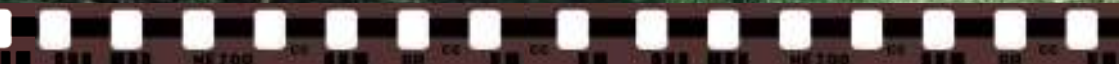


EXPERIENCE
THE GARDEN
OF ENGLAND
PERFICK!

The Darling Buds of May



The Darling Buds of May

GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS, LOVE, LAUGHTER AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE: TV SERIES, THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY, CAPTURES LIFE IN AN IDYLIC RURAL, 1950s KENT, WHERE LIFE WITH THE LARKIN FAMILY IS NEVER DULL.

The series was based on a novel of the same name by author H.E. Bates. He was born in Northamptonshire, but it was Kent that captured his heart when he moved to Little Chart with his wife in 1930.

It was some years later when the author and his wife stopped at a village shop to buy sweets when inspiration struck. As he waited for his wife in the car, the shop door suddenly opened and an extraordinary family burst out onto the street: mother and father with a large brood of children hugging bags of crisps and sweets and licking cones of multi-coloured ice-creams. Laughing and shouting, they piled into a big blue truck and disappeared into the summer haze. The Larkin family was born.

The Darling Buds of May novel was first published in 1957 and the now much-loved TV series first aired in April 1991. The cast line-up is led by David Jason as Pop Larkin, with Pam Ferris as Ma Larkin and Catherine Zeta-Jones, who has gone on to become a Hollywood name, as the beautiful Mariette.

Pluckley in Kent was chosen as the base for the filming and nearby Buss Farm with oast-house, out-buildings and a paddock became Home Farm, the residence of the Larkin family.

When it first aired in 1991, the feel-good show was an instant hit and it took top position in the overnight ratings. Three series later it became a firm favourite nationwide. To this day the series has remained in the hearts of audiences as well as the hearts of the Pluckley locals, who still enjoy fond memories of seeing the filming and being involved.

Follow this trail and step back in time to those idyllic days portrayed in the series and experience all the sights, smells and tastes that rural Kent has to offer.



Ma and Pop picnic © ITV

In the words of Pop Larkin himself:

“ I HAD SUCH A WONDERFUL TIME FILMING SUCH A GREAT SERIES AND ENJOYED MY STAY IN KENT ENORMOUSLY. THERE ARE SO MANY LOVELY PLACES TO VISIT AND ENJOY AND THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THE CAST AND CREW WAS JUST LOVELY. I HOPE THE WEATHER IS KIND AND THAT YOU ALL HAVE A PERFICK TIME. ”

WITH VERY BEST WISHES FROM
SIR DAVID JASON

IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT KENTISH FOOD AND PRODUCE ALSO PLAY A STARRING ROLE IN THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY.

THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY SERIES CAPTURES THE KENT WAY OF LIFE, AND THE ENJOYMENT OF LOCAL PRODUCE IS VERY MUCH PART OF THAT. ONE OF THE EARLIEST EPISODES SHOWS THE LARKIN WOMEN PICKING STRAWBERRIES, AND A MAJOR STORYLINE SEES MARIETTE AND CHARLEY GO ON TO BUY A HOP GARDEN AND BREWERY OF THEIR OWN. AND NOT FORGETTING THE LARKIN FARM, WHICH IS OVERFLOWING WITH HOME GROWN AND LOCAL FOOD AT ALL TIMES!

Kent has long been celebrated as the Garden of England and has been famous for its orchards and hop gardens since the reign of King Henry VIII.

During Henry's reign, vegetables, previously considered poor man's food, became increasingly popular with the nobility. The King was especially partial to artichokes, loved fruit and, together with Anne Boleyn, shared a passion for strawberries and cherries. The Garden of England proved a fertile larder for his wants and in 1533 the royal fruiterer, Richard Harris, planted apple and fruit orchards at Teynham. The East Kent 'fruit belt' had been born.



Main cast in front of table © ITV

Kent's association with growing hops has led to oast houses becoming an instantly recognisable symbol of the county and in the 19th and early 20th centuries, 80,000 people would have been involved in the annual harvest at hop-picking time in September.

As well as growing hops, the county has a strong brewing heritage. Faversham is home to Britain's oldest independent brewery, Shepherd Neame, which was used in the series for exterior shots of Bristow's Brewery.



Kent has proudly carried forward this tradition and today, you can still find a vast array of local produce from traditional orchard fruits to baked goods, meat, award-winning wines and even tea.

Restaurants and outlets throughout the county are proud to serve and stock Kent produce and there are more than 30 farmers markets, so you are never without an opportunity to try the taste of Kent for yourself.



THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY TRAIL BRINGS TOGETHER THE IDYLIC SIGHTS, SMELLS AND TASTES OF RURAL KENT THAT ARE SO WONDERFULLY CAPTURED IN THE LARKIN FAMILY'S LIFESTYLE. WHETHER YOU'VE GOT TWO DAYS OR TWO HOURS, THE TRAIL INCLUDES PLENTY OF CHOICE FOR THINGS TO SEE AND DO.

In the village of Pluckley, you can take a look at the church where Mariette and Charley got married and where Primrose flirted with the young vicar. The village primary school opposite became the village hall in the series.

Or perhaps stop off at Pop and Ma Larkin's local, The Black Horse pub, before setting off on the circular Pluckley walk, which will take you through Kent's famous fields and orchards.

Out of the village, you'll find the home of the Larkins, Buss Farm, and if you fancy the beach, a trip to Folkestone will reveal the location of the Larkin's day at the seaside and the cable car lift that was used for Pop and Charley's heart to heart.

You can step back in time at agricultural museums, get hands on experience at a working windmill and admire historic vehicles. Or just sit back and take in the Kent countryside as you travel on the Kent and East Sussex Railway.



Coach And Grey Rolls at Pool Opening © Roger Holmes

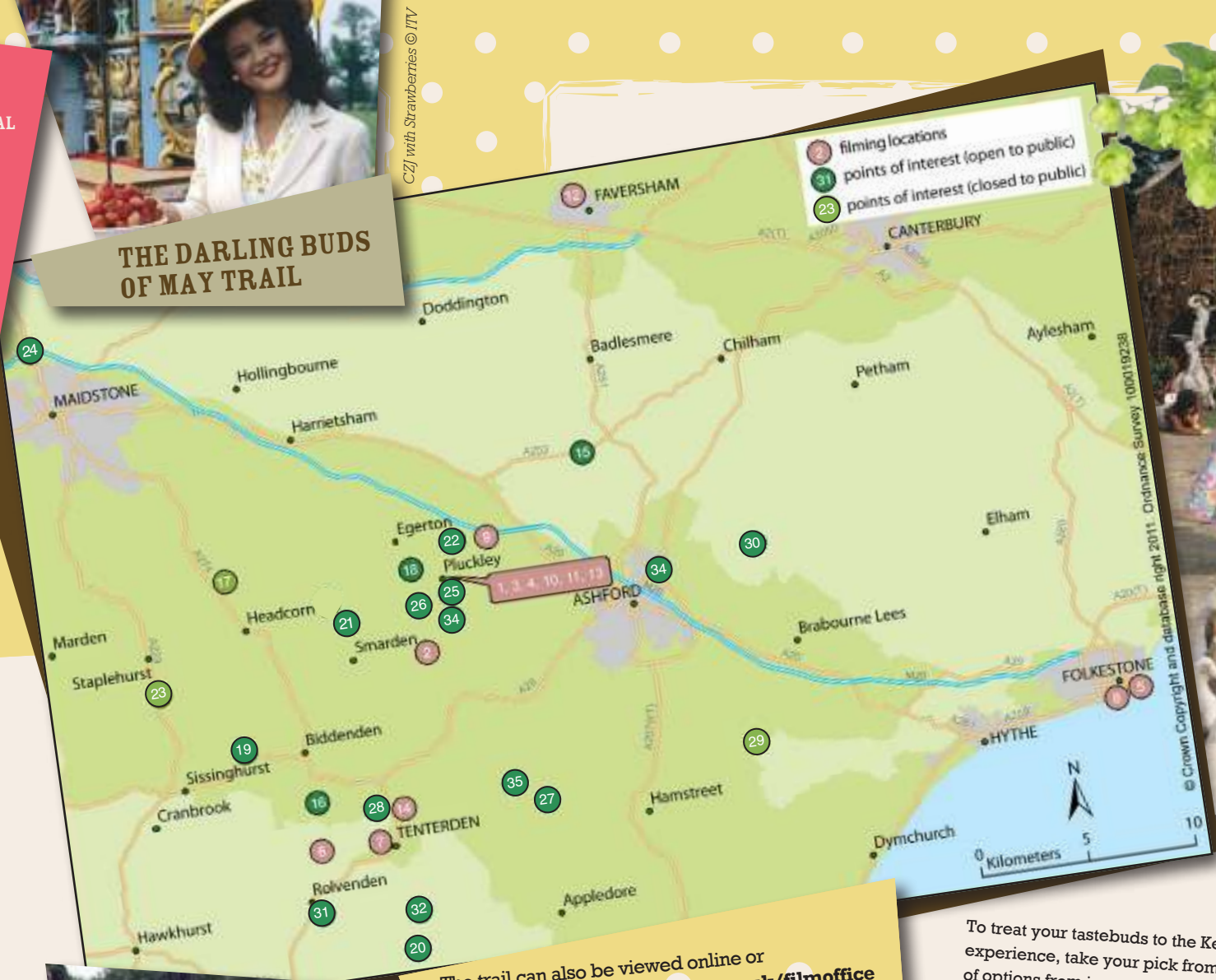


The trail can also be viewed online or downloaded from: www.kent.gov.uk/filmoffice

The Darling Buds of May

To treat your tastebuds to the Kent experience, take your pick from a range of options from ice cream and cheese makers to wine and fruit juice producers, or stock up at one of the local farm shops.

And why not stay a while? Relax, enjoy a slice of Darling Buds of May tranquility and wake up refreshed in the Garden of England.



CZJ with Strawberries © ITV



Ma with Ceese © ITV

PLACES TO SEE AND VISIT ON THE TRAIL...



© Explore Kent

1 BLACK HORSE PUB
The Street, Pluckley, Kent TN27 0QS
Tel: 01233 841948
www.blackhorsepluckley.co.uk/index.asp

Known as the Hare and Hounds in the Darling Buds of May, The Black Horse was Pop Larkins' local. Today it still offers a typically friendly country hospitality and hearty fayre.

2 DARLING BUDS FARM
Tuesnoad Lane, Bethersden, Kent TN26 3EQ
Tel: 01233 822450
www.darlingbudsfarm.co.uk/

Known as Home Farm to most, Darling Buds Farm is the most iconic of all the locations: the home of the Larkin's! Renovated in 2014, you can now stay at the farm and visit the annual Darling Buds of May Classic Car Show.

3 CHURCH GATES COTTAGE
The Street, Pluckley, Kent TN27 0QT
Church Gate Cottage became Edith Pilchester's home and has changed little in the intervening years. It is now a private residence but from the pavement you can easily visualise Pop leading Edith up her garden path.

4 FIG TREE COTTAGE
The Street, Pluckley, Kent TN27 0QT
The exterior and garden of Fig Tree Cottage were used as the Brigadier's garden. Die-hard fans of the series will no doubt remember the Brigadier walking out into the street as the Larkin's test drive the new Rolls Royce. This is a private residence which can be seen from the pavement.

5 FOLKESTONE HARBOUR
The Station House, Folkestone Harbour, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1QH
www.folkestoneharbour.com

When Mlle. Dupont arrives for Oscar's Christening, she arrives at Folkestone Harbour. The Larkins first met her during their holiday to Brittany in the previous season.

6 HALDEN PLACE
Halden Lane, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4BJ
Mrs. Kintley's hop garden was a particularly hard find! But with the help of the series location manager we tracked it down. Not much is visible from the road but the distinctive Oast Chimney is a dead giveaway. This is a private residence.

7 KENT AND EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY
Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6HE
Tel: 01580 765 155
www.kesr.org.uk

The Kent and East Sussex Railway brought tax man Charley into the lives of the Larkins, as well as taking Ma, Charley and Mariette to find the perfect wedding dress. The railway still hasn't run out of steam and operates much as it did during the series. A train timetable can be downloaded from the website: kesr.org.uk/timetable

8 LEAS LIFT, FOLKESTONE
Lower Sandgate Rd, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1QJ
Tel: 01303 210047
www.visitkent.co.uk/attractions/the-leas-lift/135584

The Victorian Leas Cable Car Lift was used as a backdrop when filming on Folkestone's beach for the Larkins' seaside holiday. It is still operational and carries weary tourists to The Leas for a fine view across The Channel.

9 LITTLE CHART CRICKET CLUB
The Forstal, Ram Lane, Little Chart, Ashford, Kent TN27 0PU
www.littlechartcc.co.uk/

Nothing says 'British Summer' better than a game of cricket on the village green, enjoying strawberries and Champagne, or even Kent's award winning sparkling white wine from Chapel Down Winery. Little Chart cricket pitch was used in the episode 'When The Green Woods Laugh!'

10 PLUCKLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
The Street, Pluckley, Ashford, Kent, TN27 0QS
Tel: 01233 840 422
www.pluckleyprimaryschool.co.uk

Pluckley's primary school doubled for the village hall. It was here that Mr Mason, a recently escaped prisoner, disguises himself as Santa to see his children before heading back behind bars in 'Christmas is coming.'

11 PLUCKLEY VILLAGE
www.pluckley.net
The small village of Pluckley was the heart of the Darling Buds territory. The local butchers in the square featured and the local post office was turned into the Larkins' local grocery shop.

12 SHEPHERD NEAME BREWERY
17 Court Street, Faversham, ME13 7AX
Tel: 01795 532 206
www.shepherdneame.co.uk

Shepherd Neame was used as the exterior of Bristow's Brewery. The oldest working brewery in Britain, it offers tours and tasting. For opening details please visit the above website.

13 ST NICHOLAS - PLUCKLEY
The Street, Pluckley, Ashford, Kent TN27 0QS
Tel: 01233 712598
www.g7benefice.org/churches/pluckley/

The church was used for the filming of Mariette and Charley's wedding, as well as the scene where Primrose tries to seduce Mr Candy.

14 SWAIN ROAD
Wentwood, Swain Road, St Michaels, Nr Tenterden TN30 6SH
Having undergone quite a few changes since it appeared in the series, Wentwood cottage, Mariette and Charley's bijou home, saw Charley trying to become the first man to freeze strawberries and Pieter the German visitor proving his worth by fixing the leaky tap. This is a private residence.

Behind the scenes blue truck © ITV





15 BEECH COURT GARDENS

Challock, Nr Ashford, Kent TN25 4DJ
Tel: 01233 740 735
www.beechcourtgardens.co.uk

Beech Court Gardens are a nationally renowned 10 acre oasis of tranquillity and beauty. The beautiful English gardens can be visited in the summer months, please go to the above website for further details.

16 BIDDENDEN VINEYARD

Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8DF
Tel: 01580 291 726
www.biddendenvineyards.com

This is Kent's oldest family-owned Vineyard, located just outside the picturesque village of Biddenden. It produces award winning wines alongside farm pressed apple juice and deceptively strong Kentish cider. To plan your visit, please go to the above website.

17 CLEARLY JUICE

Great Tong Farm, Headcorn, TN27 9PP
Tel: 01580 291726
www.clearlyjuice.co.uk

200 years of fruit growing, has produced a range of single variety apple juices with a distinctive style. Unfortunately there is no access to the orchards, but you can purchase juice from suppliers listed on the above website.

18 ELVEY FARM HOTEL

Elvey Lane, Pluckley, Kent TN27 0SU
Tel: 01233 840 442
www.elveyfarm.co.uk

Enjoy some real peace and quiet surrounded by seventy five acres of Kent countryside. The nine rooms are the closest you can get to a rural idyll and there is a restaurant on site serving locally sourced food.

19 FROGSHOLE FARM

Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden, Kent TN27 8EY
Tel: 01580 291 196
www.frogsholefarm.com
Farm producing local Asparagus which is sold at the farm shop seven days a week in season - mid April to early June.



20 HARBOURNE VINEYARD

Wittersham, Tenterden, Kent TN30 2NP
Tel: 01797 270 420
www.harbournevineyard.co.uk

A small family owned and run vineyard and winery using traditional methods. Drop into the on-site shop open on an evening or at the weekend to buy the wine.

21 HEREFORD OAST

Smarden Bell Road, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8PA
Tel: 01233 770 541
www.herefordoast.co.uk

Hereford Oast is a single oast built in 1876, set within 21.5 acres of wooded grounds including a charming English country garden. Breakfast for guests staying in the two rooms is served in the original Victorian Roundel, formerly used for drying hops, and includes home made preserves and local produce.

THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY - A WALK AROUND PLUCKLEY



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Key

- Circular Walk - 4.2 miles (6.7km)
- Gate
- Site
- View
- Public House
- Take Care

Scale: 1:50,000

CENTRE OF PLUCKLEY VILLAGE



Ma Painting Victoria With Lamb © Roger Homles



To find out about more walks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



**22 KENT & SUSSEX
TEA AND COFFEE COMPANY**

Pivington Mill, Egerton Road, Pluckley,
Ashford, Kent TN27 OPG. UK.

Tel: 0800 0351199

www.kenttea.co.uk

Pluckley Tea is one of over 200 different teas and coffees roasted and blended on site and sold at this unique shop. For opening times please visit the above website.

23 KINGCOTT CHEESE

Iden Manor Farm, Cranbrook Road,
Staplehurst, Kent

TN12 OES

Tel: 01580 892 478

www.kentishblue.co.uk

Kentish Blue is an un-pasteurised, mould ripened, blue, handmade cheese using milk straight from their Holstein-Friesian herd. This exclusive produce can be purchased from numerous Kent shows, listed on the website.

24 KENT LIFE

Lock Lane, Sandling,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 3AU

Tel: 01622 763 936

www.kentlife.org.uk

Museum located in the Weald of Kent including oast houses, barns and a herb garden. Within the 28 acres there are animals to cuddle, tractors to ride, play areas to go wild in, fascinating historic buildings to explore and cafés to relax in. For opening times please visit the above website.

25 PARSONAGE COTTAGE B & B

Station Road, Pluckley, Ashford, Kent
TN27 OQZ

Tel: 01233 840 118

www.parsonagecottagebandbpluckley.co.uk

Parsonage Cottage is one of the oldest houses in Pluckley, with parts dating back for over 400 years. It is set back from the road, so if you are looking for some peace and tranquillity, you will find it here.

26 PLUCKLEY FARM SHOP

Weeks, Smarden Road, Pluckley,
Ashford, Kent, TN27 ORF

Tel: 01233 840 400

www.pluckleyfarmshop.co.uk

A farm shop and fine food store selling Kent produce to local people. For opening times please visit the above website.

27 RARE BREEDS CENTRE

Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent TN26 3RJ

Tel: 01233 861 493

www.rarebreeds.org.uk

Apart from getting a chance to see some of the British rare and heritage farm breeds, the centre offers 120 acres of woodland, ponds, fields and play areas. For opening times please visit the above website.

28 SILCOCKS FARM SHOP

Grange Road, St Michael's Tenterden,
Kent TN30 6TL

Tel: 01580 763 351

www.silcocksfarm-organics.co.uk

Farm shop retailing their own organic and rare breed produce: beef, lamb, port and rose veal. There is also an on site butchery. Open from 09.00 - 16.00 Tuesday to Saturday.

29 SIMPLY ICE CREAM

The Nook, Bonnington, Ashford TN25 7BA

Tel: 01233 720 922

www.simplyicecream.co.uk

Hand made, using the freshest local ingredients, Simply Ice Cream can be purchased all over Kent. A full list of suppliers can be found on the above website.

30 THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

Brook, The Street, Brook, Ashford,
Kent TN25 5PF

Tel: 01304 824969

www.agriculturalmuseumbrook.org.uk

The museum hosts a variety of collections charting farming history, including ploughing, seed sowing, harvesting and associated crafts. For opening times please visit the above website.

**31 THE C.M. BOOTH COLLECTION
OF HISTORIC VEHICLES**

Falstaff Antiques, 63-67 Highstreet,
Rolvenden, Cranbrook,

Kent TN17 4LP

Tel: 01580 241234

www.morganmuseum.org.uk

A private collection specialising in Morgan cars dating from 1909 to 1936.

There are early motorcycles, cycles, garage equipment, Automobilia, as well as toy and model cars on display. For opening times please visit the above website.

32 THE CHAPEL DOWN WINERY

Tenterden Vineyard, Small Hythe,
Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7NG

Tel: 01580 763 033

www.englishwinesgroup.com

Award winning winery in the heart of Kent. The Wine and Fine Food store sells a full range of Chapel Down wines and has a dedicated tasting area. Tours are available daily from June to Sept and weekends only in May and October. Call to confirm availability before your visit. The on site 'Tochard Phillips at Chapel Down' restaurant has a south facing sun terrace overlooking the beautiful vineyards and herb garden.

33 THE DERING ARMS

The Grove, Pluckley, Kent TR27 ORR

Tel: 01233 840 371

www.deringarms.com

The Dering Arms houses an award winning seafood restaurant, serving up some of the finest seafood dishes in Kent. Known locally for its high quality fresh food, you may also enjoy the fine selection of local ale and cider and the three guest rooms.

34 WILLESBOROUGH WINDMILL

Mill Lane, Willesborough, Ashford,
Kent TN24 0QG

www.willesboroughwindmill.co.uk/

A working windmill where the traditional method of producing stone ground flour can be observed and children are invited to try their hand at making a small sample of flour using quern stones in the traditional way. Open Weekends and Bank Holidays as well as Mon and Wed 10.00 - 17.00 in July and August for guided tours.

35 WOODCHURCH WINDMILL

Ashford, Kent TN26 3QW

Tel: 01233 861 144

www.woodchurchwindmill.co.uk

The windmill has extensive views over the village and countryside towards the English Channel. It is a fine example of a Kentish smock mill. For opening times please visit the above website.

KENTISH FARMERS' MARKETS

www.kfma.org.uk

There are many farmers' markets in Darling Buds of May Country for all you foodie fanatics to enjoy. Why not pop along to savour the flavour of real Kentish produce straight from the fields? Visit the Kent Farmers' Markets Association website for locations and opening times.



The Darling Buds of May

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY TRAIL, INCLUDING SPECIAL OFFERS, BEHIND THE SCENES IMAGES AND MORE, GO TO:

WWW.KENT.GOV.UK/FILMOFFICE



Behind the Scenes family in garden © ITV



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