

AUGUST



NEWSLETTER

Maidstone Community Support Centre

MCSC...



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in a writer and joint bookman

...Celebrating 40 years

What's inside?



Work Experience

See the students who came in for work experience with us.

Hackspace Laser Engraving

A beginner friendly workshop.

The Garden

Updates on the Centres garden.

Pet Calender

Take part in a good cause.

Solar Panels

See how our solar panels are doing.

MCSC

Anniversary

Celebrating 40 years with MCSC.

Archery

Our Matt is now a qualified archery coach!

Archaeology Expedition

Experience a journey through time.

see inside!



WORK EXPERIENCE



Natalie



Freddie

Over the past month, we had a range of students who came to do Work Experience. During their time here they learnt the value of communication, how to run the centre from reception, the importance of social media and engagement, financial side of business, and plenty more about the transition from school to work life. They even went on the radio! If you'd like to hear more about their experiences please check out our social media to see their interviews:



**Maidstone Community
Support Centre**



@mcsc.maidstone

Blessing



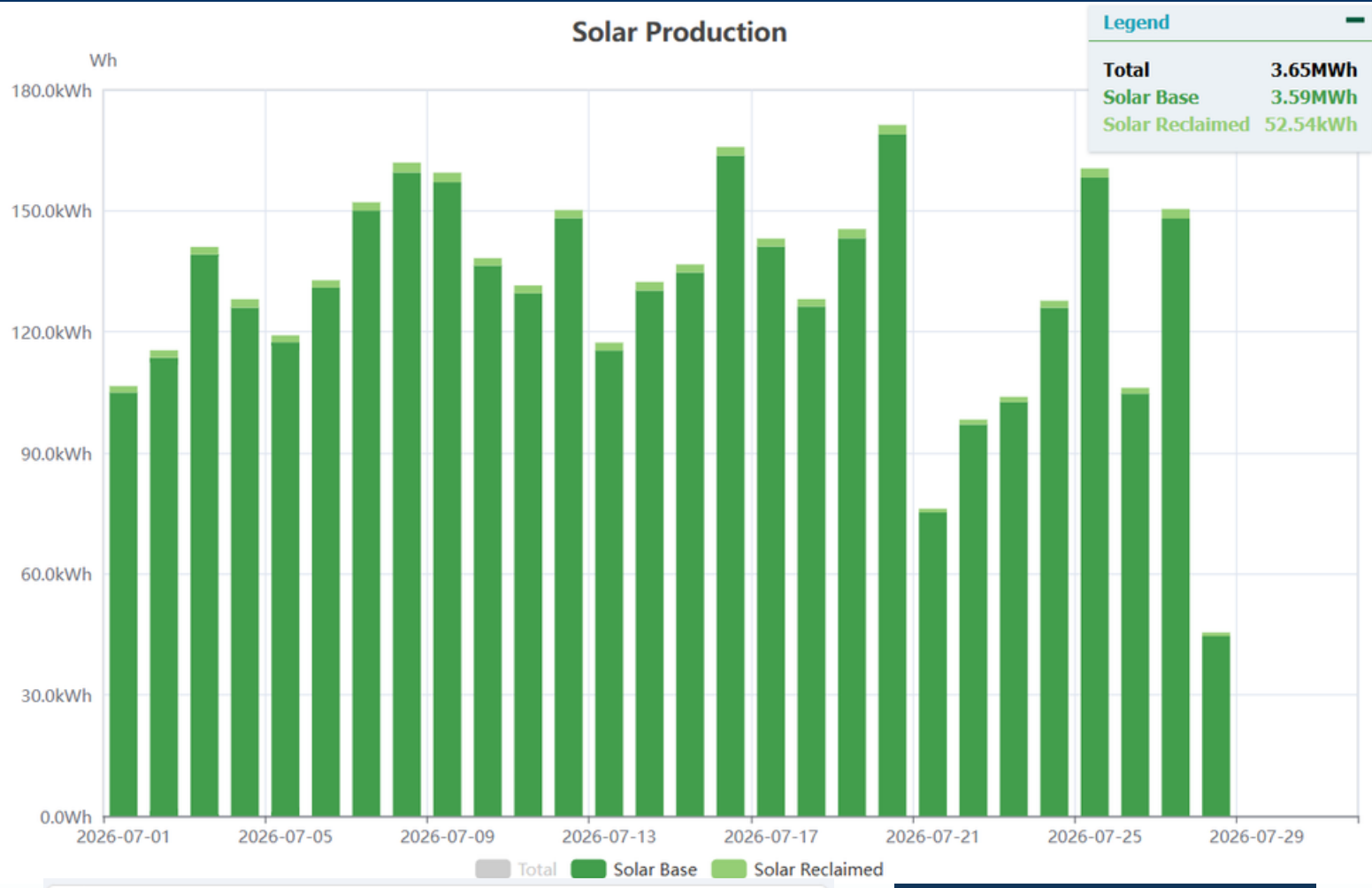
Malachi



THE GARDEN

Our Garden is currently undergoing some changes...
Stay tuned to see the final result!





Today Metrics

Lifetime Metrics

18.35 MWh

PV PRODUCTION

281.98 kWh

RECLAIMED ENERGY

£0.00

INCOME EQUIVALENT

**Solar
panels at
work in
July!**

Lifetime Energy Equivalents



14.4k

lbs

COAL NOT
BURNED



1.5k

gal

GAS NOT
CONSUMED



32.7k

miles

DISTANCE NOT
DRIVEN



216.8

trees

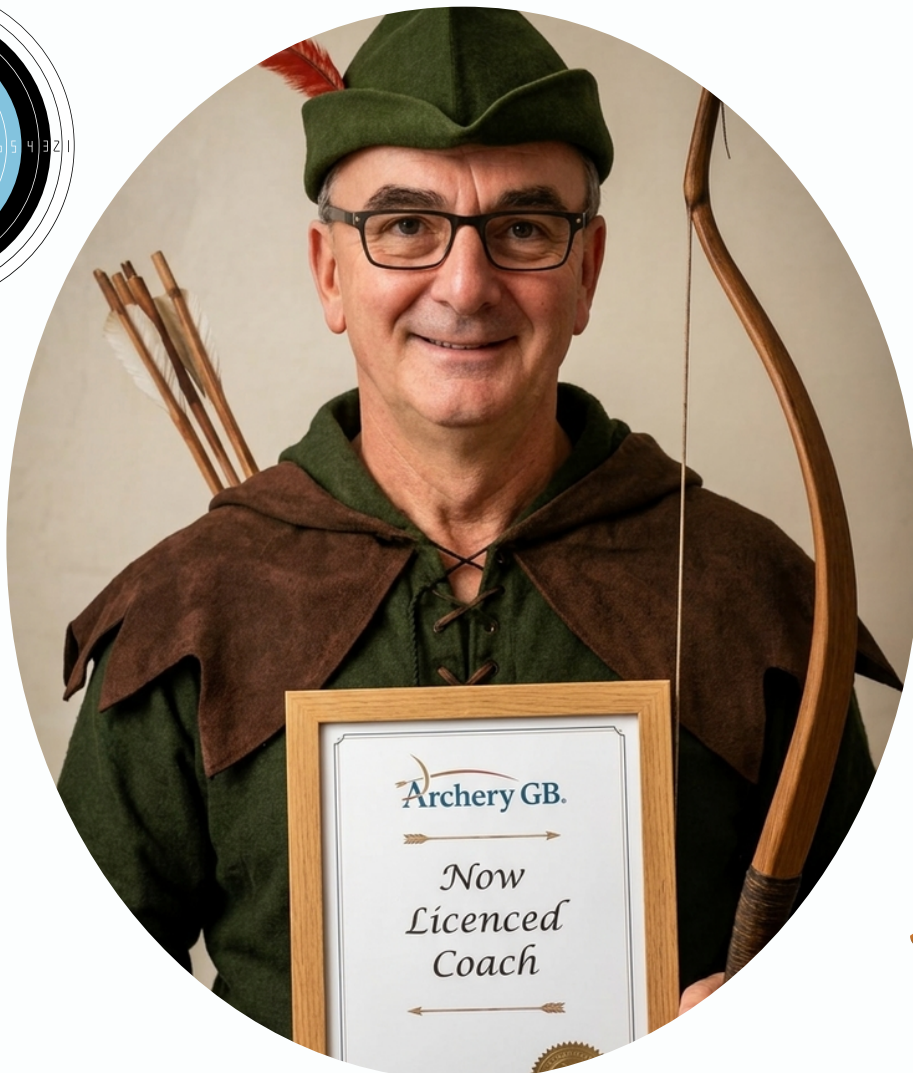
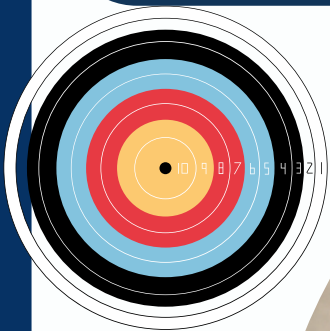
PLANTED



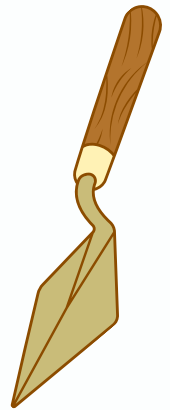
ARCHERY COACH

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our very own Matt has officially and successfully completed his Archery GB Session Coaching qualification!

With this impressive achievement under his belt, Matt is now fully certified and ready to share his passion and expertise at his local club, Kent Police Archery. Whether you are a complete beginner picking up a bow for the very first time, or a seasoned archer looking to fine-tune your technique, Matt is equipped to guide, support, and coach archers of all ages and skill levels. Please join us in sending him a huge congratulations on this fantastic milestone!



A simple illustration of a broom with a wooden handle and a bundle of white bristles. The broom is positioned diagonally, with the handle pointing towards the top right. There are four small yellow squares at the bottom left of the broom's head.



Prices: FREE

<https://theamelia.co.uk/whats-on/archaeology-adventure.html>

MAIDSTONE HACKSPACE

Join the creative and beginner friendly workshop with laser engraving and even themed designs for Halloween and Christmas! Materials and guidance included.

MAKE SOMETHING BRILLIANT

Creative, beginner-friendly workshops at Maidstone Hackspace

2026 WORKSHOP PROGRAMME • PAGE 1



Laser Engraved Stamp Making

Multiple dates available | From £15

Create your own reusable stamp using digital design and laser engraving. We will show you how to source or create suitable artwork, prepare it for engraving, and turn it into a printing block. Ink your finished stamp, test it on paper and take the block home to use again.

ALL MATERIALS AND GUIDANCE INCLUDED

Create Your Own 20 x 20 cm Laser-Engraved Lino Print

Saturday 8 August and one further date | From £20

Combine modern laser engraving with traditional printmaking. Choose a bold graphic, learn how to prepare it for engraving, then create a 20 x 20 cm lino block. Ink and print your design, producing a finished piece of art and keeping the block for future prints.

ALL MATERIALS AND GUIDANCE INCLUDED



MAKE SOMETHING BRILLIANT

Creative, beginner-friendly workshops at Maidstone Hackspace

2026 WORKSHOP PROGRAMME • PAGE 2



Laser-Cut Spooky Halloween Lantern Workshop

Saturday 24 October, 9:00 am | From £20

Personalise a wooden Halloween lantern with your own spooky graphics. We will show you how to find or generate artwork, prepare it for laser cutting and position it on the lantern panels. Assemble your finished lantern with a mains-powered colour-changing LED light and wireless remote control.

ALL MATERIALS AND GUIDANCE INCLUDED

Create Your Own Laser-Cut Christmas Ornaments

Saturday 5 December, 9:00 am | From £20

Design and make a set of personalised wooden Christmas decorations. Add names, dates, messages or festive artwork, then watch your ideas become laser-cut ornaments. Finish them with ribbon and take home a unique set for your tree or to give as handmade gifts.

ALL MATERIALS AND GUIDANCE INCLUDED



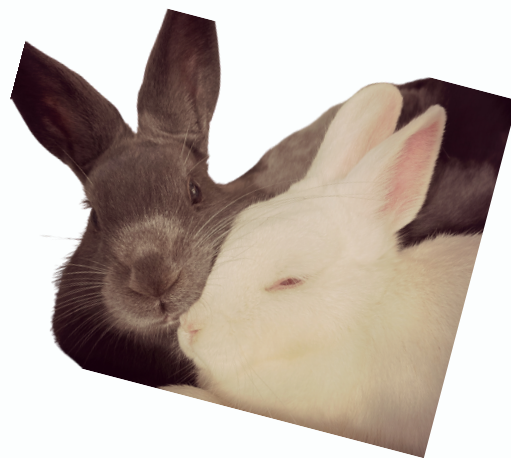
View dates and book online at:
eventbrite.co.uk/o/maidstone-hackspace-71260243223

OR scan here:





PET CALANDER



We will be putting out a 2027 calendar designed by us for next year.

Previously MCSC did a Dog specific calendar and all donations went to Happy Endings Animal Rescue.

If you work within the Centre, this time we'd love to include a variety of all your pets. Of course, dogs are very much still welcome, but if you have any pet whatsoever, please email the address below with a photo you would like to be included and your pets name.

If you'd like a specific Month/Event e.g. you have an image of your animal in a Christmas outfit please do specify in your reply.

Please send all your photos by the end of September. We will be donating again to a Charity or Rescue so please get involved in the fun to go towards a good cause!

I look forward to seeing all your fabulous pets!

centresupport@mcsc.org.uk



Celebrating 40 Years of Maidstone Community Support Centre



This August marks a major milestone for us at MCSC.

Our charity is celebrating its 40th anniversary!

While the charity itself was formally established on 12th August 1986, the Centre officially opened its doors the following year, meaning the team will be celebrating next year's 40th anniversary of the building's official grand opening.

For nearly four decades, MCSC has been providing affordable, accessible office space and sessional rooms to hundreds of charities and community groups across Maidstone and Kent.

A Historic Building with a Rich Story

Long before it became a bustling charity hub on Marsham Street, our Centre had a fascinating history:

- **1891: Originally built as the Howard de Walden Institute for Women, offering practical education and skills for young Victorian women.**
- **WWI: Served as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D) hospital**
- **Served as accommodation for local nurses working at the West Kent General Hospital.**
- **1986: Don Brand had the foresight to purchase the nurses home as the hospital was moving to a new site in Barming.**
- **1987: MCSC opens its doors. The Centre has been transformed through local vision into a dedicated, permanent home for charitable and voluntary organizations.**

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT CHAPTER

Whether hosting counselling sessions, volunteer training, community radio broadcasts, or simply offering a warm cup of tea and a friendly chat in the Sunflower Café, MCSC remains an irreplaceable community asset.

"By providing an affordable and welcoming base, MCSC enables small charities and local initiatives to focus on what matters most: helping people in need across Maidstone." Happy 40th Anniversary to MCSC! Here's to celebrating four decades of foundation this year, looking forward to next year's milestone celebration of the Centre's opening, and honouring many more years of bringing people together.



Take a look at our old logo vs the new one!



THEN



NOW



MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY
SUPPORT CENTRE