

Folkestone Music Town Meeting Notes from 20/03/23 at Jam Jar

Another great venue – thanks for hosting us!

James Schofield from Jam Jar

- New sound system – alternating music nights, dance nights etc – all in the big room downstairs.
- First “dance for love” night is this Saturday! And a Music in May event next month.
- *Tickets still available online for Saturday.*

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

- 120 events across 15 venues confirmed so far. Jazzy B, Huey Morgan, Lulu – as headliners. Aiming for one more large band for the opening weekend – “The Big Beer Band” 18 piece band supported by local vocalists.
- Wave 2 announcement will happen at the start of April. Anything after that will be digital (only).
- Multi genre – inc a free use day at Leas Cliff Hall (“Choir Oke” May 14th event with multiple community choirs).
- The council are supporting fully.
- Idea of a Folkestone song in conjunction with Screen South who will make a video of it with lots of outside footage as an activity during May.
- Folkestone’s Busking Out – with specific funding secured. Will be a timetabled event that anyone can try via an online form. Venues around town (e.g. Guildhall Street or “Noel’s yard”).
- Articles into Folke Life, Kent Life and Folkestone Foghorn.
- Radio Kent – Sophia will be on at 7.12pm (exactly 😊) this Thursday night.
- *Please let Sophia / Tim know via the website if you have other events to showcase in May.*
- *Please take a window sticker, poster or flyer and let’s collectively spread the word! And let us know if you have good locations for banners.*

Andrew Ward – MIM £ update

- £4K – Creative festivals fund.
- £2K – Folkestone Council and £2.5K from Ward Council grants.
- Spending it on staffing (workshop leaders, social media, leafleting etc)/
- Also spending on equipment – busker kits (amps etc), and promotion – banners etc.
- And it’s great that some local businesses are also supporting us in kind – not least Seaview Studio!
- Also seeking Corporate support from Sleeping Giant media and Leas Cliff Pavilion.
- Our Arts Council funding bid is still live but likely to post 2023 MIM and in preparation for 2024 MIM.
- We have no funds for advertising – we have a great deal from Folkestone Foghorn – need to find £1K in the next 3 weeks.....
- And we are setting ourselves up as a CIC with a bank account – a sign that we are growing.....
- *We need a little more money.....if you know anyone!*

Tim and Liam from GMZ MIM tech update

- Improvements to our website! It now has a working interactive map for MIM.
- Some stats: last month 2,200 unique visitors – this is growing quickly up to 2,600 already this month!
- *Please do interact and offer likes on social media – it all helps.*
- *Let Tim / Liam have any feedback (such as clicking through for videos and Spotify / YouTube links or creating a MIM playlist).*

Chris Smith from The Chambers

- So good to see FMT growing – a massive thanks to Sophia and Tim + lots of others involved!
- *Please keep up the momentum!*

Doug Quinney and Key Sinyard – Noel Redding Project

- Seeking a plaque or sculpture to commemorate Noel and his role in the Jimi Hendrix Experience.
- Seeking to raise funds through some band gigs. Options in mind but early days.....e.g. in the museum behind the Town Hall, near “Noel’s Yard”.

Other points raised

- Could we run a networking event during May (e.g. at the Leas Cliff Hall)?
- Alex McNiece leads local choirs – and recurring events can be added to MIM. Shepway Youth Voices is a choir funded by a charity and run by Alex’s friend Duncan. It is aimed at teenagers – but currently it is c25 female singers. They are keen to get more boys along. May be a link to children’s homes?
 - *Please let Alex know if you know groups of boys, or organisations that might be interested in generating participation in the youth choir.*
- Vintage and Vinyl – April 22nd is record store day – possible link to the space outside Folklore for some busking.
- Folklore – is quiet on Monday and Tuesday (like most local venues). *Seeking ideas for a Monday night to create the footfall to enable the venue to open.*
- Riot Gull – more events planned at The Chambers. *Keen to take on shadowing between people with musical experience (e.g. sound engineers) and others who want to learn.*

Next meeting: 7PM 24th April at The Lighthouse Champagne Bar & Tasting Rooms – Harbour Arm.

Last meeting before Music in May!!! 😊.

#folkestonemusictown

#musicinmay

#mimfestival

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