

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



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Date of publication: 8 October 2025

AGENDA

Meeting: **Community Services Committee**
Date: **14th October 2025 (Tuesday)**
Time: **7.00pm**
Place: **Town Council Offices, Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone**

To: **The Community Services Committee**
(All other Councillors for information only)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Community Services Committee on the date and at the time and place shown above to transact the business shown on the agenda below. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Any member who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to contact the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Toni Brenchley
Town Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.
3. **MINUTES**
To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 10th June 2025 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

4. BUDGET 2026/27 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS

At this juncture the Committee is asked to consider proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for community projects and initiatives for next year. The Finance & General Purposes Committee will consider the full list of proposals put forward by all Committees at its meeting on the 23rd October 2025.

5. THE LEAS TOWN TRAIL HERITAGE BOARD

The Communities & Events Officer will update the Committee in respect of the current status relating to potential replacement of The Leas Town Trail Heritage Noticeboard.

6. ARMED FORCES DAY – SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2026

The Communities & Events Officer will brief the Committee in respect of plans for the Armed Forces Day – Folkestone 2026.

Members views are sought.

7. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CS/25/399

The Committee is asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the report (attached).

8. TAXIDERMY OBJECT DISPOSAL REPORT CS/25/396

The Committee is asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the report (attached).

9. FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND CHERITON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS AND SWITCH ON EVENTS (22ND AND 29TH NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY)

The Committee will be updated regarding the Christmas lighting installations and developing plans and arrangements for the Christmas events including the Lions Club Santas Grotto to be hosted in the Town Hall on Saturday 13th December.

10. PEACE MEMORIAL

The Town Mayor has been approached by C J Russell (President – The Royal Federation of Belgian Veterans) regarding the potential of installing a Peace Monument (proposal document attached).

Further research is required to ascertain the costs & viability of such an installation.

Members views are sought.

11. THE LEAS LIFT COMPANY TIME CAPSULE COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Communities & Events Officer will update the Committee in respect of FTC's £250 contribution to this project that marks the Leas Lift 140th anniversary (further information attached).

12. THE FIRST BATTALION, THE ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES' FREEDOM OF THE TOWN PARADE – FOLKESTONE

The Committee will be updated regarding the event held on Sunday 12th October.

13. PRIMARY YOUTH FORUM

The Communities & Events Officer will update the Committee with feedback received from schools and on progression in establishment of a primary youth forum since the last meeting.

14. PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES

The Communities & Events Officer will update the Committee with feedback received from schools and local organisations in respect of potential youth activities and initiatives since the last meeting.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th February 2026 at 7.00pm.

COUNCILLORS ON COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillor Bridget Chapman

Councillor Jane Darling

Councillor Peter Gane

Councillor Lucy McGirr

Councillor Belinda Walker

Councillor Roger West

Parking available for Councillors @ 6.00pm on the precinct area at the front of the Town Hall.



FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, 1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY on Tuesday, 10th June 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Jane Darling, Peter Gane, Belinda Walker, Lucy McGirr and Roger West

Absent: Councillor Bridget Chapman

In attendance: Vicky Deakin - Communities & Events Officer

1322. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

1323. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Committee was asked to appoint a Chair for the Community Services Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Roger West as Chair of the Community Services Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1324. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The Committee was asked to appoint a Vice Chair for the Community Services Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Lucy McGirr as Vice Chair of the Community Services Committee for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1325. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1326. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 8th April 2025 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th April 2025 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Jane Darling

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1327. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

In line with the Town Council's adopted Standing Orders, the Committee was asked to consider the Terms of Reference for the Community Services Committee.

RESOLVED: That the existing version of the Terms of Reference remain unchanged.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1328. WORKING GROUPS 2025/26

The Committee was asked to consider whether any Working Groups were necessary and if so, to approve nominations for membership for 2025/26 as follows:

Museum: Councillors Akuffo-Kelly, Chapman, Walker and McGirr.

RESOLVED: That subject to the agreement to membership from nominees the Working Group be agreed as follows:

Museum: Councillors Akuffo-Kelly, Chapman, Walker and McGirr.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1329. ARMED FORCES DAY – SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 2025

The Communities and Events Officer briefed the Committee in respect of plans for the formal Armed Forces Day Lunch.

RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks for the Communities & Events Officer be recorded.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1330. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CS/25/389

The Committee received, noted and considered the recommendations in Report CS/25/389.

RESOLVED:

1. To receive and note report CS/25/389

2. To agree that Folkestone Town Council submits an application to the Arts Council for an 'Unlocking collections' project grant to fund an exhibition and a series of workshops to explore the museum collection using AI.

3. That a vote of thanks for the Museum Manager / Curator be recorded.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1331. FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND CHERITON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS AND SWITCH ON EVENTS (15TH AND 29TH NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY)

The Committee was updated by the Communities & Events Officer and Councillor Peter Gane in regards to the Christmas lighting installations, and developing plans and arrangements for Christmas events, including the Lions Club Santa Grotto to be hosted in the Town Hall on Saturday 13th December.

RESOLVED: That £2,500 be released from the Christmas Lighting budget, match funding what the Cheriton Christmas Committee has allocated for new lights in Cheriton.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1332. DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER CONSULTATION

Folkestone & Hythe District Council is proposing to introduce a new Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under Section 59/60 of The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Committee was asked to consider if it wished to compose a response and/or submit individual Member responses.

RESOLVED: That the Communities & Events Officer submit a response on behalf of the committee stating their view that dogs should not be permitted access on any play parks and signage be installed to this effect.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Peter Gane

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1333. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM ACCESS POLICY

The Committee were asked to review, approve and adopt the Folkestone Museum Access Policy.

RESOLVED: To approve and adopt the Folkestone Museum Access Policy.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F: 5, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

1334. PRIMARY YOUTH FORUM

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee with the feedback received from schools and on the progression in establishing a primary youth forum since the last Committee meeting.

1335. PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee with feedback from schools and local organisations in respect of potential youth activities and initiatives since the last Committee meeting.

1336. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm

Chair.....

Date.....

This report will be made public
on 8 October 2025

**Folkestone
Town Council**



Report Number: **CS/25/399**

To: Community Services
Date: 14th October 2025
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk
Report by: Museum Manager/Curator
Subject: Museum

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on Folkestone Museum's work covering the period 1st June to the 3rd of October 2025.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The long-term agreement (2020-2040) between the Town Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund (principal funder) to deliver its heritage objectives: to preserve and enhance the town's heritage through the provision of Folkestone Museum.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report CS/25/399
2. To formally adopt Folkestone Museum's Access Plan (Appendix 1)
3. To agree that Folkestone Town Council submits an application to the Royal Society for a 'Places of Science' project grant, to fund a series of public engagement activities on the 400th anniversary of William Harvey's book *De Motu Cordis*.
4. To agree that Folkestone Town Council submits applications to South East Museums for grant funding to remediate the radon in the building.

Aims and Objectives – Maintaining an accredited museum
Financial Implications – Meeting the requirements of NLHF & Council within budget
Equal Opportunities – Access to all

1. Introduction

The Museum continues to open on a five-days-per-week basis alongside the Town Hall and visitor information service.

2. Exhibitions

The Folkestone Elephant, which is part of the Folkestone Triennial Fringe, continues until the 18th of October. The exhibition blend props, film, museum objects and Augmented Reality to tell the story of the Folkestone Elephant. Visitors have enjoyed the interactivity of the display – we've had universally

Our next temporary exhibition will open on the 25th of October. Entitled 3 Wars, One Soldier, the exhibition chronicles the life and service of Joe Shepherd. Joe fought in the Boer War and the First World War in the King's Royal Rifles, and served as an ARP warden in the Second World War in Cheriton. Joe spoke to his family about his time in the army. He also kept all his papers from his service, as well as a huge number of photographs. Their survival (which is very rare for ordinary soldiers who survived the First World War) means we can tell his remarkable story fully - celebrating him and all those who served their country in our upcoming time of remembrance. The exhibition will run until the 23rd of December.

3. Outreach and Education

The museum's school holiday outreach has continued apace – the Collections Development and Access Officer ran a full summer holiday of activities with volunteer support. 819 children took part in our activities across the summer holidays. On the last Friday of the holidays, we hosted the Dinobabies from Rent a Dinosaur - 120 children joined us on that day! We also hosted two craft days from the artists behind the Folkestone Elephant. The Leas Lift also ran two days of activities for us – 46 children took part in those two days.

We have hosted 18 class visits, including 2 homeschool sessions, and a literacy session with the local Families Hub (a new and ongoing relationship developed by our Heritage Learning Officer) during this reporting period. The Heritage Learning Officer's hard work advertising has paid off, with an especially busy September for school visits.

The Collections Development and Access Officer also ran the museum's first dementia friendly workshop in October. These will run on the first Tuesday of each month. We are very grateful to Cllr Belinda Walker for her help!

4. Collections Development & Care

We continue to work on our botany collection to identify missing accessioned specimens – we have now reconciled 40% of the large number of 'missing' samples from this collection. We have also started the same work on our shell collection – which has highlighted the large numbers of duplicates in the collection.

The Collections and Access Officer and a volunteer have completed their collections review of our taxidermy collection. They have identified a number of specimens which they recommend for disposal, which are detailed in CS-25-396.

The museum has received the cast of the new dinosaur footprints found on the Warren into the collection – it's fully painted, which is very helpful for visitors trying to interpret the cast. I am in discussions with Steve Friedrich regarding whether he could paint our other plaster cast.

The collection will also shortly be receiving a new treasure find – an Anglo-Saxon gold strap-end, which was found by a metal detector in Newington in 2021. This will add to the museum's already impressive Anglo-Saxon collection and is evidence of the massive wealth enjoyed by people in Kent at the time.

5. Volunteering

Six volunteers have provided 148 hours of work to the museum in this reporting period. Two new volunteers joined us in the summer and have already made huge contributions to our work.

6. Events

Our last Museum Masterclass was held on the 6th of September, all about the Kingdom of Kent – Dr Andrew Richardson's particular specialism. We sold 12 tickets for this event; feedback was universally positive. We look forward to booking in a new batch of masterclasses in the new year, to run in Winter and Spring, rather than Spring-Summer.

We trialled our first 'museum late' evening event on the 30th of September - an after-hours opportunity for our adult visitors to enjoy the museum. We also offered visitors the chance to preorder an alcoholic drink for the evening! This was our first event using our new ticketing provider, Ticketsource.

The theme of the event was "Roman Folkestone" - celebrating 100 years of the Roman villa's excavation and S.E. Winbolt, the archaeologist who discovered it. Dr Lesley Hardy gave an engaging talk on the book, and I wrote a quiz based around our Roman case. Volunteers helped by running an object handling table and leading a craft activity - making your own ceramic oil lamp.

We offered 32 tickets for the event to keep numbers manageable. Tickets sold out well in advance (we had a waiting list of five people online hoping people would cancel, and four more people asking for tickets on the day!), and the event turned a small profit. Feedback was uniformly positive on the night. I will look to run these events quarterly in future, with more tickets on offer and a larger bar offering.

7. Local AI Project

Scanning the Folkestone International Folklore Festival is continuing apace. I am currently in the process of writing our grant application with Simon Davenport – we are hoping to submit our application by the end of October.

8. Access Plan

As part of our Museum Accreditation, we are required to have an access plan to show how we will improve our work to include as many people as possible at the museum. This plan, which was written with the Heritage Learning Officer, will improve multiple aspects of our current work – from updating the visitor information on our website, making the building easier to navigate, and adding to our galleries to make them more interactive for everyone.

9. Places of Science Grant Scheme

The Royal Society's Places of Science grant scheme is for small museums to celebrate science and scientists who are relevant to their local communities. This year's grant scheme covers activity until summer 2028.

Folkestone Museum is eligible for funding through this grant. I would like make an application to celebrate 400 years of William Harvey's publication of De Motu Cordis, which was published in 1628, using the funding to run a series of informal learning activities around medicine and Harvey for both our younger audience and adults.

10. Museums Development South East Grants

Museums Development South East offer a series of grants which could assist us to remediate the radon in our Collections Room. I would like to apply for an Emergency Grant and an Open Grant to try and resolve the problem.

11. Corporate Plan KPI Performance 2024-2025 Financial Year

KPI	Reporting period (June-Oct '25)	Previous Year (2024-5)	Year to Date
C1 Visitors to Town Hall	13532	12267	19191
C10 Website visits (Museum only)	6500	Not known	8300
C11 Facebook followers	3900	Not known	3900
CS3 Exhibition room bookings	1	0	2
CS4 Volunteer hours	148	0	186.5
CS5 Wellbeing activity sessions	1	0	1
CS6 Formal education sessions	18	14	28
CS7 Loan box bookings	2	1	2
CS8 Young people involved in engagement activities	819	549	1205

CS9 Adults engaged in museum engagement activities	50	0	79
CS10 Uplift in Donations	£483.74	Not known	£670.60

Folkestone Museum's Instagram account also has 2725 followers (up from 2613 reported in CS/24/396).

Access Plan

1. Introduction

This Access Plan was devised by the Museum Manager/Curator and Heritage Learning Officer. The plan is based primarily on the recommendations made in the Museum's last access audit. Further planned updates to our interpretation are based on the Heritage Learning Officer's attendance on training offered by the Group for Education in Museums.

This plan should be read in conjunction with Folkestone Museum's Access Policy, which governs our work to maintain and improve access for our visitors.

2. The Plan

Action	Deadline	Responsible staff member
Pre-visit information		
Create a separate access page on the museum website, including: a. Information about parking nearby and 'drop off' options. b. Details of floor surfaces getting to and around the museum, in particular the uneven paving sets (cobble) on the high street are not easy for a wheelchair to negotiate. c. Information about ramp access (plus rear door as fire exit onto cobbled street) d. Information on access within the museum, the fact that it is on two floors but there is a lift. e. Information about disabled access facilities such as the toilet, hearing induction loop, large print format text. f. Information about what help can be provided within the museum by staff should a disabled visitor need it. g. A floor plan of both floors to plan the visit.	December 2025	CC
Rejig visual story and place on access webpage.	December 2025	TC
Create a sensory map of the museum.	December 2026	TC

Around the Building		
Add 2x cube seats to Morse Code interactive	December 2025	CC
Add baby changing station to accessible toilet	December 2026	CC
Improve signage around lift: - Change signs for clear 'Lift' signs and use terms such as 'exit', 'way out' or 'reception'. Use both text and symbols - Change signage inside lift to way '1st floor or 'ground floor', or 'Exit' - Place large signage on walls in exhibition rooms directing to lift. - Place large sign in reception area pointing to lift - Place sign above double doors or on wall next to them saying 'Exit' or 'Museum Reception' or 'Way Out'.	December 2026	CC
Install electric opening button on both sides of the double doors into reception area from lift	December 2028	CC
Move the freestanding leaflet stand away from lift doors (ideally remove from this place completely)	December 2026	CC?
Improving Our Interpretation		
Create large print text for upper ground floor gallery	December 2025	TC
Create large print text for lower ground floor gallery	December 2025	TC
Add 'please touch' signage where necessary to LGF gallery	December 2026	CC
Add induction loop near to audio interactive on LGF	December 2026	CC
Devise new, monthly trails for museum once supply of Explorer's Guides runs out	December 2026	TC
Create and print PECS trails	December 2026	TC
Change up 'colouring area' for a more open set of activities,	December 2026	?
Create Bag/box/basket of sensory materials relating to colours and textures of objects around galleries.	December 2027	TC
Write simplified explanation for Plimsoll line activity	December 2027	CC
Create object handling trays to place in gallery at weekends	December 2027	TC
Replace upper ground floor labels to labels with black text on white background	December 2028	CC

Quern stone interactive in prehistoric area	December 2028	CC
Replace broken pot interactive into gallery	December 2028	CC
Introduce fancy dress into LGF gallery	December 2028	CC/TC
Staff Training		
Train all staff on welcoming and helping disabled visitors	December 2026	TC
Dementia awareness training	December 2025	JG
Autism awareness training	December 2026	TC
Sensory map training	December 2026	TC
Next Steps		
Commission new access audit	December 2028	CC

This report will be made public
on 8 October 2025

**Folkestone
Town Council**



Report Number: **CS/25/396**

To: Community Services
Date: 14 October 2025
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk
Report From: Museum Manager/Curator
Subject: Taxidermy Disposal

SUMMARY:

This report proposes disposal of items within the Museum's taxidermy collection that have been identified through audit and assessment as being poor condition or are duplicates, where the collection has better quality examples.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The taxidermy identified has no educational or display benefit and many of the specimens are duplicates.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To receive and note report CS/25/396**
- 2. To approve the disposal of the listed taxidermy objects identified through assessment of the collection.**

Aims and Objectives – Corporate Priority 10.10 Continue preventative and interventive conservation to preserve FM's collection

Financial Implications – To offer best value for money.

Equal Opportunities – Equal opportunities for all.

Environmental Impact – The environmental impact has been considered in the preparation of all budgets.

1. Introduction

The taxidermy collection was returned from long-term storage at Maidstone in 2017 and remains to be accessioned. Dating to the late 19th/early 20th century, some of the specimens were received through individual donations by collectors. However, for much of the taxidermy collection the provenance was poorly recorded. As individual donations or purchases, there has been a degree of repetition in the types of specimens collected. Furthermore, in line with preservation techniques available at the time, the specimens were chemically treated with formaldehyde and/or arsenic, meaning that the preservation is poor and that they potentially form a health hazard when handled.

2. Background

- 2.1 In line with the Museum Association's disposal toolkit, a Collections Review was undertaken by the Collections Access and Development Officer and volunteers. The taxidermy was assessed under five criteria: 1) significance and relevance to the museum's Collections & Development policy; 2) risks involved in caring and handling the object; 3) current condition; 4) completeness and 5) future potential for use, engagement and research.
- 2.2 For each specimen, each criteria outlined above was scored out of five (with five being the highest score) which was then added together to form a final assessment score. Specimens with a high assessment score of 23 and over were deemed suitable for removal due to poor quality of preservation and/or as duplicated specimens.

T. Number	Species	Score
TX0219	Squaco Heron	23
No number	Grey Heron	23
TX0137	Great Snipe	25
TX0116	Black-headed gull	23
TX0131	Gull-billed tern	24
TX0129	Heron	23
TX0137	Black-headed gull	23
TX0117	Tufted Duck	23
TX0108	Cedar Waxwing	23
TX0078	Robin	23
TX0092	Goldfinch	23
TX0057	Little Tern	24
TX0060	Little Bittern	23
TX0088	Chiffchaff	23
No number	Stint	28
No number	Pigeon	26
No number	Mallard ducklings	23
TX0052	Ring Ouzel	24
T9273-14-B	Barn Owl	24

T9273-14-A	Barn Owl	23
TX0055	Kingfisher	25
No Number	Kingfisher	23
TX0192	Musquash	23
No Number	Pipistrelle Bat	23
No Number	Long-eared Bat	23
No Number	Rabbit	23
TX0069	2 x juvenile Hedgehogs	23
TX0150	Angel Shark	25
TX0152	Flounder	25
TX0145	Icelandic Cat Shark	23
TX0005	Spanish sea bream	23
T0913a	John Dory	25
T1913-3-7-B	Plaice	23

- 2.3 Currently, the specimens identified above are stored in museum-quality cardboard storage boxes inside the collections store. The current storage solution is unsuitable long-term for the specimens. By streamlining the collection, more space in the store will be made available in which to care and preserve the remaining taxidermy collection in line with best practice.
- 2.4 In Folkestone Museum's Collections Development Policy (5.2), items may be considered for rationalisation / disposal if they are:
- hazardous or harmful
 - have no educational or display benefit
- 2.5 The specimens identified fit both these criteria. There is no public benefit in holding these examples in Folkestone Museum's collection as they are not likely to be on display due to condition and/or are too fragile to be made available for research.
- 2.6 In the Museums Association toolkit (p17), it is stated that objects that "are underused and are taking up storage space, do not meet the collections development policy and are unlikely to ever be used or researched further... be transferred to another organisation within the public domain..." In line with Museum's Association guidelines, the identified specimens will be made available in the first instance for transfer to another museum.

3. Conclusion

The taxidermy specimens identified in the table above have no educational or display benefit and it is therefore proposed that the Museum makes these specimens available for transfer to relevant museums. Furthermore, by streamlining the taxidermy collection, more storage space will be made available to correctly safeguard the remainder of the taxidermy from further damage and enable easier access to the collection for both research and display purposes.



Société Royale



UK Branch

PEACE MONUMENT, FOLKESTONE



NATIONALE STRIJDBOND VAN BELGIË
LA FÉDÉRATION NATIONALE DES COMBATTANTS DE BELGIQUE
N.S.B.-F.N.C. UK BRANCH

President Mr C J Russell

Warren House, Buckland Lane, Staple Canterbury, Kent CT3 1JY.
Mobile +44 7779018970 e-mail russellc244@gmail.com

FOLKESTONE PEACE MONUMENT

Four years ago in Belgium there was a conversation with the President of the Royal Federation of Belgian Veterans regarding what we were doing that was relevant today. We agreed that Remembrance (UK and Belgium) and Liberation (in Belgium) ceremonies were still incredibly important. However, what about the present and future, as the world was becoming an increasingly dangerous and volatile place? Remember, this was pre-Ukraine. It was strongly felt that countries were sleep-walking into this challenging world and that we needed to raise the awareness of the importance of peace amongst our citizens, especially with younger generations. How prophetic that was, as we are now in a potential war situation.

How do we do this?

1. Firstly, the message is that peace is incredibly important, but there is a price we pay for peace and, as a nation, that is sadly a price we must be prepared to pay.
2. Secondly, we tend to remember the major conflicts since World War 11, but few of us could name more than a dozen. However, there have been 84 since 1945 involving UK armed forces. Nearly all those have resulted in the loss of life and many physical and mental casualties.
3. How do we recognise that fact, bring it to our attention and pay tribute to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives?
4. To realise these key messages we came up with the idea of a Peace Monument. This stone, with a dove and explanatory plaque, would be a focal point for all these messages. The act of a service and wreath-laying pays homage for all operations involving the fallen, past, present and future.

Practicalities

The Monument

This is a large piece of granite. It can be any size or shape, but needs to have a flat surface on one side for the dove and the plaque. The Royal Federation of Belgian Veterans, NSB/FNC UK, will formally donate and

present the dove to the Council. There are 168 such monuments at present, including three in Africa and two in the UK.

Cost

Often we can get the stone donated at little or no cost. This will include transporting it to the site. There is the cost of the plaque. Much depends on how the Council wants to display it – on its own, on a plinth or with a surround. A few pictures give an idea of some such monuments. Hospitality on the day is entirely up to the Council.

The Ceremony of Unveiling and Blessing the Monument

This can be done at minimal cost, depending on what the Council wants. We have a PA system with appropriate music, at no cost. The President of the Royal Federation of Belgian Veterans, NSB/FNC UK, is happy to MC the occasion. Typically, the ceremony would involve:-

- Pipe Major playing, “Flowers of the Forest”
- Welcome and greeting of guests by the MC
- Welcome by the Mayor of Folkestone
- Short speech by the National President of the NSB/FNC of Belgium
- Last Post
- Two minutes silence
- Reveille
- Introduction of Guest of Honour
- Speech by Guest of Honour
- Unveiling the Monument by Guest of Honour
- Blessing of the Monument and prayers by the town Chaplain/Chaplain of the NSB/FNC UK
- Wreath laying to, “Nimrod”
- School choir singing, “You Raise me Up”
- Pipe Major plays, “Highland Cathedral” to finish the ceremony.

Logistics

In terms of manpower, I offer my service to work with you and your representative to manage the whole process, including the event management on the day, as M.C. It is tried and tested and works very well

as the previous Mayors of Sandwich and Hythe will testify. The event will include:

Our Pipe Major coming from Belgium at no cost.

Also I will organise, with your approval, a VIP to unveil the monument.

In addition, I will organise and work with a primary school choir to take part in the ceremony. I have the right to the music needed.

Most important parts are where you want to place the monument and what you want it to look like. The location needs to be somewhere where you can comfortably hold a ceremony.

C.J. Russell

President, NSB/FNC UK

The Royal Federation of Belgian Veterans.







From: Floortje Hoette <floortje.hoette@leaslift.co.uk>
Sent: 03 July 2025 12:15
To: Floortje Hoette <floortje.hoette@leaslift.co.uk>
Subject: Become part of the Folkestone Leas Lift time capsule!

Dear Councillor,

With a little under 4 weeks of campaigning left, I wanted to make you aware of the Folkestone's Leas Lift Time Capsule Crowdfunding campaign. I see a great opportunity for the Town Council to contribute to the restoration of Folkestone's iconic funicular Lift whilst having its message of hope engraved on a brass plate to be attached to one of the Lift's railway sleepers. We are turning the Lift into the town's Time Capsule!

You'll find more information on the Time Capsule Campaign in the message below and the leaflet attached. I have attached some examples of community group messages we have received so far.

In its 140 years of existence, the Folkestone Leas Lift has been a silent witness to the many transformations of the town: from sleepy fisherman's village to popular Victorian seaside resort, from garrison town to beach holiday destination in the swinging sixties, and now centre of the arts in East Kent. Its continuing presence makes the Leas Lift in a sense timeless, connecting people to the past, present and future of the town. What better location to entrust a time capsule to, with messages from the local community to future generations living in Folkestone.

To mark the Lift's upcoming 140th anniversary, we are inviting you to be part of this unique community project.

This summer, we are attaching 104 messages of hope, personal memories and words of wisdom for future generations engraved on brass plates to the Leas Lift's new tracks, turning our beloved funicular into a time capsule. For a donation, we will engrave one of our brass plates with your message. Don't miss this chance to leave your mark and become part of Folkestone's history.

Donations can be made through our [crowdfunding campaign page](#). In order to secure one of the brass plates left, you will need to make a donation of £250 or £500. Following your donation, you will receive an email to explain how to submit the text for your message. Look out for an email from our Crowdfunder page!

The money raised through this campaign will go towards the restoration of the Lift as well as our community engagement activities during the restoration, and once the Lift re-opens to the public.

Do let me know if Folkestone Town Council would like to take part in this momentous campaign. You can contact me by this email or mobile number 07734058309.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.



FLOORTJE HOETTE

She/Her
CEO

☎ 07734058309

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With best wishes, Floortje