YOUR DISTRICT TODAY

WINTER 2026



REPRESENT YOUR AREA IN 2027
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page 6

LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE
page 10

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Cover photo:
Two shoppers searching for the perfect Christmas gift in Hythe High Street. Picture by Andy Markwell.

Leader's foreword



With Christmas and the new year approaching fast, it is a good time to reflect on the last 12 months and what this council is achieving for residents, businesses and the wider community.

I could only make a brief mention in our September issue about the substantial assurance we had received from auditors for the way we are spending and investing money in the district.

News of the top rating had just been received as we went to press so you will have to excuse me for repeating it.

Local authorities who spend unwisely tend to get the publicity, while those who are responsible rarely get featured!

Part of that spending is to support residents by providing more home ownership schemes and helping them to avoid homelessness.

We have delivered more than 70 council homes in the district, with more in the pipeline. These high numbers have not been achieved for many, many years.

In September, our brilliant housing team and award-winning revenue and benefits staff joined their colleagues from across the council in an emergency response following the fire at the Grand Burstin Hotel.

Whether supporting guests who had fled their rooms with very little or organising the 11-day evacuation of residents from 90 flats in Pavilion Court, all was done with a level of professionalism and compassion that makes me immensely proud. I would also like to say a massive thank you to the emergency services.

As you receive this magazine through the door, the Folkestone – A Brighter Future scheme should be virtually complete. I can hear many of you saying 'hurrah' and I must thank you for your patience.

I hardly dare mention local government reorganisation for fear that whatever I do write could be out of date by the time you receive this magazine!

I think all I can say with certainty is that councillors and council officers will be working to ensure that the very best services continue for all our residents, regardless of what the government might do next.

It only remains for me to wish you a very happy Christmas and may 2027 bring exciting possibilities for us all. Enjoy your reading!

Councillor Jim Martin
Leader of Folkestone & Hythe District Council

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A green grant flourishing beautifully

There was an unanticipated benefit following a successful Green Grant application.

The team at Touchbase Care in Folkestone asked for £600 for a piece of kit to keep their Postling allotment paths flat and wheelchair friendly.

The petrol version volunteers originally priced up did not have the green credentials, so Folkestone & Hythe District Council encouraged them to source an electric model – which ended up being cheaper.

That meant there was enough money left over for a power bank to fuel up the battery and, perhaps more importantly, run a kettle on site!

The charity supports adults with disabilities and neurodiversity to flourish.

What has grown there – as well as tomatoes, courgettes, squashes, potatoes and hefty pumpkins – is a sense of wellbeing, a deeper understanding of ecology and a feeling of making a difference on the ground.

Jim Lockley from Touchbase Care said: "The people coming to us are managing a lot of stresses and strains; physical pain, sorting out their care, financial hardship. The allotment is such a sanctuary.

"And the paths mean wheelchair users get to enjoy that lovely place when they might otherwise not leave the roads and pavements of the town centre."



Micro Green Grants by numbers:

420

young trees, known as whips, planted through the Hythe Town Council biodiversity project.

16,000

petrol car miles-worth of carbon saved by the Lyminge Nursery solar and battery project.

8.7

tonnes of e-waste processed by the Folkestone Electrical Recycling Scheme.

Fire response demonstrates who we are

The strength of the district's community was on full show in September following a major fire at the Grand Burstin Hotel.

A welfare centre was set up overnight at Three Hills Sports Park after 280 guests were safely evacuated. A host of local businesses and organisations quickly offered their support, for which the council is incredibly grateful.

Temporary accommodation also had to be arranged for the residents of neighbouring Pavilion Court due to safety concerns. Generous donations of clothes and other items were truly appreciated by those affected.

At the height of the incident, 26 fire engines were at the scene and crews bravely faced intense heat when extinguishing the flames.

Leader Cllr Jim Martin said: "The experience was a real test for the district and I'm proud that we, as a community, stood up to it.

"I would like to thank the many volunteers and groups who helped our staff to support Grand Burstin Hotel guests and Pavilion Court residents as they coped with the upheaval and days of uncertainty."

Planning decision making change

New national planning rules have changed how some planning applications are dealt with in the Folkestone & Hythe district.

The central government change determines those applications to be decided by planning officers and those to be considered by councillors sitting on the planning committee.

The new rules state that many applications, such as household extensions, developments of up to nine homes and applications for Certificates of Lawful Existing Use/Development, must now be decided by officers and cannot be reported to committee.

Residents, town and parish councils will still be able to comment on these applications.

The change was introduced at the end of October. More complex applications, or those having a bigger impact on the community, can still be determined by the council's Planning and Licensing Committee.

Visit **folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning** for more information.

Renters' Rights Act: Need advice?

Are you a tenant or landlord in the district? The new Renters' Rights Act 2025 introduces significant changes to the private rented sector that may affect your rights and responsibilities.

If you're experiencing any tenancy issues, have concerns about your rental property, or need advice on how the changes may affect you, we can help.

Visit **folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/rentersrights** or email **private.sectorhousing@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk** for advice and support.

Want to help shape the future of your community?

Residents across the district will elect local councillors in May 2027.

It's a chance for people with ideas, energy and a passion for their community to step forward and help make the place you live the best it can be.

You don't need a political background or any special qualifications. What matters is your commitment to making a difference.

It's certainly varied – you can influence local decisions, represent the people in your area, improve services and facilities and help shape the future of your community as a councillor.

You'll also gain a lot of new skills and knowledge along the way.

Come along to our information sessions and discover what is involved:

- In-person at the Civic Centre in Folkestone between 10am and midday on Wednesday 20 January
- Online webinar focusing on the elections process, including how to complete a nomination pack, between 3pm and 5pm on Thursday 11 February

Visit **folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/elections** for more information.

Plenty of play for district's children

The weather might not be the best right now (or maybe it is when you're reading this) but that certainly won't stop children having fun.

Following the successful refurbishment of the Lower Leas Coastal Park play area in the summer, Folkestone & Hythe District Council continues to invest in sites.

New dynamic equipment has recently been added to Cheriton Recreational Ground to complement the existing offering on Stanley Road.

Somersault bars, a turbo carousel and a cliff rider are just some of the thrilling extras aimed at youngsters up to the age of 14.

A seesaw, sunflower-inspired swing and upgraded imaginative opportunities have been added for toddlers.

Behind-the-scenes work to improve and install new apparatus at play areas in Lydd, Seabrook and at East Cliff is now underway.

Ideas from local schools and the council's youth forum – as well as those expressed by 250 residents in a recent survey – are currently being explored.

Cllr Connor McConville, Cabinet Member for Assets and Local Government Reorganisation, said: "We are committed to investing in local communities, including our young people – as demonstrated by this and the recent £750,000 refurbishment of the Lower Leas Coastal Park fun zone."



Folkestone's future is looking bright

More than 90% of the Folkestone – A Brighter Future scheme is now complete with only a few elements and seasonal landscaping to be finalised.

Cllr James Butcher – Cabinet Member for Place Plan, Heritage, Tourism and District Economy – said: "Disruption is unavoidable with a scheme of this size and I want to thank people for bearing with us while we improve the area.

"Our communities deserve a welcoming town centre where they want to spend time. I am delighted that this will soon be a reality."

A restored garden square

Bouverie Square is the heart of the development and returning it back to a garden space was a key motivation behind the scheme.

Creating a park in the heart of town ensures both a greener and more inviting welcome for visitors and a place where locals can relax and children play.

A playground in Bouverie Square will provide a fun and accessible area that will complement the changes to the town centre.

The playground has been designed with the input of artist Monster Chetwynd and Creative Folkestone and is set to be opened in early 2027.

Condensation conversation

Condensation is one of the most common causes of damp and mould in homes. It occurs when warm, moisture-filled air meets cold surfaces such as walls, windows and mirrors.

If left untreated, condensation can cause mould to develop which can not only damage your property – but also affect your health. Small changes can make a big difference in reducing moisture, improving ventilation and keeping warm.

Dealing with mould

If mould appears, clean it as soon as possible to prevent it from spreading.

You can use a mould and mildew cleaner or a diluted white vinegar solution – make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions when using any cleaning products.

Mould may return if the underlying condensation problem is not addressed, so regular cleaning and repeating the steps above may be needed.

Kitchen

Put lids on saucepans and pots when cooking to reduce steam.

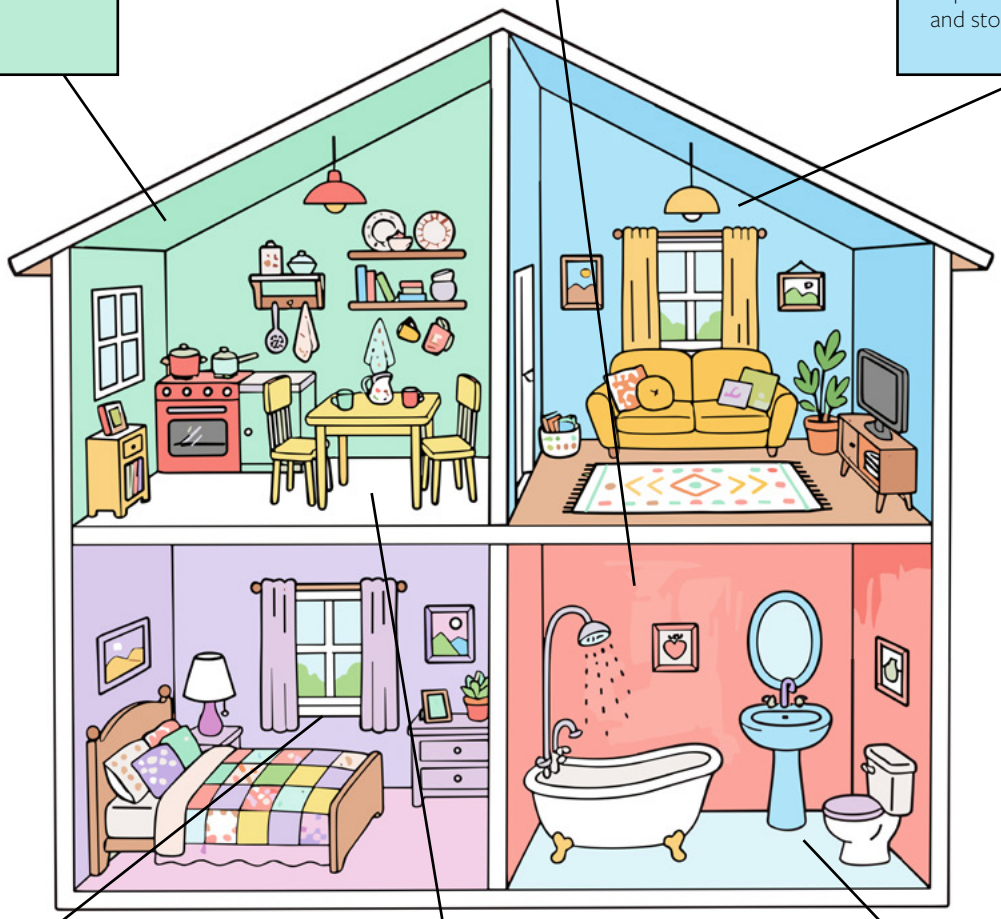
Open a window while cooking if possible.

Always use your extractor fan when cooking.

Improve airflow

Leave a gap between furniture and external walls to allow air circulation.

Avoid overfilling cupboards, wardrobes and storage spaces.



Ventilate your home

Open windows for 5-10 minutes a couple of times a day to allow fresh air to circulate.

Drying clothes

Avoid drying clothes on radiators as this releases large amounts of moisture.

Make sure your tumble dryer is vented outside unless it's self-condensing.

In the bathroom

Keep the bathroom door closed when washing to stop moist air spreading.

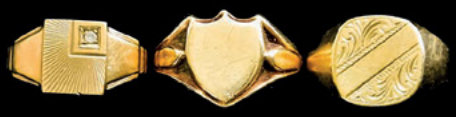
Open a window or use the extractor fan during and after washing.

Continue ventilating the room until the steam has cleared.



Tempted to sell?
Don't be someone else's cash cow

With prices high for gold it's a sad fact that profiteers are everywhere, trying to part you from your jewellery, gold and other valuables.



So don't put your precious items in the post, or risk selling to slick salesmen trading under various company names, intent on profiting from you. Instead, put your trust in the long-established Canterbury Auction Galleries' team of specialists.



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Building homes for our future

The council's commitment to providing affordable, comfortable and future-proofed homes continues, with more than 70 properties added to its housing stock and further acquisitions in New Romney and Hawkinge planned.

Creating a home is about more than providing the property itself. The practical details that help tenants feel secure and settled while reducing the cost of moving are also considered.

This includes fitting net curtains in new flats with large floor-to-ceiling windows, providing privacy from day one.



Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe

This development has delivered 44 affordable apartments with a B energy rating at the former Risborough Barracks site.

The modern, energy-efficient homes have air source heat pump water heating and modern storage space heating.

They have helped homeless families move out of temporary accommodation, and given existing council tenants the opportunity to move into a brand-new property.

Lyminge

Six new affordable rent, energy-efficient homes have been built for residents in Lyminge.

These include underfloor heating and provide high-quality accommodation for tenants relocating from nearby properties that are no longer fit for purpose and are due for redevelopment.



Sutherland Park, Hythe

Built on the former Smiths Medical site, Sutherland Park provides 26 affordable homes – including six shared ownership houses and 20 affordable rent apartments.

All have a B energy rating, air source heating and solar panels to help keep bills low.

Carpets were also provided to assist new tenants moving in – many of whom are on low incomes and setting up home for the first time.



Positive changes made by waste operator

The district's air is that little bit cleaner thanks to changes made by the council's recycling and waste collection contractor.

Veolia UK has managed a 12.6% reduction in emissions at its Folkestone depot between 2020 and 2025 – equating to 152.73 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e).

These improvements to monitored emissions are equivalent to roughly 570,000 driving miles or the production of 300,000 vegetarian meals.

Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) – a liquid fuel derived from renewable sources – is now being blended with diesel to cut greenhouse emissions in the collection fleet.

Local operations have seen a reduction in the consumption of diesel (19.53%), electricity (12.34%) and natural gas (16.90%) over the five-year period.

Cllr Jeremy Speakman, Cabinet Member for Waste and Street Cleansing, said: "We're very impressed by the steps taken in reducing environmental impacts while maintaining a reliable frontline service for residents."

Scott Edgell, Regional Director at Veolia UK, added: "We're proud to be working with Folkestone & Hythe District Council to make essential recycling, waste collection and street cleansing services cleaner and more sustainable.

"Introducing HVO fuel in our existing fleet is helping to reduce its environmental impact and support improved local air quality, while smarter routing is reducing the time vehicles spend on the road."

"Together, these changes are helping us deliver a more efficient service today while supporting environmental security and a more sustainable future for the local community."

Scott Edgell, Regional Director at Veolia UK





This is about our future

A new cohort of local school students are helping shape the district's future in the council's latest youth forum.

The group – now in its third iteration – gives young people the opportunity to involve themselves in the democratic process and share their own priorities for the area.

Pupils from Brockhill Park School, Folkestone School for Girls, The Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone Academy, Turner Free School, Lighthouse on the Marsh, The Marsh Academy and The Beacon attended.

Discussions around future employment explored the skills young people feel they need to succeed, as well as the challenges and opportunities presented by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Participants also shared comments on longer-term plans for the district and how the district can be made more welcoming, sustainable and attractive for residents and visitors.

Cllr Mike Blakemore, Cabinet Member for Community and Collaboration, said: "We welcomed our biggest group of students yet and are excited to hear the ideas, thoughts and conversations we're set to have again in the coming months."

Appeal to district employers to help learning

Local employers are continuing to play a key role in shaping the curriculum at EKC Folkestone College as the college continues its Employer Advisory Boards.

Employer Advisory Boards are an opportunity for industry experts to collaborate with the college so that learners have the latest tools and knowledge to thrive and the curriculum reflects real workforce needs.

Each Employer Advisory Board brings together sector-specific employers for courses offered at EKC Folkestone College. These include catering, construction, hair and beauty, sports, health and social care, early years, multimedia and virtual gaming design.

Jennifer Manoli, a T Level Business lecturer at EKC Folkestone College, said: "When you've got a real-life local employer that has set you active briefs that they want help with, it adds so much more purpose into what you're already teaching the students."

Any businesses interested in supporting curriculum development, offering placements, or engaging with local students are invited to contact EKC Folkestone College or visit **ekcgroup.ac.uk/employers** to find out more.

Progress for Otterpool Park development

October saw a milestone for the development as Otterpool Park LLP, working in collaboration with Homes England, submitted updated information to the council as part of the current outline planning application.*

It reflects a number of minor changes and the latest details that were presented to the community in June. It also brings the application into line with the latest National Planning Policy Framework and other relevant legislation.

The proposed new garden town near Hythe will provide up to 8,500 homes, infrastructure, community facilities and green spaces.

The updated information submitted to the planning authority includes details of the first homes. The proposed homes will be on land not far from Westenhanger railway station and initially consist of a parcel of up to 300 homes.

In its capacity as planning authority, the council ran a public consultation on the updates in October/November.

Further details around the first homes – such as access, appearance, landscaping and other design elements – will be considered through a later planning application, expected in late 2027.

Visit the council website or **otterpoolpark.org** for further information about the Otterpool Park development.

*Otterpool Park LLP is a limited liability partnership leading the plans for Otterpool Park as its master developer.

Here to help in the difficult times

Hard times can happen to anyone – and the impacts can be felt even more with the rising cost of living.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council provides practical and financial support for those who are finding things difficult.

The council tax, benefits and welfare team also works with a whole host of local and national organisations which can give advice and reduce the risk of future worries for residents.

Visit **folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/help-support-cost-living** in the first instance to find out more information about all the help available.

One example is the Crisis and Resilience Fund. This is aimed at providing financial resilience assistance to low-income households.

Support for things such as carpets and flooring, boiler replacements and servicing, heating oil and LPG, windows and smaller energy-efficient items such as dehumidifiers can be requested.

Personal help with children's winter and school clothing, exceptional medical costs and food pantry memberships is also available.

Applications must be completed online by visiting **folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/crisisresilience** – those needing help with the process can call **01303 853555** between 10am and 4pm on weekdays.



How the team has helped others

A farmer trying to maintain his farm independently was struggling to pay his bills, including shopping. A home visit and discussion ensured he started to receive all the benefits and support he was entitled to.

A retired woman did not have an oven for two years and found out about the help she could receive at a council event. A new cooker was installed and the grateful recipient was delighted the difference it made to her life.

A woman who had never fallen behind with council tax instalments received a cancer diagnosis and was concerned about rising arrears. The team supported her to make applications for funding she was unaware of.

The difference the team is making

The council tax, benefits and welfare team recently won the Excellence in Social Inclusion category at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation's national awards ceremony for the third year in a row.

Its efforts in supporting those people most needing help – allowing much-needed items to be provided – was praised by judges.

Cllr Tim Prater, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance, said: "Acknowledgement from peers is, of course, very special but the real award is knowing the difference we're making to residents across the district."

Work begins on Local Plan

A new Local Plan for the Folkestone & Hythe district is being prepared by the council.

The plan will help shape where homes, jobs, green spaces infrastructure and community facilities will go between now and 2045.

The first stage – the scoping consultation – has taken place. It asked about local issues which should be addressed and how people wanted to be involved in the plan-making process. It did not contain details of proposed development sites.

Proposed sites will be included in future consultations as the Local Plan is developed during the next two years.

For more information, visit **folkestoneandhythelocalplan.co.uk**

Coastal defence that became a peaceful haven

The Royal Military Canal has – despite never being used for its original purpose – been a focal point for the district for more than 200 years.

Most readers will have rowed a boat, done a spot of fishing or had a picnic somewhere along its banks. It is also an important environmental site, providing a home to a wide range of wildlife.

Running at 28 miles between Seabrook and Cliff End, near Hastings, some of you may not know why it sits there. Let's take you back to the early 19th century.

It is 1803 and Britain has declared war on France – unbeknown to them at the time, the two nations will be in conflict until the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

The low-lying Romney Marsh and Dungeness Peninsula were deemed to be especially vulnerable to invasion and therefore become the focus for strategic coastal defences.

The Napoleonic Wars saw the construction of concrete redoubts, Martello Towers and – of course – the Royal Military Canal.

Lt Col Brown devised the latter to replace the original defence strategy: flood the Romney Marsh to make it impassable for the enemy. How different things could have looked.

After being enthusiastically approved by the Duke of York and Prime Minister William Pitt, renowned engineer John Rennie was appointed to lead the project.

Work began in October 1804 and – despite the very ambitious target completion date of June 1805 – took five years to construct.

The structure was dug entirely by hand (1,500 men worked on the scheme at its peak). But by the time it was finished, the threat of invasion had actually passed following the Battle of Trafalgar.

Costing £234,310 (a huge amount in Georgian times), the third longest defensive structure in the country needed a new purpose.

It therefore opened for public use in 1810 and has been enjoyed by many generations ever since.

It remains incredibly popular with residents and visitors, with thousands attending the latest Hythe Venetian Fete in the summer.

History repeats itself

In a real case of déjà vu, the Royal Military Canal was requisitioned by the War Department in 1935 due to the risk of German invasion.

Several pillboxes to house infantry, anti-tank guns or field artillery were strategically placed but never used.

These small reinforced concrete or brick buildings came in a number of shapes and forms. Some still survive along the banks of the canal today.

With thanks to the Dymchurch & District Heritage Group for its research. Visit **romneymarshhistory.co.uk** for more insights.

Your council at Christmas

Free Christmas parking

The district is home to a whole host of brilliant shops and businesses with excellent Christmas present ideas. And there is even more reason to support our town centres and high streets.

Charges in our car parks and on-street pay and display bays are being waived on the three Saturdays leading up to the big day:

Saturday 5 Dec

Saturday 12 Dec

Saturday 19 Dec

Limited waiting (free) and controlled parking zone restrictions are still in place on the days listed above.

This is to ensure people can park close to their homes and allow for a sufficient turnover of spaces.

Waste service and garden waste collections

There will be some changes to your household waste and recycling collection dates over Christmas and the new year.

Garden waste collections will also take their usual break.

Visit **folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/christmas** for details. Please share the confirmed details with family members, friends or neighbours who may not be online.

In an emergency

If you need to contact us in an emergency outside of business hours, please call **0300 003 0247.**

Only phone this number if there's an emergency causing a threat to health and safety – this might include being homeless and having nowhere to stay for the night, or an incident that puts people in immediate danger.

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What does Christmas mean to you?

Christmas is a time for many things – different traditions, celebration, reflection, even sprouts. We asked local figures what this time of the year means to them – plus their favourite festive song.



Cllr Paul Thomas

Chair of Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Having grown up in the 60s and 70s – as one of six children – Christmas was one present, a stocking and a selection box. And three channels of TV! How things have changed.

When my children were growing up, Christmas was shared with our extended families in Cardiff and Gravesend.

Christmas is now dominated by Light Up New Romney (held on 11 December this year) – bringing people, businesses and entertainment together for a fantastic community event.

Favourite Christmas song:
Merry Xmas Everybody by Slade



Philippine Nguyen

Chief Executive, Creative Folkestone

Christmas means spending time with family and eating just a bit too much.

Since I was a child, we go to Christmas mass then have a Christmas Eve dinner with my Vietnamese grandma, followed by a Christmas lunch at my French grandma's on Christmas Day (both live in Paris).

I now spend Christmas in the UK every other year so have added new traditions, such as Boxing Day games and Brussels sprouts!

Favourite Christmas song:
Sleigh Ride by The Ronettes



Capt (Retd) Suman Chandra Rai

Chairman, Folkestone Nepalese Community

Christmas is a time for kindness, togetherness and caring for those around us.

At Folkestone Nepalese Community (FNC), we celebrate by bringing elderly Gurkha veterans and older community members together for Christmas lunch at the FNC Centre, helping reduce loneliness and strengthen friendship.

We also value the Folkestone Town Mayor's Christmas Fund, supporting eligible residents aged 75 and over. On behalf of FNC, I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

Favourite Christmas song:
Last Christmas by Wham!



Sojan Joseph

Member of Parliament for Ashford, Hawkinge and the Villages

Christmas is the season to help those less fortunate than ourselves and to be grateful for what we hold dear.

As a Christian, I believe it is the most important time for personal reflection, to think about the lessons of the Nativity, and how we can spread its message of peace and compassion in our community.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing what the New Year brings!

Favourite Christmas song:
Silent Night by Frank Sinatra



Clare Brown

Principal, EKC Folkestone College

Christmas is a special time as our students come together to make a positive impact in the community.

From hosting afternoon teas for care home residents, to collecting gifts for local Santa Sacks, they make a real difference.

For many of our English for Speakers of Other Languages students, it is also a chance to experience our Christmas traditions for the first time.

We look forward to ending the year with a festive fair.

Favourite Christmas song:

Fairytale of New York by The Pogues (featuring Kirsty MacColl)



Keeping active this winter

Looking to keep fit during the colder months without the additional cost?

While we've got some fantastic leisure and sports facilities across the district, there are plenty of activities which are free and might help get you out of the slump that a winter hibernation can bring.



Scenic walks

The district is blessed with quiet spots – perfect for slow strolls and reflection – with the bonus of fresh air and feeling healthier too.

You can't go wrong with Romney Marsh's nature reserves. They are home to an exciting range of birds, in a rich environment.

Folkestone parkrun

Residents can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate at a free community 5km event with an amazing clifftop sea view on The Leas every Saturday at 9am.

Folkestone parkrun director Phil Maull said: "It's a super friendly atmosphere and I have made so many friends there, with all of us supporting each other."

Sea swimming

If your muscles are feeling a little sore, why not take a dip and enjoy a brief cold-water plunge at Hythe Beach, Mermaid Beach or Sunny Sands?

Swimming is an exhilarating way to boost circulation and your wellbeing – it's even better when you join a local group or go with friends.

Cycling routes

Jump on your bicycle and follow the shared seafront path between Folkestone Harbour and Hythe. It's a great way to enjoy the cross-Channel views of Sandgate and Seabrook.

The Royal Military Canal trail continues into the heart of Romney Marsh, where wide open countryside and quiet lanes welcome you.

Serene recovery

There are plenty of places where you can feed your body with some yoga or gentle stretching.

It's a great way of rewarding yourself and help equip yourself ahead of the new year and beyond.



Consult your doctor before starting any exercise. Move at your own pace and stop if you feel pain.

Those new to cold water swimming should approach it gradually. Get some good advice and never go alone.

Visit **folkestoneandhythe.co.uk** to learn more about spaces, groups and experiences to help you on your fitness journey.



Santa's naughty and nice (waste) list

The festive season can create a lot of extra waste, but the great news is that many items can be recycled. Here's our handy guide from the big man himself.

Don't put in your recycle bin

- Glitter-covered cards, gift tags and wrapping paper
- Foil, metallic or plastic-coated wrapping paper that fails the scrunch test
- Ribbons, bows, string and decorative embellishments
- Tinsel and Christmas decorations
- Plastic and polystyrene packaging inserts
- Batteries, including those hidden inside toys, cards and decorations (you can place them in a clear bag on top instead or take them to supermarket collection point)
- Christmas lights and electrical decorations
- Artificial Christmas trees

All these items can be recycled

- Cardboard gift boxes, packaging and delivery boxes from online shopping can be placed in your paper and card box. Just don't forget to flatten them and remove excess tape, plastic and polystyrene
- Chocolate selection boxes and cardboard advent calendar packaging
- Empty food cans, biscuit tins and mince pie tins
- Glass bottles and jars
- Empty aerosols such as deodorant and hairspray cans (don't pierce or crush them)
- Christmas cards, envelopes and gift tags (without glitter, foil, ribbons, bows or batteries) can go in your paper and card box
- Empty perfume and aftershave bottles

Some waste can also be safely recycled at your local household waste recycling centre. Visit **kent.gov.uk** for details.

Visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/quiz to take our recycling quiz and be in with a chance to win a £30 Love2Shop voucher.

Your responsibility doesn't end at the kerb

Whenever you pay someone to remove waste from your home, you must ensure they are authorised to carry and dispose of it properly.

Before handing over any waste, ask to see the person's waste carrier licence. This shows they are registered to transport or accept it legally.

Responsible operators expect these questions and will be happy to provide the information you need.

Remember think SCRAP when disposing of your household waste:

Suspect all waste carriers

Check with the Environment Agency that the provider taking your waste away is licensed

Refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away

Ask what will happen to your waste

Paperwork should be obtained – get a full receipt

Visit **folkestonehythe.gov.uk/flytipping** to find out more about your duty of care.