



Winter 2024 • Issue 69

Maritime Messenger



SMI Development Complete

Community Outreach

CMT Team Building Events

Jellyfish in Basin 2

Work Experience Student

Diary Dates



Live

Work

Study

Play



It has been an exciting summer for the Trust with lots of activity on and off the water.

The food and drink festival in May attracted over 55,000 visitors and since then we have had our first duathlon at the Watersports Centre organised by Medway Tri, a visit from the NAO Victoria; a replica of one of Magellan's fleet that circumnavigated the world and a very successful partnership with Wetwheels, supporting local Medway charities with river boat trips for differently abled and disadvantaged children and adults in Medway.

I am pleased to say that since increasing our community fund budget, we have been able to fund many more projects and engage with different charities and groups in Medway. In particular, we are now able to form partnerships and look at capital projects in addition to the other support we provide on a regular basis.

The Watersports centre goes from strength to strength. Our new online booking system has made the centre more accessible, and we have seen strong growth in bookings and activity. We are fortunate to have excellent bathing quality water and whilst you might see the odd small jellyfish, they are harmless and do not sting!! You will see from our own activity day that the CMT team took advantage of our own facilities and enjoyed a great day on the water!

Chatham Maritime is a great destination with so much to do and see and I feel this is often overlooked. There are sporting activities,

museums and visitor attractions all within walking distance, as well as quiet places, parks and a river walk to enjoy. CMT will invest over the medium term as part of the destination theme, alongside Medway Council and other local stakeholders.

You will see work taking place at some of our buildings over the autumn, as we look to improve our energy efficiency and ESG credentials. After a good deal of research CMT will be investing in solar panels in appropriate locations, along similar lines to those already working at our main office.

I am pleased to welcome Karolina Szymanczuk to the post of Estates and Facilities Assistant. Karolina has been in post for a little while and you will have seen her out and about on the island and around the wider estate. Karolina strengthens our team and brings a wealth of facilities experience.

As always, if you have questions about the work of the Trust, please make contact and visit us at the office, we are always pleased to meet local residents and businesses. Alternatively we are happy to come to you.

Many thanks
Richard Farrer, CEO

IN BRIEF



Nina Gurung

New Director

NINA GURUNG
Nina Gurung is Medway Council's Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Leisure and a former Mayor of Medway.

During her period as Mayor 2023-24 Nina had a successful year promoting Medway's rich heritage and culture and brought to attention the good works of local organisations whilst promoting Medway as a highly desirable destination in which to live, study, visit and work.

As Ward Councillor for Chatham Central and Brompton, Nina works with her colleagues to make a positive difference to the lives of Ward residents, learning about their needs and advocating and delivering results.

Nina values her role as a hard-working mother, proud Armed Forces family member, compassionate and trusted community leader, responsible trustee for local charities, advisor for Gurkha Nepalese community, friend of local schools and Brompton PACT, published researcher and a robust Child Safeguarding Lead.

In her various roles she has worked in different aspects of the community and we look forward to benefitting from her wealth of experience and insight.

WHO'S WHO AT THE TRUST



RICHARD FARRER
Richard Farrer is the CEO.
01634 793944 | ceo@cmtrust.co.uk



GRANT LEATHWHITE
In his role as Residential Services Officer Grant deals with covenants and consents, re-mortgages and is the main point of contact for St. Mary's Island residents.
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grantleathwhite@cmtrust.co.uk



DEAN MARSH
Dean is the Contracts, Procurement & Facilities Manager, responsible for all aspects of contract procurement and management.
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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.
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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.
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LYNSEY KEMBER
Lynsey is a member of the AAT. She is responsible for collecting rentcharge payments, credit control and payroll.
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VANESSA JARMAK
Is the Community Centre Team Leader. Vanessa oversees hiring of the facility along with day-to-day operations with Emma.
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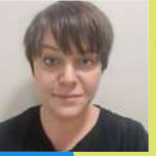
EMMA BROOKS
Is a Community Centre Administrator. Emma works closely with Vanessa assisting in all aspects of hiring the facility.
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KAROLINA SZYMANCZUK
Karolina is the Estates & Facilities Assistant and provides a visual presence across the estate.
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At Chatham Maritime Trust we pride ourselves in:

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



New Staff Members

KAROLINA SZYMANCZUK
Karolina Szymanczuk joined the team in June 2024 as Estates & Facilities Assistant and provides a visual presence across the estate. When not working Karolina enjoys spending time by the water, hiking and long walks with her two dogs. She is also fond of baking and spending time with family and friends.



EMMA BROOKS
Emma has recently joined the team as Community Centre Administrator assisting Vanessa with administration duties at the centre. Emma has 2 children which keep her busy and she also enjoys theatre trips, holidays and spending time with her family.

Work

Moon Jellyfish

they only sting at night... right?



Moon jellyfish are transparent, making them less visible to predators, providing effective camouflage.

The Moon jellyfish (Aurelia Aurita), is the creature most associated with Basin 2, more notorious than the Kraken, yet less harmful than flipper. Have you been put off joining us at the watersports centre by these oddly symmetrical, alien looking creatures of the deep?

Be scared no more, come along get afloat and maybe even dare to try a spot of jellyfish tickling, still not convinced? Here's a little bit more about Moon jellyfish and some interesting facts...

Moon jellyfish move by pulsating their bell, which propels them horizontally through the water allowing them to stay close to the surface where their food is most abundant.

Moon Jellyfish are harvested for collagen.

Easily identified by their saucer-shaped, translucent bell with four circles. The Moon jellyfish can grow to the size of a plate (~40cm) and only live for around 6 months in the wild.

The four circles under the bell are their gonads, the reproductive organs which are located at the bottom of the stomach, and they are normally purple in colour.

Moon jellyfish can exhibit bioluminescence which can help them communicate with each other and potentially to deter predators.

Jellyfish are 95% water and they have no brain, heart or respiratory parts (gills or lungs). They respire by diffusing oxygen from the water through a thin membrane covering its body.

Moon jellyfish have hundreds of delicate short, fine tentacles that hang down from the sides of the bell, capturing their food, their diet consists of microscopic plankton, small crustaceans, fish eggs and Larve. Unlike other species, the Moon jellyfish is not able to sting humans. However interestingly they are well known for mainly feeding nocturnally, grazing on plankton that rises to the surface during the night.

Some cultures eat Moon jellyfish, with some dishes include, jellyfish salad, jellyfish sushi, jellyfish noodles, and even jellyfish ice cream...

Please don't eat our jellyfish!

Moon jellyfish can shrink their size by absorbing their own tissue when food is scarce.

The life cycle of the Moon jellyfish is a fascinating process that includes both sexual and asexual reproduction. Adult jellyfish, known as medusae, release eggs and sperm into the water, where fertilization occurs. The resulting larvae, called planulae, settle on the ocean floor and develop into polyps. These polyps can reproduce asexually, budding off tiny jellyfish called ephyrae, which eventually grow into adult medusae.

Moon jellyfish are solitary creatures, however, under the right conditions such as temperature, currents and nutrient availability, they form Blooms which can consist of thousands of individuals.

If you haven't already done so please do check out the watersports centre website: <https://chathammaritimewatersports.co.uk> you can even book your very first kayaking, paddleboarding or pedalo session. We will be opening over the winter for the more seasoned enthusiast, so don't hang up your wetsuit just yet!

See you soon!

The Watersports team

DRILL SHED BOMBING COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Held 3rd September 2024

Study



Medway Council
Gun Wharf

The 107th anniversary of the Drill Shed bombing during the First World War (now a state-of-the-art Drill Hall Library) when 130 seamen lost their lives was commemorated on 3rd September outside the Drill Hall Library.

This was followed by a short Merchant Navy service at St. George's Centre.

On the night of 3rd September 1917 there were 698 men who were asleep or resting in the Drill Hall. Throughout its life the Drill Hall was used as a temporary overflow dormitory when the barrack blocks were full.

The building was bombed by a German Gotha airplane. The hands of the clock in the tower were frozen at 11.12 pm, the exact time the bomb hit.

Outside the Drill Hall Library there is a plaque commemorating the loss of life; this was unveiled by Rear Admiral Philip Wilcocks DSC and rededicated on 10th September 2006. Commemorative wreaths were laid at this year's commemorative event.

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
(CHATHAM BRANCH)
In association with:
THE UNIVERSITIES AT MEDWAY
DRILL HALL LIBRARY
ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE



Held at the Drill Hall of the former HMS Pembroke, Chatham
3rd September at 11.12 a.m.

At the end of the service the Leader of the Council, Vince Maple, was presented with honorary membership of Chatham Royal Naval Association.

The 3rd September was also Merchant Navy Day and a flag was raised at Gun Wharf paying tribute to the sacrifices made by Merchant Navy seafarers whilst also recognising the modern day Merchant Navy.

Some years ago a university library receptionist, Neill Saunders, commemorated the loss of life in an original poem titled the Clock Just Froze.

Neill's poignant piece of writing focused on the aftermath of the bombing. The title reflects on the fact that a large clock outside the Drill Hall stopped as a result of the blast from the first bomb, cementing in time the horrors of that fateful night.

Mr Saunders, a former Army chef, has written poetry in his spare time for many years.



The clock just froze

*From the inferno birds had flown
That unmistakeable Gotha* drone
Silence stirred as blackness rained
Its stricken path left harsh remains
Upon the Drill Hall boundaries.
Then fire, which seemed to defy the sky,
Lifts up the broken bodies' form
Like plumes of whirling cordite torn
From crashing tonnage laid.
The morning came as stock was taken
Of dead and living but who can tell
The Heavens above shone in waiting
Although below it seemed like hell,
The crime of war had left
seamen broken
That moonlit night so long ago
Disregard less in their waiting
The Medway towns were all aglow,
September 3rd was the fateful dateline
Sailors of the King slept or dozed
Unsuspecting early reveille
At 11:12 the clock just froze.
Families who grieved in silence
For the 130 men died that day
Left a plaque now inside a library**
A memory of a darker day,
The library tower now attracts
Peaceful birds in search of haven
Its domes intact, but clearly stained
By unforgiving ravens.*

Neill Saunders

*Gotha is the long-range WWI bi-plane bomber involved in the Drill Hall bombing.

**The Drill Hall was adapted into a university library in 2005.

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT BY JESSE GRAHAM



My name is Jesse Graham and I chose Chatham Maritime Trust (CMT) out of curiosity. I had compared the work experience placement to other opportunities available.

CMT quickly grasped my attention because it seemed to be a completely unique experience accompanied by a small team. I concluded that this would be the best option for me and I was right. I went with it with little knowledge around what tasks I would be given and how exactly everything would unfold. But to my surprise once I arrived everything was clear. I hoped to focus more on the financial aspects in the business, but thankfully I was able to experience multiple areas and thoroughly enjoyed all of them.

If I had to choose, for me the most interesting aspect had to be the community centre work. This is because I was able to visually see the work SMICC does and briefly spoke to some of the hall users both before and after their booking. However, all other areas were definitely also a great experience, helping me to build relationships with the team.

Work Experience Placement



My time at CMT informed me that there are numerous options available to me after completing tertiary education. The diversity in the workplace also showed me that anyone is employable as long as they have the right set of skills and can successfully work alongside a team.

My placement resulted in an improvement in my self management and communication meaning that, as future job opportunities arise, I will be more confident working in a team as I would have been able to practise my employability skills previously. This therefore allows me to apply them in the new workplace. My professionalism also saw improvement during my work experience placement, as I had to wear appropriate and formal attire to work everyday. Quickly I learnt that other skills such as team working and perseverance are equally important, especially in a workplace with a large team and competition.

I am thankful to every member of CMT that helped me during my work experience placement. I wholly enjoyed working alongside everyone, particularly during the watersports activities. Thank you once again for such a pleasant experience, I 100% recommend.



Chatham Maritime welcomes Nao Victoria

The Nao Victoria visited Chatham Maritime at the end of July and berthed in the corner of Basin 1 where the tugs are usually positioned.

The 27-metre long, three-masted replica is an exact copy of the 16th century original with four decks, 290 square metres of sail, and a main beam measuring 6.7 metres. It is managed by the Fundacion Nao Victoria, whose main goal is to educate people about maritime history.

The Nao Victoria is the replica of the ship that, captained by Magellan and Elcano, starred in the greatest maritime adventure of all time: the first circumnavigation of the world, which began and ended five centuries ago in the Spanish port of Seville – Spain (1519-1522). A vessel sailing the world as an ambassador of this great maritime feat and the work of its sailors.

The ship is a true masterpiece of Spanish shipbuilding, constructed with oak and pine, meticulously crafted to be historically accurate, faithful to the vessel that circumnavigated the globe just over 500 years ago. A ship with its extraordinary history, having completed immense voyages around the world. During the years 2004/2006, it completed its own circumnavigation, covering over 26,000 nautical miles and making stops in 17 countries. Since then, it has continued to sail the world, undertaking significant cultural tours of ports in the USA and Europe, receiving hundreds of thousands of visitors.

During its stay in Chatham, the public can go on board, explore its decks, and learn about the amazing adventure its sailors undertook during an immense journey of over three years, to successfully circumnavigate the planet through its vast oceans. Visitors can also descend into its hold and learn about the experiences of the young crew who continue to sail it across the seas of the world today.

The CMT team attended an opening ceremony on board receiving a warm welcome from the Captain and crew. Some 2,650 visitors went on board and many people turned up at the quayside to take photographs.

Its stay in Chatham was also part of the grand cultural tour that the Nao Victoria is undertaking this year, visiting ports in Spain and Europe, serving as an ambassador of the First Circumnavigation of the World and a floating museum of Spain's impressive maritime history.

A tour that has already visited several ports in the Mediterranean, United Kingdom, France, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

From Chatham, it continued its tour towards Northern Europe, with stops in ports such as Amsterdam, Bremerhaven and Granville, participating in important international events and gatherings.



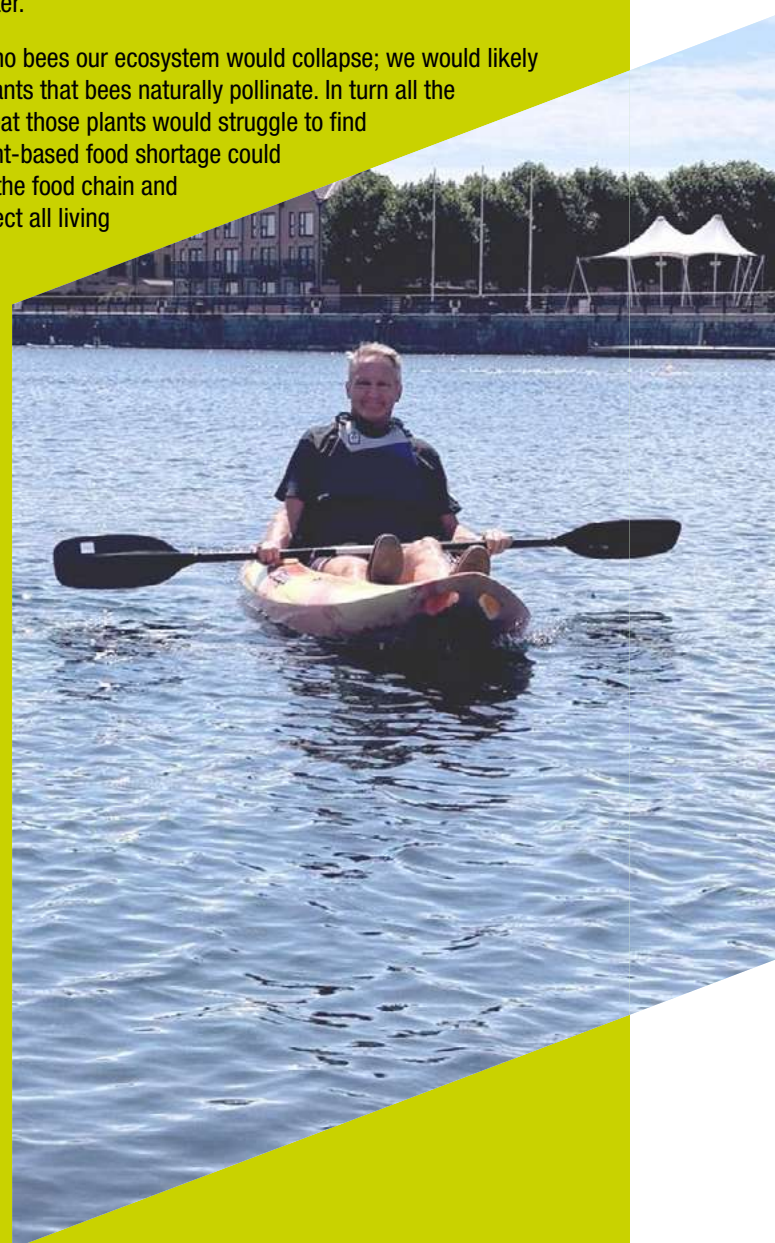


In early July Directors and staff got together for an afternoon of watersports and were also joined by our Work Experience Placement, Jesse Graham, who showed us how it should be done! Jesse tried out a variety of watersports and excelled at all of them.



The CMT team enjoyed a visit to Fort Amherst in August, a tunnel tour and a visit to the beehive that CMT sponsored for a year. Adopting a hive has a positive impact on the environment; bees pollinate wild trees and flowers, which then support other insects, which then support birds, bats, mammals and everything up the food chain with food and shelter.

If there were no bees our ecosystem would collapse; we would likely lose all the plants that bees naturally pollinate. In turn all the animals that eat those plants would struggle to find food. This plant-based food shortage could impact along the food chain and eventually affect all living creatures.



TEAM BUILDING

We are pleased to report that the Trust's hive is healthy and doing well and we also got to enjoy the honey that it produced.



NINE FUN FACTS ABOUT BEES WHICH YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

- 1** Bees are noisy because they beat their wings 11,400 times a minute.
- 2** Only female bees can sting. Male bees do not have stingers.
- 3** Honey bees communicate through a series of dance moves.
- 4** A hive of bees will fly 55,000 miles to make 1lb of honey and can create 100lbs of honey in a year.
- 5** Bees can sense a hormone that is exuded by humans when they are scared. If they feel that their hive is being threatened they will attack.
- 6** The Honey bee is the only insect that makes food man can eat.
- 7** Each Honey bee from the same hive has their own specific colour identification.
- 8** It has been reported that honey makes you smarter! It has an antioxidant that improves brain function.
- 9** The Honey bee has 5 eyes. Two large compound eyes and three smaller ocelli eyes which are in the centre of its head.



Play

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

With an increased budget from the 1st April 2024, the Trust has been able to extend its outreach and given support to a wide range of projects across Medway

MEDWAY PLUS
Activities for the elderly and isolated



The Trust is working in partnership with Think Forward, which provides mentoring programmes for young people and supports SEND students; the Trust will be involved in one of their Insight Days later in the year.

It is also looking to build on the existing relationship with Wetwheels South East as there is always high demand for the unique trips when they visit Chatham Maritime. During their recent visit they welcomed 130 people in total on their adapted boat, 62 of whom were disabled.

Play equipment was recently installed at Hempstead Infant School ready for the new September intake. The idea is that the equipment can be used not only at break times but incorporated into PE lessons.

The school is a three-form entry school and has c. 260 children. Equipment is targeted for

10TH MEDWAY SCOUT GROUP
Expedition in August 2025

Stage 1 children, i.e. 4-7 age group though can be used by all children at the school.

As well as the obvious positive physical benefits of the provision of such equipment (helps with balance, coordination and muscle movement), it will enable the children to interact with each other and encourage creative play. Equipment can address issues like obesity and mental health, improve resilience, problem-solving and self-esteem; it also provides opportunities for creative thinking and roleplay. Outdoor play equipment is a crucial environment for development of social skills and cognitive development.

The school responded “Thank you so much and please extend our deepest gratitude to the Board, we are absolutely delighted! This money really will make such a difference.”

FAMILY TRUST
Provision of money courses in 3 Medway schools

The volunteers at the RNLI Museum in the Historic Dockyard are delighted with their new branded workwear projecting a professional image and giving them a sense of identity. The museum has been extra busy with a temporary exhibition celebrating the RNLI’s 200th anniversary showcasing the history of the RNLI and the heroic tales of the crew, which proved very popular.

It’s been business as usual in the lifeboat slip, cleaning, polishing and maintaining the fleet for the enjoyment of visitors (16 all-weather lifeboats, 7 inshore vessels and 34 lifeguard jet skis). They have also managed to open some of the boats most Saturday and Wednesday afternoons with the volunteer crew giving guided pop-up talks.

This year the museum has been supported by a number of local sponsors, Phil Taylor, Matt Brooks, Tony Mulock and the entire

BLACK LION SWIMMING CLUB
Gala equipment and touch pad



3RD WALTERSLADE GUIDE UNIT
Visit to activity centre in May 2025

MEDWAY TRI
Trophies for Aquathlon, first open water swimming even in Basin 2

team from ArcelorMittal at Chatham Docks who designed, built and installed a fantastic access walkway to Spirit of Lowestoft enabling public access. Their generosity has enabled countless visitors to be inspired by the work of the organisation and will continue to do so for generations.

One of their projects this year is to paint St Cybi, a gold medal winning lifeboat from Holyhead. The museum has been given a generous donation from local Brewers which will be used on the cost of materials for the project.

The Trust continues to support a Youth Leader for the Youth Club and the community centre is free of charge for their use. The Trust also continues to offer Youth Experience placements, 3 young people have benefitted this year and the Trust is already planning for next year.



WETWHEELS SOUTH EAST
Unique powerboating experiences for disabled and disadvantaged

JB commented “Hi. I just wanted to reach out and say a huge thank you to Chatham Maritime Trust for funding experiences on Wetwheels over the weekend. I cannot tell you how appreciative I am.

My daughter is severely disabled and we had our experience on Saturday afternoon; she absolutely loved it .

I cannot thank you enough.”

PC said “It was a fantastic day! Thank you so much for an experience I’ll never forget.”



HEMPSTEAD INFANT SCHOOL
Playground play equipment

Mrs Claire Friday, Chair of the Friends

The installation of the new exercise equipment has already proved extremely popular. The children have been so excited to use the new equipment and there are queues for it at break time and after school.

As a parent of the school, I’m delighted to see the instant enjoyment and pleased to think of the number of children who will benefit from it for years to come.

Thank you so much to Chatham Maritime Trust for their generous donation towards this project.

Mrs Leanne Martin, PE Lead at Hempstead Infant School

Regular use of the new exercise equipment is already benefiting the children in many ways, it has encouraged physical fitness, improving strength and co-ordination. It is fun to use and promotes a positive attitude to physical activity, helping each child to reach the government target of 30 minutes of their daily physical activity through the school day. It is also encouraging social interaction, with children chatting and working together while performing exercise. It is improving mental health by developing confidence and improving mood through outside movement. All these benefits are helping to embed the huge importance of physical activity long term into adulthood.

RNLI MUSEUM IN HISTORIC DOCKYARD
Corporate workwear for volunteers

Ian Russell from the RNLI Museum said “A big thank you to CMT for their generous grant to enable us to purchase branded workwear for our volunteer crew. This will make a massive difference how professional the crew look, it will make them more easily identifiable by the visitors and has provided us with a real sense of identity.”

SPORT ON YOUR DOORSTEP
Sports equipment for schools and community programmes



“The £2,000 grant from Chatham Maritime Trust has had a significant positive impact on Sport on Your Doorstep. We are a community initiative aimed at providing sports opportunities to underserved communities. The funding has been crucial in replacing stolen sports equipment, enabling our sessions to resume and continue fostering community engagement through sports.

Work

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



MEDWAY FOODBANK

"We were extremely grateful to receive the kind donation of £1000 from the Chatham Maritime Trust recently.

The money has been used to purchase much needed stock for our food parcels, although we also give out toiletries, baby products and cleaning items.

We are increasingly needing to seek grant funding to purchase stock to ensure that our supply can meet the ever increasing demand for our services.

Over the last year we have seen a 23% increase in demand for foodbank support.

Our sincere thanks to all involved in this kind donation to Medway Foodbank – we are very grateful for your help as we seek to support those in need in our community."



Work

COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENT ON ST. MARY'S ISLAND



Elona Walker, Trust Administrator/PA to Chief Executive

The building on St. Mary's Island started in 1997 and some 27 years later is now complete. One member of the Trust's team, Elona Walker, has seen the build from start to finish and witnessed quite a transformation.

The historic site has been transformed into a thriving community and this milestone was celebrated with an event at the Copper Rivet Distillery. Those involved in the regeneration project included representatives from Homes England, Countryside Properties, Countryside Homes, Medway Council, Vistry Group and Chatham Maritime Trust as long-term managers of the estate.

Stephen Teagle, Chief Executive of the Vistry Group, a housebuilding company, said "Creating a new community on this scale is an immense task and it was a privilege to come together with organisations and individuals who have been involved over the years and reflect on what we have achieved here.



Stephen Teagle, Chief Executive of the Vistry Group

"The scheme has delivered quality homes for thousands of local people over the years with more than 250 of the properties being provided as affordable housing; it has made a real difference to the lives of those unable to get onto the property ladder."

Alison Crofton, Chief Property Officer at Homes England said the 'disused, contaminated land' was now a "thriving new neighbourhood".

She added: "Since 1998, we have worked in close partnership with Medway Council to prepare the land, deliver vital infrastructure and select developers to build the new high-quality homes that now make this a vibrant community."

Cllr Simon Curry, Medway Council's portfolio holder for regeneration, said: "It's a historically significant area which has come during the 40th anniversary of the closure of Chatham Dockyard.

"St Mary's Island provides a fantastic community with the school, medical centre and play parks for not only Chatham residents to benefit from but wider Medway too."

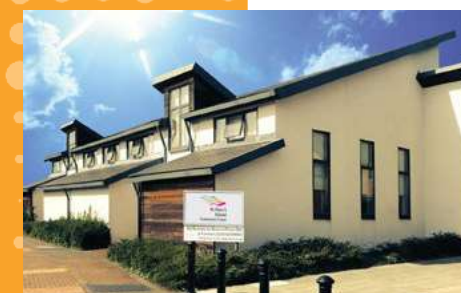


Alison Crofton, Chief Property Officer at Homes England



Cllr Simon Curry, Medway Council's portfolio holder for regeneration

Live



DIARY DATES

MISSION CHRISTMAS AT THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD

24th November to 24th December

A brand new festive adventure with 'All Elves on Deck'. A family event with a chance to experience a personal visit with Father Christmas. Tickets are available at the Historic Dockyard.

ROCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET

29th November to 15th December

A free to enter event set in Rochester Castle Gardens and held over 3 consecutive weekends. Over 200 stalls, children's funfair, Bavarian Food Village, live music and children's Christmas village.

Friday 29th November & Saturday 30th November, 10am-9pm

Sunday 1st December, 10am-6pm

Friday 6th & Saturday 7th December, 10am-9pm

Sunday 8th December, 10am-6pm

Friday 13th & Saturday 14th December, 10am-9pm

Sunday 15th December, 10am-6pm

SANTA'S VISIT ON SMI (ROTARY)

7th December

Santa will be accompanied by friends from Medway Sunlight Rotary Club to visit children on St. Mary's Island. Santa will start his journey from the Community Centre car park at 5.30pm and will be turning left to travel around the main ring road.

CHRISTMAS FAIR AT SMI COMMUNITY CENTRE

Saturday 30th November

St. Mary's Island Community Centre will host the annual fair with lots of stalls and Santa's Grotto, music and entertainment.

Dream Academy will be singing and the Community Centre will be hosting donate a present to the Salvation Army as usual.

DICKENS FESTIVAL

7th & 8th December

Enjoy Victorian festivities in Rochester High Street – street entertainment, readings, songs and dance as well as parades and processions. The festival opens 10am-6pm.

THE WIGMORE LECTURES

The Wigmore lectures are a range of range of talks presented by Medway Libraries. Each lecture will take place at Wigmore Library in Gillingham and start at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £4.50 each and seasonal refreshments are included with the ticket. Tickets can be obtained by phoning the Central Theatre box office on 01634 338338 or by visiting Medway Tickets Live.

CHRISTMAS IN THE WORKHOUSE

Wednesday 18th December 2024

Many stories exist on life in the Victorian workhouse and consequently how bleak it would have been to have spent Christmas there. Using contemporary records the talk will focus on Christmas in Kent workhouses and reveals it wasn't all doom and gloom.

MEDWAY'S LOST BREWERIES

Wednesday 15th January 2025

After last year's talk on Aveling & Porter, Medway's Steam Pioneers, David Burton presents an informative talk on the history of Medway's lost breweries, accompanied by a slideshow and display of artefacts and models.

THE HUGUENOT LETHIEULLIER FAMILY IN BRITAIN

Wednesday 19th February 2025

The Huguenot Lethieullier family came originally from Valenciennes. They settled in London in 1605. The talk will illustrate their story as Huguenot refugees, as merchants and landed gentry – a story of rags to riches.

ROCHESTER ARTIST, CHARLES SPENCELAYH

Wednesday 19th March 2025

Born in Rochester in 1865, the painter Charles Spencelayh was still exhibiting at the Royal Academy in 1958, the year of his death. Throughout his long career, he employed his amazing technical skills to remain faithful to Victorian styles of his youth, ignoring the varying dictates of fashion. This talk uses the substantial Spencelayh collection at the Guildhall Museum to analyse his work and consider his achievements.

ST. MARY'S ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING (SMIRA)

The first meeting in the New Year is scheduled for 12th January 2025 and will be held at St. Mary's Island Community Centre starting at 10.30am. Meeting dates are announced on SMIRA's website and can also be joined via Zoom.

Play

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
River Ward Councillors	
Cllr Habib Tejan	07985 169598 / 01634 891046
✉️ habibtejan@live.co.uk	
🐦 @HabibTejan	
Kent Police Emergency	999
Non-emergency	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Anti-Terrorist Number	0800 789321
PCSO 56208 Angela Saunders	
✉️ 56208@kent.police.uk	
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
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Chatham ME4 3ES

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☎️ 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

Artwork by Jane Graham



**Chatham
Maritime
Trust**

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