

# opinion

by Kudos readers

Hope you enjoy the Opinion page

- please send in your contributions, whether they be good, bad or ugly.

## Royal or no longer?

In my opinion, Royal Tunbridge Wells no longer merits the prefix 'Royal'. I am aware that the title was bestowed upon the town in 1909, by King Edward VII, as a result of the many visiting members of the aristocracy, who visited the town for recreation and the alleged healing properties of the Chalybeate Spring.

Today, I doubt that the honour would be given. In 2007, the town looks, tired, disjointed and tardy. I could start with what was the Habitat building in the centre of the town, which is a beautiful building but empty and neglected.

Another building in the heart of the town that has also remained empty and neglected for an even longer period of time is the old cinema. Home now to pigeons and the subject of much speculation concerning the future.

Following on down the hill from this eye-sore are yet more empty and run-down shops and units.

Next on my hit list is the railway station. An integral part of the London to Hastings mainline, it has for some years passed as a filthy, smelly decaying interior and exterior. There is evidence, however, of work in progress as scaffolding has now been erected around the clock, which has been displaying the time as midday for some twelve months.

I am also concerned about the amount of rubbish that collects around the clock tower, I simply cannot imagine the mentality of people that sit on the steps/seats, eat and drink and then walk away leaving their litter - I don't have the answer to this problem - but then again - I am not paid toll.

Where does the responsibility for any of the above lie?

I would like to place it at the door of T.W.B.C (who are now about to bring in car parking charges on a Sunday - I don't have a car, but have every sympathy with the motorist - paying some of the highest car parking charges in the country, and who will now be denied, a 'free' day on a Sunday for this September) but am realistic enough to know that this may not be the case.

All I do know is, that I have been a resident of Tunbridge Wells since I was 12 years old, though I am a great deal older now, and feel very justified in having the prerogative to lament all of the above.

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