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Medway festival of  
music



*Enjoy one of the largest May Day celebrations of its kind*

# Rochester 2015 Sweeps Festival

2, 3 and 4 May

*Festival highlights include:*

- ◆ Dozens of Morris dancing sides ◆ Food, drink and lifestyle fair ◆
- ◆ International music acts ◆ Fun children's activities ◆ Jack-in-the-Green ◆
- ◆ Four outdoor stages ◆

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# Welcome

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Imagine a world 400 years ago where children were used as chimney sweeps. There was little pay, it was a dirty trade and there was little reward for the men who did the job and even less for children.



Medway's annual Sweeps Festival recreates the joy and laughter enjoyed by chimney sweeps at their traditional holiday. It was the one time of the year that the sweeps

could leave the soot behind and have some fun. The Sweeps holiday was traditionally held on 1 May. Locally, they used to mark the occasion by staging a procession through the streets of Rochester.

Their fun continued with the Jack-in-the-Green ceremony. Jack was a seven-foot character who they used to awaken at dawn on Bluebell Hill, Chatham. Jack-In-The-Green would walk with the chimney sweeps in their parade. In 1868 the Climbing Boys' Act made it illegal to employ young boys in the trade, so the traditional procession began to fade. The final May celebration was held in the early 1900s.

Local businessman Gordon Newton, a keen historian, revived the festival in 1981. He decided it was time to bring it back and over the years he has helped develop the festival into what it is today - an

extravaganza of traditional Britain. Gordon researched the sweeps tradition and organised a parade, involving local Morris sides. Today he is a festival producer/dance director and plays melodeon for several Morris sides.

Meanwhile Doug Hudson is the festival's music director, a role he has held for many years. Doug is well known on the local and national folk scene and also arranges the folk music programme at the Brook Theatre. He plays and sings with The Hot Rats, a very popular local folk act. Through Gordon's vision and hard work, Doug's musical ability and Medway Council's assistance with organisation, Rochester's Sweeps Festival is in its 35th year and is the largest May Day celebration of its kind in the country, if not further afield.





# Festival guide

## Friday, 1 May

5.32am

### Jack-in-the-Green awakening ceremony

Morris sides and sweeps bring Jack to life at the crack of dawn. Everbody is welcome at this traditional welcome of May Day.

- Bluebell Hill picnic area

## Throughout the Festival

10am – 5pm

### Children's circus workshops

Saturday and Sunday: Crazee Haze

Monday: Circus Sensible

- War Memorial

### Rochester Farmers Market

- Kings Head car park

### Music Fair

- Enjoy a mini music fair where you can buy records and even a traditional musical instrument.

- Boley Hill Car Park

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

- High Street

### Rochester Castle Gardens

Including children's traditional fun fair, real ale tent, fully licenced bar, music on the main stage, and more.

### Food, drink and lifestyle fair

A variety of stalls fill the castle gardens to indulge 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.





## Saturday, 2 May

**10.45am**

### **Guildhall Museum Forecourt, High Street**

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

**10am – 5pm**

**Boley Hill Stage** – Songwriters' Den 'On the Road'. The best of young talent from Kent hosted by Griff Rising

**10am – 5pm**

**Old Post Office Stage** – Buskers' Corner hosted by Fred Clark

**11am – 5pm**

**Crown Freehouse Stage** – Banjo Day – Phil Burkin, Chris Taylor, The Woodland Creatures, Nyle Holihan, The Allen Family, hosted by Mike Deavin

**11am – 5pm**

**Castle Gardens Main Stage** – Funke & The Two Tone Baby (plus Drumskullz), The Allen Family, Fabulous Fezheads, Sur Les Docks, Green Diesel

**12.30 – 2.30pm**

**The Crown Freehouse** – Border Crossing

**The Eagle Tavern** – Skinners Rats

**Gordon House Hotel** – Green Diesel

**Two Brewers** – The Machine Breakers



**Kings Head** – The Broadside Boys

**Good Intent** – Singaround

**Singapura Lounge** – Ian Petrie Band

**1 – 3pm**

**Ye Arrow** – Cajun Dawgs

**2 – 4pm**

**Man of Kent Alehouse** – J.D. & The Longfellows

**Oliver's Bar & Restaurant** – Celtic Capers

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

**2.30pm**

**Coopers Arms** – Drumskullz

**2.30 - 4.30pm**

**The King's School Hall** – Concert with The Flowing

A free seated concert with one of Medway's most innovative groups. Thanks to the King's School for providing the venue.

**3 – 5pm**

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

**Gordon House Hotel** – McManigan Academy of Irish Dancers followed by Tanglefoot Appalachian

**4 – 6pm**

**Eagle Tavern** – Thee Waltons

**Ye Arrow** – Captain Patch & The Mermaid Mollies

**King's Head** – Fiddlefit

**Prince of Wales, Strood** – The Broadside Boys



5 – 7pm

**Oliver's Bar & Restaurant** – Funke & The Two Tone Baby (plus Drumskullz)

**Good Intent** – Shanty session with The Hog Eye Men

6 – 8pm

**The Crown Freehouse** – Celtic Capers

8 – 11pm

**Coopers Arms** – Playalong session with P.J. plus All The King's Daughters

8 – 11.30pm

**Gordon House Hotel** – Cajun Dawgs, Sur Les Docks

8.45 – 11pm

**Man of Kent Alehouse** – The Machine Breakers

**Prince of Wales, Strood** – Captain Patch & The Mermaid Mollies

**Good Intent** – Singaround

**Two Brewers** – Ian Petrie Band

**Singapura Lounge** – J.D. & The Longfellows

## Sunday, 3 May

10am – 5pm

**Boley Hill Stage**

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

10am – 5pm

**Old Post Office Stage**

Buskers' Corner - hosted by Fred Clark

10.30am – 1pm and 2.45pm

**Castle Moat** – Ceilidh for kids and grown ups – Simon Care's band and caller take you through some favourite barn dances

**New**



11.40am, 2pm and 4pm

**New**

**Castle Moat** – Troupe Storytelling present: The Dead Moon – a fantastic amalgamation of story and song with dance and puppetry for adults and children alike

11am – 5pm

**Crown Freehouse Stage**

Folk Club Day - Arcelia, The Machine Breakers, Kyle Taylor, All The King's Daughters, John Forrester, Tombstone Liquor, hosted by Mike Deavin

11am – 5pm

**Castle Gardens Festival Main Stage**

Larkspur, Hot Rats, Fabulous Fezheads, We Ghosts, Seagulls Are Drunk

12.30 – 2.30pm

**The Crown Freehouse** – Skinners Rats

**The Eagle Tavern** – Sur Les Docks

**Two Brewers** – Tombstone Liquor

**Kings Head** – Triality

**Good Intent** – Singaround with Simon Barlow



**12.30 – 2.30pm**

**Singapora Lounge** – Rosie Eade Band  
**Gordon House Hotel** – Bounty Hounds

**1 – 3pm**

**Ye Arrow** – Jumbo Gumbo

**2 – 4pm**

**Man of Kent Alehouse** – Hartley Morris Singers  
**Oliver's Bar & Restaurant** – Larkspur

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

**3pm**

**Rochester Library** – The Kaleidoscope Folk Group

**3.30 – 5pm**

**Gordon House Hotel** – Tanglefoot Appalachian

**3 – 5pm**

**Coopers Arms** – Irish Music Session with Chris Taylor

**4 – 6pm**

**Prince of Wales, Strood** – Ukuleles at the Prince  
**The Eagle Tavern** – Triality  
**King's Head** – Celtic Capers  
**Ye Arrow** – Bounty Hounds

**5 – 7pm**

**Oliver's Bar & Restaurant** – Arcelia  
**Good Intent** – Shanty session with The Hog Eye Men

**6 - 8pm**

**The Crown Freehouse** – Missouri Gutts  
**Man of Kent Alehouse** – Folk Showcase with Morrigan (till 7pm)

**6.30pm**

**Good Intent** – Tanglefoot Appalachian

**7.30 – 10pm**

**Coopers Arms** – Play-along session with P.J. and Rosie Eade

**8 – 11.30pm**

**Gordon Hotel** – Hobo Jones & The Junkyard Dogs, Seagulls Are Drunk

**8.45 – 11pm**

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



**Prince of Wales, Strood** – Fiddlefit  
**Good Intent** – Singaround  
**Two Brewers** – We Ghosts  
**Singapura Lounge** – The Flowing

## Monday, 4 May

**10.30am – 5pm**

**Boley Hill** – Songwriters' Den 'On the Road' The best of young talent from Kent hosted by Griff Rising

**10.30am, 1pm and 2.45pm**

**Castle Moat** – Ceilidh for kids and grown ups – Simon Care's band and caller take you through some favourite barn dances

**New**

**11.40am, 2pm and 4pm**

**Castle Moat** – Troupe Storytelling present: *The Dead Moon* – a fantastic amalgamation of story and song with dance and puppetry for adults and children alike

**New**

**10.30am – 5pm**

**Crown Freehouse Stage** – Women Aloud - Fiddlefit, Rosie Eade Band, Tribal Banshees, Sally Ironmonger, Hannah Sanders, Arte Miss, Louise Palmer

**11am – 5pm**

**Old Post Office Stage** – Buskers' Corner, hosted by Fred Clark

**11am – 5pm**

**Blue Boar Lane** – Street Ceilidh with Threepenny Bit

**11am – 5pm**

**Festival Main Stage, Castle Gardens** – Arte Miss, Bounty Hounds, Luke Jackson, Davey Malone & The Longtails, Brides of Rain

**12.30 – 2.30pm**

**The Crown Freehouse** – Greg McDonald

**Eagle Tavern** – The Wax Collector

**Gordon House Hotel** – Hot Rats

**Prince of Wales, Strood** – Skinners Rats

**Man of Kent Alehouse** – Rosie Eade Band

**Two Brewers** – Celtic Capers

**Kings Head** – C.J. & Friends

**Good Intent** – Singaround with Simon Barlow

**Ye Arrow** – Missouri Gutts

**Singapura Lounge** – The Old Country Crows

**Coopers Arms** – Ian Petrie & Sue Hudson

**2 – 4pm**

**Oliver's Bar & Restaurant** – The Broadside Boys

**2.15pm**

**Outside Medway Visitor Information Centre**

Guided walking tour of Rochester led by the City of Rochester Society. Approximately 90 minutes. 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 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 the 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



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



# Rochester Cathedral

## Service times

Sat, 2 May

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

Sun, 3 May

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

Mon, 4 May

7.30am Mattins  
8am Holy Communion  
(Lady Chapel)  
3.15pm Evensong





# Musical biogs

**Seagulls are Drunk** – French band from Reims play a mixture of Celtic and original material.

**All the King's Daughters** – Dutch twin sisters and singer/songwriters, Nina and Laura Phillips from Haarlem.

**Kyle Taylor** – From the East Coast of Australia. Peoples' songs from a travelling man.

**Luke Jackson** – A rising young roots singer/songwriter from Canterbury, Kent, and 2013 saw him nominated for both the Horizon Award for Best Emerging Talent and the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award.



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

**Hot Rats** – Festival hotshots feature Ian Cutler's world class fiddle playing.



**Threepenny Bit** – One of the hits of 2013 and 2014, this busking ceilidh band are of international renown. Join in the fun and dance.

**Hannah Sanders** – Started singing in her teens with her family singers, The Dunns. They travelled the UK and Europe singing and Hannah spent several years working out in the USA as a writer/academic.

**The Allen Family Band** – A bluegrass playing Anglo-American family with amazing talent on a variety of instruments.

**Sur Les Docks** – Perennial festival favourites who have imported Dunkerque folk/rock a la punk and Pogues.

**Simon Care Trio** – One of the best ceilidh bands in the country. Simon is well know for his work with young morris sides and the innovative band Edward II.



# Festival dance list

Morris sides will be performing across the High Street in front of the following locations:

- Boley Hill j/w High Street
- Eastgate house
- George Vaults
- Guildhall forecourt
- Jolly Knight
- La Providence
- St Marys Meadow (War Memorial)
- The Eagle Tavern (Sat and Sun only)
- Thai for two
- Two Brewers
- Visitor Information Centre

Name	Type of dance	County
Baldock Midnight Morris	Cotswold	Hertfordshire
Bishop Gundulf Morris (men)	Longsword	Kent
Bishop Gundulf Morris (women)	North West Clog	Kent
Boxhill Bedlam	Border	Surrey
Brooms Bricks & Bowlers	Border	Kent
Cinque Ports Morris	Cotswold	Kent
Cockleshell Clog	North West Clog	Kent
Dacre Morris	Cotswold	London
Dead Horse & Broom Dashers	Border	Kent
East Kent Morris Men	Cotswold	Kent
The Fabulous Fezheads	Kentish Sandancing	Kent
Gong Scourers	Border	Kent
Green Dragon Morris	Border	Norfolk
Greenwich Morris Men	Cotswold	London





<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of dance</b>	<b>County</b>
Hands Around	Cotswold	Essex
Hertfordshire Holly	North West Clog	Hertfordshire
Hook Eagle Morris Men	Border	Hampshire
Invicta	Cotswold	Kent
Kent Korkers	North West Clog	Kent
Pork Scratchin's	Border/Maypole	Kent
Kits Coty Morris	Cotswold	Kent
Lady Bay Revellers	Cotswold	Nottingham
Loose Women	Border	Kent
Maenads	Border	Kent
Magog	North West Clog	Sussex
Manor Mill Morris	North West	Essex
Marlings Morris	North West Clog	Kent
Maybe Morris	Ubiquitous	W. Sussex
Motley Morris	Border	Kent
Mythago	Border	W. Sussex
New Moon Morris	Borderish	Bedfordshire
Offcumdums	North West Garland	Kent
Old Palace Clog	North West Clog	Surrey
Oojah Kapivvy	Cotswold	E. Sussex
Phoenix Clog	North West/Cotswold	Surrey
Phoenix Morris	Cotswold	Middlesex
Pretty Grim Morris	Border	Suffolk
Priory Morris	Border	Essex
Pump House Clog	North West Clog	Hertfordshire
Royal Liberty Morris	Cotswold/Border	Essex
Screaming Banshees	Gothic Morris	Kent
St Clement Clog	North West Clog	Kent
Spirimawgus	Border	W. Sussex
So Moot It Bee	Broomstick Dance	Kent
The Wild Hunt	Bedlam Border	Surrey
West Hill Morris	Cotswold	Kent
Westrefelda	Cotswold	Nottinghamshire
Witchmen	Border	Northants
Wolfshead & Vixen	Gothic Border	Kent

# 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)

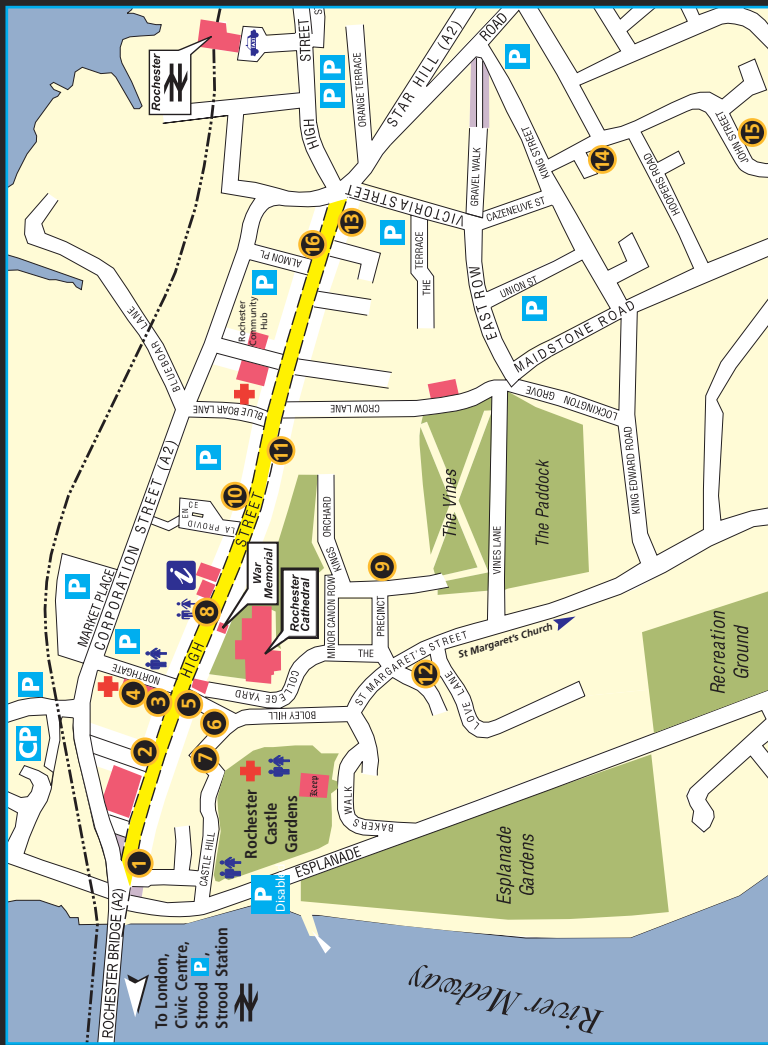
## Car and coach parking

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. 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 or speak to an event steward.

95 High Street, Rochester, Kent  
ME1 1LX  
Phone: **01634 338141**  
Email: [visitorcentre@medway.gov.uk](mailto:visitorcentre@medway.gov.uk)



1 The Crown Freehouse and stage	4 Corn Exchange	9 Kings' School hall	14 Man of Kent
2 Guildhall Museum Forecourt	5 Kings Head	10 Two Brewers	15 Good Intent
3 Singapura Lounge Bar	6 Ye Arrow	11 Eagle Tavern	16 Old Post Office stage
	7 Boley Hill stage	12 Coopers Arms	
	8 Gordon House Hotel	13 Oliver's	

**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.