The blankets that bring a vital calm

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Widow seeks asbestos answers

A widow is still searching for answers two years after her husband died from asbestos related cancer. Margaret Cornhill’s husband Dennis died aged 74 in June 2013 from mesothelioma which she believes he contracted as a result of working at a Maidstone print site from 1953 until 1981. It is not known what Mr Cornhill did for the whole of his time at the site but he was a keen member of the company’s football team and later was a truck driver.

Mote Park wins top marks again

Mote Park has received a certificate of excellence award from Trip Advisor. The travel website informed Maidstone council of the accolade after receiving consistently good reviews of the Mote Avenue site over the past year. To win the award it is necessary to have a rating of at least four out of five from a minimum number of reviews. It is the second success for the 180-hectare park in less than a year.

Seven months ago it was rated as the nation’s second favourite park in the Green Flag Awards, which is run by Keep Britain Tidy.

Cllr Gordon Newton, chairman of the council’s heritage, culture and leisure committee, said: “Winning the Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence is a real source of pride for the team at Maidstone council which looks after the park, and the fantastic volunteers who donate their time and energy.”

Drivers should avoid M20

Motorists should avoid a key stretch of motorway tonight (Friday) as one phase of drainage investigations comes to an end. Lanes will be closed in both directions of the M20 between junctions 8 for Hollingbourne and 9 for Ashford from 8pm until 6am. It is the final night of closures which began on Monday, however work will continue for another week.

Knife charge

A 22-year-old man will appear at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday after allegedly holding a knife to a reveller’s face in a Maidstone club. Macram Ramba, of Burnt Oak Terrace, Gillingham, is charged with possessing an offensive weapon and attempting to cause grievous bodily harm following an incident at The Source bar, Rose Yard, in December.

Pet charity plea

A Maidstone charity shop is appealing to animal lovers to volunteer their time to help raise vital funds for sick and injured pets. PDSA, on High Street, requires someone to help with delivery of items. For more details call 0800 859149 or visit www.pdsa.org.uk/volunteering.

Meet a T-Rex

Children are invited to visit Maidstone Museum in St Faith’s Street on Saturday, June 13, to meet a moving, roaring, baby T-Rex. The animatronic dinosaur will be on hand between 10.30am and 12.30pm for children aged 10 to 16, and from 1.30pm to 4.30pm for over 16s. Admission details from 01622 602685 or visit www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk

On the record

Unlock, the Maidstone-based charity which helps ex-offenders to rehabilitate, is holding a criminal record disclosure training session on Wednesday, June 24. The session will be useful to those who employ ex-offenders. Inquiries to 01622 230765.

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