

Folkestone Music Town Meeting Notes from 13/12/22 at Speedway

What a great venue Speedway is!

Sophia from FMT – “Music in May”

- Every day in May – gigs at weekends, workshops etc during the week.
- Larger events at the start and the end.
- Seeking funding in January - but Music in May can happen with or without extra funding (it just impacts the level of support we can offer).
- Have sought advice from Nigel Feist Broadstairs Blues Bash (which has run for 14 years):
 - Needs sponsorship + selling advertising space.
 - They also sell pocket guides at £2 each.
 - Event is badged as “free” beyond this (beyond ticketed main events).
 - Venues run events as they would normally – but the guide amplifies the event.
 - Gigs, jams, workshops etc.
 - It’s specifically a Blues festival (but Music in May seeks to promote all genres of music).
 - Requires some organisation around PA systems, lighting etc – not all acts have these.
 - Also requires strong / co-ordinated artist liaison (practicalities on the day etc).
 - And Nigel sends us best wishes!
- March 1st is the deadline to arrange events and get them onto the planner.
- *Please spread the word – we want as many events as possible. Please let Sophia know.*
- *Please also volunteer to run events! Please volunteer to host events (even venues that aren’t usually used for music)!*
- *Please become a “friend of Folkestone Music Town” too.*

Chris from the Chambers

- Riot Gull event happened (as presented at the last FMT event). A great success and will repeat in May too. Thanks to Geraldine for bringing new bands into town.
- 3 new bands played last Friday – all of very high quality.
- Big support for Music in May.
- Hughie Morgan from Fun Lovin’ Criminals and Radio 6 Music will be playing in May – aiming to host the gig at Leas Cliff Hall (potentially for one of their designated “free use” days).

Doug from the “Folkestone Sound Men”

- If you’re a band seeking equipment in any venue, then contact Doug.
- *Katie Bradley + support at Eleto this Friday night (16th) “Christmas Hootenanny” – fund raiser for the homeless.*
- *Doug is in a Morris side too. Saturday night (17th) – sing song at the British Lion on Saturday night from 8PM.*

Alex McNeice from Shepway Voices and “Show Time”

- Runs the weekly listings – amplified via social media. Let’s people know what gigs are happening weekly.
- *Please contact Alex if you’d like your event publicised. Does not need to be a traditional music venue.*
- Looking at different methods to communicate – e.g. weekly email sign up.
- Shepway Voices Christmas pub crawl from The Mariners, The Ship, The George, Kipps, Wetherspoons, East Kent Arms and The Chambers. *It’s Wednesday 14th December – why not join in?*

Rhian from Sacconi Chamber Music Festival

- 16th year! Now bouncing back post COVID for 2023.
- Mixture of classical (in the narrow definition) plus more modern composers.

- Fits in Music in May – looking forward to the festival!
- Also runs Sounds Folkestone – look it up online. Classical at heart but varied. Sacconi quartet residency in October – expand from traditional chamber music in a church (e.g. Warren, beach, art galleries etc). Makes the events more acceptable.
- *Please read the programme and come along!*

Tim from Seaview Studio

- *If you have an event going on (generally), there's a form on the FMT website to submit. Tim from Seaview Studio then checks it and amplifies it. info@folkestonemusic.co.uk*
- *And if you see a venue without a sticker – then let Tim know as it can be fixed!*
- 4K unique visitors to the site each month.

Alastair Upton from Creative Folkestone

- Plenty of room for all art forms.
- They run the Quarter House.
- Cheryl Pierce (programme manager) has moved out of town to a great new job.
- Yaz Norris has taken over this role – specifically for the Quarter House.
- Aim for one music event a month.
- Already testing late night dance events – as they have a 2AM licence.
- Seeking younger demographics. 1 in 5 over 60 ten years ago, now is 1 in 4.
- *Please talk to Yaz for possible events at the Quarter House.*

Amanda from Skabour

- Seeking to use more venues for Skabour in 2023 (same weekend) – e.g. The Chambers.
- Seeking to expand beyond pure ska / reggae (e.g. roots, dub etc).
- Keen to use The Quarterhouse too.
- Concern about working class drop in access to music and culture.
- Hip hop has a stigma in Folkestone – needs more support as there is an audience for it and artists from outside Folkestone want to perform here.
- Mental Health benefits come from a wider inclusion / variety of music.

Marcelie from Toffs (heritage venue of 60's / 70's acts)

- Converting into a venue with a capacity of 120 standing.
- Will update in New Year. Seeking a midnight licence.
- Opening date tbc.

Josh

- Recently moved back to Folkestone from Brighton (welcome back!).
- Keen to get involved. In 2 rock bands that play in the south + has access to other acts.
- Also has experience of running events.

Next meet up will be w/c 16th January at a tbc venue.

Watch this space for the exact date and venue !! 😊.