

## Folkestone Music Town Meeting Notes from 06/02/23 at The Chambers

Thanks again to Chris for hosting us!

### Sophia from FMT – “Music in May (MIM)”

- Poster is now out on all forms of social media! Please do share and support.
- Every day in May, something musical will happen. Anything music related: gigs, workshops, music based crafts etc etc.....
- Multi venue and multi genre.
- So far 95 events scheduled across 14 venues.
- Wave 1 events deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Wave 2 events deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Beyond this you'll be too late to be added to any printed collateral such as a “pocket guide” (but digital promotion will still be possible).
- We are investigating whether we can create an app for the event (if not this year, then next).
- **Venues: even if you're not a usual “music” venue, you can still take part! If you're already a venue, then please do organise events in line with the event calendar. Make it big because you'll get a bigger audience as the event is amplified through the media.**
- **Creatives: talk to venues about organising gigs, workshops, jams, busks etc.**
- **Everyone else: join in, support the events and tell your friends:**
  - #folkestonemusictown (this should always be used when posting anything to do with music).
  - #musicinmay (use for anything do with MIM).
  - #everydayinmay (for anything do with MIM).
- We will be creating a Music in May Tune (with a release + a video) – based around recent work by Helen Sharp and Randolph Matthew. Showcase aimed to be at Silver Screen at the start of May.
- Article in Folkestone Life new next week.
- **Musicians! Please do get involved.**
- Will also be doing a “busk out” [Folkestone busking code introduced | CommunityAd](#)
- **Let us know any places you think would be ideal for busking.**
- **We have door stickers with a MIM QR code – please do take and display in your venues.**

### Tim / Liam – Folkestone Music (and Music in May) website

- Recent improvements to the website [Gig Guide Folkestone - Folkestone Music](#)
- Now includes a map. [Map - Folkestone Music](#) where you can click on the pins.
- And a gig guide [Gig Guide - Folkestone Music](#) where you can add your own event...!!
- **Do use the submissions form to advertise your own music.**
- **And sign up for the mailing list on the website (or contact the team directly):**  
[info@folkestonemusic.co.uk](mailto:info@folkestonemusic.co.uk)
- **And use the website to get involved with Music in May (the calendar for which will be uploaded by Feb 10<sup>th</sup> ish).**

### The Noisy Brain – Stuart Mills

- Mental Health initiative linked to the power of music (as per the video we watched).
- Writing + sharing experiences through music.
- **Download the free app! [App \(thenoisybrain.com\)](#)**

### Chris Smith from The Chambers

- Fantastic to see so many people here tonight – and new people too. Tonight is a moment!
- April 28<sup>th</sup>. Jazzy B (from Soul 2 Soul) will be playing at The Chambers to kick off MIM!!
- May 13<sup>th</sup>. Huey Morgan (BBC Radio 6 and Fun Lovin' Criminals) doing a DJ set.
- More in the pipeline pre the 2 MIM deadlines.

- Controlled Voltage – first Wednesday of the month – electronic open mic night. An amazing / bewildering night!
- Home Taproom “Folkearound” is first Thursday of the month – also excellent – for Americana.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month is “Jazz Jam” at The Chambers.
- Bandstand – trying again to organise summer events for 2023. But no funding currently – will be based on ward grants, crowd funding etc (remember it’s not for profit).

### **David Sharp from Academy FM 105.9**

- Folkestone Community radio and an educational charity.
- Local / alternative music on Wednesday night, but local music played all through every day.
- Hosting a fundraising music night on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Dover Road Social Club. The Bearing, The Sophia Syndicate and a band (Abdou Japarov) featuring Les from Carter USM as headline.
- ***Please do buy tickets in advance!!!! From the Academy FM facebook page. [\(3\) 105.9 Academy FM Folkestone | Folkestone | Facebook](#)***

### **Peter and Flo**

- Peter feels he has imposter syndrome as a musician!
- London has a “first timer” workshop. Allows people to try out an instrument and play with others.
- Gets people playing in a band who have never played before – brings marginalised people in.
- Has some funding to pay people who run workshops. folkestonefirsttimers@gmail.com
- ***Might be perfect for MIM.***
- ***Seeking workshop venues.***
- Trying to get a public piano in Folkestone in time for May
- ***Seeking locations / sway with the local council.***

### **Nina Clark**

- Aiming to do 30 days of music in May – a song a day. Offering workshops to collaborate!

### **Adam Jeanes**

- Writing application to the Arts Council in support of MiM.
- Seeking support for FMT in 3 phases:
  - 1) For Music in May. Enhance local budgets, marketing etc.
  - 2) Audience survey. Who attends what events? Over the summer. Also keen to create a series of gigs where we match venues with artists – enhance / enlarge audiences.
  - 3) Focus on Folkestone Music Town itself. Create a legal entity beyond just Seaview Studios + a structure / governance for the future organisation.
- ***Please do get in touch + involved. Contact [charlie.burton@brake.co.uk](mailto:charlie.burton@brake.co.uk) if you can!***

### **Flo**

- Represents classical music side of FMT. Leader of Folkestone Symphony Orchestra.
- Very much part of FMT and we hope MIM!

### **Joseph and Katie from The Grand**

- The Green Room at the Grand – managed as a Community Interest group.
- Will get involved with Music in May – inc Sacconi orchestra.
- Also an evening of musical short films – date tbc.
- ***Keen to attract musicians for interviews, masterclasses, performances!***

### **Alex McNeice**

- Choirs will get a designated page on the MiM website – lots of them!
  - Wednesday nights – Shepway voices. Variety of music – a free choir.
  - Tuesday nights – “Showtime Choir” – all things musical theatre.

- Thursday mornings – Cheriton “The Melody Makers” choir – variety of musical styles.
- Monday 1PM at Wood Avenue library – “Headstrong singers” for people with brain or head injuries / illnesses.
- “The Real Power of Music”:
  - Sessions in schools, care homes etc – to spread the joy of music.
  - Friendships, communication, self-esteem – so many benefits from music – spread the word.
  - Working with research organisations – to help music to be prescribed more broadly.
- Weekly “what’s going on in Folkestone” will start again next week.
- *If you’re a venue then contact Alex to join his WhatsApp group. Likewise if you’re an artist.*

### **Julia Jones**

- 16<sup>th</sup> February at 5PM – event at Neuron on Tontine Street. Julia will be explaining the birth of Music Town and the next phase “Longevity Town” – partnering with cities around the world – figuring out how people can live healthily to 100 years old (and music can be a part of this).
- Followed by “Pretty Crap” band performance at 7PM.
- Will also be running a music and health symposium at The Grand on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. With Grenville Hancox – lots of speakers – as part of MiM.

### **Alistair Upton from the Creative Foundation**

- Take up Space festival 10-12 March. DJs on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Riot Gull on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- From March, late nights on a Friday (late licence) in “The Clearing” upstairs.
- Packed events calendar through the spring.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> also has a special event (tbc) – to be part of the first wave of MiM.

**Next meet up will be 20<sup>th</sup> March at Jam Jar!!! 😊.**