Welcome to Kent's Coastal Week 2012

This PDF version of the leaflet contains all the information you will need to take part. A printed version will be available from Kent County Council, for your copy, contact 08458 247 600.

Come and join in!
The 350 miles of Kent coast line has played a vital role in the history of these isles; we invite you aboard Kent’s Coastal Week 2012 to discover over 3000 years of history in the company of enthusiasts and experts!

From the arrival of Roman troops at Richborough, to the defences along the White Cliffs in World War Two, the Kent coast has always been on the frontline for invasion and has some fascinating stories to tell.

The French coast lays a mere 21 miles across Dover Strait and with such close proximity to Europe, Kent has received goods from across the world and there is some fantastic archaeological evidence to support this.

The Kent seabed is dotted with ship wrecks, many of which represent this history of invasion and trade and at low tide the shoreline can still reveal new evidence of the distant past, with artefacts from across the ages being discovered. The oldest sea-going boat in the world was found in Dover, dating to c. 1,550 BC. It can still be seen in Dover Museum.

Wherever there is trade there is also smuggling and as well as containing secret tunnels and hiding places, the Kent coast has also seen its fair share of imprisoned smugglers and other criminals, with prison ships or hulks sitting off the north Kent coast.

The network of creeks around the Medway and Swale estuaries were vital for transporting Kent produce up the Thames to London for hundreds of years.

The history of the capital and the Kent coast has always been closely intertwined and the Kent coast continues to play an important part in the story of Great Britain.

We hope you will take the opportunity to find out more during this celebration of Kent’s world renowned coastline!

**Explore Kent’s Past**

Using this website you can explore the rich heritage of your local area, investigate a period in history or explore more about different aspects of Kent’s past. www.kent.gov.uk/ExploringKentsPast

**Visit the White Cliffs of Dover and South Foreland Lighthouse**

The National Trust centre at Langdon Cliffs (see contact details) is a great place to start your visit and South Foreland Lighthouse can be reached by a short but spectacular walk along the cliffs. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/south-foreland-lighthouse

**Accommodation**

Kent’s traditional seaside towns have homely B&B’s or how about your very own tepee atop the famous white cliffs? All the information you need at: www.visitkent.co.uk

**All the events listed inside this leaflet are organised by local groups, coordinated by Kent County Council. The events are free unless otherwise stated. The costs are covered by external funding.**
Deal Maritime & Local History Museum
Deal was a key coastal location for shipping anchored on “the downs”, near the treacherous Goodwin Sands. This small museum is packed with objects from this area. 22 St George’s Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6BA Tel: 01304 373684. www.dealmuseum.co.uk

Dickens House Museum
Open 1pm - 5pm with family activities throughout coastal week. No booking required; Dickens House Museum, Broadstairs, CT10 1QS

Dover Museum and Bronze Age Boat Gallery
The Bronze Age boat is thought to be 3,000 years old, discovered in 1992 in Dover. It is a find of both national and international significance. Opening hours 10am - 5pm Mon - Sat, closed Sun (October - March). www.doverdc.co.uk/museum

Guildhall Museum Rochester
The exhibits include a full-size reconstruction of part of a Medway prison hulk. Guildhall Museum, High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1PY (see events listings).

Ramsgate Maritime Museum
Tuesdays to Sundays 10.30 am - 5.30 pm
See artefacts from the wreck of the Stirling Castle and much more! Ramsgate Royal Harbour, CT11 8LS www.ramsgatemaritimemuseum.org

Whitstable Museum and Gallery
Seafaring history explored - oyster fishing, diving and shipbuilding. Open every day 10am to 4pm. 5 Oxford Street, Whitstable, CT5 1DB. 01227 276 998

Visit a Coastal Castle
Explore the buildings which played a vital role in our military past. Including;

- Dover Castle
- Walmer Castle and Gardens
- Deal Castle
- Upnor Castle near Rochester

See English Heritage website for entry prices and opening times. www.english-heritage.org.uk

Photo: Reculver Towers. The imposing towers were built 800 years ago, on the site of a former monastic church and in the area of an even earlier Roman settlement. See Kent Wildlife Trust event and visit Reculver during Coastal Week.

www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent
**Historic Coast at Ramsgate**

Sun 28 10am – 4pm   Free event, turn up any time
Stalls, exhibits and activities celebrating “Historic Coast”; food and drink available nearby. Suitable for all ages and interests!
Run with the support of London Array and Ramsgate Town Council; meet the people safeguarding the heritage of the Kent coast. This event will be based outside Custom House, next to the Ramsgate Royal Harbour; CT11 8LP.

“Forever Ramsgate”, organised by Ramsgate Arts, will take place around the town, using theatre and spoken word to highlight the town’s history in a 2 hour walking tour from Custom House at 11am and 2pm (or just drop in at each point).

Contact: Kent County Council

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**Guided tour of Slough Fort, Allhallows**

*“The fort that tried to become invisible”*

Sat 27 11am or 2pm
Built in 1867 against the threat of a landing from the Thames to mount an overland attack on Chatham Dockyard, Slough Fort’s shining granite edifice could be seen for miles, but from 1889, it was concealed, complete with guns powerful enough to take on a battleship. Join historian Victor Smith to gain exclusive access and find out more. Meet at the reception desk, Allhallows Leisure Park. Book: Bourne Leisure

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**Events at Guildhall Museum, Rochester**

Make a mini Medway mud barge! Sat 27 11am -1pm
100 years ago the Medway was full of barges - join this workshop and make a model. Drop in activity for children aged 5 to 12 and their parents.

An introduction to the maritime history of Medway Sat 27 2.30 - 3.30pm
An illustrated talk inspired by the museum’s collection.
Contact: Guildhall Museum, Rochester

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**White Cliffs Countryside Partnership - coastal week programme**

**Free events, no booking required, donations appreciated.**

**King Lear struts his stuff - Halloween special**
Sat 27 3.30pm
Theatrical walk (1 mile, 2 hours) below Shakespeare Cliff; with actors, props, and games. All ages invited to come dressed in historical or colourful fancy dress! Meet at the site management office, Samphire Hoe, CT17 9FL.

**Western Heights Preservation Society - guided walks & open day**
Sun 28
The Western Heights of Dover are one of the most impressive fortifications in Britain. There will be a series of walks during the day together with an information stall.

**Western Heights circuit**
10am and 2pm
A brisk circular walk (2.5 miles 2 hours) around the Western Heights, past the Citadel and the adjacent Victorian gun battery.

**A walk around Western Heights**
10am and 2pm
A walk around the Drop Redoubt (with possibility of going inside) and a look at the Grand Shaft Barracks site. (1 mile 2 hours).

For all of the above, meet at Drop Redoubt Road, Dover CT 17 9DZ

**Illustrated talk on the geology of the white cliffs**
Mon 29 noon – 1.30pm
Find out how the white cliffs geology has affected our landscape and habitats. Why not bring a packed lunch (tea and coffee available) and stay on for the afternoon walk (listed below). Meet at the Village Hall, Lancaster Avenue, Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone CT18 7LX.

**Guided geological walk**
Mon 29 2pm
Discover the landscape links with the continent and how Britain became an island (2 miles 2.5 hours) Meet at the Pavilion car park, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone.
**Frontline Britain Trail**
Tue 30  1pm
Learn about the role of St. Margaret’s during the Second World War. (4 miles 3 hours). Meet at the village car park (next to the Church), High Street, St. Margaret’s-at-Cliffe, near Dover CT15 6AP

**Why is Britain an island and other fascinating stories – guided walk**
Fri 2  2pm
Since we became an island people have dreamt up ways of crossing the channel from bronze-age travellers to Channel tunnelers. (1 mile 1.5 hours) Meet at the site management office, Samphire Hoe CT17 9FL.

**Historic role play day (Green Gang)**
Sat 3 11am
Come as one of these characters: an Iron Age person; a convict, medieval shepherd/shepherdess; Roman or Napoleonic soldier; or a workman. Act out historical scenes! Please bring a picnic lunch and a rug to sit on. Meet at St. Martin’s Battery car park, South Military Road, Western Heights, Dover.

**Landscape formations – step back in time at Folkestone Warren**
Sun 4  1pm
An expert tour of the Heritage Coast – human & geological history. (3 miles 2.5 hours) Meet at The Cliff Top Café (please park along the road and not in the café car park), Old Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone.  

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**The Forgotten Frontline at Whitstable Castle**
This project examines how the military and people of Whitstable prepared to defend the town during the Second World War. Exhibition at Whitstable Castle - daily in the Graystone Library.  

**Castle Art Studio and Gallery, Whitstable Castle: - Forgotten Frontline Cartoon Display and Workshop**
Cartoonist Dave Chisholm, who has worked for The Daily Mail and The Times has produced a fantastic display following on from last years coastal week. Display throughout coastal week, but Dave present at 11am on 28 for the unveiling and noon- 2pm for cartoon workshop. www.chizcartoons.com

**Finds Roadshow with Timescapes and Mapping Kent**
Sun 28 noon - 4pm
Bring your archaeological and geological finds and your memories of Whitstable Castle during WW2 (if you go back that far!).  

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**A Ramble Round Ramsgate – World War Two tour**
Sun 28, Wed 31 and Sun 4 – all at 11am
An informative walk around the above ground route of Ramsgate’s famous wartime tunnels. The walk will be followed by a film show depicting how the tunnels were used during WWII. Just turn up at The Sailor’s Church, Military Road, Ramsgate Harbour.  

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**Coastal Week Mural Painting Trail, New Romney, Romney Marsh**
Sat 27 and Mon 29 at 11am and at 3pm
Each work depicts a different aspect of the Romney Marsh tradition and has been painted by an award winning artist. Distance 1 mile. Participants are invited to submit ideas for future paintings. Any design chosen and produced will win a Prize Amount of £100. Meet at the front of St Nicholas Church in the Town Centre.

**A Ramble Round Ramsgate**
All days, special voyage 28 Oct
The Motor Tug Kent (MT Kent) will be open to visitors from 10am to 3pm throughout the week, when it will be moored at No1 Basin Chatham Maritime (near the Ship & Trades pub ME4 3ER). Children accompanied by adults welcome. The MT Kent retired in 1988 after 40 years service ship handling at Chatham, Rochester and Sheerness.

A 45 minute trip across the waves to Rochester will leave from No1 Basin on Sun 28, weather permitting this will leave at 11am. Booking essential by Saturday 27 Oct. This trip is subsidised by Coastal Week, but minimum donation £10 adults and £5 children is suggested.  

**Come aboard the Tug Boat**
Contact: South East Tug Society
Thanet Coast Project - Come to the beach!

Storytelling Treasure Trails - Ramsgate Main Sands
Sun 28 1.30pm (1½hrs) 4-16yrs; family groups
Wacky coastal adventures. Led by the excellent Scandalmongers storytellers. Ramsgate Main Sands CT11 8LP Run with support from Natural England’s Access to Nature, Big Lottery Fund.

Geology Rocks - Margate Main Sands
Tue 30 2pm (1hr, 4-11yrs)
Hands-on exploration of rocks and fossils with the Rock Doc Team. Coastal Community Beach Hut, Margate CT9 1XN. With support from Dong Energy and Big Lottery Fund with Thanet Coast’s Footprints in the Sand.

Rock Doc Walk – Pegwell Bay
Sunday 4 11am (1.5hrs, 14yrs+)
Discover chalk cliffs, flints and sands on a fun guided tour. Meet at Pegwell Bay, Cliffsend CT12 5HY. Supported by Dong Energy.

Book: Thanet Coast Project

ATU is a Heritage Lottery Fund Project supported by the De Haan Charitable Trust, Folkestone Town

A Town Unearthed: A Tale of Two Castles
‘A Town Unearthed’ (ATU) is a community history and archaeology project which aims to re-discover the fascinating buried past of Folkestone and its surrounding area. ATU invites you to join them for a free illustrated talk about Folkestone’s two castles, the Bayle and Caesar’s Camp:
Lordship, Castles and Churches - The Importance of Folkestone in late Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman England: by Dr Paul Dalton, Senior Lecturer in Mediaeval History Canterbury Christ Church University. University Centre Folkestone, Mill Bay (just off Tontine Street in the centre of the Creative Quarter). Wed 31 6.30pm – 8pm.

A Stroll around Mediaeval Folkestone: Historian and archaeologist Ian Coulson leads a buggy friendly (pavement and safe roads) guided walk around the historic centre of Folkestone.
Thurs 1pm
Book: A Town Unearthed

Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership

Walk along the Royal Military Canal
Thur 1 2pm
A fun family walk to learn about the history of this unique military landscape feature, designed to halt an invasion by Napoleon. 3 miles (2.5 hours) Meet at the car park at the bottom of Lympne Hill, West, Hythe.

Echoes from the sky - sound mirrors Sun 4 2pm
See the three dramatic designs; an early warning system against enemy aircraft; built in the 1920’s and 1930’s. An opportunity to cross over the bridge onto the island and see the mirrors up close. 3 miles walk across shingle (2.5 hours) Meet at Lade car park on Coast Drive (half way between the Pilot Pub and Romney Sands).
Contact: Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership

Ancient Reculver – Coastal Week Fun Day
Fri 2 11am – Strandline beach walk. 2pm – historical walk with Fancy Dress.
Discover the marine wildlife and history of Reculver. Includes children’s activities at the Visitor Centre. Wellies and sturdy footwear required for the beach. Prizes for children who come in the afternoon in fancy dress as a Roman, Saxon or Norman! The access path to the beach is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs, Dogs on leads. Free but donations appreciated. Meet at Reculver Visitor Centre, Reculver Lane, CT6 6SS.
Contact: Kent Wildlife Trust
**Guided walks**

There are thousands to choose from throughout the year on the Explore Kent website. Find them under ‘guided walks’ at www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

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**Light Vessel 21 – All hands on deck!**

These events are aboard a lightship (LV21) moored off Gillingham Pier; Pier Approach Road, ME7 1RX. Free parking is available on the pier. Please wear suitable flat, non-slip shoes and note that access is limited with steep staircases throughout the vessel.

**Free exhibition & drop-in workshops for all the family** Thu 1 - Sat 3 11am - 4pm
All materials provided. All workshops operate on a first come first served basis. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times:

- **Catch of the Day**
  We expect a bumper catch of your river and estuary memories. Empty jars and bottles are waiting to be decorated and filled with your personal stories, photos and drawings or objects. Containers will be sealed and stored aboard until re-opening in September 2023 as part of LV21’s 60-year anniversary celebrations!

- **Know the Ropes**
  With help from the LV21 crew learn vital nautical skills from knotting and soldering to morse code and boating terminology. Make your own sink stopper, fisherman’s bend or monkey fist key ring to take away.

- **Aboard a lightship**
  A glimpse into the history of LV21 from 1963; exhibition of film, photographs and articles.

- **Ship’s Log – Tall Tales and Shorelines** Sat 3 7.30 -11.00pm Free Suitable for 16+ only. Cash pay bar available.
  Join local writers and artists for an evening of storytelling, performance and film featuring nautical tales and coastal stories, from William Hogarth’s travels on the Hoo Peninsula to the legendary Medway Queen of Rats.

- **Additional event – “Fish Disco!”**
  Sat 27 7.30pm – 11.30pm Moogie Wonderland with deep sea wonders and indiepop to wiggle your fins to! Prize for the best deep sea costume.
  Book your plaice (ha!). Tickets £3.
  Contact: Light Vessel 21 and Medway Swale Estuary Partnership

**Finds on Sheppey’s Coast**

Fri 2 2pm to 4.30pm
A great opportunity to bring your finds and meet the experts. Small admission charge only. Museum situated in the centre of Minster Village: a little treasure-house of artefacts and finds!
Contact: Minster Gatehouse Museum

**Dover’s Big Guns, Lecture & Buffet**

Sat 3 6pm – 8pm
Local historian John Guy will be discussing the cross-channel guns sighted in and around Dover. Buffet included in special coastal week rate of £10 each.
Book: National Trust

**For more information or to book, contact the organisations using the details supplied overhead**

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Throughout Kent’s Coastal Week, Kent Greeters will be ready to welcome you and take you on a walk, revealing some of the most interesting facts and stories about our beautiful Kent coastline.
Book now at www.kentgreeters.co.uk
London Array is the world’s largest offshore wind farm. Construction is taking place 12 miles off the coast of Thanet in the Outer Thames Estuary. Phase one involves installing 175 turbines, which will generate up to 630MW of power - enough for over 470,000 homes, or two thirds of all the homes in Kent. London Array will play a major role in enabling the UK to achieve its renewable energy targets. www.londonarray.com

Southern Water In 2011 more Kent beaches reached the tougher European ‘guideline’ standard for bathing quality than the previous year. In 2011, 66 per cent of Kent’s beaches met the ‘guideline’ (or ‘excellent’) European standard compared to 48% in 2010. Before Southern Water began its multi-million investment programme to improve the quality of seawater in 1988, only 41 per cent of beaches in its region passed the mandatory standard. www.southernwater.co.uk

This leaflet is available in other formats and can be explained in other languages. To obtain a copy please call 01622 694044.