

Dover - France Ferries
2007 Early Booking Offer

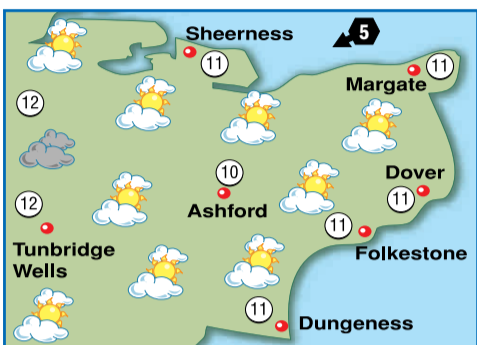
From £ **24** *
Amend FREE

Each way, any duration, car + 5
0870 870 10 20

norfolkline.com
DOVER - DUNKERQUE FERRIES

*Non-refundable. Valid only when used as part of a return booking with the outward journey originating from Dover. Supplements apply for travel 9th-25th Feb inclusive. Full terms and conditions apply. Offer subject to availability. Phone bookings incur £4 supplement.

Kent today



TODAY: A misty start. It will then be dry with sunny periods. Light north-easterly winds. Generally clear during the evening. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F).

TONIGHT: Dry but rather misty conditions are expected during the night. Light south-easterly winds. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

Around Britain

	°C	°F		°C	°F		
Aberdeen	fair	8	46	London	cloudy	9	48
Belfast	fair	11	52	Liverpool	fair	11	52
Birmingham	cloudy	8	46	Manchester	cloudy	10	50
B'mouth	cloudy	9	48	Newcastle	fair	8	46
Bristol	fair	10	50	Norwich	fair	10	50
Cardiff	cloudy	10	50	Oxford	cloudy	9	48
Cork	drizzle	9	48	Southsea	cloudy	11	52
Edinburgh	cloudy	8	46	S'hampton	cloudy	9	48
Glasgow	fair	8	46	Southport	sun	10	50
Isle of Man	fair	9	48	Swansea	cloudy	9	48
Leeds	cloudy	8	46	Torquay	cloudy	11	52

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.03am	Sunset	5.15pm	Lighting up times:	5.15pm to 7.01am
Moonrise	7.31am	Moonset	6.34pm		

High Tides

	today		tomorrow	
	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	11.28	6.7	23.51	6.9
Margate	00.06	4.7	12.42	4.8
St Mary's	05.06	5.9	17.28	5.7

Week ahead

monday Sunny spells. max 10C min 5C	thursday Cloudy, dry. max 9C min 6C
tuesday Cloudy, dry. max 9C min 6C	friday Sunny spells. max 9C min 6C
wednesday Cloudy, dry. max 9C min 6C	saturday Cloudy, dry. max 9C min 6C

'Change of tack will mean jams'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

supported the anti-road pricing petition, but had not yet signed up. The deadline for adding names is Tuesday.

But Dr Ladyman said action needed to be taken to address Britain's clogged roads, with the number of vehicles in the country rising from 26 million in 1997 to 36 million.

"Allowing congestion to get worse to the point that nobody can drive anywhere is more likely to be Labour's poll tax," he said.

The minister said he drove about 15,000 miles a year and admitted that the advent of road pricing could merely make him pay more.

"I'll do it at different times of day or I'll put my hand in my pocket and pay to use the busiest roads at the busiest times of day."

If given the go-ahead, road pricing could see every vehicle being fitted with a black box that would allow satellites to track them. They would be charged from as little as 2p to as much as £1.34 a mile, depending on how busy the road they were using was.

Opposition

The Government wants to start pilot schemes within four years and a national system could be up and running by 2015.

Dr Ladyman said existing road taxes may stay, but he stressed the overall amount of cash generated would not go up.

"Road pricing is not going to be used as a mechanism to raise more money."

He ruled out allowing third parties such as insurance firms access to the data and said MPs would not be exempt.

Ten local authorities are currently considering road pricing and one or more of them will be selected for a pilot before a national scheme is considered. He said Kent County Council was initially interested in the idea, but has decided not to pursue it.

However, Dr Ladyman admitted that public opposition was strong and may prevent road pricing ever getting off the ground.

"We've convinced every single expert

Treasury's £6m phones fines boost

UP TO £6 million that will be raised this year from fining motorists in Kent for using mobile phones while driving will go straight into Treasury coffers.

From Wednesday, drivers caught using non-hands free mobiles face fines of £60, instead of the previous £30, and three penalty points on their licence.

A massive 75,000 fines were issued last year - with all of the money going straight to the Chancellor. Transport minister Stephen Ladyman said that figure could rise to 100,000 this year - and none of the money will be used for road safety.

"I think that when people realise that 75,000 to 100,000 people are going to be caught and given three points on their licence, they will be more careful," he said.

The Thanet South MP said the Government would wait and see how much money is generated before deciding if it should go towards road safety.

"I hope there won't be much of it because people will get the message that it's not safe and stop doing it."

He pointed out that money from speed cameras was already going towards road safety schemes.

Police forces around the country will be



keeping a look-out for drivers using mobiles this week, said Dr Ladyman.

"The police will be initially working with us to get the message across and we'll be starting to pull people over. I'm not expecting them to put huge amounts of resources onto it, but equally I'm not expecting them to ignore people when they see them holding their mobiles."

Kent police believe that up to five per cent of road traffic collisions involving serious injuries or fatalities in the county are as a result of drivers using a hand-held mobile phone immediately before or at the time of the accident. The force issued nearly 5,000 fines to drivers last year caught using a mobile while on the road.

group, every business representative, but no members of the public are convinced yet.

"If people aren't convinced the government of the day will have to change tack, but the consequence of that will be traffic jams."

He said the Downing Street petition misled the public about the Government's plans for road pricing.

It recently emerged that German firm T-Systems, which is providing the technology used in any road pricing scheme adopted by ministers, gave £45,000 to the Institute of

Public Policy Research, the think-tank that has championed the plans.

Meanwhile, the Department of Transport was under fire this week from a committee of MPs for failing to meet targets on cutting congestion, air quality and carbon dioxide emissions and increasing the amount of public transport use.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Police death rap

POLICE emergency call handlers could have prevented a man killing himself if they had acted sooner, according to a report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Steven Paul Hay, 47, was killed by a freight train near West Malling Station last April. His former girlfriend, Tina Reigate, telephoned police twice warning them that he was threatening to commit suicide.

A Kent police call centre operator received a written warning and five members of the Force Control Centre were given advice.

Council tax hike

RESIDENTS in Medway face a council tax hike of 4.49 per cent. The bill for the average Band D property would rise to £991.89 if the increase goes through.

Medway Council's cabinet meets on Tuesday to decide the budget it will recommend to a meeting of the full council.

Cllr Alan Jarrett, Medway Council's deputy leader, said: "The amount the council can raise is limited because the Government has set a cap on our increase, despite Medway being among the country's lowest bills."

Q&A rail podcast

COMMUTERS are being encouraged to think up questions that will be put to a train boss who will answer them via a podcast.

Jonathan Shaw, Labour MP for Chatham and Aylesford, will read questions to Charles Horton, managing director of Govia, which has been running the Southeastern franchise since April, 2006. His answers will be broadcast on the internet.

Mr Shaw said: "I want to hear the views and opinions of the people of Medway who use the rail service."

EDITOR: Bernard Ginn
ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR.
WEBSITE: www.kentnews.co.uk
TELEPHONE 01303 817000
FAX (ADVERTISING) 01303 817001
FAX (EDITORIAL) 01303 817002

EMAIL
Editorial: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising: sales@kosmedia.co.uk

Printed by Archant Print. Early edition free, late edition 50p.



© 2002 KENT ON SUNDAY. KENT ON SUNDAY is published by KOS Media (Publishing) Limited.

"Cut Out The Middle Man & Buy Direct From The Importers"

State Of The Art Laser Cutting Equipment

100s Of Choices Available

First Class Service With A Personal Touch

Call Now For A Free Estimate

0845 450 2042



Brightside, Westfield Sole Road,
Boxley, Maidstone,
Kent
www.gwd-direct.co.uk

