



Repairs will be made to the footbridge at West Malling

## Footbridge closed during repair work

Repairs will be carried out on the footbridge at West Malling railway station over the summer.

Network Rail has appointed BAM Nuttall to carry out essential upgrades to the steelwork, along with repainting and resurfacing the structure.

Works will start on Monday, June 20, and the bridge will remain open with exceptions of some weekends and nights.

It will be closed all day Sundays July 3, July 24, July 31, August 7 and August 14.

It will then be shut overnight between 10pm and 5.30am on Sunday, August 14 to Thursday, August 19.

During closures, passengers travelling from London will need to leave the site via the Station Road North exit, walk along Swan Street and up Station Approach to get to the car park.

Passengers travelling from West Malling to Maidstone and Ashford will also have to enter through Station Road North.

# Call for life-changing op to be available to more

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A former salesman who would be left in excruciating pain due to a medical condition has spoken about how surgery changed his life for the better.

Derek Burgess, from Kings Hill, had suffered for 10 years with an enlarged prostate, which left him constantly feeling the urge to use the toilet.

It made life difficult for the now 67-year-old, who would be driving 600-800 miles a week for his job.

He said: "I'd have to pull over to the side of the motorway if I knew I would not be able to make it to a service station on time.

"Trying to hold everything in would bring tears to my eyes.

"It was a nuisance having to stop all the time and when I did I'd have a very weak flow.

"It crept up on me. I tried to put sorting it out off until it got to the stage where I felt that I really had to do something about it."

He had resisted invasive surgery or life-long medication which can have significant side effects, until he read about a new procedure in a national newspaper.



Derek Burgess is raising awareness about a new medical procedure

Urolift is a minimally invasive operation that inserts implants to hold back the enlarged prostate and help flow of urine. Most patients have the procedure under local anaesthetic and go home the same day.

Mr Burgess, of Porter Avenue, paid to have the surgery privately at Spire Clare Park Hospital in Farnham in May 2014.

As part of Men's Health Week, he's now calling for it to be made more available to other men. It's currently only offered at a handful of NHS hospitals.

It is estimated 40% of men aged over 50 suffer from an enlarged prostate. Symptoms include a constant need to urinate, a weak flow, trouble starting to go, or feeling the need to push

or strain during urination.

Neil Barber, Mr Burgess' surgeon and consultant urologist, said: "Many men I see in clinic are, understandably, very nervous about having surgery.

"They may be older but they are men, so whatever their age, they don't want to have an operation which may make them feel less of a man."

## Man cut free after four cars collide

A man was cut free from a car after a four-vehicle crash on Blue Bell Hill on Monday.

Traffic built up on the southbound side of the A229, about two miles north of Maidstone, before junction 6 of the M20, as a result of the collision at 8.30am.

Firefighters spent more than an hour rescuing the man before handing him over to ambulance crews.

An ambulance spokesman said two men, a 54-year-old passenger and a 41-year-old driver, were both treated at the scene for chest and spinal injuries before being taken to Medway Maritime Hospital.

Their injuries were not described as life-threatening. A woman in her early 20s was also checked for injuries but did not require treatment, the spokesman added.

One lane was closed and traffic was backed up to the Lord Lees roundabout for about two hours.

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