they were out. We prayed for this lady as she has a 6 month old child in care, the lady has a psychiatric referral soon and is hoping to get her child back.

00.16am: Zoo Bar requested UBB to attend as they had a very drunk female who needed attention.

00.18am: Bierkeller for radioed for Police assistance as two males were getting very aggressive, Police responded to say they were on their way.

00.45am: Market House asked for Fremlin Walk cameras to be kept on their door and gave a description of 3 males and 1 female.

00.49am: Team rang in to say they were at UBB where a lad had said he had been beaten up. Not sure of the circumstance but we prayed for his well being.

00.50am: Market House radioed to Ashes to say two males and a female were being aggressive to another female and to keep an eye on them.

01.03am: Police radioed to control to keep cameras on Bierkeller. A drunk aggressive male said he had family inside but he was not allowed in. Police said their involvement was antagonising the male so they asked for the situation to be monitored.

01.08am: Not sure who made the call but we heard a male by Burger King in Week Street had taken his top off and was 'having a go' at everyone.

01.11am: Bierkeller asked for Police to re-attend as the male from 01.03 was getting more aggressive and another male was getting involved. Police responded to say they were on their way.

Continued.....

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01.26am: Market House radioed for cameras to be kept on their door as a male was being very abusive.

01.34am: Sapphire cabs asked for cameras to be kept on their door as things were about to 'kick off'.

Team returned to base soon after this for a debrief; they had meet with usual 'M' who had been drinking was ok, and known homeless male 'D C'.

We signed off and headed home at 01.45am.

Saturday 18th June 2022.

SP Team: Jacqui, Jane, Ros and Mark

PP Team: Katy, Beryl and Nigel

Miya was away this week so lead was down to Jacqui, Ros was also doing an extra rota so we had a good strong SP team.

After the extreme heat we have had for the last few days, it was surprising to see it raining when the team headed out, however. The rain a bit later into the night was absolutely atrocious, torrential rain, deafening thunder and lightening enough to make it look like daytime!

Usual worship and prayer before the team headed out just after 10.00pm.

10.15pm: Two females with no ID were trying to force their selves into The Herbalist with some other females.

10.35pm: Team rang in to say they were in Bank Street and after a 'tip-off' from homeless male 'C', to say there was new male on the streets 'A' . 'A' was supplied with a hot drink and the team chatted to him. He said he was homeless, but was reasonably well dressed and seemed 'street-wise'. He was given some food.

10.55pm: Not sure who made the call, but two females - possibly underage and with no ID (could have been the same two from above) were now passing The Herbalist and going into the High Street.

11.05pm: Market House radioed to control and gave a description of a male heading towards Source Bar who was a no-no.

11.10pm: Team rang in for a prayer request for usual homeless male 'W', he was quite trouble as he thinks he may have cancer. He also shared he had been arrested because he 'camped outside' the Council offices, and he said he was suspected of having a knife on him (not sure of the outcome of this?)

11.20pm Muggleton Inn radioed to say two females and heavily intoxicated male had been kicked out! They were now heading towards Zoo Bar, description was given.

11.25pm: Market House radioed to say a male in Earl Street was a no-no and was now heading into Pudding Lane, description was given. Cameras could not pick him up.

11.30pm: The team (sensibly) came in for a reprieve from the rain - it was awful! They reported lots of people were running to get taxis or sheltering in any doorway, or sheltered spot they could find.

11.55pm: Ballin radioed for cameras (twice) to be kept on their doors, at that moment there was no reply.

Continued.....

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Midnight: Ballin radioed for UBB to attend to a very drunk female. UBB responded to say there were dealing with a medical emergency and could not attend.

00.10am: After a 40 minute break waiting for the rain to ease off, the team headed back out and took a sleeping bag to W and brought him some chips.

00.30am: The Stag signed off.

00.30: Bierkeller radioed to Banks but no answer was given.

00.45am: Cameras radioed to UBB to say a male was laying on the ground behind the bus. Do not know what the outcome was.

00.45am: Bierkeller radioed to control to alert all of a male who was being really aggressive was going up Bank Street towards Banks and Kala Red.

As there was not a great deal going on (probably due to the weather), the team came back for a good debrief and reported:

- They had given W a pot noodle and hot drink. C had a hot drink.
- They spoke to M who has learning difficulties (we are concerned for him as he has a rather bad habit!).
- They had met A (from 10.35pm) who had been to UBB where he had been given a foil blanket.
- In discussion with W, he was given a foil blanket and rain poncho.
- They were asked for directions from a person in a car.
- Two separate couples gave thanks to the team for all they do.
- They managed to have some nice conversations with some door-staff as they were not too busy!
- Good conversation was had with UBB staff.
- While walking in Bank Street, some Police in a car gave them a thankful wave :)

Due to the relative peacefulness, we headed home just after 01.00am

Saturday 25th June 2022

SP Team: Ian, Hazel, Ros and Robert

PP Team: Steph and Nigel

After some refreshments (and Hazel's lovely Gypsy Tart), worship and prayer, the team headed out just after 10.00pm.

Nigel had checked with control to find out there were Police in town until 11.00pm, and they would be replaced by another team at 11.00pm and would go on to 3.00am.

10.39pm: Team rang in to say they had patrolled down by the river and all seemed okay there, the Thai Orchid seemed to be playing rather loud music! On their way back up the High Street, they had a chat with homeless lady 'V' near the BHF shop. She didn't want any help or assistance so the team left her and we prayed for her safety and well being.

They had just met a couple of lads who knew of our work and thanked the team - that earned them a lolly-pop each!

They also met homeless male 'A' in Bank Street and brought him some chips.

10.53pm OHaH (Old House at Home) radioed to Muggleton Inn to warn them of three males heading their way (descriptions were given) and they were classed as no-no's.

Continued.....

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10.54pm: Team rang in again to say there was a police van near Nat West on the High Street, and they had just given 'C' his hot drink under the arches.

11.01pm: Market House radioed to OHaH to warn them with descriptions of two males heading their way. One of the males had taken a swing at one of the door staff.

11.06pm: Team rang in to say they were at Society Rooms where a very distressed male was talking to one of their door staff. The team would wait to see if they could help when he finished talking to the door staff.

11.09pm: Market House radioed OHaH with a description of a male who was 'swaggering' around, Market House had refused him entry.

11.10pm: Market House radioed again to say the male was now going into Fremlin Walk, FW were asked to keep their cameras on him. The male on control could not find the male.

11.10pm: Team rang in to say they were at the rear of FW, and a male and female (who was quite drunk) were having a heavy domestic. They were monitoring the situation.

11.34pm: Muggleton Inn radioed to Bierkeller and gave them description of three males heading their way. Two of three males had been found in a toilet cubicle 'doing things!'. We assume this was drug related?

Muggleton Inn then radioed to say that one of the males had changed his top in the alley into Bank Street.

Almost straight after, Bierkeller radioed to Kala Red saying these three were now at their door. No answer at that moment from Kala Red.

11.35pm: Not sure who made the call, but there was a warning of a male and female (descriptions given) who were recommended as no-no's.

Midnight: Society Rooms radioed to control and Police asking if they could attend as a male was refusing to leave.

At the same time, Merkur Slots radioed for Police as they had a vulnerable lady there. She had reportedly said to them she was going to kill herself as she had split up with her boyfriend! Following her description, Druids Arms said she was with them, she was part of a 'hen group' but it seems they got separated.

00.05am: Market House requested Police as a prior customer who threatened to 'bottle the door staff' was now back at the venue. Police responded to say they were on their way.

00.07am: Market House radioed to FW security but they did not reply at that time.

00.15am: Not sure who was making the call (it was a bit erratic), but there was a report of a motorcycle being ridden in Earl Street and Rose Yard. We think it was the pillion passenger who headed down Rose Yard towards Source Bar and was seen pulling his helmet down (this seemed a bit worrying as though he was going to do something?). The bike was still going up and down Earl Street, this heightened the sense of anticipation. It then headed up to, and along Week Street past a Police vehicle! We heard the registration of the bike was PL68 NHT.

00.21am: Kala Red radioed to control and gave description of two males reportedly 'doing drugs' were heading towards Bierkeller. Police replied to say they would look out for them.

00.25am: Police radioed to control but no answer at that moment.

00.30am: Ashes radioed to Druids Arms to say a very intoxicated female from earlier at Merkur Slots, was heading their way. Ashes then radioed Zoo Bar to say she was going there.

Continued.....

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00.52am: Bierkeller radioed for Police as one of their door staff had been assaulted, the person/group was now heading along Pudding Lane. Police responded to say they were en-route.

00.41am: Druids Arms signed off, followed by Ballin who also signed off.

01.00: Urban Blue Bus signed off as they needed to leave.

Debrief:

Nigel went to close the gate in the alley at switch during the night. Two girls were waiting for a colleague to join them as the colleague was going to collect her car from the car park. All three girls worked at Buenos Aires and they were just making sure the third female got to her car safely. That was good they were looking out for each other.

Urinal was not out tonight.

Good Police presence in town.

Although there was quite a lot of activity tonight, thankfully there didn't seem to be too much trouble.

We signed off around 01.30am and headed home.

TEAMS FOR JULY

If anyone can not make these dates, if I have it wrong, or if you are on holiday, please let me know as soon as possible.

02/07/2022	Emma Jane	Mark	Miya (Extra)			Sue away		Mary	Grenville		Nigel
09/07/2022	Gwyn	Hazel (extra)	Ian (Extra)	Brian (Extra)	Jacqui away	Derek away	Mary away	Sheila	Tim	Steph (Extra)	Nigel
16/07/2022	Miya	Jane	Brian		Robert			Katy	Beryl S		Nigel
23/07/2022	Ian	Hazel	Ros					Steph	Baron		Nigel
30/07/2022	Emma Jane	Mark	Jacqui		Sue			Mary	Grenville		Nigel



Trinity House - Opening soon

In MBC's 'Borough Insight Magazine', they reported Trinity House (we knew it as Trinity Foyer) is being brought back into use as a community hub.

MBC housing services including the housing advice, housing and health, and the accommodation team will be based here.

The ground floor will be a multi purpose, and multi functional space to be used by MBC's partner organisations. This could include anything from a NHS clinic, to a youth club.

The top three floors will continue to provide accommodation for local people with 23 units of various sized self-contained apartments.

If you'd like further information, please email: trinity@maidstone.gov.uk