Inside - all your local events, clubs & groups

Quarterly | May – August 2018 Folkestone

Town Council community magazine





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Welcome

Welcome to our 2018 Summer edition of the Folkestone Town Council Community Magazine. Firstly, I would like to thank Caroline Gibson for the lovely image on the front cover. If you have any photos of Folkestone you would like to be considered for future inclusion in the magazine, please send them to me at Georgina.wilson@ folkestone-tc.gov.uk, I will always ask permission before using them in any of our publications.

As you can see in our What's on list, there are many events happening around the town from Civic events to family fun days, if you know of any future events in Folkestone that are not included, please contact me for inclusion in future editions.

The Folkestone Museum now has a guide book especially for our younger visitors, full of interesting facts and activities to keep the little ones entertained and enable them to guide themselves around the museum. See the article inside the magazine for more information on current exhibitions.

If you have an article or an idea for an article you would like featured in the magazine, please contact me on Georgina.wilson@folkestone-tc.gov.uk, all ideas will be considered and are gratefully received.

Folkestone Town Council

Published by

Community Ad Web Ltd 01843 834160 email info@communitvad.co.uk web www.communitvad.co.uk

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Conservative | Folkestone Cheriton Ward



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Schools and Youth Groups Visit the Town Mayor

The Worshipful Town Mayor of Folkestone, Councillor Roger West, and Mayoress, Councillor Pat West, have been welcoming children from the 2nd Cheriton Brownies, 1st Saltwood Cubs, St Mary's Primary School, Martello Primary and Folkestone & Hythe Sea Cadets to the Mayor's Parlour in The Town Hall.

The sessions have provided an opportunity for pupils from local schools and youth groups to see the Mayor's Parlour and view the Mace and various insignia belonging to the mayoralty. They were given a brief guide as to how the mayoralty links into the history of Folkestone and pupils had the opportunity to look around the recently opened Folkestone Museum and take part in the Mayor's Quiz.

Natalie Curd, Brownie Leader, said "The Brownies had a wonderful visit to see the

Mayor. They learnt a lot about the Mayor and what he does, especially the quiz (including the hidden sweets). We will recommend to all sections of guiding that they should visit."

Should any other schools or youth groups

be interested in meeting the Town Mayor and learning about the mayoralty with an opportunity to look around Folkestone Museum, please contact Toni Brenchley at Folkestone Town Council on **01303 257946** or email **toni.brenchley@folkestone-tc.gov.uk**









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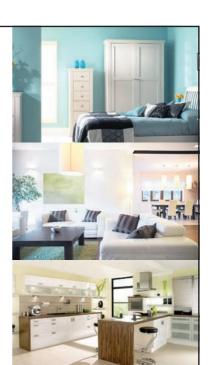
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TOWN MAYOR OF FOLKESTONE'S

Community Awards

The Town Mayor of Folkestone, Councillor Roger West, presented the first 'Town Mayor's Community Awards' at the Full Council meeting on 15 March 2018.

These annual awards provide an opportunity for the Mayor to show his/her appreciation to members of the community who have done something particularly noteworthy in Folkestone within their year in office. Members of the public are asked to put forward the names of individuals that they would like to be considered for an award.

At the Full Council Meeting Councillor West said "I am delighted to be the first to present these Community Awards to some very worthy recipients. 2017 was a significant year for Folkestone with the opening of the Folkestone Museum (the success of which entailed a lot of hard work by volunteers) and the installation of the very impressive and well-received Radnor Park Play Area.

We all know what a huge contribution the local Cadet Units make to activities for the youngsters in our Town. We are very fortunate here in Folkestone to have Cadet Units for the Army, Royal Air Force, Sea Cadets and Royal Marines. It is my honour to be able to acknowledge the contribution that the adult volunteers make ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the youngsters taking part and helping them to reach their full potential. I would therefore like to say a huge thanks to all volunteers who give up their spare time to ensure the continued success of these units – I wish I could give an Award to every selfless individual."

The following recipients of the Award were then invited to receive a certificate and gift from the Mayor.

- Karl Neve for his significant contribution towards the success of Folkestone Museum
- Susan Illman for her work in setting up the Radnor Park Community Group resulting in the redevelopment of the Radnor Park Play Area
- Sergeant Sarah Mulcahy for her tireless work in developing the local Royal Marines' Cadet Detachment
- Chief Petty Officer Oliver Simpson for achieving national recognition with the Folkestone & Hythe Sea Cadets and for his contribution towards the success of the Youth Festival, raising over £20,000 for the Royal British Legion
- Will Hirstle for his significant contribution towards the success of Folkestone Museum. Information regarding nominating individuals for an award for 2018/19 will be released in November this year.





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Folkestone Museum Presents...

Kent Collects

From 23rd March – 12th May 2018 Folkestone Museum is pleased to present 'Kent Collects', a show about

collecting with insights into private collections from around our fine county.

Most of us will collect something throughout our lifetimes - what we collect and why we do so can often seem mysterious to others and many collections do not see the light of day outside of our own private sphere of home. Artist and curator Karen Pamplin Browne has been given privileged access to the private collections of the people of Kent, which she has documented through the medium of photography. The exhibition will reveal the collecting habits of local people through a series of photographs and artworks. The work of artists who respond to collections in their work and a mini museum that can be curated by the visitor will also feature. For details of adult and family friendly workshops please visit our website folkestonemuseum.co.uk



Euans Rocks: Image courtesy of Karen Pamplin Browne



In the Heat of the Night, 2016 Kate Knight

Biro, ink and watercolour on paper hung with sculpted paperweight hearts.

Image courtesy the Artist

New Works by Kate Knight

From the 23rd May – 7th July 2018 Folkestone Museum will host a distinctive and exciting exhibition of new artworks by Folkestone based artist Kate Knight.

Having dipped into the archives of Folkestone Museum's extensive taxidermy collection, Kate found a wealth of gems to inspire her latest exhibition. She currently works in biro as well as working in oils and with sculpture. The use of biro on such a large scale is labour intensive and lends itself to the capture of very fine detail. Like images from a picture book these artworks appear to be etchings rather than drawings made by hand.

Kate studied her BA Fine Art Painting at Chelsea College of Art and design 2005. She was selected as the runner up for the Marmite Prize for Painting 2010 as well as being selected for 'Artist of the Day' at Flowers Central, Cork Street in 2010. She exhibits regularly in London and further afield.

Calling all young Museum Explorers...

Come to Folkestone Museum and try out our new fun filled guide booklet for children! The free booklet provides a wealth of activities and fun facts, allowing children to guide themselves around the Museum and learn about the town we live in.

Did you know that dinosaurs once roamed the Sunny Sands, woolly mammoths grazed in The Bayle and the Romans lived in a fancy house on the East Cliff? Come and discover all of this and more at Folkestone Museum.

Keep an eye on the website folkestonemuseum.co.uk or follow us on Facebook for more children's activities in the May half term.





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Folkestone Trawler Race & Raft Race

Folkestone Trawlers and the National Coastwatch have joined together again this year to host the towns historic Trawler Race & Raft Race Weekend on Saturday & Sunday 11 & 12 August 2018.





Come watch the Trawlers battle it out on the high seas

with their dazzling costumes and decorated boats - a unique creative art performance on the high seas that you can only experience here in Folkestone.

The "Trawler Race" will be on the Saturday (13.30 according to tides) with the "Raft Race" on Sunday (14.30 according to tides).

Organisers Cath Mison, Terry Noakes & Andy Pope have put on events to cover both days so the community can have a fun weekend.

All these events will be happening along the Stade by the Harbour which will include Fairground rides, Market & Food Stalls whereupon you can try our own freshly caught "Fish Baps" get up close with the Dover RNLI, Folkestone Rescue Team, Live Music, dancing from the spectacular Studio Six dancers & so much more with some surprises!!

The National Coastwatch "our eyes along the coast" will be showcasing the wonderful work they do along with their prize winning Tombola and our very own "Guess how many shells are in this tank" with great prizes to be won.

This weekend is a free event for the community - not only for the town to have some fun but to increase footfall & tourists along the quay, to encourage more people to support their local fishermen and buy fresh fish whilst enabling us to highlight the magnitude of our fishing heritage and the importance of keeping it.

To keep that support going, fresh ingredients are readily available for the public to purchase to enter our 6th Annual Fish Pie Competition on the Sunday at 13.00hrs with Trophies and £100 up for grabs - your chance to create "Folkestone in a bowl" - £3.00 to enter.

To help us recreate the nostalgia of our local "Trawler Race" we are asking if any members of the public have any footage or photos of previous races that we could utilise and share.

If you would like to get involved performing or volunteering or if you require any information please contact Cath Mison 07769684681 or email cathmison@gmail.com or pop into Folkestone Trawlers Terry Noakes 07979851601.

For up to date news please follow our Face Book pages & Twitter – @FolkestoneTrawlerRace

See you on the Quay!











What's on - Summer 2018

MAY

11th - 7pm

Mayor Making

Election of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and appointment of the Town Mayor's Chaplain. For further information visit www.folkestonetc. kentparishes.gov.uk or call 01303 257946.

25th - 10am-5pm

Folkestone ArtMart

The well-established Folkestone ArtMart on the last Friday of each month. A specialist event held in the precinct between W.H Smith and Debenhams with a wide range of Art, Craft and Artisan Foods. For further information visit www.folkestonefestival.org

25th - 8pm-11.55pm

Live music at the Harbour Arm

For further information visit www.folkestoneharbourarm.co.uk/events

26th - 28th May - 10am-4pm

Roman Life and the Art of Roman Cookery

Ever wondered what the Romans ate 2000 years ago? Find out with the Time Travellers in May Half Term. Drop in anytime over this period for this free family event at Folkestone Museum. For further information visit www.folkestonemuseum.co.uk

26th - 28th May - 10am-4pm

Take the King's Shilling!

Meet Gunner Sergeant John Cullen and learn about life as a soldier in the Napoleonic war and how to make a musket cartridge. Drop in anytime over this period for this free family event at Folkestone Museum. For further information visit www.folkestonemuseum.co.uk

26th May – 2nd June – 10am-4pm Bug and Butterfly – Crafting Activities

Get creative with bugs and butterflies at Folkestone
Museum, any age is welcome for some arts and crafts

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and family fun during half term. Drop in anytime over

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www.lordwhisky.co.uk

fracebook The Lord Whisky Sanctuary Fund Kent Registered Charity 283483

this period for this free family event at Folkestone Museum. For further information visit www. folkestonemuseum.co.uk

29th - 7pm

Town Meeting

Electors of the Town and Parish of Folkestone may raise and discuss matters of general interest and hear reports on activities from their local County, District and Town Councillors, together with representatives from Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue. For further information visit www.folkestonetc. kentparishes.gov.uk or call 01303 257946.

JUNE

2nd-3rd - 10am-5pm

The Leas Village Fete, The Leas

This is a traditional style family event and will include different arena events on each day including fairground rides, games, displays, food stalls, craft and gift stalls, music and entertainment. For further information visit www.folkestonefestival.org

3rd - 2.30pm

William Harvey Sunday, The Leas

In commemoration of William Harvey who lived in Folkestone. The Town Mayor, Town Clerk and other dignitaries will be in attendance. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For further information visit www.folkestonetc.kentparishes.gov.uk

6th - 11.00am

D-Day (Normandy Veterans),

Garden of Remembrance, Sandgate Road

An annual service of remembrance for all Normandy Veterans who fought and died in the Normandy Campaign in June 1944. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For further information visit www.folkestonetc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

17th - 7.30am-3pm

Grand Boot Fair, Radnor Park

No advanced bookings are necessary, just turn up on the day, parking is available for visitors (with a donation). For further information visit www. folkestonefestival.org

23rd - 10am-5pm

One Great Day, Bouverie Place Shopping Centre

This thrilling event in conjunction with Bouverie Place Shopping Centre and Folkestone Festivals will be raising money for Footprints and Great Ormond Street Hospital. Entertainment will include traditional Japenese and Nepalese Dancing, Origami, Martial Arts displays and many more. For further information visit www.folkestonefestival.org

24th - 10.30am

Town Sunday, The Parish Church of St Mary and St Eanswythe

Members of the public are welcome to attend. For further information visit www.folkestonetc. kentparishes.gov.uk/

24th - 2.45pm

Blessing of the Fisheries, St Peter's Church, The Durlocks

There is a short procession from St Peter's Church to the Harbour where a service will take place. The procession is then led back to the Church. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For further information visit www.folkestonetc.kentparishes. gov.uk/

29th - 11.00am

Canada Day, Shorncliffe Military Cemetery.

The Canada Day Service commemorates the 305 Canadian soldiers who died during WWI and are buried in the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For further information visit www.folkestonetc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

29th - 10.00am-5.00pm

Folkestone Festivals Art Mart, Folkestone Town Centre

A well established and increasingly popular specialist Art, Craft and Artisan Food market. A range of stalls in the precinct between Debenhams and W.H Smith. For further information visit www.folkestonefestivals.co.uk

JULY

1st July - 11.00am-4.00pm

Armed Forces Day, The Leas Bandstand

Celebrating our Armed Forces past, present and future. Many display stands from military organisations and hospitality stands. For further information visit www. folkestonetc.kentparishes.gov.uk

4th July

Royal Canadian Air Force Freedom Parade

Folkestone Town Council will be presenting Freedom of Entry to the Canadian Forces Support Unit in recognition of their devoted military service to our Sovereign and Country and the continued links with Folkestone in the annual commemoration of 305 Canadian Soldiers buried at the Shorncliffe Military cemetery. As part of the celebrations the Royal Canadian Air Force Honor Guard will be marching through the Town of Folkestone starting at 11am. For further information contact toni.brenchley@ folkestone-tc.gov.uk

8th - 2.00pm

Charivari Day

The Parade leaves the Stade at 2.00pm and travels through the town to the Bandstand on The Leas. For further information visit www.strangecargo.org.uk

14th - 10am-4.30pm

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This new and exciting youth project will have a variety of music and entertainment on the day. For further information visit www.folkestonefestivals.co.uk

15th - 10.00am-5.00pm

UK's Strongest Man, The Leas Bandstand

A range of events will be taking place plus there will be inflatable games for members of the public take part in, bring your own chairs and picnic. For further information visit www.folkestonefestivals.co.uk

22nd - 10.30am

Step Short Annual March, Meet outside The Leas Cliff Hall

For more information visit www.stepshort.co.uk

22nd – 10am

Sunny Sands – Sandcastle Competition

This event is now in its 11th year and is going from strength to strength, for more information see the article in this magazine or contact Cath Mison on 07769684681, cathmison@gmail.com or Shane Record on 01303 240452.

27th - 10.00am-5.00pm

Folkestone Festivals Art Mart,

Folkestone Town Centre

A well established and increasingly popular specialist Art, Craft and Artisan Food market. A range of stalls in the precinct between Debenhams and W.H Smith. For further information visit www.folkestonefestivals.co.uk

Folkestone's Churches by Vincent Williams

Some of Folkestone's most impressive buildings have been its churches, but sadly a church relies on its congregation to survive – and as some churches have closed due to lack of members, or relocated or even built halls more suitable to their current needs, some of the town's iconic structures have been demolished. It was therefore pleasing to see the old URC church near Radnor Park, following its closure in 2016, bought by the thriving South Kent Community Church this year.

Local historian, Vincent Williams, is researching into the history of all of Folkestone's churches from the largest church to the tiniest chapel, across all denominations, and is wanting to hear from anyone with old photographs and information so that the history of the town's churches can be captured for future generations.

The oldest surviving church in the town is actually St. Martins at Cheriton, part of which

dates from Saxon times. However, in the town itself, the oldest is the Parish Church (St Mary's & St. Eanswythe's) which has gone through several incarnations with the original convent and church having been raised and rebuilt several times. So, the church we see today is mainly the result of work from the first half of the 13th century with later additions. The Great Storm of 1705 blew down a section of the western end and serious attempts to restore and extend the church only really happened after Canon Woodward's arrival in the 19th century.

In a survey of the Folkestone's chapels in 1875 (which excluded Cheriton and Sandgate), there were fourteen: 6 Anglican, 1 Roman Catholic, 2 different Baptist denominations, 2 different Methodist denominations, 1 Congregationalist, 1 Plymouth Brethren, and an independent Mission Chapel.

St Mary's & St Eanswythe's Church had seeded various other Anglican chapels as the town expanded as a major resort and the other denominations had started to expand and were considering building additional chapels

too. In fact the editor of the Folkestone Express newspaper was concerned that in 1875 the town's population was c14000 but between all the churches there was only room for c7000, leaving half the town's











population un-catered for; and that was before the holiday makers descended upon the town for the summer season!

In the 21st century, peoples' attitudes towards religion have vastly changed from the 19th century and advancements in education and scientific knowledge have perhaps meant that as many people do not hold the same types of religious beliefs as before or even hold none at all; and this article does not seek to influence anyone's views.

In so short a space it is impossible to fully chronicle the history of these 14 churches and the many more that have been built since. A series of books will attempt to do so over the next few years. However many local residents will remember some of the churches pictured here.

If anyone has any old pictures, brochures, information, stories or ephemera, Vincent Williams would be pleased to hear from you and can be contacted on folkestonehistory@ aol.com or through the Folkestone & District Local History Society. He would be especially interested to hear from anyone who was a member of the local branches of the Mormons, Christian Scientists, Quakers, Brethren, Seventh Day Adventists, Congregationalists as well as all the other churches both new and old.

©2018 Vincent Williams

Forthcoming Meetings

All of these meetings will now be held in the Town Council's offices at the Town Hall starting at 7pm unless otherwise stated.

Full Council Meeting

11th May – Annual Council 29th May – Town Assembly 12th July

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Electors of the Town are able to ask questions relevant to the agenda. For further information contact the Town Council on 01303 257946.

Finance and General Purposes Committee 14th June

Scrutinise, monitor and further develop the Council's budget and oversee Council's policies.

Grants Committee

16th August

To consider Town Grant applications. There is currently approximately £30,000 in Town Grants available each year with a limit of £2,500 per project with a maximum of three applications per organisation per financial year. Please note this meeting starts at 6.30pm.

Planning Committee

10th May, 7th and 28th June and 19th July

Closely examine all planning applications submitted to Shepway District Council in the Folkestone Town area and make recommendations and comments on acceptance as part of the statutory consultation process.

Community Services Committee 5th June

Look at how to enhance and improve the environment and facilities in our area, from agreeing expenditure on new facilities to supporting new and proposed events.

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FOLKESTONE CHANNEL TRIATHLON

16th September 2018

The exciting, new Charity Channel Triathlon is centred around the redeveloped Folkestone Harbour Arm, which attracts large crowds of visitors for it's entertainment, restaurants and bars - a fantastic, unique setting for a triathlon.

Sprint and Standard triathlons with team events for both distances - also an aquabike event for those who can't or don't like to run.

A professionally organised event by Tri Spirit Events.

The main charities are:

Celia Blakey Centre for Cancer Care, Shepway Sports Trust, plus many other local good causes.

A Channel Rotary Club Charity Event



Register at: www.channeltri.com

Rotary Club of Folkestone Update

Recently the Folkestone Rotary Club assisted Hi Kent by making a donation to them to support their local clinic service. Each year Hi Kent, run a monthly "Repairing and Maintaining Hearing Aids" clinic in Cheriton for elderly people within the area.

This service is provided free. Volunteers carry out the actual work, however Hi Kent require sponsors to fund the equipment and spares required to enable this work to proceed. All the clients who attend the centre in Cheriton are unable to travel to the NHS clinics in Ashford for various reasons such as infirmity and/or cost and without Hi Kent would be left isolated. We are proud to say that our Club have sponsored this good work for the last 4 years, and has enabled Hi Kent to help a minimum of 350 senior members of the local community to enjoy a better quality of life through the simple fact that they are able to hear. The service Hi Kent provides allows their clients to continue to socialise with their family, friends and community, plus enjoy simple pleasures such as listing to the radio and television.

With Christmas and New Year behind us, it may be that people are looking for a new challenge





takes place on the 27th May 2018. It's easy to enter and we encourage participants to raise money for the fund which assists local charities, or indeed their own good cause if they prefer. In addition, we are encouraging companies to perhaps get a team together and maybe enter in fancy dress, we are welcoming sponsorship opportunities and support. Further details can be found on www.folkestonecoastal10k.co.uk. Last year's race raised over £30,000 and we are hoping to achieve an even greater amount this year. In addition, we are welcoming sponsorship opportunities and support. Further details can be found on www.folkestonecoastal10k.co.uk



Folkestone Channel Rotary Club Update ('The Other Local Rotary Club')



We in Folkestone are very lucky to have two **Rotary Clubs operating** in our area; Folkestone **Channel Rotary Club**

('Channel Rotary') and the Rotary Club of Folkestone. They both work hard to support the Folkestone community by fund raising for charity and giving their personal time and skills to support local good causes. Their motto is 'Service Above Self' which explains things very neatly. Here is a brief description of Channel Rotary:



We were the brainchild of the Folkestone Rotary Club (founded in 1923) which had the vision to see that there was scope for two Clubs in the town. Founded in 1980 with 28 members we now have nearly 50 active members and have raised approaching £1million for local, national and international good causes. In general, we are serious about what we do but don't take ourselves too seriously. Our foundations are strong fellowship, common purpose and a lot





of enjoyment. And it's not all hard work. We sprinkle the year with social events like our recent celebrations of the Chinese New Year and St David's Day and our approaching weekend in Ghent, Belgium with our good friends from the Mechelen Rotary Club.

Our members are mainly from business and professional backgrounds, employed and retired, mostly living in the Folkestone and Hythe community. Their background is in a wide range of sectors including catering, construction, dentistry, education, finance, human resources, legal, manufacturing, medicine, merchant marine and retail. We meet on Wednesday evenings in the Burlington Hotel in Earls Avenue, Folkestone.

Channel Rotary is proud to have 8 Paul Harris Fellows. This is the highest award made by Rotary International and it recognises members and non-members alike for their outstanding contribution to Rotary and its humanitarian mission and/or to the society and community in which we live. Fittingly it is named after our founder, Paul Harris, whose vision transformed Rotary into the world's first and largest Service Club with 1.25 million members in virtually every country. We're also proud of our close connection with the Royal Gurkha Rifles since they moved to Folkestone. By tradition, the Commanding Officer of the battalion based at Shorncliffe is an Honorary Member of Channel Rotary, currently Lt Col Charlie Crowe, CO of the 1st Battalion RGR.



Channel Rotary Wine & Wisdom Wizards raise £1,500 for local charities

150 Shepway guiz buffs have come up trumps and raised £1,500 for local good causes at Channel Rotary Club's 28th annual, sell-out, Wine & Wisdom Quiz at The Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone. It is one of the largest guiz evenings in the South East. Everyone wants to do well but its really a fun event where enjoying yourself is as important as winning so its noisy, buzzy and very good humoured. There's a ploughman's meal and a bottle of wine for every table with more wine if you want it (most did) - so imagine the logistics of preparing 50lbs of mixed cheeses, 20lbs of grapes, 120ft of French bread, 100ft of celery sticks, 300 tomatoes and pickled onions and 12 cases of wine. But before anyone gets the wrong impression, there was juice and water, too, for the non-drinkers and drivers.

Once again, the questions were set with great ingenuity by Peter Highgate, son in law of late Channel Rotary member Andy Parsons eg 'Which Italian pasta name means little worms? (vermicelli)'; and 'Which sport was banned by Scotland in 1457? (tennis)'; and controlled with great style and stamina by Question Master Denis Pepper.

At the end of a close fought, cracking evening, the Pepper family took the honours. But, as ever, the real winners were local good causes.

Channel Rotary President Alan Myers presented the prizes and invited everyone to join the

two Folkestone Rotary Clubs at the Tower Theatre, Folkestone at 7pm on Monday 30th April for a private showing of the award-winning film 'Breathe' in support of Rotary International's 'End Polio Now' campaign. Tickets £10 on the night or in advance on http://intelligent-tickets. co.uk/index.php?th=tw He explained that "The film tells the heartwarming story of Robin Cavendish who became paralyzed from the neck down by polio at age 28 when polio was still endemic in the

UK; and he needed a mechanical respirator for the rest of his life. Many of us here tonight will remember being vaccinated against the disease. When Rotary started its journey to defeat polio worldwide, some 500,000 children every year were afflicted in 125 countries. Today, we in Rotary are proud to say that polio has been almost totally eliminated from the world with only a small handful of cases in 2 countries".



Future Fund Raising Events

Our major, annual, fundraising events (which have appeared on BBC TV and ITV) are:

- Charity Golf Day at Sene Valley Golf Club on 18 May (Mike Simmonds 07968 740213)
- Channel50Challenge Bike Ride based at the Star Inn in St Mary In The Marsh on 8 July www.channelrotarybikeride.org.uk
- Santa Run from Bouverie Place on 9
 December www.santasfunrun.org.uk



Exciting, New Event - The Channel Triathlon

The big news is that they will be joined by an exciting new venture, The Channel Triathlon, on 16 September based on the Harbour Arm and showcasing the developments at Folkestone harbour and the attractions of the adjacent sea coast and Alkham Valley countryside.

www.channeltri.com



Charity Support

Over the years we've helped thousands of local charities and good causes. Some of those being supported by Channel Rotary this year are:

- · Celia Blakey Cancer Care Ward at the William Harvey Hospital
- · Fareshare (Kent) Food Bank
- Folkestone Rainbow Centre and Food Bank
- Folkestone Town Mayor's Xmas Fund
- Gurkha Memorial Fund
- Headway East Kent
- Hi Kent (deaf & hard of hearing)
- Kent Association For The Blind
- Local schools
- Macular Society
- Marine Cadets (Kent)
- Pilgrims Hospices
- Prostate Cancer UK
- Rotary Foundation End Polio Now Campaign
- Shelter Box (overseas disaster relief)
- Shepway Young Carers
- Shepway Youth Trust
- South East Kent Motor Neurone Disease Association
- Strange Cargo

Find Out More

To discover more about Channel Rotary, our events and membership opportunities, please visit: www.channelrotary.org.uk or contact Duncan Hopkin 07789 138393 or Tim Scott 07736 527518

Civic Events 2018

WILLIAM HARVEY SUNDAY

On Sunday 3rd June 2018 the William Harvey Commemoration Ceremony will take place in Folkestone.

William Harvey was born in Folkestone on 1 April 1578 and died on 3 June 1657. Each year, around the time of his death, a thanksgiving service is held where the Town Mayor, Councillors, Town Clerk, members of the Harveian Society of London, the Old Harveians and representatives from local schools process to the William Harvey Statue on The Leas.

The Town Mayor and quests assemble at the Burlington Hotel, Earls Avenue to depart at 3.15pm to process to the William Harvey Statue for the Service which is scheduled to commence at 3.30pm followed by the laying of wreaths.

NORMANDY VETERANS – D-Day

On Wednesday 6th June at 11am, local dignitaries and Veterans gather for the Annual D-Day Remembrance Service at the Garden of Remembrance. This service commemorates the day on which Allied Forces invaded northern France by landing on beaches in Normandy.

TOWN SUNDAY

On Sunday 24th June at St Mary & St Eanswythe Church at 10.30, the Town Mayor is named, and prayers are said for the person honoured and elected by the Town Councillors, for the Town Councillors themselves and for the Town of Folkestone. Even though the Town Mayor is now elected in the Council Chamber in May, this traditional service is still held.

BLESSING OF THE FISHERIES

On Sunday 24th June at 2.45, Councillors join a procession from St Peter's Church to the Harbour where a short service takes place by the Bishop to bless the fish, fishermen, allied trades, services and protectors. The procession is then led back to the Church.

CANADA DAY

On Friday 29th June at 11am, the Canada Day Service commemorates the 296 Canadian soldiers who died during WWI and are buried in the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery. The memorial service takes place at the Canadian Servicemen's graves at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, which is attended by civic dignitaries, military personnel, representatives of ex-service organisations and children from several Folkestone schools laying flowers on the Canadian soldiers' graves. The Town Mayor of Folkestone attends the service and is accompanied by the Councillors of Folkestone Town Council and representatives from the Canadian High Commission.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all of these services, if you would like further information, please visit our website www.folkestonetc.kentparishes.gov.uk or contact Toni Brenchley on 01303 257946 or toni.brenchley@folkestone-tc.gov.uk





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Folkestone and the Chinese Labour Corps

by Peng Wenlan

It couldn't have been a more stirring scene. As the piper led the two lines of schoolchildren and students past the undulating rows of white headstones, filling the air with his melancholy tune, the rest of us watched on in silence waiting for the procession to approach. We had come together at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery to pay our respects to six young men who were buried here a century ago.

The six belonged to the Chinese Labour Corps (CLC) – some 96,000 men recruited by the British Army to provide manual labour at the Front during World War I. CLC contingents would have travelled for three months by ship and train on a circuitous route across the Pacific and Atlantic to Liverpool or Plymouth and, from there, to the south-east coast, before continuing on their way to the Western Front.

On arrival at Folkestone, they stayed at the Labour Concentration Camp, a tented camp set up in April 1917 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel F. Hopley at the foot of Castle Hill beside Cherry Garden Avenue. A diary by William Snook, who was on guard duty at "the Chinese Camp", clearly shows

that the labourers would arrive - sometimes on consecutive days - in batches of up to 3,000, stay overnight and leave the next day for France.

A steady number of 2,000 or so Chinese were kept in Folkestone to do manual labour at Shorncliffe Army Camp, work in the nearby military hospitals or help with loading and unloading at the docks

The vast majority of the CLC were repatriated by 1920, although at least two thousand died in Europe and are buried in various cemeteries in France and Flanders. In England, there are nineteen graves of labourers who died en route, including the six at Shorncliffe.

The story of the CLC is little known both in Britain and in China and could have easily vanished into the mists of time. The Meridian Society felt it was important to bring it to public attention during this four-year commemoration of WWI. So, in April 2016, with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we launched a project on the CLC spanning two and a half years, to make an oral history film with descendants of Chinese labourers and Western officers which is now being screened nationwide, carry out workshops at schools and community centres and mount an exhibition at Liverpool, Plymouth and Folkestone.

Folkestone became our starting-point and what a warm welcome we have received. Over the past two months, we have shown our film, organised a series of talks, put on an exhibition of CLC photos and artefacts at Folkestone Museum, held workshops at Christ Church SEP Academy and Earlscliffe College and even celebrated Chinese New Year with the townsfolk, just as the labourers would have done at the Front.

To bring things to a proper close, and with Qingming Festival – the day when the Chinese traditionally sweep the tombs of our ancestors – just around the corner, we held a commemoration ceremony at Shorncliffe Cemetery on 14th March with the kind collaboration of the Ministry of Defence and generous support of the Big Ideas Company.

We could not have expected such an impressive gathering. Apart from friends and colleagues who had come from London from Ming'Ai Association & Regent's University (who are running a project on the British Chinese Armed Forces) and the London Chinese Community Centre, we were joined by individuals, groups, societies and organisations from the locality. Representatives from the Town Council, Folkestone Museum and Folkestone & District History



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Society stood next to delegations from the Royal British Legion, the Western Front Association and Friends of Lochnagar. Shorncliffe Station had mustered troops from the Royal Gurkha Rifles. And looking on from the sidelines were a couple of men from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who had carefully tended to the graves. Old and young, soldiers and civilians, people of different ethnicities - all stood together. It was a heartwarming sight.

Candles were laid at each of the six headstones by our youngest participants, followed by a line of wreaths led by the Mayor of Folkestone, Councillor Roger West, Garrison Sergeant Major Martin Dunn from Shorncliffe Station and Francis Moll, Secretary of The Meridian Society. All present bowed three times, according to Chinese custom, and a sweet chorus of voices rang through the cemetery as pupils of Christ Church sang "Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer". Then came the reading by students from Earlscliffe College of a Chinese poem Nostalgia, in which the poet Yu Guangzhong reminisces about his homeland of China. The last verse could not have been more apt:

"And now, Nostalgia is a coastline, a shallow strait. I, on this side,

The mainland, on the other."

This is perhaps the most tragic aspect of the six men buried here – that they had died from illness or disease shortly after their arrival in England and have lain here for a hundred years, unbeknownst to their families in China back then and to their descendants still now.

It is time for the contribution of the Chinese Labour Corps to be properly recognised. It does not matter that they did not fight as soldiers at the Front. It does not matter that they were mere labourers doing manual work. It does not even matter that some of them, like the six at Shorncliffe, never made it to mainland Europe. What does matter is that they all made the conscious decision to leave their families and homes to join a cause about which they knew little. And for this alone, it is only right that we should honour them.

Plans are afoot to erect a monument in London by the Ensuring We Remember Campaign. And on that Wednesday afternoon at Shorncliffe, guests attending our commemoration service placed white flowers in the soil to show that these men had not been forgotten by all.

In his interview with China Central Television, the state broadcaster, the Mayor of Folkestone said: "They lost their lives out there. We should

recognise the contribution the Chinese made to the First World War. We need to honour them. It's something we should do and do every year."

We sincerely hope that the six will not only be remembered by the people of Folkestone, but that they will from hereon be regarded as Folkestone's own sons and that nostalgia for their native soil so many thousands of miles away may be replaced by the comfort of knowing that they lie here, surrounded by members of a new family.

Our thanks to all the friends we have made in Folkestone over the past couple of months. We have truly enjoyed knowing and working with you.

Wenlan is Director of the Meridian Society's CLC Heritage Project. The Meridian Society is a Londonbased charitable organization committed to the promotion of Chinese culture with the aim of fostering East-West understanding and mutual respect.

For more information, go to www.themeridiansociety.org.uk

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Calling all Sandcastlers!

Grab your bucket & spades and come join us on Sunday 22 July for Folkestone's Annual Sandcastle Competition.



Now in its 11th year, why not round up the whole family, pack a picnic and come get creative on our wonderful sunny sands.

£10 entry fee for teams, all monies raised for the wonderful Church Street Project who provide counselling and creative therapies for the children of Shepway.

Prizes to win on what is another fantastic day in Folkestone's Creative Diary.

Start digging from 10.00hrs - Judging at 13.00hrs

For all details please contact organisers Cath Mison **07769684681** or **cathmison@gmail.com** or Shane Record on **01303 240452**

To keep up with the info please see our Face Book Page and Twitter – **@FolkestoneSandcastleCompetition**.

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Folkestone Community Swing Band – Hitting the right note for charity By Clare Reeves

When Keith Davis had the idea of creating a Swing Band in Folkestone and put out an open call to local musicians last year, no one quite knew what the result would be.

In spring 2017, this is exactly what happened when Band Leader, Keith Davis found himself waiting in a room in Folkestone Academy one Saturday morning, not knowing who was going to appear.

A handful of musicians with a wide range of experience arrived on that first day – two things uniting them, a love of big band music and wanting to play their instruments.

Gradually over the months that followed, word spread, and more musicians came to see what The Folkestone Community Swing Band was all about. The band now stands at around 17 members and is still growing (well, it is a BIG band after all).

The members of the Folkestone Community Swing Band are of a variety of levels and experience, from seasoned professional musicians, to some who are new to music and a few who haven't played for a while and the excuse to brush of their "playing rust" was too good to miss.

Playing a selection of music from The Beatles to Glenn Miller as well as Count Basie Orchestra, Keith had the vision that people would meet every Saturday morning, enjoy playing as a band and that the band would perform at a range of events - raising money for charity. Benefiting the musicians, the town and the charities. The

Saturday morning rehearsals have formed the basis for new friendships and a chance to do something different, out of the everyday, for a morning a week.

The FCSBs first concert was held just before Christmas and raised £317.14 for the Alzheimer's Society in the process.

The band itself now has official Registered Charity Status and is always on the lookout for opportunities to play and add music to events and concerts – whilst raising money for charity.

You can expect to see and hear the band playing on the Bandstand on The Leas during the summer and with groups including a theatre company expressing an interest in working with the FCSB, it's hoped that the band can continue to raise money for charity while also encouraging musicians locally to join and enjoy playing music.

The Folkestone Community Swing Band is always looking for new members, so if you play a "big band" instrument and can read music, then why not get in touch via the band's Facebook Page or pop along to rehearsal at 9.30am on Saturday mornings at The Tower Theatre. Contact the Band to enquire about them playing at your event: facebook.com/folkestonecommunityswingband



St. Peter's Church, Folkestone – Re-in-spired!



First phase of HLF Project comes to an end



The skyline above Folkestone
Harbour has looked considerably
different since last June whilst
scaffolding has adorned St
Peter's Church in Folkestone
whilst essential restoration works
funded by the Heritage Lottery
Fund have taken place. Now the
spire and its famous cross (finial),
shine across the heritage harbour
area, once again, and can be seen
for miles out to sea.

St Peter's Church in North Street Folkestone was awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant of up to £221,900 (72% of the project cost) and the funding provided for important work to be carried out to maintain the fabric of the Church which has been at the heart of Folkestone's Fishing and Seafaring community for nearly 150 years.

During the programme of works there has been an enormous amount of support through community engagement projects, such as the commission of a new community mosaic designed by local artist Jo Letchford, following workshops with Parishioners and Schoolchildren. The Mosaic is now located in the entrance of the Church.

Works were halted slightly by an interesting find which made the National Press when a large split was found in the main supporting shaft of the Flèche (spire). The puzzle was, what could have caused such damage to the 5" oak timber? The answer was found in the form of bullet holes suggesting from

the trajectory that German Messerschmitt B109 planes were to blame. Church records show that planes attacked the harbour and hit the Church in March 1941.

Now with repairs complete, pride of place on the spire is the re-created finial made of Duplex stainless steel which is the same material used in making the Centenary Arch on Folkestone's Leas, and made by local company 'Trimax Fabrications Limited' based at Shorncliffe. Trimax also made a special Time Capsule which was filled with items of the year by members of the Parish and St. Peter's Primary School and has been hidden inside the tower for future parishioners to uncover.

St. Peter's is now waiting for news as to whether additional restoration works can be commenced under a further Heritage Lottery Bid.

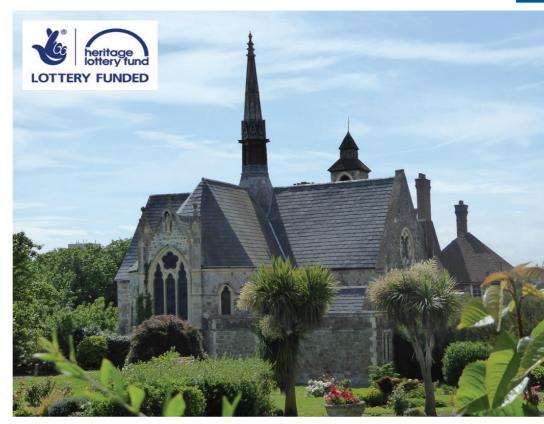
David Wilson, Church Warden commented:

"The building is now watertight but there is still a considerable amount of work required to get the church up to standard, so that it can be removed from the Heritage Buildings at Risk register, and we should hear from Heritage Lottery Fund regarding further funding soon. We are most grateful to all the lottery players out there for helping us to restore this wonderful Church."

The project has faced its challenges and the year long project has been marked with significant achievements and considerable sadness when the much respected Vicar, Father David Adlington passed away very suddenly on 4th January 2018, before the work was completed.

For further information please contact the PR Officer for the St. Peter's Church Viv Kenny, M: **0777 39468287**,

E: info@realplacemanagement.co.uk



Ray Johnson Completes the 2018 London Marathon – 22nd April – hot, hot, hot!



"I am delighted I completed my 18th London Marathon in a row on 22nd April at a time of 5:07:53."

Conditions were extremely tough in the heat, the official temperature was 24.2c making the hottest London Marathon on record!!

The crowds as ever were most encouraging, and it was great to see so many friends along the route who spurred me on, particularly from the Folkestone Running Club.

The atmosphere was fantastic, I ran a steady all the way through and didn't hit the wall, which was a blessing as so many running were collapsing with heat exhaustion.

My best time was in 2002 at 3 hours, 23 minutes.

I am most grateful to all who have supported me with sponsorship for Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) in particular those listed on my Just Giving page. To date this year, I have raised just over £4,000 and in total I was delighted as it has clipped over £75,000 over the last 18 years.

It is still possible to sponsor online by visiting my website **www.justgiving.com/rayjohnson**

which also gives further information of how you can donate.

I am recovering really well and I am now looking forward to my 19th London Marathon!

Splits						
Split	Time Of Day	Time	Diff	min/km	km/h	Place
5K	10:47:15	00:29:51	29:51	05:59	10.05	-
10K	11:17:07	00:59:43	29:53	05:59	10.04	-
15K	11:49:12	01:31:48	32:06	06:26	9.35	-
20K	12:22:45	02:05:21	33:33	06:43	8.94	-
Half	12:29:58	02:12:34	07:14	06:35	9.12	-
25K	12:58:36	02:41:12	28:39	07:21	8.18	-
30K	13:36:44	03:19:20	38:09	07:38	7.87	-
35K	14:21:54	04:04:30	45:10	09:02	6.64	-
40K	15:07:26	04:50:03	45:33	09:07	6.59	-
Finish	15:25:16	05:07:53	17:50	08:08	7.38	16814



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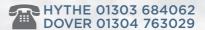
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Wordsearch

The words may be read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally, but there must be no spaces between the letters.



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