

The summer holidays have begun for families across the county and hopefully not too many were caught up in the chaos at Dover as they headed for the continent last weekend. I know that there are mixed views about the long school break, especially for working parents who have to not only fight with other colleagues for time off to go away but also find child care for those weeks that they are not off. And on top of that the cost of holidays during the summer months can be too expensive for many families.

Thankfully we live in a wonderful part of the UK and although I can understand why people would ideally want to travel abroad either for sunshine or attractions, there are many fantastic things to do right here on our doorstep, which the KM helpfully publicise. As a child I spent many a happy summer holiday exploring our local area. I was lucky that I had the seaside, hills and a canal nearby, all creating opportunities for adventures and fun. But then I also grew up in a different era, before computer games took over leisure time and the great outdoors was really that.

One of the favourite parts of my ministerial portfolio is tourism. I get to promote what it is that makes us a country worth visiting and here in the county of Kent we have many attractions that are worth the effort to explore. Many are free, such as our amazing countryside which can lend itself to an imaginative mind and a sense of adventure creating as much holiday fun as you desire.

Apart from a short work trip to Rio for the Olympics I shall be here in Kent over the summer and I look forward to getting out and about across the county. Maybe I'll see you on the adventure trail!