



ON THE MOVE

## Membership Events Team Newsletter

January 2017

Issue 1, Number 1

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### The Biggin Hill Billies

If you would like to make a contribution to our next issue please contact Graham Sanders at:

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### All dressed up and ready to go out....

After suffering a serious concussion and multiple fractures at the hands of a flooded field in the Kent countryside in late September 2016, the mobile display unit has been resuscitated and nursed back to a full recovery. The rebuild took nearly four months to complete and many modifications were undertaken to enhance its functionality and appearance.

The unit has been fitted with new IT equipment and Audio visual systems to enable visitors to the unit to enjoy a brief visual introduction to Freemasonry whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. The events team capture enquiries in a live format using the new electronic forms.

The unit also carries information on every centre in the Province together with the lodges who meet in them and the days that they meet. This has proved a very useful tool for prospective enquirers who have limited free time and are only available to attend meetings during certain days in the week.





## Shopping Centre Trials



**County Square - Ashford**

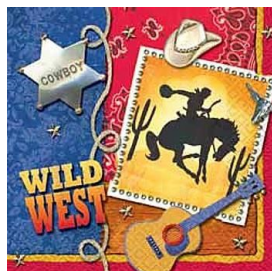


In shopping malls, supermarkets, train terminals and airports across the country, you are likely to come across companies, charities and breakdown services exhibiting their products, services and appeals by means of a Portable display unit (See picture right above). The main reason that organisations choose to display at shopping malls is that there are six times more visitors to a this type of venue than there are to the local high street shopping precincts.

After much debate in respect of whether or not anyone would stop to talk to us whilst shopping is their main reason for visiting the venue, we have decided to explore the world of shopping malls by exhibiting at three centres: Dockside outlet centre in Chatham on the 25<sup>th</sup> February for one day. We are exhibiting on three consecutive days at the County Square shopping centre in Ashford from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of April. We will also be attending a third centre: In Folkestone, in the High Street from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Having spoken to a 'Paintball' company recently at a venue in Essex, they advised me that they normally fill their summer season over the week that they exhibit with an average of 55 joiners/signees per day. I am betting that we could be busy therefore, but I am not sure that we should offer paint-balling as part of our attraction!

## Themed Events - This Summer



We have a number of themed events booked for this year. The most notable of them being the Wild West Carnival in Sittingbourne on the 17<sup>th</sup> June and the Medieval Mops Fayre also in Sittingbourne on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. We have decided to enter into the spirit of both these themed events and will be providing additional elements of attraction for the visitors to our unit.



## Themed Events continued...

Providing Graham Sanders can obtain permission from the event organisers, we will be bringing along a country band The Biggin Hillbillies who will be performing Bluegrass and country music whilst we will hopefully enter into the spirit by donning our chaps and Stetsons?!  
<http://www.bigginhillbillies.co.uk>

At the Mediaeval Mops fayre we will be sporting a similar enhancement with our own mediaeval entertainers A magician and a stilt walker.

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## Diary Dates - so far....

11th February : Ashford High Street

18th February: Canterbury, St George's St (by M&S)

25th February : Dockside Outlet Centre Maritime Way Chatham

4th March: Maidstone, Jubilee Square

11th March: Rainham Outside Shoe Zone

1st April: Ramsgate Market

6th to 8th April: Ashford, County Square

22nd April : St George's Day Parade High Street Sittingbourne

28th to 30th April: Folkestone, Bouverie Place Shopping Mall

17th June: Wild West Carnival- High Street Sittingbourne

17th June and 18th June: Quex Park Classic Car Rally

24th June: Armed Forces Day: Sittingbourne

1st July: Sheerness Fete

1st July: Capel Fete, Five Oak Green

29th July: New Romney Marsh Fete

12th and 13th August: Whitstable Regatta Tankerton Slopes

19th & 20th August: Biddenden Tractor fest

19th August: Hythe Festival

27th August: Dover Regatta, Dover Quay

17th September: Brands Hatch.

30th September: Sittingbourne Mops Fayre High Street Sittingbourne

7th October: Cranbrook Apple fest - Cranbrook

8th October: Gillingham Park - picnic and tree planting