

ANGER AT BAN ON CHARITY WRISTBAND

FULL STORY PAGE 3

COUNCIL TAX MAY TRIPLE FOR THE POOREST

More than 10,000 facing bill hike in cuts threat



SPECIAL REPORT PAGE 5

STOP PRESS



Police call in the RSPCA to help

Police and RSPCA vans were seen at a property in Whitstable yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.
Dogs could be heard barking as officers attended the scene at Seacroft Grange in Pilgrims Lane.
Police spokesman Sally Smith said: "Police are attending a private residential address in Pilgrims Lane, Seasalter where inquiries are being made in relation to a number of animals in the property."
RSPCA spokesman Sara Howlett said: "We can confirm the RSPCA helped police at their request at a property in Whitstable today (Wednesday)."
"We will continue to help if called upon by the police, who are leading on this matter."



INFESTED Homeowners' misery as rats plague their street

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Huge crowds expected for return of town's Biennale

by James Rose

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A contemporary art festival is expected to welcome thousands of enthusiasts to the town.

The eighth Whitstable Biennale will feature 15 new commissions from painters, filmmakers and sculptors.

The theme of this year's celebrations will be *The Faraway Nearby*, a collection by American painter Georgia O'Keeffe in 1937.

The Biennale will include performances, multimedia installations, film premieres, readings, walks and talks from Friday, June 3, to Sunday, June 12.

The programme will unfold across the town, with venues including the South Quay boat shed, tennis courts, High Street shops, Whitstable Library and the harbour.

Alice Butler will explore themes of adolescence, plagiarism and kleptomania in her miniature books.

The works can be viewed in Barcham Sewing Machinery and The Fabric Shop in Harbour Street, and Whitknits and Clark's Flower Shop in Oxford Street.

She will host a reading at the Horsebridge Centre between 5pm and 6pm on Sunday,

June 5. Marcia Farquhar has created *Rooty Tooty*, a new red and white striped ice cream exclusively for the Biennale.

A rap by teenagers from the Isle of Grain called *Ain't Got No Fear* features the work of Mikhail Karikis, who uses demolition sounds to create music.

In the South Quay boat shed, Tessa Lynch's *Green Belt* is a verbal performance and large-scale floor piece developed over the 90-minute duration of the train commute between Whitstable and London.

A special dinner including performances and readings on the final Sunday of the festival celebrates the launch of the first chapter of *The Music*, a new album by contemporary composer Matthew Herbert.

Whitstable Biennale is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

The festival is also backed by Canterbury City Council, the University of Kent, Culture Kent and Kent County Council.

Visit whitstablebiennale.com for the full programme.

Right, Mikhail Karikis spent almost a year with teenage boys from the Isle of Grain for his installation *Ain't Got No Fear*



Marcia Farquhar has created *Rooty Tooty*, a red and white striped ice cream, exclusively for the festival



Bond among themes at literary festival

Book lovers will celebrate the biggest names in espionage with literary talks and musical celebrations in Whitstable this week.

Guests are invited to the Community College Whitstable, the Horsebridge Centre and Whitstable Library to enjoy this year's WhitLit festival.

WhitLit's main espionage-themed evening will take place at the school tomorrow (Friday). The work and life of Bond author Ian Fleming will

be discussed from 4pm to 10pm with an hour from each guest speaker.

For young readers, author Steve Cole will talk about his challenge writing exciting adventures featuring a teenage Bond and how he has been inspired by Fleming.

Fleming's biographer, Andrew Lycett, will reveal *The Man Behind Bond* and Matthew Parker will look at the Kent-based author's more famous home - Goldeneye in Jamaica

The finale of the evening will be Mr Lycett interviewing Fleming's step-daughter, Fionn Morgan, who spent time with him in Kent over the years.

She gives a unique insight into the real Fleming as a writer, father and husband.

For non-Bond fans there is plenty on offer at WhitLit.

Tonight (Thursday), bestselling author Joanne Harris, who wrote *Chocolat* - which was turned into a film with Juliette Binoche

conversation at the school from 7pm to 8pm.

But this weekend sees most of the festival transfer to the Horsebridge Centre and the library in Oxford Street.

People are encouraged to head to both buildings throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday to hear discussions on a range of subjects from Suffragettes and Tudor queens to Shakespeare and *Down From Londoners*.

Visit whitlit.co.uk for the full