

# KM MEDWAY MESSENGER

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STARTING YOUR WEEK

Monday, May 6, 2013

Two singers through in BBC talent show **SEE P3**

## The next generation

WHO says morris dancing is just for beer-swilling, middle-aged guys with beards?

Five-year-old Lorelei Parker-Morley joined in the fun as the sun shone on Rochester's 33rd Sweeps festival at the weekend.

The good weather was due to continue for the final day of celebrations today (Monday) with temperatures predicted to reach 20C in the South East.

■ More pictures, page 6

Picture: Andy Payton FM257902

# WAIT FOR TRIAL WAS 'TORTURE'

■ PCs CLEARED AFTER TRAGIC DEATH

■ MOTHER'S FUNERAL ON DAY OF VERDICT

THE mother of a man who died while being restrained by police has died not knowing the outcome of the trial of two officers involved.

The family of Colin Holt were not in court on Friday to see PCs Maurice Leigh, 54, and Neil Bowdery, 29, cleared of misconduct charges – because they were attending the funeral.

They have described the two-and-a-half-year wait for details of what happened at the 52-year-old electrician's flat as "torture", while the trial judge raised questions about police training in the light of the tragedy.

Mr Holt, who was schizophrenic, died from positional



Colin Holt, 52, died while being restrained in 2010

asphyxia, which occurs when a person's position prevents them breathing.

Police had been called to his home at Harbledown Manor in Goudhurst Road, Twydall, on August 30, 2010, after he went missing from Medway Hospital.

Officers planned to detain him under the Mental Health Act, but PC Leigh told Maidstone Crown Court that it was necessary to handcuff Mr Holt because he was being violent.

Mr Holt's sister Jo said: "It has taken so painfully long to get to this stage and it's a shame that my mother and I had to endure this."

"She was really knocked for six at the news of Colin's death. It broke her heart."

"She was waiting for answers so she could deal with losing her son in this way. She didn't get to say goodbye or find inner peace."

"Colin will be greatly missed by all the family. He was a good brother, uncle and son and we shared some real fun times and those are the memories we will keep with us – he was a truly unique part of our family."

■ Officer weeps at verdict - page 5

## INSIDE

Justice finally catches up with death driver

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Lodge Hill home row 'goes to top'

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Tragic Josh 'a shining example'



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Scally back to business



SEE Sport

CHECK US OUT THIS MAY AT ONE OF OUR

# open events

**TUESDAY**  
**14 MAY**  
6.00PM - 8.00PM  
MEDWAY CAMPUS,  
GILLINGHAM

**THURSDAY**  
**16 MAY**  
5.30PM - 7.30PM  
MAIDSTONE CAMPUS,  
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