

New for 2014:
White Witch Ceremony
and King's School Concert...



One of the largest May Day celebrations of its kind

Rochester 2014 Sweeps Festival

3, 4 and 5 May

Festival highlights include:

- ◆ More than 60 Morris dancing sides ◆ Great evening concerts ◆
- ◆ Free music in pubs and bars ◆ Fun children's activities ◆
- ◆ Jack-in-the-Green ◆ Daytime outdoor stages ◆

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Welcome

Over the years this festival, with its Morris dancing, music and ever-expanding activities, has become one of the most established May festivals in Europe.

It hardly seems possible that it's 34 years since local businessman Gordon Newton revived the spring celebration that originally began 400 years ago when children were used as chimney sweeps.

The festival recreates the joy and laughter enjoyed by the chimney sweeps on their traditional holiday. It was the one time of the year that the sweeps could leave the soot behind and have some fun by parading through Rochester. Their fun also involved the Jack-in-the-Green ceremony. Jack was a huge character who they used to awaken at dawn on Blue Bell Hill, Chatham. In 1981 keen historian Gordon Newton decided it was time to bring the festival back and over the years he has helped develop it into what it is today – an extravaganza of traditional Britain.

Today, as well as producing the festival, Gordon finds time to play the melodeon for several of the Morris sides, while Doug Hudson has held the role of festival's music director for many years. Both Gordon and Doug work closely with Medway Council's Events Team, who organise the event.

As Rochester's Sweeps Festival marks its 34th year, it is fitting that it has become the largest May Day celebration of its kind in the country.



Cllr Howard Doe
Portfolio Holder for
Housing and
Community Services



Festival highlights

Saturday, 3 May, 7.30pm

FAIRPORT CONVENTION

Hailed as the originators of British folk-rock music, Fairport Convention remains one of the most entertaining bands on the live music scene. The band has won a coveted BBC Lifetime Achievement Award and Radio 2 listeners voted their album *Liege & Lief* 'The Most Influential Folk Album of All Time'.

Experience a mix of material from their recent albums as well as classics from their earlier repertoire. There will also be some brand new and previously unperformed songs destined for Fairport's next studio album.

Whether you are a long-time fan or a newcomer to their music, an evening with Fairport Convention will surprise and delight you.

Tickets: £20, concessions £18
The Central Theatre, Chatham

Saturday, 3 May, 7.30pm

SCHEEPSFOLK

This four piece Dutch group appear at the Sweeps Festival for the first time. Singing nautical songs from England, Holland and France, they're very popular throughout Europe for their great live performances.

Tickets: £10

Edith May Barge, Rochester Pier



Sunday, 4 May, 7.30pm

Kimber's Men

The best shanty group in the UK, Kimber's Men have played at many maritime and shanty festivals. They are renowned for their powerful harmony singing and an authentic traditional outlook on songs of the sea.

Tickets: £12.50

Edith May Barge, Rochester Pier

To book phone 01634 338338 or visit www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

Fairport Convention



Kimber's Men





Festival guide

Thursday, 1 May

5.32am

Jack-in-the-Green awakening ceremony

Bluebell Hill picnic area

Dance teams and sweeps bring Jack to life at the crack of dawn. Everybody is welcome at this traditional welcome of May Day.

Friday, 2 May

7.30pm

Gordon Hotel – Pre festival music from the Songwriters' Den

Coopers Arms – A pre festival playalong with P.J.

8.45 – 11pm

Prince of Wales, Strood – Sur Les Docks

Good Intent – Singaround session with Simon Barlow

Man of Kent Alehouse – Ash Mandrake

Throughout the Festival

High Street

Morris Sides from around the country will perform throughout the day.

War Memorial

Buskers' Corner

Kings Head car park

Rochester Farmers Market

Boley Hill Car Park

Record Fair - mini music fair hosted by Recollect Records.

Rochester Castle Gardens

Food, drink and lifestyle fair

Introduced last year, a variety of stalls fill the castle gardens to indulge all the senses.

Mini psychic fair

Speak to a clairvoyant, have a tarot reading or take home a gift to help you through your own magical and mystical journey through life. *Please note: There are no guaranteed or certain results – this is for the purpose of amusement / entertainment.*

Fun Fair

Traditional family fun fair by Smith's Fair, who have been supplying the Sweeps Festival for nearly 20 years. There will be a range of rides to suit all ages.

Look out for the have-a-go pianos on the high street

Saturday, 3 May

10.45am

Guildhall Museum Forecourt, High Street

The Mayor of Medway will officially open the festival, followed by a dance showcase.


So Moot It Be

Rochester based pagan witches will cleanse the festival opening site in preparation for the weekends festivities.

10am – 5pm

Boley Hill Stage

Songwriters' Den 'On the Road'. The best of young talent from Kent hosted by Griff Rising



11am – 5pm

Old Post Office Stage

Mike Deavin, Old Country Crows,
Star Lane

New

11am – 5pm

Crown Freehouse Stage – Hawaiian

Islanders, Arte Miss, Famous Last Words,
Fiddlefit

New

11am – 5pm

Castle Gardens Main Stage

Bounty Hounds, Scheepsfolk, Fabulous
Fezheads, Sur Les Docks, Hudson & Cutler,
Green Diesel

11am – 5pm

Edith May Thames Sailing Barge

Tess of the Circle, No Worries, Jones Boys

12.30 – 2.30pm

The Crown Freehouse – Funke & The Two
Tone Baby

The Eagle Tavern – Skinners Rats

Gordon House Hotel – Green Diesel

Two Brewers – Broadside Boys

Prince of Wales, Strood – The Jones Boys

Kings Head – Phoenix

Good Intent – Singaround with
Richard Bridge

Singapura Lounge – Ash Mandrake

1 – 3pm

Ye Arrow – Ian Petrie Band

2 – 4pm

Man of Kent Alehouse – Rosie Eade Band

Oliver's Bar & Restaurant – Larkspur

2.15pm

Outside Medway Visitor Information Centre

Guided walking tour of Rochester led by

the City of Rochester Society.

Approximately 90 minutes. Free, although
donations to the society are very welcome.

3 – 5pm

**The King's School Concert with
The Flowing plus The Lightworker**

New

A free seated concert with two innovative
folk groups. Thanks to the King's School for
providing the venue.

Coopers Arms – Chris Taylor (Irish
Music Session)

Gordon House Hotel – McManigan
Academy of Irish Dancers (till 3.30pm)
followed by Tanglefoot Appalachian

4 – 6pm

The Crown Freehouse – Star Lane

Eagle Tavern – Thee Waltons

Ye Arrow – Captain Patch & The
Mermaid Mollies

King's Head – Broadside Boys

5 – 7pm

Oliver's Bar & Restaurant – Sur Les Docks

8 – 11pm

Coopers Arms – Playalong session with P.J.
plus No Worries

8 – 11.30pm

Gordon House Hotel – Didi Bergman, Tess of
the Circle, Hobo Jones & The Junkyard Dogs

8.45 – 11pm

Man of Kent Alehouse – Den Raw Folk

Prince of Wales, Strood – Fiddlefit

Good Intent – Singaround with
Richard Bridge

Two Brewers – Ian Petrie Band

Singapura Lounge – Celtic Capers



Sunday, 4 May

10am – 5pm

Boley Hill Stage

Songwriters' Den 'On the Road'. The best of young talent from Kent hosted by Griff Rising

11am – 5pm

Old Post Office Stage

Mike Deavin, Daniel Nestelrode, Rosie Eade Band, 'CJ', Swinging the Lead

New

11am – 5pm

Crown Freehouse Stage

Barry Laing, Missouri Gutts, Swinging the Lead, Nath Trevett, 'CJ'

New

11am – 5pm

Castle Gardens Festival Main Stage

Scheepsfolk, Fabulous Fezheads, Galley Beggar, Kimber's Men, Davey Malone & The Longtails

11am – 5pm

Edith May Thames Sailing Barge

Border Crossing, Swinging The Lead, Davey Malone's Floating Ukuleles

12.30 – 2.30pm

The Crown Freehouse – Tombstone Liquor

The Eagle Tavern – Sur Les Docks

Two Brewers – Larkspur

Prince of Wales, Strood – Broadside Boys

Kings Head – Jumbo Gumbo

Good Intent – Singaround with Simon Barlow

Singapore Lounge – Den Raw Folk

Gordon House Hotel – Bounty Hounds

1 – 3pm

Ye Arrow – Triality

2 – 4pm

Man of Kent Alehouse – Hartley Singers

Oliver's Bar & Restaurant – Missouri Gutts

2.15pm

Outside Medway Visitor Information Centre

Guided walking tour of Rochester led by the City of Rochester Society. The tour will last for approx. 90minutes. Free, although donations to the society are very welcome.

3.30 – 5pm

Gordon House Hotel – Tanglefoot

Appalachian

3 – 5pm

Coopers Arms – Irish Music Session with

Chris Taylor

4 – 6pm

The Crown Freehouse – Rosie Eade Band

The Eagle Tavern – Browns Bhoys

King's Head – Triality

Ye Arrow – Brides of Rain

5 – 7pm

Oliver's Bar & Restaurant – Phoenix

6pm

Good Intent – Tanglefoot Appalachian

7 – 10pm

Granville Arms – Ramshackle, Oh Suzannahs

8 – 11pm

Coopers Arms – Playalong session with P.J. and Scheepsfolk

8 – 11.30pm

Gordon Hotel – Gentlemen of Few, Sur Les Docks

8.45 – 11pm

Man of Kent Alehouse – Fate The Juggler
Prince of Wales, Strood – Captain Patch & The Mermaid Mollies
Good Intent – Singaround with Richard Bridge
Two Brewers – Tombstone Liquor
Singapora Lounge – Jumbo Gumbo

Monday, 5 May

10am – 5pm

Blue Boar Lane
Dance Alley Maypole, Street Ceilidh with Threepenny Bit

10.30am – 5pm

Boley Hill – Street Dance the Maypole.
A chance to join in maypole, morris and ceilidh for the uninitiated.

10.30am – 5pm

Crown Freehouse Stage New
Women Aloud - Rosie Eade Band, Louise Jordan, Didi Bergman, Cate Ferris, Dance Alley Maypole, Tribal Banshees, We Ghosts

11am – 5pm

Old Post Office Stage New
Songwriters' Den 'On the Road'. The best of young talent from Kent hosted by Griff Rising

11am – 5pm

Festival Main Stage, Castle Gardens – Scheepsfolk, Rue Royale, Brooke Sharkey Band, Kimber's Men, Brides of Rain

11am – 5pm

Edith May Thames Sailing Barge
Louise Jordan, Adam Beattie & The Consultants

12.30 – 2.30pm

The Crown Freehouse – We Ghosts
Eagle Tavern – Abbott's Maggot Ceilidh Band
Gordon House Hotel – Hudson & Cutler
Prince of Wales, Strood – Crisis
Oliver's Bar & Restaurant – Bounty Hounds
Man of Kent Alehouse – Star Lane
Two Brewers – Ash Mandrake
Kings Head – Davey Malone & The Longtails
Good Intent – Singaround with Simon Barlow
Ye Arrow – Skinners Rats
Singapora Lounge – Border Crossing
Coopers Arms – Arcelia plus Dan Wilde

2.15pm

Outside Medway Visitor Information Centre
Guided walking tour of Rochester led by the City of Rochester Society. Approximately 90minutes. Free of charge, although donations to the society are very welcome.

2.45pm

Rochester Sweeps Festival's traditional Bank Holiday Procession
The finale to the sweeps Festival 2014 will involve many Morris Sides, chimney sweeps and Jack-in-the-Green. Forming at the Star Hill end of Rochester High Street, the procession will proceed along the High Street to its junction with Corporation Street. It will then turn left into Rochester Esplanade, left into Castle Hill and finish in the Castle Grounds where the Mayor of Medway and Gordon Newton, the festival director, will present the Green Man Shield.

7 – 10pm

Granville Arms – Paddy Fairbrass, Patrick Cannon, Larkspur



Rochester Cathedral

Service times

Sat, 3 May

8am Mattins
8.30am Holy Communion (crypt)
3.15pm Evensong

Sun, 4 May

8am Holy Communion
9.45am Mattins
10.30am Sung Eucharist
3.15pm Evensong
8pm Taize Prayer

Mon, 5 May

7.30am Mattins
9.30am Holy Communion
(Lady Chapel)
3.15pm Evensong



Sat, 3 May, 10am – 5pm and Sun, 4 May, 1 – 5pm

St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Street, Rochester

The church will be open between the above times to visitors who wish to come and look round. Light refreshments will be available as well as a display of photographs of local interest.



Musical biogs

Kimber's Men – Britain's premier shanty group are in demand throughout Europe for their maritime music.

Gentlemen of Few – BBC 2 Radio Young Folk Award nominees, the Deal based gents play bluegrass and original material with great harmonies and superb musicianship.

Scheepsfolk – First visit from the nautical four-piece from the Netherlands. A selection of sea songs from around Europe played with a variety of instruments.

Green Diesel – TV featured folksters from Faversham. Superb driving songs and tunes, many Kentish influenced. Are they the next Oysterband?

Threepenny Bit – One of the hits of 2013, this busking ceildh band are of international renown. Join in the fun and dance.



Hudson & Cutler - Festival favourites feature Ian Cutler's world-class fiddle playing.

Thee Waltons – Crazy band of Gravesend musicians with a unique blend of vegabilly, excessive drinking and cross dressing.

Rue Royale – Anglo-American duo who cut their teeth on the Chicago music scene. Over 600 shows in 16 different countries.

Adam Beattie & The Consultants – Original young band featuring Brook Sharkey on her current UK tour.

The Flowing – The Flowing harbour their roots with songs that stir the subconscious into dreams of melancholy. Twisting both tradition and present to form a cascading blend of strings, horns and voices, The Flowing are entirely of the moment.



Festival dance list

Name

Baldock Midnight Morris
 Bedfordshire Lace
 Bishop Gundulfs Morris
 Bishop Gundulfs Morris
 Black Pig
 Boxhill Bedlam
 Brooms, Bricks & Bowlers
 Cinque Ports Morris
 Cockleshell Clog
 Customs & Exiles
 Dacre Morris
 Dark Horse Morris
 Dead Horse Morris
 The Broom Dashers
 East Kent Morris Men
 Ely & Littleport Riot
 The Fabulous Fezheads
 Fenstanton Morris
 Gong Scourers
 Greenwich Morris Men
 Hands Around
 Hertfordshire Holly
 Hook Eagle Border Morris

Type of dance

Cotswold Morris
 Cotswold Morris
 North West Clog
 Longsword & Rapper
 Border Morris
 Border Morris
 Border Morris
 Cotswold Morris
 North West Clog
 North West & Border
 Cotswold Morris
 Border Morris
 Kent Black Face Morris

 Cotswold Morris
 Womens Border Morris
 Sand Dancing
 Cotswold Morris
 Border Morris
 Cotswold Morris
 Cotswolds/Border Morris
 North West Clog
 Border Morris

County

Bedfordshire
 Bedfordshire
 Kent
 Kent
 Nottingham
 Surrey

 Kent
 Essex
 Hampshire
 London
 Essex
 Kent
 Kent
 Cambridgeshire
 Goodwin Sands
 Cambridgeshire
 Kent
 London
 Essex
 Hertfordshire
 Hampshire



Name

Type of dance

County

Jack in the Green		Rochester
Invicta Morris	Cotswold Morris	Kent
Kent Korkers	North West Morris	Kent
Pork Scratchins	Border Morris	Kent
Kits Coty Morris	Cotswold Morris	Kent
Lady Bay Revellers	Cotswold Morris	Nottingham
Loose Women	Border Morris	Kent
Maenads	Border Morris	Kent
Marlings Morris	North West Morris	Kent
Maybe Morris		West Sussex
Mythago	Border Morris	West Sussex
Motley Morris	Border Morris	Kent
	<i>Custodians of The Rochester Jack in the Green</i>	
Offcumduns	North West Morris	Kent
Pretty Grim Morris	Border Morris	Suffolk
Oojah Kappivvy	Border Morris	East Sussex
Pump House Clog	North West Morris	Hertfordshire
Priory Morris	Border Morris	Essex
Ravensbourne Morris	Cotswold Morris	Kent
Royal Liberty Morris	Cotswold Morris	Essex
Royal Oak Morris	Cotswold Morris	Warwickshire
Sheppey Beaver Groups	Representing Climbing Boys & Girls	Kent
Screaming Banshees	Gothic Morris	Kent
Spirimawgus	Border Morris	West Sussex
St Clement Clogs	North West Clog	Kent
Westrefelda Morris	Cotswold Morris	Suffolk
Wolfs Head & Vixen	Border Morris	Kent
Witchmen	Border Morris	Northants
The Wild Hunt	Bedlam Border	Surrey

FOLK

at The Brook Theatre

Old Town Hall, Chatham, Kent

Enjoy monthly folk evenings at The Brook Theatre. Join our free folk mailing list and save £1 on each ticket. Phone **01634 338338** or email folk@medway.gov.uk

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TRAVEL INFORMATION

Train

Rochester station is only a five-minute walk from Rochester High Street and has excellent links between London and the coast. For information on planning your journey visit: www.setrains.co.uk

Car and coach parking

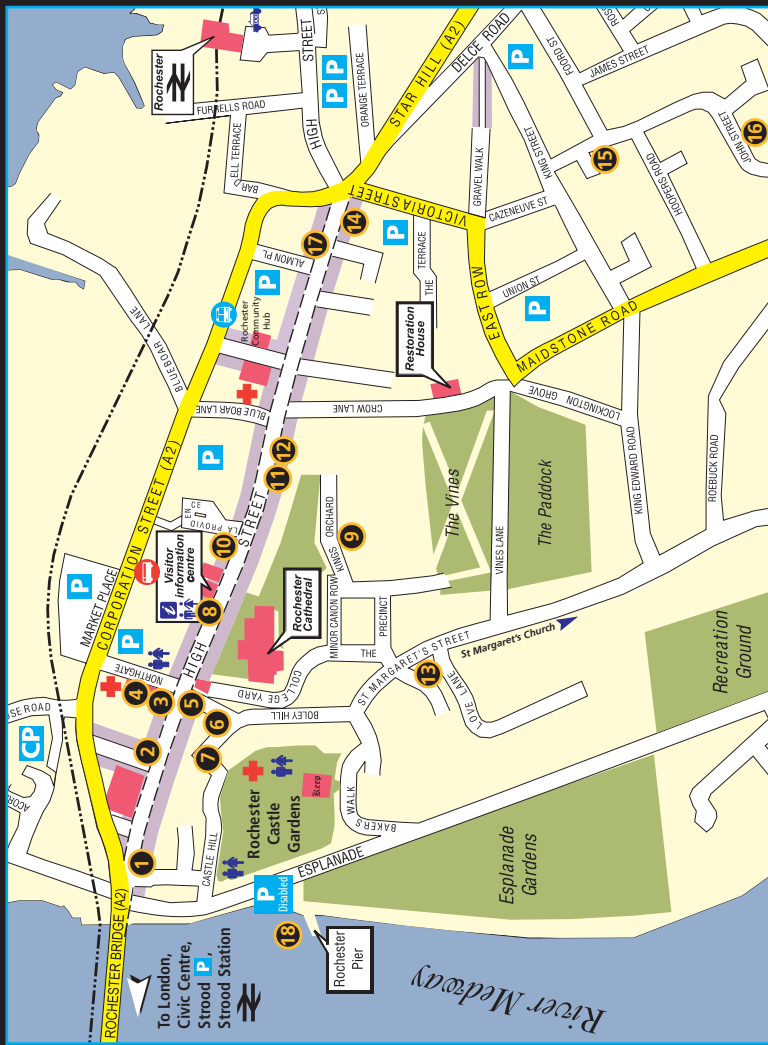
Limited car parking is available near the centre of Rochester. Public car parks are indicated on the festival parking map. Normal car parking restrictions will apply and information is available at all car parks. Car parking is available at the Civic Centre, Strood, throughout the festival and is only a short walk away. Coach parking is free and shown on the festival map. Coaches may use the drop-off and pick-up point also shown on the map.

For further information

In case of wet weather some events may be re-programmed to other venues. Please visit the Visitor Information Centre for any last minute changes.
95 High Street, Rochester, Kent
ME1 1LX

Phone: **01634 338141**

Email: visitorcentre@medway.gov.uk



- 1 The Crown and stage
- 2 Guildhall Museum Forecourt
- 3 Singapura Lounge Bar
- 4 Corn Exchange

- 5 Kings Head
- 6 Ye Arrow
- 7 Boley Hill stage
- 8 Gordon House Hotel
- 9 King's School hall

- 10 Two Brewers
- 11 City Wall Wine Bar
- 12 Eagle Tavern
- 13 Coopers Arms
- 14 Oliver's

- 15 Man of Kent
- 16 Good Intent
- 17 Old Post Office stage
- 18 Edith May

*Disclaimer: Every care has been taken to ensure that the details given are correct at the time of printing. However, circumstances can and do change and the publishers cannot accept responsibility for any subsequent amendments.
Rochester High Street is categorised as an Alcohol Control Zone. Although close working partnership between Medway Council, Kent Police and Pub Landlords has allowed drinking in outdoor areas within the festival area between 10am and 6pm only. Drinking restrictions will revert back to normal regulations from 6pm onwards each day of the festival.*