One of the largest May Day celebrations of its kind

Festival highlights include:

- More than 50 Morris dancing sides
- Great evening concerts
- Free music in pubs and bars
- Fun children’s activities
- Jack-in-the-Green

New for 2013:
- Choir competition
- Food & lifestyle fair

www.enjoymedway.co.uk
It hardly seems possible that it’s 33 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 moris teams, 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 33rd year, it is fitting that it has become the largest May Day celebration of its kind in the country.

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.

New for 2013

Buskers’ Corner and a Choir Competition. Amateur choirs will take to the stage at the Corn Exchange on Bank Holiday Monday to showcase their vocal talents and wow the judges and the crowd with variety of genres, from traditional and modern folk songs to sea shanties.

Festival highlights

Sat, 4 May, 8pm

THE SINGING LOINS with support from Lupen Crook

For years the Singing Loins have been the jewel in the Medway musical crown. This is pure performance passion that doffs a hat to punk, folk, cabaret, theatre and music hall. As fresh today as ever, this will be a night to remember.

Tickets: £10, Rochester Corn Exchange

Sat, 4 May, 7.30pm

NO WORRIES with support from John Barden

Brian and Marion Rodgers in concert - rich harmonies, sensitive guitar arrangements, combined with poignant or witty repartee and the swell of welcome audience voices joining them in chorus, guarantees a very special musical experience.

Tickets: £8, Edith May Thames Sailing Barge

Sun, 5 May, 8pm

TIM EDEY with support from Alister Atkin & The Ghost Line Carnival

One of the greatest folk instrumentalists of the 21st Century, Tim has been BBC 2 Folk Musician of the Year. He is an amazing guitarist, melodeon player and composer with a captivating and breathless stage show.

Tickets: £10, Rochester Corn Exchange

Sun, 5 May, 7.30pm

LUKE JACKSON

The brilliant, feted, fast rising 18-year-old singer/songwriter from Canterbury looks destined for stardom having been nominated for both BBC and Horizon Folk Awards. His incisive songs are delivered with a dynamic stage persona and great guitar work that belie his years.

Tickets: £10, Edith May Thames Sailing Barge

Tickets available online at www.medwayticketslive.co.uk, by phone 01634 338338 or in person from the Visitor Information Centre the Central and Brook Theatres and the Edith May Thames Sailing Barge.
Festival guide

Friday, 3 May

7.30pm
The Terry Pearson Memorial Concert with The Simon Care Trio and special guests, MC Gordon Newton
Tickets: £5, Rochester Corn Exchange
Box Office - 01634 338338

7.30pm
Gordon Hotel - Pre-festival music from the Songwriters’ Den
Coopers Arms – A pre festival play-along with P.J.

8.45pm – 11pm
Prince of Wales, Strood – Sur Les Docks
Singapora Lounge – Bubble Band
Good Intent – Singaround session with John Barden
Man of Kent Alehouse - Ash Mandrake

Throughout the Festival all three days

Rochester Castle Gardens
10am - 5pm
Traditional family fun fair by Smith’s Fairs.

Food, drink and lifestyle fair
Stalls will be selling a variety of wares with the opportunity to taste and try before buy.

Mini psychic fair
Psychic / Clairvoyant – Raymond Worthy*
Raymond believes that the angels speak through him. His gifts give him the unique opportunity to have a positive effect on the lives of others.

Astrology and Tarot – Demian Allan*
Demian’s aim is to help others to lead a more rewarding spiritual life.

*Please note: There are no guaranteed or certain results, this is for the purpose of amusement / entertainment.

Woodland Wands
Hand-made wooden wands and staffs, also esoteric gifts, incense, essential oils, crystal products and jewellery.

Pixie Hut
A small family run business centred around spiritual development and growth, designed to help you on your own magical, mystical journey through life. www.pixiehut.co.uk

Record Fair
Mini music fair hosted by Recollect Records. Records, CDs, DVDs and memorabilia.

The Clog Factory
Roger Dower will be demonstrating clog making and selling his hand-made clogs.

Real Ale Bar
A variety of ales and ciders brewed and bottled in Medway’s very own Nelson’s Brewery.

Corn Exchange - Princes Hall
Traditional musical instrument fair.

High street
Morris sides from around the country performers throughout the day.

Boley Hill - Buskers Stage
10am-5pm
Invited buskers performing throughout the day.

Kings Head and Boley Hill Car Parks
Rochester Farmers Market
10am – 5pm
Local farmers and producers have grown, bred, processed, pickled, brewed or baked the goods themselves to sell direct to the public.

Rochester Esplanade
The Edith May Thames Sailing Barge
Moored at Rochester Pier, she will be open between 10am and 5pm, with a programme of free folk music. Evening concerts (ticket only) will take place on Saturday and Sunday. Please be aware that due to the nature of the vessel, there is no disabled access onto the barge. www.edithmay.com

The Guildhall Museum
Guitar workshop - 2pm
Build your own electric guitar in two hours!
£20 includes all materials and tuition.
Booking advised as places are limited.
Phone: 01634 570331
Visit: www.astickinabox.com

Pre-festival entertainment
**Saturday, 4 May**

10.45am

**Guildhall Museum Forecourt, High Street**
The Mayor of Medway will officially open the festival, followed by a dance showcase.

11am – 5pm

**City Wall Wine Bar, Stage**

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

11am – 5pm

**Castle Gardens Main Stage**


11am – 5pm

**Edith May Thames Sailing Barge**

Capella, Brooke Sharkey.

12.30 – 2.30pm

**The Crown Freehouse** – Selki

The Eagle Tavern – Skinners Rats with Davy Slater

**Gordon House Hotel** – Cajun Dawgs

**Two Brewers** – River Breeze Blues Band

**Prince of Wales, Strood** – Andy Smythe Trio

**Oliver’s Bar** – Atlantic Currants

1 – 3pm

**Ye Arrow** – Ian Petrie Band

2 – 4pm

**Man of Kent Alehouse** – Funke & The Two Tone Baby

2.15pm

**Outside Medway Visitor Information Centre**

Guided walking tour of Rochester led by the City of Rochester Society. The tour will last for approximately 90 minutes. Free of charge although donations to the society welcome.

3 – 5pm

**Coopers Arms** – Chris Taylor (Irish Music Session)

**Gordon House Hotel** – Tanglefoot

**Appalachian**

4 – 6pm

**The Crown Freehouse** – Atlantic Currants

**Eagle Tavern** – Thee Waltons

**Ye Arrow** – Border Crossing

**King’s Head** – Happy Trails

6 – 8pm

**Oliver’s Bar** – Perfect Strangers

7.30 – 10pm

**Coopers Arms** – Playalong session with P.J. and Capella (8.45pm)

8 – 11.30pm

**Gordon House Hotel** – Gentlemen Duke, Eric Ness, Coco & The Butterfields

8.45 – 11pm

**Man of Kent Alehouse** – Sur Les Docks

**Prince of Wales, Strood** – Selki

**Good Intent** – Singaround with John Barden

**Two Brewers** – Phoenix

**Singapora Lounge** – Cajun Dawgs

**Sunday, 5 May**

11am – 5pm

**City Wall Wine Bar, Stage**

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

11am – 5pm

**Castle Gardens Festival Main Stage**

The Beards, Fabulous Fezheads, Galley Beggar, Jerry Harmon, The Hot Rats

11am – 5pm

**Outside Medway Visitor Information Centre**

Guided walking tour of Rochester led by the City of Rochester Society. The tour will last for approximately 90 minutes. Free of charge although donations to the society welcome.

12noon – 1pm

**Gordon House Hotel** – Moveable Feast

1 – 3pm

**Ye Arrow** – Brides of Rain

2 – 4pm

**Man of Kent Alehouse** – Hartley Singers

2.15pm

**Outside Medway Visitor Information Centre**

Guided walking tour of Rochester led by the City of Rochester Society. The tour will last for approximately 90 minutes. Free of charge although donations to the society welcome.
Monday, 6 May

10.30am – 5pm
Rochester Castle Moat
Street dance the Maypole. Street and Ceilidh dancing for all.

11am – 5pm
Choir Competition
Corn Exchange, Queens Hall
Pre-registered choirs will sing songs with a folk theme and will be judged to find the winner for 2013. The event is open to spectators, tea and coffee will be available for purchase.

11am – 5pm
City Wall Wine Bar, Stage

10am – 5pm
Guildhall Stage - Street Ceilidh with Threepenny Bit, Tribal Banshees

11am – 5pm
Festival Main Stage, Castle Gardens – Allen Family, Jerry Harmon, Bubble Band, Pierre Vincent, Brides of Rain

11am – 5pm
Edith May Thames Sailing Barge
Pierre Vincent, Border Crossing, Allen Family, Davey Malone's Floating Ukuleles.

12.30 – 2.30pm
The Crown Freehouse – Funke & The Two Tone Baby
Eagle Tavern – Happy Trails
Gordon House Hotel – The Hot Rats
Prince of Wales, Strood – The Old Country Crows
Oliver's Bar – Barry Laing & Davey Slater
Man of Kent Alehouse – Galley Beggar
Two Brewers – Ash Mandrake
Kings Head – Andy Smythe Trio
Good Intent – Singaround with Ruff 'n' Reddy
Ye Arrow – Missouri Guts
Singapora Lounge – Triality

2.15pm
Outside Medway Visitor Information Centre
Guided walking tour of Rochester led by the City of Rochester Society. The tour will last for approximately 90 minutes. Free of charge although donations to the society welcome.

2.45pm
Rochester Sweeps Festival’s traditional Bank Holiday Procession
The finale to the Sweeps Festival 2013 will involve many Morris Sides, chimney sweeps and Jack-in-the-Green. A change to this year’s route will be as follows: 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 the Rochester Esplanade, left into Castle Hill and finish in Castle Grounds where the Mayor of Medway and Gordon Newton, Festival Director, will present the Green Man Shield.

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Rochester Cathedral service and event times

Saturday, 4
8am  Morning Prayer
8.30am Holy Communion
3.15pm Choral Evensong

Sunday, 5
8am  Holy Communion
9.45am Choral Mattins
10.30am The Cathedral Eucharist
3.15pm Choral Evensong
8pm  Taize Prayer

Monday, 6
9.10am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion
3.15pm Choral Evensong

Held throughout each day - offering readings from the Jesus Deck, foot and hand massage and prayer for healing in the Christian tradition. Free of charge, everyone welcome.

Sat, 4 May, 10am – 5pm and Sun, 5 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

Tim Edye – BBC Radio 2 Folk Award Musician of the Year winner, Tim has toured with the Chieftains, Sharon Shannon and has recorded with Christy Moore. Simply, he is one of the best musicians you will ever see.

The Singing Loins – Music hall, cabaret, theatre, folk, punk, comedy reflecting the darker underbelly of Medway.

No Worries – Purely and simply Brian and Marion Rodgers are an excellent folk duo who take pride in their songs and performance.


Simon Care Trio – From the Albion Band to Edward II, Simon’s talent is no stranger to the Sweeps Festival.

Hot Rats - 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.

Jerry Harmon – Visiting American singer and storyteller extraordinaire.

Cocce & The Butterfields – One of the most exciting bands to have emerged in the last couple of years – new and innovative.

Allen Family – Superb teenage bluegrass outfit guided by American father Pete Allen.

Gentlemen Duke – Swing/folk with passion.

Adam Beattie & The Consultants – London’s finest nu-folk sensation.

John Barden – Singaround supremo and charismatic figure who encourages others to play.

Threepenny Bit – Busking ceilidh band of international renown. Join in the fun and dance.

Alister Atkin & The Ghost Line Carnival – Quality songwriting and crafted performance from a classy outfit.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type of dance</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Alton Morris</td>
<td>Border</td>
<td>Berkshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alive &amp; Kicking</td>
<td>North West Clog</td>
<td>Essex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annies Fantasies</td>
<td>North West Clog</td>
<td>Essex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baldock Midnight Morris</td>
<td>Cotswold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Gundulf’s Morris Men</td>
<td>North West Clog &amp; Garland</td>
<td>Kent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bishop Gundulf’s Morris Ladies</td>
<td>Long sword &amp; Rapper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Forest &amp; Belasuzu Mummers</td>
<td>Modern Morris &amp; Folk Dancing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Pig Border</td>
<td>Border</td>
<td>Kent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boekka</td>
<td>Border &amp; ‘Oss Teazin’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bows ‘N’ Bells</td>
<td>North West Clog</td>
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<td>Cinque Ports Morris</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dacre Morris</td>
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<td>Dark Horse Morris</td>
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<td>East Kent Morris Men</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Fabulous Fezheads</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Hertfordshire Holly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hook Eagle Morris Men</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kettlebridge Clog</td>
<td>Northwest Clog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Korkers &amp; Pork Scratchin’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lady Bay Revellers</td>
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<td>Loose Women</td>
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<td>Maenads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maldon Green Jackets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manor Mill Morris</td>
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<td>Marlings Morris</td>
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<td>Molley Morris</td>
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<td>Mutineers</td>
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<td>Mythago</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Oojah Kappivy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priory Morris, Soken Molly Gang</td>
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<td>Rampant Rooster</td>
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<td>Rockingham Rapper</td>
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<td>Royal Oak Morris</td>
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<td>Royal Liberty Morris</td>
<td>Cotswold, Border, Molly Sword</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Steam Punk</td>
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<td>Stockport Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Wild Hunt</td>
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<td>Westrelelda</td>
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<td>Whitethorn Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Miscellany</td>
<td>Mixed Traditions</td>
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**Festival dance list**

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

Stay up-to-date with all the news, events and entertainment. Straight to your inbox. Visit www.medway.gov.uk/signup
Build your own 3-string electric guitar at the Sweeps Festival for just £20 Price includes all materials and full tuition

4, 5 and 6 May, 2pm at The Guildhall Museum
Rochester High Street

This fun two-hour course is suitable for everyone, no building or playing experience necessary.

Learn about the history of these simple handmade instruments and discover why everyone from Seasick Steve to Jack White has joined the revolution.

Places are limited so booking is essential.
Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult

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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](http://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 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. Normal car parking restrictions will apply. 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**
Medway Visitor Information Centre, 95 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1LX
Phone: 01634 338141
Email: visitor.centre@medway.gov.uk

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.