

# Charlie Elphicke calls for new route linking Dover to Deal Parents of tragic cyclist back MP's road demand

The parents of killed cyclist Daniel Squire are backing MP Charlie Elphicke's calls to make the A258 Dover to Deal road safer.

Daniel Squire was 18 years old when his bike was struck from behind by a van near Ringwood on the road in September 2013.

The incident was one of 228 crashes that have taken place on the busy and often congested stretch since 2003, including more than 100 between 2010 and 2016.

Now Mr Elphicke wants the authorities to look at building a new road to connect Dover and Deal – to ease pressure, reduce journey times and improve safety.

Daniel Squire's parents, Tracy and Symon, have joined his calls to make it safer – a cause they have been fighting for since their triathlete son died of his injuries after being struck by a man who was later acquitted of causing his death by dangerous driving.

After Philip Sinden's acquittal, the Squires joined the Mercury in launching our Why Risk It? campaign, reminding people against the risks of texting while driving, which Mr Sinden had admitted to doing earlier in his journey, before he reached the stretch of road where he impacted with Daniel.

Mrs Squire, of Reach Close, St Margaret's, said: "There are too many vehicles driving too fast on a road that is not wide enough.

"Daniel was loved by everyone who knew him, and we will never get over what



MP Charlie Elphicke with Symon and Tracy Squire at the site on the A258 where the Squires' son, Daniel, right, died



Picture: Hayley Squire

happened. But if motorists become more aware of cyclists, if we manage to be part of making a major road in the area safer, his death won't be for nothing."

The former St Edmund's Catholic School pupil, was a keen triathlete, securing a place in the Bolton Ironman shortly before he died.

He was popular in Deal at the Admiral Keppel, formerly run by his mum and her partner Steve Rutter, and also in Dover where he went to school and worked.

Daniel's father added: "We were extremely close, working together at London Fancy Box and training together as members of Deal Tri.

"The road is a nightmare for cyclists, but there aren't a lot of alternative routes.

"We really need to try to make it safer in some way."

Mr Elphicke has long called for safety improvements on the A258.

He wants a new road built elsewhere, providing a faster route between Dover and Deal and relieving pressure on the existing road.

He said: "Everyone knows the A258 is too busy and too dangerous. It has been that way for years.

"The road is not fit to handle such high levels of traffic.

The route must be made safer.

"That's why we need to seriously consider building a new road to connect Dover and Deal.

"We need to see action on this, before any more serious incidents."

## IN BRIEF

### Pundit chat

The Astor Theatre in Deal will welcome broadcaster and University of Kent chancellor Gavin Esler in conversation with author, journalist and writer Polly Toynbee on Friday, September 1. The event is part of the university's In Conversation series. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets cost £10 or £5 for concessions. To book, call 01304 370220 or go to theastor.org. Proceeds from the series go towards the Kent Opportunity Fund.

### Open-air Dream

An open-air promenade production of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream will take place at Beacon Hill Cottage in Little Mongeham near Deal on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It is directed by Michael Corbridge and features Rose Bruford drama students. Visitors are asked to bring a cushion. Tickets are £25. To book, call 01304 375809 or email mig@migkimpton.com.

### Film screening

A Century of Coal is a new film by Peter Williams which will be screened at the Astor Theatre, Deal, on Friday, September 1. Tickets are £10 and profits will benefit the Kent Mining Heritage Foundation. To book, telephone 01304 370220 or visit www.theastor.org.



Learn about 2,000 years of English history at Dover Castle this weekend Picture: Paul Dennis

## Bank holiday history and culture at castles

An action-packed weekend will reveal 2,000 years of England's history at Dover Castle.

It takes place from 10am to 5pm over the Bank Holiday weekend from Saturday, August 26 to Monday August 28.

England's story across the centuries will be brought to dazzling life when the castle hosts its ultimate summer blockbuster event with an action-packed programme of thrilling displays and hands-on activities for all

the family to enjoy.

Also on Bank Holiday Monday, families are invited to pack picnic and head down to Walmer Castle for a production of Jane Eyre.

Each year, Chapterhouse Theatre Company visits castles, country estates and heritage sites with adaptations of literature's most loved stories.

They encourage audiences to take along seating and food, with maybe a glass of something chilled to wash it all down, for a wonderful evening

out with family and friends. Rugs and low-backed seats are welcomed.

Dogs or open flames are not allowed.

Tickets cost £15 per adult, £10 per child or £44 for a family of two adults and two children.

A 15% discount is on offer for groups of 11 or more.

Gates open at 6.30pm, and the show will start at 7.30pm. Call 0370 333 1183.

For further information, visit english-heritage.org.uk

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