

Medway's concise **quality** morning paper

ONLY 20p

# M

The essential daily briefing

FROM

CENTRE for JOURNALISM

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## NEWS VALUES

Thirty news editors chose 10 stories to fill this newspaper

PAGES 4-7

## NIBS

Writing "news in brief" is a core skill for young journalists

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## RESEARCH

Picking out topics for mini-features to lift the content of news pages

PAGES 2-3

## VOX POP

Interviewing the public about topical issues

PAGE 7



# WIN

A night of terror at Fort Amhurst in Chatham this Halloween

PAGE 15



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SEE PAGE XX

## INSIDE

### PAGE 3 PROFILE

The extraordinary story of the person sitting next to you

PAGE 3

### ADVICE

Our expert guide to nib writing and interview skills

PAGES 2-3

# M

All newspapers are built out of the same basic blocks, although each has its own style. This newspaper will accompany the first few weeks of the Reporting and Writing 1 module, and has been designed to familiarise you with some of the most common types of content and editorial decisions that go into the creation of every newspaper in the world.

Perhaps the most basic - although by no means the simplest - is the News In Brief, regularly shortened to "nib" in newsrooms. They are short stories - often no more than 50 words, but sometimes a little longer - which both fill space and boost the total story count of the newspaper.

They come in many different forms. Open most regional newspapers and you'll find columns of nibs running down the outside of the page. They're usually basic stories: upcoming events, minor incidents, dull council announcements, etc. Nibs should still have some news value - but not as much as the page leads, downpapers and picture stories that fill the rest of the page. Their purpose is to boost story count and help draw the eye down the page.

The Sun often lifts the content of its pages with a flippancy and entertaining "Sun Spot" - a 30 word story about something weird, bizarre or just daft. They are dotted throughout the paper. The Sun uses a generous dab of poetic licence with these stories (we'll talk about that later in the course) but they are nevertheless a form of nib.

The i has turned nibs into a distinctive regular feature, by devoted pages 2 and 3 to a "matrix" of shorts which provide an at-a-glance guide to the key stories of the day. It's a perfect digested read for commuters, who are the paper's core audience. They also serve as a kind of contents page for the paper - longer stories get condensed into about 50 words with a cross-reference to the page with the full story at the end.

Nib writing is an art. It is about shedding every unnecessary adjective from your writing, and boiling down a story to the key facts that every reader needs to know. They must still be written in full English (no headline-style missing verbs, for example). At their best they can be entertaining - even laugh-out-loud funny - and at their worst they must still be informative and newsworthy. Your challenge is to crunch down the stories you have been given into nibs to complete the news matrix in this edition.

## The News Matrix

The day at a glance

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## The doc will see you... whenever you want

*Extended GP surgery opening hours sound like heaven for parents - but will doctors be able to cope?*

PAGE 7

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**ROCHESTER**  
**Reckless: I did not betray constituents**

Rochester and Strood MP says he understands Tory activists are "angry and upset" about his defection to UKIP, but denies it was a betrayal. Speaking after a visit to Rochester with Nigel Farage had to be abandoned because of protests, he said: "I have a higher loyalty to my constituents as a whole." PAGE 6

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## Letter from the Editor

Anne Interviewer



This column would normally set the tone of the newspaper and give the editor's view on a key story or issue of the day.

In most newspapers, page 3 has special significance. After the front page, it is the next most important news page. It is the first thing a reader sees after they open the paper.

For that reason, it is usually used as a "dress up" page. It will be dominated by one story which will generally have a striking image or graphic, will be attractively designed, and may include an element of fun, mystery or fascination. Ironically, the opposite of a "dress up" page can be found on The Sun's page 3... but that's another story.

The i has its news matrix on pages 2 and 3, but does not limit the content to newsy nibs. Page 3 often includes a Q&A interview with a strong image, based around a relevant celebrity, artist or other public figure.

It also dresses up these pages with mini-features, like top 10s. Our newspaper modifies the format slightly, to give greater prominence to the Page 3 Profile. In week one, you'll be filling this space by interviewing and photographing each other and writing a profile about one of your new colleagues.

Your interview should give interesting information about that person's life, interests, hobbies, skills etc. But make sure every interview story includes basic journalistic facts - where is your subject from? How old are they? Your readers need as much detail as possible to understand who this person is, and why they should care about them.

Later, we'll talk about the basics of newspaper research and you'll fill the remaining holes on page 2 by identifying some good mini feature ideas and finding eye-catching details for them.



PHOTO CREDIT IN HERE IN CAPS

## PAGE 3 PROFILE

NAME IN HERE TITLE IN HERE

Questions in Adobe Caslon Pro bold 10pt on 11pt as long as they need to be

Answers in Adobe Caslon Pro regular 9pt on 10pt first paragraph not indented. Don't use quote marks - the format will make it clear that this is the interviewee speaking. Don't worry that you can't get full quotes, just try to get the gist of the answer and turn it into full sentences. Then get practicing your shorthand!

If there's a second paragraph it should be indented by 2mm.

Random words and stuff will fill out a bit of space here to give an idea of what the finished story will look like.

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## HEALTH

## Dental health crisis in three-year-olds linked to sugar

By Kay Nine  
DENTAL CORRESPONDENT

One in every eight children aged three suffers from tooth decay, stark new figures show.

A diet of sugary foods and drinks, including fruit juice, has led to these children having on average at least three teeth which are decaying, missing or filled.

In some parts of the country as many as a third of children this age have tooth decay, according to Public Health England's first national survey of three-year-olds in England.

Experts examined the teeth of more than 50,000 youngsters at their nursery, children's centre or playgroup during 2012/13. They found that the four regions with highest levels of tooth decay were the East Midlands, the North West, London and Yorkshire and the Humber.

The highest prevalence was noted in Leicester where 34% of children were found to have tooth decay, a dramatic contrast to south Gloucestershire where just 2% of children suffered from the problem.

Officials also said that some children had a form of fast-spreading decay linked to the consumption of sugary drinks in baby bottles. It first appears in the upper front teeth but quickly infects the rest of the mouth.

PHE urged parents to give children sugary drinks in smaller quantities and less frequently.

**{M}** The addition of fluoride to toothpaste reduced decay by 50%. Dr Nigel Carter says 12% of the country has flouridated water, and is calling for it to be introduced in more areas.

Parents and carers should also start brushing children's teeth as soon as the first tooth appears and supervise their brushing until they are seven or eight years old, the health body added. Children's teeth should be brushed twice daily, including just before bed, using a fluoride toothpaste.

PHE also advised parents to only use sugar-free medicines.

Sandra White, director of dental public health at PHE, said that in recent years there had been "significant improvements" in the nation's oral health - with the majority of children having no decay at all - but she said that some areas still experience problems with tooth decay.

"Tooth decay is an entirely preventable disease, which can be very painful and even result in a child having teeth removed under general anaesthetic, which is stressful for children and parents alike," she said.

"It is also important to take your child to the dentist, which is free of charge for children, as the dentist will be able to advise you about how to keep your child's teeth and gums healthy."

Dr Nigel Carter, chief executive of the British Dental Health Foundation, said: "The stark regional inequalities are a cause for concern. They highlight a clear need for water fluoridation to help tackle these differences, particularly in the more deprived areas of the country."

### ADVICE DR KEN HARRIS



#### 'No doubt sugar is to blame for decay'

Leading dentist gives his advice to keep children's teeth healthy

Sugar is without doubt the cause of early tooth decay. There has been a massive increase in sugary drink consumption in recent years.

Brushing teeth has been touted as a way to prevent decay. Brushing is important, but unless sugar is also controlled decay will still happen.

Sugar acts with the bacteria already in the mouth to produce acid. It's this acid which actually decays teeth. Just a small amount of sugar - a lick of a lolly or a

single sip of juice - causes an immediate acid rush.

Sugar is present in so many foods it's almost impossible to avoid. The recent health kick has been "low fat", but most low fat foods have extra sugar to make them palatable. Low fat yogurt is considered healthy, but is very sugary indeed.

The best advice is to reduce the frequency of sugar intake, have no sugar in the hour before bed, avoid sugary drinks including uices (even organic juice) and brush twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste. Lastly, make a visit to your dentist every six months.

## Wildlife in global crisis

Wildlife populations around the world have more than halved in just four decades in the face of unsustainable human consumption, a report has warned.

Mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish have declined on average by 52% from 1970 to 2010, according to WWF's Living Planet Report, which uses information on 10,380 populations of 3,038 species to see how global wildlife is faring.

Experts from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), which maintains the database of information on the species, said the figures meant that where in 1970 there was a population of 100 animals, now there were only 50.

The main threats to wildlife populations are loss or damage to their habitat and exploitation through hunting and fishing, the Living Planet Report said, while climate change is already having an impact on wildlife and is set to increase as a threat.

The situation is worst in low-income countries, where wildlife populations have declined by 58% on average between 1970 and 2010, while the richest countries saw a 10% increase, although those nations have seen significant losses in the more distant past, experts said.



### RAINHAM

## Inquest opens into stab death of Aiden Brunger



By Staff Reporter

An inquest today will look into the circumstances surrounding the death of tragic medical student Aiden Brunger.

Mr Brunger, from Gillingham, was stabbed to death along with his friend and fellow medical student Neil Dalton following an argument at a bar in Kuching, Borneo.

The 22-year-olds had been studying at Newcastle University, and travelled to Borneo with five other medical students to work at Sarawak General Hospital.

They were found in a street near the

bar with fatal stab wounds at about 4am on Wednesday, August 6.

Shortly after the stabbing, four local men reportedly admitted killing the pair while a fifth man was arrested on suspicion of helping to dispose of the murder weapon.

A 23-year-old Malaysian fishmonger, Zulkipli Abdullah, has now been charged with stabbing the students.

Police said four other men have not been charged and will be witnesses in the forthcoming trial.

In Borneo, a guilty verdict of murder carries the death penalty. The inquest is being held at Derby and South Derbyshire Coroner's Court.

### INTERNET

## Parents 'sold' kids for wi-fi

Six Londoners unwittingly agreed to give up their eldest child as part of an experiment into public internet services, according to a report.

Researchers said they set up a Wi-Fi hotspot in the capital which was accompanied by a detailed terms and conditions page.

This contained a "deliberately ridiculous" term which stated that in return for free Wi-Fi, the individual using the service was prepared to "render up their eldest child for the duration of eternity".

It was dubbed the "Herod clause".

A report, entitled Tainted Love: How Wi-Fi Betrays Us by security and privacy company F-Secure, added: "Despite this, six people decided that it was a fair exchange and signed up."

The researchers said they would not be enforcing the clause.

The report concluded: "Our results illustrate the very real problem of the modern world which is that - while massively dependent on the technology - the population is unaware of its capabilities for surveillance and intrusion into their lives.

"The problem is that people implicitly trust their technology.

"In pursuit of free bandwidth, people are prepared to do anything as our experiment showed with its draconian terms and conditions."

### INTERNET

## Children exposed online by 'revenge porn' blackmailers

By Faye Spook  
SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTER

Children as young as 11 have been victims of revenge pornography, with their perpetrators often evading justice due to loopholes in the law, new figures show.

Campaigners and politicians have called for tough legislation to be introduced to tackle those who share naked images and videos without the victim's consent.

Figures uncovered by the Press Association show that schoolgirls are among those targeted, while adults have been blackmailed into having sex with their tormentor after indecent - and previously private - images were posted on the internet.

The matter has been brought into sharp focus after celebrities including pop stars Rihanna and Tulisa Contostavlos fell victim to the cruel craze.

But police are largely powerless to stop those responsible until new laws - due to pass through the Lords next month - are introduced to make revenge porn a crime.

There were 149 allegations of crimes involving revenge pornography during

the last two-and-a-half years, according to the eight police forces in England and Wales with data on it.

The majority of victims are women - with only six incidents resulting in any sort of police caution or charge.

Three female teenagers - the youngest 11 and the oldest 19 - were victims of revenge pornography in Manchester, police said.

In two cases the victims were ex-partners of the offender, and involved threats that further images would be published.

Sarah Green from the End Violence Against Women Coalition described the figures as "alarming".

She said: "The ability to abuse through technology is growing fast and its impact is very real, which is why politicians and the police must get to grips with it.

"If we are serious about cracking down on this we have to think long-term and talk to young people while they are at school about respect, equality and consent in relationships. Compulsory sex and relationships education is the best way of doing this."

A total of 43 police forces were asked for details of reported incidents of revenge pornography between January 1

2012 and July 1 2014.

Of the eight forces to hold data, 35 incidents occurred in 2012, jumping to 58 in 2013.

According to police in Cambridge, one schoolboy circulated naked photos of a fellow pupil on Facebook and to other friends in the playground, while another boy made threats to place images of a pupil's older sister on social networking sites.

In another case a taxi driver blackmailed a passenger into having sex after discovering naked images of her.

Former culture secretary Maria Miller said the data showed revenge porn was more widespread than previously thought.

The Tory MP, who raised the issue at Prime Minister's Questions, said: "Police are finding it difficult to know how to react when incidents are reported. All of this points to the need for a clarification of the law, and also to make sure its clear revenge porn and the posting of it is a criminal offence.

"This is not a victimless crime - it is a sexual act against another individual." Earlier this year the Prime Minister backed proposals to make revenge porn illegal, acknowledging it "clearly has criminal intent".

Mark Reckless, who resigned from the Conservatives to join UKIP on Sunday.



POLITICS

# 'My constituents are angry and upset - but not betrayed'

By Mick Hapless  
POLITICAL EDITOR

Mark Reckless allowed his Tory association to spend £6,000 on personalised leaflets a week before he defected to UKip, activists have claimed. Conservative party members in Rochester & Strood are said to be furious with their MP.

Mr Reckless hit back at Tory accusations of dishonesty last night with the claim that the party was threatening possible defectors with "dirt" about their private lives. A source close to Michael Gove, the chief whip, rejected the charge last night. "This is nonsense. Rather than making wild accusations, he should concentrate on explaining to his constituents why he broke his word," the source said.

Members of Mr Reckless's Conservative association said last night that a huge amount of literature would now be wasted, including leaflets for nine local wards, which feature photographs of Mr Reckless. "It just shows that he's a complete bastard," one organiser said. Craig Mackinlay, a local Tory councillor, said that he was absolutely disgusted by Mr Reckless's decision. Mr Mackinlay, who will stand against Nigel Farage in South Thanet at the general election in May, disclosed that Mr Reckless had given a direct assurance to the local party that he would not defect.

Mr Reckless defended his actions yesterday, denying that he had betrayed anyone. "While people feel certainly upset and certainly disappointed, certainly angry, I don't know

**{M}** "it just shows that he's a complete bastard"

about betrayed because I think I have a higher loyalty to my constituents as a whole and to the country."

Tensions ran high, however, when Mr Reckless invited UKip leader Nigel Farage to Rochester High Street on Sunday.

A handful of Conservatives arrived to berate the former Tory for his betrayal, forcing him to abandon a walkabout of the town and flee to his constituency office.

"It's been a mixed reaction," Mr Reckless admitted. "But Nigel is happy and I think we're in with a good chance. I've enjoyed talking to Conservatives who say they support my decision."

The defection was part of a double blow to David Cameron on the eve of his party's final conference before next year's General Election.

Brooks Newmark announced on Saturday that he was resigning as minister for civil society after he swapped explicit photos with a reporter posing as a Tory PR girl.

Meanwhile, other Conservative MPs have been queuing up to insist that they are not about to defect.

Gordon Henderson, the MP for Sittingbourne & Sheppey, revealed that he had been approached by a member of UKip. He said that he had considered accepting the offer, but concluded that the party's policies were "muddled and contradictory".

FINANCE

# Economy 'bigger than 2008' says new report

By Staff Reporter

Britain's economy grew more quickly than previously thought in the second quarter of this year though the start of 2014 was more sluggish, according to revised official figures.

They showed that gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 0.9% from April to June, compared to a previous estimate of 0.8%.

However, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) data also calculated that first quarter growth was 0.7%, down from 0.8%.

It came as the ONS also revealed that the UK economic downturn ended around nine months earlier than first thought.

Methodological changes and data revisions meant GDP reached its pre-recession peak in the third quarter of 2013 rather than in the second quarter of this year.

It means the economy is now 2.7% larger than it was in the first quarter of 2008, the last period before the recession took hold.

The changes also mean that the economy is £27.8 billion, or 6.6%, larger than had been earlier estimated, in current prices.

However, house prices have fallen for the first time in a year according to the Nationwide.

After hitting a record high in September, a fall of 0.2% took the average UK property price to £188,374.

The monthly price decrease follows 16 months in a row of increases.

Despite the slowing pace of house price growth, every region across the UK recorded year-on-year house price gains, from 21% in London to 4.3% in the north of England.

At £401,072 on average, London house prices reached a new record high in September and now stand at 31% above their 2007 pre-financial crisis peak in the capital.

London and southern England are continuing to drive house price growth with an annual price increase of 14.4% recorded in London's surrounding commuter belt areas and a 13.2% annual price increase recorded in south east England.

Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist, described the outlook for house prices as "uncertain".

He said price growth may soften further and there have been "tentative signs" from estate agents that demand from potential buyers may be starting to cool.

But, on the other hand, low interest rates, which are keeping borrowing cheap, and the strong labour market "suggest that underlying demand is likely to remain robust", he said.

HEALTH

# Doctors fear impact of extending surgery hours

## Family doctors say PM's plan to make them work evenings and weekends could waste funds and overload GPs.

It's 7.30am. The kitchen is a mess of half-prepared sandwiches, half-eaten breakfasts and half-dressed children. Then one of them cuts through the chaos to deliver the words which every parent dreads: "I feel poorly."

A brief and vaguely scientific check of the infant's flushed forehead confirms your worst suspicions. Stop the clocks. Cancel all meetings. Clear the diary. We're going to see the doctor.

The long struggle for an appointment could soon be avoided, however, if David Cameron delivers his promise of extended-hours access to a GP seven days a week for every NHS patient in England by 2020.

It sounds like a perfect solution - except it is already coming down with its own case of the sniffles.

Dr Richard Vautry, a GP and spokesman for the British Medical Association, has warned: "GPs are under huge pressure at the moment and we can't sustain the current service, let alone stretch it to a seven-day service, without significant extra funding and more importantly significant extra staff."

Meanwhile the BMA's chairman, Dr Mark Porter, has said that any proposal must be "good for patients, fair for doctors and affordable for the NHS."

David Cameron insists that the challenges are already being met, under a £50m pilot scheme to introduce

extended seven-day opening at some surgeries.

A total of 1,100 signed up - covering seven million patients - and a quarter of those are now running projects including offering Skype consultations.

Mr Cameron believes a further £500m investment before 2020 will be enough to extend the scheme across the country.

However, patients should not expect their local surgery to be available from 8am to 8pm every day even if the pledge becomes reality.

Surgeries involved in the pilot grouped together to offer an out-of-hours "on call" service which spread the cost and the staffing of the extended hours.

Much of the money spent so far has gone on secure systems that have enabled patient records to be shared between surgeries.

There is also an emerging disagreement about staff numbers.

Mr Cameron said: "There are 1,000 more GPs operating in Britain than when I became Prime Minister in 2010 and our plans involve many more over the next Parliament to make sure we deliver this pledge."

However, the Royal College of GPs says funding for practices fell £400m in real terms between 2010 and 2013. At the same time, the number of consultations has been rising, to a recent total of 340m per year.



The number of patients reporting difficulty contacting their surgery on the phone has risen from 18% to 24% over the last two years in the official GP patients' survey.

There are already 36,000 GPs working in 8,000 practices across the UK, and the government says an extra 5,000 doctors are in training. Labour would add 8,000 more.

Health chiefs say the number of new doctors is not rising fast enough to meet the demand of extended hours.

Dr Peter Swinyard, chairman of the Family Doctor Association, said: "It's not realistic to talk about GP services opening from 8 until 8, seven days a week - that's the bottom line."

## GP: 'No demand' for longer opening

Late opening at doctors' surgeries could waste money and lead to a reduced service during the day, according to some GPs.

Doctors say that a previous attempt to extend surgery hours - brought in by the last Labour government - ended in failure because of a lack of demand.

Surgeries ended up paying staff to sit in empty practices until 8pm, while the waiting room still buzzed during the day.

One doctor explained: "Longer opening is a fine idea, but the problem is that the people who see us the most - young children and the elderly - are the ones that don't have a problem with appointments on a Monday afternoon."

Doctors have also warned that a failure to properly fund and staff the extended hours could lead to surgeries reducing their service during the day - putting extra pressure on A&E departments.

## The Opinion Matrix

# Voices



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Name, age, details of speaker



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Name, age, details of speaker



Three line summary of opinion in here

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