



Spring 2025 • Issue 70

Maritime Messenger

New SMIRA Director

Latest adventures from Steve Craddock

Community Outreach

Food & Drink Festival

Watersports activities

Community Centre 20th anniversary
celebrations



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Dear Reader,

It has been an extremely busy few months and it is difficult to know where to start!

I would like to welcome Siobhan Draper as our new board member and SMIRA representative. Siobhan brings a wealth of experience to the board, and I look forward to working with her.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the St Marys Island community centre. This is a significant milestone and one we want to celebrate. The community centre provides a focal point for the island and offers a much-needed community benefit, which is used by many clubs, societies and individuals. Vanessa and Emma are planning a series of events, celebrations and activities and we invite you to participate.

The Trust is investing further in the watersports centre, to enhance the community offering. In addition to the sailing, paddleboarding, windsurfing, kayaking and pedalos, open water swimming is now available so why not meet other like-minded souls on the water!

We are installing an inflatable assault course in late May. This is a significant and exciting addition to our offering at the centre and will be available throughout the summer.

We are investing further in the landscaping across the whole estate. The Trust conducted a thorough and detailed tender exercise with several contractors, and I am pleased to say we will be continuing our relationship with Gavin Jones (Nurture Landscapes). The team will be wearing branded clothing featuring the Trust logo so please say hello if you see them. We believe the sense of ownership should extend beyond the team to all our suppliers and contractors.

The Trust is busy recruiting for new personnel. The watersports centre is looking for new lifeguards and instructors; seasonal and permanent. We are also recruiting for a new Estates Surveyor following the promotion of Grant Leathwhite to Operations Manager. We will always maintain a lean and cost effective 'home team' however, I am pleased that we are now developing a strong succession plan that looks further ahead.

IN BRIEF

I participated recently in the Great Tommy Sleepout for the RBLI. I joined about 80 others at Detling showground to sleep rough for the night in support of homeless veterans. The RBLI do an amazing job at their facility in Aylesford and nationally, and I am delighted to have supported their work.

The Trust community fund supported 17 groups and charities in 2024/25 including Wetwheels, Black Lions Swimming Club and the RBLI and we already have a lot of interest for support in the new financial year.

And finally, I must mention the food and drink festival and the dragon boat racing. With 36 teams taking part this year it promises to be a great event. I am also looking forward to seeing the rescue dogs again on Monday and enjoying the atmosphere of the whole occasion. I hope to see you there!

Thank you for your continued support and please remember the team are always pleased to meet residents in our offices or on the island.

Richard Farrer, CEO

New Director



Siobhan Draper

Siobhan Draper is SMIRA's newly nominated representative on the Chatham Maritime Trust Board of Directors. She brings an in-depth knowledge of Operational Risk, as well as the ability to challenge colleagues on their day-to-day roles, looking at continuous improvement and problem solving,

after a career working for some of the world's leading investment banks - including JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank and UBS. She has also been a Money Laundering Reporting Officer. Siobhan has been the chair of the Board of the Institute of Accountants and Bookkeepers since 2021, and Chair of the Professional Standards Committee since 2020. She is also a Governor of the Elizabeth School of London.

Siobhan has also been a community volunteer since 2015, as well as a presenter in the fields of the UK Court System and Community Relations, regularly presenting in schools, colleges and to adult community groups.

CONTRACTORS WORKING ON SITE

Meet the team



We have recently retendered our soft landscaping services and **Gavin Jones**, who have been our team on site for the last ten years, have just secured another 3-year contract. We are delighted that we will continue to work with them and have increased the size of the team to continuously improve on what they deliver. A couple of new faces have joined the long-standing team recently so do say hello if you come across them on site.

Jascom have looked after our electrical requirements on site for over 2 decades and continue to provide us with a very friendly and professional service. Over the next 5 years they will be replacing all of our street lighting on the estate south of basins. They are also integral in working in partnership with us to reduce our carbon footprint on site.



Malcolm Isles is our general maintenance contractor and has worked with us for over 10 years. As well as working in partnership with Chatham Maritime Trust, Malcolm also works with some of the businesses and residents on the estate.

WHO'S WHO AT THE TRUST



RICHARD FARRER

Richard Farrer is the CEO.

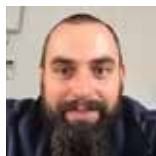
01634 793944 | ceo@cmtrust.co.uk



GRANT LEATHWHITE

Grant is Operations Manager, he manages the contractors on site and continues to be the main point of contact for St. Mary's residents dealing with covenants, consents and re-mortgages.

01634 793943/07867 507187
grantleathwhite@cmtrust.co.uk



MATT SMALL

Matt is Chief of Watersports for the Watersports Centre at Basin 2.

01634 891960 / 07538 964335 | wac@cmtrust.co.uk



ELONA WALKER

Elona is the Trust Administrator/PA to Chief Executive focusing on supporting the CEO and Trustees. She is also responsible for administering the Community Fund and compiling the Trust's newsletters.

01634 793945 | elonawalker@cmtrust.co.uk



JOANNE TERRY

Joanne is the Finance Manager and Company Secretary responsible for managing the Trust's finance function and related professional services such as banking and audit.

01634 793944 | joanneterry@cmtrust.co.uk



LYNSEY KEMBER

Lynsey is the Finance Assistant, and a member of the AAT. She is responsible for collecting rentcharge payments, credit control and payroll.

01634 793946 | lynseykember@cmtrust.co.uk



KAROLINA SZYMANCZUK

Karolina is the Estates & Facilities Assistant and provides a visual presence across the estate.

07787 292088 | karolinaszymanczuk@cmtrust.co.uk



VANESSA JARMAK

Is the Community Centre Manager. Vanessa oversees hiring of the facility along with day-to-day operations with Emma.

01634 890072 | vanessajarmak@cmtrust.co.uk



EMMA BROOKS

Is a Community Centre Administrator. Emma works closely with Vanessa assisting in all aspects of hiring the facility.

01634 890072 | emmabrooks@cmtrust.co.uk

At Chatham Maritime Trust we pride ourselves in:

- Acting with integrity
- Always providing a high standard of service
- Treating others with respect
- Behaving ethically

Live



THE GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT

SURVIVING A NIGHT IN THE TRENCHES AT DETLING SHOWGROUND



The event raised more than **80k**

Chatham Maritime Trust's CEO, Richard Farrer, participated in The Great Tommy Sleepout in March, raising funds for veterans across the UK.

Sleeping out beneath the stars in the trenches at Detling showground doesn't replicate rough sleeping, but it does give an idea of the situation far too many of the nation's heroes find themselves in. Every pound raised from The Great Tommy Sleep Out helps UK veterans by allowing the RBLI to provide safe homes and the support they need to get back on their feet.

Richard's accommodation comprised of a tarpaulin sheet and some cardboard, together with a few convenient tree branches



80 BRAVE PARTICIPANTS

About 80 participants braved the event, which included a sandbag wall building competition, a history lecture on the first world war and a curry prepared by the Gurkhas which was reported to be delicious. The Chairman of the RBLI gave a speech and CMT was given special mention for our recent sponsorship of new gym equipment. In addition, there was a very moving speech from a female army veteran who had suffered PTSD following tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans and had become homeless as a result of her poor health. She is now living at the facility in Aylesford and will be using the gym equipment we have sponsored. Richard slept remarkably well and woke at 5am to the smell of breakfast!

The event raised more than £80K which will support RBLI's mission to transform lives across the UK, providing homes, employment and welfare support for some of the country's most vulnerable veterans.

HOME TO THE TOMMY

At RBLI, they support over 340 veterans and their families, including those facing homelessness, young veteran families and older veterans with health conditions and they are home to the Tommy. They provide emergency accommodation, essential toiletries, clothing and comprehensive mental health and employment support. Their aim is to be a lifeline, preserving the well-being and dignity of these individuals and their families.

In 2024 CMT visited their site in Aylesford and was most impressed with their operations that delivers 'social value' through the employment of veterans and people with disabilities. They provide high-quality products at competitive prices and as such CMT are now one of their customers!



Work

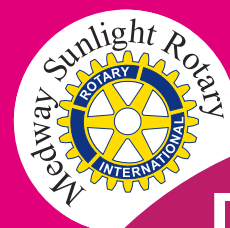


Food & Drink Festival 2025

CHATHAM MARITIME TRUST & WATERSPORTS CENTRE

The 3-day Chatham Maritime Food & Drink Festival is a FREE event held alongside Basin 2 at Chatham Maritime.

**Saturday 24th May to
Bank Holiday Monday
26th May**



This is a FREE festival for the whole family to enjoy with music and entertainment plus a great range of food and drink plus watersports, kids' activities and a funfair.

Dragon Boat Challenge

The Dragon Boat Challenge, organised by **Medway Sunlight Rotary Club**, is the highlight of the festival on the Sunday which takes place in Basin 2 alongside **HMS Chatham Bridge**. It's a lot of fun for those participating and a great spectacle for visitors cheering on their favourite team from the basin edge.

Pay & Play Sessions

Chatham Maritime Watersports Centre will also be open on the Saturday and Monday for pay and play sessions so a good opportunity to try something new.

**FREE
Event**



**Newfoundland
dog displays**
Monday Basin 2

Over the three days there is a varied line-up of music that will take place at the bandstand – live jazz, folk, indie, rock and pop. Musicians will perform for 45 minutes. Musicians are booked to appear on event days but line-ups are subject to change. All details are on [CMT's website](#).

The Newfoundland dogs proved so popular last year that they will be making a return visit to the festival on the Monday.

**3
DAYS**

& FREE FESTIVAL

All the ingredients for a great day out – let's hope the sun shines!

& FREE FESTIVAL

Play

PAY&PLAY

Our by the hour self-led kayak, paddleboard, windsurf or sailing sessions, using our equipment, kayaking and paddleboarding suitable for beginners, sailing and windsurfing requires a minimum competency.



COURSES

Learn to sail in one of our RS dinghies, kayak in one of our New Wavesports Ethos or paddleboard on one of our Inflatable starboard SUPs.

SELF-LAUNCH

Bring your own Kayak, paddleboard, or windsurfer/wingSUP.



WATERSPORTS

Lots of options to choose from, we even cater for schools & groups

If you haven't done so already it's time to dust off the wetsuit, swimming shorts/suit.

Visit chathammaritimewatersports.co.uk hit **Book Now** and select your next adventure!

ONBOARD CLUB

Weekly (Saturday 9-11am) grass roots bite size way for young people to learn to sail or improve their sailing ability.

ADVENTURE DAYS

Our holiday programme which consists of a full day of fun packed watersports activities for 10-17 year olds.

PEDALO HIRE

Come and explore the basin from the water in relatively dry, ideal for a family of 5 (ages 5+) or 4 adults...

SWIMMING

Complete an induction with one of our level 2 swim coaches and then visit by the hour swimming our 300 or 600m course in 'excellent' bathing quality saltwater under the watchful eye of our safety boat.

COMING AQUAPARK SOON

The All new for 2025 is the addition of an Aquapark to our Urban Playground! Come and challenge yourself, with obstacles, climbing frames and slides. If this new fun and exciting addition doesn't make you want to come and make a splash, nothing will!



Hope to see you soon, if you have any questions text or call 07538 964335 or send us an email wac@cmtrust.co.uk

Did you know?

If you are an SMI resident you can get a

10% discount*
*T&Cs apply

The heating has been on, and the water is warming up nicely there really is no excuse!

We have everything from guaranteed wet, likely to get wet, may get wet all the way to how did you get wet on a pedalo?

Whether you're looking to swim, kayak, paddleboard, sail, windsurf, swan around in a pedalo or come and make a splash on our all new Aquapark basin 2 has a water activity for you.



**Don't let this year ebb away without setting sail @chathammaritime!
Visit by yourself with a friend or why not send the kids or grandkids.**

Play



The Community Centre has been celebrating it's 20th Year, from Dec'24 through '25.

The Centre formally opened it's doors on 11th December 2004, and was originally managed by Moat Housing.

CMT took over the management from 2012 and set about to evolve further it's place at the heart of the community on St. Mary's Island, on the Chatham Maritime Estate.

Indeed it's 20 year success is testament to the 100's of weekly visitors through its doors, not just local visitors but far and wide. SMICC prides itself as being a modern, sustainable, well maintained and managed flagship venue of its kind. It hosts a full weekly calendar of varying activities to appeal to all age groups, from babies through to retirement and everything in between. Some of our regular hirers have been using the centre for over 16 years!

The venue is in demand for regular hire, private functions, family celebrations and fundraising.

The Centre hosts a successful annual Xmas Fair, very much a community day which boasts many visitors, whilst also using the occasion to support many local charities.

The centre supports the Medway Sunlight Rotary group in it's events and fundraising, along with many other local causes, The Salvation Army, Medway Food Bank, MacMillan etc. to name a few.

CMT and the community centre also support the hugely popular SMI Castaways Youth Club.

We are proud of how far we've come... And what's been achieved in 20 Years.

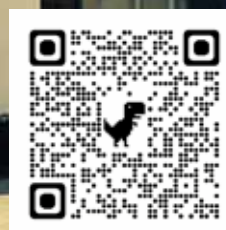
We are celebrating this milestone occasion, through 2025 in a variety of ways.

Photo Competition in March/April, images to be displayed through the centre. Testamonies and sharing of memories. Thank you celebration to our regular hirers. Summer activity on the Island, finishing with tombolas and prizes at our annual Xmas Fair.

Some of the charities we've supported:



Keep watch on our Facebook and website for further information.



Live

SMI RESIDENT

Steve Craddock's adventures continue...



Steve Craddock on his bike

“After 17 years and over **£500,000 raised for Help for Heroes**, I decided that in 2024 I would raise much needed funds for another charity close to my heart, **The Royal Engineers Association**.

This is a charity based in Gillingham and is dedicated to providing welfare and benevolence support to serving and veteran members of the **Corps of Royal Engineers**, as well as their families, in times of need.



Steve Craddock awarded Veteran of the Year 2024



Team Sapper preparing to depart from the Royal Engineers Museum Gillingham

I set myself a target this year of riding 6000 miles on the bike, this would include all my training which would be needed if I was to be able to complete my two major challenges of the year:

- to cycle 500 miles, from here to Arnhem and back, and
- later in the year a tougher challenge of cycling 350 miles through India from Jaipur, through the Rajasthan desert and finally to the Taj Mahal.

During the year I also staged several other fundraising events such as quizzes and my regular and very popular Gurkha Sunday lunches.

After all the training throughout a miserable winter and spring, it was great to eventually get out on the bike and start the first of my challenges.

Starting from the Royal Engineers Museum, we cycled to Dover to catch the ferry to Dunkirk and the following day, we cycled 70 miles to a small Dutch town called IJzendijke, pronounced Izandike. Here we held a commemoration and laid wreaths to remember the 25 Soldiers both British and Canadian who were killed when a massive stockpile of Nitroglycerin accidentally exploded causing devastation over a wide area. We were joined by many of the local people at the war memorial and held a service of commemoration, which was very moving.

From there we cycled to a small town called Lommel, and the point where Soldiers from 30 Corps would start their advance in an attempt to punch through to bridges over the Rhine at Arnhem

and to relieve the Airborne troops who had already landed, and without support the whole operation would fail. After Lommel we followed the exact route that 30 Corps took cycling to Eindhoven to Nijmegen and eventually Arnhem. We spent a few days in Arnhem where we once again held a commemoration and laid a wreath in remembrance of all who died on that ill-fated operation.

We then had a change of plan, instead of cycling back to Gillingham, we decide to cycle to the battlefield of Waterloo and to then cycle all the way to Ypres, where we would finish the ride as we cycled under the Menin Gate. That gave us a total mileage of 522 miles and I thought a fitting finish to what had been a pretty tough ride. Since inception this ride has raised almost £70,000 for charity.



Celebrating 300 miles cycling after arrival in Arnhem

Cycling to Arnhem

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Arnhem Airborne Landings



Memorial at Driel

In September, I staged my 7th annual cycling event, Cycle4Heroes

This ride raised almost 70k

Since inception this ride has raised almost £70,000 for charity. This year numbers were down but still 50 cyclists enjoyed cycling 50 miles through the North Kent countryside raising much needed funds for the Royal Engineers Association.



Memorial at IJzendijke



Taj Mahal at Agra

Cycling in Rajasthan



Villages in traditional dress in Rajasthan desert



In November, I was delighted to escape the winter weather and along with a few pals, we flew out to India to take part in our cycle ride through the Rajasthan desert.

On our first day we met our local guides and were given a brief description of the route and then collected the bikes ready for an early start the next morning.

India offers a broad diversity of landscapes, people and wildlife, with an incredible mix of colourful cultures and a sense of history at every turn.

We cycled the desert state of Rajasthan, India's largest state, where our exciting ride took us to maharajah's palaces – two of which we stayed in overnight. Trip highlights included the Pink City of Jaipur (recently awarded UNESCO World Heritage status), Ranthambore National Park, and the old

abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri. We then celebrated our achievements at India's most iconic monument, the graceful Taj Mahal.

The heat can make this a demanding trip, but there were plenty of rewards for our efforts along the way! This was a truly unforgettable experience as we combined some challenging cycling with some of the best sights the area has to offer.

On my return from India, I was surprised and delighted to learn that I had been invited to a dinner staged by East Kent Mind charity. This was the Annual Kent Mental Wellbeing awards dinner that showcases the people, organisations and initiatives that help us cope with life. I was honoured to be awarded the Kent Veteran of the year. The award was presented by the Lord Lieutenant Lady Colgrain and also by Hari Budha Magar, a former Gurkha soldier and the first above knee double amputee to climb Everest.

Steve grinning knowing that he doesn't have to get on the bike again!



This year I am raising funds for **Scotty's Little Soldiers** a charity whose aims are to provide support to children and young people who have lost a parent in war or whilst serving in our Armed Forces.

My challenges this year are to ride 350 miles through Normandy, once again stage **Cycle4Heroes**, Ride the Great North Bike ride, and in November cycle another 350 miles through Cambodia.



Live

Universities at Medway

Universities at Medway is a unique partnership which has brought together the University of Greenwich, the University of Kent, and Canterbury Christ Church University on a shared campus at Chatham Maritime.

Each institution offers its own range of courses, both full and part-time, drawing on its own individual academic strengths, and has its own buildings. By being on a shared campus, students have access to a wide range of first-class facilities.

The University of Greenwich campus has a rich naval history; its red-brick buildings formed part of the Royal Navy base.

Students benefit from excellent study facilities. The Drill Hall Library is an outstanding learning resource centre which has over 150,000 books. The building was constructed in 1897 and was originally intended as a training space for Navy personnel. SEEDA (the government agency that preceded HCA and Homes & Communities Agency) spent £3M on the refurbishment of the building restoring it to its original glory. It was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. David Miliband on the 13th February 2006. The building is 18 metres long and is thought to be the longest library in Europe and contains 2.7 miles of bookshelves. It featured in the 1999 film *The Mummy*. It is an iconic scene where Rachel Weisz loses her balance and sends all the bookshelves tumbling over in a domino effect.

The Student Hub called The Deep End is a social space and students have the opportunity to join a range of clubs and societies.

A short stroll from the campus is the Historic Dockyard, Fort Amherst, Dockside Shopping Outlet Centre and a multi-screen cinema, restaurants and bars. You can also find Chatham Maritime Watersports Centre offering a range of watersports activities in Basin 2, Chimera Climbing Centre, gyms and nearby is Medway Park offering sports facilities.



Study



Work has recently started on the redevelopment of the **Old Police House** in the Historic Dockyard. Back in February the team from Chatham Maritime Trust were fortunate enough to have a look around the building before any major development begins. It was fascinating to see some of the original features. An old bible was found in the building.



The ground-breaking project is led by the University of Kent's Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries, in partnership with the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and Medway Council. It will convert the Grade II listed Scheduled Ancient Monument and construct a new building in its grounds. The new buildings will house a suite of commercial digital production studios for industry use, a café, gallery and exhibition spaces, plus teaching areas and facilities to support digital and creative start-ups and local creative industries.

Professor **Catherine Richardson**, Director of the Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries, said: "We're so excited to have reached this stage—working with our partners, it allows us to get started on the build now to make a real difference to Medway. Docking Station will provide new ways for young people to gain digital skills, create rewarding jobs in high-value creative and cultural sectors and be a space for the University, community and industry to come together to explore new technologies."

Multi-award-winning architects **Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios** are leading the design of the ambitious project. Luke Gilbert, Associate at Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, said: "Our refurbishment of the former Police Section House will restore the local landmark and open up the building to the public for the first time, providing amenities for the community and an opportunity to experience immersive performances and world-leading motion capture technology, first-hand in ways that reference the dockyard's industrial heritage."

Cllr Nina Gurung, Portfolio Holder for Heritage Culture and Leisure at Medway Council says: "We are delighted that the ground-breaking for the Docking Station brings us one step closer to the great range of wonderful opportunities this exciting project will bring to Medway's young people and residents. We believe in honing and retaining local talent and this is a splendid opportunity to bring forward the investment needed to provide access to some exciting education, skills and career pathways in the creative digital industries, one of the fastest-growing sectors in the UK. It will also broaden the opportunity for all Medway residents to participate in cultural and creative activities. The Docking Station project has been a fantastic example of excellent partnership working between the University of Kent's ICCI, The Historic Dockyard Chatham and Medway Council building on the One Medway Charter signed by us all in 2023 and advances our shared ambitions."

Richard Morsley, CEO of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust says: "The start of work on Docking Station marks a significant milestone and will further enhance the vibrant cultural cluster located around The Historic Dockyard. Docking Station reinforces our commitment to preservation through re-use, and is a powerful example of how we combine preservation with innovation, ensuring The Historic Dockyard is safeguarded for future generations."

The Docking Station Project

The Docking Station project is supported by **Arts Council England's Cultural Development Fund** (investment from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) and **Levelling Up Fund** (investment from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities) as well as the **National Lottery Heritage Fund** and **Creative Estuary**.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Chatham Maritime Trust continues to fund community projects in Medway that align with the Trust's charitable objectives and demonstrate community benefit and sustainability. In 2024 we supported a variety of **17 projects** – the more recent being the following:



Insight Day

Back in November CMT hosted an Insight Day with students and their coaches. The team from CMT spoke about their career paths and the students got involved in making suggestions how to improve the offering in the local area in terms of facilities and presenting a visual display as to how to make Chatham Maritime more of a destination.

CMT continues to support young people by hosting a number of work experience students. Students from Chatham Grammar School, Fort Pitt Grammar School and Hundred of Hoo Academy will join us over the coming months. We will also be joined by a University student from May to September to work on a wayfinding project.

Later in the year we will also be taking on a finance apprentice to work with the Jo (Finance Manager) and Lynsey (Finance Assistant).



Music4Wellbeing

Support was given for musical workshops for those living with Dementia and Parkinsons and other neurodegenerative conditions. The workshops improve mental and physical health, social connections and provides a sense of meaning, builds self-confidence and achievement. They also provide a greater understanding of those living with such conditions. The UK Government and World Health Organisation recognise the benefits that music and art play in helping address complex problems and maintaining good health and wellbeing.

RNLI Museum

CMT was presented with a plaque from the RNLI Museum in recognition of our support for the provision of branded workwear for the volunteers at the museum in 2024. A corporate image gives the team a sense of identity and pride creating an image of trust and reliability as well as inspiring confidence



The plaque is now displayed in CMT's meeting room



RNLI team at CHDT

Medway Sunlight Rotary Club

Funds were given to provide funding towards replacing a fume cupboard (captures and removes hazardous substances released during laboratory experiments such as gases, vapours and dust) in the science room at Rivermead Community (Special Needs) school. Their existing furniture was not fit for purpose and was a potential safety hazard. The new cupboard would provide a safe environment complying with relevant standards/guidelines and will enable a wider range of experiments to be conducted as well as a fostering greater interest in STEM subjects.



Rivermead is a community special school and is part of the Rivermead Inclusive Trust. The school is for young people aged 11 to 19 years with a range of complex needs. Its specialism is in Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Asperger's Syndrome.

CHATHAM MARITIME TRUST INSIGHT DAY 13/11/2024

"Today was such a great experience to meet new people and see a new area of Chatham I never knew was there. It was a lovely place to go and walk around if people are interested in boats, shopping, cinema and restaurants many of them about a place would be good if you are looking for a place to live as it's got plenty of beautiful new built houses and flats."

Putting this type of information online as there company or business would be a good way to get people in and encourage them to tell people and more people about it to show it's a worthy place to visit or live.

It's lovely hearing other people's opinions on what they think of the area as for some it could be good and some may not enjoy as much just due to personal preferences.

**CHATHAM MARITIME TRUST INSIGHT DAY
13/11/2024**

Hosted at Chatham Maritime Trust

- 7 Young people attended from Kent, Medway, Margate and Maidstone.
- 3 Volunteers from Chatham Maritime Trust
- We learnt about the history of Chatham Maritime and behind the scenes of how it runs and the area
- Different career journeys of the volunteers
- Visited the Water sports centre
- Created Visuals - Visit Chatham Maritime

Thank you for your support!

Reflection

Idea for improvement:

- More interactive parts

Star rating

★★★★★

Think Forward

Best part of the event:

- Hearing about Elena, Dean and Richard's Careers
- The tour
- Loved the view of the Marina
- Actually wanting to hear what we think as young people

"Was lovely being asked my opinion on how to help promote the place. Made me feel seen"

Wetwheels South East

CMT is delighted to fund a return visit by Wetwheels again this year – not one but twice!

Last year 130 people benefitted from funding provided by CMT to participate in this unique opportunity including 62 disabled people from organisations – Club AUsome, Harris Community, Aztec Day Services and Whizz-Kidz. They all returned with a smile on their faces after such an amazing experience!

There are two visits planned – one at the end of May and the other in September. They will be providing excursions along the River Medway and a visit to the Maunsell Forts. These trips are always well received by the local community and in some instances change lives.



Work

The main aim of Wetwheels is to offer barrier-free boating to all. It means leaving the disability at the dockside!

A **Wetwheels experience** is about driving the boat, being part of the crew, learning about how the boat works all tailored to the participants abilities. To really get involved in the whole experience, rather than just having a 'boat ride'. A unique experience with memories to treasure for a lifetime.

If you know of any groups, carers, or participants who may benefit from joining one of their excursions then get in touch with them directly on: info@wetwheelssoutheast.co.uk

CMT is delighted to welcome the return of Wetwheels in 2025 from the **9th to the 11th May** and again from **18th to 21st September** offering two excursions – one on the River Medway and the other out to the Maunsell Forts.

For details of these go to their website:

<https://wetwheelsfoundation.org/experiences/chatham-river-experience/>
<https://wetwheelsfoundation.org/experiences/maunsell-forts-from-chatham/>

At the end of 2024 two Wetwheels' Directors – Sam Taylor-Nobbs and James Dunn were awarded the **Freedom of the City of London**.

This special honour was presented by the Lord Mayor of London, Michael Mainelli, back in October 2024, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to inclusive and accessible boating.

This recognition follows the remarkable success of **Finishing The Dream**, the inspiring journey where Sam and James supported Geoff Holt MBE in his mission to circumnavigate Britain aboard Wetwheels – the first accessible powerboat in the Wetwheel's fleet. Their dedication to this adventure helped bring barrier-free boating into the spotlight, opening up life-changing opportunities on the water for people with disabilities.

The Freedom of the City of London is one of the city's oldest and most meaningful awards, dating back to the 13th century. It celebrates individuals who've made a significant difference to their communities.



Sam Taylor Nobbs with Mayor of London

"It's a huge honour and truly humbling. This award shines a light on the importance of inclusivity in boating and what can be achieved when barriers are removed."

Sam Taylor-Nobbs



James & Elspeth at awards ceremony

"Working on Finishing The Dream was something we'll never forget. It's been amazing to be part of a project that empowers and inspires so many people."

James Dunn

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



James & Sam at Awards Event

Congratulations to both and so well deserved!



DIARY DATES



Kids go FREE

Live



Food & Drink Festival

FREE Event

2025

MAY

CHATHAM MARITIME FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL
24th to 26th May

This takes place over 3 days at Chatham Maritime adjacent to the dock basins. The highlight of the weekend is the popular **Dragonboat Challenge** on the Sunday – a great spectacle for visitors and a lot of fun for those participating. There will be food and drink stalls, live music at the bandstand in Dock Square, funfair, children's entertainment and more. **This is a FREE event.**

FORT AMHERST – 4 PAWS AT THE FORT RETURNS AGAIN
24th and 25th May

Two fun packed days dedicated to our four-legged friends. Exhibitions, stalls, fun competitions and activities. Event open from 10am to 4pm. Tickets can be purchased via Fort Amherst's website: Adults £7. **This year kids go FREE.**

Ticket price includes entry into their fun dog competitions, Bubble Dog Disco, Doggy Ball and Water Pits. With lots of stalls and activities, a fun day out for all the family.

<https://fortamherst.com/4-paws-at-the-fort>



DIARY DATES



FREE Event

JUNE

BROADSIDE GAMES SHOW AT MEDWAY PARK

Saturday 14th June

A tabletop gaming convention, featuring display games, public participation areas, trade stands and photo opportunities. Families are welcome, under 16's enter free with a paying adult!

ARMED FORCES DAY

28th June

This annual event at the Historic Dockyard, in partnership with Medway Council is an opportunity to show support for all those who have served in the Armed Forces, including current personnel, their families, cadets, and veterans.

On the day, you can enjoy colourful military parades, displays, bands and singers as we come together to celebrate the bravery of those who have answered the call of duty. Prepare to be captivated by a range of immersive experiences – from military displays to musical performances.

This is a **FREE event** but tickets for Armed Forces Day 2025 will be available from 27 May 2025 via the Historic Dockyard website. Annual admission tickets are not valid for this event. The event begins at 10am, with a packed programme of military parades, displays, bands and family activities. A highlight of the event will be a formal parade at 12pm, followed by a Drum Head service, and the Beating Retreat finale at 4.30pm.

MIDSUMMER NIGHTMARE (DREAM)

Sunday 15th June

Performed by Midnight Circle in Fort Amherst's Spur Battery Amphitheatre on starting at 4 pm. A gothic take on Shakespeare's tale.

<https://fortamherst.com/midsummer-nightmare>



JULY

CHATHAM CARNIVAL

Saturday 5th July

An event rooted in and organised by the Chatham community. This takes place in Chatham High Street and in Pentagon Centre Chatham and includes exhibitions, demonstrations, live music and stalls. **This is a FREE event.**

MEDWAY OPEN STUDIOS

Throughout July

Medway Open Studios (MOSAF) is a great opportunity for the public to visit local studios showcasing all art forms including crafts, visual and performing arts.

Held in July each year, the festival can be approached as an arts trail, with many studios grouped together within walking distance and a prize draw for visitors who collect the signatures of studios they visit in the festival brochure.

MOSAF is run by a small team of Medway based creatives – Heather Burgess (founder), Xtina Lamb and Wendy Daws.

<https://medwayopenstudios.org>

DIVORCED, BEHEADED AND DIED AT FORT AMHERST

18th and 19th July

<https://fortamherst.com/divorced-beheaded-died-1>

TWELFTH NIGHT BY CHANGELING THEATRE AT FORT AMHERST

25th July

<https://changeling-theatre.com/production/twelfthnight-25/>

FORT AMHERST – SUMMER PROMS CONCERTS

21st July to 1st September

As this publication is being prepared the dates and line up of musicians have yet to be announced. Details to be published in the Friday Flyer and on the what's on page of our website when announced. Enjoy live music on a Sunday afternoon in the amphitheatre from 2pm.



FREE Event

AUGUST

STICKS 'N' STONES FESTIVAL

30th August

The festival at the University of Greenwich is all about positive energy, community wellbeing and social prescribing. There will be live music and performances, sports, wellbeing activities, creative workshops and more. The event is organised by the Paramount Foundation and partnered with a variety of charities, groups and local organisations to provide people with tools and the knowledge to develop their wellbeing, healthy living, mindfulness and have a lot of fun whilst discovering new things.



SEPTEMBER

FINAL SALUTE TO THE 40S

20th & 21st September

The most spectacular vintage festival of the year and a great family event at the Historic Dockyard Chatham. Experience dazzling entertainment that will transport you back to the vibrant 1940s. A great vintage festival – a weekend filled with nostalgia, live music, vintage vehicles, re-enactments, wartime displays and much more. Tickets via the Historic Dockyard website.

OCTOBER

MEDWAY FUN PALACE

Takes place in October

A **FREE day of art and science** for all ages, from 10am to 4pm. Events and workshops are held in accessible spaces such as libraries, cafes, parks, shopping centres etc. This event is open to everyone with various displays and attractions challenging your perception of reality. It is a platform for pioneering art that blurs the worlds of technology, performance and place.

FREE Event

Live

Live

Useful Contact Numbers

Chatham Maritime Trust	01634 891888
🐦 @CMTrust	
📌 Chatham-Maritime-Trust-240934882728615	
Security	01634 890292
Community Centre	01634 890072
Watersports Centre	07538 964335
✉️ wac@cmtrust.co.uk	
Chatham Maritime Car Park (Dockside Outlet Centre)	
🌐 www.cmcarpark.co.uk ✉️ info@cmcarpark.co.uk	
Doctor's Surgery	01634 890712
Pharmacy	01634 891207
St. Mary's Island School:	01634 891050
🌐 www.st-marys-island-cofe-primary-school.co.uk	
Dockside Day Nursery & Pre-School	01634 258235
Fen Pest Control	01580 754839
Odeon Filmline	0871 2244607
St Mary's Island Church	
🌐 www.stmarysislandchurch.com	
SMI Residents Association (SMIRA)	
✉️ admin@smira.info www.smira.info	
📌 St. Mary's Island Residents Association Official Group	
Vistry Customer Services	01474 618222
✉️ cs.kent@vistry.co.uk	
Chatham Historic Dockyard	01634 823800
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Cllr Habib Tejan	07985 169598 / 01634 891046
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Kent Police Emergency	999
Non-emergency	101
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Anti-Terrorist Number	0800 789321
PCSO 56208 Angela Saunders	
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Medway Council	01634 306000
Medway Council Specialist Teams:	
• Waste & Contract Monitoring (waste@medway.gov.uk)	
• Engagement (eet@medway.gov.uk)	
• Enforcement (environmental.enforcement@medway.gov.uk)	
• Animal Wardens (animal.wardens@medway.gov.uk)	
MC Emergency (out of hours service)	01634 304400
Environment Agency Hotline	0800 807 060

🌐 www.cmtrust.co.uk

Chatham Maritime Trust
Maritime Wharf, St. Mary's Island
Chatham ME4 3ES

Maritime Messenger is published by: **Chatham Maritime Trust**

☎ 01634 891888, ✉ info@cmtrust.co.uk

Regular news updates are posted on the 'News' section of the Trust's website and the 'What's On' section details events in the area and beyond.

If you wish to be kept informed of what is going on across the estate (maintenance, events, lectures, roadworks etc.) and in the vicinity then sign up to the weekly e-publication the 'Friday Flyer' via the website or send your details to info@cmtrust.co.uk



**Chatham
Maritime
Trust**

Charity No. 1055710