

September 2012



Image: Philip Gearing designer of the Memorial Arch

[www.gofolkestone.org.uk](http://www.gofolkestone.org.uk)

## **NEW CHERITON ROAD SPORTS HALL AND PAVILION TO OPEN BY NOVEMBER**

By Richard Wallace

Go Folkestone was given the privilege of a walk around the partly built new Cricket and Hockey Pavilion and Sports Hall on 14th August with Stuart Ingleston a Trustee of the Project; some members may be allowed around again in a month. I will say more in the next issue, but it is very exciting. This project is funded from the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, but is being coordinated by the Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust, made up of members from the Folkestone Cricket and Hockey clubs. It is shaping up to be, in our opinion to be part of a successful (and two-way) attempt to get Kent County Cricket Club to come back for a Folkestone Cricket Week for the first time in over 20 years. In addition the fantastically successful annual Easter Hockey Tournament, that boosts our town will also, I am absolutely sure, will be back to its previous levels.

The sports hall is about 10m in height, and feels like the size of a football pitch inside. It is steel framed, clad externally in cedar and with interior blockwork, with rendered white walls lining the lower interior to provide sight-lines for players. It will have high quality 'Gerfloor', a state of the art surface for the bounce of balls for indoor cricket, hockey and the many other sports for which it will be marked out. It is large enough to have 2 cricket nets (6 no. being provided in total) in use at the same time as a game of hockey, netball, basketball, etc. There is underfloor heating throughout the buildings, along with a 41KW photo voltaic system on the sports hall roof, generating electricity. On one side of the hall at first floor level is a tiered viewing gallery, for seating for up to 45 people, along with an area for wheelchair spectators. This is adjacent to a small indoor members' gym. Everything else will be open to hire at a reasonable cost to support the facility, which is to be run on behalf of the Cheriton Road Sports Ground Trust, a registered charity.

From the Sports Hall there is a linked, part glazed foyer and reception, including a small sports shop, which will be leased to the Canterbury Cricket and Hockey Centre, based in Wincheap. There will be a video network so that both individual & team video analysis of sports' players can be undertaken as well County standard electronic scoreboards throughout the facility. One will go where the current 1920s old pavilion is now, as that will be demolished. It is hoped that the current cricket terracing will be adapted and softened in some areas with earth banking, but viewing numbers will be maintained, particularly with the large new Pavilion. From the foyer you go into an area where there are separate changing rooms for teams and officials, one of the many fine details that make this genuinely acceptable for international and first class games of cricket, hockey and netball. In this area also will be a central open 'hub' with a circular bench ideal for those who just want to change footwear etc. Then we go into six separate suites of serviced changing rooms, so that tournaments and multi sports use are no problem. Access will be by hotel style electronic swipe cards in some cases, so that hiring for teams can be free from problems of missing keys etc.!

The first floor of the new pavilion will have a large bar and function facility with a fully serviced kitchen, enabling up to 150 people to be seated. Dividing screens to this area will enable up to three different events to be possible at any one time. We walked around the current shell and saw where the huge windows will soon be slotted in onto the viewing balconies looking over both the new hockey and all purpose artificial pitches, the new netball courts, and, on the other side the newly laid and improved cricket ground. A large plain window to the North looks at the new cricket nets and new north cricket pitch, that has been laid almost up to the lower bank, where the public sports ground re-asserts itself. I hope that on the one hand the public realises what a high class, pay to play sporting facility this will be, and on the other, the committee do everything they can to reach out to every sector of the public, given that this has always been a sports ground.

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## Editorial



In putting Go Folkestone magazine together, the editorial team do not set out to write or commission articles on any particular theme, though we always have our regular features on planning and restaurant reviews by Richard Wallace. However, occasionally, as the articles come in, a theme seems to emerge as it has in this issue with several pieces concerning visitors or people moving into or through the town. David Noble charts the changing population of Bradstone Avenue with Raili Taylor, one of the roads residents, explaining what is it like to be a Finn in Folkestone and what she likes about the town. Nick Spurrier writes about refugees in Folkestone, the problems they face and the help they are offered. During the First World War, many service personnel from all over the country and abroad spent time in Folkestone, training, on leave, recovering from wounds or waiting to board boats for the Western Front. Their story is being told by The Step Short project, whose proposed memorial arch is portrayed on the front cover and about which Ann Berry contributes two articles. Bringing more visitors into the town is the subject of an article on the Mary Portas review of Town Centres. Two other developments - the sea sports centre and the magnificent new Sports Hall pavilion and pitches at Cheriton Road may also help with this. Finally we have an article based on an Interview with Geraldine D'Amico, a new arrival, who has just started as programming manager of the Folkestone Book Festival.

**Next Issue:** Details of the seafront and harbour development for which the Folkestone Harbour Company will have submitted a planning application.

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# Underneath the Arches

By David Noble

Bradstone Avenue runs north to south towards the iconic Foord Viaduct where it changes name to Bradstone Road and continues until it reaches Dover Road. They both run parallel to Foord Road and the now mainly culverted Pent Stream, forming a natural divide between the east and west sides of the town. It is difficult to say exactly when Bradstone Road was built but the viaduct was completed in 1843 and as the buildings were originally built for the viaduct construction workers it must be a few years older; however it doesn't seem to have been named Bradstone Avenue until the 1890s. The flats were known as the monkey-puzzle houses because of the large number of small flats and warren of corridors they contained. It was at this time that the three storey more spacious houses in the Avenue were constructed by local developers and property owners as investment properties. In the following 160 years the community experienced many fluctuations in its fortunes that have taken their toll. Thanks, however, to an active community group, The Bradstone Association, and others, the area is being revitalised. The navvies have gone to be replaced by a diverse mixture of local, metropolitan and cosmopolitan residents keen to improve their new home. They are an interesting cross section of how Folkestone is progressing.



Apart from its British contingent there are many other nationalities amongst the residents. The Bradford Association has Italian, Croatian, Dutch, American, Egyptian and Finnish members. The photograph above taken at a recent association meeting shows: L to R, Max Vizzini, Italian, finance director of a office furniture company in London; Kitty van Geel, Dutch, care home worker; Railii Taylor, Finnish, writer and part time student; David Taylor, Newcastle & London, retired ITV producer and independent film maker and Chairman Cycle Shepway; Bruce Jones, International Affairs

Specialist, John Harnam, recently returned from Spain, amateur football writer; David Sutton, Beckenham, Horticultural manager and consultant. For many people the attractions of living in Folkestone are its closeness to London, lower property prices and the high speed link. Max likes the "typical English terraced houses with large rooms and the closeness to the town centre" By far the most common complaint is the litter and anti social behaviour aggravated by the transient population from the many rented flats.



In an attempt to combat this, the association has secured from Shepway District Council four litter bins to be emptied weekly by residents, so saving the cash strapped council the cost. This is quite an achievement for residents and the council. Another project to build flowerbeds along Devon Road was instantly vandalised, so the work was immediately repeated and guarded until the concrete had set. While members find that dealings with councillors are usually positive it sometimes felt that there is a lack of cohesion and a common goal - a sense of defeatism perhaps caused by difficult times? However, one other exciting development at a recent meeting was selecting an image for a gable end mural they have commissioned for Bradstone Road. This is going to be a bright graphic addition to brighten the neighbourhood.

For Raili, the great delights of Folkestone are the topography and micro-climate that the town enjoys as it nestles in the North Downs above the Warren, "On one side is the sea which never fails to lift the spirits. On the other the hills which curve above the town and the green gem of Wear Bay, with miles of wild shore and footpaths". Dee Tabran, a retired printer and Japanese speaker, has lived in Bradstone Avenue all her 80-plus years and has seen it go from a sought-after neighbourhood to its nadir about fifteen years. She now thinks it is on its way up again. With all the endeavours of its current residents it surely deserves to succeed.

# Abroad in Folkestone

by Raili Taylor

Being an older woman and in no way remarkable, I can pass for a local for most of the time. But as soon as I open my mouth the game is up. "Where do you come from?" is the question that inevitably follows when people hear my accent. My standard answer is "From Folkestone" for this is where I am, where I want to be, and where I feel at home. But it's no good - to the Brits I don't sound right. There are other reasons why I am, from time to time, reminded of the fact that I am abroad in my adopted home town.

I spent the first 30 years of my life in Finland – for those of you who need prompting, it's the same size as Great Britain with a tenth of the population and located between Sweden and Russia. Santa Claus can be found there in his Polar hide around Christmas time, Moomins were created in Finland and the winters are snowy, long and dark. Nokia is a Finnish company. For the more culturally minded: Sibelius was a Finn and BBC Radio 3 often plays more modern Finnish music in the obscure slot around midnight. There are three and a half Finnish Nobel Laureates and Finns used to win medals in the Olympics.

Those first 30 years put their stamp on me, of course they did, and the subsequent 37 years in England haven't made me able to accept litter on the streets or think that it doesn't matter if the living environment looks unpleasant. This has nothing to do with poverty or wealth, poverty does not make it necessary to dump rubbish in public places or in your own front garden, and it costs no more to build a good looking house than a dull one. I guess one fundamental difference in attitudes is that in Finland people tend to think that public or common spaces are everybody's responsibility, here they are nobody's.

Nature is very important to most Finns and, although nothing in Folkestone even remotely reminds me of Finland, it is the setting of Folkestone that I first fell in love with. There is the sea, of course, always comforting, whether you walk on the shore with the roar of the waves or see it glimmering from the cliffs. There is also the way the town nestles in the curve of the North Downs. And the Downs are just the right size: not too looming, not too high – kind of Goldilocks hills. The architecture creeping up the hillside may be sad but the hills are full of promise: of good walks and good views.

Folkestone also suits me because it is so unpretentious. It's seen better times and worse, it's seen wars and waves of immigration. Throughout, people here have clung to this strip of land between the hills and the sea, hunkered down and got on with their lives. It's a good place to be home and abroad.



## **Launch of Step Short Project: Remembering the soldiers of the Great War**

by Ann Berry

A BIG STEP for Step Short Folkestone Ltd, when they publicly launched the proposed plans for a Permanent Memorial, which will take the form of an Arch, to be erected by the Centenary of World War 1 in 2014. A visitor centre is also proposed, and is to be in close proximity to this Arch. The launch, held on Friday 13th July at the Grand on the Leas, was very well supported with in excess of 150 people.

We were delighted that one of our three patrons, Admiral the Lord Boyce KG, GCB, OBE Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, was able to be with us on this occasion. Our Chairman, Damian Collins MP opened the meeting by welcoming people to the launch. He went on to give an update of how far we had come since we started in 2008. Damian also gave us an update on the possible support of Step Short, by the Government.

We hope for an announcement possibly in October or November.

The designer of the Arch and Visitor Centre, Philip Gearing of Foster Gearing spoke to those assembled and took questions after which, coffee and a buffet was served, therefore creating time for everyone to look at the proposed plans. A film on a loop system showing the Arch and Visitor centre plans was running throughout the launch.

Part of our plans is to contact other countries that took part in the war and certainly those who were billeted here in Folkestone, such as the 40,000 Canadians, and of course the 64,000 Belgian refugees along with others.



It is stated that around 300,000 people visit Ypres war graves each year 45% go there from over here. We want them to start in Folkestone. As this was a world war, we want the world to know about the important part Folkestone played, and pay us a visit. This would certainly help boost our economy. Many people today wish to trace their ancestors and we have already had many letters and questions on this subject since we started, so there is a huge interest building up. Our local newspapers and Meridian TV gave us very good coverage, of which we are extremely grateful. This certainly helps to get the information out to the wider public



During the course of the last 18 months film company, Beeping Bush has been recording activities of Step Short and Folkestone and made it into a film that can be seen in 3D or 2D on the Step Short website: [www.stepshort.co.uk](http://www.stepshort.co.uk). We continue to open the Old Visitor Centre in the Tram road car park with volunteers, where you can visit the project and also view some WW1 Artefacts in a small exhibition there.

To be part of this exiting project please contact: [annber35@supanet.com](mailto:annber35@supanet.com)



Photos: David Noble

## **Forth coming Annual Memorial Dates 2012**

### **4th November**

Dedication of Garden of Remembrance Sandgate road at 2.30pm  
A short service followed by placing small crosses next to the named regiments crosses. This service is supported by Ex Service Associations, Cadet and youth organisations.

### **10th November**

Machine Gun Corps at the Cheriton Road Cemetery 11.00am  
A short service will be held at the Machine Gun Corps Memorial.

### **11th November**

Remembrance Sunday Service held at the War Memorial at the top of the Road of Remembrance at 11.00am.

# Folkestone Town Centre and the Mary Portas Review

by Nick Spurrier

In the **Portas Review: An independent review into the future of our high streets**, published in 2011, Mary Portas states "The days of a high street populated simply by independent butchers, bakers and candlestick makers are, except in the most exceptional circumstances, over. How we shop as a nation has quite simply changed beyond recognition, forever". This is, she adds, "caused by the phenomenal growth of online retailing, the rise of mobile retailing, the speed and sophistication of the major national and international retailers, the epic and immersive experiences offered by today's new breed of shopping mall, [and] a crippling recession."

She continues "I want to put the heart back into the centre of our high streets, re-imagined as destinations for socialising, culture, health, wellbeing, creativity and learning. Places that will develop and sustain new and existing markets and businesses." The new high streets won't just be about selling goods. The mix will include shops but could also include housing, offices, sport, schools or other social, commercial and cultural enterprises and meeting places. They should become places where we go to engage with other people in our communities, where shopping is just one small part of a rich mix of activities."

Portas produces a number of recommendations for the revival of town centres. It is worth considering these, how they might help Folkestone and which, if any, have been attempted or implemented in any way.

**A Town Team**, her first recommendation, has already been formed under the leadership of Damian Collins our MP, the team having also applied but unfortunately failed in the first round, to become one of 12 pilot towns, her last recommendation. Other recommendations concern reduction or changes in business rates and, of course, easier and cheaper parking. The problem of property owners leaving shops unused is addressed by suggesting creating disincentives to keeping them empty or compulsory purchase by councils in extreme cases. Many of her other proposals concern reduction in regulation by local councils to enable shops to be used more easily on a short term basis, and in a variety of ways.

**Empty shops**, she suggests, could be used by potential shop

owners on a temporary or “meanwhile” basis, allowing a business to test its potential without a substantial capital commitment. Attempts should also be made to encourage the use of premises above shops. In the streets themselves, she believes, local authorities should allow anyone to trade on the high street, unless there is a valid reason why not. **Markets** should not suffer from over-regulation, making it easier for first timers to have what could be called cheap taster sessions. Finally she hopes that large established businesses will look at mentoring and encouraging the start-up of smaller independent retailers.

**Mentoring small businesses** is an intention of Josh De Haan when his new premises are completed in Tontine Street. As he stated in an interview in the March issue of this magazine, half of the ground floor will be given over to facilities for individuals to work and receive advice on plans for their new businesses. Are there other businesses in Folkestone that might consider contributing in this way?

Other recommendations of Portas been tried out in Folkestone or are being considered. The Creative Foundation has introduced education into East Folkestone with the University Centre and The Cube. Studios have been created fulfilling her recommendation on the introduction of “**creativity and learning**.” The upper floors of shops have been made accessible and renovated for use either as living space, studios or offices. Several of the shops in the Old High Street are occupied by people “working and selling”. Empty shops have occasionally rented out to individuals as “**pop up**” shops for a short term try out. Though the “**Hidden Gems**” project has led to the tidying up of empty properties in Sandgate Road as well as the Old High Street, it might be some further help if the policy of allowing “Pop up Shops” or as Portas puts it renting out shops on a “meanwhile” basis could spread to the whole town, perhaps for as little as two or three weeks.

For those unable to take on a shop for even a short period, markets can be a first step or even a permanent way of doing business. And for Portas, **markets** rank high in her proposals for high street regeneration. She writes “Let’s think about the Paris flea markets and German Christmas markets... food, fashion, homemade, second hand, organic. Would-be retailers – or simply talented people who have something to sell – should be using indoor and outdoor markets as a step on the business ladder...why can’t we proceed on

the assumption that anyone can trade on the high street, unless there is a valid reason why not?..

So how does Folkestone fare in relation to these proposals for markets? In fact it is easy for someone to rent a space for a Thursday or Saturday market stall on a casual basis – a six foot space being available for just under £20 - by simply turning up at 7.30 on the day of the market, having notified the market supervisor beforehand. Unfortunately it does not seem possible to rent a space of less than 6 foot. Though there is one stall “Amazing Incense” selling locally produced products as well as those from overseas, these markets do not seem to coincide with those envisioned by Portas, the majority selling discounted clothes and household goods. Nevertheless they do add to shoppers in the town centre.

Unfortunately the money taken from these two markets in the lower part of Sandgate Road goes directly to Shepway District Council, none being ring-fenced for Town Centre improvements. The Town Centre Management have responsibility for the top half of the pedestrianised area of Sandgate Road and use this to hold regular events and markets more along the Portas lines. Any money taken from these goes back into improving the town. It might be best in the long run if the whole of the pedestrianised area was under the control of Town Centre Management who could then use the money earned from markets and events to bring about improvements.

There have been other attempts at markets more of the Portas type: after discussions with Shepway District Council, Mat Flynn ran a collectors “fair” on Sundays for some months in 2011 in the area of Rendezvous Street. Allowed to charge £5 a stall on a Sunday, provided called he it a fair rather than a market, he was able to attract up to 30 stalls selling a variety of crafts and collector’s items; for a time the Creative Foundation ran an arts and craft market in the area of the harbour, something that may be revived in the future. In the meantime, ArtMarts selling Art & Craft and Artisan Food are now being held monthly to the end of 2012 in that area of Sandgate Road under the control of the Town Centre management.

In London there is the remarkably successful **art market** each Sunday on the railings of Green Park. All that is required is a license and you can turn up. The idea has been tried by the Folkestone Arts Collective on the Leas – an ideal place for a regular art market. But

only once a year and if there is inclement weather on that day, it fails. The ideal would be to allow people to buy a licence to trade on any Sunday, the market being policed by a organising committee of local art groups. Unfortunately, the Radnor Estate impedes this by restricting the number of events and insisting that no money can change hands. They should seriously reconsider their position. A regular art market on the Leas, as it became well known, could bring more people into Folkestone on a Sunday.

But of course to attract visitors and ensure longer stays, a new approach to **car parking** is needed. If the charges are too high or people feel on edge about running out of time they may hesitate about coming to the town. So without doubt lower parking charges should be considered as should the possibility of extending ones time without having to return to your car. With mobile phone technology this should not a be a problem.

It may be that what is needed in Folkestone is not the money that being a Portas pilot town would bring but the flexibility and deregulation that would, as she says, allow people at small cost to trade in the streets of the town and in empty shops. There is certainly a need to bring the streets themselves to life and make them attractive. More events, as proposed by Town Centre Management, certainly but sometimes it is really small changes that do it, even a single busker can make a difference.

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Wards Hotel, 39 Earls Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2HB

## **Fresh Ideas for Folkestone Book Festival: An Interview with Geraldine D'Amico**

By Nick Spurrier

With past experience as talks organiser at the French Institute, publicity director at Random House and seven years from 2005 as director of the Jewish Book Week, the second oldest book festival in the UK after Cheltenham, Geraldine D'Amico comes well qualified to take over as programming manager of Folkestone Book Festival. More recently she has started a new festival, Notes and Letters, which takes place at Kings Place, London in October and, as she explains, "looks at the parallels and connections between literature and music – notes and letters in every sense of the word."

During her time at Jewish Book Week, she set out "to broaden its scope and turn it from a community festival to a festival which was much more open to everybody, to go for the essence of what it means to be Jewish culturally, to explore this and its parallels with other religions and other ways of thinking."

Further broadening its appeal is something D'Amico will be striving for with the Folkestone book festival. As she says, "The essence of a good book festival is that it should be very eclectic. It should appeal to various audiences and be very welcoming and open. People may come to listen to authors they already know but also come to discover new names, new authors. For me it should be an event that will make you think and perhaps encourage you to look at the world in a different way. My dream is to create a book festival where people come out and want to continue the conversation either with other members of the audience or by doing some further reading."

"But of course", D'Amico continues, "It is very important to think about the authors and what is in it for them. They may come because they are interested in discovering a new place. But also, as the literary world is going the same way as the music world, for writers to sell their books they need to get around a lot more and do more events than they used to. Festivals and book signings give them a chance to meet their readers and perhaps build up a new readership for their future books, And for festivals that are a certain size - something Folkestone might achieve one day - it is also a place where authors meet other writers, perhaps from other parts of the world."

Authors for this year's festival which will run from 2 – 10 November include Artemis Cooper, who will talk about her biography of *Patrick Leigh Fermor*, soldier, and writer of, amongst other books, *A Time of Gifts*, considered by many to be one of the classics of travel literature. A further biography will be that of *Beethoven* by John Suchet. History, always popular, will feature prominently from antiquity to modern times, one book being *The Fishing*

*Fleet* by Anne De Courcy, an account of the women shipped to India from the late 17th century in search of a suitable husband. The younger sons of the English gentry, for whom the army was always a career option, were no doubt amongst those seeking wives in the Raj. Their elder brothers who inherited the landed estate are the subject of Adam Nicholson's book *The Gentry: Stories of the English*, which will also feature.

For great entertainment the eternally popular Pam Ayres will be reading her poetry, while fiction will be represented by Judy Finnigan with her first novel *Eloise*, a ghost story and thriller about "overwhelming grief, passion and betrayal". Another thriller has resulted from the Danish television series *The Killing*, which became a great talking point over many weeks in 2011, often via the female protagonist's sweater. Though books deriving from television series often fall flat the English edition produced by David Hewson has proved a huge success.

Other fiction includes two Festival Reads - books that people are encouraged to read before coming to an associated Event - Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and Deborah Moggach's *These Foolish Things*. Following a showing of the film of *Fahrenheit 451*, there will be a round table discussion of the book, the film and science fiction in general. Deborah Moggach will be coming to talk about her book, of which the film adaptation *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* will be screened.

It is not possible to list all the speakers and events of this year's festival as the complete programme will only be revealed at the Friends Preview evening at 6.00 pm on Thursday 13 September in Quarterhouse. Once again, during the festival, there will be a Friends Festival Quiz night. In addition there will be participation by local authors as well as poetry and musical performances. Though the main venue remains Quarterhouse, The Grand, Googies Art Café, the University Centre and the Library will also host events. Though history and biography often form the staple of book festivals, the last day of Folkestone's this year, Saturday 10th November, will be about the future. D'Amico concludes "We will end the festival looking forward with talks or discussions on economics, progress and climate. And indeed with regard to future festivals, I welcome approaches from anyone either through the Friends or directly. I want to hear what people want and to deliver something that is really successful."

**For details of the Festival:** [www.folkestonebookfest.com](http://www.folkestonebookfest.com). Tickets will be available from Quarterhouse Website [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk) or Box Office on 01303 858500.

**To join the Friends** and receive a invitation to the Festival preview on 13 September, please contact: Jo Olliver, Membership Secretary – Tel: 01303 247 775 or email [info@flits.org.uk](mailto:info@flits.org.uk). Web Site: [www.flits.org.uk/friends-folkestone-book-festival](http://www.flits.org.uk/friends-folkestone-book-festival)

## **Sandgate Restaurants No.2**

By Richard Wallace

In our last issue I bravely visited the Principality of Sandgate with its separate parish council and Society to sample the delights of some of the better restaurants and pubs, notably the classy Ship and the hidden but supreme Ghurka Palace. What after all is the point of going into or mentioning the one or two weaker ones? The lovely Tinto Tapas is still being recommended on Trip Advisor but is gone. The space is due to be opened as a completely new creation as I speak, and if I can report on it in this issue I will add a quick postscript. But last week when C and I swanned down to the car park in Castle Road, which is usefully free in the evenings after 8pm, that particular building was still being redecorated. So after strolling along the seafront and past the open-windowed back of The Famous Ship, doing a roaring trade, we turned back in the Folkestone direction and checked out the current competition.

Though not a lively shopping street like Sandgate Road in Folkestone, the High Street still has some of the antique shops for which it was famous in the eighties and nineties, and from which I bought the oldest 10% of my own furniture. Sadly The Emporium, Mr Finch and others have retired or moved onto the internet, but there are still enough open, such as Gabrielle de Gilles, Old English Pine and Newmans to make things interesting.

But we were hungry and made for Escondido, in the former Bar 57. I was worried because this did in certain ways look a little typecast with its bar counter covered in bright square mosaics. But in fact the tables and chairs were clean, unrickety and tasteful, whilst the sand and terracotta painted decor though conventional was neat and ultimately quite atmospheric after a large glass of Shiraz. The wine is good. It would be nice to report on the desserts like professionals, but we were content with main dishes which were generous and good enough to leave us happy without sweet! C had fajitas with spinach, mushroom and halloumi cheese on a skillet plus a full range of Mexican extras, presented in two rounds of dips. We shared obviously. I had the Chilli Crock Pot which was beef cooked slowly with beer, spices and served with rice, salsa, guacamole etc. It was very good but she had the edge. The Halloumi was interesting as it cooks well but keeps some of its shape; must try some at home. Service was friendly and not pushy. I would recommend Escondido to anyone, especially as the bill was £28 for two and still filled us up.

As we walked earlier along the promenade the rubbish was being efficiently collected by Shepway, and it was striking how much was identical fish and chips wrappings, leading me to conclude with Holmesian prescience that the Little Fish Restaurant was as good as ever. You can eat good fish and chips there on white tablecloths (and plates), or get it direct from the separate takeaway shop and take it to the beach or the H.G.Wells chair. If you want to take it home you may have to park a distance away as the LFR is awkwardly on the corner of the High Street and Enbrook Road. The Ship or the Providence will do beer in plastic glasses for the Prom too, and Escondido does a range of wraps etc to take down there, which I am sure is delicious. So eating on the beach or the promenade is easier that it is in most parts of Folkestone, except of course on The Stade .....

## **Sea Sports Set to Enliven Folkestone Seafont**

by Nick Spurrier

Despite the appalling weather in July, Folkestone's new Sea Sports Centre had a great start with over fifty taking part on the day of arrival of "Collective Spirit" in Folkestone Harbour as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Run by the Folkestone Sea Sports (community) Group, which has worked with Shepway District Council, The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust and the Folkestone Harbour Company, a test site has been established on the seafont, opposite the Leas Lift, following responses to public consultations on the proposed development of Folkestone seafont.

At present housed in a temporary structure, the Seasports centre is designed to attract participants and spectators, and to 'test the water' this year for a potential permanent facility in the future. It is equipped with single kayaks, sit-on-tops and two Laser Stratos Keels, which can take four children and an instructor. The Stratos has many features that make it safe and fun to use including a unique system called SailSafe, which floods and self-drains tanks in the sides to help recover and keep the dinghy stable immediately after a capsize. Life jackets, helmets, wet suits and cagoules are supplied for all those using the craft. Inside the Centre, in addition to an office, there are changing rooms, toilets and showers.

Throughout the summer, and despite the weather, sports organisers from Folkestone, Dover and Sandgate have been arranging activities, with a view to establishing a full summer season in 2013. The centre has also helped in other ways as Sue Scutchings wrote on Facebook on July 13th. "Last night, the dive centre held their first beach dive at the Sea Sports Centre. Ten keen scuba divers arrived but the weather wasn't great so only seven went in. Visibility was bad and the dive short, but it was great to have a changing room to use and somewhere to shelter from the rain. We'll be back."

Also obviously dependent on the weather, power-boating is planned to return over the weekend of 1 and 2 September. These are the first small steps that could eventually make Folkestone a centre for sea sports and so add to its attractions

More Information on these activities can be found at [www.folkestoneasports.com](http://www.folkestoneasports.com)  
or by  
e-mailing. [bookings@folkestoneasports.com](mailto:bookings@folkestoneasports.com)

# **Folkestone Garden Centre is Blooming!**

By Liz Brown

Visitors to the Folkestone Garden Centre may have noticed the major improvements which have been taking place over the summer. The car park has been resurfaced, repairs have been made to the structure of the building and more flower borders have been planted up. An atmosphere of renewal is in the air and staff members have received very positive feedback from customers.

A recent innovation has been the "click and collect scheme" which allows customers to browse the website [www.thegardencentre.co.uk](http://www.thegardencentre.co.uk) from the comfort of their own home, and order from an extensive collection of plants. An email alerts the customer of their arrival at the Folkestone store. According to Carl Wanstall, Deputy Manager, the scheme has been very popular and he and his colleagues also use it to order in plants for customers without home access to the internet.

These changes have coincided with the acquisition of The Garden Centre Group by Terra Firma, owned by financier Guy Hands, who sees garden centres as a good investment in the current economic climate. In addition to the huge range of plants available, Folkestone Garden Centre stocks more lines of books and giftware than in the past. Garden equipment hire is available via a Freephone number 0800 0324522 or the website.

Future projects include the creation of a children's play area and a regular farmers' market. These will, however, be dependent on the longer term future of the site which is under threat of development for housing by the Radnor Estate. It would be a shame to lose such a beautiful wooded area which is home to a wide variety of wild life. In the meantime, Folkestone Garden Centre is a wonderful amenity which provides local employment and is frequented not only by keen gardeners but also by visitors to the popular café "Blossoms" on the site.

## **Silver Springs Shock: New Shopping Scheme Floated**

by Richard Wallace

In July, I was one of several people informed of the possibility of a new out of town shopping mall being built on the part of the Silver Springs Mineral Water factory directly opposite B & Q in Park Farm Road. An investment company represented by London surveyors CBRE have bought the land on which the troubled though still fighting drinks company is situated.

Some of what they said made sense but I can't help feeling that the cure was worse than the disease. The pitch was basically that Silver Springs was in trouble and had reduced staff considerably because it's antiquated and

twisty production line could not compete with the hi speed straight lines of other companies. It needed money for new facilities that would make it once more competitive from a new building covering two-thirds of the existing site and accessed from Barnfield Road. The other one-third of the site would be turned into a modern shopping parade of 8-10 shops which in brief we were told totalled about the size of two supermarkets or six town centre Next branches. These would be on two sides of a little car park, and at least one company was interested whom we were advised we would be very excited about. Well there are several shops I would like to see in Folkestone, but not at the expense of the entire town centre. If you put this amount of medium sized modern shops together with the existing offer of West Park Farm, you begin to reach the tipping point at which people go there for most things instead of to Folkestone centre. I am sure that some trades will also affect Cheriton and Morehall shops.

The proponents of the scheme pointed out that they had been asked by the Shepway planners to canvass opinion as the scheme proposed was at variance with current planning policy. Confusingly CBRE brought into the equation a broad swathe of land on Caesars Way north of Ashley Avenue which is or has recently been occupied by Kidz Warehouse, Carter Wallace, Crosskeys Coaches and ARC Concrete. This whole area is zoned for industrial but it was suggested that the western half backing onto houses could be a long residential close. The eastern half backing onto Shearway could be industrial units. I think the latter was meant to be a replacement for the 'employment' land 'lost' to shops at Silver Spring. But I for one did not see any real connection as the Cheriton land was already zoned as industrial. I have to say that given Folkestone's limited space for residential expansion, up against the hills as it is, Caesars Way seems an excellent bet for housing, possibly on both sides, but it may be a red herring for the problems of Silver Spring.

To return to Silver Spring, help it out with a retail warehouse and some employment uses if you like. If we lose the battle to keep the Garden Centre at Jointon Road perhaps Wyevale will go there. But don't finish off the town centre to 'save Silver Spring'. We no doubt would have the strong possibility of the other 2/3rd of Silver Spring going to out of town shops once the principle of out of town parades was established, whenever it suited the land owner, since land for shops is worth more than land for factories.

I have seen Westwood in Thanet develop from a few retail warehouses to a shopping centre that has finished off Margate and is finishing off Ramsgate. Having spent some time safeguarding Folkestone by helping protect free parking, I cannot personally support such a serious threat to what is still a surprisingly healthy town centre. Stick to your Plan Shepway.

# Searching for a Better Life: Refugees in Folkestone

By Nick Spurrier

Since our ancestors walked out of Africa, humans have migrated round the world either to avoid persecution and conflict or to improve their economic situation. This country, like many others, has either forcibly accepted new blood from conquests or welcomed refugees, many of whom have brought enterprise to the country or enriched its culture. Being the nearest point to the continent, Kent has inevitably been the destination for many of those wishing to enter the country.

Indeed recent digs in 2010 and 2011 beneath the Roman villa on East Cliff have confirmed the theory that even before the Claudian invasion of AD43, the people of Kent were adopting Roman ways. When the Romans left, the newcomers were Vikings and, from the three most formidable races of Germany, the Saxons, Angles, and Jutes, from whom the people of Kent are descended. Finally, in the last invasion of our island, the Normans came to form part of our population.

From then on there has been a constant coming and going, with waves of emigration as people sought different lives in North America, India and Africa or, after transportation ended, in Australia, often imposing themselves and their culture on the indigenous populations. Some, such as the Puritans in the seventeenth century, have fled religious persecution; others have left to escape poverty - enterprising people, hoping to improve the condition of themselves and their families.

Immigrants have included 50,000 Protestant Walloons and Huguenots who fled religious persecution in Europe during the seventeenth century, the Huguenots having a huge impact on Spitalfields in London, particularly its economy, their hard work and skills rapidly expanding an already existing but small silk industry. Between 1881 and 1914, more than two million Jews left Eastern Europe and Russia, driven out by economic hardship and persecution.

And of course Folkestone was an entry point for Belgians fleeing the First World War, an event recorded in Fredo Farzoni's large oil painting, now hanging in The Grand, with the years preceding the Second World War bringing many more refugees driven out of mainland Europe by Nazi persecution. 1948 saw the start of the immigration of West Indians, encouraged by the government, to supply badly needed labour in hospitals and transport. In 1956 we welcomed Hungarians, escaping the Russian invasion and in 1972 the Ugandan Asians expelled by Idi Amin.

More recently Folkestone has seen, like other towns, a further influx of refugees, Many have come from war torn countries in which our armed forces have been involved, - Iraq and Afghanistan. I recently visited the Shed, which supports young unaccompanied refugees with English and life skills sessions, as part of the work of Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN). Alongside this, is KRAN's Supporting Vulnerable Refugee Youth project

which is a mentoring/befriending service offering one to one support to unaccompanied minors. Tanya Long, project manager, says “through the dedicated support of our trained volunteer mentors, we are able to provide both practical and emotional support to a young refugee who has sought sanctuary in our country and yet still faces many challenges on his/her road towards acceptance and integration within our community”.

While at The Shed, I talked to three refugees from Afghanistan. Whatever reasons they give for leaving their home country, and it could be flight from racial, ethnic, religious or political persecution, these are enterprising, courageous and determined young people who want to improve their lot in life and see more hope in this country than the one they have left. They were not very talkative, partly because their English was not yet good enough, but probably also because they were slightly wary of me. They were however the reality of the disoriented and puzzled figures in Paloma Varga Weisz’s “Rug People”, an installation of the Folkestone 2011 Triennial, which can still be seen at the Harbour Station, representing migrants of whom she writes [it is] “the yearning for a place that contains hope of a better life, which propels these people to undertake such a difficult journey with all its inherent dangers.”

Their journeys here have often been hard and long, sometimes taking over a year through many countries, as one young man told me. And, for most, their arrival here is no soft landing. One told me “I am 19. I came here when I was 15. When I came here I felt very frightened. I did not understand English people. They looked different. So we could not understand each other. So I was lonely and very frightened.” Another after landing in Dover said “. The police caught me and I went to Millbank, Ashford. I was there for three months. But now I feel safe here. It is a safer place. We can go to college here. We cannot there. There is a very big difference.”

Having settled down here, if of course they are allowed to stay, they can now contemplate a future as one said “When I went to college I found lots of friends there. I play football in Radnor Park with English people. I also play cricket after one man taught me to play.” Two of those I talked to were still unsure of what they wanted to do but the third had firmly decided on IT.

The issue of migrants was also the subject of Nikolaj B.S. Larsen’s Triennial film. Promised Land. Andrea Schileker, the Triennial curator, writes of the subjects of the film - the would be migrants in Calais “What sustains them is their vision of a utopia on the other side. The contrast between the Britain of their dreams and the reality they are yet to experience makes for uncomfortable viewing. Their conviction of finding a better life, freedom and prosperity in their Promised Land confronts us with the complex ethics and responsibilities of a host nation”.

**For further information or to become a volunteer, contact Kent Refugee Action Network at [www.kran.org.uk](http://www.kran.org.uk)**

## **Dancers Dates for your Diary**

By Clive Arnold

You may think this is a strange title for an article. Well it is a title that will mean a lot to a generation of rock fans who watched their first gigs at The Leas Cliff Hall. The world famous Leas Cliff Hall was opened on 13 July 1927 and has been a major entertainment venue in the South East of England. I am not writing a detailed history of The Leas, just a short period in its past covering my personal memories.

The Leas Cliff Hall has always been known for its ballroom from Tea Dances in the 1920's and 1930's to the War Time dances at the time of the Battle of Britain. It has always changed with the times and followed the trends into swing and jive eras. The New Year's Eve dance was always a sell-out. These dance nights were usually on a Saturday night. The Leas always produced a flyer in the title words for the dances for the month: Dancers Dates for Your Diaries.

The Leas was owned and run by Folkestone Corporation [The Town Council] until 1973 when Shepway District Council was formed. The entertainment at The Leas was run by the Entertainment Manager John E Bullock, a very well known figure in the Town. The summer season was very different from today with a set programme each night from Music Hall to 1960's style Variety Shows with the same show each week for the summer but with Saturdays and Sunday kept free. Saturday night was 'Dance Night' and Sunday was a specialist show. We all have to remember what a major holiday resort Folkestone was.

My story with the Leas starts in 1969 as a glass collector, my first job, with some school friends from Morehall Secondary Modern. There were five of us charged with getting the glasses back to bars for washing. The Channel Bar, which is still essentially the same and The Foyer Bar now a cloak room were always chasing us for glasses. We were kept working by another character .All those who attended the Leas would remember Harry Flood a jovial man with a large beer belly who was famous for his stentorian 'Time Gentlemen Please!!' in attempts to clear the bar.

On my first night I was given a white jacket and told by Harry (who was an also a bin-man) that I was working for The Corporation and would be expected to work hard and not watch the groups. At my age being paid to be at The Leas was fantastic. After one night, covered in beer and exhausted, I was not so happy but the wages were most welcome.

Many of the world's most famous bands would have played at The Leas over the last forty plus years. As a school boy who was just getting into music, what was on at The Leas was a major highlight. We had music tours in Folkestone with my first gig being the famous 1964 visit by The Rolling Stones to the massive Odeon Cinema in Sandgate Road. They performed with a number of other less remembered but then big sixties acts including the bleached blond Heinz. John E Bullock was quick to notice that music was changing and started booking the young rock bands of the era. We were so

desperate to see who was coming that the issues of The Flyer were eagerly awaited and passed around.

All those of a certain age have some stories about nights at The Leas: Let's start with Jethro Tull the greatest of folk rock bands. Following the release of the This Was album Ian Anderson rolled into town on 3 May 1969. We were all really excited about it at Morehall but our History teacher got involved in the conversation. He was surprised and confused about all this chatter about J.T., the inventor of the Seed Drill. In those days school kids all got taught about of the wonders of agricultural improvement that Britain introduced to the world.

Folkestone was a hub for music with Toffs, which was in the now dead part of Grace Hill near the bottom of Cophall Gardens, and other venues. Many famous names were in town. The Jimi Hendrix gig in Folkestone is a story on its own.

The popularity of The Leas grew. With a capacity of 1200 it was a good sized venue pulling from East Sussex and the whole of Kent, and bands had to tour to get them selves known. A night at the Leas would be very different from today. Most would pay on the night, the prices being less than ten shillings, which might still be a good weeks pocket money including errands for the younger teenagers. The fans would be greeted every time with the Leas Cliff Hall's only LP 'Motown Chart Busters Vol Three' which starts with I Heard it Through the Grapevine by Marvin Gaye; by the mid 1970's it was sounding worn!

In the 1970's most touring Bands travelled alone and were supported by local bands with the amazing names of Orange Seaweed , Barnacle , Tristram Shandy and Cleopatra's Needle One thing the Leas crowd hated was the acoustic set . Many a guitarist was heckled; one I recall was Mike Moran.

So Saturday night was band night and the Leas were the place to be. Most fans went whoever was playing ... it was common to hear ' See you at the Saturday ' ; no mobile then. It was not all rock. I did not enjoy a Reggae night at that time. The rock and blues nights were always the most popular. Most fans would sit on the floor nodding.....so collecting glasses was a nightmare. We moved to plastic glasses which was real progress. A time and motion study by the new Shepway District Council reduced our numbers from 5 to 3, but I was still being paid to listen to music and collect glasses of course.

On 12 September 1970 we had the first of many visits from a Band that I still go and watch to day. Uriah Heep, named after the Dickens character, who had just released their first album 'Very 'eavy Very 'umble '. I had purchased the album, after the obligatory tester of a listen in the booth at W H Smiths. I was able to meet the band and get the album signed which I still have today.

The local Church tried to ban Black Widow banned as they had satanic songs and a coffin in the act. They are much less remembered now but they always sold out, famous in the 1970's with the album Sacrifice featuring

Come To The Sabbath and Sacrifice so you can see why they were of an interest to the church. Genesis appeared in the seventies. There were some lads kicking plastic glasses around in the corner and the band who took themselves very seriously were getting mad. Peter Gabriel, who had several costume changes, was wearing a red dress but was still a commanding presence when he stopped their set mid way though playing Foxtrot and told them to stop or the band was off. Of course they stopped and a good night was had.

10CC played the first night of a tour at The Leas Cliff Hall. Eric Stewart, Kevin Godley, Lol Creme and Graham Stewart were one of the biggest three or four acts in the country. Can we get back to that now Shepway? I remember a highlight was that the LCH was locked up in the afternoon when I arrived to do an afternoon working on the buffet . I asked why and was told that that band had 'booked' it, and no-one wanted the whole of Folkestone getting a free concert. I called a few friends, from a public call box of course, and they blagged their way in. About 20 or so people watched 10cc play, superbly, the whole set in the afternoon as practice.

In the next issue I will recall some more of the bands that played, together with some of the Urban legends that actually didn't. But just as a sweetener, Status Quo was banned from The Leas Cliff Theatre after refusing to leave the stage. They were heavily into a jam session with Harmony Grass. The Police were called at 12.10am! Quo did return years later, and I wonder if the ban was ever officially lifted.

## **Working out at The Warren**

By David Taylor

A well-clad couple passed my wife as she hacked at the undergrowth. "Good to see you doing something useful for once", said the man, mistaking her and the rest of us volunteers as miscreants on community service. "As opposed to going for a walk?" parried my wife. He looked suitably embarrassed. Others ask: "Why do you do it, when you don't get paid?" Or: "You're wasting your time." But most are positive. "Good to see footpaths opening up." And: "The steps make all the difference - you deserve a medal." Positive reinforcement. But even without it, we'd still turn up in rain, snow or shine.

For this is The Warren, Folkestone's neglected gem. Hundreds of acres of verdant landslip, stretching from the East Cliff towards Samphire Hoe. We're at the weekly green gym which for almost a year has been cutting back rampant vegetation, fixing bridges and building steps on awkward slopes. Designated an area of special scientific interest, The Warren was once chalk grassland. But since grazing animals were banned in 1924, trees and shrubs have proliferated. A natural country park has evolved,

lush with woods, ponds and wildlife, criss-crossed by paths and precipitous climbs on the towering cliffs.

But this wonderland has run away with itself. Paths have become overgrown. Brambles are everywhere – dense and deterring. Walkers are frustrated. As it is, remarkably few Folkestonians use The Warren. Many don't know it exists. With obesity running at 23 per cent in Shepway and life expectancy in East Folkestone ten years less than in the west, The Warren is a health facility on the doorstep. And it's free.



Enter Giles Barnard, Shepway District Council's visionary safety officer. Backed by a Kent County Council grant secured by Cllr Roland Tolputt, Giles has developed the green gym. Each Thursday morning he deploys a dozen or so of us with saws, slashers, picks and hammers. The first major achievement has been the restoration of a charming pathway meandering diagonally from East Cliff to East Wear Bay – a welcoming gateway to The Warren.

To join the green gym, call Giles Barnard on 01303 853695 or email [csu@shepway.gov.uk](mailto:csu@shepway.gov.uk)

Or, just turn up at 10am on Thursday at the bowls club car park, next to Jock's Pitch, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone.

# News from the Planning Front

By Richard Wallace

The planning application for the replacement of Wyevale aka Kennedys Garden Centre by a mixture of houses, flats, and in the current Ingles Lane area, a couple of duplex office buildings, should be out by the time you read this. Such development in broad terms is allowed by the current Shepway Plan. When Go Folkestone fought it seven years ago the Shepway barrister insisted that the garden centre was a previously developed brownfield site like some derelict factory and we lost most of our points. However Ingles Manor is listed, there are three active protected badgers' setts on the site, unique in the town (please tell if you know different), and we did get a stated obligation to keep an exceptional amount of tree cover as the Manor is such a rural survival. Therefore the proposals may at least be amended to provide both quality houses and a garden centre. Sources close to the Folkestone Estate have assured me that the Garden Centre has been offered one of the employment buildings, but seems to prefer to go out of town. We are trying to confirm this, as many locals especially older people, would love it to stay.

Otherwise the plans of Quinn Estates to save Eversley College by tastefully converting it into 22 flats, some with amazing views, are up for a decision. 70% of the playing field is given to Sandgate Primary School in return for a single row of detached houses being allowed on the access drive, which is itself rather close to Eversley Way. The rural footpath at the front will be properly adopted by KCC, hopefully without losing its character, following my representations.

Another school, All Souls in Cheriton is extending slightly by creating a good sized first floor classroom over the single storey building facing the playground. Hence very little of the playground is lost. The modern flat roofed thermo-wood clad building is not one that would be allowed on the road frontage, but it is a testament to the success of a popular school. Meanwhile an even older building than the charming All Souls, the former Lismore Hotel is almost certain to be converted to five flats, following the attractive transformation this year of the former St Olaves residential hotel around the corner.

Most intriguingly, Saga PLC are proposing to allow Veolia the local water supply company to put three 'masts' on top of (basement to ninth ) Middelburg House . Is the water company going into mobile phones! No. In fact Veolia are undertaking an experimental remote water meter reading trial within a large part of the town. Clip on devices will send water meter readings to the top of Middelberg House by low energy radio waves where our water usage will be monitored. A touch of Big Brother perhaps, but more in the sense of wondering what on earth else firms could monitor if they wanted. We need to be efficient with water, so alright I'll put up with it. At the Town Hall, Folkestone Town Council continues to repair, clean up and to draw up plans for a combined museum, council offices and improved cinema, possibly with some very limited space for the CAB and other useful bodies. I am always interested to receive any ideas of other 'community uses'.

# ROCKSALT

## FOLKESTONE

Rocksalt Restaurant and Bar, in a stunning contemporary building overlooking Folkestone Harbour, celebrated its first anniversary in June. Opened last summer, Rocksalt marks a collaboration between chef Mark Sargeant, opening his first restaurant in the county where he grew up and trained as a chef, and the on-going regeneration of Folkestone Harbour.

**The Restaurant** is the heart and soul of Rocksalt. Its à la carte menu has a wealth of choice, showcasing the freshest fish and best local 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. **Rocksalt Bar** on the first floor is a great location to begin or end your meal with delicious cocktails and artisan beers. Pass the day while grazing on our extensive bar menu or just sharing a bottle of wine from our eclectic list. Brunch is also served on weekends.

**Private Hire** is available at Rocksalt for dining or events. At the far end of the restaurant is our private dining room which is separated by a retractable glass screen and seats up to 24 guests, perfect for an intimate lunch or dinner party or for that all important business meeting. For larger functions or events we can offer the bar on the first floor, complete with delicious canapé and bowl food menus. Both these spaces have panoramic views over the Harbour and access to the outside terraces on warm summer days.

**Rocksalt Rooms**, which have recently been awarded four rosettes by the AA, 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 Rooms Special Offer – Seaside Sundays**. Double room including a three course lunch in Rocksalt Restaurant from our set Sunday Lunch Menu – only £120 for two people!

### Upcoming Events

**Comedy Nights:** Join us at **The Smokehouse** fish and chip shop on **Wednesday 26th September** for a night of comedy and delicious food. Tables can be reserved from 6.30pm with the comedy starting at 8pm. Lonestar Comedy Club returns to **Rocksalt Bar on Wednesday 24th October**, with some of the best comedians the circuit has to offer. Book a table from 6.30pm and enjoy a bite to eat from our weekly changing bar menu and a delicious cocktail or refreshing beer from our inventive and locally sourced drinks list. For more information on these events and to book tickets please visit [www.lonestarcomedy.co.uk](http://www.lonestarcomedy.co.uk). **Live Music:** Visit our website for info on acoustic and dj nights in the bar.

Rocksalt, 4-5 Fishmarket, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6AA  
[www.rocksaltfolkestone.co.uk](http://www.rocksaltfolkestone.co.uk) e: [info@rocksaltfolkestone.co.uk](mailto:info@rocksaltfolkestone.co.uk) t: 01303 212 070

## Step Short 4th Commemorative March 5th August

By Ann Berry

As the Centenary of WW1 on 4th August 2014 looms ever nearer, we are made aware of the sacrifice these men and women paid, not only for us, but many other countries because it was a world war. The hardships and terrible conditions endured by the troops in the battlefields are really too horrible to contemplate. The pressure on those left at home to take care of things was enormous. There were no benefit systems in place in those days.

Those at home had to keep the family together, fed and clothed some how. They did this by working in the munitions factories, on farms, repairing motors, taking in washing and worse, to try and scrape a meagre existence. Many women took up nursing to look after the war wounded. They all played a huge role to help the war effort during this terrible time. That is why Step Short holds a Commemorative March each year on the run up to the Centenary, taking the route those brave men took.

This year it was a lovely sunny day as we gathered on the Leas. It was good to see so many of our friends who join us every year at this time with a common cause. The parade commander Alan Warren called us to attention and we set off to the swirl of the pipes towards the memorial at the top of the Road of Remembrance where our Chairman, Damian Collins MP, laid a wreath to the fallen. Then it was on down the road led by the Sea Cadets and the order was given to 'Step Short'.



Photo: Alan Warren

As we approached the harbour area, we all filed into our given positions in readiness for the commencement of the planned programme. First were the Sea Cadets who gave a musical rendition whilst we all caught our breath. Alex McNeice announced each participant in order of the programme.

As Vice Chairman I welcomed all those who had assembled and gave a short insight to why we decided to start the Step Short project and how far we had come in the last 5 years. I reminded everyone that tea and a display of old photographs along with proposed plans of the Memorial Arch and Visitor Centre were on display at the Grand Burstin.

This was followed by our Chairman Damian Collins MP who confirmed the poignancy of the project, and as we were in the Olympic year, read out the names of the brave souls who died in the Great War, who were in their day, Olympians. Ray Le Her then sang a song called 'The Road of Remembrance' which was dedicated to the then Mayor of the time, Ald EJ Bishop JP 1922-26. Words by Catherine Strood, music by Hubert G One ARAM, LRAM, a copy of the music of this song being kindly given to us by Alan Taylor.

The Padre from Shorncliffe Camp said the prayers. The song 'I Vow To Thee My Country' sung by the Shepway Multiple Choirs followed this. Connor Young aged 15yrs dressed in WW1Uniform read the Ode of Remembrance after which the standard bearers were ordered to carry standards. At this point the Royal Regiment of fusiliers Buglers played the last post. Then standards were lowered in salute. After the two-minute silence reveille was played. The standard bearers returned to carry standards whilst two young men in WW1 uniform marched off with Piper Ben Millbery, who played the lament 'Flowers of the Forest' until both they and the tune faded into the distance. The Parade Commander then asked the Chairman's permission to dismiss the parade.

We then enjoyed each other's company and a cuppa courtesy of the Grand Burstin.

The Step Short Commemorative March is held on the first Sunday in August each year on the lead up to the Centenary. On behalf of the Chairman and Directors of Step Short Folkestone Ltd, we thank everyone who took part and enabled this years March to take place.

## Specifications and details for your advert

### Advert sizes:

| Type of advert           | Size  |        | 1 issue |        | 2 issues |        | 3 issues |        | 4 issues |        |
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|                          | 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   |
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### Advertisements:

Each issue is made up of 32 pages including front and back covers. The front cover is used to feature areas of interest in Folkestone. There are only six coloured pages including back page for adverts all other adverts will be black and white.

### How we would like to receive copy from you:

Print ready artwork in a computer file sent via email or on a CD (Formats accepted: jpg, bmp, tiff, pdf with no embedded fonts). Print ready artwork on paper (A4 size preferable to preserve quality when scanning). Please ring 01303 278644 if you need assistance.

### Where to send your advert:

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Kent  
CT19 5LP

(same address for cheque and order form)

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

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Your name       |        |
| Business name   |        |
| Address:        |        |
|                 |        |
| Postcode        |        |
| Phone           |        |
| email           |        |
| Receipt wanted? | Yes/no |

# Membership form

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



- Single membership £ 10.00
- Couple at the same address £ 15.00
- In receipt of benefits £5.00
- Junior membership (under 18) £5.00

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

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)



# ROCKSALT

FOLKESTONE

