

Folkestone Music Town Meeting Notes - 19/06/23 at The Chambers

Nice to be back at The Chambers!

Dave Sharp from Academy FM

- Community radio station based at the school.
- Charity – struggles for funding – *can we join up fund raisers around Folkestone?* Please talk to Dave if of interest. Remember that small subscriptions from individuals are critical.

Geraldine from Riot Gull

- Nu Wave / Compass music event this Friday (23rd June) at 20th Century Speedway (opposite Lidl).
 - Intimate live music – indie pop / rock / folk / synth pop.
 - *Tickets from DICE £8 + fee.* Vesu (presenting their new single) / Spirits of Saturn / DJ set.
- Geraldine has created a space where you can find buddies to go to gigs with.
- Riot Gull will be at The Chambers on 21st July – follow them at riot gulll (with 3 Ls). *Also keen for support with bid writing for funding.*

Flo Glen and the Bouverie Place piano

- It was joyful! Really positive feedback.
- Complaint from adjacent trader – piano had to be covered.
- Currently in limbo – trying to get it operational again (management are proposing Christmas + keep it in storage until then).
- *Could we crowd fund a shelter for the piano with a tuner every quarter?*
- *Perhaps a petition?* Further influencing with the council may be required.

Toff's café bar – opening end of July!

- Initially weekends – with events / exhibitions during the week.
- Website starting next week – watch this place.

Peter Sheridan from Folkestone First Timers

- Aim is to bring together musicians who've never played in a band.
- 18 workshops across all instruments since March + a band "speed dating" event.
- Sold 142 tickets – shows the appetite to participate in bands is really strong in Folkestone.
- Raised funding from United Response in Cheriton, Creative Folkestone and the Roger de Haan trust.
 - Meant that people got paid – 99% of the money got spent in Folkestone.
- Performances at open mic nights + MIM busking events + a new band up and running (Defiant Zombies).

Linda and Roxane from the Noel Redding project

- We have a T shirt printed! Courtesy of Skull print (members from Hawkwind).
- Event on Friday 23rd June celebrating the life of one of Folkestone's most famous musicians.
 - Valkyrie Fire – all female rock group inc some Hendrix . Eleto Cafe - £10 tickets (fund raising)
- Seeking to raise funds to erect a statue (location tbc) – ideally linked to a Folkestone music museum.
- Note the new blue plaque for "Noel's Yard" now erected!

Sophia Stutchbury from FMT – "Music in May (MIM)"

- MiM Festival attracted an audience of 20K (at least!). 130 gigs across 22 venues. Workshops x 11 with 50 attendees (last minute on a shoe-string budget), "Busking Out" – 18 buskers across 4 Saturdays – really well supported / received by the public (est 2.7K people). ChoirOke – 800 people at the event at Leas Cliff Hall and the Opening Party events of Jazzie B at Chambers and the Big Beer Band at the Quarterhouse – 650 people – with sponsorship from a local investor called Bob!

- Overview:
 - So many brilliant events on a shoestring budget.
 - But it relied on goodwill & could have engaged younger people.
 - Need to make it funded sustainably + extend it beyond May.
- Workshops:
 - Well attended / loved.
 - But, late to the party / and focused on entry level.
 - Need to create a more varied programme, planned earlier + ideally with a partner.
 - *Other workshop ideas – can be hosted at The Green Room (in the Grand) as well as Seaview Studio and other places.*
 - *Geraldine would like to support the music business – meeting new promoters, social media.*
 - *Run a music fayre in 2024 for people to meet and make contacts.*
- Busking:
 - The public loved it and there was a winners’ event at Westenhanger castle.
 - But, some very localised complaints and labour intensive to move kit around.
 - Need to use the kit again and recast as a talent spotter with an extended season – with funding to ensure musicians do actually turn up.
- Programme quality:
 - Diversity of acts / genres + new acts to Folkestone – “from string quartets to DJ sets”.
 - But, could have had even more venues involved.
 - Need to engage more venues / businesses / volunteers / staff + ATG (Leas Cliff) and Creative Foundation. Learning from the Broadstairs Blues Bash – engagement takes time.
 - *Could we put events on at Folkestone Silver Screen cinema?*
- Promotion:
 - Great exposure across lots of local media and great engagement on the website / Facebook.
 - But, could have benefited from a single person managing the media profile.
 - Need to fund a person to manage the outward comms.
- Venues:
 - Lots of venues involved.
 - But, other venues could have been included – e.g. Sandgate venues.
 - Need to consider an incentive fund for new venues.
- Funding:
 - Town and District Council (Connor) + funding from Bay Tree Bar and Grill + Creative Folkestone + Roger de Haan trust.
 - But, too late for Arts Council funding.
 - Need to create content / numbers for 2024 funding pitches.
- *Please send in any videos or other MiM content into the contacts below!!!!*
- *And consider what you can do to help FMT / MIM going forward.....*

Supported by lots of people across our community!!

Tim Smith and Liam Gomez on the tech side

- The website is a massive part of Folkestone Music Town – it’s a central hub where “what’s going on musically in Folkestone” can be communicated. We also now have a YouTube channel.
- Lots of developments to the website pre MIM. Now includes a Spotify playlist of Folkestone Music.
- Now seeking to build more interactivity + build community engagement – e.g. message boards.
- *Please send any feedback / ideas to info@folkestonemusic.co.uk.*

July 23rd pm – BBC TV show to be filmed encompassing Folkestone music / food / culture. Details tbc.

#folkestonemusictown #musicinmay #mimfestival

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