

June 2012



Folkestone Harbour Photograph: David Noble

www.gofolkestone.org.uk

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TOWN SUNDAY

Mayor making Ceremony at the Town Cross
St Mary and St Eanswythe's Church The Bayle
Sunday 24th June 11.00am
followed by service in the Church.

Then followed in the afternoon by:

THE BLESSING OF THE FISHERIES

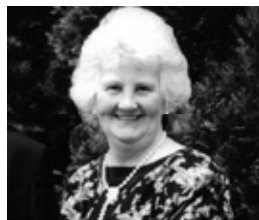
Folkestone honours it's fishing Community
in this historic and picturesque harbourside ceremony
The procession leaves St Peter's Church in the Durlocks
East Cliff Gardens at 3.00pm
for the ceremony at the Stade.
Then return to St peters church for tea.

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Editorial Committee: Philip Carter, Ann Berry, Nick Spurrier, and Richard Wallace..
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Editorial



What this summer issue of Go Folkestone magazine certainly illustrates is how much is happening in Folkestone and how many people, mostly in a voluntary capacity, are involved in projects big and small to add to the on-going regeneration of the town. An exhibition in the Sassoon Room at the library in July will display some of the museum's treasures hidden for many years. That month will also see the stopping off in the harbour of the hand crafted boat Collective Spirit, described by Diane Dever. Nick Spurrier's article demonstrates that behind the scenes in the Creative Quarter there is a vibrant artists community, one to which without doubt Alistair Upton, the new chief executive of the Creative Foundation, will be bringing fresh ideas and impetus, as he shows in an interview. Also on the creative side, £1000 is on offer for the best short story written by anyone under 25 in the 4th year of the H.G. Wells Festival. Richard Wallace and David Noble look at planning issues and the exciting development of the Folkestone Invicta football club, while Paul Emden recounts the successful conclusion of a project to tidy up an unsightly area near The Stade. Finally, as Academy FM marks its first anniversary, Step Short is still developing its plans to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.

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Folkestone Museum's Treasures Revealed

As part of the on-going project by Folkestone Town Council and Folkestone Heritage Working Group to develop a new museum in the recently purchased town hall, a cross section of some of the museum collections, most of which have been unseen by the general public for many years, will form an exhibition in the Sassoon Room above Folkestone Library from July 3rd – July 29.

Since one aim of the exhibition will be to portray the history and development of the museum, there will be a display of building plans, photographs, accessions registers, visitor's book, and newspaper cuttings, showing the importance of the museum for Folkestone and its success.

Other exhibits will include Samuel Mackie's Fossil collection, cabinets of butterfly and birds' eggs, taxidermy and archaeology, including artefacts from excavations at Dover Hill in 1907, Julian and Wilton Roads in 1918, Cheriton Road Crematorium in the 1930s and the Roman villa in 1924, 2010 and 2011. Further sections will be displays of artefacts portraying the history of Folkestone and its people through the centuries and its role during two world wars.

In common with all municipal museums established in the nineteenth century, Folkestone's was the beneficiary of many donations including the Egyptian artefacts of Douglas Hayter. An important part of the collections is its fine art, notably drawings, watercolours and prints from the late fifteenth century onwards, donated by Amy Master in 1924, of which copies of the most important will be on display. It is planned to have a number of talks, on the history of Folkestone Museum, the Victorian obsession with collecting and a forum/debate on museums in general and their role today and in the future. In addition there will be natural history and other activities for children and finds days to enable to people to bring in artefacts for identification.



It is hoped that the public display of these fascinating collections of one of the earliest municipal museums will reawaken local people's interest in them and garner support for the new museum. A sound wall will enable visitors to record their thoughts about the exhibition and older people their memories of the museum in the past. In addition, there will be a printed form requesting visitors' opinions on museum provision in Folkestone.

Folkestone Town Council has now come to a mutual agreement with the previous leaseholder of the Old Town Hall and is ready to move ahead with a schedule of repairs, which will make the huge building a lot smarter, and fit for the Council and others to occupy. So in future it will again be known as The Town Hall - not so much of the 'old'!!

Art & Artists in the Creative Quarter and slightly beyond

By Nick Spurrier

Both in galleries and studios, Folkestone's Creative Quarter artists are having a busy year. In Tontine Street, at the Stables Studios there is a permanent exhibition of art by Wayne Reeves, Dee Taylor and John Sims. **Wayne Reeves**, a painter of landscapes and seascapes, will be entering work for exhibitions of the Royal Society of Marine Artists, the Folkestone Arts Society, and two exhibitions in Whitstable. He also has work on display at the Lilford Gallery in Canterbury. **John Sims**, who as a sculptor originally working just with stone now also uses found objects - timber, twigs, kebab sticks – as well as colour and oil pastel, his work deriving mainly from mythology, ancient archaeology and dreams. This year he has exhibited a painting in the Royal Society of British Artist's exhibition at the Mall Galleries in London and regularly has work at the Outside the Square Gallery in Margate. **Dee Taylor**, whose art concerns the breakdown and change in the structure of society, has had paintings on show at Googies Art café, will have others in this year's Folkestone Art Society's exhibition and is hoping to place some of his paintings further afield.

With help from the "Treasures Revealed" project some of the paintings belonging to the Folkestone Museum collections have been restored and are now on display above the library at the **History Resources Centre** next door to which The **Sassoon Room** has occasional art exhibitions. Down the hill at the end of Tontine Street, The Cube Adult Education, which puts on a wide range of art and craft classes, also has a gallery that it is available for outside exhibitions as well as regularly featuring displays of students and lecturers work. At the other end of Tontine Street **Cube Ceramics** puts on a wide range of classes in well-equipped workshops with six potter's wheels and three kilns.

Folkestone Art Society will be holding an exhibition of its members work in the former Triennial visitor centre at the junction of the Old High Street and Tontine Street from 3 July to 12 August. Opposite, **Le Gallerie D'art** is supporting a number of local artists and recently hosted an exhibition by Hampstead based artist **Rosemary Clunie**.

Following her success at Christmas, **Patsy Burrows**, who lives in the Creative Quarter, will be running another pop up shop in the Old High Street from 29 June to 12 August to sell vintage and up-cycled clothing as well as hand-died textiles, alongside a working studio which will also offer an alterations service. Work produced by **Charlotte Harris** from her studio in the Old High Street is regularly displayed at galleries or exhibitions in London, Tunbridge Wells and Mykonos, Greece. Following her success as a portrait painter with a number of commissions, after winning the BP prize for Portraiture in 2001, Charlotte has turned her hand to still life and took first prize in the ING discerning eye exhibition at the Mall galleries in 2010. This year she was one of the 98 exhibitors chosen from 1150 entries for the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize, also at the Mall Galleries.

Kate Knight, who sells art supplies from her shop, MK Artlab, and has a studio in the Old High Street was the runner up for the Marmite Prize for Painting 2010 as well as being selected for 'Artist of the Day' Flowers Central on Cork Street in the same year. This year she exhibited at the Other Art Fair in Marylebone Road, London from 10 -13 May, one of 100 artists chosen from over 500 applicants. Well known for his complex communication-based sculptures, **Mark Sutherland** is presently occupied doing paintings and drawings for the ING discerning eye exhibition at the Mall Galleries where he also had work displayed at The Royal Society of British Artists Exhibition in March of this year.

A continuing success for **Jo Letchford** who has a shop in the Old High Street are her mosaic courses for which she has receive many wonderful testimonials. In May 2012 she was chosen as a guest artist for the Pilgrims Way Artists 15th Annual Summer Exhibition in the magnificent 14th century Grade 1 listed Tithe Barn in the village of Lenham, near Maidstone. **Anette Bjolm's** complex abstract artworks are built up using up to fifteen layers of clear casting resin. Working from her studio in the Old High Street, she undertakes commissions and is now working on new paintings for a show in the autumn at a gallery in Aarhus, Denmark.

Georges House Gallery, at the top of the Old High Street has a full programme of exhibitions throughout the year, while **Strange Cargo**, in the same building, is creating a public art trail in Boulogne linked to the visiting Pompidou Centre exhibition which launches on 20 June. Their annual exuberant and colourful **Charivari Day** will liven up the town on 16 June. Opposite, **Shane Record** who can be seen working every day in his art gallery/studio, is busy with commissions as well as having good sales from his gallery. Regularly commissioned articles for The Artist magazine and demonstrations at schools further occupy him and he will be organising his annual sandcastle competition on 8 July.

A recent and innovative exhibition at **SPACE Gallery** also in the Old High Street was Stains and Traces: Impressions from a field laboratory, the result of a year's work but eleven years involvement with the natural environment, by **Nicolette Gough**. The centre piece was a field laboratory originally set up in Romney warren Country Park and used for collecting plants that have culinary or medicinal uses. Nicolette, and visitors, made prints of the plants and wrote their thoughts and memories of the natural environment which were included in the exhibition.

Finally, in March, **Johnny Cotter**, who opened his gallery in Rendezvous Street November 2010 with a view to bringing affordable 'Pop Art' to the town, sold his 600th painting. In addition to selling his own, occasionally controversial art, he has displayed the work of over 36 local artists.

This article, which covers a selection of the artists working in in Folkestone's Creative Quarter, will be posted on the news section of the Go Folkestone website, where the websites or contact details of the artists and galleries may be found.

The Boat Project

By Diane Dever

On Tuesday 10th, July at 16.30 a thirty foot sailing boat, named Collective Spirit, will arrive at Folkestone Harbour, stopping off for the afternoon on its maiden voyage from Emsworth in Hampshire to Margate. Commissioned by the Arts Council and constructed as part of the Cultural Olympiad by professional boat builders including Olympic medallist Mark Covell under the supervision of arts company, Lone Twin, the boat has been hand crafted from wooden artefacts donated by the general public in the South East. Each piece of wood has a story behind it, all of which have been meticulously catalogued, creating a living archive of people's lives and stories. Donations have included family heirlooms, part of Jimi Hendrix's guitar, relics of the Second World War and a piece of Brighton's West Pier

The arrival of the boat is Folkestone's chance to be part of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad which, complementing the Olympic Games, embraces hundreds of events taking place throughout the country. To welcome the boat, our community will be working together to dress the Harbour with bunting, flags and other decorations, which will remain throughout the summer. Other events planned include a free taster session for canoeing and kayaking at the newly opened Folkestone sea sports facilities and an artist's talk in the Creative Quarter during the evening.

If you would like to get involved in the project either on the day itself or, in advance, by making flags and bunting, teaching others to do so or any other way – practical ideas are welcome – then please contact us at theboatproject@folkestonefringe.com. More details can be found out at www.theboatproject.com. Donations of cloth for bunting and banners or paper to be used to make thousands of tiny origami boats can be left at Googies Café, Rendezvous street or The History Resource Centre above Folkestone Library on Grace Hill.

This Folkestone Sea Sports event is being organised in conjunction with the Folkestone Fringe, Shepway District Council, the Folkestone Sea Sports Group and the Folkestone Harbour Company. It is one of the Olympic celebrations in the town, which also include the Mini Olympics on Thursday 12th July and the passage of the Olympic Torch through the town on Wednesday 18th July.

Pavement Pounders

By David Lay and Dr Maryanne Grant Traylen

David Lay and Dr Maryanne Grant Traylen are Pavement Pounders. David - a visual artist and speaker - and Maryanne - a published writer and editor - began working together when giving a series of illustrated talks on art and literature at the Arts Depot in North London. This developed into a series of illustrated talks followed by guided walks in Hampstead, Highgate and Fitzrovia for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, an adult education college. They have also given talks and conducted tours for English Heritage.

We set up Pavement Pounders as a community interest company in April 2010 as a vehicle for our pride of place project whose aim is to foster pride in our town, Folkestone, by exploring the heritage on our doorstep, a phrase which concisely describes our activities. The four strands to the project comprise tours and guided walks, drawing workshops, our journal Transitions with contributions mainly from local writers and Voices of Folkestone, our oral history project. These strands plait together to provide a broad base from which to involve the local community and to show that Folkestone has a rich history of which we can all be proud.

In our first year we were asked by the Creative Foundation to devise and lead a guided walk as part of the Folkestone Literary Festival highlighting the town's many literary associations. This took us from Sandgate to The Creative Quarter by way of H.G. Wells, Jocelyn Brookes, Wilfred Owen, Agatha Christie, Samuel Beckett and Charles Dickens. We couldn't have asked for a richer cast of characters and the following year we devised another similar walk for The Book Festival.

For the second Folkestone Triennial in 2011 we devised and led six tours of the Triennial art works as part of the Creative Foundation's Folkestone Friday's tours. To each one we invited a guest speaker, either an artist who could explain his or her work or someone closely involved with an artwork's production. Not only were these tours an exciting challenge that immersed us in contemporary art, but also reinforced our view that local history should be outward looking and linked to events in the wider world. Marcel Duchamp, for instance, the father of conceptual art itself, spent time in Folkestone.

As part of our contribution to the Triennial Fringe we ran two summer drawing workshops "Man and the Sea" at University Centre Folkestone where the four large drawings produced by the group were displayed for some months. During the Triennial we also published the first edition of our journal "Transitions", a journal of crossings and transformations. We invited submissions on the themes of migration, home and otherworldliness to link in with the 2011 Triennial's A Million Miles from Home and its idea of Folkestone as a place of threshold. Local writers as well as Triennial artists were strongly represented.

As 2012 marks the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth we had an exciting start to the year on his birthday, 7th February, with our guided walk Dickens and Pavilionstone, an exploration of the great Victorian author's unique relationship with Folkestone. The event was well attended despite the snow! We have a full programme of events lined up for the rest of the year including four new local walks, a Dickens themed drawing workshop at UCF and the launch of our journal Transitions 2 in which local writing will again be well represented. We are hoping to link our oral history project, Voices of Folkestone, with the BBC's listening project.

For the latest news see our website and Facebook page:
www.pavementpounders.org.uk <http://www.facebook.com/pavement.pounders>

Academy FM Celebrates its First Birthday

On 18 April Academy FM celebrated its first birthday at a gathering at Folkestone Academy. Several school student volunteers gave short talks, including an excellent humorous two-hander by Mel and Becky, who have their own show on Wednesdays. The following is a condensed version of the address given by Dave Sharp, the station manager:

“One year ago we started a radio station, partly staffed by unpaid children with virtually no broadcasting experience. Now we have a radio station that’s entertaining, listenable, challenging, life-changing, and at the heart of the community.

Our presenters are volunteers, many are children. Radio production teaches young people self-confidence, team-working, and vital skills for the workplace. We’ve trained up nearly 100 people, including many children. We broadcast live between 6:30am and 9.00 pm. In the past year, we have broadcast community contacts information slots for local charities around 9000 times and played music produced by local artists on 10,000 separate occasions.

But in addition we put on safe, alcohol free events for young people under 18. We have run education projects that enhance the curriculum. We have the statistics to show that young people involved in the station are more likely to attend school, and improve academically. We are the only radio station in the UK that trains up young people and puts them on the air to the extent that we do.

Our listenership has seen a big increase recently, and we’ve even been joined by the hysterically funny ex-commercial radio DJ Adam Dowling. Unlike some of the presenters, he hasn’t had to cancel his show because he’s behind on his GCSE coursework. I’m pleased to tell you he’s successfully heading for a Grade A in GCSE Breakfast Radio.

This is not a normal radio station. Here are a couple of examples: one idea was ‘Can I record a feature where I miss two weeks of school and attempt the world duration record for playing on an X box’. Parents of teenagers will know what it’s like to have a teenager saying ‘you’re so boring’ and slamming the door. This happens to me on a weekly basis when I refuse their request to put on gangster rap at lunchtime.”

Dave Sharp went on to thank all the volunteer presenters, and those who worked in the office as well as all the funders. He continued *“We could not have got this station on the road without the initial and continuing support of Roger De Haan or the facilities of Folkestone Academy whose teaching staff have been incredibly supportive.*

If the station closed, Folkestone would lose a platform that promotes local events. Local volunteers of all ages would lose a platform for expressing themselves and their creativity. Local musicians would lose the only radio station that broadcasts their music regularly. Local venues would lose the only radio station that records live music in their establishments. Local people would lose a radio station that broadcasts music that other stations are afraid to. Local young people would lose an organisation that puts on safe, well-managed, alcohol-free event for under-18s.

We are a fundamental part of the overall regeneration of Folkestone. This town suffers from multiple deprivation: The health of local teenagers is particularly poor. Teenage pregnancy is very high. There are overcrowded households, high youth unemployment, and the town needs its regeneration to continue. We are part of that regeneration. Please help us by spreading the word about Academy FM, and joining our Friends organisation.

Contact Academy FM on 01303 721059 or through
dave.sharp@academyfmfolkestone.com

Smugglers' Tunnels

By Paul Wimsett

Like many towns along the channel, the area of Folkestone has a long history of smuggling in fact and in fiction. J.M.W. Turner painted a picture of Folkestone smugglers transporting gin; just along the coast, Russell Thorndike used Romney Marsh as the setting for his novels about the smuggling exploits of Doctor Syn. Inevitably, there many myths and legends connected with this illicit trade, making it difficult to sift out the facts, one being the belief that there are a number of smugglers' tunnels in Folkestone, which were supposedly used both to hide and transport the contraband.

Some say there is a tunnel from the British Lion to the bottom of the hill and another along the whole of Tontine Street, coming out at Hambrook and Johns. There are even rumours that there is a tunnel leading to St Peters Church and another stretching the length of the Old High Street. As well as connecting a public house to the sea, tunnels (and caves) were also used as storerooms. It seems that brandy or gin was kept in small barrels called tubs. Alternatively the bounty could be sunk for a while out as sea until it could be recovered later - no doubt marked so the area could be identified.

Local folklore records tunnels in the Warren, now probably fallen into the sea; one was said to have linked a house used as a headquarters to a nearby wood. After landing their contraband at East Wear Bay, the smugglers hauled it up a path, then through the tunnels and a wood before distributing it at the Valiant Sailor pub at the top of Dover Hill. This seems to me a fair distance from the Warren, but no doubt they had their reasons.

I also found a picture of what some have considered to be a smuggler's cave in the Warren. Whether it leads to one of these tunnels, or was another contraband tunnel, I'm not sure. It seems strange that it is now an almost forgotten part of the history of Folkestone. Perhaps Victorian Folkestone wanted to remove itself from the more illicit historical enterprises?

A Cycle Way to Dungeness

By David Taylor, Chairman, Cycle Shepway

Imagine a family in Newham, host borough of the Olympics, fancying a cycle day at the seaside. Mum, Dad and two teenagers pedal to Stratford International and happily load their bikes onto the high-speed train for Folkestone Central. Forty-five minutes later, having streaked across Kent and browsed Google Maps, they decide to head for the harbour and ride westwards to Dungeness. Sunshine, seashore and wind in their faces.

First problem is lack of cycle signage to the harbour, just a crazy circuitous route for vehicles, a hangover from Folkestone's ferry port days. So, instinctively, they cycle downhill towards the viaduct and into Tontine Street, main drag to the harbour. Problem two - it's one-way and they have to push their bikes on the pavement.

Problem three is seafront confusion. Signs for National Cycle Route 2 direct them into Lower Leas Coastal Park. "But Dad", cry the kids, "why can't we cycle on the promenade like everyone else?" Father decides to do things properly. They turn into the park along NCR2. Within seconds, another problem: they must dismount as they encounter a play area where children dart between climbing equipment on either side of the path.

No sooner is the family riding again than vicious speed bumps, with no gaps for cycles, hamper progress. Through the trees are tantalising glimpses of the sea but it's lost as the cyclists are swallowed in Lower Sandgate Road, houses lining both sides of the street. At Sandgate NCR2 joins the traffic-plagued High Street, the A259 towards Hastings. Dad's had enough and cuts through to the seafront.

But, oh dear, elderly ladies "tut-tut" as the teenagers politely ring their bells. "Cyclists have no right down here", shouts an angry dog-walker. Mum spots a sign for the Hub Cycle Shop and Café. With no stands, they chain their bikes to a railing. Inside, the friendly proprietors explain that the promenade is no such thing. It's a "seawall" on which Shepway District Council concedes right of way to neither pedestrian nor cyclist.

So what to do? Just ignore the legalities, they're advised. Everyone else does. Revitalised, they push on to where NCR2 joins the seafront on The Esplanade, bumping along the coggly tarmac dual-use path where cars are parked with two wheels on the pavement.

Beyond the Seabrook ice-cream kiosk, Dad, Mum and the kids finally spot **what** they'd expected – a broad promenade to Hythe with the occasional dual-use pedestrian/cyclist sign to reassure them. Little do they realise, and nor does anyone else except a highways engineer at SDC, that cyclists have no right here either.

Donkey's years ago, the signs were placed by mistake. Cyclists should be riding on the rough grass verge on the landward side of Princes Parade, the road alongside the promenade – a legality that has also escaped Sustrans, the admirable charity that manages the UK's cycle routes.

Alas, it's the same story all the way to Dungeness. Spanking new stretches of seawall

from the Hythe artillery ranges to Dymchurch and beyond are officially off limits to cyclists and pedestrians. No designated cycle route or footpath exists along this glorious 20-mile coastline. What should be the jewel in the crown of Shepway's visitor appeal is a shambles of lost opportunity by those who administer it – Kent County Council, Shepway District Council, the Environment Agency and the Ministry of Defence.

This spring Cycle Shepway launches a campaign to establish a Folkestone to Dungeness Cycle Way. It will be a long haul. Agency will bicker with council and council with ministry and all of them with Cycle Shepway. In petty concerns about liability and precedent, the bigger picture will be blurred. But we shall keep focus. For a start, we have the backing of MP Damian Collins who appreciates the great economic and tourist potential of such a route.

So what of the family? Dad, Mum and the teenagers make it to Dungeness and back again to Folkestone. But next time they visit Kent, they'll plump for a friendlier stretch of coast like the Oyster Bay Trail from Whitstable to Reculver or the Viking Coastal Trail around the Isle of Thanet where routes are clear and maintained and cyclists feel welcome.

CAMPAIGN NOTE: Cycle Shepway will be collecting signatures for the Folkestone-Dungeness Cycle Way Petition from its stand at the Folkestone Green Fair on July 6 and 7 and from a stand shared with Spokes at the Sandgate Sea Festival on August 26.

A Cycle Shepway Ride in support of the Folkestone-Dungeness Cycle Way Campaign will take place on Saturday, June 16. Details to be announced.

Ray Johnson Completes his 12th Maraton

On 22 April Ray Johnson successfully completed his 12th consecutive London Marathon in a row in 4 hours, 28 minute and 21 seconds. He said "This was my slowest so far, but I am getting old! It was particularly hard going from mile 22 onwards this time around but I strangely enough recovered for the last mile. Thankfully I did not hit the wall or suffer any stiff legs and I wish that I could do it again tomorrow!"

He added "I am most grateful to all that 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 £3,500 and over the 12 years running for KAB, just over £44,000. It is still possible to sponsor online by visiting my website www.justgiving.com/rayjohnson that also gives further information of how you can donate. I am now looking forward to my 13th London Marathon!"

The Next Moves Forward for the Creative Quarter: An Interview with Alistair Upton

By Nick Spurrier

“Culture and creativity are vital if people’s dreams, aspirations and imaginations are to thrive. In fact, culture is as important to our existence as “five fruit and veg a day”.” So wrote Alastair Upton in an article on The Guardian Website, demonstrating a commitment to creativity that would seem to make him an ideal chief executive of the Creative Foundation. In fact his first job in the arts - working with people with learning disabilities in a sculpture workshop to help them to lead more independent and fulfilled lives - demonstrates this belief in the importance of creativity.

Following this, Upton was for ten years the director of Charleston Farmhouse in Sussex, the home of Bloomsbury group artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, which encompassed a shop, gallery, café and festivals. During his time there he also presented a two part documentary for Channel 5, was vice chair of the South East Museums Libraries and Archive Council and taught an MA course at Brighton University. From the quiet Sussex countryside, Upton’s next move was to The Bluecoat in Liverpool where he oversaw the £14,500,000 regeneration and reopening of Liverpool’s oldest city centre building, which with galleries, shops, cafes, and restaurants could be described as a Creative Quarter in one building.

“However , Folkestone’s Creative Quarter has” Upton says “a very different agenda – a much smaller town but an organisation – the Creative Foundation - with a much bigger remit which is to use creative activity to help the town’s regeneration”. Upton is well aware that he has joined the Creative Foundation at an uneasy economic time for the country and in an era of transition for high streets that has inevitably affected Folkestone and its inhabitants. But he is immensely upbeat about the progress so far. “The Creative Foundation has got a fantastic track record of achieving things. It has got 80 properties, which were in very poor condition, restored and converted with 75% of them occupied by people who are involved with creative activities. That has made a huge impact culturally, economically, in terms of jobs, and in terms of vibrancy.” He says “I can understand how we could get dragged into concentrating only on problems and what might be perceived as slower development than we would want. But actually if you stand away from it and view the whole picture I think it is remarkable: university education has been brought into the town; adult education has been put into one appropriate building; we have artist’s studios; we have creative industries. Quarterhouse is a beautiful and remarkable building. We have a growing festival programme with the Triennial achieving international recognition”

“The challenge now is this: we have moved straight from a rapid period of growth during a time of huge optimism in the country to a period of real difficulty. So I am committed to a period of consolidation: how do we get what we have to work as well as we possibly can - a little tinkering, a little fine tuning. For example, of our 80 buildings 25% are not being utilised. Perhaps we don’t need to take on any more for the time being. Let’s get those we have to work as well as we can.”

“One problem is that people naturally focus on the empty shops, but that situation needs to be seen, not only in the context of a recession, but also in the light of revolutionary change around the role of the shop and the high street. Nobody knows

the answers to this problem yet. In part it may simply be a matter of riding out the recession. But it may also mean rethinking the role of the shop". One way forward he suggests might be hybrid shops such as the architect's practice in the Old High Street, which also sells architectural plans; Quintessential and Shane Record both creating and selling; Inspiring Interiors – designing and selling.

Upton continues "With regard to the university, we need to look at expanding the reach of higher education – more activity, more students in the building and enjoying the area. The curriculum needs to be tied into Folkestone's broader educational facilities, creating an educational ecology that is built around creative activities from school through to and beyond higher education to apprenticeship, ensuring that those who want to can stay in the town. That is a very difficult thing to do. In Liverpool we struggled with that and we had three universities."

One partial link with Liverpool is a similar arts festival to that town's Biennial. The Triennial, Upton believes, is one thing that is an international attraction for Folkestone. It is the town's own 24/7 365 day a year external art gallery. He says "we have an impressive collection from the first Triennial and we are just finishing the negotiations for what will be left in place from last year. We will have an even more important collection after 2014. We have a new curator, Lewis Biggs, a very important person in the UK's art world and I see his appointment as a significant coup for Folkestone. We are now working on some very important projects for the future."

"So after 2014 we will have a collection of perhaps 20-25 pieces. But if you want people to stay interested in it and present it as part of Folkestone's offer then you have got to work at keeping it dynamic - adding to it, changing the display. That is the problem. How do we do that? Do we have another Triennial in 2017, and I do have ambitions for that, or should we be looking at other ways to develop the collection?" Upton stresses the importance of encouraging interest in and visits to the Triennial exhibits outside the three months every three years. So he is aware of the need to package and publicise the art works in order to make them a permanent visitor attraction. How this is done is the problem. He continues "Do we have a permanent visitor centre which could also show the Triennial films or do we have occasional pop ups or weekends with the films and other activities; you could have a moving visitor centre. Also in the future the internet will play an even greater part than now."

Like the Triennial, he believes Quarterhouse should also be looking for a programme that, as well as appealing to the people of Folkestone, reaches beyond the town to bring more people in. He is obviously a man open to ideas for this and the book festival, which he says has had a great track record. "But" he adds "times are changing so I want to engage with the Friends of the Book Festival and local writers. The more voices you have got coming in (as long as people are not over precious about their ideas) the more you have to choose from and the better you will build the festival."

It is quite clear from talking to Upton is that he is a man full of energy and enthusiasm, busy now forming a strategy that he will eventually make public. Above all he is optimistic about the achievements so far and about the future. "We have had a great deal of success and during these difficult times. So let us consolidate what we have got, make it work really well and prepare for the next move forward. As the Chinese say after winter comes spring. So we need to prepare for the spring, the better times, the good times, which I know will come."

Where Hythe has led locally, Folkestone is now following, but what does it mean to be a 'Transition Town'? Transition Hythe member, **Martin Whybrow**, explains.

Folkestone now has 'muller' status, which means it is 'mulling over' becoming a Transition Town. This is excellent news. If, as I am sure it will, it joins the likes of Hythe, Canterbury, Deal, Whitstable, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells, then this can only be good for the town. It will also be joining communities in continental Europe, North America, South America, Asia, and Australasia, because from roots in Totnes in Devon, the Transition movement has gone global in only a few years.

So there must be something in it, mustn't there? As always with the Transition movement, the first question is, what is it? The word 'community' is the most important. It is a community-led response to climate change, the end of cheap oil and economic uncertainty. These are sweeping phenomena and into this 'response' can come a multitude of projects.

Much of the response is about becoming more sustainable, less materialistic and less reliant on outside resources, which in turn reduces our carbon footprint. But while this all sounds pretty solemn, Transition Hythe and other such groups show that the responses can be fun and fulfilling, bringing people together and creating a true sense of community.

Hythe is still a relatively young Transition Town, certainly compared with the likes of Lewes, Bristol, Brighton and Totnes itself. However, we have been busy in the last couple of years. For instance, we have had a highly successful, high profile project to provide a free study of energy loss from homes, using a sophisticated thermal imaging camera, borrowed from Kent County Council. The simplest projects, that have mobilised the most people, have been the regular Transition Hythe cleans around the area, including the inaugural Hythe Spring Clean in March, which saw more than 40 volunteers collect 60+ bags of rubbish in a morning. These cleans are happening monthly.

There has also been tree and hedge planting, with a major project now under way to build on this, called 'Bee Hythe' (a bit corny!). Ultimately, the group would love to work with the town and district councils, local residents, housing associations and businesses, to better manage our green spaces, with further planting, including transforming tired beds and lawns into vegetable and wildflower havens. There is also an emerging garden share scheme, linking those who cannot manage their gardens with those who have the time and inclination to help, and we are in the final stages of establishing our first community allotment.

There is not room here to go into detail about the other schemes (such as bug hotels, including in two local schools, one of which is in Folkestone; a range of upcoming courses – there is a strong 'reskilling' theme to the Transition movement; a directory of local retailers; and our first plant and seed fair). There are loads of other ideas, in part from a 'white board' area at the group's 'Next Steps' public meeting at the start of February, and plenty of room for more.

Where will things head in Folkestone? Well, that is clearly up to all of those who become involved and it will also be shaped by the town itself, with the likelihood that there will be a strong artistic aspect, linked to the Creative Quarter. From Hythe, we'll be doing everything we can to support and encourage. We've learned things along the way that should be useful and there are bound to be plenty of areas where we can cooperate and have joint projects. It will undoubtedly complement and provide links for all of the other fine initiatives and groups in the town, including Go Folkestone.

Visit www.transitionnetwork.org for details about the overall movement and www.transition-hythe.com to learn more about our group. If you are interested in being part of the emerging Folkestone group, then by all means contact me and I'll pass on your details as it takes shape – call on 07787 124794 or

email at martin_whybrow@yahoo.co.uk. We also have a free screening of the inspiring film, In Transition 2.0, on the evening of Wednesday, 4th July in Hythe (see website for details). We are having a great time and making a real difference in Hythe and I have no doubt that the Folkestone equivalent will be a huge success as well!

Sandgate Restaurants, No.1

by Richard Wallace

Which are the nice restaurants in Sandgate, and should Go Folkestone be going there at all?! Well of course it is a different parish and we defer to the Sandgate Society, but we like going there. There are too many food and drink places to cover in one article, though two would do it if you were avoiding being rude. Let us all first pause to remember Sandgate Tapas, or was it Kinko, which sadly folded in the off season despite being excellent, and to applaud **The Providence** for helping keep the traditional pub alive with its nooks, fireplaces and decent pub grub.

Last Tuesday night we went to visit **The Ship** or as the characterful licensee Mr Whiffen would have it, The Famous Ship. Those slightly out of date will remember it as a classic real ale haunt with a front bar and a codgers' rear bar, but the pub has been extended in a modern way with sharp modern furniture to give about 30 covers in a completely different atmosphere. We didn't push the boat out with prawn and crab tian with tomato confit etc. I only had mushroom risotto and C had beer-battered cod. But mine was excellent with a rich mushroomy taste and the correct, gloopy risotto texture. C said that her fish was delicious with a very light, crunchy batter. Prices are not the lowest, because it is very good, but we only paid £28 including the beer and wine.

Of course you can, before or after, adjourn to the completely different bars with barrel seats, old naval charts and a very fine and constantly changing beer selection with names like Incubus, Hopdaemon, and Bilbo Baggins etc. You can take plastic glasses outside and sit on the sea wall or at tables next to the pub. The only slight disappointment was that we couldn't see the sea at night from the lit interior, obvious really, but in the day you can see it enough. And as from the Provy you can mix a visit with a seafront stroll, an hour on the beach or a look at the local antique shops. A word of warning though. The number of antique shops, though still a village feature, has dropped by a couple. Sandgate certainly doesn't need any more parking restrictions!

The best restaurant in Sandgate for me however is in the most unlikely position, stuck well inland in a 1970s shop in the suburban 1970s shopping parade of Golden Valley, flanked by a shop for what I still think of as invalid carriages, a Chinese takeaway and other delights. This is **The Ghurkha Palace**. The cuisine is of course Nepali, which is like Indian only with variations like the lovely little chicken dumplings called Momo (£3.95 per dish of ten), and Ghurkha Beer.

A birthday celebration for 4 this March only cost £74 and we had eaten and drunk as much as we needed, including the complimentary poppadoms. My friend liked Barbecue Prawns, grilled in a charcoal fired oven with garam masala and spices at £11.95. I can remember Mish Mas Masu, one of several unfussy but delicious army specialities: char grilled lamb, king prawn and boneless chicken (£7.95) but you could have Sherpa Khasi, very hot lamb with a touch of coconut and lots of spices! Kenneth Williams would approve.

The service is smooth and at once formal and friendly. Everything is on the ground floor. I have never had a disappointing thing there. Even the plain looking parade has its advantages as the car parking in the quad is easy in the evening. Unlike Sandgate village however, the only interesting shop to look in is the highly thought of kitchen and bathroom design shop. Otherwise you are in and out, but the timing is relaxed as the restaurant is surprisingly big.

Get Your Kicks from Route17

by Cathy Lawrence

Regional Cycle Route 17 is, if you choose a sunny day and are feeling sufficiently energetic, a lovely way of travelling from Canterbury to Folkestone! Leaving Canterbury on the Pilgrims Way, or in modern bungalow terms Pilgrim Spring, the adventurer cycles straight along Route 16 as far as Patixbourne. This first section is beloved of dog walkers since it's accessible by car from the Old and New Dover Roads but if you can avoid the hounds and not get in the way of the MAMMILS * who also seem to frequent this stretch, you are soon in the pretty village of Patixbourne and you then take up Route 17 which, at that point, is encouragingly labelled Cheriton! The route then continues past Bifrons Park to Bridge where I found the signposting a little bit baffling but after some uncertainty I was on the right track and pedalling towards Pett Bottom and the real countryside! The route goes right past The Duck pub here and the leisurely cyclist might well stop here for some Kent cider before she pops into the Hode Pottery further along the lane for a browse.

Thereafter, the route takes you along the country lanes of the Elham Valley and April or May are wonderful months to be out: the primroses, anemones and violets were very much in evidence on my journey and, as I write a few weeks later, the bluebells would be there to admire. I was making my expedition in the Easter holiday on a weekday afternoon and saw very few cars which was a bonus and meant that I could fully appreciate my surroundings. The route is really well marked at junctions and I had no difficulty at staying on track. Skirting Stelling Minnis I headed towards Elham itself where I had a rest and refuelled before the last third of the seventeen mile journey.

There is a very steep climb as you leave Elham and, when you arrive via Shuttlesfield in the village of Paddlesworth and another watering hole: The Cat and Custard Pot, you can certainly believe that you're at one of the highest points in the North Downs. The church of St Oswald's here is well worth a visit. I have to confess that at this point I lost my way and ended up negotiating the A260 and the bypass to Cheriton! I think that

Route 17 goes through Hawkinge and enters Cheriton in a much less stressful way but I must have missed a sign. (I hadn't been in the pub!) I do recommend that you try the route during the summer months- when it's stopped raining !!



Note to readers: Cathy was very spontaneous and took her own way at the beginning and end. If you go by train to Canterbury East via Dover or Canterbury West via Ashford you can find a short, back street way to the quiet, Pilgrim Spring road which turns into a country track. Alternatively get out at Bekesbourne (Unicorn PH) and do it all bucolically. At the Cheriton end she really went wrong at Paddlesworth where you should be aiming for Newington Village where Route 17 crosses the A20 to the old Exhibition Centre aka Loveworld.

What's on:

June 2. Folkestone's Jubilee Air show can be seen from the Leas Folkestone from 1.00pm till 5pm.

June 3. Folkestone Harbour fun day various entertainment throughout the day.

June 4. Lighting of the Beacon on the Leas 10.00 pm.

June 6. Garden of Remembrance 11.00 am. D day commemoration at Christ Church tower, Sandgate Road Folkestone.

June 1- 30. Multi Cultural Festival - Different events through out the month. Music, art Craft and Entertainment more information on www.folkestonefestival.org
Or phone: 01303 850522.

June 4. Boot Fair, Etching Hill Golf club (sorry no pre booking)

June 8 – 11. Multi Cultural weekend in the Town Centre.

June 10. William Harvey Sunday. Short service at William Harvey statue on the Leas at 3.30 pm.

June 14. Leas Railing Art, this is a display of artists work by Folkestone Arts Collective. 10.00am – 4.00pm. Call 01303 25620

June 24. Town Sunday. 11.00am Historical Mayor making ceremony at St Mary and St Eanswythe Church at the cross on the Bayle Folkestone, followed by a short service in the Church.

June 24. Blessing of the Fisheries starting 3.00pm from St Peters Church on the Durlocks and processing down to the harbour where the Bishop will bless the Fisheries. Then back to Peters Church for a cup of tea.

June 30. Armed Forces Day from 12.00 noon on the Leas, family fun.

July 3 – 12 August. Folkestone Art Society Exhibition at the Triennial visitor's centre at the junction of the Old High Street and Tontine Street

July 3 – July 29. Exhibition of Folkestone Museum's Collections at the Library.

July 10, Arrival of specially made sailing boat at Folkestone Harbour, part of the Cultural Olympiad.

July 21 – 22 Folkestone Harbour Festival, down in the harbour area with live bands, Kids funfair, Water walkers, Raft race etc. Food and drinks available, ending with a grand firework display at 10pm.

August 5 (Sunday) Step Short WW1 project, 4th Commemorative March down road of Remembrance. Meeting outside Grand on Leas ready to march off at 11.00am taking the route 8 million troops took to the harbour on their way to the Western front.
Contact: 01303 278644 or email annber35@supanet.com

August 1st for one month "Folkestone's Fishing Heritage Exhibition" in the Sassoon room of Folkestone Library Grace Hill.

Capel Farmers Market, every Tuesday morning 10.00 – 1.00pm at Capel village hall, Capel le Fern. Contact: Jenny Baracrough 245399

Sandgate Farmers Market, first and third Saturday of month 10.00am – 12.30pm In Chichester Hall Sandgate. Contact: zoesvarian@aol.com

H.G.Wells Short Story Competition, 2012

For the 2012 H. G. Wells short story competition, aspiring writers in the United Kingdom are invited to submit short stories of between 2000 and 5000 words under the broad theme of The Sea in any genre, for example romantic, humorous, historical, crime, mystery or fantasy. The deadline for entries is 22 July 2012.

There will be three cash prizes:

- The Turnill Prize of £1000 will be awarded to the winning entry from authors aged 25 and under.
- The Grand Prize of £250 will be awarded to the winning entry for authors aged 26 and over.

A unique feature of the competition is the invitation to submit your story in handwriting. Though this is not compulsory, handwriting will be taken into account in a small way by the judges. For the best short listed handwritten entry there will be:

- The Folkestone Town Mayor's Handwriting Prize £100
- This year, for the first time, shortlisted stories - ten from each of the age categories - will be published in an anthology.

Competition Rules

- Entries must be entirely your own work and never previously published or broadcast, online or offline.
- Each entry should be typed and double-spaced on A4 paper with page numbers. If you wish, include a handwritten version of your story, though this is not compulsory.
- Entries should be submitted anonymously, accompanied by an entry form with all your details (download from www.wellsfestival.com)
- Authors can enter as many stories as they wish. Entry is free for those aged 25 and under but those of 26 and over should send an entry fee of £5 for each story submitted
- The decisions of the judge's regarding admissibility, short listing and awards are final. No correspondence will be entered into regarding their decisions.
- Those shortlisted will be informed on 21 August

Please send your stories with £5 for each submission (if aged 26 or over) to H.G. Wells Festival, 2 Pelham Gardens, Folkestone CT20 2LE. Cheques payable to H.G. Wells Festival.

If you have any enquires please contact Rosie Unsworth on 01303-264749 or email on rosie.unsworth@gmail.co . Find us on Twitter [@hgwellsfestival](https://twitter.com/hgwellsfestival)

ROCKSALT

FOLKESTONE

Rocksalt Restaurant and Bar celebrates its first anniversary in June. Opened last Summer by Mark Sargeant, ex-Head Chef for Gordon Ramsay at Claridges, it marks a collaboration between Mark opening his first restaurant in the county he grew up and trained as a chef in and the burgeoning regeneration of Folkestone Harbour.

Our Vision At Rocksalt our aim has always been to cook the best ingredients as simply as possible in order to let the quality of the produce shine through. We take time and effort to source our ingredients as locally and seasonally as possible, even growing some of them ourselves. Our à la carte menu has a wealth of choice, showcasing the freshest fish and best quality meat, as well as our own smoked and cured fish. Our set two and three course lunch menu changes weekly, to enable us to offer an even greater variety of fresh, seasonal dishes.

The Restaurant The heart and soul of Rocksalt is the beautiful restaurant with its dark wood panelling, dark timber tables, sea-green leather seating and warm oak herringbone flooring. Adjoining this is a stunning bar complete with bone white marble façade and Cherner high stools. Cantilevered over the water, the floor to ceiling glass wall in the main section, which seats one hundred guests, gives every table a view of the harbour – a perfect vantage point from which to see the tide roll in and the fishing boats land the day's catch.

The Bar The upstairs bar at Rocksalt is a great location to start or end your meal with one of our bespoke cocktails or artisan beers and ciders. With unmatched sea views both inside and out, it is the ideal place to pass the day while grazing on our extensive bar menu or just sharing a bottle of wine from our eclectic list. Outside, the white tables and large scallop chairs give the bar a relaxed, seaside feel, and the whole area is a sun trap from morning to early evening. On weekends and public holidays we are open for brunch too.

Private Hire Rocksalt has three fantastic areas for private dining, suitable both for large parties and complete takeovers: Firstly, we can offer the entire restaurant enabling you and up to one hundred guests to dine and celebrate in privacy and style. Secondly, we can offer use of the private dining room which seats up to twenty four guests. At the far end of the restaurant it has the best views of the harbour and its own terrace. Finally, we can offer use of the upstairs bar both for dining or canapé parties. On warm summer days all three areas can have access to the outside terraces on both floors allowing guests to bask in Folkestone's warmer climate.

Events We're very proud of what we do at Rocksalt and have hosted a number of special events during our first twelve months that have included Wine Tasting Dinners, Cocktail and Beer Tastings, Cooking Demonstrations and Fishing events. We will be doing more of these events over the next year. Please get in touch for further details.

Rocksalt Rooms Recently awarded four rosettes by the AA, the Rocksalt Rooms are the perfect way to end your meal with us, or indeed start your lunch. We have four boutique bolt holes, each with their own personality and dressed with Egyptian cotton, original antique beds, flat screen televisions and wet rooms. With stunning sea views, the rooms are situated on Folkestone harbour and are just a short walk from Rocksalt.

Rocksalt, 4-5 Fishmarket, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6AA
www.rocksaltfolkestone.co.uk e: info@rocksaltfolkestone.co.uk t: 01303 212 070

Coolinge Lane: Special or Not

By David Noble

The Coolinge Lane area is considered to be semi-rural, which isn't surprising when you consider that older local people can remember when the road surface was unmade on the southern side and cows were driven daily to Coolinge Farm for milking. Subsequent to that they were the Riding Stables, still to be seen near Paddock (!) Close, where many local children took lessons. Even now there are foxes and badgers in the neighbourhood and wood peckers, sparrow hawks, fieldfares and once a woodcock that visit. It is still a very pleasant atmosphere for residents and the schoolchildren from both schools.

So I and others viewed with trepidation the latest news on the development of the massive Eversley College in Coolinge Lane. It has been bought by a firm called Quinn Estates, some representatives of which were kind enough to show Go Folkestone members their detailed and colourful plans in May. Go Folkestone tried to get the Edwardian former girls' boarding school listed when it was first put up for sale, and enough flattering things were said about it in the English Heritage report to strengthen the hands of those who at least want to keep the building.

Before Quinn the closest call was an attempt to pretty much demolish the building for a modern care home. Go Folkestone wants the building, its lodge and landscaping, together with the playing field at the front, preserved. Quinn recently tastefully converted the old Victorian Post Office in the high street in Canterbury into 14 flats and did some good work at Jubilee Way in Faversham with a listed old railway workshop. Quinn Estates want to convert the four storey school into 22 flats plus the lodge whilst keeping the exterior remarkably intact. They want to keep the access lane but gate it to create a private close. Internally they want a pretty free hand, and there is asbestos to remove, though they want to keep as much panelled character as possible; listing failed, so this is perhaps inevitable. On the relatively small 'grounds' of the school, behind the playing field, they wish to create a L court of ten, three storey large semi-detached town houses of good quality. These would have Arts and Crafts style gable fronts and glazing bars; a rectangular communal garden between the main building and the ten houses is reminiscent of Edwardian Folkestone.

Currently the large playing field at the front is preserved and there are lots of planning policies in place, both nationally and locally, to safeguard playing fields. We cannot assume that Quinn Estates will simply give up on getting any of the front built on, but it should be very difficult. There may be a deal with Sandgate Primary School next door crying out for more space, but it must still be a field. Unfortunately the more Shepway District Council muddies the waters by allowing some playing fields to be developed under some special circumstances, the more the hard-nosed developers will note this and attempt to use it as a precedent. Shepway has to make absolutely sure that only where true philanthropists are involved does this happen. This means those offering an uncommercial level of planning gain, such as, presumably, Roger De Haan at the replacement Park Farm Primary School.

Coolinge Lane seems to be under constant threat ever since the massive project for FSG. Although refused, there have since been the extension to Paddock Close, Blenheim Place, Westbourne Court and now The Acers. The latter both have very high density and small gardens and were let through too easily as submitted. Over 40 extra houses and a lot more traffic! At least the Eversley development, as it stands, is sympathetic to the environment of Coolinge Lane, but please preserve our special atmosphere and green spaces.



Step Short Project: Remembering the soldiers of the Great War 1914 – 1918

By Ann Berry

Step Short committees have been working extremely hard to bring together a permanent memorial in time for the 100th Anniversary of WW1 on 4th August 2014. We are looking into various activities to make 2014 a year of Remembrance, contemplation and education.

Talks have been held with the Radnor Estate, Shepway District Council and Folkestone Town Council regarding a permanent memorial, near the top of the Road of Remembrance, for which Philip Gearing, spatial designer of Foster Gearing, has come up with a design, which we hope to make public shortly. Other projects are a permanent visitor centre and an exhibition of various aspects of the war, including a film, currently being worked on thanks to the Folkestone Camera Club, which will be held in the Folkestone Library Sassoon room during 2014.

The Beeping Bush Company has produced a 3D film, which includes many aspects of Folkestone's Commemorative services over the past year such as Canada Day, Armistice, and Step Short's Annual March, which will take place again this year on Sunday 5th August. Thanks to Shepway District Council we have been able to use the old visitor centre in Tram Road car park, both as information for visitors and the Step Short project headquarters.

Last month four of us visited the Imperial War Museum to meet with the head of projects, who gave us several useful contacts. Step Short are now on their list of projects for the forthcoming centenary. Recently we paid for a road closure of the Road of Remembrance to enable Shepway District Council to cut back all the shrubbery, dead trees and wood so that in two years' time it would have had a chance to re-grow and look it's absolute best. We are also working on enhancing it with rosemary, poppies and other flowers.

On 10 April we met Dr Andrew Murrison MP, who has been nominated by the Government to co-ordinate the Governments plans for the National Commemoration of WW1 Projects through 2014 to the armistice four years later. Our meeting started at the Grand and, as we walked down the Leas, local historian Eamonn Rooney pointed out places of interest. Then it was on down the Road of Remembrance to the harbour where approximately 120,000 Belgian refugees landed during that time. We also had 40,000 Canadians and a Chinese work force here. We then went into the Step short visitor centre/office to look at the small exhibition of WW1 artefacts we had set up there. He was fascinated with a game "Stop the War" devised by Adrian Lockwood, Capital Projects Consultant, which we had taken to the Folkestone Academy for the Pupils to play and learn more about WW1. It is our intention to take the game out to other schools.

We hope Dr Murrison was suitably impressed with our project, and found it significant enough to be included in the Government's National Commemorative Plans for the Centenary. Watch this space!

Step Short Folkestone Ltd Charity number 1143305

Visit www.stepshort.co.uk. Contact: annber35@supanet.com Tel: 01303 278644

Folkestone's Rubbish needs explaining: A Personal View

By Karen Rennie

The arrangements made by Folkestone's authorities for the collection of domestic rubbish and waste urgently need review. Let me explain. The fortnightly collections and the recycling have produced a complex system and an abundance of bins, which most properties in Folkestone do not have the space to accommodate. The result is that there are unsightly collections of bins everywhere on the street. Next door to where we live, in Bouverie Road West, the residents have to negotiate a barricade of bins to enter their property!



Because of the time between collections, bins are often overflowing. In addition, the complexity of the recycling scheme means that there is often some confusion about where to place rubbish and what to do with material that doesn't correspond to the listed categories. All of this is compounded by the contracted-out collection of rubbish. The contractors seem only to collect rubbish from bins as a result, quite frequently, rubbish is left and the contractors make more mess by walking over it! It cannot be an acceptable service if rubbish is left on the street...That's a part of the problem, certainly not any solution.

A number of changes have occurred, over the last few years, which have had made the situation far worse. The general rise in prosperity and consumerism has greatly increased the volume of rubbish everywhere. The purchase of properties for the rental market has produced buildings with absent landlords, a high turnover of tenants and with managing agents who answer only to landlords. This means that, on the ground, there is nobody to take responsibility for the day-to-day problems. An example of this is Trevarra Court in Bouverie Road West. This was a well looked after property when we first came to Folkestone in the late 1980's. Now there is a sea of wheelie bins that nobody seems to know how to use.

At the moment, the parts of this system and the services provided do not align properly. The result is an unsightly, dangerous and unhygienic shambles, which is quite unacceptable. These local arrangements for rubbish collection urgently need review. It's obviously the case that some people do not understand the system and that some - a few - abuse it. However, the authorities need to identify the problem. That is quite straightforward. Where there are piles of rubbish educate the local residents and enforce the system. Finally the contractors should be required to clear rubbish, not just to collect it from bins. One can be certain their contracts with the local council are worth a substantial amount.

Digging for victory

by Paul Emden

For many years an area of Folkestone's east cliff which runs along the Stade steps, overlooking Folkestone's precious harbour and across to France, had been ridden by unsocial behaviour, fly tipping, drugs and prostitution. Much of the area had not been maintained for over fifty years and is a well-used by tourists during the summer months; in many cases this was their first impression of our wonderful town.

For the past twelve years Harbour Ward Residents Association have held annual clean up days which, although improving the look and cleanliness of the area for a short time, did not solve the longer term problems. During a clean-up day in November 2010, one of our group suggested turning the large area of scrub into allotments. Having given this some thought, it became obvious that there was not sufficient land for allotments but it could be used for an area of 3x1 metre raised beds.



Photo:
Ann Berry

I decided that we needed a team with some experience and asked Terry Begent if he would become treasurer and Peter Bill secretary. We then drew up plans and a specification of works needed in order to obtain quotes for the work. At the same time we arranged a meeting with Shepway District Council in order to put forward our proposal, also meeting with the planning department.

Having received quotes, we started to approach possible funding sources as the overall cost of the project was £51,600. There was an enthusiastic response to our requests from all those we approached, with funding granted by the Roger de Haan Charitable Trust, East Folkestone Change Together (Shepway District Council), Folkestone Town Council and Kent County Council, though Roland Tolputt. Surveys were then carried out which showed that the cliff was suitable for our project and, with a lease being kindly granted by Shepway District Council, work could proceed.

The area was completely cleared of all scrub and a terrace was cut into the cliff on which eighteen raised beds were constructed with a series of paths running around the site. A water tank that collects surface water was installed and security railings were erected around the site. The steep banks were replanted with 500 plants. The gardens were officially opened by Mayor Sue Wallace in March.

The eighteen raised beds have already been let at a cost of £50 p.a, with two being donated to St Peters school. It is most important to include and engage our local children in such projects as it will eventually be up to them to create and run this and hopefully many other such community projects.

Paul Emden is Chairman of Harbour Ward Community Gardens Ltd., a community interest company.

News from the Planning Front

by Richard Wallace

At Grove Road off Dover Road a little piece of local peoples' childhood may soon be going under the bulldozer, or should that be JCB? Planning permission has been granted for 7 terraced houses on a piece of land which was for many years the little detached playground for the former St Mary's Primary School in Dover Road which backs onto the opposite side of Grove Road. Clive Arnold said 'I remember going across the road to that every day. You could get through to the railway if you tried' [Not Good. ED]. Fewer remember that there were Victorian terraced houses there which were bombed and destroyed in WW2. I hope the ash trees between the site and railway line stay.

The Ambulance Service has continued its rationalisation in Folkestone and elsewhere by selling off some of its stations such as that in Church Road in Cheriton, earmarked for fourteen houses, and relocating its vehicles to a greater number of smaller, simpler buildings, controlled from Cuxton near Maidstone, such as that just built near the entrance of Folkestone Cricket Ground. Sadly, before it could be realised and objected to, the charming, tiny 1920s octagonal ticket kiosk at that entrance, described as 'Hut, to be removed' on the plans, was demolished. Some people have no appreciation for buildings; worryingly a few of them are planners and architects.

On a bigger scale, the plans to demolish Park Farm Primary School and replace it with a brand new single storey building at the rear of Folkestone Academy have moved on. The new school is hoped to achieve a comparable success at its own level to the Academy which has boosted the percentage of pupils achieving 5 A-C s /Os roughly sevenfold from the old Channel School.

In order to build it, the site of all the old school buildings and an area of playing field has been the subject of an application for 122 houses and 8 flats. This will hopefully provide when sold more than half of the £6.1 million necessary to build the new school. In these straitened times only the balance can be provided by Kent County Council and the generous Roger de Haan Charitable Trust. Folkestone Town Council and others have secured a lot less overlooking for the existing houses in Lynwood, compared with the original plans, and much better landscaping, parking and sightlines at the main road junction. But understandably the owners resisted cutting the numbers overall, because of the school's needs. Helen Tait the award-winning Sandgate Primary School headmistress who has now taken on an oversight of Park Farm told me that the existing 1960s (sic) school was a warren of rooms, in some of which coats had to be worn in the winter, which was simply beyond renovation.

Go Folkestone has seen plans of a proposed new McCarthy and Stone sheltered housing block, intended for the currently blue-boarded site of the OPH on the corner of Ingles Road and Christchurch Road. It is similar to but slightly nicer than Garden House Court , with a corner car park preserving the massive Holm Oaks . Nice, but perhaps we don't want too many more in Folkestone.

New Plans for Football, Bowls and Tennis

by Richard Wallace

Folkestone Invicta haven't always had all the help they should have had from local councils and others in their push to be a town football club at the highest possible national level. Dover, which represents a similar sized and probably now less prosperous town, knocks, at times, on the door of the Football League courtesy of some considerable help from the local council.

Invicta has tried to pay its debts when it has them, and to come up with sensible and sustainable business plans. A new outline proposal for the further redevelopment of the Cheriton Road complex has been masterminded by the ex-chairman Lynn Woods, now in semi-retirement after his Adastra IT business went public four years ago. Mr Woods has brought more a strategic outlook to the club whilst sometimes ruffling a few feathers, and he remains central to the project in a new role spearheading a formative Community Football Trust in Folkestone.

The objectives of the development proposal, in which the Harvey Grammar School is closely involved, are fivefold. Firstly to modernise the spectator stands and to consolidate the social and club facilities mainly on the west side of the ground closest to the Grammar School; second to convert the playing surface to so-called third-generation artificial turf to allow the stadium to be used much more widely for schools and community football; thirdly to provide an indoor mini-soccer and 5-a-side facility, shifting tennis to new courts at the rear of Cherry Garden Avenue. Fourth, in close collaboration with the Bowls Club, to see the indoor Bowls facility renewed in state-of-the-art facilities also on the Cherry Garden Avenue side of the Polo Ground. Fifthly to establish a second full-size 3G pitch for community use alongside the two artificial pitches now installed for hockey, the latter of which are not for football. Access to the modernised stadium and the renewed tennis, bowls and football facilities on the lower site would be provided by forging a new access road between the Grammar School and the stadium, more or less down the line currently represented by the old tennis courts. Space is also earmarked on the lower site for an artificially surfaced "freeplay" area so that families and youngsters can set up their own games informally rather than always being expected to book managed facilities.

These proposed developments would realise nearly three acres of commercial space along the Cheriton Road frontage which, like the rest of the vision, would be subject to all proper consultative and planning processes. At this stage the likeliest use of that land appears to be for retail development, with Shepway District Council governing use of the funding realised exclusively for the considerable cost of the intended sports improvements on site.



Folkestone Invicta Football Club
Schematic Site Masterplan



As far as traditional parks are concerned, the large open space is left beyond and around the grassy bank traversing the Polo Ground from Pentvale Close to Cornwallis Avenue - marking the Southern Water main and the underground Pent Stream. The dog walking area is of course untouched.

Discussions led by the District Council and Football Club have already led to the Football Foundation earmarking around £300,000 of funding towards the cost of the community 3G pitch, and the Football Association Stadia Improvement Fund has indicated its readiness to contribute towards stadium improvements. It is hoped that the National Tennis and Bowls organisations will also contribute.

The advantages of the scheme in providing sensibly sited and superior football, bowls, tennis and indoor facilities are obvious and considerable. This correspondent instinctively dislikes development of simple green free space and might like a bit more of the latter, either here or in the complementary Roger De Haan scheme next door, which covers mainly cricket, hockey, and netball facilities. But the main bugbears of the proposed scheme are the disadvantages for the householders in Cherry Garden who would overlook a bowls club and car park, and the possible limitations for the Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club.

With his new Community Football Trust hat on, Mr Woods has underlined to me that the initial outline plan, shown overleaf, is intended purely to drive the discussion forward so that some definite proposals can take shape. It will be Shepway rather than any of the individual sports, which determines the final proposition, and that means the Local Authority will properly have its own discussion with the Bowls Club(s) and other interested groups.

I am advised (not by Mr Woods!) that the Bowls Club building, which to put it politely is unconventionally built, is at the end of its natural life, and that the Club loses money. Perhaps someone from the Club would like to respond in Go Folkestone's next issue? But it seems to me, on a purely personal basis that Radnor Park offers an extra dimension. If the Bowls Club amalgamated or shared with Radnor Park Bowls, which plays in an even worse building, and spent its share of any money on a fine, new build club, bar and greens in that more exclusive location, both it and the people in the houses affected by the current scheme would be happier. If the (bigger) free play area and car park near Cherry Garden were then swapped around from what you see on the plan , householders would only have some new tennis courts and a bit of the existing free park anywhere near them.

Come on bowlers, would this work, or are the two clubs just too over-subscribed?

Specifications and details for your advert

Advert sizes:

Type of advert	Size		1 issue		2 issues		3 issues		4 issues	
	Width	Height	B/W	Colour	B/W	Colour	B/W	Colour	B/W	Colour
Quarter page (portrait)	60mm	90mm	£30	£45	£57	£86	£83	£125	£108	£162
Quarter page (landscape)	130mm	40mm	£30	£45	£57	£86	£83	£125	£108	£162
Half page	130mm	90mm	£40	£60	£76	£114	£111	£167	£144	£216
Whole page	130mm	180mm	£65	£75	£124	£185	£180	£271	£234	£351
Inside cover half	130mm	90mm	£50		£95		£139		£180	
Inside cover page	130mm	180mm	£75		£143		£208		£270	
Back cover	130mm	180mm		£150		£285		£416		£540

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Each issue is made up of 40 pages. Excluding front cover, back cover, membership form and contents page, leaves 36. Of these, no more than 6 will be set aside for advertisements, excluding those taken by an advertising feature. These six pages are the equivalent of 24 quarter page adverts, which will give, for example, an issue made up of 6 whole page adverts, 12 half page adverts, 24 quarters or any combinations of these up to the maximum.

How we would like it from you:

(in order of preference)

- Print ready artwork in a computer file sent by email or on a disc
- Print ready artwork on paper (A4 size preferable in order to preserve quality when scanning)
- Ring us for help if you have no idea (01303 250906)

Electronic formats accepted:

(in order of preference)

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- .bmp
- .tiff
- .pdf (provided no embedded fonts are not used)
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Where to send it: annber35@supanet.com

Or

35 Birkdale Drive
Folkestone
Kent
CT19 5LP

(same address for cheque and this order form)

Please circle the option you want in the table above and give us your details as below:

Your name	
Business name	
Address:	
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Phone	
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Receipt wanted?	Yes/no

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Type of membership you want:
(please tick as appropriate)



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- Couple at the same address £ 15.00
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- Junior membership (under 18) £5.00

First person
Your preferred title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other:
First Name:
Surname:
Email address:
Mobile:
Second person (for joint membership)
Your preferred title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other:
First Name:
Surname:
Email address:
Mobile:
Home Address
Town:
County:
Postcode:
Telephone:

Please post your form with a cheque made out to 'Go Folkestone Action Group' to:
Membership Secretary, Flat 4, 21 Clifton Crescent, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2EN
(01303 247600)



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