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Special Thanks

A Big THANK YOU Dr Alfridi

A huge thank you to Dr Alfridi on duty at the emergency clinic at Queen Victoria Hospital, Herne Bay, on Saturday, September 3, 2011. Without his prompt diagnosis and arranging for me to be taken in to Kent & Canterbury Hospital, the outcome could have been so different.

From Hazel Brain
x

Birthday Milestones

DEAN MUDS Happy Birthday You've made 40!



Love from all
the family

Karen Craddock

26th September, 1961



To our beautiful
daughter on your
50th
Birthday

Love Mum & Dad,
brother Simon,
sisters Rachael,
Kellie and Tara &
Hiedi xxx

Ashford to Hastings rail service closure

by Thom Morris
tmorris@thekmgroup.co.uk

COMMUTERS, schoolchildren and college students could all be affected by plans to stop train services on the Ashford to Hastings line for nine weeks.

The route, which travels from Ashford through Hamstreet, Appledore and down into Sussex through Rye and on to Hastings, is expected to be closed down between January and March, according to a commuter group.

The decision, they say, has been made to allow improvement works to be carried out including maintenance on the Ore tunnel, works on points and signals and some track renewal.

Stuart Harland, chairman of the MarshLink Action Group (MLAG), a voluntary organisation representing the interests of passengers using the service, said the current situation suggested no trains would run between Ashford International and Hastings, leaving passengers with no choice but to catch a bus over the winter months.

He said: "It has been obvious to passengers over many



MAINTENANCE WORK: The marshlink train passing through Appledore

years that trains have been operating below optimum speeds along much of the line because of speed restrictions – one example is the embankment to the west of Ashford station.

"I've been told that the problem with operating a service east of the Ore tunnel is that the trains, being diesel, do not have facilities for overnight berthing, refuelling and maintenance, other than at a depot at Selhurst, currently routed

west of the tunnel. This needs to be checked if there are any alternatives and MLAG will be discussing this with relevant parties at the earliest opportunity."

MLAG believe that once speeds have increased, two trains an hour will be able to operate on the line, though that is not likely until 2014.

Network Rail say a decision has yet to be reached on exactly how the service will be affected and maintenance

schedules are only announced three months in advance and could not comment on the specifics.

Network Rail and Southern Railways have agreed to a public meeting to discuss matters. It will be held at 7.15pm on Friday September 30 at Rye Community Centre in Conduit Hill.

■ **What do you think? Email kentshexpress@thekmgroup.co.uk or write to 34-36 North Street, Ashford, TN24 8JR.**

Cost of care is to rise

SEVERAL thousand elderly and vulnerable people are set to be hit by county council plans to increase charges for care support.

KCC is expected to confirm that it will go ahead with controversial care charges that will see about 5,000 people paying more for home help - such as help with bathing, meals and shopping.

Opposition parties unsuccessfully tried to block the plans at a meeting this week saying the money KCC says it would save should be found elsewhere.

The increase will raise an extra £2.9m and follows a wide-ranging consultation that saw many express their concerns over the proposals.

Under the changes, KCC is planning to increase the amount of available income taken into account when working out a person's charge from 85% to 100%.

There will also be reduction in the money allocated for people living with a disability from £21 to £17 a week.

Help for underprivileged teenagers



HELPING HAND: Entrepreneur Greg Secker is launching a training programme for underprivileged children

THE FOUNDER of a charity initiative is launching a training programme to develop the business acumen of underprivileged teenagers.

Entrepreneur Greg Secker, who set up The Knowledge to Action Foundation, is holding a five-day Youth Leadership Summit in Ashford aimed at youngsters aged 14 to 17.

Throughout the week the teenagers will be mentored by various industry experts, focusing on personal development techniques across the areas of health, relationships, wealth, leadership, emotional management and accelerated learning.

Alongside coaching will be a variety of fun team-building activities.

Mr Secker, 36, a former city trader from Fullham, said: "The Foundation has raised significant sums of money for charities such as Barnardo's and The Ubuntu Education Fund, which is brilliant, but we want to be a hands-on initiative as well.

"We are in the fantastic position of being able to enhance the lives of children, giving them opportunities and learning tools that they wouldn't otherwise have access to until much later in life, if at all."

The Summit will take place at Grosvenor Hall, Kennington, from Monday, October 3 to Saturday, October 8 and places are still available.

■ To register visit: <http://knowledgetoactionfoundation.com>

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